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Opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival (Bago) held

FORMER President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin graced the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival (Bago) held at the convocation hall of the Bago University, Bago, yesterday morning. The festival was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Bago Region government.

First, the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival and Book Sales Festival (Bago) was held in front of the convocation hall where former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and six outstanding students cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Next, former President U Htin Kyaw, wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers, Bago Region Chief Minister, officials and students took a commemorative group photo.

The second part of the opening ceremony was then held inside the convocation hall where students from Bago Basic Education High School 3, Sub Basic Education High School Pan Hlaing and Pan Private High School sang the theme song to open the ceremony.

This was followed by former



Former President U Htin Kyaw, centre, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, left, and Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi cut ceremonial ribbon to open the Children's Literary Festival at the Bago University in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw delivering the opening speech. He said the festival was a happy occasion and festival for children in Bago Region. It can be said that the festival promotes the existing love for literature and was seen to include litera-

ture talks, competitions, sports events, entertainment, reading and discussing literature and developed the practice of working together. It was heartening and satisfying to see such events being organized for children who would become our future lead-

ers. Through the participation of children in this festival, they would experience happiness for life and instill a willingness to do things together. It was also expected to enhance their existing love for literature and value placed on books. There was a

saying "books and literature are our friends." Conducting festivals like these during the time when children's willingness to read were being implanted would carry them far in life as per that saying.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Australian Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Australia Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Andrea Faulkner at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, strengthening of Myanmar-Australian bilateral friendship, co-operation in education, health,

agriculture and livestock breeding, legislative process matters, formation of Hluttaw committees and Hluttaw development matters were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Hluttaw office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Faulkner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint receives Yunnan Province Vice Governor

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint received member of Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial Committee of Communist Party of China and Yunnan Province Vice Governor Mr. Zong Guo Ying and party at the Ministry of Commerce meeting hall yesterday.

At the meeting, matters relating to increasing trade and investment through cooperation,

enthusiastic participation of Myanmar in China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI), bilateral cooperation for human resources development, continuing coordination program to implement Myanmar-China border trade cooperation zone, border trade control and management were openly and cordially discussed.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint poses for the photo together with the delegation led by Yunnan Province Vice Governor Mr. Zong Guo Ying yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Soe Win receives Yunnan Province Vice Governor

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received member of Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial Committee of Communist Party of China and Yunnan Province Vice Governor Mr. Zong Guo Ying and

party at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday morning.

During the meeting deepening the cooperation between Yunnan Province and Myanmar in economy, trade and investment sector; smoothing the

export of agriculture products from Myanmar to Yunnan Province and increasing friendship and travel were discussed.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Soe Win holds a meeting with a delegation led by Yunnan Province Vice Governor Mr. Zong Guo Ying at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMARGAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations as Director-General of the Office of the Union Minister from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
1	U Zaw Lwin Oo Head of Department (Teaching) Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport and Communications	Principal Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport and Communications
2	U Min Min Deputy Director-General Department of Trade Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Department of Trade Ministry of Commerce

Opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival (Bago) held

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And as per that saying, children who were keen to read and had the habit of reading would not be lonely throughout their lives. As long as they have a book or two at arm's length, that book will be a good friend for them. There is no such thing as being lonely with a book. By reading books that they like, they would gain knowledge and their thinking will develop. Their views would widen as they read books and know more. They would learn lessons on how to overcome difficulties faced in life. It was expected and hoped that with the practice of reading from youth, as they grow older, their reading sectors would increase and they would become more mature and would benefit the country very much.

Persons who read a lot, gave a lot of time to read, who were learned and continue learning were seen in developed countries in this world. That was why our children who would become the elders one day must have the habit and willingness to read starting since they were children. The teachings and guidance of teachers and parents play an important role in this. Especially in a time when the communication technologies were so advanced, there were challenges that could lead them down the wrong path, get wrong ideas, become corrupt and weaken their moralities and ethics. Therefore teachers (and parents) need to guide their children towards reading good

literature.

Help children develop a love of reading

There would be requirements for reading rooms and libraries. The willingness to read need to be cultivated. For children to read, they must be accessible to books. Reading rooms and libraries were required. Through reading books, children will become elders. Through lifelong reading, they would learn how to overcome a difficulty in life, how to cooperate, how to explore, cherish and love the natural environment, be considerate, and have a mindset that evil minds were not beneficial for their lives. Through lifelong reading, they would become mature and very valuable youngsters.

Many writers who wrote good literature that the children read were also much required. Good poems written well would also be required. Many writers who made the youngsters love, value and preserve the natural environment; create adventurous mind, have courage and self-reliance for security in life were required. He would also urge them to write too, said the former President.

Publishers also play an important role in publishing the great writings of the above mentioned writers and authors. Writings of great writers need to be published. So make some profit but make the books reachable (affordable) for children. Many good publishers who published book that encourage education



Former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin pose for a photo in front of the poster of Saya Min Thu Wun during an opening of the Children's Literary Festival in Bago. PHOTO: MNA

and increased reading rate for our future generation are required.

Make sure books are affordable for children

No one would be able to do things that were not beneficial for them too. All were working for a living. That was why profit must be taken. But make sure that the books were affordable for the children. Another thing seen was translating and publishing of good children literature from abroad.

The quality of the publishing sector; pictures, papers were also seen to have improved. As the way children handled books were not the same as adults, children's

books need to be bounded more strongly. It should be sturdy enough to be handed over from the elder to the younger among the siblings.

Another request would be in translation. Translated materials were good enough to be read by the parents to the children or for the children to read on their own. Some well-intentioned publishers/translators even publish books in both English and Myanmar paragraph by paragraph. However, if translation was not done well or accurately, it would give the wrong meanings to the children. So when translating, care should be taken to ensure that it was closest or nearest to the original writing.

This festival in Bago was reported to include sectors that were not included in earlier festivals. Technology was used to attract children to reading. It was said to be AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality). These had increased. There were also competitions. There would be recitation of poems in ethnic languages. Through this children would at least hear the languages spoken by their ethnic brothers and sisters even if they did not understand it. They would get to love the way ethnic brethren spoke. They would want to learn the culture of the ethnic nationals. While attending boarding school, we met with ethnic nationals and spoke in a way for all to understand. It was a matter of increasing friendship and was a major force for the union.

tion, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture etc. together with literature enthusiasts, well-wishers, donors, civil society organizations and locals jointly conducted this festival and once the festival was over, all must not be forgotten. Continue the cooperation to make the children value and cherish books that would give assurance and security for life, develop children literature, increase the numbers of libraries etc. so that children became valued and learned people. Make them knowledgeable and ethical. Make them love the country and nature. Make them intuitive. Encourage them, said the former President.

Speech of Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint

In addressing the event Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the festival was jointly organized by Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Bago Region government. Union level children's literature festivals have been held for eight times and the ninth time was being held in Bago Region. It would be continued in other states and regions. It had been conducted in districts and townships.

The main aim of the festival was to make the children happy. We want the children to be happy. However, it was important for all to be happy and the festival was held to provide long term sustainable happiness rather than short term happiness term happiness.



Students entertain the audience with songs at the opening of the Children's Literary Festival in Bago yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Even though the name was Children's Literary Festival, it was not a festival for the children alone but a literary festival. Books were on display and put on sale within and outside the hall. Children would be in touch with literature and books. Gift books and books purchased from the festival would be memorable for them. Not only would the children get in touch with literature and book but they would also be able to work together with others. The theme song was sung by 38 children and they need to practice together under the coaching of the teachers. They were taught how to sing together. Through this, they would get the habit of doing things together.

Children's Literary Festivals were usually held in the convocation hall of a university in the respective state/region/district/township/town. It was because the space was wide as well as enabling primary, middle and high school students to visit a university which they would not be able to do on their own. Children from the region who came to a university during the festival would get the idea of studying in universities later in their life.

Enthusiastic parents who



Former President U Htin Kyaw, wife Daw Su Su Lwin and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint look at displayed books during the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

were former university students of Mawlamyine University were seen to have supported a festival held in Mawlamyine University by constructing concrete floor in front of the hall where the festival was held. As a first time, more than 4,280 books were displayed at the 'All who can read should read' campaign held in Nay Pyi Taw. Some say people did not read much or literature was not much developed in our country. We do have some weaknesses but it was not true that we do not read much or books were not pub-

lished much. To show how many books were published for those who want to read, books published in 2018 were collected as much as possible and displayed.

