

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives back in Yangon from Viet Nam

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

MOEE launches 66 MW gas-fired power plant

PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 22 December 2019

President, First Lady, and State Counsellor attend Christmas celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, former President U Htin Kyaw, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than lit the Christmas candles. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Christmas Ceremony and thanksgiving at the residence of Vice Presi-

dent U Henry Van Thio in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hluan welcomed President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho,

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice President U Myint Swe, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and wife Daw

Yin May, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the

Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, **SEE PAGE-2**

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President, First Lady, and State Counsellor attend Christmas celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw



(From Left to Right) President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Henry Van Thio deliver speech separately at the Christmas celebrations at the Residence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chief Ministers of Regions and States, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman, Union Supreme Court judges, members of the Constitutional Tribunal

of the Union, members of the Union Election Commission, chairmen of the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw committees, Regions and States Hluttaw Speakers, Deputy Ministers, members of the Union Civil Service Board, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, bishops from Christian Church-



President U Win Myint is welcomed by Vice President U Henry Van Thio as he arrives at the Vice President's residence to attend Christmas Celebrations. **PHOTO: MNA**

The ceremony was opened by playing a Christmas short video, and followed by the worship songs 'Hark The Herald' and 'Silent Night' sung by the Vice President's wife Dr Shwe Hluan and team.

es, officials from Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group, local non-governmental organizations and invited guests.

The ceremony was opened by playing a Christmas short video, and followed by the worship songs 'Hark The Herald' and 'Silent Night' sung by the Vice President's wife Dr Shwe Hluan and team. Rev. Dr. J. Ral Buai also said opening Christmas prayers.

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio extended greetings, followed by a Christmas song by pastor Sang Pi.

President U Win Myint extended Christmas greetings, followed by a Christmas song by Jesse Van Bawi and Joseph Van Thio.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi extended Christmas greetings, and followed by a worship song of Htanlalan youths.

Afterwards, Rev Dr U Tin Mg Tun prayed for the people and the leaders of Myanmar.

Ethnic Chin Sm Man Zen Naiiang prayed with Myanmar traditional dances, followed by Chairman of Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group U Thaug Htike's Christmas greetings. Jennifer

Ngun Sui Par also prayed with a worship song.

The Most Rev Stephen Than Myint Oo, an Archbishop of Myanmar, delivered a Christmas sermon, followed by Rev. Dr. Aye Min's thanksgiving prayers.

Afterwards, Saw Phoe Khwar and group entertained with the song "Myanmar Pyi Ko Chit Par".

Former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hluan, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May sang a Christmas song.

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sliced the Christmas cake together.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint, First Lady, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than lit the Christmas candles.

SEE PAGE-3

FROM PAGE-2

Afterwards, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Yangon Rev John Saw Yaw Han said Christmas prayers.

President U Win Myint, First Lady, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the attendees enjoyed the Christmas dinner together.

During the dinner, vocalists entertained the guests with Christmas songs.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi slice the Christmas cake at the Christmas ceremony. PHOTO: MNA



President U Win Myint is welcomed by ethnic delegations at the Christmas Celebrations at the Residence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by artistes at the Christmas Celebrations at the Residence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio. PHOTO: MNA

UEC Chairman, Union Ministers take part in mass walk activity in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Election Commission U Hla Thein and Union Ministers joined a mass walk activity for the third week of December yesterday.

Civil personnel and common people in Nay Pyi Taw, like other areas of the country, are organizing the event every Saturday in this month as a campaign to promote healthy practices and sports activities.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung fired a starting pistol at the event to start the walk from Moyma Market

at 5:20 am.

The event was also taken part Union Ministers U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Myint Htwe, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, civil personnel from the ministries and local people.

They passed Thabyaegone Roundabout before reaching the Mani Yadana Jade Hall, and officials from the Sports and Physical Education Department presented them water bottles



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and party take part in the mass walk activity in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

and snacks. At their final destination of jade hall, they took physical exercises and physical fitness dances in group cohesion.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Aung Khin**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,
Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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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.

MOEE launches 66 MW gas-fired power plant in Magway

MINISTRY of Electricity and Energy opened a 66 megawatt gas-fired plant in Magway Township yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win made an opening remark, saying the ministry's plan to supply electricity sufficiently for the whole country.

The ministry managed to generate 3,980 MW in previous summer, is implementing to fulfill an estimated demand of 5,000 MW in coming hot season of 2020 from seven projects—66 MW in Magway, 150 MW in Kyaukphyu, 400 MW in Tharkayta, 350 MW in Thilawa, 20.5 MW in Kyungyaung, 151.5 MW in Ahlon and 28 MW in Shwetaung, with a total capacity of 1,166 MW.

The newly opened Magway power plant, out of these



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and party arrive to attend the opening ceremony of the 66 megawatt gas-fired plant in Magway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

seven, will use 15 million cubic-ft of natural gas from Shwe offshore block, starting 13 December, to supply electricity demand and local people and to put excess megawatt into

the national grid.

Magway Region is now receiving 255 MW of electricity from Mone and Kyo Ohn Wa hydropower plant, Minbu solar plant and the new 66-

MW gas-fired plant, although the local demand is just 100 MW. The surplus of electricity will send into the national grid.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Yezagyo farmers grow Indian drumsticks on commercial scale

MOST local farmers from Yezagyo Township are growing Indian-species drumsticks on a commercial scale, said U Mya Thin, a local Indian drumstick grower from Yezagyo Township.

"Local farmers are growing Indian drumsticks and selling them in Yangon and Mandalay, by themselves or through brokerages. Now, there are drumstick markets in those regions," said U Mya Thin, a local drumstick grower, who has grown six acres of drumsticks in Thanbyarchaung village from Yezagyo Township.

An Indian species drumstick seed costs K 100. The growing time takes 15 days.

After six months, it starts to blossom and yield the crops. They are planted about nine feet apart, and farmers cut the hips to prevent slipping, said U Mya Thin.

The raw produce of the drumstick, such as fruits and leaves, are made into finished products. So, foreign countries, such as Japan, Singapore and India, have a high demand for drumsticks. One piece of drumstick is sold for K 200. Each plant can produce three fruits a year, according to local growers.

The drumstick is grown on a commercial scale in Kyaukpadaung, Pakokku, Myingyan, Myitchay, Yezagyo and Wund-



Drumstick trees are planted on a vegetable plot in Yezagyo. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYOUT)**

win Townships. The local people are predominantly growing Indian drumsticks. The life of

drumsticks is 20 years.—Ko Htein (Ngathayout)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Nearly nine tons of illegal teak lumber confiscated in Hlegu Township

AUTHORITIES stopped two vehicles carrying illegal teak lumber on a highway in Hlegu Township, Yangon North District, on 19 December, 2019.

Acting on a tip, a combined team of officials from the Forest Department and the highway police tried to stop the vehicle at Milepost 20/5, but the vehicle drove away and was later stopped at Milepost 19/7. The driver of the vehicle fled from the scene. When the team searched the vehicle, they found 387 illegal iron wood trees (Pyinn Ga Doe), weighing 7.8049

tons.

Similarly, another team, led by U Tin Htut, searched the ALPHARD vehicle, which stopped at the toll gate on 20 December, 2019, and found 29 illegal teak blocks, weighing 1.4198 tons. The police are still seeking for the driver of the ALPHARD vehicle, the owner of the vehicle and the owner of the teak. As soon as authorities apprehend the suspects, they will take legal action against them.—Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Officials check the illegal teak lumber found on a vehicle in Hlegu on 19 December. **PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)**

Equality of opportunity for all

To be a genuine democracy, it is not enough to be a "government of the people, by the people, for the people". The government must uplift the economic standard of our people to the point where there is equality of opportunity for all. Then only can we go forward towards genuine democracy.

(Extract from the speech given by General Aung San at the Jubilee Hall First Preparatory Conference held on 19 May 1947)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives back in Yangon from Viet Nam

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who was on a goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, attended the 30th Anniversary of National Armed Forces Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the 75th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence of Vietnam (K-2000) in Viet Nam yesterday.

The event was also attended by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Chairwoman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, senior officers from the Government and party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, senior officers of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces, leaders of the delegations from ASEAN member countries, Russia and China, officials and invited guests.

In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party met with the families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office and Myanmar

government scholars in Viet Nam.

In the evening, the Senior General and party departed from Noi Bai International Airport in Viet Nam and arrived at the Mingaladon Airbase where officials welcomed them.

On 20 December, the Senior General paid a courtesy call to the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc together with leaders of delegations from ASEAN member countries, Russia and China who will be attending the 30th Anniversary of National Armed Forces Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the 75th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces.

First, the Vietnamese Prime Minister cordially greeted the leaders of the respective delegations and made a speech.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on behalf of the armed forces of the ASEAN countries.

In his speech, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that ASEAN countries are implementing One Vision, One Identity, and One Community. In so doing, all



Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries pose for a documentary photo in Viet Nam. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

armed forces need to cement friendly relations in unity in their respective sectors. The Senior General, on behalf of the ASEAN armed forces, expressed his wish at the ceremony to mark the 30th National Armed Forces Day and the 75th Founding Anniversary of Vietnam People's Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, praying for Vietnam,

the Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese Armed Forces to shine brilliantly in prestige and integrity.

In the evening, the Senior General and party attended a dinner hosted by the Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army in honour of delegates from various countries who attended the ceremony to

mark the 30th National Armed Forces Day and the 75th Founding Anniversary of Vietnam People's Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Melia Hotel in Hanoi, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds meeting on disaster management, rehabilitation works

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Dr Win Myat Aye held a coordination meeting on implemen-

tation of the ministry's work plans with officers from the De-

partment of Social Welfare, the Department of Disaster Management and the Department of Rehabilitation of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Region/State offices.

The Union Minister made an opening speech at the meeting taken place at the ministry yesterday, saying to address challenges collectively among relevant strategies of departments, cooperation with respective ministries, participation of civil organizations and international organizations.

He also advised officials to

learn international laws and rules as Myanmar is a signatory of UN conventions.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung explained rules and principles to be observed by the departments.

The directors-general and senior officers from Nay Pyi Taw Council, State/Region levels presented their works in the previous financial year, and the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister coordinated their discussions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Coordination meeting on disaster management and rehabilitation works being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Japanese Govt announces assistance for return of IDPs in Kachin State



The press conference for durable solution program for the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons in Kachin State being held yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Japanese government announced yesterday that it would provide assistance for the return of displaced persons in conflict areas in Kachin State as the situation there is becoming stable. “While the conflicts are still occurring in Rakhine State and the Northeast part of Myanmar,

the situation is becoming stable in Northern Kachin State, and the discussions among the Myanmar Government, the Myanmar Army, Kachin Independence Army-KIA and Civil Society Organizations-CSO on the return of refugees and ceasefire are in progress,” said the statement released by the Japanese embassy yesterday.

