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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and youths in Kayah State discuss several issues including peace and development at the Peace Talk in Loikaw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Peace Talk with youths in Kayah

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that, in her experience, regions and states that have endured conflict have a better understanding of the value of peace. She made the remark at a Peace Talk with Kayah State

local youths in the State Hall of Loikaw in Kayah State yesterday morning.

“Peace Talk with youths has been held four, five or six times in different places. In doing these Peace Talks, youths from peace-

ful regions are seen to have lower understanding, knowledge and interest in peace. But in States/Regions where there is war or have just achieved peace, there is seen to be a better understanding of the changes. Peace Talks

in such places go more deeply. Therefore, I expect the Peace Talk with youths from Kayah State to go in depth. The voices of the youths from here would be of interest to the whole country that is listening”, said the State

Counsellor.

In her opening speech to the youths at the Peace Talk in Loikaw, the State Counsellor said the freedom that peace brings is sometimes misunderstood.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts photo of Taung Kwe Pagoda presented by the pagoda's board of trustees during her visit to the pagoda in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts souvenirs presented by two Padaung laides during her visit to Dawsunbon Village in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dance troupe of Padaung ethnic women perform as they entertain State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during her visit to Dawsunbon Village in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor meets locals in Loikaw, visits ethnic village

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed peace and development affairs with representatives of Kayah State yesterday during her visit to Loikaw.

At the meeting, she expressed her willingness to hold talks not only with youths but also other residents, inviting advice on peace and development in both Kayah State and the Union.

"Advice from the people to work together with each other for eternal peace and development in the Union through achievements in Kayah State are welcomed," said the State Counsellor.

"Without peace, development is impossible. Without sustainable development, peace cannot be sustainable. Peace and development are dependent on each other," said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi asked the local people to express the special challenges for peace and development in Kayah State, pointing out the country's edu-

cation system has not met the international standard in about 50 years.

Regarding economic development, the State Counsellor stressed the important roles of infrastructure, good transportation and power supply in attracting investors.

"If we have good transport infrastructure and sufficient power supply, the economy will be developed. We need skilled workers, technology etc. Our country is facing such challenges," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Following her address, local residents expressed their views on peace, education, health, development, ethnic literature and cultural issues in Kayah State.

Before the meeting, State Counsellor visited Dawsunbon Village, which is mostly populated with Kayah ethnic people, where she was welcomed by Kayan (Padaung ethnic people), who presented her with several gifts.—Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by ethnic children as she arrives Dawsunbon Village in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits a shop selling home-made costumes of Padaung ethnic people during her visit to Dawsunbon Village in Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Peace Talk with youths in Kayah

## FROM PAGE-1

“Some think democratic rights allow you to say as much as you want. But democratic rights include respecting the democratic rights of others. You must not talk endlessly and one-sidedly. It is to be noted that others are to be given time to speak. It is good to prepare and bring along the points you want to talk. But you can also talk about anything that comes into your mind openly and freely. Sometimes, this is more interesting”, said the State Counsellor.

Eight youths from Kayah State then spoke about justice and peace, social issues, education, health, equality, human rights, all-round development based on federalism, armed conflict, sufferings due to war, national reconciliation, farmland matters, the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA), women's matters, widespread participation of the people in the peace process and the maintaining of traditional culture and literature.

The following are excerpts from the youths who spoke yesterday.

### U Shahrel, a public servant, shared his experiences with conflict

“Before, there was no peace. During the time when the cease-fire was not totally achieved, I lost my grandfather, uncles and cousins. They were lost while avoiding the war or participating



U Shahrel.

in it. This had been experienced by other nationals who are here. Fear remains inside me from these events. This was what happened before”, he said.

“At the present moment, there are still restricted areas because there is no peace. Because these restricted areas did not have peace, we know that developments in education, health, economic are restricted and slow. I expect our state to be more developed in both rural and urban areas if there is peace. A question came to my mind. How will a solution be thought out for our region that hadn't experienced peace? In working for peace, a question on how to make the people aware also came up. Finally I would like to say that if the peace demanded by the people is to be achieved, there must be justice (truth).

