

**NATIONAL**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins Catholic Cardinal Charles Bo for X'mas celebrations

PAGE-2

**NATIONAL**

QR Code, beta version of digital concierge system installed at Mandalay TadaU Airport

PAGE-2

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 26 December 2019

## Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of Kayin New Year Day

(26 December 2019)

**T**ODAY, the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, the first waxing day of Pyatho, Kayin Era 2759, is the auspicious Kayin New Year Day, honored, valued and held in high regard by all ethnic Kayin nationals. First, let me send these good wishes to you all to celebrate the Kayin New Year with auspiciousness and blessed with glad tidings and prosperity, happily and in good cheer.

At this auspicious time of the Kayin New Year, which is the harvest time of the new crop, as families celebrate the new harvest happily, I hope that you will be able to celebrate the auspicious Kayin New Year happily. I send these good wishes and pray that all the other ethnic brothers and sisters together with the Kayin ethnic nationals, find fulfillment of their good hopes and desires in the future.

SEE PAGE-3

## VP U Henry Van Thio attends closing ceremony of X'mas festival in downtown Yangon



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hluan pose for a group photo with Cardinal Charles Bo and attendees at the closing ceremony of Christmas Festival 2019 at the Saint Mary's Cathedral in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Closing ceremony of Christmas Festival 2019 in downtown Yangon was held

at Saint Mary's Cathedral at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Bo Aung Kyaw

Road in Botahtaung Township yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Vice Pres-

ident U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hluan, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing

Than and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

**LOCAL NEWS**

MR to run Yangon-Mandalay special trains during December holidays

PAGE-4



**LOCAL NEWS**

Illegal consignment of teak seized in Kyauktaga

PAGE-4



**BUSINESS**

India asked to extend mung bean import deadline, prescribe quota for next fiscal

PAGE-5



## Find solution based on discussions and negotiations

Our ethnic brothers and sisters must find a solution based on discussions and negotiations free from mistrust and firm in faith. From there, we can proceed in lasting solidarity for the emergence of a Constitution that is fitting for our country and in accordance with democratic practices and federal principles.

*(Extract from Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day Ceremony on 4 January 2019)*



## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins Catholic Cardinal Charles Bo for X'mas celebrations

COMMANDER in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joined Cardinal Charles Bo, the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Myanmar, for Christmas celebrations, at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, yesterday.

On arrival at the cathedral, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Cardinal Charles Bo and priests.

Catholic youth from Saint Mary's Cathedral of Kyauktan Township sang X'mas songs, and the Senior General presented them gifts and cash awards.

Cardinal Charles Bo said the blessing for the occasion, and the Senior General made Christmas wishes.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received X'mas gifts from Cardinal Charles Bo, and



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Cardinal Charles Bo, the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Myanmar, pose for a photo together with attendees at the Christmas celebration at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

handed over to him the donation of K5 million from the Tatmadaw families.

The ceremony was concluded with exchange of Christmas gifts, Merry Christmas wishes

of Bishop John Saw Yaw Han and lunch for Christmas feast, according to the report of the

Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## QR Code, beta version of digital concierge system installed at Mandalay TadaU Airport



Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister U Tin Latt and officials observe the use of QR code by the tourists at the Mandalay TadaU Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MOHT**

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism launched QR code and

beta version of digital concierge system at the Mandalay TadaU

Airport yesterday.

The digital concierge or

virtual concierge is a type of customer experience (CX) technology that provides guests with conversational and contextual assistance, and the system is used in conjunction with mobile devices.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister U Tin Latt and Mandalay Region Government's Planning and Finance Minister U Myat Thu cut a ceremonial ribbon to launch the system, and the officials observed the use of QR code by the tourists.

Following the ceremony, the Union Minister and party held a meeting with members of local tourism committees, officials from Myanmar Tourism Federation and partner associations and hoteliers.

The meeting focused on promoting tourism industry of Myanmar with the use of dig-

ital technology, cooperation between the state and private sectors, synchronizing with e-Government system and green services of the ministry.

Minister U Myat Thu, also Vice Chairman of Mandalay Region Tourism Committee, detailed about the committee's works on promotion plans, permissions for construction of hotels and guesthouses, issuing business licenses and tourism development in Bagan area.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party held another meeting with Mandalay Region Tourism Committee Chairman and Acting Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Zarny Aung and regional government ministers to discuss tourism development and safety measures for visitors.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

# Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of Kayin New Year Day

(26 December 2019)

**FROM PAGE-1**

Kayin nationals are ethnic nationals who have good qualities such as honesty, diligence, loyalty and ability to perform tasks with decisiveness and effectiveness. Kayin nationals have preserved for ages the good and noble cultures, arts and traditions which have been passed on from generation to generation by their ancestors.

Just like other citizens, Kayin ethnic nationals have seen and understood, based on their life experiences, the need to attain long lasting and stable peace for national development; this is because Myanmar has suffered heavily the ravages of internal armed conflicts for many decades.

As we walk on the path towards a Democratic Federal Union, which is the goal of national reconciliation and union peace, we are walking hand in hand with fellow builders of the Union in weal and woe. It is heartening to note that Kayin nationals have been working with the Union Government, meeting all difficulties

and challenges by sharing views and having close consultations, looking ahead to a future after the 2020 elections, implementing step by step with pragmatic methods, to create a stable path.

I pray that the good and noble traditions, cultures, arts, historical heritages which have been preserved by the ancestors will be maintained and preserved. I also pray that the noble Union spirit will be passed on to the future generations. May this year's Kayin New Year, 2759 provide strong impetus. May all the Kayin ethnic nationals living in Kayin State and other parts of the Union have continued progress and development. May you have abundance of paddy, rice, water and prosperity. These are the sincere good wishes I send to you today.

*Aung San Suu Kyi  
State Counsellor*



People celebrate the Christmas Day in downtown Yangon on 25 December, 2019. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

**FROM PAGE-1**

and wife, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and wife, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in Yangon Cardinal Charles Bo, members

of Myanmar Council of Churches, priests and invited guests.

Rev. Fr. Hyginus Myint Soe made wishes for the ceremony, and the Yangon Region Chief Minister appraised the birth

of baby Jesus.

Reverend Mahn Palmerston, the General Secretary Myanmar Council of Churches, said the blessings.

Archbishop of the Roman

Catholic Archdiocese in Yangon Cardinal Charles Bo said the good news of Christmas.

U Patric Lu Ni, the chairman of committee for organizing the festival, expressed thanks for the event, and Bishop John Saw Yaw Han said blessings.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe announced the closure of festival.

Then, the Vice President

and attendees had a documentary photo taken in the compound of cathedral.

The Christmas Festival 2019 in downtown Yangon was joyously held near the City Hall in front of Maha Bandula Park and along Bogyoke Aung San Road in festive mood and decorations from 23 to 25 December.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



People gather outside the Immanuel Baptist Church in downtown Yangon on 25 December, 2019. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

## MWA accepts donations for elderly writers

A DONATION ceremony to support elderly writers was held yesterday at the office of the Myanmar Writers Association on Pansondan Road in Yangon.

