

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends installation of glass pagoda at shrine of Phaungdaw Oo Buddha Images

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio, wife grace opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal

VICE President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan graced the opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal at Nay Pyi Taw Town Hall yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr. Myo Aung first delivered a New Year greeting speech followed by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr. Myo Aung cutting the ceremonial ribbon to

open the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal.

Next, the Vice President and wife, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Union Ministers and wives, Nay Pyi Taw Mayor and wife sprinkled Thingyan water on members of the dance troupes.

Afterwards dance troupes from ministries and townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council area performed dances while the Myanmar Radio modern music troupe sang a Thingyan song.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife (Centre, top photo) attend the opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



VP U Henry Van Thio, wife grace opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal

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This was followed by songs and dances by popular singers, artistes and dance troupes.

During the Thingyan festival, artistes, singers and dance troupes will perform songs and dances at the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Thingyan Pandal while Thingyan revelers will be treated with special Thingyan delicacies. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio sprinkles scented water on a performer at the opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Thingyan Pandal. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Mying, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr. Myo Aung formally open the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's Pandal yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Guidelines for the public to reduce accidents during Thingyan

1. Be responsible and don't consume alcohol heavily.
2. Avoid using psychotropic drugs.
3. Avoid the use of water balls, fire hose, and acid or similar corrosive liquid.
4. Do not carry nor conceal pointed objects, knives or other melee weapons.
5. Avoid buying and selling of sexual stimulant drugs.
6. Avoid wearing clothing inappropriate to the local culture.
7. Females should avoid travelling around with non-family members and refrain from accepting food from strangers.
8. Avoid staying out late into the night.
9. Avoid taking a rest in secluded areas throughout the day.
10. Avoid consuming alcohol and driving cars over the weight limit.
11. Avoid excessively teasing other people.
12. Avoid swimming or showering in lakes or creeks.
13. Avoid using or decorating items that are unsuitable for display to the general public.

— Myanmar Police Force

“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

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

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends opening of Thingyan festival in Myawady

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi attended the opening ceremony of Kayin State Myawady town Myanmar Era 1380 Myanmar traditional Thingyan central pandal held near Thaungyin Hall in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, State Hluttaw representatives, Tak Province (Thailand) Governor and wife and about 30 officials.

First, Myawady Thingyan organizing committee chairman Myawady District administration U Tay Za Aung delivered a New Year speech.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Bo, Brig-Gen Kyaw Zeya from area cantonment, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung,

State Hluttaw representative Aik Kyan Kham, Myawady District administrator U Tay Za Aung, Thailand Tak Province Governor Charoenrit Sa-nguansat, Thingyan Nyi Naung cantonment Tactical Commander Col. Naing Aung, Township administrator U Phyo Zaw Ko and township development committee member U Sein Thaug cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the ceremony.

Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife, Tak Province Governor and officials, Myawady District administrator and invited guests took a commemorative group photo and poured Thingyan water on one another.

Later the ceremony continued with song and dance performances by Myanmar-Thai friendship dance troupes followed by five dance troupes competing in



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than sprinkles scented water on an aged man to mark the launching of the Thingyan Festival in Myawady. **PHOTO: MIN HTAT**

Thingyan dance competition and 26 entertainment dance

troupes performing traditional Thingyan songs and dances.—

Maung Sein Lwin (Myanmar Alin) (Translated by Zaw Min)

Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd. Sky Net Family's Myanmar traditional Thingyan pandal opens



Union Minister Dr. Pe Mying sprinkles scented water on ethnic performers at the opening ceremony of Sky Net Family's Thingyan Pandal in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: KO KO LAY, KYAW YE SWE**

OPENING ceremony of Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd. Sky Net Family's Myanmar traditional Thingyan pandal for transition from Myanmar Era 1380 to 1381 was held at the pandal located in Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, departmental officials, artistes, ethnic national traditional dance troupe and Thingyan enthusiasts.

First Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Shwe Than Lwin Co. Ltd. patron Dr. Daw Ni Ni and Chairman Daw Myint Myint

Win cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Thingyan pandal.

Next Union Ministers and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman sprinkled Thingyan water onto the ethnic national traditional dance troupe and observed the artistes and dance troupes providing entertainment with songs and dances.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint went to observe and encourage Sky Net Family volunteers preparing free food and distributing it to revelers.

Later the Sky Net Thingyan pandal in Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone was found crowded with revelers as popular artistes and singers sang songs and dance troupes that includes ethnic national cultural dance troupes performed dances. — Myo Thu Hein

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends installation of glass pagoda at shrine of Phaungdaw Oo Buddha Images

THE ceremony to offer the installation of the glass pagoda in the prayer hall of Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda was held, yesterday morning, in the Yadana Sankyaung building of the Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda in Inle, Shan State.

Present at the ceremony were Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and wife, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and their wives, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Lin Aung, invited guests and local ethnic races.

First, the Senior General offered an Emerald Bowl, flowers, water and fruits to the Buddha images of the Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda. Then the Senior General and the congregation received Five Precepts from Mai Thauk Sayadaw and listened to the Parittas recited by Members of the Sanghas.

Mai Thauk First Monastery



Sayadaws and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing formally open the glass pagoda at the sacred place of the Inle Buddha Images at Phaungdaung Oo Pagoda. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Bhaddanta Sumingalabivamsa expounded the sermons. The Senior General and wife, senior military officers and the commanders presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

They listened to the sermons delivered by Inle Region Innlya Monastery Dhammakatika Bahujanahitadhara Badanta Dham-

mawara. Then Members of the Sangha said prayers and shared merits gained. Afterwards, Members of the Sanghas led by Mai Thauk First Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Bhaddanta Sumingalabivamsa opened the glass pagoda to the Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda by clicking the button. Then, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid respects and offered "soon" (day meal) to the Sanghas.

The donation made by the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the installation of glass pagoda is 4 feet and 8 inches in diameter, three feet and five inches in height, and one inch in thickness.

Following this, Senior Gen-

eral Min Aung Hlaing met with local ethnic races and discussed the conservation of the Inle Lake as a plastic-free zone, production of natural fertilizers with the use of water hyacinth and reduction of chemical fertilizer, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Yangon opens City Pandal, kicks off Thingyan Festival

YANGON City Thingyan Central Pandal was formally launched for the Thingyan Festival for 2019 by Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Yangon city hall yesterday.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered a New Year message and opened the pandal by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

After the formal opening, artistes sang songs while dance troupes and ethnic national dance troupes performed dances as revelers flock to the pandal.

Starting from the evening of

Thingyan Eve a Thingyan Splash Walk was held in front of Maha Bandoola Park near Yangon city hall where not only locals but foreigners were also seen to be participating in it.

Similarly, Sky Net Thingyan pandal at 19th Street, Latha Township; Shine Myanmar Traditional Thingyan pandal at Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township; Botahtaung Family Thingyan pandal on Maha Bandoola Street, Botahtaung Township; Mya Kyun Tha and Kandawgyi Thingyan Splash Walks; Yankin Central Thingyan



People gather at the Yangon City Pandal as they enjoy the performances at the opening of the pandal in downtown Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT, YE HTUT**



A dance troupe performs the audience at the Yangon City Pandal. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT, YE HTUT**

pandal and other Thingyan pandals in other townships were also seen to be teeming with revelers.

Daw Tin Tin Nwe from Shine Myanmar Traditional Thingyan pandal at Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township said the pandal was jointly organized by Wa Wa Win Beauty and Pwintphu Clothing at the same location for 30 years. Free food will be donated and distributed to revelers she said.

Botahtaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw

Myint Myint Soe said Botahtaung Family Thingyan pandal was organized by General Administration Department and will include entertainment program of dances, songs and Thingyan Thangyat troupes. Furthermore free food will also be donated for the revelers said the Hluttaw representative who added that there were also many other Thingyan pandals in Botahtaung Township.

Starting from the morning of Thingyan eve, people were dis-

tributing free food in townships and wards while small family Thingyan pandals sprang up in streets where revelers were enjoying the festival until early in the evening.

In the evening, Thingyan Thangyat troupes and dance troupes on Thingyan floats were participating in dance and Thangyat competitions as crowds of revelers observed the competitions. —Ye Gaung, Min Thit

Translated by Zaw Min

Myanmar-Thailand trade down 12% in February

Myanmar's overseas trade with Thailand exceeded US\$400 million in February, a decrease of \$56 million, or 12 per cent, from this time last year, according to the latest monthly trade report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total bilateral trade included some \$250 million in exports and over \$150 million in imports. When compared with last February, exports increased by over \$20 million, however, imports decreased by over \$78 million.

Last February, bilateral trade topped over \$460 billion, with exports worth \$226 million and imports \$235 million.

During the first five months of Fiscal Year 2018-2019, Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade exceeded \$2 billion, including exports amounting to \$1.2 billion and imports valued at \$890 million.

Myanmar conducts trade with neighboring Thailand via maritime routes, as well as at border entry points. Goods are

delivered mainly through seven border gates, including Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung, and Maese.

Marketable products delivered to the two countries include watermelon, pineapple, avocado and other fruits, onion, garlic and kitchen spices, dried tea leaves, manganese dioxide, jellyfish and eel, cement, construction equipment, leather, iron and steel products, soaps, medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, and machinery.

During the 2018 mini-budget period between April and September, Myanmar-Thailand trade was recorded at \$2.9 billion, with \$1.6 billion in exports and \$1.4 billion in imports. Total trade increased by more than \$500 million, compared with the same time last FY, when Myanmar-Thailand trade stood at \$2.5 billion.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade was registered at \$5 billion in



Myawady Trade Zone is Myanmar's second largest border trading post. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

the 2017-2018 FY, \$4.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.8 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$5.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.7 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$4.5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Thailand's new investments in Myanmar in the current FY reached over \$97 million from five projects. During the 2018 mini-budget period, Thai

investments reached some \$64.6 million. In the 2017-2018 FY, Thailand made investments worth almost \$123.8 million throughout the country.—Shwe Khine
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade value with ITC totalled K 34 bln

THE value of trade with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) reached over K 34 billion as of 5 April in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, comprised of exports valued at K 29 billion and imports valued at K 4 billion, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

At Myanmar's border gates, the Myawady border trade camp is reported to have the largest volume of trade, with a value of more than K 18.6 billion.

The border trade values with ITC, as of 5 April in this FY, were over K 2.9 billion in Tamu, over K 19 million in Muse, over 60 million in Tachilek, K 5.9 million in Lweje, over K 1.2 billion in Kanpikete, K 2.8 billion in

Kawthoung, K million in Reed, K 8.6 billion in Mawtaung and K million in Keng Tung, according to an announcement released by the Ministry.