Mr. Sasakawa Yohei, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, and Mr. Maruyama Ichiro, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, held the press conference in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday and announced the decision.

Both the public and private sectors of Japan are providing the utmost support for democratic nation building of

Myanmar. Especially, together with Mr. Sasakawa Yohei, Japan has been facilitating dialogues between the related parties in order to promote the peace in ethnic minority areas.

The decision comes after CSO requested the Japanese Government through Mr. Sasakawa Yohei for assistance to promote the resettlement of refugees in the areas where security has been assured.

The statement said that the Japanese Government hopes the assistance would contribute to improving humanitarian situation in Kachin State and reaching the ceasefire agreement as soon as possible and also that the Myanmar government, the Myanmar Army and ethnic armed groups would continue to hold peace talks in future.—GNLM

Wyndham Grand (Ygn) to hold NYE party

WYNDHAM Grand Yangon is ringing in the new year with its first-ever New Year Eve’s Party, The Light of Wyndham Grand 2020, featuring “A list” performers and entertainers on 31 December. “We are delighted to be hosting our first-ever New Year’s Eve Party to welcome 2020. The Light of Wyndham Grnad 2020 is our opportunity to set the standards of New Year’s Eve parties in Yangon going into a new year of 2020, which is also the beginning of a new decade.” said Mr Simon Yu, Complex General Manager.

The Light of Wyndham Grnad Yangon party is featuring top artists and entertainers such as R Zarni, Wai La, Ni Ni Khin



Officials from Wyndham Grand Yangon pose for a group photo. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Zaw, Project K and DJ Baytar party is having a lucky draw program.—GNLM

Singapore Festival to be held at Chin Tsong Palace



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

SINGAPORE Festival 2020 will be held at the Chin Tsong Palace on the KabaAye Pagoda Road on 1st and 2nd Febru-

ary, 2020, according Singapore Tourism Board.

With the Singapore Festival 2020, a garden party offering

curated experiences, including delicious dishes done picnic style by top Myanmar and Singapore chefs, and live music by acoustic bands and DJs will be held.

One of the unique highlights this year’s festival is an Art Walk that features artworks commissioned specially for this festival.

The Art Walk will be curated to complement the architecture and layout of Chin Tsong Palace.

The Art Walk at the festival will be one of the best ways for visitors to expore the interior of the Palace building.—GNLM

Three-day New Year Dhamma ceremony to be held in Yangon

New Year Dhamma ceremony organized by the Yangon Region Government will take place at the People’s Park in Yangon from 1 to 3 January, 2020.

Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa will deliver a sermon on 1

January, 2020 (Wednesday), Rector Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nandamalar Bhivamsa on 2 January and Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nannisara on 3 January.

All the sermons will start at 7:30 pm.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Ways to conserve energy

- * Use Energy Saving Lamp rather than incandescents.
- * Use LED lights rather than Energy Saving Lamp.



Ways to conserve energy

- * Switch off exterior lights of the home



Mung bean price surges in Mandalay amidst potential demand from India

MANDALAY beans and pluses market has seen an upturned price of Mung bean, with increasing K15,000 per three-basket bag, after news has spread about the possible purchase of 0.25 million tons of this crop from India.

Mung bean market becomes lively with increasing rate from K90,000 to K105,000 per bag on 21 December of this month due to news about possible demand from India.

In Yangon commodity wholesale center, one ton of FAQ Mung bean rose to K1.15 million on 21 December from K1 million.

"Newly harvested Mung bean has entered the market,

and the possible demand from India is a good news for the farmers," said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of a wholesale commodity center.

The price of Mung bean was K34,000 per three-basket bag in previous harvest due to suspension of India's purchase, but, reached to K68,000 after the Thingyan Festival of 2019.

"We are very happy for the increasing price of Mung bean as we suffered loss from the decline of paddy price," said farmer U Thaung Hla from Singu Township of Kyaukse District.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Merchants evaluating various kinds of bean at a brokerage house in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade up \$5.73 mln

BORDER trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh reached US\$9.88 million, as of 13 December in the fiscal year 2019-20, according to a report from Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce.

Border trade during the period increased by \$5.73 million, compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year. In the same period last year, total trade between the two countries was valued at \$4.16 million, with \$4.07 million in exports and \$0.08 million in

imports.

Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade during the period included Myanmar's exports of \$9.84 million and its imports of \$0.04 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through the Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish,

dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

Additionally, Myanmar's border trade with four neighboring countries, including China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, totalled \$2.27 billion, made up of \$1.62 billion in exports and \$643 million in imports.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Individual merchants' border trade hit K 9.53 bln in Oct. and Nov.

MYANMAR'S trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) through border gates reached over K 9.531 billion during a two month period in fiscal year 2019-2020, according to figures from the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 30 November this FY, border exports using ITCs earned K 918 million, while imports accounted for K 8.6 billion.

During the period, the Myawady border gate saw the largest trade value, amounting to K 5.67 billion using ITCs at checkpoints through which Myanmar conducts its border trade.

At present, the country is conducting border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese gates, with Bangladesh via Sittwe and Maungtau, and with India through Tamu and Reed border gates.

Myanmar's agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals and forest

products are mainly exported, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported.

A total of 1,704 ITCs have been issued by the trade departments and trade camps, with a total 292 ITCs in 2012-2013, 261 in 2013-2014, 317 in 2014-2015, 146 in 2015-2016 and 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY; 168 cards in 2017-2018 FY; 91 cards during the 1 April 2018 to 30 Sep 2018 interim period, 163 cards in 2019-2020 FY from 1 Oct 2018 to 30 September 2019 and 17 cards from 1 October to 30 November, 2019, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry began issuing ITCs in 2012. Traders can trade up to K 15 million per week using ITCs, which must be extended every year. The Trade Department issues ITCs to boost border trade.

The Ministry of Commerce has also announced that ITC numbers and export import entrepreneurs ID numbers will be changed to nine digits, instead of the current five digits, beginning 5 January, 2020.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Workers work at a fish processing factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

09251022355, 09974424848

Perform physical exercises to prevent NCDs

MYANMAR is evolving into a people-based system, because people are the most effective resource in our system to benefit the country and the people, with a new policy giving priority to raising awareness about health, prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, school health, safety of patients, and health research.

Health is the first priority for all-round development of our people, because no one can properly use his or her abilities without good health.

Hence, people are urged to participate in the public health system by learning how to nurture children by learning the do's and don'ts of good health for children.

Since the beginning of December, mass walking and physical exercise activities have been held every Saturday nationwide. This does not mean we should exercise every Saturday in the winter, but it alerted all people not to ignore physical exercise in their daily lives.

Exercise can also prevent the transmission of non-communicable diseases, which are collectively responsible for more than half of all morbidity and mortality in Myanmar. Almost 70% of all deaths worldwide are from non-communicable diseases. Walking is the easiest, cheapest and most effective exercise that benefits our health. A morning walk and a cold shower afterwards is refreshing and rejuvenating, keeping us light hearted and agile the entire day. Exercise can also prevent the transmission of non-communicable diseases, which are collectively responsible for more than half of all morbidity and mortality in Myanmar. With regards to the leading causes of NCDs mortality, Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Diabetes Mellitus (DM), Cancer and chronic respiratory diseases represent the majority of non-communicable disease deaths.

Everyone in Myanmar lives a healthy and productive life- free of avoidable disability and premature death due to non-communicable diseases. The Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar has consistently focused on addressing NCDs. Non-communicable diseases have been recognized as a public health priority in NHP (2011-2016) as well as in the new NHP (2017-2021).

The Package of Essential NCD interventions (PEN) has been implemented nationwide, including screenings for Hypertension, Diabetes, CVD and treatment of uncomplicated cases, along with the early detection and referral of oral, breast and cervical cancers by BHS (Butler Health System), which mainly target people living in rural areas.

Myanmar aspires to achieve, as part of its vision 2030, a healthier and productive population. However, for the aspiration to be fulfilled, there is much work that needs to be done, both in terms of Health System Strengthening (HSS) and in changing peoples' behaviors, such as regularly exercising, including walking.

Universal coverage requires the involvement of all sectors of society. Myanmar should ensure that UHC (Universal Health Coverage) meets the needs and aspirations of Myanmar's people, with their participation.

Pioneering Ultra-Deepwater Production Project

By A Retired Oil Expert

SHWE Gas Field has proved the existence of natural gas deposits in the western offshore region of Myanmar. Natural resources are a blessing only for those who deserve it, and hence, it is Shwe Field, the third project in the Myanmar offshore region, which opened a new chapter in the history of oil and gas resources located in the western offshore region in 2004.

Sedimentary rocks deposited from the land in the north and east profusely populate the western offshore region, and give rise to natural gas traps under the Pliocene sandstones and Miocene sandstones which deposited over a period of 5 million to 10 million years. On land, the presence of petroleum deposits inside ancient Miocene sandstones, Oligocene sandstones, and Eocene sandstones has been known since the old days, and oil from shallow oil fields in the Yan- bye Island (Ramree Island) on the western coast keeps flowing until today. Once the rock formation enters the sea, the deeper the water depth, so is the petroleum reservoir. The water depth in the western offshore region can range between 2,000 meters to 2,500 meters, and there have been further efforts to identify the potential of natural gas reservoirs there.

In the offshore region, a total of 51 blocks have been formed for oil and gas exploration, and based on the country's geological features, the blocks have been divided into shallow ones and deep-water ones. Also, they have been named accordingly, and In-

ternational Oil Companies (IOC) have secured rights to explore these blocks under different Production Sharing Contracts (PSC). At present, there are four production projects taking place at 8 blocks, and respective operators are conducting exploration works at another 21 blocks.

MPRL E&P has partnered with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) through a Production Compensation Contract (PCC) for Mann Field Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Project since 1996, and as a result of its success there, the company reinvested in the offshore area. The company signed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) in January 2007 on the western Ayeyawady offshore block A-6. Initially, the company proposed either block A-5 or A-7, but it awarded were block A-6 on which there was few past exploration data and public interest. Nevertheless, the company pressed ahead with its oil and gas exploration efforts at the block, and since 2007 when the PSC was signed, the company has conducted geological surveys extensively for four times along the coast, and in 2009 a 2D seismic survey covering an area of 1,955 kilometers was performed. In 2010, based on the results of the studies, another 3D seismic survey covering an area of 554 square kilometers was run, and geological/geophysical data were examined by experts.