A total of K57.848 million was collected at the ceremony. Of the total donations, K8.37 million came from the President's Office, and the remaining funds were contributed by the Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Myanmar Press Council, political parties, media and literary organizations, townships' writers associations, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, retired Tatmadaw officers and ambassadors, writers' family members, individual donors, and film fraternity members.

Chairman of the Myanmar Writers Association (MWA) U Kyaw Win (Sayar Manutha Kyaw Win) accepted the donated cash, while MWA fund raising committee chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) expressed thanks for the contributions.

A ceremony to honour writers aged over 80 years, including MWA members and famous writers, will be held on 28 December at the Yangon City Hall in Yangon. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) delivers the appreciation speech at the donation ceremony to support elderly writers in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

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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.

**MR to run Yangon–Mandalay special trains during December holidays**

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanma Railways (MR) has announced a special up and down train service between Yangon and Mandalay during the December holidays to ensure smooth transportation for travellers.

The special trains will run along the Yangon-Mandalay route on 27 and 30 December and along the Mandalay-Yangon route on 29 December and 1 January.

The up trains will leave Yangon at 4:30 pm and arrive in Mandalay at 10:15 am the next day. The down trains will depart from Mandalay at 5 pm and arrive in Yangon at 11 am the next day.

The special trains will have eight ordinary class coaches, four upper-class seaters, one upper class sleeper, and one brake van. The special trains will halt at Toe Gyaung Kalay, Bago, Daik-U,



The special trains will be run along Yangon-Mandalay route from 27 to 30 December and along Mandalay-Yangon route from 29 December to 1 January. **PHOTO: MYANMA RAILWAYS**

Pyuntaza, Nyaunglebin, Peinzalot, Kyauktaga, Kanyutkwin, Pyu, Toungoo, Ela, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, Tatfone, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Nyaungyan, Thazi, Thetaw, Myittha, and Kyaukse stations.

Sale of upper class tickets for the 27 December train began on 25 December.

Yangon-Mandalay train tickets are priced at K9,300 for upper-class coaches, K4,650 for ordinary class coaches, and

K12,750 for upper class sleepers. Tickets for the special trains will be sold from 7 am at the Yangon Central Railway Station, according to MR.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

**Migratory birds arrive in Tanintharyi Region for winter**

MIGRATORY birds have settled in some areas of Tanintharyi Region for winter, and their migration is the very first time to this area, said the locals.

The fleets of these birds were found in some villages of Tanintharyi Township and Mawtaung Town.

Officials from Forest Department said they will erect educative posters not to catch or kill these beneficial birds which eat harmful snails in the paddy fields. Migratory birds flew from Siberian Plain of Russia, and they normally settled in upper and central areas of Myanmar for winter. —Nan Thar Yi Htein Win (IPRD)



A flock of migratory birds sit along a lake in Tanintharyi Region for the winter.

**PHOTO: NAN THAR YI HTEIN WIN (IPRD)**

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Forest officials check illegally cut teak logs in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region. **PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUKTAGA)**

**Illegal consignment of teak seized in Kyauktaga**

OFFICIALS on Tuesday seized an illegal consignment of teak, weighing over 3 tons, near the Bago Yoma mountain 12 miles village, MyoChaung-Sein Kant Lant road, Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region.

A combined team comprising officials from the Forest Department and Forest Security Police conducted a search along Myo Chaung-Sein Kant Lant Road and flagged a suspected vehicle. But, the vehicle's driver

did not stop and drove away.

The team found the vehicle near Baidar Forest Reserve Area 85. The driver had fled the scene. When police officers searched the vehicle, they found 31 teak lumbers, weighing 3.023 tons. The teak and the vehicle were seized and brought to the Myo Chaung Kayar Phoo camp over night. The police have filed a case under Section 43(A) of the Forest Law.—Khin Ko (Kyauktaga) (Translated by Hay Mar)

# India asked to extend mung bean import deadline, prescribe quota for next fiscal

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA) has submitted a request through the Ministry of Commerce to the Indian authorities, asking them to extend the mung bean import deadline and specify the import quota for mung beans for the next financial year.

India has announced that Myanmar needs to export 250,000 tons of mung beans to the country by 31 March.

For the 2019-2020FY, India had announced an import quota of 150,000 tons for mung beans. However, the India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade under Ministry of Commerce and Industry released a notice on 12 December, asking Myanmar to export 250,000 tons of mung beans to India by 31 March.

"We have to export mung beans to India by 31 March, which is the ending date of the Indian financial year. We will have to send the mung beans before 15 March so that the mung beans will reach India by 31 March. It remained only two-and-a-half months before



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

the deadline. There are only 100,000 tons of mung beans in domestic stock. New mung beans will be harvested at the end of February, 2020. We may have sufficient quantity of mung beans to export to India in 2020. There will be additional

150,000 tons of new mung beans in February. But, nothing is impossible to export 250,000 tons of mung beans in just two or two-and-a-half months. So, our association has requested India to extend the mung bean import deadline through the Ministry of

Commerce. We have requested that the deadline be extended until the end of April. We have also asked them to determine how many tons of beans will they import in the next financial year," said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of MPBSSMA.

This year, India followed an import quota system again because its domestic supply of monsoon mung beans was lower on account of climate change. Although Myanmar has asked India to purchase the beans through a government-to-government system, India is still buying the beans through an import quota system.

"India has been practicing the import quota system for the benefit of their own country since 2017. Canada and Australia are also bean exporter countries. They can export more than us. They have complained to the World Trade Organization. However, India is still pursuing the same policy. Now, they are purchasing more mung beans from Myanmar because of their rising need," said U Min Ko Oo.

In the two months of the 2019-2020FY, a total of 210,000 tons of mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries. Mung beans made up more than 120,000 tons of the total bean exports, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Thai-Myanmar border trade up \$97.5 mln in current FY

THE value of Thailand-Myanmar border trade in the period from 1 October to 13 December in the 2019-2020 financial year amounted to US\$774.4 million, an increase of \$97.5 million against the previous FY, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade figure included \$544.4 million in exports and \$229.96 million in imports. During the same period in the previous FY, bilateral border trade was pegged at \$676.92 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighboring Thailand mainly through seven

border checkpoints – Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, and Maese.

From 1 October to 13 December this year, the Hteekhee border gate recorded the highest trade value of \$411.4 million, followed by Myawady (\$221.69 million) and Kawthoung (\$74.6 million).

Besides Thailand, Myanmar is also trading with neighboring countries of China, India, and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw, and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar conducts bor-

der trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country trades with Bangladesh through the Sittway and Maungtau checkpoints. As of 13 December this FY, border trade totaled nearly \$2.27 billion, an increase of \$605 million from the 2018-2019FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, forest products, animal products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial goods, and consumer products.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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## JPN could release Fukushima radioactive water

TOKYO — A Japanese government agency has proposed releasing radioactive water from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant into the environment, as storage space runs out.