The Ministry of Commerce permitted 292 ITCs in 2012-2013 FY; 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY; 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY; 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY; 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY; 168 cards in 2017-2018 FY; 91 cards from 1st April 2018 to 30 Sep 2018 interim period and 114 cards from 1 Oct 2018 to 5 April 2019.

The Trade Department issues the ITC with an aim to boosting border trade. Since its introduction to date, the ministry issued a total of 1,638 ITCs.—Zwe (Translated by Hay Mar)

Eugenia growers happy with handsome profit

Eugenia growers are happy with handsome profits in Hsi Hseng Township, Shan State (South), due to the high demand, according to local eugenia growers.

Most local farmers from Hsi Hseng Township primarily grow corn, pineapple, garlic, watermelon, muskmelon and eugenia.

"We started planting eugenia trees after local farmers from Taunggyi began purchasing eugenia seeds from us. They also share eugenia planting information with us whenever they come

and buy eugenia seeds from us. Planting eugenia provides more sure benefits, compared to other crops. The eugenia tree is planted in June, and needs to be treated with insecticides and fertilizers annually. After three years, we need to cut the eugenia tree root. After cutting the tree root for 35 days, we can start to sell the eugenia," said Daw Nam Kaung, a local eugenia farmer.

"If we plant eugenia, we don't have to worry about floods and drought, and we don't need

to worry about the market." Green leaved eugenia plants are also popular for home decoration and for flower pots in pagodas across Myanmar.

A single plant can be sold for K 500 to K 2000, depending on the size and quality, although smaller, less attractive plants can sell for one-third of that price. Local farmers make some K 2.5 million or K 3 million per year, she added.—Khon Ye Htway (Hsi Hseng)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



A worker prepares the land for planting Eugenia at a farm in Hsi Hseng. PHOTO: KHON YE HTWAY (HSI HSENG)

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Rakhine Traditional Fragrant Grinding Festival commences in Yangon



Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung and officials pour scented water on the Buddha Images to mark the 16th Rakhine traditional sandal wood grinding festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

THE 16th Rakhine traditional water festival (Yangon), organized by Yangon Region's ministry for Rakhine ethnic affairs and Rakhine community in Yangon, was held, yesterday, in the Ra-

khine Dhammayone on the Martyrs' Street, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. First, the event was opened with the Rakhine Traditional Drum performance and a speech by Rakhine Ethnic

Affairs Minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung. Then Chairperson of Central committee for holding festival U Soe Win explained about the purpose of holding the fragrant grinding

festival.

U Zaw Aye Maung said that most of the ethnic races have settled in Yangon Region. He was thankful for the attendees to take part in it. He urged for bringing about the ethnic solidarity and perpetuation of the State that had included in the principles of Myanmar. Trust-building could be made through the study of one's culture; thereby they could foster trust, value, respect and peace. Moreover that festival could contribute with grains of sand to implement these processes.

Next, Rakhine ethnic affairs minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung, Rakhine literature and culture group (Yangon), officials from the Rakhine associations, the Rakhine Social Organizations and ethnic cultural groups took part in pouring of scented water to images of the Lord Buddha. The event was participated by other ethnic races such as Mon, Pa-O, Kayin,

Chin, Dawei, Kachin.

Chairperson of Rakhine literature and culture group Daw Khin Saw Tint said I would like to urge all our ethnic races, including the Rakhine race, to make a prayer for peace, stability and protection from any kinds of dangers for the whole country on that day. With a view to fostering stability, peace and warding off any forms of dangers, I would like to urge all of you to pray at the Maha Muni Buddha Image. There were even some ethnic races such as That and Mon that could participate in the fragrant grinding festival the day before yesterday. The event was concluded with striking the Rakhine Traditional Drum following the closing remarks by Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung. — Ye Khaung, Min Thit,

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Pyinmana Splash Walk Thingyan Central Pandal opens

As the Myanmar year of 1380 comes to a close and the new year of 1381 is ushered in, one thing that has not changed is the enthusiastic throwing of water, a symbolic gesture that allows the washing away of the previous year's sins and the anticipation of starting a new year with a clean slate.

The opening ceremony of the Pyinmana Splash Walk Thingyan Pandal was held on a grand scale, yesterday morning, at the Central Pandal, Bo Tauk Htein Street, Pyinmana Town, Nay Pyi Taw.

First, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, accompanied by officials, cut the ribbon to open the Pyinmana Central Pandal. Then the damsels from the dancing troupes entertained the audiences with dances and songs as people enjoyed the splashes of water thrown from the pandals.

People from Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and the nearby towns also participated in the Pyinmana's Splash Walk. The festival was crowded with audiences

and revelers as the whole city has got in the festive mood with entertainment programmes and presentation of decorated floats along the streets.

Significant places in the area such as the Water Fountain Garden, the Zoological Garden and the Safari Park were also crowded with visitors while merit makers, donors and meditators were also seen going to pagodas and monasteries in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Thingyan is a Sanskrit word meaning "change", and perhaps it is inevitable that the annual event to welcome the New Year has changed over the years. Thingyan, or the Myanmar New Year festival, is one of the most celebrated events in the country, and which usually occurs in April and lasts for four or five days, culminating in the New Year in accordance with the Myanmar calendar. — Myo Thwin,

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



A dance troupe performs at the ceremony to open the Pyinmana Central Pandal yesterday. **PHOTO: HTAN PHONE AND KYAW ZIN HTIKE**



Local people gather at the central Pandal of Pyinmana as they enjoy performance of dance troupes to launch the New Year Water Festival. **PHOTO: HTAN PHONE AND KYAW ZIN HTIKE**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Have A Joyful Thingyan Festival & An Auspicious New Year, 1381 M.E.



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Be careful with UV rays in the summer

MARCH, April and May are the hottest months in Myanmar. During this time, the country experiences a high ultraviolet (UV) index and unfavourable weather conditions for a period of three months, until the rainy season in mid-June.

UV indexes between 10 and 11 can be harmful and pose health risks. A UV Index reading between 8 to 10 means there is a very high risk of harm from unprotected sun exposure. Take extra precautions because unprotected skin and eyes will be damaged and can burn quickly.

Experts suggest liberal use of sunscreen, sunglasses and protective clothing. People should also avoid direct sunlight between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. by seeking shade and wearing headwear and long-sleeved clothing at all times.

Please pay attention to our advice and wear proper hats, long sleeves and use sunscreen, and stay in the shade at those times when UV ratings are high.

temperatures rise. At high levels, UV radiation can damage the skin and eyes over time. Worldwide, some 12 to 15 million people become blind annually from cataracts, of which up to 20 per cent may be caused or exacerbated by exposure to the sun, according to the WHO.

Most parts of Myanmar have seen summertime UV readings that reach dangerous levels. Remember, summer in Myanmar, which lasts from March to May, is now entering its hottest weeks.

People are urged not to forget that UV levels of 3 or above can damage your skin, even if you do not become burnt.

Please pay attention to our advice and wear proper hats, long sleeves and use sunscreen, and stay in the shade at those times when UV ratings are high.

King Mindon and Bodh Gaya wayside royal rest house

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

ACCORDING to 20 gold parchments which described a summary of Buddha's sermon unearthed in Khinba Hill, Thiri Ksetra Old City, Theravada Buddhism was believed to be in Myanmar. After Pyu Era, Buddhism became more and more flourished during King Anawrahta's reign in Bagan.

After Bagan Era, Buddhism flourished in Pinya, Innwa, Taungoo and Nyaungyan Eras; evidences of those eras are found to be pagodas and stupas up until now. In the same way, throughout Myanmar history, Kings and their people built Buddhist structures, especially in Konbaung and Yadanabon Dynasties, where their remains are still found in most parts of Myanmar.

Buddhism during the successive reigns of Myanmar kings was honoured by building religious structures not only in the Kingdom but also outside of the Kingdom. Among them, King Mindon's royal edifice for religious assemblies and providing shelter to travellers in Gaya City, India was included. The King also built Royal rest house in Mecca town for Myanmar Muslim pilgrims.

King Mindon

Mindon Min was the tenth King during the successive reigns of 11 kings in Konbaung Dynasty (1752-1885). Among Konbaung kings, King Mindon was famous for his morals, education and farsightedness, according to the famous writer U Nyo Mya; he was also famous for his Fifth Synod of Buddhism. As the King established Mandalay as the capital and religion and education were highly honored throughout his royal tenure.

A king-to-be Maung Lwin was born on July, 1814 of the King Thayawady and Queen Thiri Thusandar Marlar Devi. Prince Mindon succeeded to the Amarapura Throne on 17 February 1853, by removing his elder brother King Bagan and appointing his younger brother Prince Kanaung as a crown prince. Dur-

ing King Mindon's reign from 1853-1878, Konbaung Dynasty flourished towards the end of the Kingdom, according to U Nyo Mya. He built a square-shaped new Yadanabon City in 1221 ME; one side was a mile and two furlongs. He moved to Yadanabon City from Amarapura after being aware of possible British attacks and the King exerted his efforts for the modernization of Myanmar, by sending young men to the West for further education and factories and mills were established under the supervision of Prince Kanaung to become an industrialized country. At the same time, Yadanabon coins were moulded to replace the current monetary system. For the security and safety of his country, artillery and gun factories were built along the watercourse of the Ayeyawady. While defending the external attacks, The King had to resolve the internal conflicts in his palace.

In order to continue the compilation of the Glass Palace inherited from King Sagaing, several high-ranking educated royals were assigned by the King on 2 September, 1867. That commission compiled 237 chapters on historical records from 1821 to 1853, thus popularly known as Second Royal History. The Fifth Synod organized in Yadanabon Mandalay by the King in the Buddhist Era 2400 (1871 AD) became historic. The collective recitations of Buddhist Scriptures were in stone-inscriptions, totaling 729 stone slabs in the Kuthawdaw Pagoda compound. These slabs were put in the World Heritage List by UNESCO as Myanmar's first Memory of the World Register.

King Mindon allowed publishing free publications of newspapers, sending diplomats to the West, getting enough salaries for the Kingdom servicemen, giving the dispensation of Christianity in the capital of the Kingdom, enjoying free worshipping, establishing nursing hospitals and the home for the Aged Poor. King Mindon was not similar with former Kings, avoiding wars and bloodshed as much as he could, remarked prominent historian Dr. Than Tun. He passed away at the age of 64 on 1 October, 1878.



Mahabodhi temple, built under the Gupta Empire, 6th century CE.

Mindon Min and Bodh Gaya Most Buddhists including Myanmar people put much value on the sacred four places of birth, Buddhahood, preaching and passing-away: Lubini Garden in Nepal, Buddhahood in Mahabodhi, Bodh Gaya, First preaching Dhama Sakya and passing-away in Migadawon Forest. Buddhist pilgrims pay a yearly visit to these places via Bodh Gaya, India. Gaya town is situated in Behur State, India and 17 kilometers away from

King Mindon allowed publishing free publications of newspapers, sending diplomats to the West, getting enough salaries for the Kingdom servicemen, giving the dispensation of Christianity in the capital of the Kingdom, enjoying free worshipping, establishing nursing hospitals and the home for the Aged Poor.

