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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## State Counsellor talks at length on importance of early childhood care

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the launching ceremony for the Myanmar Early Childhood Care and Development Strategy and a national-level negotiation which were held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the ceremony were Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MPs from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, state and regional ministers for social affairs, high-level department officials, officials from UN affiliated agencies, representatives from INGOs, NGOs, and specially invited guests.

### Education as a fill-in for underdeveloped countries

In her address, the State Counsellor said Myanmar's most precious and important resource was its human resource, and thus, it was important to aim for human development and recognize the value of human resources. She said childcare education should begin in the womb and the first steps to protecting and developing our human resources would be taken if mothers were provided with proper healthcare and taught to understand the importance of ensuring correct development and providing sufficient nutrition in the first 24 months of a child.

The State Counsellor said the healthy development of



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes books displayed at the launching ceremony for the Myanmar Early Childhood Care and Development Strategy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

physical and mental aspects of a child were important, adding that a developing country such as Myanmar was likely to face more obstacles. Rich and developed countries provide full nutritional support and healthcare services to both mother and child, while developing countries do not have the

means to fulfill these criteria, said the State Counsellor. She said her administration could not give as much support as they wished to, but the key to resolving this lay in educating mothers to enable them to provide the best future for their children with all resources at their disposal.

### Malnutrition in childhood affects adulthood

The State Counsellor said malnutrition could have serious long-term consequences, saying that Myanmar's athletes could not perform as well as they should have in the recent 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games due to lack of a healthy

diet in their early childhood. She also said Myanmar's footballers could not keep up with teams from more developed countries in the second half of the matches not due to lack of perseverance or spirit but childhood malnutrition issues.

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## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion urging government to raise livelihood of ethnic people

BY Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

IN the final agenda of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular sessions 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting held yesterday, the Hluttaw approves a motion urging the Union Government to draw up and implement a plan to raise the livelihood of ethnic nationals living in far off and remote areas.

## Question and Answer session

The first agenda of the meeting was the question and answer session where the first question was raised by Dr. U Saw Naing from South Okkalapa constituency. He asked if there is a plan to construct a new office building for the township immigration department as the present building is quite old and deteriorated. Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said the ministry is annually request-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

ing fund to renovate or construct new offices for its old and deteriorated office buildings. In the fiscal year 2018 (April to September) budget there was a department wise budget limitation as well as budget cuts so there was insufficient fund to conduct renovation or construction of all offices. Once

there is sufficient budget, renovation and construction works will be conducted as per priority said the Union Minister.

Similarly questions raised by U Than Lin Lin of Meisei constituency, U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency, U Aung Thaung Shwe of Buthidaung constituency, U

Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency, U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency and U Aung Soe Min of Ywangan constituency were answered by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe and Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

## Discussion on Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Report

After the question and answer session Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Report was discussed by U Wai Hlaing Tun of Patheingyi constituency, U Lama Naw Aung of Injyang constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency.

Committee Chairman U Aung Tin Lin provided explanations to the discussions and Committee member Daw Khin Sandi

tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve the report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the report.

## Discussion on Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Report

This was followed by U Sai Thant Zin of Hsipaw constituency and U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency discussing about Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Report.

Committee Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing provided explanations to the discussions and Committee secretary U Soe Myint @ U Aung Zaw Myint tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve the report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the report.

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## Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read, a discussion on the motion and questions were made to obtain approval.

## Q &amp; A session

During the Q & A session, Daw Thiri Yadana of Mon State constituency 12 asked the Union Government if it plans to manage the excessive numbers of government employees working at the Ministry of Industry. Regarding this query, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho replied that the Ministry of Industry has amended the formation of the ministry while setting up schemes to form with 37,800 government employees, aiming to make transformation and implementation process systematically for the development works. The Ministry of Industry would strive to conduct the joint venture partnership with private companies. Besides, coordination would be carried out to transfer some suitable employees to other ministries through the coordination with the relevant ministries.

U Saw Moe Myint alias Samuel of Kayin State constituency 1



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

asked the Union Government if it plans to form electricity commission to carry out the electrical works. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing replied that formation of electricity commission would be conducted till the suitable time comes.

## Paving the remaining 2-mile and 5-furlong long tarred road

U Lol Min Thang of Chin State constituency 10 asked the Union Government if there is a plan to pave the remaining 2-mile and 5-furlong tarred road leading to the Bonetalar waterfall, Chin State in the 2019-2020 FY.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied

that the construction project contained road upgrading of Song Htee Yar - Boontalar road, road expansion from 12 feet to 24 that has totaling 5 miles, road expansion from 6 feet to 24 that has totaling 3 miles and construction of 12 culverts as well as 400-foot-high retaining wall. Moreover the construction projects would be commenced in 2019-2020 FY, using the funds of the Chin State government.

Moreover implementation projects, including the construction tarred roads that have a total of 3 miles long from the mile post 5 to 8, another four Gabion Wall constructions that have 800 feet, and two 2000-foot-long drain construction would be appropriated dependent upon the allotment

from the Union Funds in the 2019-2020 FY.

## Making the assessment of behaviour changes of the children

U Win Myint of Magway Region constituency 8 asked the Union Government to make the assessment of behaviour changes of the children who are attending Kindergarten and in Grade one and, which has implemented in accordance with the Myanmar National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that arrangements are being made to review the Behaviour Changes while holding seminars to make assessments for the school children, in conjunction with Department of Basic Education, Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). These seminars include evaluation programmes using assessment questions and records aiming to enhance their skills. This Behaviour Changes programme for the school children would be conducted in the coming academic years.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied the queries raised by Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2, U Ye Htut of Sagaing Region constituency 5, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, Daw Than Aye of Magway Region constituency 7 and Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 respectively.

## Reading the report on the Occupational Safety and Health Bill

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Dr. Myo Aung read and clarified on the report of the Bill Committee regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision and approval of the Hluttaw.

## Reading the Consumer Protection Bill

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read the Consumer Protection Bill sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. The second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its seventeenth-day meeting on 20 December.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech

Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation — a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology.

*(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1 April 2018)*



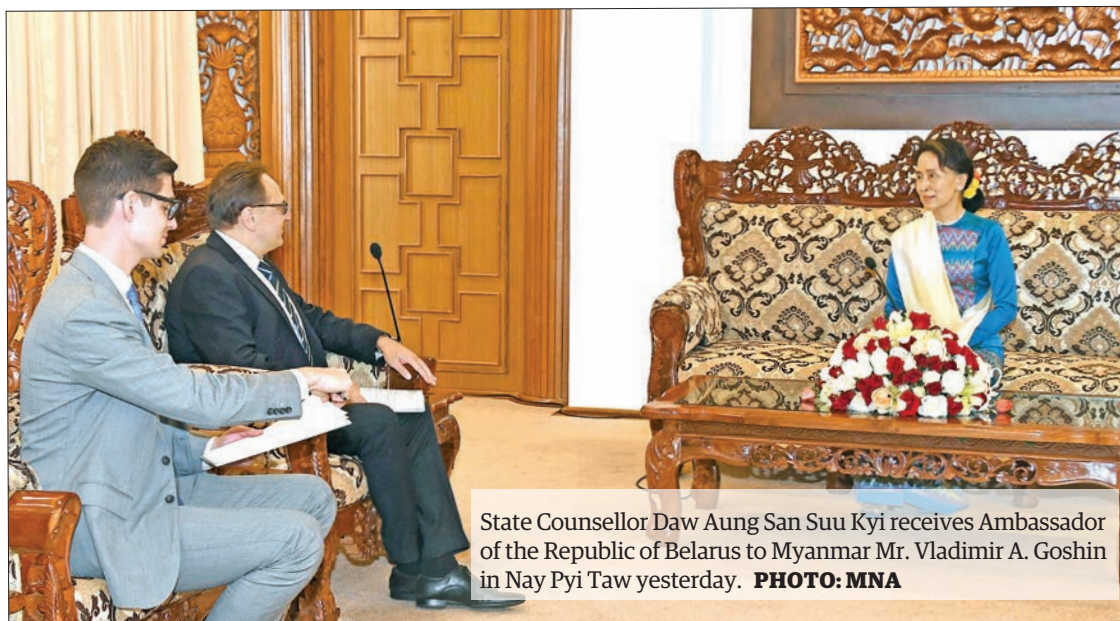
Phan Khon game, a Myanmar traditional game.  
PHOTO: KYI MYO THET

## State Counsellor receives Ambassador of Republic of Belarus

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received H.E. Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi, at 11:00 am on 19 December 2018 at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation including economic, agricultural and cultural fields between Myanmar and Belarus.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Myanmar Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games conclude successfully

THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games (AUG) came to a close yesterday as Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at the official closing ceremony held at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

### List of attendees

Attending the closing ceremony were Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, ASEAN University Sports Council (AUSC) Chairman Prof. Dato Dr. Hassan Basri Bin Awang Mat Dahan, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers U Kyi Min, U Win Maw Tun and Dr. Mya Lay Sein, MPs from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar, responsible individuals, sports association leaders and members from the competing countries, chairpersons from judge committees, medical experts, international technical officers, judges and jury members who helped to keep the competitions fair, coaches and athletes from the competing teams, members of the media, donors, and enthusiastic sports fans.