With investment of 100 percent capitals at its own sole stakes as a Myanmar National led company, the company drilled the shallow water Pyi Thar-1 wildcat on its own risk in 2012. Pyi

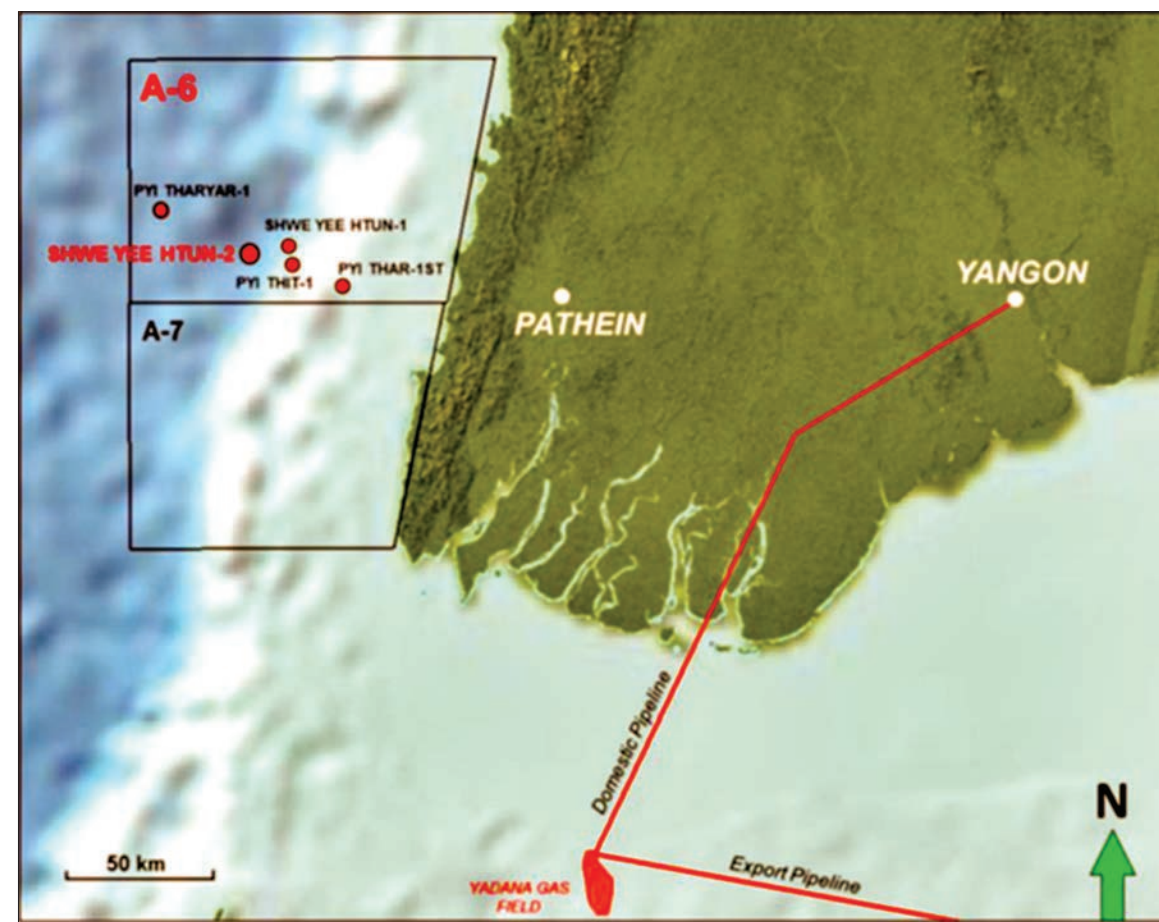


Figure 1: Location of Block A-6

With the ultra-deepwater drilling vessel Transocean Drill Ship Deepwater Millennium, the well was drilled at the water depth of 6,660 feet (2,030 meters), and 108 feet (33 meters) of net gas pay thickness was discovered.

Thar (1-ST) was drilled up to a depth of 4,585 feet (1,398 meters) at the water depth of over 200 meters, and the well confirmed the presence of gas-bearing sandstones.

At the same time, with this

discovery, the previously-held assumption by geologists that there could be no gas-bearing reservoir in the block A-6 was automatically nullified. By confirming there is a channel system flowing from east to west, MPRL E&P set off a new interesting future that lies with unlocking the prospectivity of the western offshore region in Myanmar. The nature of oil and gas industry is all about taking risks, and the success of Pyi Thar (1-ST), which is the result of taking sole risks by the Myanmar National led company brought about the interest of IOCs.

The prospect of deep-water region of the block A-6 was widely recognized. Then, Australia-based Woodside Energy, which has deep-water exploration expertise, farmed-in in 2013 by acquiring participating interests of 50 % in the block. In order to identify prospect in the deep water part of the block, 3D

seismic surveys were performed. Based on these surveys, another potential traps of oil and gas at the zone of the water depth of around 2,000 meters were detected. However, in order to confirm it, an ultra-deepwater well had to be drilled and such a well can cost hundreds of millions of dollars. In 2015, another deep-water exploration expert Total E&P joined hands, and as a result, MPRL E&P secured partnerships with well-experienced IOCs. With participating interests of Woodside (40%), Total E&P (40%), and the block operator MPRL E&P (20%), the exploration efforts continued.

Hence, the exploration well Shwe Yee Htun-1 was spudded on 27 November 2015. With the ultra-deepwater drilling vessel Transocean Drill Ship Deepwater Millennium, the well was drilled at the water depth of 6,660 feet (2,030 meters), and 108 feet (33 meters) of net gas pay thickness was discovered. Gas samples were collected and tested to officially confirm the commercially viable gas discoveries on 4 January 2016, Myanmar's Independence Day. The well was successfully drilled to the depth of 17,408 feet (5,306 meters).

The third exploration well Pyi Thit-1 was spudded in June 2017 at the water depth of 5,655 feet (2,001 meters), approximate-

ly 90 km northwest from Patheingyi, Ayeyarwady Region. The well was drilled up to a depth of 14,993 feet (4,570 meters), and according to the data evaluation results, 118 feet (36 meters) of net gas pay was encountered. The well produced about 50 MMscf of natural gas per day during the production tests.

Another exploration well Pyi Thar Yar-1 was spudded in August 2017 again and another gas discovery was successively made. The number of submarine channels which have the potential to hold natural gas deposits in the block A-6 was found to be about 14 at present. Exploring all these channels means spending millions of dollars and taking years to explore. The exploration region is the deepest part of the ocean in the East Asia and Pacific region, resulting in an extremely risky enterprise for the company.

Nevertheless, commercial viability of the block had to be confirmed, and the fifth well, Shwe Yee Htun-2, was spudded on 20 July 2018, about 60 miles northwest of Patheingyi, Ayeyarwady Region. It was drilled at the water depth of 7,628 feet (2,325 meters) to a depth of 15,912 feet (4,850 meters).

The evaluation of the data from the well indicated the presence of 135 feet (41 meters) of net gas pay thickness. This exceeded the company's prior expectation, and the well flowed about 53 MMscf of natural gas per day during the production tests. Therefore, the commercially viable gas discoveries were made at the two submarine channels out of fourteen.

The First Ultra-Deepwater Project

It is both interesting and exciting when we look at the phenomenon of the Myanmar western offshore region, especially, with regard to the extraordinary challenges it has posed to our ultra-deepwater exploration efforts. The discovery of Shwe Field in the northern part of the western offshore region indicated that sedimentary sandstones which flowed from the north were trapped there. This is different from the way natural gas was trapped at the block A-6. In the block A-6, natural

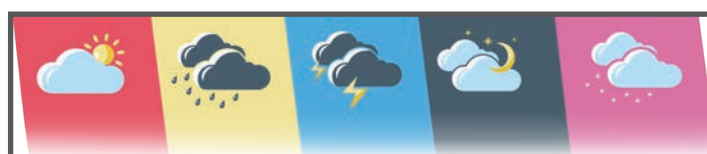
SEE PAGE-10



Figure 2: Well Shwe Yee Htun-2 at Block A-6

2020, 72nd Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives

1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with "collective strength" to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
2. To give priority and work for transformation of the rule of law and justice sector which is important for stability, peace and development of the State.
3. To work on amendment of the Constitution, which is the basic foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.
4. To build and create conducive environments for Union citizens which can elevate their sense of duty and improve their capabilities while the Democratic Federal Union is being built.
5. Emergence of a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union by implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 21st December, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22nd December, 2019: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, (Northern and Southern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 -7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd December, 2019: Few cloud.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

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‘Star Wars’ struggles in a country far, far away: China



Superfans of the sci-fi series are rare in the increasingly important Chinese market. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING (China)—Jedi mind tricks don't work on China.

While “Star Wars” fans from around the world waited in line for days to catch “The Rise of Skywalker,” the sci-fi series has struggled to woo film-goers in the increasingly important Chinese market.

Special previews of the long-awaited “Star Wars” film in Beijing this week drew just a handful of fans.

Chen Tao is a rare superfan in a country where Friday's opening day pre-sales were just 12 million yuan (\$1.7 million), Xinhua news agency said, a fraction of the 218 million yuan taken recently on release by a Chinese-made crime drama, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The 35-year-old Shanghai resident only became curious

about the space saga by accident after stumbling across a pre-installed “Star Wars” video game on his first computer.

Chen now runs one of China's biggest online “Star Wars” fan groups, debating lightsaber physics on the online message board Zhihu and managing a Twitter-like Weibo account with 30,000 followers.

He loves the “Star Wars” world for its vast scale and rich detail that fans can piece together through movies, books and games. “Its world is like a jigsaw-puzzle... which feels very magical to me, and inspires a desire to explore this universe,” he said. But Chen and his fellow fans are rare in China, where cinemagoers flock instead to see Marvel superheroes and domestic films.

“The Last Jedi” ranked number 47 at the box office in China in 2018, far behind Marvel's superhero film “Avengers: Infinity War” at number six, according to Box Office Mojo.

Since buying Star Wars studio Lucasfilm in 2012, Disney has stepped up efforts to gain fans in the world's fastest-growing movie market.

In October, Disney and Tencent-owned e-book company China Literature announced they would be publishing the first-ever “Star Wars” novel written specifically for Chinese audiences featuring “Chinese-style expression.” “We will introduce interpersonal relations and other concepts from Chinese custom into Star Wars,” a China Literature representative told AFP, without providing further details.—AFP ■

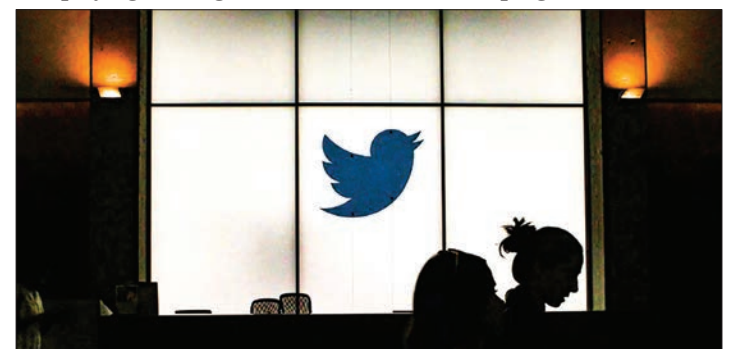
Twitter, Facebook target state-linked accounts made to manipulate

WASHINGTON (United States)—Facebook and Twitter on Friday said they had blocked multiple government-backed manipulation operations around the world, several of which favored US President Donald Trump, as part of a crackdown on state-sponsored propaganda efforts. Twitter said it had blocked some 88,000 accounts linked to Saudi state-backed “information operations”, in violation of its manipulation rules. Separately, Facebook said it had blocked a network in Vietnam and the United States which posted pro-Trump messages aimed at US citizens, along with another network targeting domestic audiences in the country of Georgia. It comes as social media giants have been struggling in the face of state-backed disinformation efforts, often using automated accounts or “bots” to manipulate the platforms, amplifying their own messages while disparaging opponents.