Lord Buddha was born in Lumbini garden in BC 623 and passed away in Kuthinayon in BC 543. After attaining Nirvana and lasting 280 years around BC 260, King Asoka built a Mahabodhi Pagoda near Bodhi tree where Prince Thitadatta attained Buddhahood. King Pala renovated

the Pagoda in AD 7 century and was again destroyed in AD 12 century and with renovations in AD 13 century, the height of the present Mahabodhi Pagoda is 55 meters.

As Mahabodhi Pagoda was the sacred place for the Buddhists, Myanmar Kings made generous donations and preservation for the Pagoda: King Kyansitha of Bagan dynasty sent a group of king's counselors with pieces of jewelry to renovate the Pagoda. In the same way, Bagan King Kyawswa in AD 1299 and King Bodawpaya in AD 1800 sent missionaries to Bodh Gaya. King Mindon donated 7 million rupees for the Pagoda and built a royal wayside resthouse for Myanmar pilgrims.

King Mindon's royal wayside rest house

Myanmar pilgrims went around Mahabodhi Pagoda, Mahabodhi Banyan Tree and seven places where the Buddha sojourned after enlightenment. After visiting these places, they went to study King's royal resthouse.

King's rest house is situated northeast of Mahabodhi Pagoda compound and near Gaya Bazaar. Even if it is known as the royal wayside resthouse, it happens to be a brick building, not made of wooden one.

The compound in which King Mindon's wayside rest house exists belongs to the Brahmin Mahants whose buildings are also inside the Compound.

The rest house presently belongs to the Indians so visitors are not allowed to have a look inside it. Two-storied brick building was painted red with broken windows. Once Myanmar pilgrims to Gaya Town stayed inside the rest house; it is now sad that it has nothing to do with Myanmar people. King Mindon succeeded to the throne in 1214 ME and built Yadanabon City after seven years on the throne.

In 1236 ME, the King accompanied by high-ranking royal officials donated 500 diamonds, 311 emeralds, 3966 red rubies, 623 pearls, umbrellas, pennants, long-necked pots, garlands and banquets to the Mahabodhi Pagoda and Banyan Tree by means

of Sakya steamboats.

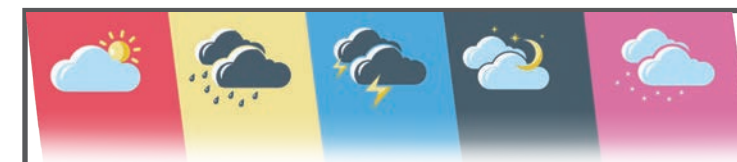
King Mindon's stone inscriptions

Before getting to King Mindon's royal wayside rest house, one had to cross through the gates of Old Mahant Palace. At the back of the street, an obelisk was found. The stone inscriptions were written in it by Wetmasouk Mayor Mahathiri Sithu and Brahmin Dhamarajah Guru and a preface forwarded by Ngashwelu and brought to Gaya City for the establishment of an obelisk. To renovate the obelisk, a delegation headed by Thitagu Sayadaw Shinnyasara, went to Gaya City on October 14, 2015 to coordinate with the administrators of Mahabodhi Pagoda.

Mahants who own the Mindon's royal wayside rest house and the obelisk compound also attended the coordination meeting. Dubbed as "an epilogue of stone inscriptions for Mahabodhi Banyan Tree" 85 Myanmar prosers were written on the obelisk. Inscribed words could be read in details in Second Mahahistory. A Sri Lankan by the name of Anagarika Dahmapalaka requested the transfer of Maha-Pagoda to the hands of Buddhists, thus leading to conflicts with Brahmin Mahants. In 1891, Sayadaw Anagarika Dmapalaka and his lay devotees U Thein Maung and U Ba Si requested the Indian Government for transferring Maha Pagoda to the Buddhists. After 50 years in 1949, a law was promulgated to let four members of Hindus and four members of Buddhists jointly administer the Pagoda; up until now the Pagoda has been administered by both Hindus and Buddhists.

Myanmar Buddhist pay a yearly pilgrimage to Gaya City where King Mindon's royal wayside rest house and Mahabodhi Obelisk are vividly seen as historic evidences as Myanmar King Mindon's sympathy and generosity. But King's historic edifice for religious assemblies and providing shelter to travelers falls into the hands of foreigners, thus only praying for eternal existence of Konbaung King's historic structure.

Translated by Arakan Sein;



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

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 AFTERNOON OF THE 14th April, 2019: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy 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: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th April, 2019: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th April, 2019: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th April, 2019: A few cloud.

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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

2019 Thingyan Festival kicks off



Ngapali Beach, located in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, attracts many holiday makers on 13 April, the first day of the four-day Thingyan Festival. Stretching 8 miles from north to south on the western coast of Myanmar, Ngapali Beach is renowned for its natural beauty and safety for swimmers. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**



Local people and tourists participate in the first floating Thingyan Festival in the Inle Lake in Nyaung Shwe. **PHOTO: NAY MYO THUREIN**

Over ten tons of illegally cut timbers seized in Pale

Officials seized over ten tons of illegal teak and hardwood timbers in Pale Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, on Friday morning, according to the township forest department.

Acting on a tip, a combined team of forest police and administrative officials carried out a raid at the residence of U Tin Win in Inmahti Village at

10.40 a.m. on 12 April. During the raid, they found 0.5 tons of illegally cut teak logs, and 77 logs weighing nearly 9.8 tons of cut hardwood timbers within the compound of his residence and confiscated them.

The seized timbers are being stored at the Pale Township Forest Department and action is being taken against U Tin Win for the unlawful possession

of timbers.

Concerted efforts have been made by forest officials to crack down on illegal logging and smuggling in the region, with cooperation from residents and relevant government departments.—Min Khant Soe (Zeyamye)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Fire guts 28 homes in Magway on Thingyan Eve, no casualties

A fire gutted 28 homes in Gyopin Village, Kyakan Village-tract, Magway Township, Magway Region on Saturday afternoon, according to officials at the township Fire Services Department.

The department said there were no casualties due to the fire, which broke out on the Eve of Thingyan Water Festival, 13

April.

The fire started at the home of U Thin Tun around 1 p.m. and the blaze spread quickly to neighbouring homes, destroying 28 houses. Those who are homeless due to the fire are now living in temporary shelters in the village monastery.

With the support of residents, firefighters brought the

blaze under control at 2.30 p.m. The Township Fire Services Department brought in seven fire engines to fight the fire. An investigation is being conducted by township police to determine the cause of the fire. — Wai Phyo Lay

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Fire destroys seven houses in Buthidaung

A fire destroyed seven houses in North ward of No.1 Buthidaung Town, Maungtau District, Rakhine State on 13 April. According to officials, the fire started in the kitchen around 2:45 am in a house belonging to Muang Yaw Hein, who rented the home. The fire reportedly spread to neighboring houses. The Township Administration office reported the fire to the township fire service department. No one was injured in the fire. It took five fire engines and many firemen to put out the blaze. The fire was declared under control at 5 am.

Currently, some 61 fire victims are living with relatives. The police have taken action against the offender, under section 285 of the existing Penal Code.— Daw Phyu Phyu Win *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

2019 Thingyan Festival kicks off



Pagodas in Bagan Archaeological Zone are crowded with people on the Akyo Day, the first day of the four-day Thingyan Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



People soaked themselves under splash of water as they enjoy the performance at the opening of Yangon City Pandal yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Local people do meditation at a monastery in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: WIN KYAING (IPRD)**



Revelers enjoy the splash walk in the Maha Bandoola Park Road in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Ethnic troupes perform in Yangon as they participate in the Splash Walk Thingyan Festival in Inya Road in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

North Korean leader open to third Trump summit: KCNA

SEOUL (South Korea)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is willing meet with US President Donald Trump a third time if Washington comes to the table with the “right attitude”, state media reported Saturday.

Kim also said he would wait until the end of the year “for the US to make a courageous decision” on another meeting, after his most recent summit with Trump in Viet Nam broke down and both sides left without agreement.

Washington has blamed the February deadlock on the North’s demands for sanctions relief in return for limited nuclear disarmament, but Pyongyang said it had wanted only some of the measures eased. In a speech to Pyongyang’s rubber-stamp parliament Friday, Kim said the Hanoi meeting had made him question whether Washington is “genuinely interested” in improving its relations with Pyongyang.

“We are willing to give another try if the US offers to have a third summit with the right attitude and mutually acceptable terms,” he said, according to a report by North Korean state media outlet KCNA.

Kim added that his personal relationship with Trump remained strong, adding they



North Korean leader open to third Trump summit: KCNA. PHOTO: AFP

could “write letters to each other” whenever they wanted.

“We will wait with patience until the end of the year for the US to make a courageous decision,” Kim said.

Pyongyang has been careful not to criticise Trump personally while attacking sanctions on North Korea as an attempt to “destroy modern civilisation and turn the society back in a medieval dark age”. Trump and Kim

held their first landmark summit in Singapore last June, where the pair signed a vaguely-worded agreement on the “denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula”.

But the failure to reach agreement at their second summit in Hanoi has raised questions over the future of the accord.

Trump said Thursday he was mulling a third summit with Kim ahead of a meeting with his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in

at the Oval Office—a move supported by Seoul. Moon brokered the US-North Korea talks and has been pushing for the resumption of inter-Korean economic projects, but doing so would fall foul of international sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

“Our government will do what we can in order to maintain the current momentum for dialogue,” Moon’s office said in a Saturday statement. —AFP ■

Bomb blast in Pakistan market kills at least 20

ISLAMABAD—A bomb hidden in a potato sack exploded at a vegetable market in Quetta in southwestern Pakistan on Friday, killing at least 20 people and injuring 48, local officials said.

A senior local police official said the incident was a terrorist attack targeting Shiites Muslims from the minority Hazara community, which is often targeted by Sunni Muslim extremists.

Nine Hazari were among those killed in the attack, which occurred at Hazarganji market, according to Dawn newspaper.

It said one soldier who was assigned to protect the Hazara community was killed, while four other soldiers were injured. Qadar Nayil, a Hazara community leader, was quoted as saying, “Once again our people were the target and once again we will have to bury our dear ones.”

“We demand more security from the government and all those involved in today’s act of terrorism should be found and punished.” Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted his strong condemnation of the attack and said he has ordered an immediate inquiry and increased security measures. —Kyodo News ■

Sudan’s military head resigns after one day, army says ‘not a coup’

KHARTOUM (Sudan)—Sudan’s new military leader resigned on Friday just a day after being sworn in, as the country’s army rulers insisted they would pave the way for a civilian government.