At the festival held in Myitkyina University, literature enthusiasts not only held literature talks but also displayed books. They requested holding children's literature festival in other townships of Kachin State while pledging to support in any way possible and thus a children's literary festival was held in Putao. Putao was such a far off and remote place that

was difficult to travel and thus hard for books to reach but more than 4,200 books were displayed. Well-wishers, donors and enthusiasts asked not to take back the displayed books and pledged to provide donation for it. As we donated some books, they only needed to buy over 6 million worth of books only. The main point was to show the existence of such enthusiastic people. Through their cooperation the children's literary festival was held grandiosely.

In short, children's literary festivals were held with an aim

to develop children, make them outstanding and good to make the country's future bright. Those in attendance were requested to come together and help not only this festival but also for the development of literature, encouraging children to read and to spread knowledge.

Following the speeches students from Bago Region provided entertainment performances.

Later on behalf of the Bago Region government, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein delivered a speech of appreciation and thanked the Ministry of Information; Union Ministers; departmental officials from region, district and townships; town elders; Bago University rector and faculties, students; especially officials from schools in Bago Region for their collective support and hard work towards holding the children's literature festival successfully.

Former President U Htin Kyaw and party then inspected the exhibits that were displayed in the festival. The Children's Literary Festival (Bago) will be held daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from 28 to 30 March in Bago University and all those who were interested can participate, it is learnt. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for International Cooperation hosts working lunch for Norwegian Minister of International Development

U KYAW TIN, Union Minister for International Cooperation hosted a working lunch to the delegation led by Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 March 2019 at the Kempin-

ski Hotel. During the luncheon, Ministers cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, latest developments in Rakhine State and establishment of Foreign Of-

fice Consultations mechanism between Myanmar and Norway. U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the luncheon.—MNA



Norwegian Minister of International Development Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein and his delegation attend a working lunch hosted by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from Resident Representative of UNDP



PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received Mr. Peter Batchelor, the newly-appointed Resident Representative of UNDP for Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the occasion, Mr. Peter Batchelor presented his credentials to the Union Minister.

After the presentation of credentials, they exchanged views

on the progress of the cooperation between Myanmar and the UNDP in wide-ranging areas including peace and good governance, environmental management, rule of law, anti-corruption, and poverty reduction under the UNDP Country Programme to Myanmar (2018-2022) as well as the implementation of the ongoing projects in Rakhine State. —MNA

Joint Irrigation Management meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu attended the Joint Irrigation Management meeting held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In a speech delivered to the meeting Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu said that for Myanmar to transit from cultivating rice to cultivation of all types of crops, development and increasing the irrigation water distribution system plays an important role. Enthusiastic cooperation and participation of the farmers were required in extending the irrigation network and all are urged to strive toward following the law, rule and procedure on usage of irrigation water for the further development of irrigation system.

Following the speech the meeting was held and relevant experts conduct sector wise discussions.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation had



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu addresses the Joint Irrigation Management meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

drawn up an agriculture development strategy for the development of irrigation systems and irrigation water management, effective usage of irrigation works, maintaining and reconstruction of basic infrastructure, mitigating flooding and inundation, priority accorded to pre-

vention of salt water intrusion through maintaining embankments and dams. Upgrading of dams and irrigation systems of South Nawin, North Nawin, Wegyi and Taungnyo dams in western part of Bago Region and upgrading of Thapansaik Dam irrigation system were be-

ing conducted in cooperation with JICA.

Based on the outcome of the day's meeting maintenance of basic infrastructure, work of sharing irrigation water and extension works of present irrigation system will be conducted in cooperation between

officials from Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, local and foreign experts, development partner organisations and water user management groups in the project regions.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Workshop on implementing handicap rights in cooperation with media held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop on effectively implementing handicap rights in cooperation with media was held at Amaya Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye requested the cooperation and the power of the media to conduct wide ranging works to expose the weaknesses of the public and the government in understanding the feelings of handicaps and handicap organisations so that an environment that was dignified and complete for the handicaps was established.

Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the workshop was held to obtain the power of the media in implementing laws and rules that gave equal rights and opportunities for the handicapped. Their rights, grievances and losses were to be exposed using the power of the media



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the workshop on effectively implementing handicap rights in cooperation with media in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and provisions and protections provided as required. Media plays an important role in this.

At the workshop handbook to create job opportunities, categorizing handicap levels, rights

of the handicaps and conducting a handicap survey will be explained and worked on. The

major requirement would be the cooperation of the media said the Deputy Minister.

Afterwards on behalf of the representative of Voluntary Service Oversea, Ms. Amy Hamerton delivered a message of greeting.

The workshop will be held until 29 March and will discuss work programs conducted by the government, concept of being handicapped and being a handicap persons, United Nations convention on handicap rights, handicap law and rules, ASEAN Enabling Master Plan (2025), handbook to create job opportunities for handicaps, categorizing handicap levels and registration, handbook on words and usage terms for handicaps, conducting handicap survey and future work processes.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Yazaki Thilawa to produce automotive wire harnesses for export

THE Bangkok-based YIC Asia Pacific Corporation has set up the Myanmar Yazaki Thilawa Co. Ltd, worth US\$ 2.5 million in Myanmar on 9 January for producing automotive wire harnesses for export.

“The YIC Asia Pacific Cor-

poration has invested in Myanmar to improve the competitiveness of wire harness production in the ASEAN region. Manufacturing of wire harnesses is labor-intensive and requires skilled workers,” said Hideki Okuyama, Managing Director,

Myanmar Yazaki Thilawa Co. Ltd.

Myanmar Yazaki Thilawa Co. Ltd is located in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, about an hour's drive from Yangon, the country's commercial capital. The factory is spread over

an area of 4,500-square-metres. It will start operations in December, 2019 with about 500 employees.

The YIC Asia Pacific Corporation Limited develops, designs, and manufactures automotive parts for automo-

bile manufacturers around the world. It provides wire harnesses and combination meters. The Thailand-based company, chaired by Toshihiro Ito, was founded in 2004, and operates as a subsidiary of the Yazaki Corporation.—Ye Htut Tin (NLM)

Myanmar Investment Commission's work in January and February of 2019

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is permitting local and foreign investments, according to Myanmar Investment Law.

MIC had permitted in January this year total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at US\$454.374 million, and in February this year total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at \$447.582 million.

Foreign investments permitted during January and February of 2019 are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	January		February	
		No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)	No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)
1.	Transportation and communication sector	-	149.890	-	115.450*
2.	Industrial sector	17	167.160*	14	164.066*
3.	Electricity sector	1	28.000	1	65.280
4.	Housing and building construction sector	1	54.133	-	-
5.	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	2	4.191	2	10.215
6.	Other service sector	2	51.000	4	40.700
7.	Agricultural sector	-	-	1	3.420
8.	Industrial zone construction sector	-	-	1	48.451
Total		23	454.374	23	447.582

* Increased investment was included in the investment amount.

MIC had permitted in January this year total Myanmar national investment valued at K117420.292 million and in February this year total Myanmar national investment valued at K293712.742 million.

Myanmar national investments permitted during January and February this year are as follows:

Sr	Sector	January		February	
		No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)	No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)
1.	Housing and building construction sector	1	1467.500	-	-
2.	Industrial sector	7	24264.525*	1	4000.000
3.	Hotel and tourism sector	2	76427.450*	2	6750.000
4.	Mining sector	1	5799.000	-	1500.000*
5.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	-	-	1	200000.000
6.	Electricity sector	-	-	-	12886.252*
7.	Other service sector	3	9461.316	2	68576.252*
Total		14	117420.292	6	293712.742

* Increased investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs for locals created sector-wise by foreign investments during January and February this year are as follows:

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		In January	In February
1.	Oil and natural gas sector	102*	-
2.	Agricultural sector	755	50
3.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	567	88
4.	Industrial sector	57159*	10533*
5.	Electricity sector	49	85
6.	Transportation and communication sector	727*	-
7.	Hotel and tourism sector	53	-
8.	Housing and building sector	51	-
9.	Industrial construction sector	-	16
10.	Other service sector	455	2424
Total		59918	13196

Increased number of jobs for locals created sector-wise by Myanmar national investments during January and February this year are as follows:

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		In January	In February
1.	Mining sector	83	-
2.	Industrial sector	677	360
3.	Hotel and tourism sector	138	116
4.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	-	2375
5.	Housing and building construction sector	40	-
6.	Other service sector	74	170
Total		1012	3021

— MNA

BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Energy held in Nay Pyi Taw

EXPERT Group Meeting on Energy under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sector Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held at Shwe Nandaw Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by officials from BIMSTEC secretariat, representatives from BIMSTEC member countries of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

First, Union Minister U Win Khaing said Myanmar was taking up the duty of leading the energy sector under the BIMSTEC program. Socio-economic conditions of the people in the region depend not only on economic development but also on the correct management of natural resources. Energy sufficiency was the priority work of all and



Union Minister U Win Khaing delivers the speech at the Expert Group Meeting on Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

it was time to ease changes in natural environment through replacing the usage of limited energy resources with renewable energy. Only with close cooperation can there be sustainable development. General projects for renewable energy sector and for effective and beneficial energy sector need to be upgraded

step by step.