Without peace, there wouldn't be truth. A country without peace wouldn't be stable.



Daw Alice Tun.

Without stability, justice will be lost. I want our ethnic nationals to know this.

If peace is wanted, justice must first be obtained. We need to do this on our side and people who expected justice need to have the desire for peace. Especially, youths like us. Youths need to participate in the discussion.

I would like to say that in implementing peace, leaders like Mother Su has the duty as well as us, other ethnic brothers and sisters too and all need to work together for it”.

### Daw Alice Tun, headmistress of Level Up Academy, a private school

“I want to discuss peace and state development. I learnt that there are two types of peace. First is a negative peace and the other is a positive peace.”

Negative peace is where there is no terrorism and war. Positive peace is where our ba-



U Mario.

sic requirements, people were satisfied. This is known as peace and tranquility.

As Shahrel said earlier, all knew how it felt in having a negative peace. How it is to have a negative peace.

As our state now has a negative peace that is free from terrorism and war, battles are declining and much development is happening. Social assistance groups like NGOs and INGOs came in.

There is much assistances and helps. Investments are also coming in. From this, there'll be regional development.

On the other hand, for all-round development, we must head towards positive peace. It is too wide if we say all-round development. I would like to talk more about social development. It will include our basic requirements of education, health and livelihood. When we get justice, human rights and equality, we

will have more peace. We can say we achieve peace and development, but locals will not be satisfied with the present situation.

If our natural surroundings are destroyed, if we do not have equal rights, if we do not get the benefits, we are not at peace. When thinking about development, the feelings (satisfaction) of the locals, participation and conserving the natural surroundings are to be included. In the long run, all are to live happily together, so national reconciliation is also important.

In conclusion, we should not create causes that will create peace to be disturbed in the future. We need to put emphasis on sustainable development. Whatever development is done, development based on federalism will lead to a sustainable peace”.

### U Mario, a farmer

“I am just a farmer. I didn't have a chance to attend school when I was young. I will say frankly what is on my mind. For me, I want to discuss the peace process of ethnic races. Actually, the peace process plays a vital role in our lives. Due to the civil war which broke out for 60 years, we had to live in a state of homelessness for many decades. Consequently I didn't study hard, and the teacher punished me in class. That is why I felt nervous when I was in front of my teacher and other people.

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## State Counsellor responds to questions at Peace Talk in Loikaw

*In the Peace Talk with local youths held yesterday in the State Hall of Loikaw, Kayah State, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi responded to questions submitted online.*

### What is the plan for regional development once peace is achieved?

“The basic requirement for (improving) the economy is a transport connection and energy (power). The role of the government in these two sectors is quite a huge task. But for the economy to be developed widely, the private sector also needs to participate. Government economic enterprises are not quite successful. They have not adapted to the present time. In replying to the question on plans for regional development, we'll start as much as we can on health and education. In areas

where peace is not achieved, especially Kayah State, power (output) has increased this year. Next is transport connection. Once there are roads and there is power, the economy will follow. In short, we are emphasizing on education, health, social matters and on road links, power and investment with regards to the economy”, replied the State Counsellor.

**It is clear that prolonged civil war in Myanmar is due to those who don't want peace. How will those people and organizations that don't want peace be persuaded (organized)?**

“People need to persuade them. This is the main matter that is related to the people. The main problem of the people who don't want peace is that they don't know the value of peace. They don't understand the benefits peace will bring to them and all others. They don't want peace because they don't have the idea that having peace is better than the present situation.”

“Once they know that the fruit of peace is not only beneficial to others but also for them, they'll want peace. That is why people need to work together and make it clear that it is beneficial for all.