The head of Sudan’s new ruling military council, General Awad Ibn Ouf, announced his departure after being sworn in late Thursday following the ouster of long-time president Omar al-Bashir. His move came shortly after the council’s political chief Lieutenant General Omar Zain al-Abdin told Arab and African diplomats at a meeting broadcast on state television: “This is not a military coup, but taking the side of the people.” Ouf’s departure was an apparent sign of confusion among the northeast African country’s new leaders after Thursday’s ousting of iron-fisted Bashir.

But there was jubilation at the news on the streets of Khartoum. Tens of thousands of pro-

testors had kept up a vigil at the army headquarters in the Sudanese capital Friday angrily demanding that the military make way for a civilian government.

“I hereby announce my resignation as head of the Transitional Military Council,” Ibn Ouf said in an address to the nation, announcing he had chosen General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan Abdulrahman to replace him.

He said he trusted in Abdulrahman’s “experience and suitability I trust to bring this ship to a safe shore”. The Sudanese Professionals Association which has spearheaded the nationwide protest campaign hailed Ibn Ouf’s departure as “a victory of the people’s will”. The umbrella group organising the protests called on newly sworn-in ruler Burhan to “transfer the powers of the military council to a transitional civilian government.” “If this does not happen we will continue with our

sit-in in front of the army headquarters and other towns,” it said in a statement. The demonstrations against Bashir’s 30-year rule first

erupted in December, triggered by a tripling of the bread prices in one of the world’s most impoverished countries.

But vast crowds have been thronging outside the army headquarters since Saturday in unprecedented scenes. —AFP ■



Scores attend Friday prayers outside the army headquarters in Khartoum as they demand that a military council makes way for civilian rule after the ousting of Omar al-Bashir. PHOTO: AFP

To get to the Moon in 2024, the rocket is just NASA's first headache

COLORADO SPRINGS (United States)—In the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, Alan Campbell, a project manager for space systems at the famed Draper Laboratory that built the computer which took astronauts to the Moon 50 years ago, is waiting for news from NASA. His firm has continued to specialize in the advanced technology required for space travel and is a natural candidate to help the US space agency in its quest to return to the Moon by 2024 – once final requests for proposals go out. “We don’t know when those are going to be because NASA is all thrown into a loop right now,” Campbell told AFP from Draper’s booth at the 35th Space Symposium, which is being held in Colorado Springs. “They’re still trying to figure it out,” he said. “We can’t really work on their problems until they tell us, ‘These are the problems we want people to work on.’”

It’s a similar wait for hundreds of other companies, ranging from aerospace giants to the most specialized of sub-contractors, many of whom are at the annual space industry event. Until March 26 of last year, American boots were set to return to the Moon in 2028 following the last such mission by Apollo 17 in 1972. Last month though, the administration of President Donald Trump said it was speeding up that timetable by a full four years, throwing NASA into overdrive. The first problem is linked to the super heavy rocket required for the lunar mission, the skyscraper-sized Space Launch System (SLS). Boeing, the prime contractor, is years behind and isn’t certain it will be ready for its first test flight, without humans, in 2020. At its booth, the US aerospace giant had relegated a model of the SLS to a corner.

Europeans await anxiously

The Orion capsule that will transport the astronauts, built by competitor Lockheed Martin, should be ready, program manager Michael Hawes assures AFP, and it will be delivered in January to the Kennedy Space Center.

Lockheed Martin has proudly displayed a lifesize model of the Orion outside the conference hall.

But walking on the Moon will require more than a rocket and a capsule: NASA wants to assemble a mini-station in lunar orbit, called the Gateway, where the astronauts will make a stop-over before their descent to the lunar surface. Sierra Nevada Corporation envisions an inflatable space habitat to house the astronauts while in moon-orbit. At this stage, the company does not know when NASA wants it delivered. Kimberly Schwandt, a spokeswoman for the company, is unperturbed. “Whatever NASA decides for the timetable, we are ready and willing,” she said at the company’s booth. Europeans are also here in large numbers and ready to pitch in with a communications module.

“Technically, we know that we can do it,” said Johann-Dietrich Worner, director general of the European Space Agency (ESA). “And we hope that we can do it in time. ‘It depends a little bit also on the calendar of the Americans,’” Worner said. —AFP ■

Notice of Tender Advertisement Cancellation

Sealed tender has already been invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipments to New Yangon Specialist Hospital during (2018-2019) Fiscal year on (9.4.2019) and (10.4.2019) in Global New Light of Myanmar.

In this regards, Tender has been cancelled by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports and will be re-announced later.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sport

Mother of 3-DNA baby praises new fertility treatment

ATHENS (Greece) —The Greek mother of the first baby born using DNA from three people on Friday praised the revolutionary technique that helped her conceive—and thanked the mystery woman who donated her egg. Under the terms of the treatment, she was not allowed to meet the donor, said 32-year-old Matina Karavokyri. But she had a message for the woman whose egg donation allowed her to finally have a child by in vitro fertilisation (IVF). “I would like to thank her very much,” she told the Athens-Macedonian News Agency (ANA).

“She is one of the many people that helped to make me happy. I will never be able to forget her, even though I do not know her. I wish her all the best.”

A team of Greek and Spanish doctors helped



A pediatric nurse holds a premature baby after feeding him at Medellin’s General hospital on August 20, 2014 in Medellin, Colombia. A Greek mother of the first baby born using DNA from three people has praised the revolutionary technique. PHOTO: AFP

her give birth to a baby boy Tuesday using a new IVF technique they call the Maternal Spindle Transfer method, at the Institute of Life, in Athens. The team used an egg from the infertile mother, the father’s sperm and another woman’s egg to conceive the baby boy, transferring genetic material with chromosomes from the mother

to the egg of a donor whose own genetic material had been removed.

A similar DNA-switching technique was used in Mexico in 2016 to avoid transmission of a mother’s hereditary illness to her child. This new technique was developed to help mothers who had failed multiple times to conceive through IVF treatment

because of genetic disorders or other problems. Karavokyri said she had made four unsuccessful attempts at IVF fertilisation when they were offered the new technique. “Then I was given the choice to try this new method and I did not think twice,” she said. And the new technique meant she could keep her genetic material.

“It does not contain anything from a third person. It’s ours a hundred percent,” Karavokyri added. “We finally managed to become parents and acquire a healthy and biological child, thanks to a great scientific advancement that will enable many women to have the child they tried for with IVF treatments for so long and who think they cannot succeed,” she said. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (120 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (120 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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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.

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Infrastructural development will enhance resources of Ayeyawady delta

By Aung Khin

THE Ayeyawady Region is a delta area with full of rivers and creeks. Fertile land and abundant aquatic resources are major source of livelihood for local people.

The region was widely known as a granary of Myanmar, and the promotion of its agricultural sector is largely related with easy access to the area. Development of road networks would help this delta area reachable without consuming much time. Reliable road transport could support businesses of the locals.

To avoid wastage and obtain best benefit, the Union government is developing basic infrastructures across the country. One of these projects is the construction of new Myaungmya Bridge. With the budget approval

of the Hluttaw, a new bridge was constructed on 1 May 2017. It was finalized just less than two years on 30 March and people had access to it on 1 April 2019.

The Steel Truss Deck Type bridge has 830 meter (2,723. 23 ft) length, 8.5 meter (28 ft) wide motor way and two pedestrian lanes with 3ft wide each. The maximum weight is a total of 75 tonnes for both vehicle and loads.

The old Myaungmya Bridge that crossed Yway River was constructed on 1 March 1994, and allowed for public on 18 September 1996. It collapsed on 1 April 2018 after 22 years of services. According to a local parliamentarian, the old bridge had suffered structural damage due to overweight vehicles crossing the bridge in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

The government has more

works to be done for the strength of bridges across the country. For example, the relevant ministries are working to upgrade some suspension bridges in Ayeyawady Region to stronger Steel Box Girder structures.

Unspoiled and pristine beaches contribute the advantage of Ayeyawady Region. These destinations are demanding easy transportation to attract both local and forging visitors.

Due to its plenty of opportunities, the regional government is implementing development programmes in collaboration with both Union government and international organizations. With prioritized development plans in the agriculture, livestock and marine, forestry, industry, infrastructure, transportation and tourism sectors, many local and foreign investors have expressed their interest to do investments in this region.

Moreover, the regional government is working together with its counterpart of Rakhine State and the Ministry of Construction in developing the Ayeyawady West Coast project that connects the coastal areas of the two regions.

The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and Greater-Mekong Subregion Project will reach the west coast of Ayeyawady.

Foreign investors will also be benefitted from this infrastructural development of sea ports, industrial zones, factories, highways, railways and national grid lines along the west coast.

A US\$ 5.5 billion-port project of Amara Asia Company of Thailand will include three industrial zones and four 700-MW power plants. The project is expected to finalize by 2025.

Infrastructural development of this region plays crucial role in helping the country's GDP increase. Sufficient electricity supply and better road networks are required to produce finished products in this region.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has enlisted 10 townships of Ayeyawady Region as undeveloped areas where up to seven years tax exemption will be granted for the investors in these areas. Moreover, additional 17 townships, including the region's capital Patheingyi, are put into the list of moderately developed areas where the investors could enjoy tax exemptions of up to five years.

Myanmar is inviting responsible investors to enjoy business opportunities of the country to ensure sustainable economic development on a country-wide scale as it is located in a strategic position to access to regional and global factor markets as well as product markets.

In this regard, the Government is taking highest priority to be able to establish efficient national and international supply chains for future economic growth, with serious consideration on positive social and environmental impacts under the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030).



An aerial view of new Myaungmya bridge in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO MNA

THE news that Yangon region government and Japanese government are going to cooperate in the reconstruction of Yankin housing project located in Yankin Township is coming into view at a time when collaborative efforts are being made for Yangon urban development.

Yangon regional parliamentarians together with the officials of Departments of Urban and Housing Development held talks with the dwellers residing in Yankin housing about Yankin house project on 10 February in 2019. During the discussions, the officials explained detailed plan for the new housing project and temporary living cost assistance to be given to the current dwellers during the project period.

Actually, Yankin housing project was established in 1954 and it has existed for about 65 years. Now the durability of the housing apartments has degraded gradually. Even some apartments have been in ruins. The deteriorating conditions of the current Yankin housing may bring about possible danger to the residents at any time. For that reason, the situation calls for enhancement of Yangon urban development image.

It's true that it is required to implement Yankin housing reconstruction project to raise standard of living and provide secure living for the dwellers.