The aims were to raise power sufficiency through mutual cooperation among member countries, increase connectivity and unification and control usage and sharing of natural resources to acquire electricity and increasing the momentum of energy sector development.

In the day's Expert Group Meeting the first step of expanding energy trading sector within member countries will be implemented. Myanmar government had setup strategies and work processes for Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 in accordance to the United Nations Framework on Sustainable Development Goals. It was strongly believed that within the two-day meeting a firm success will be achieved among the member countries said the Union Minister.

Director U Han Thein Kyaw then says words of thanks on behalf of BIMSTEC Secretary General.

The meeting was then held and will be continued until 29 March it is learnt. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Announcement

THIS is to notify that the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, Yangon Region and Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) have been conduction joint inspections at the end of the electricity connection process since February 2019. The joint inspection reduces the number of procedures and the time taken to connect to the electricity supply. Previously, two separate inspections were required. Transformers, Power Stations and Power Connections will be checked once they are ready for inspection and the inspection will take three days from application to completion.

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation

Union Minister U Han Zaw meets Indian Ambassador



Union Minister U Han Zaw meets with Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw met with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Saurabh Kumar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed cooperation plans between the two countries.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Legal Translation Commission holds fourth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Fourth meeting of the Legal Translation Commission, with the Attorney General of the Union serving as Chairman, was held in the meeting hall of the Union Attorney General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, U Tun Tun Oo, Attorney General of the Union, said that according

to the commission's notification (1/2018), translations for nine laws were released. He also said that the translated versions into Myanmar are confirmed legally the same with the original versions so every parts of translation needs to be précised and get flawless.

The six laws already discussed at the third meeting to be released, another five laws to be confirmed in the fourth meeting and seven laws being translated to finish in time were focused by the Attorney-General. The meeting was attended by members of the Legal Translation Commission and invited guests. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the 4th meeting of the Legal Translation Commission. PHOTO: MNA

Children's literary festival opens in Bago

A children's literary festival was opened at the convocation hall of Bago University in Bago Region yesterday.

The festival was alive with many contests.

A total of 303 primary school students and 154 middle school students competed paper folding contest while 366 students competed in the charade contest, 532 students competed in jigsaw contest, 322 students took part in the sample building contest, 420 middle school students plus 450 primary school students competed in the colour painting contest and 5814 students participated together in the team building game.—Wai Lyan (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Children take part in the coloring contest in the Children's Literary Festival in Bago. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Norwegian Minister of International Development

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, received Norwegian Minister of International Development, Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed issues on social welfare, disaster management, rehabilitation processes along with cooperation with Norway, performances of committees

for social economic development and stability in Rakhine State, cooperation of the ASEAN countries and internationals in repatriation processes, processes to close internally displaced person (IDP) camps, national level strategy drawing, equality in gender plus development programs for women and agendas to cooperate with Norway.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Norwegian Minister of International Development Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein. PHOTO: MNA

Literary talk, workshop held in Bago

WITH the supervision of Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Bago Region Government, literary talks plus workshop was held at the children's literary festival in Bago yesterday morning.

In the literary talk, Writer Maung Cheint talked a topic named "Ko-di-yay-te-Diary". Similarly, Writer Khaing Chit

Aung (Bago) gave talk under the title "Yanayt Pwint Thaw Pann Kalay Myar".

After the literary talk, a workshop named "Pyinyar Sharthu Doet Waing Kuu" was conducted by U San Win, Nann Khin Mway (Zatthabin), Actor Min Nyi and Hanthar Soe Win (Zatthbin).—Ye Moe (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Literary talk and workshop held at the children's literary festival in Bago yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Help children develop a passion for reading from a young age

STUDIES have shown that citizens in developed countries read more books. According to science, kids who start reading at an early age go on to perform better on some intelligence tests.

We already know reading is good for developing children's minds and helps develop a healthy brain.

Sadly, with the development of digital technology and social media, reading for leisure is declining across the world, including in Myanmar. With the rapid increase in mobile phone density in our country, the number of teens who read daily has dramatically dropped in recent years. This decline in reading is a cause for concern.

To restore a vibrant reading culture among our children, we must invest in literacy. Reading helps expand vocabulary and creates stronger analytical thinking and writing skills.

Among the challenges we face today is preventing our children from taking up a morally questionable path due to wrong use of information technology.

Hence, we would like to urge teachers and parents to encourage children and teens to read for pleasure and choose books on their own.

The knowledge gained from books, and the skill set and attention required to digest concepts in books is quite different from glancing at a text message or a status update.

We can broaden children's literary experience through constant encouragement at school and home. If we encourage children, teens, and adults to discuss books, we will see them develop a love for books later.

To achieve this, we must take children to a library often, or create a library for our children with new or used books. We must take children to activities such as children's literary festivals, where they can play

games and see how people love reading. A variety of books must be within the reach of children at home or in a library. We must encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters, or have the whole family set aside some time to read together.

Once a child considers a book as a friend, he or she will put down the phone and crack open a book, and he or she will never feel lonely. Because books are lifelong friends.

What can parents do to make teenagers put down the phone and pick up a book?

To restore a vibrant reading culture among our children, we must invest in literacy. Reading helps expand vocabulary and creates stronger analytical thinking and writing skills.

It can also contribute to improved focus, concentration, and overall knowledge.

Dear parents and teachers, we would like to encourage you to help children develop a passion for reading from a young age that will stick with them throughout their life. They will thank you later.



The State owned dailies: the important medium for improving information and knowledge for public

By May Oo Moe

WITH the mention of "State owned newspaper," I'm sure everyone conjures up the image of the fine prints of the Global New Light of Myanmar, the Myanma Alinn and the Kyemon (The Mirror). It is a media platform set up by the publicly elected government which aims to report the public on their progress. The newspapers set out to follow The Ministry of Information's objective to "inform the public about government policy plans and implementation and support improvements to knowledge and education of the public."

The administration that was chosen through strong voter support has completed its third year in office. The newspapers, during this time, have continued without fail to report to the public the laws and opinions of the government, the workings of the parliament, law updates and other general knowledge information, entertainment accurately and truthfully.

In Myanmar's transition to become a democratic federal republic, the government owned newspaper serves as an important instrument in supplementing the public's knowledge pool so they are informed of all aspect of news.

Newspapers are the eyes and ears of the public. As a government newspaper that serves the public, Myanmar's state-owned newspaper continually tries to contribute to the nation's human resource development and the country's benefit by providing the news with the public wishes to hear, the progress of the government chosen by the people and other general knowledge and entertainment.

A Bridge That Connects

All newspaper has their own house styles and identities. The state newspaper's main purpose is to be a public leaning media platform. The state-owned newspapers aim to fulfill the State and

the publicly elected government's objectives. Hence, the newspaper and journal businesses by the Ministry of Information serves as a bridge between the State and its people.

Not only do the newspapers report the progress of the government, it also informs the government about the needs of the public. These public opinions and requests even have a regular separate section in the newspaper as a special. Ever since the publicly elected government, the newspapers have been changing into its new form which is more public-oriented and caters to the locals.

A Variety of Sections for Knowledge Sharing

The newspapers have a variety of sections the readers can choose from media coverages and submissions across the whole country: the Next Generation section showcasing the works for students and youth from across the country, Cartoon Section to help young kids develop their reading and vocabulary, a Public Opinion section for a platform for the public to voice their suggestions, and a Transparency Section for the public to express their needs along with politics, law, business, entertainment and sports.