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the closing speech at the Closing Ceremony of 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

### Entertainment and procession

Firstly, a selection of famous artists sang 'Min Thi Naing Ma Lar', 'A Chit Har', 'Taing Yin Thu Law Kyun Ma', 'Byu Har', and 'Thint Atwat Manat Phyan', followed by artistes and students from the Department of Fine Arts and the National University of Arts and Culture who sang and danced to 'Mingalabar ASEAN', 'Myanma A Hla A Ka Ye A Hlyin' and 'We are ASEAN'.

Next, flagbearers and marching bands led the way into the stadium as the athletes took their positions corresponding to their country's rank in the English alphabet, while the announcers

called out the number of athletes who participated in the different sports categories and the gold medals they have earned.

### Speeches from officials

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education and Chairman of the 19<sup>th</sup> AUG Steering Committee, then explained about the closing ceremony and the AUSC Chairman delivered a speech.

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as patron of the 19<sup>th</sup> AUG Steering Committee, delivered the closing remarks.

He said, "The 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games were held from 10 December to 19 December 2018 with the aim of promoting

friendship among South East Asian countries under the theme of "Youth and Friendship". During the games, athletes from ASEAN universities demonstrated their sporting skills, and established friendship and unity among themselves. In addition, I believe that they had an opportunity to learn about each other's institutions and culture and traditions."

"The AUG has created great opportunities for establishing and strengthening understanding, trust and friendship among South East Asian countries. The scenes of athletes from 11 countries including Myanmar, participating in the games with true sporting spirit will remain forever in our

hearts." "I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to distinguished guests from participating countries; international technical officers and juries who carefully assessed the performances of the athletes; responsible personnel who put all possible effort into making this AUG a success; coaches who provided support in different events; athletes who competed as true sportsmen and sportswomen and as good friends; and spectators from all over the country," said the Vice President and declared that the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games have been successfully concluded.

### Final routines

Afterwards, the AUSC Flag was lowered from its podium and Dr. Thein Win, steering committee secretary and Director-General of the Department of Higher Education, handed over the flag to the AUSC Chairman.

The flagbearers, marching band and athletes then exited the stadium in an orderly fashion.

The ceremony successfully concluded after artistes and students from the Department of Fine Arts and National University of Arts and Culture performed to the song 'Pyan Sone Mel' (Let's meet again).—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



# State Counsellor, authors participate in dinner gathering

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participated in a dinner gathering with authors at the Tungapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information and authors.

At the dinner, the State Counsellor had documentary photos taken together with the authors and greeted them individually.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint explained the purpose of the dinner. On behalf of the writers, writer Khin Khin Htoo expressed words of thanks.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and the writers talked about literature openly while enjoying dinner. —MNA ■  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the dinner gathering together with the authors at the Tungapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor talks at length on importance of early childhood care

FROM PAGE-1

She said everyone in the country knew how important a healthy diet was for children but not many realize the need for healthy brain development. People in the country would not conclude that a child did not have proper nutrition in their diet if they did not succeed academically; instead they may assume the child was not studying or that their family could not create a conducive learning environment, said the State Counsellor. She added that malnutrition in the first two years would not allow a child's brain to fully develop and would affect their physical and mental development as well.

She said everyone needed to be involved in early childhood



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at a launching ceremony for the Myanmar Early Childhood Care and Development Strategy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

care. It was not enough to just lecture on what should be done, pragmatic methods should be offered as well, she said.

### ECCD outreach to remote locations crucial

The State Counsellor said children also needed proper vaccinations in addition to proper nutrition. Mothers needed to be healthy and free from diseases during pregnancy and before childbirth, and both the parents and the nation should be mindful to ensure that children receive the required vaccinations on time, she said. She expressed her wish for the 5-year 2018-2022 Strategy to be administered equally throughout the country.

The State Counsellor high-

lighted that there were educational papers, documents and books written in ethnic languages. She explained that this was to give more attention to ethnic children as they usually lived far away from big cities. She said the Union Government was attempting to provide full development opportunities regardless of the place of residence or childbirth.

Myanmar does not have full peace yet and there were still children living in IDP camps throughout the country, said the State Counsellor. She said officials at those camps need to be extra sensitive to the children's needs, since children living in unusual circumstances tend to lose developmental opportunities. She said the government was doing its

best to ensure every child in the country had access to all necessary protection, adding the public needed to help too.

### Conclusion and formalities

The State Counsellor said looking out for the next generation secures the future of the country. Ensuring the correct development and growth of the children who will take care of the future of the country was extremely important. She concluded by cordially requesting everyone to participate in this endeavor with the belief that they could make a significant contribution to the best of their capabilities.

Afterwards, two videos entitled 'Giving priority to early childhood to prevent delays in development' and 'Young butterfly children' were shown to the audience.

The State Counsellor then took documentary photos with the participants and toured the photo exhibitions on display.

### High-level discussions commence

Firstly, Union Ministers Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe and Dr. Win Myat Aye discussed various topics including facts that should be included in the national ECCD strategy; facilitating cooperation between ministry departments, relevant organizations and the general public

to accomplish the processes outlined in the ECCD strategy; attracting investment to develop human resources; to acquire short-term and long-term benefits; expanding social protection processes; identifying children without normal development and administering timely responses; and devising other methods to protect orphaned children in addition to support from government or philanthropic organizations.

Next, officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Women and Children's Rights Committee, UNICEF Myanmar, and the Department of Social Welfare discussed the rights and protection of children, and the main facts of the Myanmar Policy for ECCD and ECCD Strategy.

At noon, domestic and foreign professionals and senior officials from the Department of Social Welfare discussed sustainable development goals and ECCD, the global perspectives and Myanmar's opportunities and on-going services for ECCD, the social welfare department's plans for ECCD, plans to support expectant mothers and their children under 2-years of age, and assessment and protection schemes for ECCD.

The high-level discussions will continue till 21 December at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Ensuring the correct development and growth of the children who will take care of the future of the country is extremely important.



## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives French ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received the French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Christian Lechervy, member of the Economic Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly Mr. Christophe Naegelen, and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly Mr. Jean Francois Mbaye yesterday in the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and openly discussed matters related to building friendship between

governments, parliaments and peoples of France and Myanmar; cooperation in health, education, economics and environmental conservation sectors via development of technology, and foreign investment.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Chairman of the International Relations Committee U Zaw Thein, secretary of Economic and Financial Development Committee U Khin Mg Soe and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Ambassador of France to Myanmar Mr. Christian Lechervy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion urging government to raise livelihood of ethnic people

FROM PAGE-2

2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Bill to Union Civil Services Board Law submitted to Hluttaw

Next, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Bill to Union Civil Services Board Law was submitted to the Hluttaw by Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein.

Bill Committee member Dr. Wai Phyo Aung read the committee's report on the bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Hluttaw approves a motion urging the government to raise the livelihood of ethnic nationals

Afterwards a motion urging the Union Government to draw up and implement a plan to raise the livelihood of ethnic people living in far off and remote areas tabled by U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency was discussed by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj Lwin Maung Soe, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Se-

doktara constituency, U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, Daw Nan Moe of Mongton constituency, U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency, Dr. Daw Pyone of Indaw constituency, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Sai Kyaw Aung of Kehsi constituency, U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency, Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung of Manaung constituency and U Yan Kyin Kan of

Kunlong constituency.

In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said the ministry has been drawing up and enacting laws to raise the livelihoods of ethnic people living in far off and remote places. At the same time a Central Committee to implement the development of border areas and ethnic people formed with Union Ministers and State/Region Chief Ministers led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is continuously implementing development of ethnic nationals

and border areas. Therefore the Deputy Minister discussed for the motion to be put on record.

As the Hluttaw representative who tabled the motion still sought the approval of the Hluttaw, the matter was put to a vote. There were 212 for, 137 against and 2 abstaining and the motion was announced as approved by the Hluttaw.

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its 17<sup>th</sup>-day meeting on 20 December, it is learnt. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects preparations for All Who Can Read Should Read campaign

THE Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, inspected the preparational work for holding the All Who Can Read Should Read campaign at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During his visit, the Deputy Minister came aboard to inspect the mobile libraries and the arrangement of books on the vehicles. Afterwards, he inspected the booths, the preparations

for the opening ceremony, the readiness of rooms to accommodate for hosting of talks, and the place assigned for the purpose of shooting documentary photos.