Yangon Housing Project has an area of about 90 acres and Yankin area covers 1 to 6 wards with 3261 rooms. Of them, 1,089 have extended shelters. There



Yankin housing project to emerge as new image of Yangon urban development

By U Zin Lin Myint

are also more than 600 squats, according to the data collected by the Departments of Urban and Housing Development.

Yankin Housing Project will be re-implemented and more than 3,000 rooms will be reconstructed. The reconstruction project will be undertaken in line with the required standards alongside improved utilities.

Cash assistance will be issued to the residents currently living at Yankin Housing to be spent on hiring an apartment in other places during the project period when the new project begins. The officials said during the

meeting with the dwellers that they would arrange a mutually convenient cash assistance to spend on hiring an apartment in other places since the construction period may take a quite number of years.

After the housing project has been finished, those who are currently living will be resettled and systematic measures are now being taken.

Townships are divided in Yangon urban development. Yangon urban development covers the area conserving current urban natural environment system, the designated areas preserving

urban development, the area concentrating historical heritages, the area upgrading urban development and the area redeveloping urban improvements.

Yankin Township includes in the area redeveloping urban improvements. This is why Yankin Redevelopment Housing Project can be regarded as Yangon urban development is systematically carried out. The officials are making strenuous efforts to implement Yankin Housing Project as one of the top strategic priorities.

Yankin is one of the townships that new developing images are enormously emerging now and has

gained speed in the development current facilitating international high-rise housing, hotel projects, shopping malls, international high-class office rooms and new high-rising housing projects.

Yankin Housing Project will come into sight alongside a new image of Yangon urban development soon as it will be jointly carried out by Yangon regional government and Japan in Yankin Township where the hustle and bustle of the city life can be seen with a series of construction services full of local and foreign investments.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

Myanmar Environmental Assessment Association and IFC Join Forces to build the Risk Management Capacity of the Private Sector

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and the Myanmar Environmental Assessment Association (MEAA) have entered into an agreement to improve environmental and social (E&S) risk assessment and management skills in the private sector.

The MEAA—with a membership of over 100 consultants and firms—provides technical and advisory services in environmental and social impact assessments to the government and the private sector. Under the terms of the agreement, IFC's Environmental and Social Advisory will provide cross-sectoral technical

training to address the challenges they face in Myanmar.

The trainings, supported by the governments of Australia and the UK and based on IFC's internationally recognized Performance Standards, will include topics such as social survey methods and resettlement action plans; designing impact assessments and management plans; and conducting biodiversity and health impact assessments.

"As Myanmar progresses we must have the tools and knowledge to effectively identify and mitigate the risks of economic development," said Aung Nanda, Chairperson of the MEAA. "With IFC's support, our

members will be better placed to help the private sector pursue sustainable development in the interest of our communities, while meeting the requirements of international lenders."

In addition to capacity building, the agreement between IFC and the MEAA paves the way for collaboration on other E&S related seminars and events, and an MEAA-led annual forum, the first of which is slated to be held later this year.

"We're very pleased to support the MEAA's goal of improving the overall capacity of the private sector to conduct high quality environmental and social impact as-

essments. Environmental and social responsibility is key in today's global economy. Our Performance Standards provide clear guidance to the private sector on how to identify and manage risks, and achieve sustainability in projects and business operations," said Vikram Kumar, IFC's Country Manager for Myanmar and Thailand.

MEAA is an independent, Union-level organization established under Myanmar Law that focuses on enhancing the capacity development of E&S professionals and other parties, fostering sustainable development, and encouraging research initiatives and due diligence in the private

and public sector.

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in the toughest areas of the world. In fiscal year 2018, we delivered more than \$23 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.—GNLM

2nd round of 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualification to be held on 26-30 April



The matches in Group (A) of the second round of the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualification will be held at Mandalathiri Stadium in Mandalay, Myanmar. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE second round of the 10th edition of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualification will be held in Myanmar and Viet Nam from 26 to 30 April 2019, according to Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). The eight teams qualified for the second round are Australia, Nepal, South Korea, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Iran, Lebanon and Myanmar.

The teams in the second round is divided into two groups—Group (A) which includes Australia, Uzbekistan, Myanmar and Nepal, and Group (B) which includes South Korea, Viet Nam, Iran and Lebanon. The matches of Group (A) will be played at Mandalathiri Stadium in Mandalay, Myanmar, while the matches of Group (B) will be in Viet Nam YFTC Field No.3 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. A total of four teams from the two groups will qualify for the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship, while the top three teams of 2017 AFC U-19 Women's Championship, Japan, North Korea and China PR, and host Thailand automatically qualified for the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship.

The first round of the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualification was held from 20 to 28 October 2018. The 10th edition of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship is scheduled to be held in Thailand from 27 October to 9 November 2019, with a total of eight teams competing. The AFC U-19 Women's Championship is the biennial international youth football championship organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the women's under-19 national teams of Asia.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Lakers split with embattled head coach Luke Walton

LOS ANGELES (United States)—The Los Angeles Lakers continued their clearout after a disastrous first season following the arrival of LeBron James by terminating the contract of head coach Luke Walton on Friday.

The club said they had mutually agreed to part ways.

"We would like to thank Luke for his dedicated service over the last three years," said general manager Rob Pelinka. "We wish Luke and his family the best of luck moving forward."

Walton, a former Lakers player, had been coach since 2016, building a 98-148 win loss record. The Lakers have failed to reach the playoffs for the last three seasons.

"I want to thank Jeanie Buss and the Buss family for giving me the opportunity to coach the Lakers," said Walton. "This franchise and the city will always be special to me and my family."

On Tuesday, Magic Johnson plunged the Lakers into further crisis when he surprisingly quit his post as president. Johnson was reportedly unhappy at the prospect of firing Walton. Despite the addition of future hall of famer James 10 months ago, the Lakers went 37-45 in what was another embarrassing losing season for the once-storied NBA franchise. Los Angeles was 20-14 when James suffered a groin injury during a Christmas Day win over the champion Golden State War-

riors—and it was downhill from there. "They are losing one of the best human beings in the NBA," said Warriors coach Steve Kerr of Walton and the Lakers. "They are losing a guy who knows the game as well as anybody I've ever met. They are losing somebody who the players believe in and the players want to play for."

"I feel for Luke. He was dependent on circumstances just like all of us We got wonderful people stabilizing our organization every day. I am lucky to be in this position and to be surrounded by these people. It doesn't happen often in the NBA."

What was supposed to be a revival story turned into a season-long nightmare that saw the losses and injuries pile up and eventually led to the club sitting star players like a healthy James down the stretch in a desperate attempt to secure a better pick at the summer entry draft. The team used more than 25 different starting lineups this season. But even that strategy isn't a sure thing as tanking became such a big problem that the NBA was forced to bring in a lottery system to determine the order of the top draft picks. The Lakers will not only be hunting for a new coach but also a big-ticket free agent as a right-hand man to James. All-star Kevin Durant, Kawhi Leonard and Kyrie Irving top the list of possible targets when free agency begins 1 July. —AFP ■

Lomachenko destroys Crolla with fourth round KO

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Southpaw Vasiliy Lomachenko brutally knocked out former title holder Anthony Crolla in the fourth round Friday to retain his World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organization lightweight titles.

The 31-year-old Lomachenko delivered a devastating right hook to the temple that sent the Englishman crashing face first to the canvas just 58 seconds into the fourth round.

The Ukrainian pound-for-pound king had his complete arsenal at his disposal, including blazing hand speed, devastating punching power and a superior ring IQ. It turns out he didn't need it as in the end he barely broke a sweat to retain his WBO title for the second time.

"I want to unify all the titles," said Lomachenko, adding he wants to fight Mikey Garcia, who holds the WBC lightweight title. "I want to thank all the fans who came to support me."

The knockout came just one round after Lomachenko scored the first knockdown of the fight when he landed a barrage of rights and lefts while the challenger was pinned and defenceless on the ropes. Lomachenko initially thought the fight had been stopped.

The crowd of 10,100 at Staples Center Arena came looking for a knockout and they got exact-



Vasiliy Lomachenko, the fastest fighter in history to become a three division world champion, disposed of Anthony Crolla in a hurry, knocking out the Englishman in the fourth round at Staples Center. **PHOTO: AFP**

ly that. The knockout punch was so loud it could be heard by those sitting outside the ring.

Crolla remained face first on the canvas until his trainer came into the ring and helped him roll over. He stayed there for some time but even when he was helped to his feet his camp still had to support his wobbly legs.

Lomachenko appeared to injure his hand and was seen holding it and talking to his trainer after the fight.

Lomachenko, a two time Olympic gold medallist, improved to 13-1 with 10 knockouts as he dominated the third and fourth rounds against Crolla who was a massive 100-1 underdog.

Crolla dropped to 34-7-3 as he landed just a handful of punches and only survived the third round because of the bell.

Crolla, 32, wasn't Lomachenko's first choice as an opponent. Lomachenko wanted to fight IBF champion Richard Commey, but Commey suffered a hand injury.

Had Lomachenko not taken the Crolla fight, he would have been stripped of one of his 135-pound belts.

Lomachenko's rise to the top of the boxing world has been meteoric. He fought for a world title in just his second professional fight and is the fastest fighter in history to become a three division world champion.

Crolla, who was the top ranked mandatory contender, held the WBA belt from 2015-2016.

But Crolla has now lost three of his last six fights. He lost his belt in consecutive defeats to Jorge Linares before winning three straight bouts. —AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

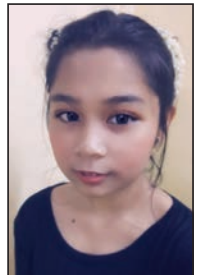
The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

14 APRIL 2019

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

The Bottle Game



By A.W. Khin Myat Phone
C1 advanced
(Cambridge English)

SPLASH

Water came pushing against my back. I turned around to have a look. A young boy of my age, 8 or 9 with a water gun stood behind me. I smiled and carried on walking.

Whenever I came across the massive malls, I saw kids of my age, begging for water guns to their parents. So that they could shot water bullets to everyone they came across with. No, I had never tried those big guns before.

I could see people grooving to music. I saw some loud singers on the stage. Some walked. Some stopped. But all were wet. I, as well, was wet. My torn shirt was soaked in all kinds of water. And my half-ragged shorts were covered with sand and dust all mixed with water. The roads were also participating with this festival as my bare feet felt them wet all over. I had been a lot of places. Almost every corner of the streets in this city which I usually hear them called it, Yangon. And I had seen a lot of faces. Some white, some pink and some yellow.

Adults, youngsters and children were all having fun with throwing or pouring water to each other.

Laughters were all around. Meanwhile, I was having a pleasure on my own with bottles. Playing with bottles wasn't my hobby. I was taught to play them neither by Papa nor Mama. But life did. It was life that taught me how to play with bottles.