The plant suffered a meltdown about nine years ago after it was hit by an earthquake-triggered tsunami. About a million tonnes of contaminated water has built up since then and the tanks that hold it are almost full.

The government's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy on Monday proposed three ways to deal with the water — releasing it into the sea, into the air using vaporisation or a combination of the two. "There is no option (any longer) of simply storing the water for a long period of time,"



Storage tanks holding radioactive water at Japan's crippled Fukushima power plant. **PHOTO: AFP**

an agency official told AFP on Tuesday.

An extensive pumping and filtration system is in place at the plant, which each day brings up tonnes of newly contaminated water and filters out almost all radioactive elements.

The process leaves only tritium, which experts say is only harmful to humans in very large doses.

No decision was taken at Monday's meeting but "no members voiced opposition to the view that a technically realistic way

is discharging the water into the sea or the air," according to the agency official.

The panel has been discussing how to dispose of the liquid for years and no deadline has been set for it to report to the government.—AFP ■

## Three immigration officials abducted by AA in Buthidaung

THREE immigration officials who were returning to their unit after taking leave were abducted in Buthidaung on 24 December afternoon by members of the AA group, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

A boat carrying passengers, including the staff from the Immigration and Population Department, was headed to Taungbazar Village along the Mayyu River when it was stopped by a civilian at Kyaukyit village in Nanyargon village-tract.

When the boat anchored at the village, about five AA members dressed in civilian clothes checked the passengers at gunpoint and abducted the three civil servants, including Assistant Director of the Immigration and Population Department U Tin Myo Aung, and released the boat.

Local security forces have launched an investigation into the case and are searching for the three abducted men, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

## Vietnam seizes two tonnes of ivory and pangolin scales

HANOI — Vietnam seized more than two tonnes of ivory tusks and pangolin scales hidden inside wooden boxes shipped from Nigeria, state media reported Tuesday.

The bust comes at the end of a year of big wildlife seizures destined for communist Vietnam, a hotbed of the illicit but lucrative trade in animal parts from elephants, pangolins, tigers and rhinos.

Authorities in northern

Hai Phong city found 330 kilograms (730 pounds) of ivory and 1.7 tonnes of pangolin scales after checking three container shipments from Nigeria, according to Hai Quan Online, the official mouthpiece of Vietnam's customs department.

The manifest listed the goods as high-end lumber, the online site said, adding that the haul was hidden in boxes at the back of the containers.

Published photos showed a rectangular wooden box full of pangolin scales, with elephant tusks mixed in.

Both items are highly sought after on the multi-billion-dollar illegal wildlife market.

Vietnam outlawed the ivory trade in 1992, but the illegal market still persists and shops sell items pre-dating the ban for decorative and medicinal purposes.—AFP ■



Even though their scales have been scientifically proven to be medically useless, the pangolin has become the world's most trafficked animal. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Survival surfing: Indonesians riding the waves to beat tsunami trauma



Dery Setyawan, who lost most of his family and friends in the 2004 tsunami, hopes tourism will revive his hometown. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAKARTA — Surfboard tucked under his arm, Dery Setyawan sprints into the crashing waves.

It is not just a physical challenge but an emotional one — most of his family and friends were swept to their deaths when a tsunami hit these shores 15 years ago.

His hometown of Lampuuk was almost destroyed entirely, but despite his devastating loss, the father-of-two sees the water as a way to heal.

"Surfing has been the best cure for my tsunami trauma. When I am on the waves, all my fears are gone and I can embrace the past and be at peace with it," he says.

On December 26, 2004, a

monstrous 9.3 magnitude quake struck undersea off the coast of Sumatra. It sparked a tsunami nearly 100 feet (30 meters) high that killed more than 220,000 across a string of Indian Ocean countries, including Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

Reaching as far as East Africa, the tsunami unleashed energy equivalent to 23,000 of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima -- and is considered among the deadliest natural disasters in history.

Indonesia was hardest hit with at least 170,000 killed, though the true death toll is likely to be higher as many bodies have yet to be recovered or identified.—AFP ■

## Pope prays for peace in global flashpoints

VATICAN — Pope Francis appealed for peace in many of the world's hotspots, singling out the crises in the Middle East, Venezuela and Lebanon as well as armed conflicts ravaging many African countries.

"May Christ bring his light to the many children suffering from war and conflicts in the Middle East and in various countries of the world," the 83-year-old pontiff said in his traditional Christmas message at the Vatican.

"May he bring comfort to the beloved Syrian people who still see no end to the hostilities that have rent their country over the last decade," he said, urging the international community to find solutions to allow the peoples of that region to live together in peace and security."

He used his "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and the World) speech to call for a resolution to the crisis in Lebanon, where he hoped for



Pope Francis ushered in Christmas at the Vatican with his Christmas Eve Mass. PHOTO: AFP

a return to "harmonious coexistence". In the Middle East, notably Iraq and Yemen, the pope lamented that "so many people — struggling but not discouraged — still await a time of peace, security and prosperity."

The Argentinian pope, noting that in South America "a number of nations are experiencing a time

of social and political upheaval," urged that "the beloved Venezuelan people... receive the aid they need." He said the continent's crises and "many forms of poverty... offend the dignity of each person."

The pontiff also noted that "beloved Ukraine... yearns for concrete solutions for an enduring peace."—AFP ■

## Israeli airstrikes in Iraq target Iranian weapons: military chief

JERUSALEM — Israeli military's chief said Wednesday that Israel "has carried out actions" in Iraq to foil convoys of weapons that could be used against Israel.

Aviv Kohavi made the rare acknowledgment during a speech in a conference in the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, a private research college outside Tel Aviv.

Kohavi told the security conference that Iranian weapons "are being transferred freely from Iraq" and "we cannot let it go on without addressing it."

It was the first time an Israeli official admitted Israel has attacked sites in Iraq. Israel has been accused of carrying out a series of airstrikes

in Iraq, starting in July.

The United States confirmed that Israel was behind at least one of these strikes, which targeted an Iranian weapons depot, but Israel has never officially commented on the issue.

Kohavi identified efforts by Iran and its proxies in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon as a major threat to Israel.

The Israeli army has been increasingly concerned by the presence of the Quds Force, Iran's overseas elite, and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed Lebanese group, in Syria.

Hezbollah, according to Israeli intelligence, has recently acquired precision missiles that could target Israel.

— Xinhua ■

## Indian diaspora in US holds rallies in support of Citizenship Amendment Act

NEW YORK — The Indian diaspora in the US belonging to several organisations showed their solidarity to recently enacted Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) by the Indian government, by holding rallies in cities such as Seattle (WA), Austin (TX), Dublin (OH), Houston (TX), Raleigh (NC).