Additionally, the newspapers



also provide different laws, draft of the laws/notifications from the various departments of the government, job postings and everyday market prices along with weather forecasts, seasonal advice for living and things public need to know.

Local Reader's Voices

The newspapers also have special editions and sections for the readers from different areas. There is the Today Yangon section for the Yangon residents which covers the social events, things to look out for and development news for the city. There is also a weekly Golden Rakhine Land

mar Digital News's has been upgrading its digital newspaper and news portal capabilities to meet the international standards and provide its readers an enhanced experience.

Income tax and other taxes

The NPE is included in the state-owned businesses and does not have profit orientation. It is currently operating as a large-scale business operation via it's Other Account (OA) to fund the salary and retirement payment of up to 900 employees, along with printing cost, operating costs and other miscellaneous expenses.

The success and failure of a newspaper is directly related to public support. Only the media that people trust and support will continue to thrive.

Page for the locals in Rakhine State. There are also newspaper in the Mon language, Sakaw Kayin Language, Po Kayin language, PaO Language to help preserve the culture and traditions of the local language. There is also the Mandalay pages to inform readers about Mandalay and the rest of Upper Myanmar, adding supplementary pages weekly.

Digital News

The News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) recently launched the Myanmar Digital News online newspaper starting 2018. Myanmar Digital News serves as a news portal to bring the public real-time news, the government's initiatives and other public information. This serves as a multimedia platform for political, business, social, educational and ethnic news for the public. Starting Jan 1, 2019, Myanmar

The newspaper also does not enjoy special tax discounts and exemptions when buying its raw materials to produce the newspaper. Yet the newspaper never fails to deliver and fulfill its responsibilities to the public. The business pays 25% of its profit for income tax and 20% for the national government without fail every year.

Inevitable

The state-owned newspapers have been operating on the national budget and have not once lost money and have always brought profit for the government. The ad revenue generated from the papers have brought the cost of newspapers down for the general public and hence, made it more convenient and accessible for the public to buy and read.

In addition to the ad and sales revenues from the newspaper, there is also revenue generated from selling waste and recycles from the byproducts of printing such as the paper rolls, ink cartridges and other recyclable items. Unfortunately, even with tremendous care to keep the prices low from the part of the newspaper, rising dollar prices and the cost of paper skyrocketing globally has ultimately led to the increase of production costs and consequently, a rise in price of newspaper starting 1 April, 2019.

Transparency

As the NPE is owned by the government, it is crucial that the funds be managed responsibly on the different levels of the government. There are also audits by the Ministry's audit team to monitor the balance sheets of the newspapers monthly, yearly budget reviews by the Union Auditor General's Office for the respective newspapers whom also goes under the various regional/state's audit.

The employer of national newspapers is the State, the government and public. The Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon, the Global New Light of Myanmar (Joint Venture with Global Direct Link), Myanmar Digital News all abide by the code of conduct, ethics of not only the national but also the international standards and code of ethics and rules to provide the true and correct news for the benefit of the country.

The newspapers are also approaching news in a way that is easily interpreted and understandable by the general public and is beneficial to the public as a whole with true and correct news of events.

Upgrading to Modern Technology

From the old fashioned printing machine that was bought in 2006 that can print 16 pages, the newspapers have upgraded to a Goss Community 4 Hi Tower 4 Unit Web Offset (with splicer) that can print up at 32 pages at one time on 8 May, 2018 to provide the most updated news to the community in the fastest way possible.

When buying raw materials for the printing machines or general office equipment, there is the Local and Foreign Procurement Committee formed by the Ministry to abide by President's Office Notification 1/2017 so as to free it from corruption. The meetings on

material purchases are recorded on video and are on CCTV as well. **Right to Information, Free Distribution**

For the newspaper to reach nationwide, there are satellite offices, distribution centers and vetted distributors who continue to work towards delivering the papers in the fastest and smoothest way possible. For instance, for news, information and general knowledge to reach Rakhine, 2000 Myanma Alinn newspapers and 250 of Global New Light of Myanmar were distributed free of charge.

Choice for the Readers

The success and failure of a newspaper is directly related to public support. Only the media that people trust and support will continue to thrive. If one compares the Myanma Alinn and the Kyemon, there is a separate fanbase for each. Hence, the two newspapers will continue to be independent of each other. If public support starts to wane and the newspapers start to show a net loss, the respective authorities will review the paper's performance and the paper will struggle to stay in operation. In such times, the national businesses will have to



choose a path that is most appropriate for their survival.

Another Perspective

Even if the main objective for the national newspapers isn't profit, the newspapers continue to operate as an government owned and operated entities that help bridge the gap between the government and public. The papers avoid harmful news, fake news and other events that damage the public and maintain the ethics and standards of the journalism world as its responsibility. Lastly, the newspapers provide another perspective for the public to supplement the many news that the public consume to the best of their abilities.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 28th March, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 29 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions, Chin State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th March, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

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 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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Floating Thingyan Festival to be held at Inle Lake

THE first-ever Inle Floating Thingyan festival will kick off on 13 April at the Inle Cultural Heritage Trust Complex in Nan Pan Village, Nyaungshwe Township, to preserve the Inthar traditional culture and boost tourism in Inle.

The festival will open on the first day of the Thingyan Eve Day at 3 pm. An Inthar traditional performance and entertainment programs by well-known singers are planned for the four days of Thingyan. A Mr and Miss Inle 2019 contest will be held on the last day of Thingyan.

Offerings will be given to 1,000 monks, and will also be made to 28 Buddha statues, and New Year Dhamma teachings will be given on the first day of the Myanmar New Year, said Ko Myint Thein from the Miss Inle Organization.

The festival will have 21 floating venues for food dona-

Charming scene of offering food to Sangha at Inle Lake, Nyaungshwe Township. **PHOTO: NAY MYO THUREIN**

tions. The Inle Floating Thingyan Festival is aimed at drawing international tourists and boosting tourism.

The festival will be held for five days from 13 to 17 April. About 200,000 tourists and 500,000 locals from southern

Shan State are expected to take part in the festival.—Nay Myo Thurein

(Translated by La Wonn)

World's largest drum on display at Nyaungyan style building

THE world's largest drum, which was carved in Indaw Township, was hanged in a building constructed in the style of the Nyaungyan period at the Kaunghmudaw pagoda in Sagaing on 27 March, said U Ni Tin, the Vice Chairman of the pagoda's board of trustees.

The chief minister of Sagaing Region and other ministers took part in a ceremony on 19 March to place the drum on land belonging to the pagoda. They opened the ceremony by beating the drum. The drum was later shifted to the Nyaungyan style building on 27 March,

according to the pagoda's board of trustees.

"The building needs to be finished and other necessary arrangements have to be made. The drum opening ceremony will not be held as it was held on 19 March on land belonging to the Kaunghmudaw pagoda," said U Ni Tin.

The Saya Pwel Myanmar Instrument Enterprise carved the world's largest drum out of Kokko tree wood and donated it to the Kaunghmudaw pagoda.

The drum measures 128 inches in length and 64 inches

Workers prepare for housing world's largest drum at the Kaunghmudaw pagoda in Sagaing. **PHOTO: KO MIN (INDAW)**

in height.

The face of the drum is about 54 inches in diameter. The drumhead, or drum skin, has been made from two layers of buffalo hide, while the drum's ropes have been made from 18 sheets of cowhide.

The drum's interior has

been carved with Buddha's sermons and verses, Bhamo Sayadaw's chants, and arrangements. Its exterior depicts images of angels paying homage to 108 Buddha footprints.—Ko Min (Indaw)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar National Airlines to offer 15% discount on international fares

THE Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) will announce a low fare offer in which passengers would be able to travel on some international flights with a 15 per cent discount.

The three-day fair will kick off on 29 March at the Junction City shopping mall in Yangon. At the event, MNA will offer 15-per cent discount on three international destinations — Bangkok,

Chiang Mai, and Phuket.

"There will be 15-per cent off on tickets to Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket, and a 10-per cent discount will be offered on domestic routes," said an MNA official.