The campaign to promote reading will be launched with a ceremony on 20 and 21 December. The campaign activities will include exhibition, public talks and paper reading sessions. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



**PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meets British Ambassador to Myanmar

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, met with the British Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg, at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 a.m. yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to jointly organizing press briefing on the functions of government's communications, ensuring the safety of journalists, and raising awareness of the responsibility,

accountability, and professional code of ethics of journalists.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials were also present at the meeting. —MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



## Senior General attends Defence Service Medical Academy graduation ceremony



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing confers an excellence award to a cadet of the 19<sup>th</sup> Defence Services Medical Academy. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, addressed the 19<sup>th</sup> intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy held at the parade grounds of the DSMA in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the graduation ceremony for the 19<sup>th</sup> intake, the Commander-in-Chief received the salute of the medical officers as he inspected the graduating companies. Afterwards, the companies of medical officers honoured the Senior General with a slow and quick march parade.

As part of the graduation, the Senior General presented excellence awards, including: Best Medical Officer award to Cadet Bhone Pyai Kyaw; award for excellent performance in training to Cadet Wai Yan Pyai Sone; and the award for excellent performance in study to Cadet Kaung Pyai Sone.

Afterwards, the senior general noted the accomplishments of the elite graduates not only as medical doctors, but also as military officers.

In his speech, the Senior General also urged the cadets to carry out any task dutifully that they were given as a good soldier.

Upholding the nine oaths taken by the cadets at every graduation ceremony, the medical officers were to have goodwill, kindness, compassion and sympathy while observing the medical ethics and research ethics.

As the Tatmadaw's mobile medical teams were providing health care to the people in regions and states, the cadets were to actively participate in public health care services in areas they were assigned, said the Commander-in-Chief.

The Senior General left the graduation ceremony after receiving the salute of the cadets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSMA.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with outstanding cadets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Intake of the DSMA and their parents, giving words of encouragement and congratulations.

In the evening, a dinner to mark the graduation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSMA was held at the Graduation Hall of the Defence Services Medical Academy and it was attended by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, invited guests, the medical officers and their parents, according to the information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

## Myanmar, China consult cooperation on border management

THE Fourth Round of Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence was held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Zhong Wei Kunming Green Lake Hotel in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The meeting was attended by the Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Naung, Ministry of Defence and the Chinese Delegation was led by Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Lt. Gen. Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views in a friendly and cordial atmosphere on border related issues focusing on China's constructive support for the peace process of Myanmar; promoting rule of law, peace and stability along Myanmar-Chi-



High-ranking officials from Myanmar and Chinese Foreign Affairs and Defence ministries discuss matters relating to the two countries' borders at the 4<sup>th</sup> (2+2) High-Level Consultations in Kunming. **PHOTO: MNA**

na border, stabilization of the situation of Northern Myanmar; confidence-building measures and development of border areas to promote the interests of the population in those areas.

Moreover, the two sides agreed among others to step up collaboration and coordination through bilateral mechanisms and cooperation at different levels in various areas such as

Myanmar-China border management, combating narcotic drugs, human trafficking and preventing illegal entries and illegal trade, to adhere to the Boundary Treaty in construction of struc-

tures, fences, retaining walls and river banks maintenance works to prevent erosion of river banks and cooperation on the matters pertaining to resolving boundary issues through joint inspection.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Myanmar Delegation led by the Union Minister attended the dinner hosted by Mr. Zhang Guohua, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China.

The (2+2) High-Level Consultations Meeting led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence at the central level was established aiming at intensifying and consolidating cooperation in security and management in the Myanmar-China border areas more effectively. The 3rd Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence was previously held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

## Union Government sets new pension figures for retired civil servants

THE Union Government has decided to increase the pension of civil servants including Tatmadaw personnel during their cabinet meeting (22/2018) on 12 December.

The decision will take effect starting January 2019, as stated

in the Notification No.101/2018 announced by the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday.

The announcement stated the union government considers civil servants and the defence service personnel who

fulfilled their duties most admirably, and thus, as part of the efforts to promote their livelihoods, the Union Government is making adjustments to their cost of living.

The announcement stated the pension of the pensioners

in Myanmar, retired before 1-4-2018, will receive the payment equal to the pension that will be received by working civil servants when they retire, starting from January 2019.

The pension increase will be calculated, in accord with

the pension laws, based on the pensioner's last salary range before retirement that equals to the increased salary range announced by Ministry of Planning and Finance on 29-4-2018.

Similarly, political pensions were also increased. — MNA



## YBPC faces losses of K5 mln per day, YRTA pushes cashless payment

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Bus Public Company (YBPC) in incurring a loss of about K15,000 per bus per day on passenger fares, according to an internal report of the company, said U Hla Aung, the joint-secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

“The YBPC appointed staff to the buses to calculate the number of commuters per day. It found that as some unscrupulous passengers have not been putting the full payment into cash boxes, the company is losing K15,000 in fares per bus everyday,” said U Hla Aung.

“The YBPC is running 500 units. If passengers take free rides, the company faces losses



This photo shows YBS buses running through on the busy road in downtown area in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

of K5 million,” said U Hla Aung.

To combat this, the YRTA is trying to adopt a cashless payment system for bus fares with the use of prepaid cards.

The Yangon Region government’s Tender Supervisory

Committee had invited tenders for the Yangon Payment Services (YPS) and had announced the list of shortlisted companies for YPS in the preliminary stage.

Excel KC Myanmar Co. Ltd was originally selected by the

Tender Supervisory Committee on 10 January. But the company’s tender was revoked when checks showed noncompliance with rules. Afterwards, Any Pay Payment Services Co. Ltd and Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co. Ltd were considered for the project on 24 April in accordance with tender rules and regulations and their names were submitted to the Yangon Region government. At the Yangon Region Government meeting (20/2018) held on 17 May, the tender was granted to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co. Ltd.

Asia Starmar is currently developing the new system and is working with related government institutions, said U Hla Aung.

“We have selected the tender winner for the YPS. The company is holding discussions with the related government institutions such as the Central Bank and the Myanmar Investment Commission,” he said. Meanwhile, the Power Eleven Company is also facing a slew of difficulties due to unscrupulous passengers and an unfamiliar card system.

“Around 80 per cent of bus lines do not see accurate full payment. Some passengers hand in torn and dirty notes, while some take free rides. Some passengers are even using counterfeit notes,” said Ko Tayoate Lay, the managing director of the Power Eleven Company.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Golden honeydew cultivation declines in Sagaing Region on seed shortage

CULTIVATION of golden honeydew in Sagaing Region has fallen by about 70 per cent this year compared with last year on account of low seed supply, said U Soe Lwin, the chair of the Sagaing Region’s Watermelon, Muskmelon Producers and Exporters Association.

“Winter plantation of golden honeydew has plunged 70 per cent against last year. The border merchants have not been able to meet the demand for seeds as China has incurred losses in the yield of honeydew seeds. As golden honeydew generates good profit, both new and old growers were enthusiastic to plant them. However, they

faced a shortage of seeds for planting. With some growers turning to other melon varieties, cultivation has dropped around 70 per cent,” said U Soe Lwin.

Golden honeydews produced in the last monsoon season are currently being sent to the border markets. About 30 small and heavy trucks are leaving from ChaungU and Myaung areas for border areas. During the early harvest season of monsoon golden honeydew, a kilo of golden honeydews fetched over 6 Yuan. But the price plummeted to 2 Yuan in December on account of lower consumption in China.

“As the weather is getting colder in China, honeydew demand has fallen. The low demand is drastically affecting the market. On 18 and 19 December, the price of golden honeydews rose slightly to 3 Yuan per kilo. The prevailing exchange rate against Chinese yuan is Ks225 per yuan. A single golden honeydew weighs about 2-3 kilograms,” said U Soe Lwin.

For planting an acre of honeydew, farmers require 25 to 30 seed bags. The price of one bag of seeds has increased 300 per cent from Ks22,000 to Ks50,000. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Fishery exports fetch \$173 mln in current fiscal year



**PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

MYANMAR’S exports of fishery products between 1 October and 7 December totalled about US\$173 million, an increase of \$29.6 million compared with the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Fishery exports at the Thai-Myanmar border points of Myawady, Kawthoung, and Myeik registered an increase in the first two months of the 2018-2019 FY compared with the previous financial year.

Myanmar exports fishery products such as fish, prawn, and crabs to 40 countries, including countries in the European Union, China, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Saudi Arabia’s suspension of fish imports from Myanmar beginning April has affected rohu fish suppliers this year. Myanmar keeps only 25 per cent of rohu fish for local consumption and exports the remaining 75 per cent to Saudi

Arabia, the UAE, and Bangladesh. Myanmar exports farmed fish to Saudi Arabia, which accounts for 30 per cent of farm-raised fish exports and 40 per cent of rohu exports. The local fishery sector is also facing difficulties due to high aquatic feed prices.

Myanmar’s fishery exports touched a high of over \$650 million in the 2012-2013 FY. Thereafter, the value of exports has gradually declined due to erratic weather and scarcity of fish on account of illegal fishing methods.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is making concerted efforts to increase export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques. There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country. Myanmar’s fisheries sector earnings were pegged at over \$717 million in the last fiscal year. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Private traders help boost exports of manufactured goods

THE value of exports of manufactured goods in the last two months of the current fiscal year totalled US\$1.45 billion on the back of rising exports from the private sector.