The rallies are aimed at dispelling the misinformation and myths surrounding the act as well as to counter the planned deliberate propaganda of hate, lies and downright absurdities spread by US-based Pakistanis, supporters of Indian National Congress and other opposition parties and some Leftist Organisations. Seattle (WA) rally was held on December 21 at Victor Steinbrueck Park, Austin (TX) rally on December 22 near Capitol Building, Houston (TX) rally on December 20 at Indian

Consulate, Dublin (OH) rally on December 22 at Ted Kaltenbach Park, Raleigh (NC) on December 22 at Nash Square Park.

Further rallies are being planned in the coming weeks at Dallas, Chicago, San Francisco, NYC, DC, Atlanta, San Jose and other locations. Archana Sunil who is one of the organisers of Seattle rally countering the anti-CAA rally by Indian American Muslim Council and other leftist Organizations at Victor Steinbrueck Park noted, "The anti-CAA rally signs were stating lies about Muslims being discriminated in India, Indian Muslims need to prove their citizenship, Modi being Hitler, CAA and NRC akin to genocide etc., .. they kept shouting, 'azaadi azaadi .. hum azaadi leke rahenge' and 'Jai Hind', but never said, 'Bharata Mata ki Jai'". — ANI ■



Image for representation. Photograph:( AFP )

## Heavy hearts as Notre-Dame misses Xmas mass for first time since 1803



A picture taken on Dec 19, 2019 shows cranes outside the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS — Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris was unable to hold Christmas Eve Mass for the first time in more than 200 years — after a fire ravaged its structure in April.

With heavy hearts, French Catholics instead gathered at the nearby church of Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, a few hundred metres away, for a service celebrated by the cathedral's rector Patrick Chauvet.

"It isn't the same feeling but it's still a Christmas Mass," said 16-year-old Juliette, who had made the 700-kilometre trip from Aix with her family. "There will be a thought for Notre-Dame tonight, that's for sure."

"We have been crying since

April 15, and today even more," said Danielle, a Parisian, who attended last year's mass at the Paris landmark. However, she was lifted by the choir of Notre-Dame, who performed at the mass.

Meanwhile, workers continue to repair and rebuild the cherished cathedral.

Notre-Dame, part of a UNESCO world heritage site on the banks of the River Seine lost its gothic spire, roof and many precious artefacts in the fire, which was watched by huge crowds.

The building had remained open for Christmas through two centuries of often tumultuous history — including the Nazi occupation in World War II —

being forced to close only during the anti-Catholic revolutionary period in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

President Emmanuel Macron has set a timetable of five years to completely repair the eight-centuries-old structure, which remains shrouded in scaffolding with a vast crane looming over it. Paris prosecutors suspect criminal negligence and opened an investigation in June, suggesting a stray cigarette butt or an electrical fault could be the culprit.

The culture ministry said in October that nearly one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) had been pledged or raised for the reconstruction.—AFP ■

# Awakening national pride through sporting success

**T**HE annual Students' Sports Festival, which started in 1998 and was suspended since 2012, resumed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, raising hopes of producing talented athletes who can earn laurels for the country in international competitions.

Students from the regions and states are taking part in the 2019-2020 edition of the festival.

The festival is being held as part of efforts to achieve success in the 12th ASEAN Students Sports Festival in 2020.

The students sports festival can help produce young talented athletes, develop sports at the national level, and gain recognition at the international level. In these efforts, not just the skills of athletes, but the efforts of coaches and managers play an important role.

For the development of sports in the country, a symposium attended by principals, trainers, coaches, and athletes of the country's six institutes is an urgent need so that methods of athlete selection can be reviewed and standards for the six institutes can be set.

The Ministry of Health and Sports must invest more in providing more nutritious food to athletes, and athletes, on their part, must commit to becoming outstanding players by training with zeal.

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Sports can help us understand the strength in our diversity and that our unity is our strength. We all celebrate the achievements of all players, regardless of their ethnicity.

We would be better off if we invest in sports and utilize its unifying appeal. After all, if we can create a generation of heroes who bring pride to our motherland, then we may truly become a nation bonded by freedom, peace, and unity.



# Weak Students

By Professor Dr Maung

## Weak students in the class

Along the carrier as a teacher, I have encountered weak students in every batches, whose performances were far below satisfactory. I feel it is my primary duty as a teacher to help them and make them successful in their academic endeavor.

Because of two reasons. Firstly, these weak students require more attention and closer supervision. More importantly, the future life of these students is in the hands of teachers. If we see them as voyagers who are travelling by a boat, they are like those tangling the edges of the boat. Anytime, they will drop into the water and left behind.

I have joined the teaching profession as soon as I was graduated as a medical doctor, mainly because I prefer to deal with the students rather than with the patients. In my early days of teaching, when I encountered weak students who repeatedly failed in exams, I regarded them as scandalous, lazy and stupid.

However, for now, after nearly 40 years of dealing with them, my outlook upon them is changed. I view them as equivalent to patients who are coming to a doctor. The patients are sick people who are having defective physical and mental health. The weak students, to me, are like patients. They are defective in knowledge and behavior in academic endeavor. As it is the duty of a doctor to treat the patient to become healthy, so is the duty of a teacher to teach the weak students to become successful.

In this article I am presenting the ways to coach the weak students based on my experiences.

**Firstly, loving kindness and sincere volition**

I feel there is a perceptual connection between a student and a teacher. Through this connection, a student can sense whether the teacher is truly having-kind intention upon him to become a good guy and successful.

I found that the loving kindness and sincere volition of the teacher is the real touching factor for the student to change him.

## Study Behavior

Understanding the difference between 'Hard study' and 'Smart study' will help the student to study effectively.

I usually tell the students in



A huge heavy stone that cannot be moved by bare hands can be easily done so by using a Lever is an analogy of effective study.

my lectures about a 'Lever' as an example of Smart study. The mechanism of a Lever is based on the principle of 'Mechanical advantage' in Physic. The fact that, a huge heavy stone that cannot be moved by bare hands can be easily done so by using a Lever is an analogy of effective study.

## Peer Learning/Collaborative Learning

I found that grouping the weak students and let them learn from each other by doing discussion among themselves is the effective method of learning for them. This is to involve all the students in the active discussion on a topic given prior to them. The role of a teacher is just to prompt all of them to participate in the discussion. The teacher is taking the seat out of the group or behind the group to let the students making discussion to each other.

Peer Learning has a number of advantages.

1. Students often learn better from each other than from a teacher.
2. It is the more interesting way of learning than by learning alone.
3. Students can practice the basic of teamwork as it builds mutual respect for and confidence in one another.
4. It is the active way of learning, rather than as passive recipients of information transmitted by the teacher.
5. Students can realize their own

The patients are sick people who are having defective physical and mental health. The weak students, to me, are like patients. They are defective in knowledge and behavior in academic endeavor. As it is the duty of a doctor to treat the patient to become healthy, so is the duty of a teacher to teach the weak students to become successful.