At present, MNA flies to 28 domestic airports and international destinations, including Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, and Bodh Gaya. It

began flights to Chengdu on 28 December, 2018. The MNA has received the EASA 145-0801 certificate from the European Aviation Safety Agency for its maintenance workshop for ATR 72-100/200 series and ATR 42-400/500/72-212A aircraft.

The airlines is also planning to operate flights between Yangon and Magway by April end, in response to a request from the

Magway Region's Government.

The Myanmar National Airlines was established on 15 September, 1948 as the Union of Burma Airways (UBA). After a period in isolation, along with much of Myanmar's industry, the airline has now been relaunched as Myanmar National Airlines. It completed 70 years of service this year.—GNLM

(Translated by La Wonn)

Rice supply to Muse halted as stores pile up

By Nyein Nyein

ABOUT 50,000 tons of rice meant for export to China has piled up at Muse, prompting merchants to halt supply of rice to the gate, said U Min Thein, vice chair, Muse rice depot.

“About 50,000 tons of rice is lying in the Muse border area. China has suspended trade since 25 February. However, some rice trade is being strictly conducted through permits. There is no space in Muse for storing more rice. Therefore, rice supply to Muse has been halted,” said U Min Thein.

“Soon, summer rice for this year is going to enter the market. The market will have a good potential only if the rice pile-up at Muse gate is cleared,” said rice merchants.

“The rice that has piled up at Muse is monsoon rice. Sure, trade of summer rice will be



Labourers carry rice bags at Botahtaung Harbour in Yangon . PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

forced to a halt as long as monsoon rice stocks last. Entry of summer rice into the market will lead to a drop in price. Only merchants will suffer from this,” said a rice merchant.

At the 25th regular meeting with entrepreneurs, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, held

on 15 March, Myanmar Rice Federation President U Ye Min Aung and Vice President U Aung Than Oo asked the government to prioritize negotiations with the Yunnan provincial government and buyers.

“It will be better if the Ministry of Commerce can negotiate a

Government-to-Government (G to G) agreement for rice trade through the Sino-Myanmar border. This charge is apparently held by the central government, not the provincial government. Therefore, the governments of the two countries need to negotiate to deal with this,” said U Min Thein, vice chair, Muse rice depot.

At the meeting with Vice President U Myint Swe, the MRF also requested that the government help farmers get a decent price during harvest, a G-to-G agreement be reached to help small and medium rice enterprises conduct trade smoothly, the quota for rice and broken rice export to China be raised, and the MoU be implemented at the soonest.

Myanmar exports rice to its trade partners through the maritime routes and border gates. China has been clamping down on illegal trade, prompting its

dealers to halt trade, resulting in a drop in rice exports through the Myanmar border channels.

“The Ministry of Commerce has forwarded a request to China, seeking a legal export channel for rice through the border gates, and so, Myanmar merchants need to make the necessary preparations for meeting China’s quality standards in order to pass its food safety inspection mechanism — the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ),” said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

Between 1 April, 2018 and 15 February, 2019, Myanmar exported 2.115 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth an estimated US\$699.46 million.

Of the 3.6 million tons of rice shipped by Myanmar, half was sent to China through the border gates.

(Translated by Ei Myat

Fish breeders eye artemia farming; lack of technology, equipment poses obstacles

By Aye Yamone

WHILE local fish farmers have expressed an interest in breeding artemia, or brine shrimp, for aquaculture, the lack of technology and equipment is hindering breeders from taking up artemia farming on a commercial scale, said Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw, an artemia farmer.

An artemia production facility was opened on 26 March in Kyar Lake, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, with assistance from the Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme.

“There are many processes involved in artemia breeding. However, there have been no successful artemia breeders yet owing to the lack of technology and financial assistance. One breeder started artemia farming, but he faced technical problems and a slew of challenges. I also experienced many difficulties and challenges when I started this business,” said Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw.

“In addition, faculty members from related universities have been unable to provide technical assistance for artemia breeding. The universities must produce experts by adding subjects related to artemia farming

in their curriculum,” he said.

“Artemia can be bred twice a year. However, due to the weather conditions, it can only produce once in summer here. There is local demand for artemia. Myanmar also has several acres of salt fields suitable for artemia farming,” he said. “I am facing some difficulties to reach the market due to lack of technology and equipment. I still have to make efforts to enter the market. Earlier, I could not produce finished artemia feedstuff. I conducted a shrimp breeding trial in the lake and the growth rate has been good. Now, I have an artemia cyst drying machine for processing the shrimp and I am planning to make further preparations,” said Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw.

MYSAP had handed over the artemia cyst drying machine to Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw in January. It was installed by a Vietnamese University. The recently opened artemia production facility will produce quality artemia feedstuff for aquaculture.

A lucrative artemia breeding business model for the fisheries industry was forwarded to the President and the related governments by the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister in 2015, but they did not show any interest in the business, said Dr. Aung

Kyaw Zaw.

“This project is supported by the European Union. It poses no harm to environmental and fishery resources. The production process will go well. Artemia is used in crab larvae production. Artemia fetches a decent price, too. It will help exports by crab farming businesses and substitute imports of feedstuff. I believe more businesses will eye artemia breeding,” said Kristian Schmidt, the EU ambassador.

The MYSAP, with help from the EU, is conducting a project to support artemia farming and production and is working with local farmers to get quality feedstuff at a cheaper rate.

The MYSAP 2017-2021 is being jointly implemented by the Fisheries Department and the German International Cooperation (GIZ), with 22.25 million euros funded by the European Union and GIZ. Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, and Sagaing regions, and Shan and Rakhine states have been identified for MYSAP. The Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme supports the sustainable intensification of the aquaculture sector to help realize its potential for food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Goods pile up in Zokhawthar Village as dispute halts trade with Mizoram



PHOTO: IPRD

STARTING 27 March, Myanmar’s border trade with Mizoram has been forced to a halt on account of a dispute between the Zokhawthar Village transport body and the All Vehicles Association of Champhai Transport Union (CTU) in Mizoram, India.

Myanmar exports goods through the Myanmar-India border gates to Mizoram State. Freight services were reportedly halted by the All Vehicles Association of CTU in response to the Zokhawthar Village transport body’s decision to collect funds for regional development from vehicles passing through the village, without conducting negotiations with the CTU. With

the Zokhawthar transport body collecting fees, vehicles were reportedly queuing up in the village.

The closure of transport services by the CTU has resulted in Myanmar goods piling up in Zokhawthar Village. However, goods are being forced to continue to towns in Mizoram State.

Myanmar goods flow out of Rikhawdar border gate to Zokhawthar Village and then, they are transported to Champhai from where, goods are delivered to Mizoram State. Merchants are facing hardships on account of the closure at Champhai.—IPRD

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Photo taken on 28 March, 2019 shows a giant wagyu beef hamburger with gold-dusted buns, costing 100,000 yen (\$908), to be offered at the Oak Door steakhouse in the Grand Hyatt Tokyo hotel in honor of the ascension of the new emperor. **PHOTO: KYODONEWS**

Tokyo hotel to serve giant \$900 wagyu burgers in honor of new emperor

TOKYO — A restaurant in a high-class Tokyo hotel unveiled Thursday giant wagyu beef hamburgers with gold-dusted buns, costing 100,000 yen (\$908), in honor of the upcoming ascension of the new emperor.

Available at the Oak Door steakhouse in the Grand Hyatt Tokyo, located in the capital's posh Roppongi district, the 3-kilogram burgers will celebrate the succession and new imperial era using an array of expensive ingredients, also including foiegras and shaved black truffles.

The Golden Giant Burgers, approximately 25 centimeters wide and 15 cm high, recommended for six to eight people and accompanied by a bottle

of wine, will be available from 1 April through the end of June, according to the restaurant.

The government will unveil the name of Japan's new era on 1 April. The country's 248th imperial era will start on 1 May, when Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the throne following his father Emperor Akihito's abdication the previous day.

The 85-year-old emperor expressed his wish to retire in a rare video message in 2016, citing his concern that he might not be able to fulfill his official duties due to his advanced age.

He will become the first living monarch to step down in about 200 years.—Kyodo News ■

Commemorative Blue Plaque installed at Yangon Central Women's Hospital

A 122-YEAR old building on the premises of the first women's hospital in Myanmar, Originally known as Dufferin Hospital, in Yangon was honoured with Yangon Heritage Trust's 29th Blue Plaque yesterday.

The oldest building was constructed in 1897 through the Lady Dufferin Fund.