Between 1 October and 7 December, public sector exports of manufactured goods stood at \$489.56 million, declining \$115.8 million from the same period last year, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Private sector exports fetched \$960.69 million compared with \$523 million in the same period last year.

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles on a cut-

make-pack (CMP) basis, which contributes to the country’s GDP to a certain extent.

CMP has emerged as a promising industry in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but tripled within two years to \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September.

Garment producers are eyeing Myanmar for investment because of its inexpensive labour, which has sometimes led to conflicts between factory owners and labourers, according to market observers.

There are currently more than 400 garment factories in Myanmar, employing over 300,000 workers. The manufacturing sector is expected to retain its top position in attracting FDIs in the current FY.

The majority of the country’s CMP products are exported to Japan, while some are shipped to Europe and South Korea. At present, CMP garment enterprises have expressed their concern over EU’s possible withdrawal of GSP status to Myanmar as the move can hurt the industry. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



# Need for eliminating malaria, dengue

**A**N outbreak of malaria in Myanmar has claimed 30 lives in 2017 and eight deaths from January to November this year. The country saw a total of 22,204 dengue cases with 107 deaths from January to November this year. There were 31,288 cases of dengue cases with a total 192 dengue-related deaths last year.

Myanmar registered a total of 31,964 cases of malaria infections so far this year and with 8 malaria-related. Therefore, it is important that we accelerate efforts to fight malaria and dengue.

At the 71st World Health Conference, Myanmar signed the Ministerial Call for Action to Eliminate Malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-region before 2030. The country is implementing the South-East Asia Region's 2017-2030 Malaria Elimination Action Plan to achieve the goal.

Another reason for the rising frequency of dengue is the habit of Myanmar people to store water, which increases the number of places where mosquitoes can breed.

For combating mosquito-borne diseases, stronger surveillance and information systems hold great potential. By building on and strengthening the existing surveillance in a timely manner, national malaria programmes will be in a better position to allocate or redirect resources to affected areas, especially in the event of an outbreak.

According to the WHO, 20 million people contract dengue fever across the world every year. Of these, a total of 500,000 cases require hospitalisation.

Between 1960 and 2010, the incidence of dengue outbreaks increased by more than 30 per cent across the world. In Myanmar alone, there were 31,288 dengue cases in 2017.

The main reasons for the higher incidence of cases, according to experts, are climate change and a higher breeding rate of the Aedes mosquito. Another reason for the rising frequency of dengue is the habit of Myanmar people to store water, which increases the number of places where mosquitoes can breed.

The most effective way to eliminate mosquito-borne diseases is encouraging public participation in preventive measures. People must take part in prevention programmes by keeping their homes and surroundings clean and ensuring there is no standing water in or around their homes for the vectors to breed.

The Ministry of Health and Sports recently distributed mobile tablets to its staff in the regions and states as part of efforts to enhance skills of medical staff, allow more effective dissemination of health-related information to the public, and increase the efficacy of medical treatment administered by doctors stationed in townships and settlements on the front lines.

To achieve the goal of eliminating mosquito-borne diseases, we must continue with our chosen trajectory.

■

“Currently, rules have been relaxed further to allow workers to seek treatment at private clinics in case of work-related emergencies with provision for refund of medical costs.”

Daw Than Than Nu, Director, SSB

## Roundtable Discussions on the Reform Program in connection with Social Security Benefits (Part Two)

MRTV aired a live program (Part Two) on talks under the theme “On the Reform Program in connection with social security benefits”, in which U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General of the Social Security Board; Daw Than Than Nu, Director of the SSB; U Win Naing, Representative of the Employers; Daw Phyo Sandar Soe, Representative of the Workers; and ILO National Project Coordinator Dr. Thein Than Htay have participated in the discussions.

By Khin Yadanar  
Photo: May Oo Moe

(Continued from the previous day)

**Moderator:** Discussions are valuable. Representative of the workers, may kindly share your view.  
**Daw Phyo Sandar Soe:** First of all, I would like to talk about reform with a view to making the system strong. In fact, the social security fund is initiated with the contribution of the employers, the workers, and the government.

In making the social security system sturdy and strong, more contributions are poured in. Therefore, we do not want the social funds to be mixed up because the source of fund is not in the form of revenue and tax of the state. It is in fact the contribution of the employers and the workers.

Moreover, the social security funds could never be diverted to other budget headings and spend them out. For instance, the funds are being collected as the medical care and the sickness benefit on health grounds, and therefore, the expenditure should be utilized for the health purpose only.

We are always thinking in providing better service, and that we are representing the workers on the ground reality what the workers really wanted to have. We submitted proposals on our part as the representative of the workers as well as the representative of the employers.

We have continuous and constant communication and contact with them, and therefore, our submissions may kindly be considered and implemented by the Ministry of Labor and the Social Security Board.

If we just go back in the same route as before, we might have difficulty in managing budget matters. Our 2012 Social Security Law is not ostensibly to be autonomous and up to the standard in the eyes of the ILO.

The functioning and procedure involved partly in the budget allocation of the ministry that needs approval and decision of the Parliament, making some delays in the work program. We wanted to expand our program,



U Maung Maung Aye



Daw Than Than Nu



U Win Naing



Daw Phyo Sandar Soe



Dr. Thein Than Htay

but we are not in a position to carry out.

It is therefore the intended work programs are being streamlined in the reform plan so that they may finally come under the scope and purview of the law. Another factor is to expand manpower. If more recruits could not be made under the government budget, we must be in a position to spend staff budget out of our own social security funds.

When we are facing shortages of doctors, we could be able to recruit by our own funds, and also we could provide them more enhanced salary if the pay is inadequate. We may have to persuade them to join us with fair wages. We have some problem in between the government budget allocation and the desire of the SSB to implement for better management.

On the part of implementation in the social security tasks, we wanted to tell the employers and the workers that the system and the mechanism is meant to salvage and compensate when there is any danger, harm or hazard.

Some people do not understand the endeavors of this nature for which we could accept and understand their naive ignorance. However, some people understand the system and the scheme, but never ever try to put into practice. If such concept persisted, then our social security system might collapse.

Therefore, I would like to urge to all sides to study the system and put into practice and move into action.

We are allowing maternity leave and benefits to female workers such as six weeks, eight weeks

and totaling (14) weeks. In such situation, the female workers did not enjoy maternity leave due to the reason that they have pity and embarrassed by feeling of respect or be restrained by fear of offending towards the employers.

We provided them maternity leave as it is necessary on health grounds. We accorded them with this gift as it is needed. We would like to urge the workers to enjoy what the rules have provided and take the benefits.

If and when the benefits and services are inadequate and insufficient, they are urged to inform us without fail. The social security offices have opened up hotlines for complaints and grievances, and we told them to report immediately so that prompt response could be given and fulfilled the needs.

On the part of the employers, there are cases that they failed to pay in full share as contribution of all the workers. If and when accident occurred at the worksite, the main responsibility remains on the shoulder of the employer. The social security system protects and prevents the heavy burden of the employer with regards to the compensation, and it is the duty of the employer to contribute their fair share regularly. They must not be afraid of adding their share.

If they do not follow the rules and regulations, then the SSB may find it difficult to expand the new plans. Some of the plans must be implemented at the earliest; otherwise more problems would arise if it is delayed. For example, it is in connection with the old age pensions in the country as the demographic change shows that the number of aging

citizens is still low.

It is time to go ahead with the pension system while the ageing workers are still small. If we started the old age pension at a later time we may have more difficulty implementing the scheme as the number would grow.

The pension system and the pension fund are very much vital, firm and important. When the nation is in need of financial beef up, the spare funds could be temporarily utilized by lending out to the needy business people. This method is instrumental in many countries.

We must keep the pension fund in a firm and solid foundation. In our new social security system, we have already agreed to work on tripartite mechanism, and that we must move fast for the expansion of pension system. If we are delayed, then the number of old age pensioners would be high and make us difficult to start.

There are multiple tasks to be implemented at the same time. We have to consider for the reform in the legislation, where we need to listen and include the voices of the employers and the workers in the reform process.

This is part of the social partner relationship, and we have witnessed that the ministry in connection with the social security is working with all good faith. We requested to all stakeholders such as the lawmakers and the citizens to come forward for the successful implementation of the system.

**Moderator:** We understand that the matters in connection with the social security plan are required in making some relaxations with less restriction. Please discuss.

**Daw Than Than Nu:** We need to step ahead with moderate speed on the legal reform by negotiating with the employers and the workers. On the part of the ILO, things are to be done in international standard and norm in regular timeframe.

Meanwhile, the SSB would like to loosen up the existing restrictions as they happened to be too much and too many. Some steps were skipped in the process as the demand of evidence is too bulky.