The crowd at the place where I was at was huge. Though I made my way through the legs since I, myself, was only 8 years old by then.

There came a green bottle. Then an orange one. And then a transparent bottle. All were lying on the ground. I bent down, taking care not to be stepped over, and picked them up. Next they were put into a big white bag which I had on my back. After that, I moved to the another place. Waters came over me like the rain was poured down from the sky but my mind knew that it wasn't rain anyway. It was one of those Thingyan festival days.

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By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

LESSON - 21

မေးခွန်းများနှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျ တည်ဆောက်ခြင်း

(က) မေးခွန်းနှစ်မျိုးရှိသည်။ တစ်မျိုးမှာ မြန်မာစာတွင် “လား” ဖြင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်း (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် Yes, No နှင့် ဖြေနိုင်သောမေးခွန်း) ဖြစ်၍ ကျန်တစ်မျိုးမှာ မြန်မာစာတွင် “လဲ” နှင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်း (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် What, Who, When, Why စသည်တို့နှင့်စသော မေးခွန်း) ဖြစ်သည်။

ပထမမေးခွန်းအမျိုးအစားသို့ ပြောင်းခြင်း

(ခ) မြန်မာစာတွင် “လား” ဖြင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်းပုံစံသို့ ပြောင်းရန် go, come, eat, play, see, take, bring စသော ကြိယာများဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော အင်္ဂလိပ်ဝါကျများတွင် Do, Does, Did တို့ကိုဆီလျော်သလို ဝါကျရှေ့ဆုံးတွင် ထည့်ရသည်။

(A) Simple Present Tense ပုံစံအများဝါကျဖြစ်လျှင် Do သုံးရသည်။ ဝါကျနောက်ဆုံးတွင် Question-mark (?) ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- 1. The boys play football. Do the boys play football?
2. The children like milk. Do the children like milk?
3. They work hard. Do they work hard?

(B) Simple Present Tense အနည်းဝါကျဖြစ်လျှင် Does သုံးရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- 1. Khin Khin sits under the tree. Does Khin Khin sit under the tree?
2. He writes a story every month. Does he write a story every month?
3. She learns English. Does she learn English?

မှတ်ချက်။ ။ Does နောက်တွင် မူရင်းကြိယာ (Finite Verb) သာ ပြန်သုံးရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။

(C) Simple Past Tense ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလပုံစံဖြင့်လာသော ဝါကျများတွင် Did သုံးရသည်။ မေးခွန်းပုံစံတွင် မူရင်းကြိယာ (Finite Verb) ကိုသာ သုံးရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- 1. The child broke the glass. Did the child break the glass?
2. Ma Ma won the game. Did Ma Ma win the game?
3. He drew a picture. Did he draw a picture?
4. They ate the mangoes. Did they eat the mangoes?
5. I lost the pen. Did you lose the pen?

(D) အငြင်းဝါကျ (Negative Forme) အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းရန် Do, Does, Did နောက်တပ်၍ Not ထည့်ရသည်။ Not နောက်တွင် မူရင်းကြိယာ (Finite Verb) ပြန်လိုက်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- 1. They play tennis. They do not play tennis.
2. The children take the food. The children do not take the food.
3. He goes to school. He does not go to school.
4. The boy sings a song. The boy does not sing a song.
5. She bought a pen. She did not buy a pen.

- 6. They told the truth. They did not tell the truth.

(ဆက်လက် လေ့လာပါ)

- 1. The girls work hard. Do the girls work hard? The girls do not work hard.
2. They do their homework regularly. Do they do their homework regularly? They do not do their homework regularly.
3. Ko Ko takes the medicine. Does Ko Ko take the medicine. Ko Ko does not take the medicine.
4. Ma Ma gets up early. Does Ma Ma get up early? Ma Ma does not get up early.
5. She wrote the story. Did she write the story? She did not write the story.
6. Khin Khin hid the pen. Did Khin Khin hide the pen? Khin Khin did not hide the pen.

(E) Is, are, was, were, am, has, have, had, will, would, can, could, shall, should, may, might တို့နှင့်လာသော ဝါကျများတွင် အထက်ပါစကားလုံးများကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့သို့ ထုတ်လိုက်ခြင်းဖြင့် အမေးစကား (Interrogative) ရရှိသည်။ ထိုစကားလုံးများနောက်တပ်၍ not ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် အငြင်းဝါကျ (Negative) ရရှိသည်။

- လေ့လာပါ။
1. There is a library near the hospital. Is there a library near the hospital? There is not a library near the hospital.
2. They are farmers. Are they farmers? They are not farmers.
3. Ko Ko was a swimmer. Was Ko Ko a swimmer? Ko Ko was not a swimmer.
4. He has sold the car. Has he sold the car? He has not sold the car.
5. Ma Ma will take part in the essay competition. Will Ma Ma take part in the essay competition? Ma Ma will not take part in the essay competition.
6. He can solve the problem. Can he solve the problem? He cannot solve the problem.

(F) Some and Any

ရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်း (statement) တွင် Some သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ အမေးဝါကျ (interrogative) နှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျ (negative) တို့တွင် Some အစား Any သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- 1. Ma Ma needs some sugar. Does Ma Ma need any sugar? Ma Ma does not need any sugar.
2. He found something in the box. Did he find anything in the box? He did not find anything in the box.
3. They went somewhere yesterday.

Did they go anywhere yesterday? They did not go anywhere yesterday.

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။

Exercises:

- 1. Ko Ko needs some ink.
2. The girl bought some exercise books yesterday.
3. They saw somebody at the market.
4. She has put something into the bag.
5. Father will bring someone with him.

Answers:

- 1. Does Ko Ko need any ink? Ko Ko does not need any ink.
2. Did the girl buy any exercise books yesterday? The girl did not buy any exercise books yesterday?
3. Did they see anybody at the market? They did not see anybody at the market.
4. Has she put anything into the bag? She has not put anything into the bag.
5. Will father bring anyone with him? Father will not bring anyone with him.

G. Question-making

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် What, When, Where, Who, Why စသည်တို့နှင့်လာသော မေးခွန်းများ (မြန်မာစာတွင် “လဲ” နှင့်အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်းများ) တည်ဆောက်ခြင်း။

ပထမ “လား” နှင့် ဆုံးသော မေးခွန်းပုံစံသို့ ပြောင်း၍ နောက်မှ “လဲ” နှင့်ဆုံးသော မေးခွန်းပုံစံသို့ ပြောင်းပုံကို လေ့လာပါ။

ဤသဘောကို နားလည်မှု မျှည့်သားထားသော အကြောင်းအရာကို မေးသည့် What, Who, When, Whom တို့နှင့် မေးခွန်းတည်ဆောက်ပုံကို လေ့လာပါ။

- 1. He is U Ko Ko. Is he U Ko Ko? Who is he? သူ ဦးကိုကိုဖြစ်သည်။ သူ ဦးကိုကိုဖြစ်သလား။ သူ ဘယ်သူလဲ။
2. Ma Ma sells flowers. Does Ma Ma sell flowers? What does Ma Ma sell? မမ ပန်းများရောင်းသည်။ မမ ပန်းများကို ရောင်းသလား။ မမ ဘာရောင်းသလဲ။
3. They went to Kalaw last summer. Did they go to Kalaw last summer? Where did they go last summer? သူတို့ မနှစ်က ကလောသို့ သွားကြသည်။ သူတို့ မနှစ်က ကလောသို့ သွားကြသလား။ သူတို့ မနှစ်က ဘယ်ကိုသွားကြသလဲ။
4. She speaks softly. How does she speak?
5. He is 30. How old is he?
6. She is five feet tall. How tall is she?
7. His house is three miles from the school. How far is his house from the school?
8. He has been reading in this school for three years. How long has he been reading in this school?
9. Maha Bandola defeated the British at the battle of Panwa. Who defeated the British at the battle of Panawa?
10. This girl is U Ko Ko's daughter. Whose daughter is this girl?
11. The teacher punished Maung Maung yesterday. Whom did the teacher punish yesterday?
12. She earns K 400 a month. How much does she earn a month?
13. Ma Ma drank three cups of milk this morning. How many cups of milk did Ma Ma drink this morning?
14. Ko Ko will wear the blue shirt. Which shirt will Ko Ko wear?

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Be An Enjoyable Traditional Thingyan Festival



PHOTOS: AFP

AS Known by all, there are twelve festivals in our country. Of these, the Thingyan Festival (Water Festival) is the most popular festival for all of us. It also spreads and influences to the neighbouring countries. The word “Thingyan” is derived from the Pali word, meaning “changing into the new moment.” Padauk blooms in Tagu Month. Other flowers such as Nguwah and Gangaw can be seen. Thingyan Festival is very pleasant for both the old people and the youngsters.

I see and hear about the news that everyone, except the oldest grandparents, is preparing to visit the places they want before and during the Thingyan Festival. Tagu Sun makes the water from the rivers and creeks dried and vanished. As a result, human beings want the cooling system. So, they celebrate Thingyan Festival. This is the aim of celebrating Thingyan Festival. Another aim is to make everyone cooled by throwing water with “Metta” (loving-kindness) and “Cetana” (goodwill), remove the impurities from the old year and welcome the Myanmar New Era with fresh ideas and energy and create with the meritorious deeds and offerings auspiciously. Hence, all we must maintain and safeguard not to halt the essence of Thingyan Festival.

I can understand that all walks of life want to enjoy in Thingyan Festival. But I would like to urge all of you to take care of your health carefully because the heat in the daytime is extremely hot and it can be dangerous to you. Next, I would like to mention you to know the “dos” and “don’ts”, according to three points in the following:



By Lionel Zaw
(Nyan Zaw Lwin)
Third Year (Honours)
English
Dawei University

Be careful in your health

As I have stressed in above, taking care of one’s health is a very first priority in his or her life since health is playing a vital role in every society. We cannot perform our duties very well unless we are healthy. Besides, everybody needs to prevent from the diseases due to the extreme temperature according to Sayagyi U Tun Lwin, the well-known Meteorologist. He insists that when a man is under heat-pressure, he or she can experience many symptoms such as heat stress, heat stroke, heat cramps, decreasing in blood-pumps and heat rash (also called Pricky Heat). You can escape from these symptoms if you follow these facts. In addition, people should observe the press-release from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Avoid wearing rowdy clothes

I would like to urge you to avoid wearing rowdy clothes or fashion in visiting around the town during the Thingyan Festival for the reason that we are Myanmar people. We have the ethical responsibility to keep and preserve our traditional culture. Nowadays, other cultures, like the Korean and the Western cultures, are penetrating into our country. We have to be aware of it. Parents should admonish their offsprings to wear in accord with Myanmar Culture. Only then can the children value their culture.