Places where peace has been achieved are very important. It needs to be maintained. A certain portion of our people themselves don't want peace. That is why it is important for all to persuade and organize (so that all join together for peace)”, said the State Counsellor.

### What is the plan for Kayah State development, creating more job opportunities for youths and achieving higher knowledge and intellect?

“Education is required to get better jobs. Road links are required. Investments will need workers. Workers need to be able

to work to a certain level. Only then, with good road links and power, will investors think of investing.

Then there will be requirements for people, qualified people, who can work. All are inter-related. It is not good to be educated and unhealthy. Health needs to be good too. This is what I mean by all-round development. Where are you living? Can we communicate (travel)? If we cannot communicate and there is no power, it would be very difficult to set up a business. We need to do all these things”, said the State Counsellor. — Myanmar News Agency ■



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## Ancient statues of Buddha unearthed in Kalay District

DOZENS of ancient Buddha statues were discovered in Pathe (North) Village, Minkin Township, Sagaing Region, by residents earlier this month, according to a resident.

About 50 Buddha statues made of bronze, silver and marble, some of them portrayed with their legs folded into a cross-legged position, were found buried in the ground of agricultural land owned by U Lone Orr located near a basic education high school.

One of villagers said

that the heads of the Buddha statues first appeared after a pig dug up of the land under a large tree with his nose. Residents then unearthed a bronze and two marble statues over one feet in height, followed by 47 other statues.

Those statues are now being honoured by residents at a monastery in Pathe Village.

Sitting, standing and reclining styles are the three major iconographic postures of Buddha images and statues in Myanmar. —Chindwin Thar



Ancient Buddha statues found in Kalay District, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: CHINDWIN THAR**

## Water supply infrastructure to be built in Yangon region

WATER supply infrastructure will be built in the Yangon Region by farming and construction equipment manufacturer Kubota, together with other Japanese and south Korean partners, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The project will be implemented with an aim to meet growing industrial and household demand for clean water. "Kubota and its partners have received orders worth about US\$ 92.7 million to establish a water supply system including

pumping stations, treatment facilities and pipelines from the Yangon City Development Committee," said an official from Kubota Corporation.

The project is part of the water supply project of the Greater Yangon Strategic Urban Development project being implemented with low-interest loans from the Japanese Government. Kubota will build water supply stations, reservoirs and water treatment plants at a cost of 5.4 billion Japanese Yen in cooperation with South Korea's construction and engi-

neering company Posco. The project will be completed within two years.

Kubota will build 45 kilometers of pipeline linking to Thilawa Special Economic Zone to other projects. The water supply system can only provide water for the industrial zone. Later on, the water will be supplied to the entire zone upon completion of the upgrading of water supply system. With this and a more reliable supply of electricity, it is expected to attract more foreign investment to the industrial zone.—GNLM

## Pharmaceutical factory to be established

A pharmaceutical factory will be established in Yangon by Medi Myanmar Group of Myanmar in cooperation with Indonesia's Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia, according to a report in the Myawady Daily Yesterday.

The two companies signed

a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the third week of December in Yangon, but have not yet officially revealed the amount of investment.

"Currently, we are preparing to establish a pharmaceutical factory. At the same time we are looking into the poten-

tial for production and export of over-the-counter drugs," said Mr. Baro Kah Emmy Sri Utami, Director of Phapros.

Currently, Medi Myanmar Group is an importer and distributor of pharmaceutical drugs and medical equipment, it is learnt.—GNLM

## Blue water lake in Hpa-An crowded with visitors

THE number of local people visiting a naturally occurring blue water lake at the foot of Lon Nya Mountain in Hpa-an township, Kayin State has recently increased, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The water in the lake becomes an intense blue colour during and after the rainy season, when rainwater flows down from the Lon Nya Moun-

tain and picks up minerals from the mountain, giving the water its unusual colour. The water is blue only in the raining season and shortly afterwards. During other parts of the year, the water is normally coloured.