Some relaxation has been made in connection with the benefits. When pension is submitted, medical treatment is allowed in the law for (50) per cent compulsory entitlement. However, at the social security clinics, (7) days free medical treatment have been approved. Even the worker failed to contribute his contribution for some period, he is entitled (7) days medical treatment in a month.

Another factor in the past is that the worker was allowed to take medical treatment at the private clinic only on the condition of emergency basis, and the medical cost incurred was not reimbursed. In the law, cost of medicine was reimbursed; actually meaning the drug being bought from the outside market was paid back. If the treatment was taken at the People's Hospital, the cases such as that of coronary surgery and that of kidney dialysis, the cost of drugs are refunded.

Currently, rules have been relaxed further to allow workers to seek treatment at private clinics in case of work-related emergencies with provision for refund of medical costs.

In the past, the worker could enjoy medical benefit only at the place where he contributed his share, in other words, if he paid contributions in Yangon, he could enjoy benefits only in Yangon.

Currently, the worker can take medical treatment at any place, if he has paid his social security contribution. We are now arranging to enable to take out cash benefits at the hospitals and at the clinics. In making the process smooth on the clearance of medical treatment and the cash benefits, township to township communication and exchange is facilitated.

In order to prevent from deprivation and denial of benefits of the worker, they must never re-register their ID card if they moved to other work establishment.

In the case of child delivery, the female worker may have taken SSN number at a certain work establishment, and then she might move to another unit and register again at another place. In such situation, the case is being regularized and put in order.

If she has paid contribution for (6) months and the registration reached for (12) months, the maternity benefit is allowed. Based on the wage and salary, maternity and delivery benefits could be enjoyed in full. When the female worker is registered with social security system, she could enjoy maternity leave, and that they are entitled to deliver child at the hospitals in conjunction with the medical treatment added with the cash benefits.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

■

### Total Number of Teachers in Myanmar by Academic Year



Source: Ministry of Education  
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 19th December, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20th December, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, (Northern and Southern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Magway Region, Rakhine State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan and Chin States, isolated in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th December, 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th December, 2018:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th December, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar



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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**Zaw Min  
Zaw Htet Oo  
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),  
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,  
Hay Mar Tin Win,  
Ei Myat Mon  
Kyaw Zin Lin  
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com  
Nyein Nyein Ei,**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,  
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,  
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Yangon International Gems, Jewellery Fair to be held in Jan

THE Second Yangon International Gems and Jewellery Fair will take place at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon from 9 to 12 January.

"The Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association is looking to invite international entrepreneurs, although some American merchants and jewelers have refused to buy Myanmar's gems and jewellery," said U Aung Myint, the vice chairman of the Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

The purpose of the fair is to develop the gems and jewellery trade in the country, penetrate international markets, and develop cooperation in the local market. The event will feature regular sales as well as sealed-bid auctions, which will allow participants to buy high-quality items.

"About 600 international gems and jewellery traders, over



A view shows jewellery displayed in glass cabinets at a jewellery shop in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

6,000 local traders, and over 7,000 visitors attended the first exhibition held on 13 January. The first exhibition's sales did not meet our expectations," said U Aung Myint.

Sales amounting to K300 million were recorded within two days of the first event, according to the association.

For the second exhibition, the authorities have made ar-

rangements so foreign buyers can take their purchases home without delay. They will be required to pay only 6 per cent tax on their purchases. Local buyers will have to pay 11 per cent tax, including a 5 per cent commercial tax.

Local and foreign visitors will be able to make purchases with master cards, visa cards, union pay cards, JCB cards, and MPU cards at the fair.

The event will also include lucky draws for buyers making purchases of above K500,000. Additionally, local and foreign experts will be invited to host workshops, awareness talks, and seminars at the fair.

All those who are interested in the event will have to bring their passport, NRC card, driving license, or student ID for registration. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## 300,000 travellers visit Bagan Archaeological Museum last year

OVER 300,000 local and foreign travellers visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, said U Nyi Moon, the Deputy Director of the Archaeology and National Museum Department.

The Bagan Archaeological Museum is situated south of the Gawdawpalin temple in old Bagan, NyaungU Township. It is open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except on Mondays and public holidays. The museum charges an entrance fee of K5,000 for foreign tourists and K500 for local travellers.

"The older archaeological museum was opened in 1904



Bagan Archaeological museum in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

near the northern entrance of the Ananda temple. Later, a modern museum was built and opened in October, 1979. In early 1995, construction began on a new museum, built along inter-

national standards, near the site of the old museum. The new museum was opened on 17 April, 1998," said U Nyi Moon.

The museum near Gawdawpalin temple was construct-

ed on a plot of land measuring 10.97 acres. The museum houses 10 exhibition rooms, including a special display room, and rooms featuring Bagan architecture, Bagan arts and crafts, Bagan palace city, Bagan literature, Bagan social life, Bagan Buddhist art, Bagan Buddha images, Bagan frescos, and Bagan paintings depicting pagodas and monuments.

Over 10,000 artefacts are on display at the museum. The museum staff explain the history of those items to travellers. The museum was visited by 304,999 local travellers and 10,000 tourists in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.—U Win Htein ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Illegal consignment of raw jade stones seized in Mohnyin

POLICE searched a six-wheeled truck near the Hopin toll gate in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on Tuesday and seized an illegal consignment of raw jade stones, weighing 3,781 kilograms.

The truck was at the wheel tax gate when officials with the Hopin police asked the driver, identified as Than Naing Oo from Mogaung Township, to follow them

to the police station. The police searched the vehicle and found 650 pieces of jade stones, which were being transported illegally.

The driver and two other persons on board, identified as Sai Thiha from Zeebingyi Village, Pyin Oo Lwin Township, have been arrested and face charges under Section 42(A) of the Gemstone Law.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Illegal consignments of Padauk, Tamalan teak seized in Mandalay

A combined team comprising staff from the Forest Department found 146 illegally logged Padauk and Tamalan teak blocks, weighing 7.2878 tons, at the Mhan Tan ward monastery in Amarapura Township on 16 December. The team is continuing investigations in the case to find the owner of the illegal blocks of teak.

In a separate operation on the same day, a joint team from

the Forest and Customs departments stopped and searched a vehicle at the 16 mile checkpoint on the Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin road in Patheingyi Township and found an illegal consignment of 35 Padauk blocks, weighing 1.032 tons. The police have registered a case and are continuing their investigations.—Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



## Dr. Pe Myint holds separate meetings with Yunnan Media Group Vice Chairman, Korean Film Council Chairman



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint poses for a documentary photo together with Chairman of the Korean Film Council (KOFIC), Mr. Oh Seok Geun and officials. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint poses for a documentary photo together with delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Yunnan Media Group, Mr. Ma Jianyu. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, held separate meetings with delegations led by the Vice Chairman of the Yunnan Media Group, Mr. Ma Jianyu, and the Chairman of the Korean Film Council (KOFIC), Mr. Oh Seok Geun, at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister met with the delegation led by the Vice Chairman of the Yunnan Media Group at 1 p.m. yesterday.

They discussed collaboration to jointly produce the “The New Southern Silk Road” TV series with six episodes, the shooting of a documentary film

on the new Southern Silk Road, holding the New Year Spring Festival in January 2019 and the Myanmar-China Cultural Week with the aim of achieving cultural exchanges programs between Myanmar and PRC.

Dr. Pe Myint met with the KOFIC Chairman at 2 p.m. yesterday. They discussed cooper-

ation between the Republic of Korea and Myanmar for the development of the film industry, arrangements under preparation by the ROK for opening the Asian Film Center for ASEAN countries, inclusion of Myanmar as a member country in the center, and inviting Myanmar’s participation in a roundtable

discussion on films to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in February 2019.

The Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, and officials also attended the meeting.—MNA ■

*(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)*

## Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol along border

MYANMAR and Bangladesh conducted a coordinated patrol from border post 47 to 48 from 10:50 am to 12 noon on 18 December, according to the information released by the Myanmar Police Force.

The patrol of Myanmar was led by Police captain Khin Maung Zaw from No.5 Border Police sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungtau Township, while the Bangladeshi side was led by Naib

Subedar Abu Hanif from No. 11 Fultoli Outpost of border guard force of Bangladesh.

Similarly, a troop of border police led by Police Major Kyaw Win of No.2 Border Police sub-division (Ngakhuya) station, Maungtau Township, conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River from 10:40 am to 12:10 pm together with Bangladeshi border guard force.

The troops in the two water crafts met with Bangladesh’s troop led by Subedar Usuf Ali of BGB 2 on their two water crafts at the middle of the Naf River and patrolled together from border post 11 to 15 along the river according to the Police Information Department.

After the patrol, the two forces held a discussion on a watercraft.—GNLM ■

*(Translated by JT)*



**PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

## Two fishermen found dead with necks slashed in Maungtau

TWO fishermen were found dead with their necks slashed in a village in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, on 19 December.