6. Students can exchange the understandings among each other.
7. Students can practice in searching, collecting, analyzing, evaluating and organizing the information for presentation.
8. By explaining to others, students can vividly remember what is already learned.

## Sitting at the front seats during a lecture

Asking them to seat at the front seats during a lecture make them feel that they are under attention by the teacher. Moreover, they are also prevented from being distracted by others.

## Note Taking

Having clear and complete notes help them learning the information and also help them to be reviewed before a test. They should be guided in doing a good note-taking.

## Time management

All successful persons who are top on their respective fields are having the habit of effective time management. The principles of proper time management can plan their daily schedule effectively.

## Practicing the old exam questions

It is different between the understanding the subject matter and being able to answering it in the exam. Asking them to

practice the old exam questions so that they can answer according to what is asking within time allotment.

## Taking care of Health

Indoor games, group physical activities, and group mindfulness practice are to be scheduled.

## Extra curriculum activities

Group discussion and comments on a particular article, biography, or on a chapter of a book are helpful to gain their extra curriculum knowledge.

Outdoor activities such as camping, short trips, and long-distance walking are to be arranged at the end of some week-ends.

## Challenges to be faced

To me, it is important for a teacher to understand the principles of 'Peer Learning/Collaborative Learning' if he is using this method. He should also be tactful to prompt the silent students and vocal students equally participate in the discussion.

The size of the group also matters. The number of students should not exceed 12 in a group so that each and every one has a chance of participating in discussion.

The main challenge I faced was the absentees. A student, when absent for twice, might have issues beyond the academic reasons. One of the students among them, I noticed, was absent for

quite often. When I personally discussed with her, it was revealed that her boyfriend was not happy about this session. So, after her boyfriend was put into the group, the problem was solved. Other issues such as health condition, family matters, financial matters, substances abuses, or indulgence in gambling, cannot be solved by teacher alone. In these cases, necessary coordinated managements should be looked for.

## Self-assessment

At the end of each lesson, a simple self-assessment by answering four questions will be helpful as the feed-back for the progress. These questions are to tick the corresponding box on a paper, anonymously.

1. I don't understand yet .....
2. I am beginning to understand .....
3. I understand, and I can do this by myself .....
4. I understand, and I can teach someone else ....

## Take away

There are weak students in every batches of the classes, whose future life are in the hands of the teacher.

It is the important duty of a teacher to make them successful in their academic endeavor.

It will be an extra burden and out of the routine for a teacher to take care of these students. This is why loving kindness and genuine volition upon them are required to do so.

The values of loving kindness and genuine volition cannot be measured in terms of money. However, these will definitely give rise to righteous results.

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# 2020, 72<sup>nd</sup> 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.

# Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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## Typhoon misery for Philippines on Christmas Day

MANILA — Typhoon Phanfone pummelled the central Philippines on Christmas Day, bringing a wet, miserable and terrifying holiday to millions in the mainly Catholic nation.

Police said six people were missing as the typhoon leapt from one small island to another for the second day — crumbling houses, toppling trees and blacking out cities and towns, including in popular resorts like Boracay.

At the height of the festive season on Wednesday, tens of thousands were stranded at shuttered ports or evacuation centres while the rest of the region's population covered in rain-soaked homes.

Though weaker, Phanfone was tracking a similar path to Super Typhoon Haiyan, the country's deadliest cyclone on record



Parts of the central Philippines have been half-submerged by brown-coloured floods. PHOTO: AFP

which left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in 2013.

A father, his three children and two other relatives were missing after their hut was

swept away early Wednesday when heavy rain caused a creek to overflow near the town of Balasan, provincial police told AFP.

More than 16,000 people

spent the night in improvised shelters in schools, gyms and government buildings as the typhoon first made landfall Tuesday, civil defence officials said.—AFP ■

## Single Chinese woman sues over egg freezing

BEIJING — A single woman in China has gone to court challenging rules that forbid unmarried women from freezing their eggs in the first case of its kind in the country.

Teresa Xu said she was prompted to take legal action after a top hospital in Beijing declined to freeze her eggs last year, and instead told her to “get married, and have a child soon”.

“There is a huge demand among young women in China — whether married or single — to freeze their eggs as they delay the decision to have a child,” Xu told AFP.

“But clinics refuse single women, because of unfair laws.”

Chinese regulations forbid unmarried women from freezing their eggs unless they have a health reason, such as cancer.

A Beijing court on Monday agreed to hear Xu's case against the hospital, nearly six months

after it was filed.

The 31-year old, who works as a freelance editor, said she had also written to a member of China's parliament, hoping that the issue of reproductive restrictions faced by unmarried women could be raised when the legislature meets in March.

Unmarried women in China are also largely barred from accessing assisted reproductive technologies including in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment or sperm banks.

The restrictions hark back to a time when the Communist party attempted to strictly control population growth with its one-child policy. The Chinese government has attempted to boost birth rates in recent years, allowing all couples to have two children from 2016, but single mothers still face discrimination and legal hurdles when attempting to register a birth.—AFP ■



Unmarried women in China are also largely barred from accessing assisted reproductive technologies including in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment or sperm banks. PHOTO: AFP

## Popular Japanese boy band Arashi tapped as goodwill envoy to China



A man passes by banners picturing Japanese all-male idol group Arashi (c) in Tokyo, on 13 November, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHENGDU — The Japanese government said Wednesday that it has tapped popular Japanese boy band Arashi as a goodwill ambassador to promote cultural and sports exchanges with China ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

During his stay in China from Monday, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Chinese leaders about the decision to ask Arashi — also popular in China — to play a key role in accelerating people-to-people exchanges between the two neighbors.

The group will serve as a goodwill ambassador for one

year through 31 December, 2020, the government said. Arashi has announced it is scheduled to suspend its activities at the end of that year.

One of the many male idol groups promoted by Japan's giant entertainment agency Johnny & Associates Inc., Arashi members have been active as a group and individually, not only in music but in movies, TV dramas, variety shows and commercials since making their debut in 1999.

Arashi is composed of five members — leader Satoshi Ono, Sho Sakurai, Masaki Aiba, Kazunari Ninomiya and Jun Matsumoto.—Kyodo News ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Thai court accepts 'Illuminati' case against opposition party

BANGKOK — A Thai court on Wednesday said it would rule on a complaint to dissolve an upstart opposition party over alleged plots to overthrow the constitutional monarchy, a decision that could test the stability of the new government.

The accusations against the Future Forward Party link its upside-down triangle logo to the supposed symbol of the Illuminati, which many conspiracy theorists — without offering serious evidence — claim is a secret society pursuing world domination.