Most of the accounts blocked by Twitter on Friday were in Arabic and aimed at “amplifying messages favorable

to Saudi authorities,” but that some English language content was aimed at “Western audiences.”

“Our internal analysis shows the network was involved in various forms of platform manipulation, targeting discussions related to Saudi Arabia and advancing their geopolitical interests on the world stage,” the Twitter safety team said in a blog post. Twitter said it released details on 5,929 accounts which it called a “representative sample” of the 88,000 suspicious accounts. Twitter's investigations traced the source of the coordinated activity to the Saudi-based social media marketing firm Smaat, which has been permanently blocked from the platform. Smaat was working for “high-profile individuals,” Twitter said, and several government departments in Saudi Arabia, using automated tools “to mask the overall platform manipulation originating from these accounts.” Some of the tweets in question date back to 2016 and appear to be supportive of President Donald Trump or his campaign.—AFP ■



Twitter said some 88,000 accounts suspended were part of a network from Saudi Arabia seeking to manipulate opinion on the social platform. PHOTO: AFP

Pioneering Ultra-Deepwater Production Project

FROM PAGE-9

gas was discovered in the sedimentary sandstones which flowed from east to west. In other words, the block A-6 indicated natural gas deposits in sedimentary sandstones that flowed from the current Ayeyarwady river channels over a geological time span. The identification of Paleo Ayeyarwady System also meant finding of a new petroleum play system for scientists/experts.

Natural gas production from the block A-6 in Myanmar will happen at the water depth of around 2,000 meters, and it has to be recorded as the first history-making ultra-deepwater project in the country. Globally, there are only 16 such gas producing projects, and thus the block A-6 will become a remarkable project for the Myanmar offshore natural gas upstream industry. In this regard, there are several challenges in terms of both technical and operational, and in order to push ahead with the timeline, an enormous amount

of manpower and financial resources will be needed.

As Myanmar's energy demands keep growing, only by exploiting our own resources can we produce affordable energy to fulfil these demands. Especially, electricity consumption is growing 12 % on a yearly basis, and natural gas is a second energy source for electricity generation after hydropower. Therefore, MPRL E&P, Total E&P, and Woodside Energy discussed how to expedite development and production efforts at the block. Ultra-deepwater development costs billions of dollars, and the most viable option has to be identified. In this regard, governmental support is of paramount importance.

At present, 1,800 MMscf of natural gas per day is produced from the four offshore projects in Myanmar. Out of which only 400 MMscf is used for the country, and 1,400 MMscf is exported. Myanmar is one of the top natural gas exporters in the South East Asia through

the gas pipeline. Thailand, especially, depends heavily on Myanmar gas for its energy needs. China has shown an interest in Myanmar for fulfilling its future energy needs and exploiting Myanmar's geostrategic role. India also wants to secure natural gas from Myanmar. In other words, Myanmar is an important country regionally for these three countries.

As the natural gas production from the current offshore fields declines, the production from the block A-6 can be leveraged to fulfil both domestic needs and export demands to support the national economy. The offshore block A-6, which started from Pyi Thar (1-ST) wildcat drilled by the Myanmar National led MPRL E&P, will serve as the fifth natural gas project after Yadana, Yetagun, Shwe and Zawtika. What's more, it will arise as the first ultra-deepwater natural gas production project in the South East Asia Region.

Abe asks Britain's Johnson to minimize Brexit impact on Japan firms

TOKYO—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke by phone on Saturday with his British counterpart Boris Johnson, asking him to realize the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union by minimizing the impact on business activities of Japanese companies and the global economy, the Foreign Ministry said.

"To further strengthen the good relations between Japan and Britain since the Anglo-Japanese Alliance (in 1902), I'd like to cooperate hand-in-hand with Boris," the ministry quoted Abe as telling Johnson, while celebrating his Conservative Party's historic win in this month's general election.

During the conversation that lasted about 20 minutes, Abe said Japan wants to work toward an "ambitious" free trade agreement with Britain, the ministry said, adding Johnson said in response that London wants to discuss the matter with Tokyo as soon as possible after the withdrawal from the EU.

It said the prime ministers also agreed to step up cooperation in achieving a "free and open Indo-Pacific," a vision pushed by Japan to ensure stability in Asia with like-minded democracies. — Kyodo News ■



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are pictured ahead of their talks in Biarritz, southwestern France, on 26 August 2019, on the sidelines of a Group of Seven summit. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Groundwork under way in Philippines' 1st subway line

MANILA—Groundwork for the Philippines' first subway system commenced Saturday at a site in Manila that will host its depot and other related facilities. "If we have this subway, the movement of people and cargo will speed up and improve," Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said at a ceremony marking the start in Quezon City, a suburb of the capital. Transportation Undersecretary Timothy John Batan said that earthwork activities were able to commence following the acquisition of land and clearing of squatters.

The Metro Manila Subway Project is set to begin partial operations with three stations by 2022, with operations of the entire 15-station subway line slated to commence by 2025. —Kyodo News ■

BJP to launch massive campaign to counter anti-CAA narrative; over 250 press meets, 100 rallies planned

NEW DELHI (India) — Amid the nationwide protests against the citizenship law, the BJP has decided to launch a massive communication campaign to allay the public fears and apprehensions of over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

"The BJP will reach out to over three crore families. We will organise press conferences at over 250 places in the next 10 days. In addition, over 1,000 rallies will be held to clear the air over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and to bust the myth created by the opposition," BJP general secretary Bhupender Yadav told the reporters here. He said that the party will counter the "lies" of opposition parties including that of the Congress over the provisions of the new law through effective communication. "The BJP will take along the refugees, who come to India due to atrocities in their countries in its rallies," he announced.

BJP believes that all

communities -- Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Parsi, Sikha, and others -- are Indian citizens and have the right to live with dignity, said Yadav. He alleged the Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) Bihar bandh turned violent at some places. "Do Congress and RJD support violence so far as anti-CAA protests are concerned," he asked. The announcement comes after a meeting of senior BJP leaders with the party's working president JP Nadda over the newly amended law, which grants citizenship to refugees of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, who arrived in India until December 31, 2014.

Answering a question with regard to the BJP ally JDU's announcement not to support the proposed NRC, he said that the CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) are different issues. "JDU supported the CAA in Parliament. NRC and CAA are different. The NRC is an administrative issue," he said.—ANI ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY.NO.(1112S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (1112S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (030N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (030N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/MIP 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (039N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO.(039N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1918N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1918N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

‘Catastrophic’ conditions as bushfires rage in Australia

BARGO (Australia)—A scorching heatwave intensified bushfires ravaging parts of Australia on Saturday, and out-of-control blazes surrounding Sydney worsened under “catastrophic” conditions.

Australia’s eastern coast has been hit by a record-breaking heatwave, which has moved in from the west of the country, fanning hundreds of fires in its path.

Sydney was shrouded in toxic smoke as blazes flared to its north, south and west, some just 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Australia’s largest city.

“Today has been an awful day,” New South Wales sate fire commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons



Sydney was shrouded in toxic smoke as blazes flared to its north, south and west, some just 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Australia’s largest city. PHOTO: AFP

said Saturday afternoon. Temperatures were expected to peak at 47 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit) in parts of the state

-- the country’s most populous -- including in parts of west Sydney. Australia endures bushfires every year but

the early and intense start to this season, along with the record temperatures, has fuelled concerns about global warming. —AFP ■

Trump approves Russia-Europe gas pipeline sanctions

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump on Friday signed off on US sanctions against companies building a Russian natural gas pipeline to Germany that Congress fears will give the Kremlin dangerous leverage over European allies.

The sanctions, which are opposed by the European Union, were included in a sprawling defense spending bill Trump signed at a ceremony on Joint Base Andrews, an air force installation outside Washington, DC.

They target companies building the nearly \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea with the aim of doubling deliveries of Russian natural gas to Europe’s leading economy, Germany.

US lawmakers have warned the pipeline would enrich a hostile Russian government and vastly increase President Vladimir Putin’s influence in Europe at a time of heightened tension across the continent.

Both houses of Congress overwhelmingly approved the sanctions, with the Senate voting Tuesday to send the measure to Trump’s desk.

Trump, who has been accused by Democratic opponents of being soft on Putin, had little choice but to give his approval. —AFP ■

| Invitation for Bids | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Date: | 23, December, 2019 |
| Bid No. and Title: | 40(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Min Hla - Athoke Transmission Line (101) miles and 230 kV Switch Bay (3)Nos. Extension at Min Hla Substation and 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Athoke Substation |
| Deadline for Submission of Bids: | 6, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time) |

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Min Hla - Athoke Transmission Line (101) miles and 230 kV Switch Bay (3)Nos Extension at Min Hla Substation and 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos Extension at Athoke Substation (“the Facilities”). The Facilities are all located within Bago and Ayeyarwady region.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least two (2) contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years and that are transmission line & substation contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US\$50.0million.
- For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
Overhead transmission line of 220kV or higher shall not be less than (120) km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 33 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
Email: dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com,
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 6 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 6/02/2020.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

| Invitation for Bids | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Date: | 27, December, 2019 |
| Bid No. and Title: | 41(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 132 kV Upper Kengtawng - Namsang Transmission Line (37) miles and 132 kV Switch Bay (1)No Extension at Namsang Substation |
| Deadline for Submission of Bids: | 10, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time) |

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply, and Installation of 132kV Upper Kengtawng - Namsang Transmission Line (37) miles and 132 kV Switch Bay (1) No Extension at Namsang Substation (“the Facilities”). The Facilities are all located within Shan State.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least two (2) contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last Ten (10) years and that are transmission line & substation contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US\$ 9.6 million.
- For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
Overhead transmission line contract of 110 kV or higher shall not be less than (45)km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 10 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
Email: dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com,
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 10 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 10/02/2020.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

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Ministry of Electricity and Energy
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Air quality in Yangon

By Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

AS human beings lived in a space filled with air, they can only live with air. Ability to breathe fresh and clean air will give human beings a long and healthy life. Breathing foul and dirty airs would affect your health and well being.