Don't make Thingyan spoiled and terring

We can enjoy freely during the days of Thingyan Festival but we must be well-disciplined and keep our happiness not to transform into over-dissiplined and other unnecessary conflicts. Afterwards, I want to

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PHOTOS: Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) Bruer Island



Cock Burn Island



Nga Lone La Phe Island



Bo Cho Island



Nyaung Oo Phee Island



Tha Htay Island

MYANMAR'S Mergui Archipelago, which is part of the Taninthayi Region and is in the Andaman Sea, is gaining popularity among luxury travellers in the international marketplace because of its natural value.

The unspoiled archipelago is becoming one of the country's premier tourist destinations.

There are more than 800 islands in Mergui Archipelago. Some islands have been opened to visitors under an arrangement with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The ministry is trying to implement marine tourism to promote the country's smokeless industry.

Sustainable development of marine resources plays an essential role in implementing eco-tourism in the country.

The best islands to visit in Kawthoung in the summer are as follow.

Tha Htay Island

There are ferry services between Kawthoung and Tha Htay Island. The island can also be reached by speed boat within 10 minutes. Grand Andaman on the island is a five star resort hotel.

The island is also a natural habitat for the Hornbills and moneys.

Nyaung Oo Phee Island

Nyaung Oo Phee Island is located about 42 nautical miles from Kawthoung. It takes about one hour by speed boat from Kawthoung. The island is covered by the virgin safari, and around the island is surrounded by the white

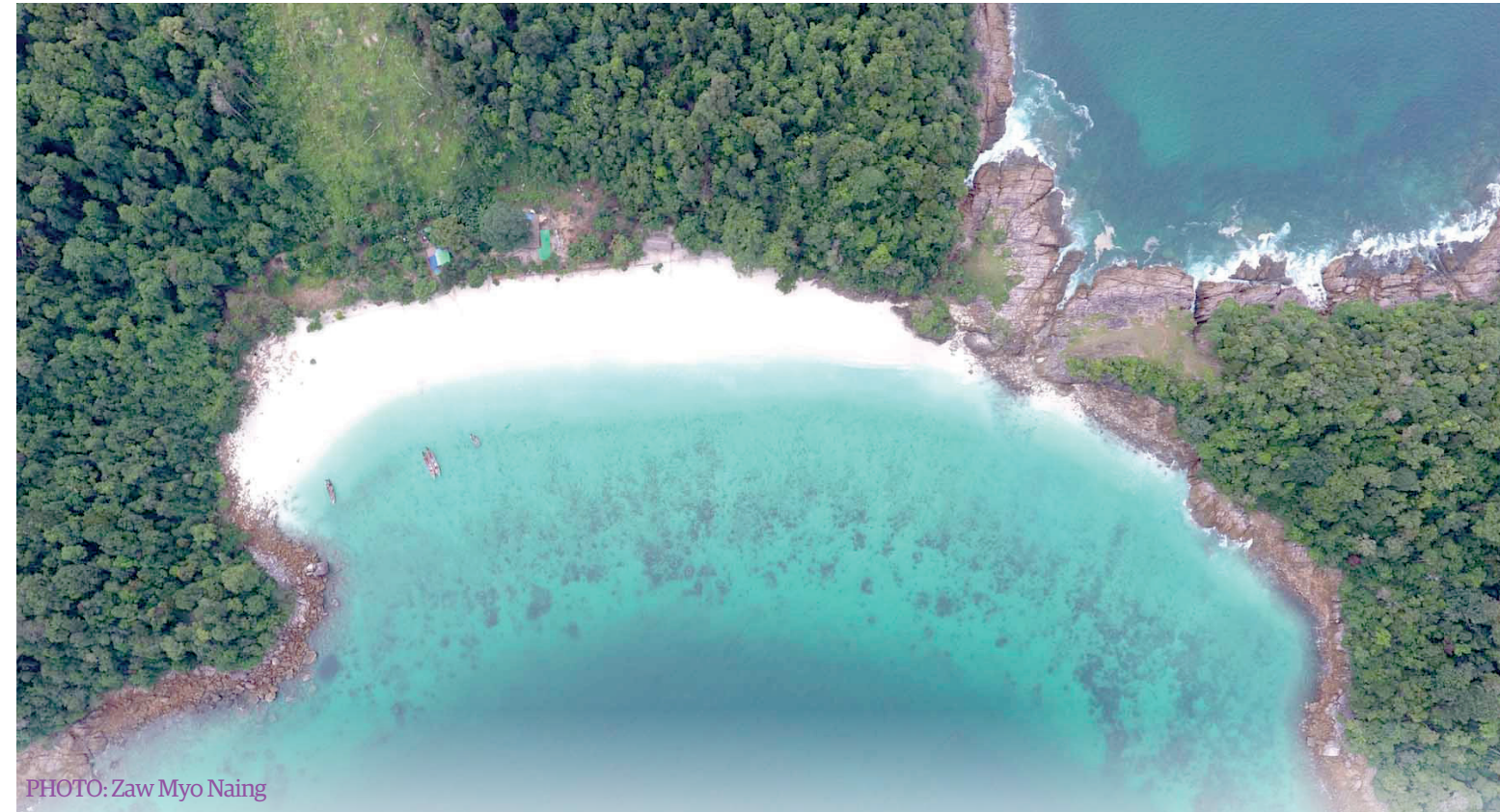


PHOTO: Zaw Myo Naing

The Time Is Now To Visit Kawthoung islands

By Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

sandy beach. Visitors can see the most beautiful nature under the water world of Nyaung Oo Phee. The area from the beach into the sea is covered with every kinds of coral reefs. You can also enjoy snorkeling there.

115 Island

115 Island is about 38 nautical miles from Kawthoung. The crystal water and snorkeling are popular for visitors. The visitors can do snorkeling there to see many colourful fishes and corals.

Besides, the island has offered hiking and jungle trekking through the rain forest.

Macleod Island

Getting the Macleod Island from Kawthoung by speedboat can take about 2 hours and about seven hours by motorized boats. The Macleod Island is about 40 nautical miles from Kawthoung. There are virgin beaches, dense jungle ripe for exploration, kayaking trips through caves and mangroves, a plethora of rare birds and animals, and truly spectacular dive sites.

Macleod Island, however, promises to remain a paradise for years to come.

Cocks Comb Island

The Cocks Comb Island is the better known destination in Kawthoung. The island is located about 28 miles from Kawthoung. There is a heart-shaped natural lake in the mountains of the island. It takes about one hour by speed boat from Kawthoung to the Cocks Comb Island. If you look for the best place for snorkeling, you will never miss hope with this beautiful heart.

Bo Cho Island

This island is a home of the Moken or Salon fishermen. Bo Cho Island is a lush island just opposite the southeastern tip of Lampi. In the channel between the two islands lies the Moken village Ma Kyone Galet of Moken ethnic tribe.

Salons stay in group and are known as Sea Gypsy or Men (people) of the sea. Their culture and lives are distinct from other ethnic nationals and races. They do not settle and live in a place but travel and live on the sea instead. They are skilled at swimming and diving

and are known to be able to dive for considerable time without any breathing apparatus.

The trip to Bo Cho Island has offered an opportunity to visit the village of the Moken ethnic tribe.

Cock Burn Island

The Cockburn Islands are an island group located about 45 nautical miles away from Kawthoung. It takes about an hour to reach the island by speedboat from Kawthoung. The Cockburn Islands offer hiking on the hills, kayaking, sunbathing and relaxation on sandy beaches and enjoying the pleasant view of the sea.

Nga Lone La Phe Island or Pyin Sa Island

Nga Lone La Phe Island or Pyin Sa Island is one of the island where pearl farm are established. The island is located near Kawthoung. Visitors are allowed to visit the farm's floating houses to observe the operation of pearl farm including inserting pearl nucleus into the oyster and extracting of the pearl from the oyster.

Bruer Island

Getting Bruer - Twin Beach - Island from Kawthoung takes about 1.30 hrs by speedboat. The Bruer-Twin Beach Island is popular for snorkeling and for cruising around the island.

Activities arranged at the Twin Beach Mergui Island Resort include kayaking, diving and trekking in the forest.

Translated by Tun Tun Naing



Don Waterfall is located about 38 nautical miles from Kawthoung. PHOTO: Zaw Myo Naing