On 21 January, judges of the Constitutional Court will rule on whether Future Forward, its frontman Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit and other party executives carried out “actions” against the constitutional monarchy, the court said in a statement. It did not provide any details about those actions.—AFP

### Hong Kong protests continue on Christmas, police use tear gas

HONG KONG — Hong Kong anti-government protesters staged rallies in tourist hotspots in Kowloon from Tuesday into early Christmas Day, with police using tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and other projectiles in efforts to disperse crowds that had gathered in the streets by nightfall.

Police deployed in and around malls in the Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok areas, while a water cannon vehicle on the main route of Nathan Road was used to clear makeshift roadblocks set up by protesters and blast water at those fleeing down alleys.

An HSBC bank in Mong Kok was vandalized, as were some traffic lights and a subway entrance that was set on fire, local media footage showed. Protesters have in online forums called for people to fill shopping malls across the territory to sing Christmas carols and protest songs with the aim of forcing shop closures, and for them to later join a countdown rally at the Clock Tower near the shoreline in Tsim Sha Tsui.—Kyodo News

## S Korea's retail sales grow in November on year-end shopping festival

SEOUL — Retail sales in South Korea grew last month as a year-end shopping festival buoyed both online and offline sales, a government report said Wednesday.

The combined sales of 26 major online and offline retailers increased 7.5 per cent in November from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It came as the Korea Sale FESTA, a South Korean version of Black Friday, ran for three weeks from 1 November. Consumers raised the purchased of discount products during the country's biggest shopping season.

Offline sales rose 2.4 per cent in the month, marking the first increase in three months. Online sales advanced 14.8 per cent, keeping a double-digit expansion for four straight months.

Revenue of major department stores and discount outlets grew 3.1 per cent and 0.8 per cent



FILE PHOTO: A group of women pose for photos with a giant bear at a 'Line' store in the popular Myeongdong shopping district of Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: XINHUA

each, while convenience stores posted a 4.6 per cent growth in revenue last month.

Hypermarket stores saw a 3.3 per cent reduction in revenue in November from a year

earlier as consumers rushed to department stores and discount chains.—Xinhua ■

## Changing times put I.Coast's rubber industry under pressure

YAMO USSOUKRO — A decade after rubber was heavily promoted as a goldmine for Ivory Coast's cocoa-dependent economy, planters are under pressure to address criticism that they are damaging the environment and weakening the country's ability to feed itself.

"Well-managed rubber production is an asset," said Eugene Kremien, the president of the Association of Professionals of Natural Rubber (APROMAC), whose detractors argue that plantations exhaust the soil and endanger food security and forests.

The association is seeking to show that the rubber industry can meet mounting demands for sustainability, both for the environment and its producers.

The stakes are high in a country that produces 60 per cent of Africa's rubber and holds seventh place worldwide. Annual Ivorian production is 624,000 tonnes and some forecasts hold that it may reach one million.

Some 160,000 producers earn their living from rubber plantations and employ tens of thousands of workers who "tap" the hevea trees by cutting grooves into the bark to make the latex — natural rubber — bleed out into cups.

### 'Lured by quick gains'

At the end of 2010, when world rubber prices were high, conditions were ripe for a boom.

The Ivorian government invested 40 million euros (\$44.3 million) to promote production, leading to the creation of 110,000 hectares (about 270,000 acres) of new plantations.

The state provided training in the different skills of the rubber business and helped open tracks in rural areas to transport produce.

Since rubber trees are productive 10 months of the year, compared with one or two annual harvests for other crops, many peasant farmers turned away from their traditional cultures in a rush for "white gold".—AFP ■

## Uber co-founder Travis Kalanick severs last ties to company

NEW YORK — About a decade after co-founding Uber, Travis Kalanick on Tuesday severed his last ties with the ride-hailing giant, announcing he would exit the board of directors at the end of 2019.

Kalanick, who was pushed out as chief executive in 2017 amid revelations about the controversial business practices that accompanied the company's stunning rise, will resign from the board of directors effective 31 December "to focus on his new business and philanthropic endeavors," Uber said in a statement.

"Uber has been a part of my life for the past 10 years. At the close of the decade, and with the company now public, it seems like the right moment for me to focus on my current business and philanthropic pursuits," Kalanick, 43, said in a statement released

by the company.

"I'm proud of all that Uber has achieved, and I will continue to cheer for its future from the sidelines."

In March 2018, Kalanick announced the creation of a new investment vehicle, 10100, that will focus on both for-profit and non-profit ventures. The key areas of focus for the fund include real estate, e-commerce and innovation in China and India.

Among his most recent ventures, Kalanick has developed the so-called "ghost kitchen" company, CloudKitchens, which will rent communal kitchens near population centers that can prepare food for delivery services.

Even before Tuesday's announcement, Kalanick had taken steps to further distance himself from Uber, selling a large portion of his shares in early November.

The youthful Kalanick has



Former chief executive Travis Kalanick will depart Uber's board of directors by the end of the year, the company said on 24 December, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

been the personification of the go-go Silicon Valley disruptor associated with visionary entrepreneurship that upends traditional businesses, accompanies by unfettered growth.

### Growth and growing pains

Kalanick and fellow Uber co-founder Garrett Camp got the idea for Uber while visiting

Paris in December 2008 when they were unable to find a taxi.

UberCab launched in July 2010 in San Francisco. The company name was shortened in October to Uber.

The venture has grown rapidly since then, with operations in 700 cities in 65 countries at the time of its initial public offering in May.—AFP ■

## Nissan accepts resignation of recently appointed No. 3 exec

TOKYO — Nissan Motor Co. said Wednesday a top executive who took his position in a leadership revamp this month will leave the company, throwing the

automaker's efforts to move on from last year's arrest of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn into disarray.

Nissan did not disclose the

reasons for the departure of Jun Seki, who took the Japanese automaker's No. 3 post of vice-chief operating officer on 1 December tasked with spearheading the

implementation of its restructuring measures.

It is widely believed the 58-year-old was in conflict with CEO Makoto Uchida, 53,

over how to deal with Renault SA of France, Nissan's largest shareholder that had previously pushed for a merger.—Kyodo News ■

## Greeks alter Christmas meal menu due to price hikes

ATHENS — Pork and Turkey have been the main protagonists in a typical Christmas meal in Greece. But the menu, this year, is changing due to the price hike of main ingredients, local market experts and consumers told Xinhua here on Tuesday.

The debt-ridden country may have exited the bailout era in 2018, but the wounds of prolonged austerity and recession are still here and the average Greek household is trying to make the most on a limited budget. Due to the latest epidemic of the African swine fever, the price of pork has

increased by about 18 per cent this year compared to 2018, while the price of turkey rose by about 9 per cent, according to an e-mailed survey conducted by the Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ESEE).