As modern world develops, it became full of physical products and goods. More machines were produced while population increases, air pollution had came to the forefront as an important problem to be resolved. We were breathing unclean, dirty and foul air day after day.

Let's not talk about modern cities of the world. We'll just talk about air quality in Yangon compared to a country nearby.

As urban development increases in Yangon, its air quality decline said a researcher.

Among the list of air polluted

city

Yangon had air quality measurement machines installed. According to the figures provided by those machines, Yangon had joined the list of worst air polluted city in the world.

Why was this? The city had a population of more than five



million. Irresponsible littering including long lasting plastics produces polluted airs.

Of the more than half a million cars in Myanmar, close to 300,000 were plying the roads in Yangon everyday emitting Carbon Dioxides that pushes away the air that people breathes in.

Air pollution index

Air Quality Index (AIQ) was colour coded. From zero to 50 is green and this is considered as good quality. From 51 to 100 is yellow and considered as satisfactory. From 101 to 150 is a moderately polluted stage that will affect old persons, young children and people who are not



Air quality index machine in front of Maha Bandoola Park.

PHOTOS: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



in good health. From 151 to 200 is red and 201 to 300 is purple and the air quality was considered as moderately polluted to poor quality. 301 to 500 is reddish brown stage where air quality was very poor to severe.

According to a statement by Heinrich Boll Stiftung that had conducted studies of air quality in Yangon over three year, air pollution in Yangon reaches the level of Bangkok and Chiang Mai and sometime it was even worse.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) about seven million people in the world lost their lives due to air pollution related illnesses. In Myanmar itself more than 70,000 lives were lost due to air pollution.

How do we clean up Yangon? This was a question raised by Yangonites. They want to

know whether Yangon Region government has included poor quality of air as one of its major problems that need to be tackled and were actively seeking out way to resolve and prevent further deterioration.

Private cars and taxis criss-cross all over Yangon YBS buses provide public transportation service.

Methods like permitting private car number plates ending with odd and even numbers on the roads of the cities on alternative days would immediately halves the numbers of cars on the road. This was practiced successfully in some car congested cities of the world.

Trees absorb Carbon Dioxide, a major pollutant in the air for human beings. So planting trees is a way to reduce air pollution. Myanmar was planting tens of thousands of trees during the raining season.

Recently Hluttaw representatives themselves participated in planting trees in a high school in Kyimyindine Township. But this was done every year and it was repeated in the same place where tree planting was conducted the previous year raising a question "What happened to the trees planted last year?" In Myanmar, trees were planted every year during the raining season. Only when such trees grow and flourish can there be sustainable reduction and protection of air pollution.

Translated by Zaw Min (GNLM)





Goal Keeper of the MFF U-19 futsal club (green jersey) attempts to block the ball kicked in by Dream Team Player (No.19) during the Week-8 match of the Futsal League. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

MIU, GV score big in Week-8 of Myanmar Futsal League

MYANMAR Imperial University (MIU) and GV futsal clubs scored big wins in the Week-8 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League, played at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday.

MIU futsal club trounced Letwel Thone Nara futsal club 13-1, and GV futsal club won decisively over Winner FC 6-0.

Yesterday's matches also saw the playing of other competitive matches, with narrow wins and draws.

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U-19 Futsal Club defeated Dream Team 4-3, while

On Doctor FC beat Do Do Ko Ko FC 3-2.

Also, Victoria University College (VUC) Futsal team won over Myoma JV Futsal Team 4-2.

The only draw match saw AMM Brothers Futsal Club play Futsal Lover Futsal Club, with the match ending in a 5-5 draw.

Currently, the VUC FC is still standing atop the Myanmar Futsal League with 24 points and no losses.

MIU FC and GV FC are also following the VUC FC with same points, but differences in goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar U-22 midfielder Aung Naing Win joins Ayeyawady United

MYANMAR U-22 National Football Team midfielder Aung Naing Win recently signed a long-term contract with Ayeyawady United, according to the football club.

Aung Naing Win played on Team Myanmar at the 30th SEA Games men's football event in the Philippines, and assisted the team in winning the bronze medal.

Upon his arrival, Aung Naing Win said, "I thank the team's officials, as they welcome me to join the team and have their trust in me."

Aung Naing Win was born in Nyaungbin Wun, Sagaing Region, and learned football in Mandalay Sports and Physical



Midfielder Aung Naing Win holds the insignia of Ayeyawady United FC upon his arrival to the team. **PHOTO: AUFC**

Education Science. He reached Yadanarbon Junior FC in 2016 and was chosen for the senior team in 2017.

As he excels in the midfield

position, he was selected as a midfielder for the Myanmar U-22 team for the 30th SEA Games, where he displayed his best performances.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Shan, Ayeyawady FCs take victory in friendly matches

DEFENDING champion of the Myanmar National League, Shan United FC beat Hantharwady United FC by 2-1 in their friendly match played at the Mahn Daing sports ground in Yangon yesterday.

The winning goals for Shan United were scored by Zwe Thet Paing at 36 minute and Ye Min Thu at 49 minute.

A consolation goal for Hantharwady United was scored by Donald Bisa at 80 minute.

Similarly in other friendly match at Bahan artificial turf in Yangon, Ayeyawady United FC beat Sagaing United FC by 3-2.

The match seen both teams used all main players with colorful strategies.

Sagaing United got two consecutive goals in the very early minutes of match which were scored by Kyaw Swar Min at three and four minutes.

But their win was not last long and Ayeyawady equalised the goals even within the first half with goals scored by Tin Win Aung at 30 minute, Than Htet Aung at 38 minute. The first half saw 2-2.

The winning goals for Ayeyawady United was scored by Yarzar Aung at 71 minute and the goal lift the team win in the friendly match.

All friendly matches are played in preparation for the upcoming Myanmar National League season.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Carlo Ancelotti appointed Everton manager

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Everton appointed Carlo Ancelotti as the club's new manager on Saturday, with the experienced Italian taking charge at Goodison Park on a four-and-a-half year deal.

Ancelotti, 60, will attend Saturday's Premier League clash with Arsenal, but will not take charge until the Boxing Day visit of Burnley.

The three-time Champions League winning coach was sacked by Napoli earlier this month but comes with a trophy-laden CV from spells at a clutch of Europe's top clubs, including Juventus, AC Milan, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Bayern Mu-

nich.

His arrival is a coup for the Toffees, who are languishing in 16th place in the Premier League, just three points above the relegation zone.

"This is a great club with a rich history and a very passionate fan base," Ancelotti said in a club statement.

"There is a clear vision from the owner and the board to deliver success and trophies.

"That is something that appeals to me as a manager and I am thrilled at the prospect of being able to work with everybody at the club to help make that vision a reality."

Caretaker manager Duncan Ferguson, who will take

charge against Arsenal, will be part of Ancelotti's coaching staff after impressing in beating Chelsea and drawing at Manchester United in his two previous Premier League games.

"I have seen from the performances in the last two weeks that the players are capable of so much," added Ancelotti.

'Key ingredients'

"The work Duncan has done is a great credit to him. Strong organisation, strong discipline and the right motivation are some of the key ingredients in football and I'm pleased that he will be part of my backroom team moving forward."

Ancelotti is used to dining



Experienced Italian Carlo Ancelotti is Everton's new manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

at European football's top table, but his immediate task will be to guarantee survival before trying to fulfil the ambitions of Everton's majority shareholder

Farhad Moshiri.

The British-Iranian businessman has ploughed in hundreds of millions of pounds over the past three years. — AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

22 DECEMBER 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Joy to the world! the lord has come

By: Khup Lian Pan (Paubawi)

In every year, the Christmas season falls and everyone is getting into the Christmas spirit. We wish each other 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' and send Christmas cards to family and friends. We decorate our houses, Churches, shopping malls and the opening presents, gift-exchanges and a huge dinner will follow as usual. For Christians, this holiday is significant because it celebrates God becoming man in order to save mankind from its Sin through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Long ago, about 2000 years, when King Herod ruled Judea (now part of Israel), God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman who lived in the northern town of Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary and she was engaged to Mary Joseph. The angel Gabriel said to Mary: "Peace be with you" Mary was very surprised by this and wondered what the angel meant. The angel said to her 'Don't be afraid, God is with you, you will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy and you will call him Jesus. He will be God's own Son and his kingdom will never end'. Mary was very afraid but she trusted God and she replied to the angel Gabriel that "According to your word, be it unto me".

Joseph was worried when he found out that Mary was expecting a baby before their marriage had taken place. Then the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: "Don't be afraid to have Mary as your wife and the angel explained that Mary had been chosen by God to be a mother of Jesus and told Joseph that the baby would be named Jesus which means "Savior" because he would save people. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel told to him to do and took Mary as his wife.

At this time, the land where Mary and Joseph lived was part of the Roman Empire and the Empire Augustus ordered all the people to return to the town where their families originally came from, and enter their name in a register (or census) there. So, Mary and Joseph traveled a long way (about 70 miles) from Nazareth to Bethlehem, because that is where Joseph's family came from. When they reached Bethlehem they had a problem finding somewhere to stay, because many people had come to register their name in the census, which every house was full

SEE PAGE-S-8



Design: BT

ENGLISH LESSON QUOTATIONS & PROVERBS

By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

- 187. Marriage is a lottery in which men stake their liberty and women their happiness.
188. The bullet that will kill me is not yet cast.
189. Today is the first day of the rest of your life.
190. Possibilities of science are unlimited.
191. All art is but imitation of nature.
192. Hiroshima also serves as a symbol of the triumph of the forces of labour over the forces of destruction and of the triumph of what is good, beautiful and human over what is bad, ugly and inhuman.
193. The easiest person to deceive is one's own self.
194. We must conquer war or war will conquer us.
195. Women and elephants never forget an injury.
196. Prosperity makes friends; adversity tries them.
197. Think in the morning; act in the afternoon; eat in the evening and sleep in the night.
198. A statesman is a successful politician who is dead.
199. Curves are magnetic.
200. There is a time for something and a time for all things; a time for great things and a time for small things.
201. The mother's heart spoke soft and clear, "Did you hurt yourself when you fell, dear?"
202. Much that I sought, I could not find.
203. The two most engaging powers of an author are

- to make new things familiar and familiar things new.
204. So near and yet so far.
205. A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never her age.
206. We shall never fear to negotiate but we shall never negotiate out of fear.
207. When a woman really loves a man, he can make her do anything she wants to do.
208. How do you know I am a diplomat?
209. The guard guards the train.
210. Grow whatever can be eaten.
211. If you plan for one year, grow rice. If you plan for 10 years, grow trees. If you plan for a hundred years, educate mankind.
212. We know the truth not only by the reason but also by the heart.
213. A little spark can start a conflagration.
214. No nation which oppresses others can itself be free.
215. Of all the paths that lead to a woman's love, pity is the straightest.
216. I was born a Myanmar; I will live a Myanmar; I shall die a Myanmar.
217. We live from moment to moment.
218. Tomorrow is just a day ahead of us yet still not within our grasp.