115 Island



Cocks Comb Island

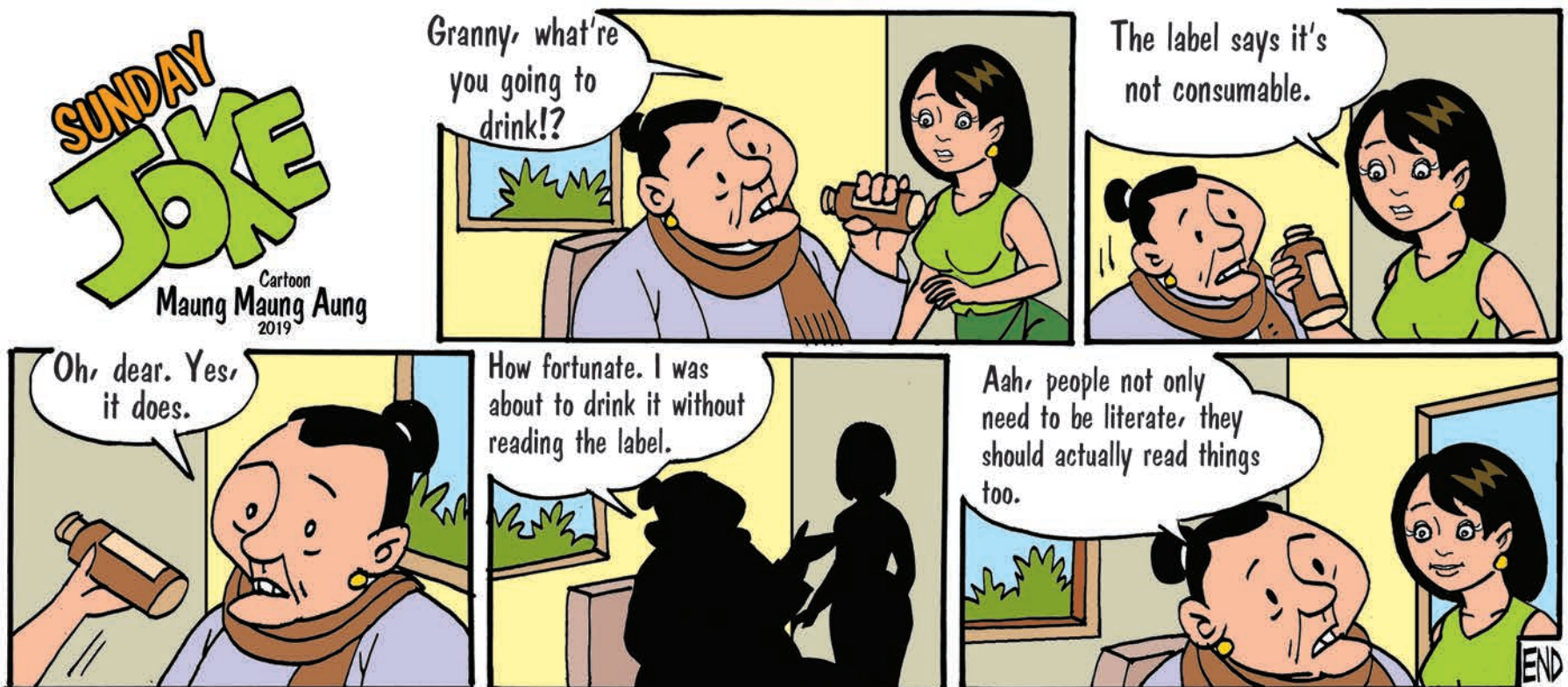
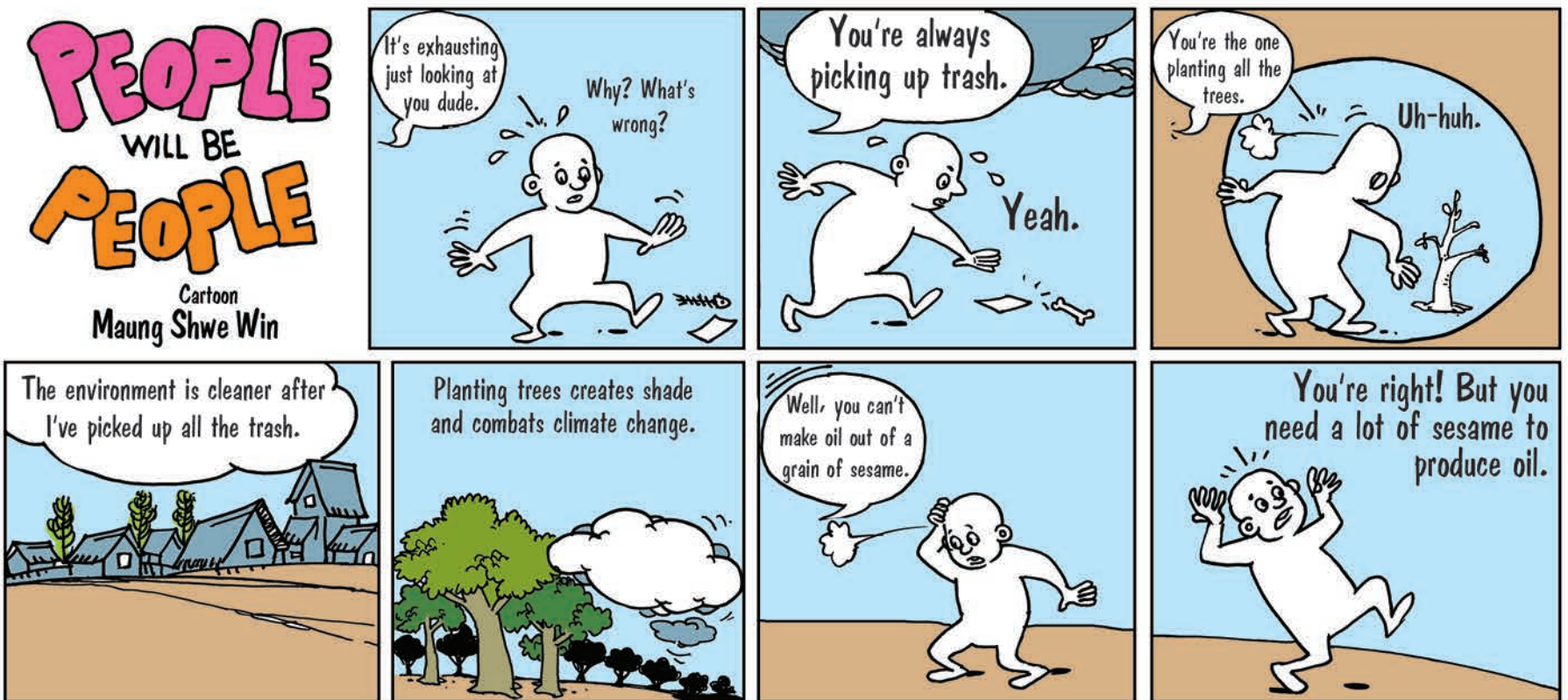
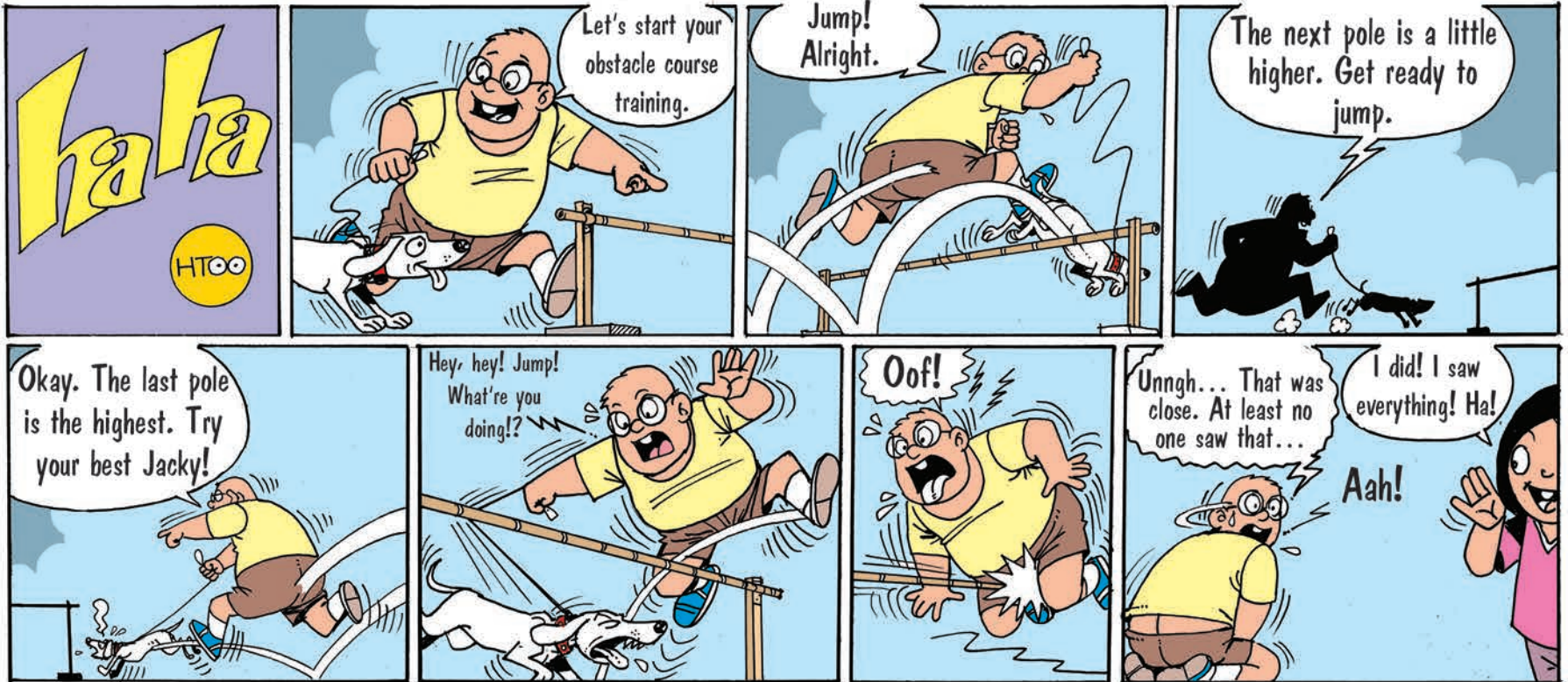


Macleod Island



Harbour view of Kawthoung.

SUNDAY COMICS





Camping in Myanmar: Things to Remember

By Myat Thu

SUMMER holidays are just around the corner in Myanmar, bringing out all the couch potatoes from their hide-outs and into the rays of sunshine and physical activity. Camping in Myanmar used to be unheard of – it was something that only characters in Hollywood movies did. Fortunately for residents of Myanmar and globetrotters, the tourism sector has opened up more than it ever did a decade ago. With businesses getting more and more creative in using the abundant natural resources of Myanmar, the number of opportunities to spend a day surrounded by nature is greater than ever.

The experience itself is certainly one of a kind. Even if you don't end up liking it, it's nice to say you at least gave it a try! However, as much as glamping (glamor camping) options are available, it is always nice to be aware of how to prepare for a camping trip and what to expect when you are venturing out from the usual hotel route.

Check for Paperwork

Locals have more leeway in travelling around Myanmar. For foreigners, it is best if you check with the tour group/hotel before looking up a trail on the internet and packing your tent outright. Camp grounds (or tents) are usually designated and are in tourist areas so you won't need to get permission.

Pick the Right Trip

Do not sign up for a trip that requires strenuous physical activity and is out in the woods (or the beach) with minimal set up if

you have never even slept on the floor before. Most places already have the camp set up for you with a very few requiring much personal equipment, so you don't have to worry a lot about bringing your own tent and setting it up.

Pack All of Your Essentials

This is very important, especially if you do not have a tentmate and are travelling alone. If you have someone you are travelling with, do not expect them to bring the essentials simply "borrow" or "share" between the two of you unless it was discussed beforehand on who would bring what. It is most helpful if you research your destination, make a list of the things you might need and making sure you've bought all the things on that list before you head out your door for the getaway. Check the

place beforehand so that you also get an idea of what to bring. Some places even have mosquito nets (especially the ones near Yangon) while for some, you may need to bring your own sleeping bag.

The usual checklist includes: toiletries, sunscreen, wet wipes/snow towels, mosquito repellent, headlamp/flashlight, first aid, medicines and a roll of tissue/paper towels.

Remote Camping Spots

Getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city is one of the highlights of a camping getaway. You are surrounded wholly by nature without the towering buildings blocking the sun, the pollution from the factories and cars and the rush-hour crowd. What better use of an escape to wander off in your thoughts? Tackle that book chapter

you've always been meaning to write, or that one piece of literature you've been meaning to read but never had the time, or just spend time with your loved ones without the distractions of the outside world.

So? What are you waiting for? A recently popular one has been the 'Sea of Clouds' or Nawnghkio (also spelt Naung Cho), a town in Kyaukse District, Northern Shan State). And if you don't want to travel far but still would like a getaway, there is Swiss-Myanmar Orchards, a glamping destination in Bago about an hour and a half drive away from Yangon. You can find out more information on their Facebook page with the same name.