“There are other options. One can easily make up a menu for a decent meal with many other ingredients available at Varvakeios and avoid these two whose prices have risen. We can enjoy a stuffed rooster, chicken or try a rabbit. There are alternatives,” said Kleonthis Tsironis, president of Athens’ central mar-

ket “Varvakeios”. Due to the price hikes in key meat ingredients, the traditional Christmas meal for 6-8 persons which includes meat, salads, fruits, cheese, soft drinks, wine and dessert will cost Greek households this year on average 154.57 euros (170.02 US dollars), up 3.68 per cent compared with last year when the average was estimated at 149.09 euros, the ESEE’s survey found. In order to keep the cost as low as possible, some Greeks are dropping the pork and turkey, or buy small quantities, and shift to more economic ingredients.—ANI ■



Christmas decorations in Athens. PHOTO: AFP

## Cost of UK royals back in spotlight after Queen’s year to forget

LONDON — After a torrid 2019 in which the queen’s son Prince Andrew was implicated in an underage sex abuse scandal, many in Britain are again asking if the monarchy has gotten too big — and rich — for its own good.

The family’s year to forget may encourage Prince Charles, set to eventually take over from his mother Queen Elizabeth II, 93, in his purported belief that the centuries-old institution needs reform, according to royal experts.

“He wants to slim it down to a hard core of senior family members who work full-time,” said author Penny Junor, who



Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II has called the year “bumpy” and may Britons are again questioning the cost of the monarchy. PHOTO: AFP

has written several books on the royals including “The Firm” — the nickname sometimes given to the family.

“Andrew shooting himself in the foot has certainly made that an easier task,” she told AFP.

The 59-year-old prince, dubbed the queen’s “favourite son” by the UK press, has been dogged by allegations that he had sex with one of American convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein’s victims. Andrew, who strenuously denies the accusations, gave a calamitous BBC interview last month in which he unsuccessfully tried to distance himself

from the late US financier. The furious media backlash saw him subsequently promise to “step back from public duties”. It was a grim year as well for Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, the former US actress. The celebrity couple sued several British newspapers over intrusions into their private lives, while his relationship with brother Prince William has reportedly soured — creating more tabloid gossip fodder. The family’s tribulations led The Guardian to proclaim the firm had “lost its grip”, with royal observers predicting change will inevitably result.—AFP ■

## Libya war leaves thousands homeless in Tripoli

TRIPOLI — Layla Mohammed barely had time to gather her children’s belongings before fleeing their southern Tripoli home when shelling targeted the Libyan capital’s outskirts earlier this year.

For months she moved her family between apartments as

soaring rents in the crowded city exhausted her savings, eventually leaving them squatting in an unfinished building alongside dozens of other families.

More than 140,000 Libyans like Mohammed have fled their homes since April, when forces

loyal to eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar launched an assault on Tripoli, seat of the UN-recognised government.

In central Tripoli, the grey skeletons of a highrise construction site — abandoned since 2008 due to a property dispute — now host more than 170 families. For some, the high rises in Tarik al-Sekka were “a gift from heaven”, since the alternative was living in the street. But “we live like animals — without running water, electricity, or even sewerage,” said Mohammed, a mother of seven. Her youngest son is sick with a chronic respiratory illness. “The dust will kill him,” Mohammed despaired. “All we want is to live in dignity,” she said. Neighbour Samira crowds her four children into a single room in a nearby building, preferring the greater warmth it affords over any sense of privacy.—AFP ■



Libyans unload bedding from vehicles to give to displaced fellow countrymen. PHOTO: AFP

## Nigeria frees former top official accused of graft

LAGOS — Nigeria’s former national defence advisor, who was arrested in 2015 for allegedly stealing \$2 billion, has been freed from jail after several court rulings ordering his release, a security official said Wednesday.

Sambo Dasuki spent four years in prison despite multiple court orders to Nigeria’s Department of State Services (DSS) domestic intelligence agency for his release on bail.

Dasuki is accused of siphoning money earmarked for the fight against Islamic militant group Boko Haram and allegedly using it to help bankroll former president Goodluck Jonathan’s failed re-election campaign in 2015. “He was released Tuesday night and has since reunited with his family in Abuja,” a senior DSS



officer told AFP. “Remember Dasuki was granted bail by the court,” the source said, adding: “He can travel out of the country to seek medical attention but with the permission of the court since his case will have to continue.”—AFP

officer told AFP.

“Remember Dasuki was granted bail by the court,” the source said, adding: “He can travel out of the country to seek medical attention but with the permission of the court since his case will have to continue.”—AFP

## Facing US trade uncertainty, China seeks closer ties with neighbours

BEIJING — China made overtures on trade to Japan and South Korea and offered support for an infrastructure initiative as it hosted the leaders of its two neighbours this week amid strained ties with the US.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Wednesday at a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Beijing was willing to

strengthen economic co-operation with Japan in third-country markets.

At the meeting on the sidelines of a trilateral summit in the southwestern city of Chengdu, Li added that China would “further open up its services industry” to Japan.

During a separate meeting on Monday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Li said China

was willing to work on a rail network linking Korea with China and Europe, Yonhap news agency reported.

Li’s remarks come as China and the United States edge closer to an initial trade agreement after imposing tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods over nearly two years in a bruising trade war that has hit the global economy.

—AFP ■

## Global stock markets coast through Christmas Eve

NEW YORK — Global stock markets were mostly flat in quiet Christmas Eve trading on Tuesday, running out of fizz before the festive break, although the Nasdaq hit its ninth straight record close.

US investors have been in a cheery mood most of the fall as the outlook for US-China trade talks improved, reducing uncertainty, and most economic reports have been good.

In the sleepy holiday-shortened sessions, the broad S&P 500 slipped a hair, and the benchmark Dow dipped 0.1 per cent, but the Nasdaq, with a 0.1 per cent gain, posted another all-time high.

It was a similar picture in other major markets, as London’s benchmark FTSE 100 shares index rose 0.1 per cent, while the Paris CAC 40 finished flat.

“In true Christmas tradition, financial markets saw low trading volumes and volatility,” said CMC Markets analyst David Madden.

Frankfurt’s DAX 30 had already shut for Christmas.

Trading volumes are typically light at this stage with many investors away for extended Christmas and New Year holiday celebrations.

But the sleepy session was punctuated by some big developments.—AFP

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

Boon Rawd Brewery Co., Ltd., a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand, and having its registered office at No. 999, Samsen Road, Thanon Nakornchaisri Sub-district, Dusit District, Bangkok 10300, Thailand, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:



The above Trademarks are used in respect of "Alcohol-free beers; Aerated water; Aerated mineral water; Aerated fruit juices; Beer; Cider, non-alcoholic; Cocktails, non-alcoholic; Bottled drinking water; Fruit beverages and fruit juices; Malt syrup for beverages; Mineral water (beverages); Non-alcoholic beverages; Preparations for making beverages; Preparations for making liqueurs; Soft drinks; Syrups for making beverages; Waters (beverages)" in **Class 32**.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademarks or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

**Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)**  
For **Boon Rawd Brewery Co., Ltd.**,  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**  
Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,  
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,  
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

I, **Palit Bhirombhakdi**, residing at No. 999, Samsen Road, Thanon Nakornchaisri Sub-district, Dusit District, Bangkok 10300, Thailand, hereby declares that I am the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

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c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**  
Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,  
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,  
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY.NO. (950S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY.NO. (950S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALS SATSUKI VOY.NO. (013W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Geuston Amaua, Garment Factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

# Myanmar aims for \$5 bln from garment export in 2019-2020 FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe

**M**YANMAR'S garment export saw a five-fold increase in the number of workers in the past five years, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Revenue from Myanmar's garment and textile sector from 1 to 25 October this year reached US\$

325 million, an increase of \$ 38 million when compared with the same period in the financial year 2018-2019, the ministry's figure showed. The Southeast Asian country fetched some \$ 287 million from garment exports in the same period last year.