- မနက်ဖြန်ဆိုသည်မှာ ကျွန်တော်တို့ ရှေ့မှ တစ်ရက်သာ ဖြစ်သည်။ ဒါတောင်မှ လက်လှမ်း၍ မိသားသည်ကားမဟုတ်။
219. I awoke one morning and found myself famous.
220. Labour is prior to and independent of capital.
221. The beginning is the most difficult part of the work.
222. We are only three—my shadow, my echo and me.
223. Little drops of water poured into the milk give the milkman's daughter a lovely gown of silk.
224. O'cuckoo! Shall I call thee bird or but a wandering voice?
225. The Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing grounds of Eton.
226. Like the dew on the mountain.
227. The best way to learn a foreign language is to speak it.
228. Selfishness is the greatest curse of the human race.
229. The last time I saw Paris.
230. Love me; love my dog.
231. Love your neighbours, yet pull not down your hedge.
232. Imitation is the sincerest flattery.
233. We are all mortals and as mortals, err.
234. Row, brothers, row.
235. He who fights and runs away shall live to fight another day. He who is in battle slain shall never rise and fight again.
236. All the historical books which contain no lies are extremely tedious.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)



Colourful sea of flowers during wintry days of **Pyin Oo Lwin**

By Khin Wai Lwin

It was around noon on 20 December when we arrived at the Thiri Padathar Highway Compound in Pyin Oo Lwin.

We bought tickets for Yangon. The last bus to Yangon for the day was 6:00 pm and we purchased the bus of 5:30 pm. We got five hours to visit in Pyin Oo Lwin. The first priority for us was to visit its flowers festival.

Being a girl, I naturally like flowers, and my holiday destination became the colorful flower festival.

I used the Google Map to know the distance between the bus compound and the National Kandawgyi Gardens where the flower festival is taking place. Google even showed the time consumption. It will take around 15 minutes by motorcycle or car, and around an hour on foot.

We made a decision to go on foot with the help of Google Map as the weather is cold.

Walking in the cooling town gave me great pleasure except a slight pain in my feet because of my shoes. The houses in Pyin Oo Lwin are in wide compounds and some of them have mini flower nursery in front of their houses.

Seeing us walking, the taxi drivers on the way asked us to hire them. Most of the taxis in Pyin Oo Lwin are motor tricycles.

Near the Kandawgyi, a mini restaurant's signboard reading "Pone Sar" is K 1,000 and "Ta Khar Pyin" is K 1,500" aroused my hunger. 'Pone Sar' in Myanmar Language means eating rice and curries on a single plate, and 'Ta Khar Pyin' means eating rice on a plate with separate curry bowls.

We ordered "Pone Sar" with pork and chicken curries. Unlike Yangon, the side dishes of vegetables are free and fresh.

When we arrived at the entrance of the flower festival, it was around 2 pm. The price of an entrance ticket is K 2,000 per one. According to the ticket seller, the ticket covers visiting free to the national races village near the flower festival.



PHOTOS: KHIN WAI LWIN

Though it is commonly known as the flower festival, its actual name is "Culture of Flowers 2019."

The entrance to the festival is decorated with colorful vegetables plantations. The ground where flowers are installed was busy with visitors taking photos.

I was one of them. Flowers made me happy and fresh. People around me were also happy amid the enormous flowers smiling and posing for photos. Most of the smiling faces are of girls, ladies and wom-

en. Most of the boys and men there seem unhappy due to taking too many photos of the girls and women coming together with them.

There was a stage for artists in one of the lawns near the lake on which artists were rehearsing.

The two posters were also standing near the flower art installations telling about the two flower art installations of the festival. Only few people paid heads to the present of the two posters.

The first poster titled "United Kingdom," said that the flower art installation was inspired by the world's most popular flower and the country that has adapted it so widely in its culture, the Rose and the United Kingdom.

Fossils date the earliest roses to over 35 million year ago. In mythology, the rose was associated to the goddess of love and beauty 'Aphrodite.'

During the 15th century, the rose was used as a symbol for the factions fighting to control England. The white rose symbolized York, and the red rose symbolized Lancaster, as a result, the conflict became known as "Wars of the Roses." The house of Tudor united the house of Lancaster and its emblem of the 'Tudor Rose', a white and red rose combined, has since been the official emblem of England.

The second poster titled "The Netherlands" said the installation integrated 3 different flower culture highlights of the Netherlands: in ceramics, jewelry and the world's most beloved flowers, tulip.

The origin of the tulip was from China. The first tulip bulbs arrived in the Netherlands in 1593. At its peak, a single tulip bulb like 'Semper Augustus' was priced at US\$ 30.

The flowers are used in the typical 'Blue' porcelain and ceramics, that the Dutch learned to master from Chinese Ming Dynasty artists in 16th century.

The flowers can also be found in jewelry. One specific icon is called the 'Zeeuwse Knoop' or 'Zeelandic Button', which is a cultural icon of the Zeeland province of the Netherlands.

According to an official of the flower festival, the two flower art installations will be displayed until the festival ends on 15 January 2020 with the replacement of dried flowers.

Still enjoying the colorful flowers, I noticed the clock striking 4pm so we unwillingly departed from the beautiful festival.





Photo:BT

Photo:Phoe Khwar

Colourful handwoven textiles are symbols of **Kayin ethnic race**

Every ethnic race has a responsibility to value and take pride in their significant characteristics, such as literature, language, traditional culture and customs. Each ethnic race in Myanmar has its own unique food, textiles, and handicrafts.

Colorful handwoven textiles are an important folk art among the ethnic Kayin. To preserve that valuable and tangible cultural art, and to mark the Kayin New Year Day which falls on the first waxing of the Pyatho, the Kayin Region Government recently held a competition in Hpa-an. Over 30 teams participated in the competition, which is held to mark the Kayin New Year Day.

Kayin women sat barefoot on the floor, with their looms strapped around their hips. A weaver used her body as an anchor by passing a thick strap around her lower back.

Pulling thread from colourful spools, the Kayin women weave on simple backstrap looms, which are common in traditional cultures throughout Asia.

The Kayin New Year is an auspicious and historic day for Kayin nationals. In 1881, during the British rule in Myanmar, the Karen National Association was established. Thanks to the efforts of Kayin leaders, including Dr. Tee Than Pyar, to promote Kayin's literature, culture, education, society, and health, the bill on the designation of Kayin New Year Day was approved on 2 August 1937 by the Parliament during the colonial era.

Thalay Htaikhokepho on Kayin Era 2678 saw the first waxing of the Pyatho, 21 December, 1938, was designated as the Kayin New Year day, and the first-ever new year address was broadcast on 21 December, 1938.

By Nat Ye Hla



PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN



Photo:Phoe Khwar



Kyaukpandu Beach showcases **Rakhine's natural beauty**

By Khaing Myat Lin (Yunshwemyay)

With Rakhine's mountain range and coastal areas, Rakhine State hosts many attractions, highlighted by its beautiful nature. Among them, Ngapali beach is considered the most beautiful beach in Myanmar.

Also, another unspoiled and natural beach in Rakhine is Kyaukpandu Beach in Maungtau Township, which is famous among holidaymakers.

The big rock at the beach looks like a Pandu pipe, used for smoking centuries ago, and the beach is called Kyaukpandu. Kyauk is a rock and Pandu is a pipe.

Today, Kyaukpandu Beach is crowded with local holiday-

makers from Maungtau and Buthidaung.

When the tide is high, the rocks at the beach are surrounded by clear blue sea water. Visitors have photos taken while sitting on the rocks.

Rakhine's ethnic Buddhists and Hindu communities reside near the beach. For Hindus, a beach is also a place for religious rituals.

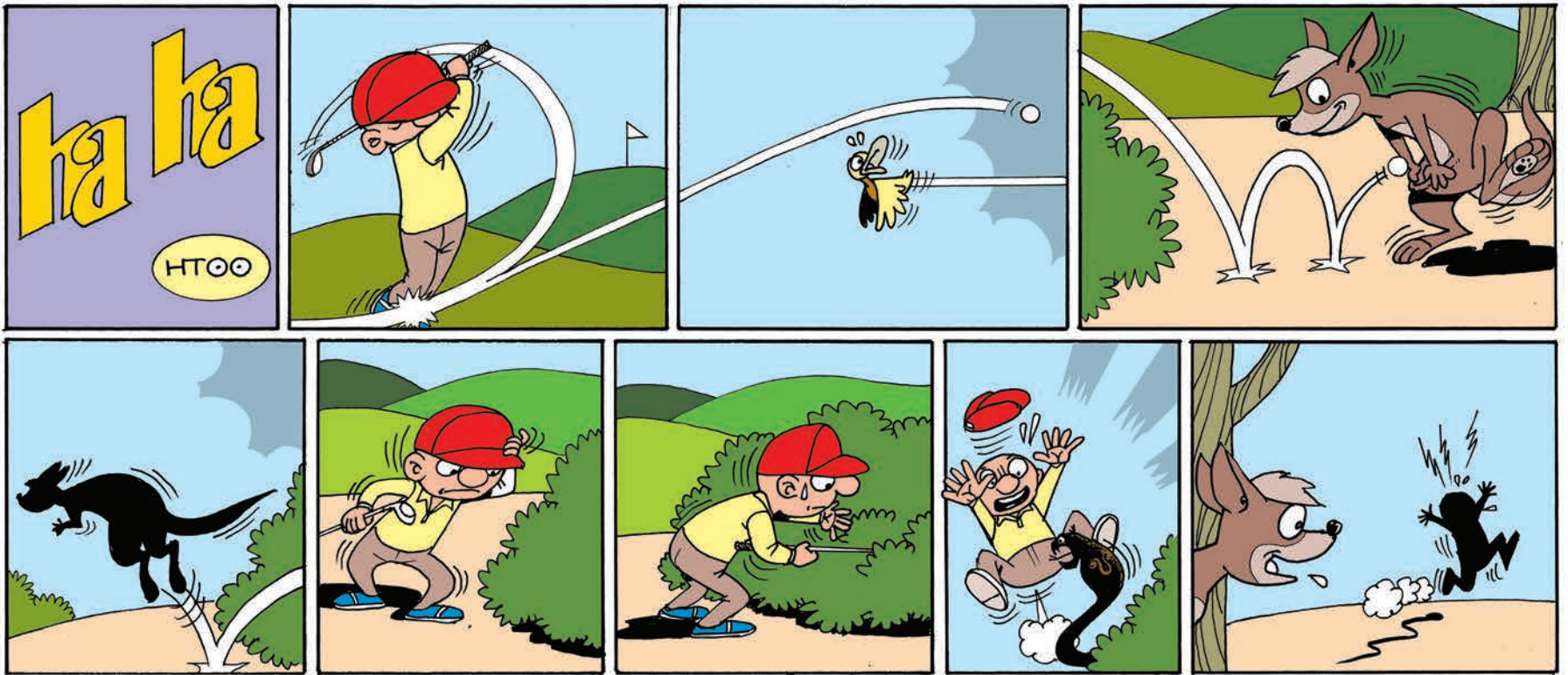
Kyaukpandu Beach is located 36 miles southwest of Buthidaung and 32 miles east of Maungtau.