The two men have been identified as U Maung Tun Aye, 56, and U Maung Maung Than, 51, from the upper Pyuma Village of Maungtau Township. They reportedly went to the Pyuma Creek for fishing on 17 December.

When they did not return home, U Maung Tun Aye’s daughter informed the police in Ngakhura, Maungtau Township. Following this, a combined team of officers from the Ngakhura outpost and about 40 villagers from Pyuma Village launched a search around 8:30 a.m. on 18 December. They searched nearby villages and the creek, and found the missing fishermen’s boat and net

about a mile from Yaydwinbyin Village.

The team continued their search and found the bodies of the missing fishermen at a beach along the creek, near the destroyed village of Taungyin, Maungtau Township. The men were found with cuts 5 inches long and 2 inches deep on their necks. —Maungtau District IPRD ■

*(Translated by JT)*

## Myanmar National Airlines to start flights between Yangon and Chengdu

THE Myanmar National Airlines will operate flights between Yangon and Chengdu, China, starting 28 December. Chengdu will be the sixth international destination for Myanmar National Airlines.

Flights to Chengdu will operate thrice a week from Terminal 1 of the Yangon International Airport.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Flight No. 803 will depart from the Yangon Inter-

national Airport at 10 p.m. and arrive in Chengdu at 2:30 a.m. the next morning.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, Flight No. 804 will depart from Chengdu at 3:35 a.m. and land at the Yangon International Airport at 5:05 a.m.—Myanmar National Airlines will use Boeing 737 NG for the new route. The minimum fare for a round-trip ticket will be US\$330.—Aung Thura ■

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*





Protestors stage a rally in front of the Japanese Consulate General in New York on 18 August, 2018, against landfill work for the relocation of a major US military base in Japan's southern island prefecture of Okinawa. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Okinawa appeals rejection of lawsuit seeking halt of US base transfer

NAHA (Japan)—The Okinawa prefectural government appealed on Wednesday a high court ruling rejecting its lawsuit to stop the controversial relocation of a key US base within the southern prefecture.

Following the 5 December ruling by the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, the central government on Friday began full-fledged landfill work in the Henoko coastal district of Nago for the replacement facility for US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The high court upheld a

lower court ruling in March without examining the substance of the lawsuit, citing a 2002 Supreme Court ruling that stated the central or local governments cannot bring suits seeking that others comply with ordinances or rules.

The Okinawa government had claimed the central government was acting illegally by moving forward with the relocation plan without permission from the local governor for work that involves damaging the seabed where fishing rights have been granted. Many

residents of Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, want the Futenma base moved outside of the prefecture rather than relocated from a crowded residential area of Ginowan to the less populated Henoko district.

Japan and the United States agreed on the Futenma base transfer in 1996 after public anger was fueled by the rape the previous year of an Okinawa girl by three US servicemen. The central government later selected Henoko as the relocation site.—Kyodo News ■

## One out of five foreigners in S Korea experiences discrimination: data

SEOUL—One out of five foreigners in South Korea experienced discrimination while staying here, a government data showed on Wednesday.

According to Statistics Korea, the number of foreigners aged 15 or above, who stayed here for at least 91 days, was 1,301,000 as of 15 May, up 6.2 per cent, or 76,000, from a year earlier. Among the total foreign nationals, 40 per cent was ethnic Koreans from China,

followed by the Chinese with a share of 11.5 per cent and the Vietnamese with 10.9 percent.

Foreigners here, who said they were discriminated against by South Koreans at least once for the past year, reached 21.2 per cent of the total. Among those who suffered discrimination, 60.9 percent cited their nationalities as the reason for the discrimination.

The lack of Korean language proficiency was cited

by 25.7 per cent, while their appearance and occupation were picked by 6.6 per cent and 2.6 per cent, respectively.

The number of paid workers of foreign nationality was 846,000 as of 15 May. Among them, temporary employees or daily workers reached 350,000.

It was higher than 23.8 per cent, the portion of South Korean workers who were employed temporarily or on a daily basis.—AFP ■

## Australian police to supervise convicted terrorists on release from prison

CANBERRA—Australian authorities are seeking the power to manage convicted terrorists throughout their entire lives, even when they have been released from prison. News Corp Australia on Wednesday reported that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has applied for a control order against an unnamed Islamic extremist, who is set to be released from prison in February, 2019. The man will be the first Islamic State-inspired terrorist to be released from prison, leaving authorities with questions over how best to manage his release. Under new laws, police can apply for an extended supervision order, which would result in the offender being locked up for longer but authorities have said a judge is unlikely to grant the order in this case. Instead, Attorney-General Christian Porter has promised to change laws so that the AFP could apply for extended supervision orders, which judges are more likely to grant than extended incarceration.

Similar control orders already introduced in New South Wales prohibit the subject from associating with other extremists, limit their use of the Internet and restrict the phones they can use. In more extreme cases, subjects can be prohibited from going near places such as airports or prisons. Extended detention or control orders could be applied to 33 of the 36 individuals currently in Australian prisons for violating national terror laws. Control orders can also be applied for prisoners who police can prove were radicalized while incarcerated and thus pose a threat to the community upon their release.—Xinhua ■

## Ex-Goldman Malaysian banker faces US extradition over 1MDB scandal

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia)—Malaysia on Wednesday moved to extradite to the United States a former Goldman Sachs banker embroiled in the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal, even as he faces charges in the Southeast Asian country.

Huge sums of public money were allegedly stolen from Malaysia's 1MDB sovereign wealth fund and used to buy everything from yachts to artwork, in a scheme that allegedly involved former premier Najib Razak and contributed to his government's shock election defeat in May.

Goldman helped 1MDB to issue \$6.5 billion of bonds but Kuala Lumpur accuses the bank and its former employees of misappropriating \$2.7 billion during the process.

Washington had requested the extradition of Ng Chong Hwa—a Malaysian former managing director at the bank—in October after bringing three criminal charges against him, including corruption and money-laundering.

Deputy public prosecutor Shukor Abu Bakar told AFP that a legal application has been filed

under the extradition treaty between the two countries.

Goldman has pledged to fight the charges, insisting it was misled by the former Malaysian government and 1MDB.

The alleged offences by Ng—commonly known as Roger Ng—are punishable by jail in the United States.

Ng will fight the extradition attempt, his lawyer Tan Hock Chuan said.

On Monday, Malaysia's new government announced it was also filing criminal charges against Ng, his boss and Southeast Asia chairman Tim Leissner, and Goldman Sachs.

Ng was brought to court on Wednesday and will be charged, officials said.

Leissner has pleaded guilty to conspiring to launder money allegedly siphoned from 1MDB and paying bribes to Malaysian and Emirati officials.

Fugitive Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho—commonly known as Jho Low—the alleged mastermind of the fraud, was also charged by Malaysia this week with conspiring with Leissner and Ng. He maintains his innocence.—AFP ■



# How Germany will turn lights out at last black coal mine

BERLIN (Germany) — After more than 150 years, Germany's last black coal mine will close in the Ruhr region, posing a gigantic geological and environmental challenge to the former industrial heartland.

## How to close a mine

The Prosper-Haniel mine's galleries were painstakingly excavated over decades by workers with pickaxes and later pneumatic drills.

Now they have been sealed off by enormous stretches of concrete.

Mining company RAG, in charge of clean-up at the site, has nearly finished removing tonnes of steel, equipment and cables from the tunnels.

The final concrete blocks remain to be placed for Prosper-Haniel to fall silent once and for all.

Within around 10

years, the galleries more than 600 metres below the earth will fill up at least partially with groundwater.

RAG will drain and pump this water as part of its "eternal task" as the owner.

"If this system of 'eternal tasks' did not exist, 80 to 100 years from now the water would rise and two-thirds of the Ruhr region would be flooded," the professor and hydraulic engineer in charge of the project, Andre Niemann, told AFP.

## Environmental risks

The water found in mines is particularly acidic after trickling through a kilometre of underground sediment, and contains more salt than seawater.

If it reaches the water table just below the surface, it could contaminate drinking water resources



In this file photo taken on 20 November, 2018 a part of the Prosper Haniel coal mine is pictured in Bottrop, Germany. PHOTO: AFP

in the region.

Hence the requirement for RAG to constantly pump it away — as well as treating it before it can be diverted into a river like the Rhine.

Meanwhile, the tunnel floors in the mine contain

so-called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chemicals used for mining production.

"There is a study to determine the concentration (of PCBs) and how dangerous it is," Niemann said.

"A plant for treating it has already been set up," he added.

## A new chapter?

"As long as the water is regularly pumped out, there's no risk of subsidence or flooding" in areas

above the pit, Niemann said.

And so-called "fire-damp" methane explosions are unlikely as long as the galleries are sealed away from the open air.

"The gigantic concrete blocks we poured to close the tunnels are designed for this, so even if there is an explosion they won't budge," the engineer said.