The country's export in-

come from the garment and textile industry has increased threefold, the ministry reported. The total export earnings from Myanmar's garment and textile industry is expected to reach \$ 10 billion by 2024, said an official from the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association. Myanmar's CMP



An employee stitches cloth inside a garment in a factory in Yangon. PHOTO PHOE KHWAR.

garment sector earns about \$ 300 million yearly and the country will get \$ 3 billion if it can manage to shift from the CMP system to the FOB system, the MGEA said. Myanmar's CMP exports were worth \$ 2.2 billion during the period from April to September this year, the minis-

try's data said. CMP garment exports were valued at \$ 850 million in the financial year 2015-2016. Myanmar earned around \$ 2 billion from CMP exports in the financial year 2016-2017 and fetched nearly \$ 2.5 billion 2017-2018 FY.

Being the country's lead-



Myanmar Mercury Garment Factory in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Workers at a production line of a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone. PHOTO: PHOE KHAWAR

ing export sector, Myanmar's garment exports increased to around \$4.6 billion in the 2018-2019 FY from \$349 million in 2010— making up nearly 10 per cent of the country's export revenues. The MGMA predicts that nearly 600 factories in the country offer job opportunities for

approximately 500,000 workers. Myanmar's garment and textile sector is on the right track to meet a target of \$10 billion in exports set under a 10-year plan. The export target and an aim to create one million job prospects in the sector had been designed under the Myanmar Garment

ports have been increasing yearly, especially since 2013, when the European Union granted goods from the South-east Asian country preferential access to its market. The promising garment industry in Myanmar has grown significantly in the past five years. According



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



A garment Factory in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Industry Strategic Plan 2014-2024 by the MGMA. The growth of Myanmar's clothing and textile industry has materialized at a time when wages in other regional production hubs such as Viet Nam and Cambodia have been hiked.

Myanmar is one of the fastest-growing garment and footwear suppliers in the world, with apparel exports alone climbing from \$ 2.7 billion to \$ 3.86 billion last year. The European Union (EU) is its biggest market, with imports jumping 21.7 % year-on-year to \$ 2.02 billion from \$ 1.66 billion, accounting for more than half of the country's ready-made garment exports.

Myanmar's garment ex-

to figures compiled by SMART Myanmar, Myanmar exported garments worth some \$ 519 million to Germany in 2017 and clothing valued at \$ 213 million to the United Kingdom in the same year.

As many as 1.1 million Myanmar people are currently employed in garment, textile, footwear and accessories factories across the country.

Additional tens of thousands indirectly work in the industry through logistics and transport services.

According to a study conducted by C&A Foundation estimated that Myanmar's garment and textile sector could employ over 1.5 million people by 2020.

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020, 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No-26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogvoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



The previous MFF-MNL Awards Night was convened on 27 December, 2018 in Yangon. **PHOTO:YUFC**

## MFF-MNL Awards Night 2019 to be held on 27 Dec

THE Myanmar Football Federation-Myanmar National League (MFF-MNL) Awards Night for outstanding footballers will be held at 6:30 pm on 27 December on the artificial turf of the MFF, according to an official statement issued by the football federation.

The Awards Night is held annually. Officials will hand out awards to the best footballers

and coaches in Myanmar in 2019 under different categories: Player of the Year 2019, Youth Player of the Year 2019, Coach of the Year 2019, best referee of the Year 2019, and Fair Play Award.

Last year, Yangon United winger Maung Maung Lwin won the best player award and Yangon United head coach Myo Min Tun won the award

for the best coach. Women football star Khin Marlar Tun from Sports and Physical Education won the best female footballer award. Best male youth player award was garnered by Lwin Moe Aung from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE), and the best female youth player award went to Myat Noe Khin from YREO FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## VUC, MIU teams remain undefeated in MFF Futsal League

THE Victoria University College (VUC) futsal club and Myanmar Imperial University (MIU) futsal club remained undefeated in the Myanmar Futsal League after the Week-9 matches yesterday at the National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon.

While VUC futsal club beat GV futsal club by 8-2 yesterday, the MIU futsal club gained vic-

tory over Myoma JY futsal club by a decisive 8-0.

In the meantime, on account of strong competition, other matches ended with a narrow result.

On Doctor futsal club beat Winner futsal club by 5-3 and Futsal Chi Thu futsal club beat Let Wel Thone Nara futsal club by 6-5.

Do Do Ko Ko futsal club beat Dream Team futsal club by 5-3 and Myanmar Football Federation U-19 futsal club beat AMM Brothers futsal club by 6-4.

After the matches, VUC FC is still leading the table and MIU FC is in the second position with a no-loss result so far in the tournament, while GV FC is in the third place.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Players from VUC futsal team celebrate their victory over GV FC in the Myanmar Futsal League match yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

## Yangon United beat Sagaing United 6-3 in friendly match

YANGON United made a decisive 6-3 win over Sagaing United in a friendly match yesterday at the Yangon United Sports complex in Yangon.

The winning goals for Yangon United were scored by Maung Maung Lwin, Emmanuel, Barfo, and Than Paing.

Goals for Sagaing United were scored by Simmuel, Myo Min Phyo, and Thiha Zaw.

Simmuel landed the first goal for Sagaing United in the early minutes of the match.

However, Yangon's Maung Maung Lwin scored the equalizer at 16 minutes.

Three minutes later, Yangon's Emmanuel netted the second goal for Yangon over an assist from team mate Aung Kyaw Naing.

The third goal for Yangon was scored at 22 minutes by Emmanuel over an assist from Aee Soe. At 28 minutes, Yangon was awarded a penalty and Barfo scored the fourth goal with a penalty kick. The first half ended 4-1 win in favor of Yangon United.

The fifth goal for Yangon United was scored at 47 minutes by Barfo. But, Myo Min Phyo from Sagaing United scored the second goal for the team and Thiha Zaw netted the third goal soon after.

However, Yangon's Than Paing secured a big win for his team with his goal at 74 minutes, and the match ended with Yangon leading by three goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yangon United footballers celebrate their victory in the friendly match against Sagaing United yesterday. **PHOTO:YUFC**