Hotel business owners show interest in investing and developing Kyaukpandu beach.

Translated by Nat Ye Hla



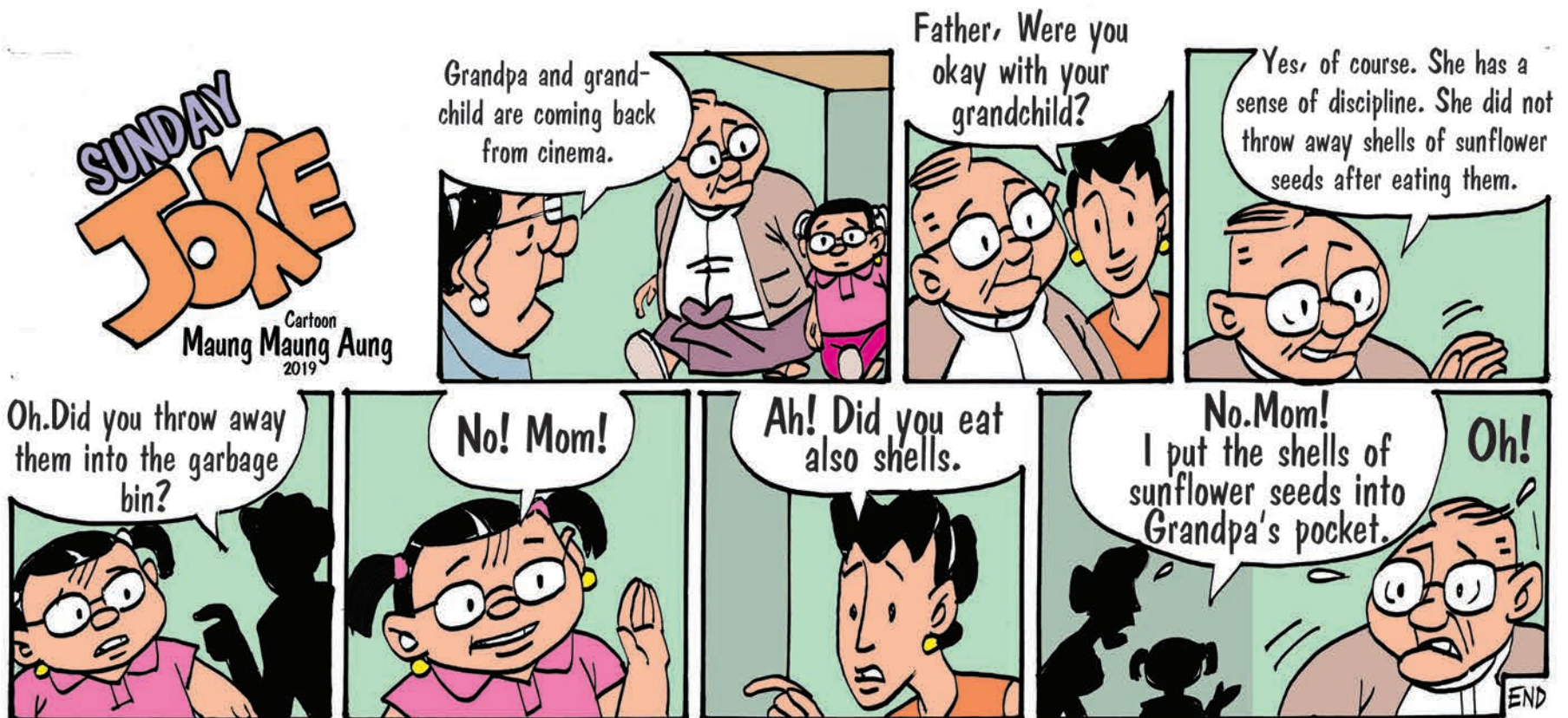
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019



Harassment: An Immediate Call



By Ma Su (Anthro)
BA (Eng),
MA (TEFL), Diploma in Anthropology

Recently in Yangon Institute of Education, most of the university girl-students have complained of being harassed by street hawkers in broad daylight. Although this news is a growing trend in Facebook, thanks to those victims who dared to share their encounter with the public know. Likewise, the unwanted sexual attentions are so regular everywhere and the women's feeling of vulnerability is almost unavoidable. Women are left feeling scared and fearing violence. When asked, they are stifling in that moment of revealing their hard time. Some shy away or react differently, others give short, cordial replies and others respond aggressively _ but all do so with a sense of caution. Harassment is not just a common occurrence in women's lives _ it's a cause of distress. At least, all ages of women experience catcalling once a day in their daily routine. Whistles and sexual statements make them feel 'disempowered,' like they are not safe in this public space. Some still have experiences that terrify them, which are nightmares for them.

The victims remember their suffering in some detail but they avoid disclosing their truth to the other they meet. Some were being followed by man for blocks until to a public space. Some were locked away on their faces as they walked home alone, and there was something derogatory continuously behind them. The wayward do it for fun whenever they see a female whether they are beautiful, but when they are all alone or in group. Mostly the adolescents are being followed and they let their attempts at dominance feeling unsafe to those sexual words and the hideous gestures. "Psss, come here, come here. Oh, you cannot hear me?!@#%&^*!@#%&^*(foul words). Get back here, darling." Those rotten utters quickened the steps and elongate the stride of the daily commuters, terrify, when some of the men throw a bottle in her direction, obviously making her way something hindrance and road-block. So that moment is really scared and unsure about what to do and how to respond to them. Firmly know if she looks them back, they certainly show the derogatory expression.

To be on the safe side, some girls prepare that whenever walk alone in deserted area, in their hand held a rock or an umbrella. If they encounter whatever harassment,

something gallop away. They become much more aggressive when they are outside. Especially outside, at least some put on a stern face like they are mean and angry and they have a habit of walking quickly. Obviously, women feel afraid and unsafe when sexual words and gestures disrupt their days. Low cut shirts or shorts or even a long dress down to the ankles does not matter. If they want to harass you, they are going to harass you. Dead sure, street harassment could turn violent. It can happen in the blink of eye. One minute they are really polite. The next they would scream at you, trying to hit you or touch you. They know, in this age, no one bothers to help you out.

In the certain place and spot where wealthy lived (those places surely occur to be harassed), some have to go there for their jobs face the catcalling and abusive words, the more unsafe they feel that the rich are not born to sympathize with the inferiors. It is because; most of the potential victims are daily commuters who live from hand to mouth, so sure not the girl on the luxurious model cars. One of the victims revealed that it is like that sick, sinking feeling I get when I'm walking down the street minding my own business and some guy yells out vulgar words about my body and one of them followed me. I feel weak in that moment. Even worst, it forces me to disconnect and distance myself from those around me. I looked around for help but none come out from behind the high walls as there live only the high-standard effluents. They even thrift a road-lamp in the evening (to save money?). It's not so secured even in broad daylight and even worse, after 5 pm the street is turning dark with no a pinch of light. So it makes me angry and puts me in the bad mood to the rich.

When a girl walking alone or with her girlfriends 'hey belle,' 'sweetheart', 'love, follow with me', 'tut...tut', 'coo coo', are truly encountered to the girls. In fact this is not unfamiliar to those who are in any developing country like our country Myanmar. Those guys who commit these conducts do not seem or feel that they are engaging anything insult to the girls. When that issue is in the act of talking, just kidding isn't hurt,' bark around most guys. Of

they surely do something back them and they either say

back or like curse them out and

become much more aggressive

when they are outside. Especially outside, at least some

put on a stern face like they are mean and angry and they

have a habit of walking quickly. Obviously, women feel

afraid and unsafe when sexual words and gestures disrupt

their days. Low cut shirts or shorts or even a long dress

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ment could turn violent. It can happen in the blink of eye.

One minute they are really polite. The next they would

scream at you, trying to hit you or touch you. They know,

in this age, no one bothers to help you out.

course, they are teased because they wear revealing dress,' reasoned some. Ok, the girls go naked or in traditional costume or long or short or whatever, they would fall prey to verbal or nonverbal harassments in various ways.

Every day these women walk into the world and face the fact that they are seen as objects by some people to tease as a doll. Feeling the fear and uncomfortable in public space become routine. In Myanmar tradition, such events are shameful conduct among Myanmar girls. In most common, we are shy to share our experience to even our family members worrying that our families would reason out the event labeling us as being flutter. It has made realizing that we need to do more to make the streets safe and comfortable for women. The center of this entire catcalling thing, perhaps, is "men want to overpower us". Even though it is not true that they are superior to us but in that moment you feel lower or weaker, then you indeed are unknowingly welcoming their harassment as it is a high time for them to insult you.

Street harassment is an immediate call for all aspects. Harassment, groping on buses, cyber exploitation, rape, and so on arises as a silent emergency. This situation is heightened by high levels of social acceptance and a weak legal system. The authorized person who concerned needs to enforce law that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, and a strong justice system to underpin it. Although this is the Government's responsibility, we also have a personal responsibility. Therefore, empowerment and encouragement should have women to speak up against the harassment. Asserting and declaring the hard time to the public can discourage the harassers. Let the public know of your case is not taboo in Myanmar society. Never think of catcalling as a way to bring you down. What those guys' motive is, for you to be uncomfortable? Never let a stranger bother you. Feel confident with yourself as they just want a response from you and make you laughing-stock. They keep going until you are either afraid or aggressive. Bear in mind that there are laws for all of us. No girl is born to live in fear of violence, just because we are women. We have the right to live in peace everywhere in our homes and in our country.



FROM PAGE-S-1

and every bed was taken in all of the guest rooms. The only place to stay that they could find was with the animals. So, in the place where the animals slept, Mary gave birth to Jesus.

In those days, it was the custom to wrap newborn babies tightly in a long cloth called swaddling clothes and Jesus' bed was the manger that the animals ate their hay from. In the hills and fields outside Bethlehem, Shepherds looked after their sheep through the long night, the angel appeared before them and said, "Don't be afraid, I have good news for everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born for you and you will find the baby lying in a manger. Then many more angels appeared, lighting up the sky and the shepherds heard them praising God by singing: "Glory to God in highest and peace to everyone on earth. When the angels had gone the shepherds said to one another, let's go to Bethlehem to see what has happened. So, the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Then the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for sending his Son to be their savior.