Some coal still squirreled away will be burned to heat the homes of people in the region, while the naturally warm mine water will flow through the underfloor heating of houses in the area.

Part of the Prosper-Haniel site will be covered with grass and plants, turning it into a park alongside tourist landmarks and museums aimed at keeping the memory of mining culture alive.—AFP ■

# Outrage as six baby seals decapitated in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — Six baby seals have been found decapitated in New Zealand in what wildlife rangers on Wednesday branded a "cruel and senseless" act against a protected species.

The bodies of the New Zealand fur seal pups were found by a tourism operator on Monday at Scenery Nook near the South Island city of Christchurch, the Department of Conservation said.

The department's local operations manager Andy Thompson said the animals, which are protected under New Zealand law, were estimated to be 11 months old.

"Due to the disturbing, brutal and violent nature of this crime... it

has been reported to the police," he said.

Thompson said the seals' heads were nowhere to be found and it appeared they had been killed elsewhere then dumped in the beauty spot from a boat.

"We believe it's incredibly unlikely sharks would have bitten the heads off six seals but left the bodies untouched," he said.

Thompson added the killers may have mistakenly believed the seals were competing with local anglers for fish.

"Regrettably, antagonism towards seals is often due to the misplaced belief that seals are eating large amounts of fish species valued for human consumption," he said.

"That isn't the case.

Research shows 90 per cent of Banks Peninsula fur seal diet is made up of lantern fish which are not sought after in fishing."

The DOC has appealed for information about the killings.

In 2011, a South Island teenager was jailed for two years after he admitted to bludgeoning 25 seals to death, including newborn pups.—AFP ■

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (29/2018)

1. Open tender is invited for supply of the following services in United States Dollars.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	MOGE-C001/2018	Provision of 3D Seismic Data Acquisition Services for Onshore Block RSF-1	US\$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Services with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal ([www.moe.gov.mm](http://www.moe.gov.mm)) as from 19 December, 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 15 January, 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 15-1-2019, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 3411206

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0112 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0112 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (082N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (082N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



# K-pop's BTS 'worth \$3.6 billion a year' to South Korea

SEOUL (South Korea)—South Korean boyband BTS are worth more than \$3.6 billion to the country's economy every year—equivalent to the contribution of 26 mid-sized companies—a research institute said on Tuesday.

The floppy-haired songsters were also the reason that one in every 13 foreign tourists visited South Korea in 2017, the Hyundai Research Institute said.

Known for their boyish good looks and meticulously choreographed dance moves, BTS—short for Bangtan Sonyeondan, which translates as Bulletproof Boy Scouts—have become one of South Korea's best-known and most valuable musical exports.

Earlier this year the septet became the first K-pop band to top the US album charts, a sign of the genre's growing global appeal. That appeal has helped boost the brand image of South Korean products abroad, the institute said, making BTS a valuable economic asset.

Researchers estimated the group's so-called annual produc-



Known for their boyish good looks, floppy haircuts and meticulously choreographed dance moves, BTS have become one of South Korea's most valuable musical exports. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion inducement effect—the total economic value generated by related industries—at 4.1 trillion won (\$3.63 billion) annually, the same as 26 mid-sized South Korean companies. Some 800,000 tourists were believed to have

chosen South Korea as their destination last year because of BTS—more than seven percent of the total visitors to the country.

More than \$1 billion in consumer exports, such as clothes, cosmetics, and foodstuffs, were

associated with them, it said.

If BTS maintain their popularity they can be expected to generate an economic value of 41.8 trillion won over the next 10 years, the institute added.—**AFP ■**

## Paris goes Klimt crazy as a million pay to see digital show

PARIS (France)—More than a million people have flocked up to see a digital exhibition dedicated to the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt in Paris, according to the organizers. The show at L'Atelier des Lumieres, which claims to be the biggest video projection gallery in the world, comes as another show featuring Klimt's pupil Egon Schiele has become a hit on the other side of the French capital. The immersive exhibition in an old foundry in eastern Paris uses 140 projectors to flood the walls and floors of the space with the Viennese master's work on a 35-minute loop.

Culturespaces, the private company behind the Klimt show, said it will be extended until 4 January. The exhibition will be followed in late February by another sound and light show using some of the best-known canvasses by Vincent Van Gogh, including "Sunflowers" and "The Starry Night". The Schiele show at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in western Paris closes on 14 January.—**AFP ■**

## S Korean grain silo transforms into world's largest mural

INCHEON (South Korea)—A dreary grain silo that was transformed into an enormous colourful artwork in South Korea has been named by Guinness World Records as the largest outdoor mural in the world.

The painting which depicts a young boy's journey into adulthood covers the outside of giant storage containers in the port city of Incheon, west of Seoul, taking up 23,688 square metres.

The mural was commissioned by the city's government and port authority as part of efforts to improve the negative view of aged industrial facilities, an idea which originated from the community art projects of the 1920s that swept the United States and Mexico, according to the South's Yonhap news agency. Twenty-two artists used more than 850,000 litres of paint to tell the story which reflects the seasons and resembles 16 individual book covers, at a cost of 550 million won (US\$487,000). It topples the previous record holder by a significant margin—the Pueblo Levee Project in Pueblo, in the US state of Colorado, at 16,554 square meters.—**AFP ■**



The painting which depicts a young boy's childhood covers the outside of giant storage containers in the port city of Incheon, west of Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

## UK tabloids fall out of love with 'Duchess Difficult' Meghan

LONDON—The honeymoon period for former actress and newly-minted British royal Meghan Markle, it seems, is over. Six months on from her fairytale wedding to Prince Harry at Windsor Castle, Meghan is faced with a daily barrage of tabloid headlines criticising her courtly manner and warning her against becoming "Duchess Difficult". Pregnant Meghan was credited with breathing fresh air into the royal institution when she married Prince Harry in May, but a series of reported palace fall-outs and resignations have raised questions about her methods.

Senior courtiers have quit amid suggestions that Meghan is a demanding boss, firing off e-mails to staff in the early hours of the morning. British tabloids have reported she made sister-in-law Kate cry during preparations for the wedding. Related Video: Meghan Markle's Father Feels 'Ghosted' and 'Shunned' by Daughter. The family insists that Harry and Meghan's plan to move out from next door to his



brother Prince William and Kate is driven by the imminent arrival of their first child, but many believe it is a sign of a deteriorating relationship. Queen Elizabeth II was also believed to have been angered by Meghan asking to be loaned her emerald wedding tiara, according to newspaper reports. It emerged last week that highly-respected courtier Samantha Cohen would be leaving after Meghan's baby is born next spring following 17 years of royal service. Another of Meghan's assistants also resigned six months

after the wedding, tabloids reported. To her supporters, the duchess is suffering blowback for her modernising ways and has become a scapegoat for the family's underlying problems.

"It is interesting how Meghan... has become such a lightning rod for so many controversies, from the royal family's—shall we say—race issues to the British media's obsession with pitting women against one another, with claims that she and Kate... are at one another's throats," wrote The Guardian's Hadley Freeman.—**AFP ■**



## China's petaflop supercomputer help improve vehicle R&D quality

TIANJIN—A supercomputer-based simulation platform for the research and development of vehicles has been launched in the National Supercomputer Centre in north China's Tianjin.

Supported by China's first petaflop supercomputer the Tianhe-1, the platform can help researchers and engineers develop key components of vehicles, said Meng Xiangfei, head of the center's applied research

and development department.

A car is composed of thousands of parts and fittings. A computer simulation can complete around 80 per cent of the work in design and research of automobiles, he said. International automakers like BMW, Volkswagen, and General Motors have founded their own supercomputer-based simulation platforms.

Meng said the centre has established cooperative relations

with automakers and institutions such as China Automotive Technology and Research Centre Co Ltd, Foton Motor Group and Tianjin FAW.

The Tianhe-1 supercomputer can complete an average of 1,400 online tasks on a daily basis, such as supercomputing for visual analysis and processing.

Meng said Tianjin FAW was the first to try the platform, which has optimized the company's re-

search and development process for two types of its self-designed cars. Using the supercomputer, the company shortened its research time by 80 per cent, saving more than 7 million yuan (around 1 million US dollars) in costs.

The Tianhe-1, unveiled in 2010, is capable of at least 1 quadrillion calculations per second. It has served in a number of fields including digital mining research and development, animation, on-

line finance, and big data, as well as e-governance of the Binhai New Area in Tianjin.

The National Supercomputer Center has completed the development of China's new-generation exascale supercomputer the Tianhe-3. The final version of the Tianhe-3 will be operational by 2020 when it is expected to be 200 times faster and have 100 times more storage capacity than the Tianhe-1.—Xinhua ■

## Second launch of Progress freighter to ISS under three-hour scheme planned for March 2019

MOSCOW—The second launch of a Progress cargo spaceship to the International Space Station (ISS) under the three-hour scheme is scheduled for March 2019. Manned space flights under this scheme may begin in 18 months, chief of Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin said on 17 December.