Throughout its history, the hospital was under the care of pioneering women doctors, such as Dr. Daw Saw Sa and Dr. Daw Yin May.

The ceremony to inaugurate the Blue Plaque was opened with remarks by the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Prof. Dr. Khin Pyone Kyi, Medical Superintendent of the Central Women's Hospital, expressed words of thanks.

The Blue plaque was unveiled and sprinkled



Yangon Central Women's Hospital accepts the 29th commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

scented water by Patron of the Supporting Group of the Central Women's Hospital and Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials.

"This Central Women's Hospital is an signif-

icant heritage of Yangon. The Building D on which we installed the Blue Plaque is the oldest building in this premises. This building has a significant architectural style," said U Thurein Aung, Project Officer of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city.—Min Thit

(Translated by TTN)

Film analysis event to be conducted in Yangon

A film analysis event over the movie titled "All About My Mother" directed by Pedro Almodovar will be conducted at the theatre of the

Motion Picture Community in Yangon on 31 March. The event is the part of the cinematheque Program and it will be held as 14th round.

With the aim of developing the Myanmar Motion Pictures, the event will be conducted by Dr. Aung Min, member of the Myanmar

Film Development Center Management Board.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Invitation for Bids

Date: 29 March 2019

Loan Agreement No: MY-P26 dated 29th March, 2018

IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2105

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Yangon Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase II. The Bid is invited by Myanmar Railways as follows:

Invitation for Bid	Description: Rolling Stock	Issuing Date	Closing Date & Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2105	Design, manufacture, supply, installation, delivery, testing and commissioning of Rolling Stock (design build): 1) Type of Train: Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMUs). 2) Total number of cars: 180 cars (6 cars/train x 30 train-sets) which shall be delivered to the Insein DRC Depot/ Mahlwagon Shed or New Ywathagyi depot and workshop	29 March, 2019	26 June, 2019 2:00 p.m	USD 1,000

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

(a) The Eligible Nationality of the Contractor(s) shall be Japan in case of the prime Contractor.

(b) In case where the prime Contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

3. Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the design, execution and completion of the Rolling Stock Procurement Works as described above ("the Works"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Bidding Procedure.

4. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased and inspected by interested Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below during office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m on Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

Managing Director,

Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications

Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Telephone: +95-67 -77024, Facsimile number: +95-67-77164

Email address: dgmpplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com (not for submission but for clarification)

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Around 7.6 million votes went to the junta-backed Phalang Pracharat with 94 per cent of ballots tallied. PHOTO: AFP

Too early to say 250 MP seats won by opposition parties: Thailand's pro-Prayut party

BANGKOK— Leader of Palang Pracharath Party, which supports the Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha, Uttama Savanayana said on Wednesday that they would wait for the complete election results to be announced by the Election Commission first before declaring to form a new government.

Uttama said it is not the time for the opposition parties to say they have won over 255 seats in the House of Representatives. During a press conference held to respond to the joint declaration by the six opposition parties this morning, the Palang Pracharath leader said they would wait for the official election results first.

Uttama also confirmed that they are talking with other parties to form a coalition government.

He said he is confident that they can lead a coalition government that

has over 250 seats in the lower house, adding that they have won some 7.9 million votes, the most, in the March 24 general election.

Palang Pracharath Party's Secretary-General Sontirat Sontijirawong said the general election this year is different from previous elections as proportional representation is much emphasized and he criticized the opposition parties for issuing the joint declaration.

He also said the opposition parties should not define themselves as "democracy side" and use the word "democracy" to divide Thais.

Earlier on Wednesday, leaders of six opposition parties, led by Pheu Thai Party, convened at a Bangkok hotel to sign a joint declaration on the common resolution to set up a coalition government.

Signing the joint declaration were Pheu Thai,

Thai Liberal, Prachachart, Pheu Chart, Palang Puangchon Thai and Future Forward parties.

The March 24 general election is the first since 2014. So far, the Election Commission has only announced unofficial results of the 95 per cent of the votes from constituencies nationwide.

It confirmed again on Wednesday that it would release how many votes each party get to figure out exactly each party's party-list seats in the lower house, which will be followed by the formal election results to be released on 9 May.

The voting for the post-election prime minister in parliament needs a simple majority of a total 750 lawmakers, consisting of 500 MPs and 250 senators picked by the ruling National Council for Peace and Order headed by Prayut, in accordance with the 2017 constitution.—AFP ■

Pakistan says it found no links to Kashmir suicide blast

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan Thursday said it had found no links between militants swept up in a recent dragnet and a suicide attack in Indian-administered Kashmir last month that brought the nuclear-armed rivals to the brink of war.

The announcement by Pakistan's foreign office comes after India provided a list of 90 suspected mili-

tants and 22 locations of alleged training camps.

"While 54 detained individuals are being investigated, no details linking them to Pulwama have been found so far," the foreign office said, referring to the area where the attack occurred in Kashmir in February.

"Similarly, the 22 pin locations shared by India have been examined. No

such camps exist."

The statement said Pakistan was "willing to allow visits, on request, to these locations".

Tensions between old foes India and Pakistan soared after the suicide bombing, which killed 40 Indian security personnel and was later claimed by the Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).—AFP ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st (Monday) April 2019 "BANK HOLIDAY" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (13/2019)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-193(18-19)	Spares for BJ Cementing Unit (55)Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-194(18-19)	Spares for Drilling String (1)Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-195(18-19)	Spares For Well Head(1)Lot	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-196(18-19)	Spares For BOP Stack (3)Groups	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-197(18-19)	Spares For SL-315 Swivels(1)Lot	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-198(18-19)	SAE VG-40 Engine Oil (480)Drums	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-199(18-19)	ISO VG 100 Gas Compressor Oil(130)Drums	Ks
- The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty 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) as from 28 March 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.
- 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 29 April 2019**.
- Tender Closing Date & Time – 29-4-2019, 14:00 pm
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Request for Proposals for Result Based Financing (RBF) for Solar Home Systems

National Electrification Program (NEP) under Department of Rural Development wants to call proposals from interested private firms working in the supply and installation of high quality solar home systems (SHS) to participate in the market-led Result Based Financing (RBF) program for SHS, jointly financed by Department of Rural Development, the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The task includes marketing (identifying buyers), import, distribution and sale of high quality Lighting Global Certified SHS, and providing after sales services to users as per the guideline set in the Operation Manual of RBF.

NEP-DRD invites interested firms to submit their proposal in the prescribed format – 'DRD-RBF Proposal Template' which can be downloaded from NEP Web site (www.drdmyanmar.org) or directly requested by email (drdnep.procurement@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com).

The RBF proposal can be submitted in hard or soft copy to the address below by 29th April, 2019.

Dr Soe Soe Ohn, Project Manager, National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Government of Myanmar
Ph-0673418634, Email-neppmo.drd@gmail.com, ksaung@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com

Advertise with us/ Hot
Line : 09974424848

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (011 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (011 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HAI PHUONG ASIA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAI PHUONG ASIA VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Indonesian leader taps 'hologram campaigning' ahead of polls

JAKARTA — Indonesia's president has started beaming a hologram of himself to reach voters in key battleground provinces as he shuttles around the Southeast Asian archipelago ahead of national polls.

Joko Widodo, running for re-election in the world's third-biggest democracy, has a tight schedule so he and his vice-presidential running mate are projecting three-dimensional images of themselves at some campaign rallies, his team said.

The high-tech campaign launched this week and is targeting the heavily populated provinces of West, Central and East Java — seen as key sources of support.

More than 190 million people are registered to vote on April 17,

with thousands running for seats in parliament and local councils across Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

Like the candidate himself, Widodo's life-sized hologram will keep moving across the Southeast Asian nation in the coming weeks. The 57-year-old leader is believed to be the first Indonesian politician to rely on a hologram, but others including Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, India's Narendra Modi and a far-left French politician have used them in recent years.

Dressed casually in a white long-sleeved shirt, jeans and sneakers, the hologram pitches Widodo's economic record.