The Wise Men in faraway saw a brand new bright star in the sky and guessed what it meant when Jesus was born. In fact, the wise men (astronomer) were well studied about the stars and had read in very old writings that a new star would appear when a great king was born; they set out to find the new king. The wise men followed the star towards Jerusalem

ask people: where is the child who born to be the king of Jews? Herod, the king of Judea heard this and it made him very angry to think that someone might be going to take his place as king. Herod sent for the wise men to follow the star until they had found the baby king and said, "When you have found him, let me know where he is so that I can go and worship him. But Herod did not tell them that he really had an evil plan in mind to kill the new king. The wise men followed the star to wards Bethlehem (where it said that the king would be born in) to stop and shine directly down upon the place where Jesus was.

The wise men entered the house where they now lived and found Jesus with Mary; they bowed down and worshiped him. The wise men spread the gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) they had brought before Jesus. When the wise men had gone, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream: "Get up, take Jesus and Mary and to escape to Egypt, because Herod is going to search for Jesus to kill him. So, Joseph got up took Jesus and Mary to left for Egypt to stay there until Herod died. After Herod had died, Joseph had another dream in which an angel appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up, take Jesus and Mary and go back to Israel. After 33 years of his ministry, Pilate handed over Jesus to be crucified on the cross. After the crucifixion of Jesus they buried in a tomb but he has risen from the dead and yet lives today.

Today, Christians and non-Christians

alike partake of Christian's celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ because Jesus was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. PEACE on earth and goodwill to man is the message of JESUS CHRIST. The spirit of this message is shared by not only Christians but also other religions too.

CHRISTMAS is an occasion for joy, for boundless love, for forgiveness, for good will and for redoubling efforts for true Peace throughout the globe. If we don't have goodwill toward all men in this world, we will destroy ourselves by misuse of our own instrument and our own power. If we have peace toward all mankind, the Peace shall never be a commodity that runs scarce, nor hard to forge.

So, let us therefore, think about who is JESUS??? JESUS is the beginning and the end. The great man in history. - JESUS had no servants, yet they called Him MASTER.. - JESUS had no degree, yet they called Him TEACHER.. - JESUS had no medicines, yet they called him HEALER. - JESUS had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. - He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. - He was buried in a tomb, but rises again, yet lives today and He will come back on earth in the near future. For the reason, we all celebrate the Birth of JESUS in every year. PEACE on EARTH!



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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| YANGON TO BANGKOK | | | | | BANGKOK TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR | | | | | KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO KUNMING | | | | | KUNMING TO YANGON | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|--|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--|
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | |
| PG706 | 5:50 | 8:10 | Daily | | TG2303 | 7:50 | 8:45 | Daily | | AK505 | 8:25 | 12:40 | Daily | | AK504 | 6:45 | 7:55 | Daily | | MU2580 | 10:55 | 14:35 | 2,4,6 | | MU2011 | 8:20 | 12:40 | 3 | |
| 8M335 | 7:30 | 9:15 | Daily | | PG701 | 8:45 | 9:40 | 1,2,3,4,6,7 | | MH741 | 11:15 | 15:45 | Daily | | MH740 | 9:10 | 10:25 | Daily | | MU2012 | 13:40 | 20:50 | 3 | | MU2579 | 9:10 | 9:55 | 2,4,6 | |
| UB-019 | 7:25 | 9:20 | Daily | | TG2301 | 9:35 | 10:30 | Daily | | OD551 | 12:25 | 16:45 | 1,4,7 | | OD550 | 10:15 | 11:30 | 1,4,7 | | MU9750 | 15:55 | 19:35 | 2,4,6 | | MU9749 | 13:45 | 14:45 | 2,4,6 | |
| TG2304 | 9:35 | 11:30 | Daily | | 8M336 | 10:40 | 11:25 | Daily | | MH743 | 16:10 | 20:30 | 1,4,6,7 | | MH742 | 13:55 | 15:05 | 1,4,6,7 | | MU9758 | 15:55 | 19:35 | 1,3,5,7 | | MU9757 | 14:10 | 14:55 | 1,3,5,7 | |
| PG702 | 10:30 | 12:30 | 1,2,3,4,6,7 | | UB020 | 10:20 | 11:15 | Daily | | AK503 | 19:10 | 23:30 | Daily | | AK502 | 17:20 | 18:30 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TG2302 | 11:20 | 13:15 | Daily | | PG707 | 13:45 | 14:40 | Daily | | OD553 | 23:55 | 4:20+1 | 2,3,5,6 | | OD552 | 21:45 | 22:55 | 2,3,5,6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PG708 | 15:35 | 17:35 | Daily | | PG703 | 16:50 | 17:45 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8M331 | 16:30 | 18:15 | Daily | | TG305 | 18:05 | 18:50 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UB-017 | 17:35 | 19:30 | Daily | | 8M332 | 19:15 | 20:00 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PG704 | 18:35 | 20:35 | Daily | | PG705 | 20:30 | 21:55 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TG306 | 19:50 | 21:45 | Daily | | UB018 | 20:30 | 21:25 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| YANGON TO DON MUEANG | | | | | DON MUEANG TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO HONG KONG | | | | | HONG KONG TO YANGON | | | | | MANDALAY TO BANGKOK | | | | | BANGKOK TO MANDALAY | | | | |
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | |
| DD4231 | 8:05 | 9:50 | Daily | | DD4230 | 6:20 | 7:05 | Daily | | UB8027 | 7:05 | 11:45 | 3,5,7 | | UB8028 | 12:45 | 14:30 | 3,5,7 | | PG710 | 14:30 | 16:55 | Daily | | PG709 | 12:15 | 13:40 | Daily | |
| FD252 | 8:45 | 10:30 | Daily | | FD251 | 7:30 | 8:15 | Daily | | KA251 | 1:25 | 6:00 | 1,2,3,4,6,7 | | KA250 | 21:50 | 23:35 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | | PG714 | 19:15 | 21:40 | Daily | | PG713 | 17:00 | 18:25 | Daily | |
| SL201 | 8:30 | 10:20 | 1,3,4,5,7 | | SL200 | 6:45 | 7:35 | 1,3,4,5,7 | | UB8027 | 7:05 | 11:45 | 3,5,7 | | KA254 | 14:20 | 16:10 | 1,3,5,7 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FD254 | 17:40 | 19:25 | Daily | | FD253 | 16:25 | 17:05 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FD258 | 21:40 | 23:30 | Daily | | FD257 | 20:30 | 21:10 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SL207 | 19:35 | 21:25 | 1,2,4,6,7 | | SL206 | 18:55 | 19:45 | 1,2,4,6,7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DD4239 | 21:00 | 22:45 | Daily | | DD4238 | 19:30 | 20:15 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| YANGON TO GUANGZHOU | | | | | GUANGZHOU TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO DHAKA | | | | | DHAKA TO YANGON | | | | | MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG | | | | | DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY | | | | |
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | |
| 8M711 | 8:40 | 13:15 | 2,4,5,7 | | CZ3055 | 8:30 | 10:20 | 3,6 | | BG061 | 14:15 | 16:00 | 1,3,6 | | BG060 | 10:45 | 13:30 | 1,3,6 | | FD245 | 12:45 | 15:00 | Daily | | FD244 | 11:00 | 12:15 | Daily | |
| CZ3056 | 11:25 | 15:55 | 3,6 | | 8M712 | 14:15 | 15:50 | 2,4,5,7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CZ3056 | 17:30 | 22:00 | 1,5 | | CZ3055 | 14:40 | 16:30 | 1,5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| YANGON TO SINGAPORE | | | | | SINGAPORE TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO DUBAI | | | | | DUBAI TO YANGON | | | | | MANDALAY TO KUNMING | | | | | KUNMING TO MANDALAY | | | | |
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | |
| UB001 | 7:15 | 23:45 | Daily | | SQ998 | 7:55 | 09:20 | Daily | | EK389 | 2:00 | 5:45 | 1,2,4,6 | | EK388 | 10:30 | 16:15 | 1,3,5,7 | | MU2568 | 12:55 | 15:30 | Daily | | MU2567 | 8:05 | 8:25 | Daily | |
| 8M231 | 8:20 | 12:40 | Daily | | 3K581 | 9:10 | 10:35 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | | | | | | | | | | | | MU2568 | 9:25 | 15:25 | Daily | | FD244 | 11:10 | 12:25 | Daily | |
| SQ997 | 10:25 | 15:10 | Daily | | UB002 | 13:00 | 14:30 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | MU2040 | 15:20 | 18:25 | 1,3,7 | | MU2029 | 13:50 | 14:20 | 1,3,7 | |
| 3K582 | 11:30 | 16:05 | 1,4,5,7 | | 8M232 | 13:45 | 15:15 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | MU9742 | 15:20 | 18:25 | 2,4,6 | | MU9741 | 13:50 | 14:20 | 2,4,6 | |
| UB003 | 16:00 | 20:30 | Daily | | MI518 | 15:15 | 16:40 | 1,2,4,6,7 | | | | | | | | | | | | MU9748 | 21:20 | 00:25 | 2,4 | | MU9747 | 20:05 | 20:20 | 2,4 | |
| MI519 | 17:35 | 22:10 | 1,2,4,5,7 | | MI520 | 14:10 | 17:35 | 3,4,5,6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MI521 | 18:30 | 22:55 | 3,4,5,6 | | 3K583 | 17:30 | 18:45 | 1,4,5,7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3K584 | 19:40 | 00:10 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | | UB004 | 21:15 | 22:45 | Daily | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON | | | | | SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO TOKYO | | | | | TOKYO TO YANGON | | | | | NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK | | | | | BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW | | | | |
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | |
| KE472 | 23:30 | 7:25 | Daily | | KE471 | 18:15 | 22:10 | Daily | | NH814 | 21:45 | 6:45+1 | Daily | | NH813 | 11:00 | 16:25 | Daily | | PG722 | 20:00 | 22:50 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | | PG721 | 17:25 | 19:20 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YANGON TO TAIPEI | | | | | TAIPEI TO YANGON | | | | | YANGON TO CHIANG MAI | | | | | CHIANG MAI TO YANGON | | | | | AIR LINES CODES | | | | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | FLIGHT | DEP | ARV | DATE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C17916 | 10:45 | 16:20 | Daily | | C17915 | 7:00 | 9:50 | Daily | | PG724 | 13:40 | 15:30 | 1,3,4,7 | | PG723 | 12:05 | 12:55 | 1,3,5,7 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| DATE | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1 = Monday | 4 = Thursday |
| 2 = Tuesday | 5 = Friday |
| 3 = Wednesday | 6 = Saturday |
| | 7 = Sunday |

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