"We plan to repeat the launch of the Progress freighter under the ultra-short two-revolution scheme in March next year. The flight duration is three hours. In some 18 months, we will be able to take cosmonauts and space tourists to the ISS in a shorter time than to fly from Moscow to Brussels," he wrote on his Twitter account.

The ultra-short three-hour technique (of two revolutions around Earth) was first used in July when the Progress MS-09 cargo spaceship reached the ISS in a span of three hours and 40 minutes.

Before that, the Progress freighters used a four-revolution scheme to reach the station in about six hours.—Tass ■

## Green leafy vegetables can reduce fat in liver: study

WASHINGTON—Eating more green leafy vegetables may reduce the risks of developing fatty liver, according to a study published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden showed that a large intake of inorganic nitrate, an ingredient naturally occurring in many vegetables, could reduce fat accumulation in the liver.

Liver steatosis, or fatty liver, is a common liver disease that affects about 25 per cent of the global population, but there has been no approved treatment for it until now.

They supplemented dietary nitrate to mice with a high-fat, high-sugar diet, and those mice went with a significantly lower proportion of fat in the liver.

The researchers also observed reduction of blood pressure and improved insulin/glucose balance in mice with type

2 diabetes.

Previous studies have shown that a higher intake of fruit and vegetables has a beneficial effect on cardiovascular function and on diabetes.

"We think that these diseases are connected by similar mechanisms, where oxidative stress causes compromised nitric oxide signalling, which has a detrimental impact on cardiometabolic functions," said Mattias Carlstrom, associate professor at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Karolinska.

"We now demonstrate an alternative way to produce nitric oxide, where more nitrate in our diet can be converted to nitric oxide and other bioactive nitrogen species in our body," said Carlstrom.

Carlstrom suggested that we took at least 200 grams green leafy vegetables per day to obtain the protective effects.—Xinhua ■



Elon Musk, co-founder and chief executive officer of Tesla Inc, arrives in a modified Tesla Model X electric vehicle during an unveiling event for the Boring Co Hawthorne test tunnel in Hawthorne, south of Los Angeles on 18 December, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

## Elon Musk bores tunnel to revolutionize city driving

HAWTHORNE (United States)—Elon Musk on Tuesday took a break from futuristic electric cars and private space travel to unveil a low-cost tunnel he sees as a godsend for city traffic.

The billionaire behind Tesla and SpaceX late Tuesday put the spotlight on the a 1.14 mile (1.8 kilometre) tunnel created by his Boring Company for about \$10 million.

The sample tunnel is part of Musk's vision to have an underground network that cars, preferably Teslas, can be lowered to by lifts then slotted into tracks and propelled along at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kmh).

"The only way to solve this is to go 3D, for the transport system to match the living quarters," Musk said of solving the problem of traffic congestion in urban areas.

"It's all relatively simple,

no Nobel Prize is needed here."

An entrance to a sample tunnel was shown publicly for the first time in this city near Los Angeles as the initial stage of Musk's project to revolutionize city traffic by zipping along below congested streets.

Musk founded the Boring company two years ago as a self-financed, side-endeavor to his work at Tesla and SpaceX.

Specially designed equipment drills tunnels wide enough to accommodate a car on a track. The network envisioned is an infinitely expandable mesh of tunnels and elevators capable of having more than 4,000 cars pass through per hour.

"The deepest mines are deeper than the tallest buildings," Musk said.

"The profound breakthrough is very simple: it's the ability to turn a normal car into a passively stable vehicle by

adding the deployable tracking wheels, stabilizing wheels, so that it can travel at high speed through a small tunnel."

Tunnels will eventually be open to all compatible self-driving electric vehicles, but for now Boring is using Teslas in the tube.

The idea for the project came to the billionaire of South African origin when he was fuming at the wheel of his car, trapped in traffic jams between his chic Bel Air villa and the SpaceX offices in Hawthorne.

It is a journey that takes him more than 90 minutes and he considered soul-crushing.

The "tunnel test" unveiled Tuesday appeared simple: a narrow tube, only 3.65m in diameter (12 feet), freshly painted white, in which a Tesla Model X is fitted with tracking wheels to stay in a track and avoid bumping the walls.—AFP ■





Myanmar's young striker Win Naing Tun seen with best player award in Hue City, Viet Nam. **PHOTO:MFF**

## Win Naing Tun named best player in Viet Nam football tourney

WIN Naing Tun, a young striker from the Myanmar U-21 national football team, took the award for the best player at the Thanh Nien Newspaper International U-21 Football Tournament in Hue City, Viet Nam, held from 12 to 18 December, according to the Viet Nam Football Federation.

Win Naing Tun also secured

the award for the first goal of the tourney. Viet Nam's Nguyen Thanh Tuan was adjudged the best goalkeeper and Dinh Thanh Binh won the award for top scorer.

Viet Nam defeated Myanmar 5-3 in a penalty shootout in the final of the tourney. The two teams were tied 2-2 after

90 minutes of the official match.

The host team took USD 12,000 as prize money after winning the match, while runner-up Myanmar received USD 7,000.

A total of four teams - Gimheha CFC of the RoK, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam - participated in the tourney.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

## ‘Caption this’: Pogba deletes cryptic post after Mourinho axed

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba quickly deleted a controversial social media post of him smiling after manager Jose Mourinho was sacked by the club on Tuesday. Mourinho was dismissed on Tuesday after United's worst start in 28 years left them trailing Premier League leaders Liverpool by 19 points.

The volatile Mourinho's exit was in part triggered by the breakdown of his relationship with France midfielder Pogba, who did not even make an appearance as a substitute for Sunday's dismal 3-1 defeat at Liverpool.

Pogba took to Instagram just moments after news of Mourinho's sacking broke, posting a picture of himself smiling and writing “caption this” next to it.

The 25-year-old's post was widely interpreted as celebrat-

ing Mourinho's departure and he was criticised by former United defender Gary Neville, who responded on Twitter by writing: “You do one as well!”, suggesting he should leave the club as well.

Over 64,000 people had ‘liked’ Pogba's cheeky message, but he deleted the post 10 minutes later amid claims it was actually part of a marketing campaign for Adidas.

The controversy was an appropriately rancorous end to the World Cup winner's stormy relationship with Mourinho.

Pogba joined United for a club record £89 million (\$112 million) just weeks after Mourinho was hired in 2016.

But the former Juventus player was repeatedly criticised by Mourinho during his two-and-a-half year reign.

After his inspired performances helped France win the World Cup in Russia in July,

Mourinho opted not to praise Pogba, instead infuriating the star by publicly asking why he did not try as hard for United.

Pogba was stripped of the United vice-captaincy earlier this season. The pair were captured having a frosty exchange on the training ground as Mourinho grew angry with his key midfielder's lethargic performances, dropping him on several occasions to spark talk he would be sold by the end of the season.

Former United midfielder Darren Fletcher knew Pogba during the Frenchman's first spell with the club as a youngster and he says his old team-mate “needs a kick up the backside”.

Fletcher fears Mourinho's sacking could convince the flamboyant Pogba that he can now get away with whatever behaviour he feels like, unless the new manager clamps down quickly.—AFP ■

## Myanmar star Aung Thu joins Thailand's Muangthong F.C.

MYANMAR star footballer Aung Thu, 22, recently signed up with the Thai League 1 giants Muangthong F.C. for a term of one year, according to a statement from the Thai football club.

Aung Thu's move has been okayed by both his local club, Yadanarbon F.C., and his former Thai club, Police Tero F.C.

After playing for Police Tero F.C. in the previous season, Aung Thu got an offer from Muangthong F.C. and decided to join them,

“I would like to thank Police

Tero and Yadanarbon for giving me a chance to play in the Thai League. It feels great to move to Muangthong. They are one of the leading clubs in Thailand with many talented players and amazing fans,” said Aung Thu.

Aung Thu will wear the No. 9 jersey for the team, said an official with the Thai team.

Aung Thu will now join the team for training sessions ahead of the Thai football season, scheduled to start in February, according to a statement from the Muangthong F.C.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



## Pochettino won't rule out United move

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino has refused to rule out replacing Jose Mourinho at Manchester United. Pochettino is believed to be United's top choice to succeed Mourinho following his sacking on Tuesday. The Argentine signed a new five-year contract with Tottenham in May and has spoken at length about wanting to stay with the club as they prepare to move into their new stadium. But reports following Mourinho's exit suggested Pochettino is privately open to the possibility of moving to Old Trafford. The 46-year-old is understood

to have been frustrated by the lack of backing he has received in the transfer market—with Tottenham unable to make a single close-season signing this year. Pochettino is also vexed by Tottenham's tight wage structure and the failure of chairman Daniel Levy to sell players he no longer wants. Perhaps aware he may have to deal with financial restrictions at Tottenham for several more years because of their expensive and delayed stadium move, Pochettino left the door open for United when he admitted he could not predict what might happen at the end of the season.—AFP ■