It also hits out against false claims, including that Widodo is an ethnic Chinese communist and

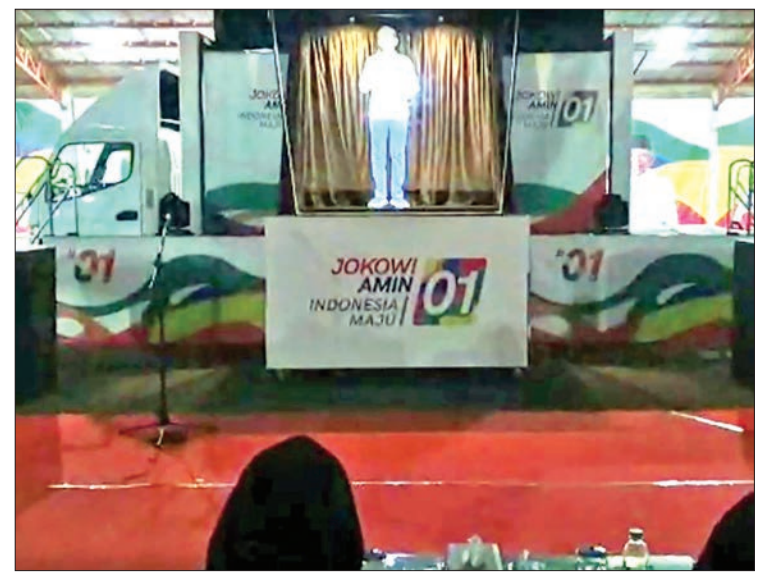
not a devout Muslim.

Indonesia has been battling a wave of fake news and misinformation campaigns online in the lead-up to the polls.

Last month, three Indonesian housewives were arrested over an online video that claimed Widodo would ban prayer and make gay marriage legal if re-elected — deeply unpopular moves that the politician has never publicly pushed.

"I assure you it's all slander, lies. Don't believe it," his hologram said. "We must fight against it, explain this to those who do believe it."

The image of Widodo's vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin — a prominent Islamic cleric widely seen as a buffer against questions about



This undated handout pictured released March 28, 2019 by Indonesian President Joko Widodo's national victory team (TKN) shows a hologram of Widodo during an election campaign in Jakarta. — National Victory Team handout pic via AFP

Widodo's Muslim credentials — warned against letting religion influence voters.

"Islam has become a political commodity," the hologram said.

"Verses from the Koran are being used for political purposes."

Recent polls show Widodo and Amin hold a wide lead over rivals Prabowo Subianto, a retired general, and business magnate Sandiaga Uno. Widodo beat Subianto in a 2014 presidential contest. — AFP ■

North Korea woos Vietnam tourists after Hanoi summit

HANOI — North Korean tourism officials on Thursday urged Vietnamese travellers to seize a "golden" opportunity to visit the country following a summit between Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in Hanoi last month.

With an economy crippled by international sanctions, isolated North Korea is keen to boost its nascent tourism sector by attracting more foreign visitors, the bulk of whom currently come from China.

A North Korean tourism official said it is prime time for Vietnamese visitors to travel to the country after Hanoi hosted Trump and Kim for a second round of nuclear talks in February.

"We had a very successful summit in Hanoi... this is the right chance, the golden chance for us to generate a tourist market of Vietnam to DPRK," Ham Jin of the official Korea International Travel Company (KITC) told AFP Thursday.

His company hosted a booth at a tourism fair in Hanoi this week — with brochures advertising a dolphinarium, a science and technology complex and the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in "ever-changing" Pyongyang — while others urged skiers to pay a visit to the Masikryong mountain resort.

Kim paid an official visit to Hanoi after his meeting with Trump, piquing curiosity among

some Vietnamese eager to know more about the reclusive leader and his country.

"I want to discover this mysterious country because there are many things to see," said Do Thi Phuong Thuy, who signed up for a tour after Kim's trip.

Safety concerns

North Korea receives an estimated 100,000 foreign tourists a year, according to industry insiders, though Pyongyang does not publish visitor data.

Ham put the number at double that and said visitor numbers grew by as much as 50 percent last year, though his figures could not be verified.

"We (use) tourism to contribute to economic develop-

ment," he told AFP.

A Vietnamese tour operator at the fair said his client numbers have surged this year, but that some travellers remain wary.

"People are concerned North Korea isn't safe or is closed to the world... there are the difficulties for us when we promote tours to North Korea," Nguyen Cong Hoan, director of Hanoi Red Tours, told AFP.

The United States has banned Americans from travelling to North Korea after the death of student Otto Warmbier, who was jailed after allegedly stealing a poster from a hotel. He was released in a vegetative state and later died on US soil.

Once-popular tours from South Korea to Mount Kumgang near the border came to an abrupt end in 2008 when a North Korean soldier shot dead a tourist from the South who strayed off the approved path.

Trump has heralded North Korea's economic potential, praising its "great beaches" that he said would make ideal locations for condos.

North Korea is currently building a sprawling seaside resort known as the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Area in a zone that has previously been used for artillery drills and ballistic missile launches. — AFP ■

In Iraqi Kurdistan, a robe for religious coexistence

ARBIL — With her robe featuring a cross, crescent, two stars and the winged symbol of Zoroastrianism, a Kurdish artist hopes to reconcile a part of Iraq ravaged by jihadists.

Shanaz Jamal, 40, says she has already been assured by the authorities in the autonomous northern region of Kurdistan that they will send her work to the Vatican to be put on display.

A Muslim, she explains how she embroidered "3,000 beads including semi-precious stones traditionally used for Kurdish crafts" onto the white ecclesiastical cloak.

After five months of endeavour, she stitched together eight symbols representing the main communities in Kurdistan and Iraq, which are both predominantly Muslim.

But there is also the Jewish Star of David and the sun and temples of the Yazidis — the minority in northern Iraq persecuted by the Islamic State group (IS) for their faith in what the UN has described as possible genocide.

From the beginning, Jamal says, she planned to offer her artwork to Pope Francis as a "symbol of peace and harmony in the world". "I want to show that women in Kurdistan want coexistence and fraternity between all religions," she told AFP. — AFP ■



Patriotic pupils: Students wave Vietnamese and North Korean flags at a kindergarten in Hanoi. PHOTO: AFP

Is it a horse? Is it a car? It's a Belarus horse-mobile

MOGILEV — Since he was a child, Alexei Usikov liked to make things.

His latest invention is what he proudly calls a “horse-mobile” — a dilapidated red car pulled by a horse that he rides through the Belarusian countryside.

“It’s more reliable than a car, it won’t let you down,” the 31-year-old farmer told AFP, flashing a toothless smile.

Usikov lives in the tiny village of Knyazhitsy in Belarus’s eastern Mogilev region.

When a neighbour offered him the remains of his old Audi 80, Usikov cut up the car’s frame and removed its engine.

He made holes where the steering wheel was and slid reins through plastic tubes to attach them to his horse. “Now it’s an Audi 40, as half of it is missing,” he joked. The young farmer uses



Farmer Alexei Usikov, 31, rides his horse-pulled cart made from an old Audi 80 car in the village of Knyazhitsy, some 230 km east of Minsk. PHOTO: AFP

his invention to get to the collective farm where he works, looking after livestock for around 200

euros a month. He also uses it for working in the field, including for ploughing and seeding.

“My colleagues could not believe it when I first arrived at work in a horse car,” Usikov said.

“They were surprised because you can play music in the car, the horn works and everything is well equipped.”

Usikov outfitted his car with a small coal stove. It is linked to a pipe on the roof that blows out smoke and keeps him warm in winter. The “horse-mobile” has made Usikov famous among villagers. “There are not many young people today who can do that,” said a local saleswoman.

“It’s the 21st century when there are computers and phones, but he’s trying to keep up the traditions of the old days.”

At first traffic police were not sure how to respond. Once a bewildered policeman stopped the vehicle and called his boss.

His chief praised Usikov’s creative spirit. “Well done,” he said. “Wish him a safe trip.” — AFP ■

‘Ugly’ prosthetics get French design treatment

PARIS — Evelyne Briand poses with a prosthetic leg made by Algo on March 13 2019

French manufacturers of prosthetics are breaking from tradition to develop fashionable artificial limbs with patterns and colour so that wearers don’t mind showing off some leg.

Two companies, AlgoOrthopedie and U-Exist, have taken the lead in France and are trying to redefine the image of replacement limbs, which are manufactured from plastic resin and are usually skin-coloured.

“A prosthetic worn with your granny’s stocking is just ugly,” said Alain Le Guen, an orthopedic surgeon and manager of AlgoOrthopedie, which was created in 2004 in Brittany in northwestern France.

“It has to be a bit of a work of art,” he added, so that “people aren’t shy about showing their

leg.”

Le Guen believes that colourful prosthetics can help users accept their disability.

His company has seen rapid growth in the past few years, with production increasing from just a dozen designer limbs in 2016 to around 50 now.

Each limb costs between 25-26,000 euros (28,000 dollars) and is normally covered by the French public health system.

Users of Algo’s prosthetic limbs seem to take pride in them.

Bruno Paul, 55, sports an artificial left leg with a yellow-and-orange diamond motif.

Former metal-worker Paul lost his leg in 2016, nearly 20 years after an accident in a foundry which led to around 20 operations to try to prevent an amputation.

“I don’t have my leg anymore, so why pretend to still have

one,” Paul said. “I might as well accept my disability along with some colour.”

Evelyne Briand, a 56-year-old who had her leg amputated in 2007, chose a striped blue-and-white design.

“The way people look at you changes when you have a coloured prosthetic,” she said. “I’ve got another one in leather to go with my black dress.”

She had her leg amputated in 2007 after rupturing cruciate ligaments in her knee during a tennis match at the age of 25, which led to more than 40 failed operations.

Throwing out the rules

Another company, U-Exist, joined the competition in 2014 and trains prosthetic designers—between 150 and 200 annually—as well as manufacturing its own line of stylish limbs.

“A prosthetic created to mimic the human body is frankly deceptive for the mind, not to mention that the appearance of a false limb can be troubling to other people,” said Simon Colin, founder and director of U-Exist, to AFP. Colin, whose interest in designs for prosthetics dates back to research as a student on the impact of personalised prosthetics, is a fervent believer in what he considers a form of art therapy. Around 250,000 people use a prosthetic limb in France and around 160,000 of them are built each year, according to Colin.— AFP ■



Evelyne Briand poses with a prosthetic leg made by Algo on 13 March 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Sackler donations rebuffed amid opioid crisis

NEW YORK — Large museums are rejecting funds from the Sackler family, underscoring the growing unease with the main source of the philanthropic dynasty’s riches: the painkiller at the center of the US opioid crisis.

With net worth estimated at more than \$13 billion, the Sacklers are among the world’s richest families, according to Forbes. And they have used their wealth to become significant funders of the arts and education.

Their story is the epitome of the American dream: three brothers—Arthur, Mortimer and Raymond—born in Brooklyn to Jewish immigrants who arrived in New York after World War I, become psychiatrists, and then built Purdue Pharma after buying a struggling New York drug company in 1952.

Purdue became a dominant force in the pharmaceutical industry, largely due to the blockbuster painkiller OxyContin, the highly addictive drug now subject to more than 1,000 lawsuits over its role in the opioid crisis.

The company’s success helped the brothers amass enough wealth to become major philanthropists: the Sackler name is a visible presence at Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, Yale, Tufts and Oxford universities, as well as entire wings of two of the world’s greatest museums: the Louvre in

Paris and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The donations earned Arthur the moniker of a “modern Medici” by art scholar Thomas Lawton. Arthur passed away in 1987, nearly a decade before OxyContin was introduced, and his heirs sold his stake in Purdue to the other two brothers when he died.

The wealth of the remaining branches was based on what the New Yorker magazine called “an empire of pain” through “ruthless marketing.”

- Cutting ties -

That tradition of giving continued in the next generation, with two of Raymond’s children endowing a professorship at the Yale Cancer Center.

“My father raised Jon and me to believe that philanthropy is an important part of how we should fill our days,” Richard Sackler said in 2009.

Richard, who lives in Austin, Texas, also has donated to both the Democratic and Republican parties and conservative think tanks.

Mortimer Sackler had luxurious mansions in London, the south of France and Switzerland. Several of his seven children have been on the board of Purdue, while one, Mortimer D.A. gave \$9 million to the Guggenheim museum between 1995 and 2015.

But the museum has cut all ties with the family.— AFP ■

Aung La N Sang ready to defend his title in Japan

AUNG La N Sang, the ONE Middleweight and Light Heavyweight World Champion, is prepared to defend his Middleweight World Champion title against Japan's Ken Hasegawa on 31 March.

The five-round contest titled ONE: A NEW ERA will take place at the Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo, Japan.

Aung La N Sang has arrived in Japan, and he is readying for the fight against Ken Hasegawa. He has continued his workouts in Japan, and stated on his social media page that it feels good to be in Japan and he is feeling confident about the bout.

"I'm fired up about the match. I am so blessed to be able to do what I love. Thank you to my fans for all the prayers and support. I'm so honored to be in Japan to give the fans a show. Thank you, One Championship, for making this happen. We are going to put on a great show on

Sunday," said Aung La N Sang on his page.

The bout is a rematch of Aung La N Sang and Ken Hasegawa's fight in June last year, which was declared the 'Bout of the Year'. In the earlier fight, Aung La retained his title after a fifth-round knockout, delivering a resounding uppercut in the final moments of the contest.

Because the first bout was so entertaining, there were calls for a rematch, and ONE Championship has delivered, according to the organizers of the contest.

The first clash between 'The Burmese Python' and Hasegawa is considered 'The Greatest Bout In ONE Championship History', they said.

During a training camp earlier, Aung La had said: "I am starting the camp with 10 pounds more of muscle."

"I am also pushing my cardio, so you should see a more



Aung La N Sang (left) holds his ONE Middleweight belt during a photo call with Ken Hasegawa (far right) in Japan. **PHOTO: AUNG LA N SANG'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

dynamic version of myself. I am working on my striking and grappling every day as well."

Now, nine months later, the fighters are set to meet again, and for Aung La, the match

presents a chance to put on an even better display than last time.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Chapecoense plane crash survivor dies playing soccer



Rafael Henzel, survivor of plane that crashed carrying the Brazilian football team Chapecoense in 2016, has died playing soccer. **PHOTO: AFP**

RIO DE JANEIRO — Journalist Rafael Henzel, one of just six survivors of the 77 people on board the plane that crashed carrying the Brazilian football team Chapecoense in 2016, has died of heart attack that struck while he was playing soccer with friends, his employers Radio Oeste Cap-

ital announced on Thursday.

Henze, 45, had been on the plane to Medellin in November 2016 as a radio journalist when the aircraft ran out of fuel, with 19 members of the Chapecoense team losing their lives.

"He was playing football with friends when he had a heart at-

tack. He was rushed to hospital in Chapeco, where unfortunately he was declared dead," Radio Oeste Capital reported.

The Brazilian club said on its website: "Throughout his brilliant career, Rafael told the story of Chapecoense,"

"We wholeheartedly hope that the family will have the strength to face yet another difficult time and this irreparable loss. The feelings and prayers of all the Chapecoenses, fans and listeners, are with you," the football club said on its website.

Henze published a book in June 2017 titled "Live each day as if it were your last". "I have two dates of birth," he said in his book. "I am Brazilian and Colombian and it won't be enough merely to live, I have to justify it," he explained. Three footballers and two of the plane crew also survived the crash.—AFP ■

Week 6 of national league to start on 30 March

WEEK 6 of the Myanmar National League senior team's matches will begin from 30 March, after the FIFA international friendly matches and the AFC U-23 qualifiers conclude. The Myanmar men's national football team is participating in the FIFA friendlies, while the U-23 men's team is taking part in the AFC qualifiers.

This week's matches will feature Derby matches as big teams are slated to face each other, giving fans plenty to look forward to.

Colorful matches will take place simultaneously at different venues in Yangon and other major cities. Four matches will take place on 30 March, including one Derby match featuring Yangon United and Ayeyawady United. The match is scheduled to take place at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

The same day, Yadanarbon will take on Dagon F.C. at the

Bahtoo Stadium in Yangon, and Hantharwady United will face Chinland F.C. at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago. The matches will be broadcast live on MRTV channel, said a source with the football federation.

On 31 March, a national league derby match will take place between Southern Myanmar F.C. and Magwe F.C. at the Mawlamyaing Stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV channel. Another match featuring Rakhine United and Sagaing United will take place the same day at the Waitharli Stadium in Sittway.

The play time for the Week 6 matches at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon will be shifted soon to 4 p.m. from 3.30 p.m. for the convenience of players on account of the recent rise in temperatures in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■