"The blue water lake is crowded with local visitors mostly on weekends. But only around 10 foreign tourists have visited the lake. People who vis-

it during the rainy season can play with the water. There is also thanaka wood and Kyauk-Pyin stone slabs for grinding thanaka," said Ko Saw Than-Myine, a local resident.

The blue water lake in Hpa-An has become very popular since 2015. The number of visitors has also increased this year than last year, it is learnt.—GNLM

## Driver killed as vehicle overturns on Ledo Road in Kachin State

A 22-year-old driver was killed in a fatal accident on Tanai (Ledo) Road in Moekaung Township in Kachin State on Thursday evening when the tractor he was driving overturned.

According to investigators, a farm tractor being driven by Naing Min Aung at a relatively high rate of speed en route from Tanai to Myitkyina suddenly overturned between mile posts No. 8 and 9 near Mayankahtaung and Nangnawang villages at around 3 p.m. on that day, resulting in his death. "Speeding is one of the prevalent factors contributing to the vehicle overturn," said a township police officer.

Police are continuing the investigation into the death and have filed a case against the reckless driver under Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code.—Win Naing (Kachinmye)







Workers process fishes to export at Thilawa SEZ in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

## More than 210 tons of fish products exported into Bangladesh via Sittway

MORE than 210 tons of fisheries products with an estimated value of US\$0.20 million was exported to Bangladesh during the week of 9th-15th December through the Sittway border gate, according to the news recently released by the Commerce

Ministry. This figure shows an increase of 117 tons against the previous week. In addition to freshwater fish, tamarind, dried plum, ginger, preserved plum jam, cereal and vermicelli are exported. Myanmar's border trade with Bangladesh flows in

and out of Sittway and Maung-taw checkpoints. Trade values were \$7.74 million at Sittway and \$7.6 million at Maung-taw gates. Both land points of entry showed an increase in trade compared to similar period of last FY.—GNLM ■

## Myanmar freshwater prawn prepping for export

MYANMAR'S Shooting Star Company and Thailand's Bio Tech have joined together to produce Myanmar freshwater prawn for the domestic and export markets, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Those freshwater prawns are of Myanmar origin and will be farmed in Twantay Township, Yangon Region. Operation will commence next month.

Prawn larvae will be produced with the technical as-

sistance of Bio Tech. Those species will be distributed in the local market. If there is a surplus of prawn larvae, it will be exported to Thailand, said U Hla Htay, the deputy officer of Yangon Region Fishery Department.

Prawn hatcheries are slated for Bogale, Pyapon and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region. Around 20,000 to 30,000 prawn larvae can be farmed per acre in Twantay Township.

Saltwater and freshwater

prawn farming businessmen are currently facing challenges due to inefficiencies in the breeding process. Out of 27 hatcheries for freshwater prawns, only about three are left due to difficulties in the hatching process.

Only 40,000 tonnes of freshwater and saltwater prawns can be produced in the country, prompting prawns to be imported from Thailand to fulfil the requirements of local prawn consumption. —GNLM ■

## Myanmar imports over 8,000 tonnes of fertilizer by sea routes

MYANMAR imported 8,176 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$1.9 million from international countries during the week ending 16 December, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 10 to 16 December, the country imported fertilizer from China, Viet Nam, Canada, South Korea, Pakistan, Thailand and Malaysia. The

import volume of fertilizer was a decrease of over 2,300 tonnes matched against the previous week's total of more than 10,500 tonnes.

Myanmar usually imports ammonium sulfate, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, compound fertilizer, nitrogen, foliar and urea from Europe, East and West Asia, and South-east Asia.

The agricultural sector is the main driver of the economy in Myanmar. The demand for fertilizer has increased year by year. To improve public health, farmers have been urged to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and develop organic farms by using natural fertilizer obtained from waste or by-products of fauna and flora.—Shwe Khine ■

## Commerce Ministry to introduce beans and pulses to China

WITH a view to exploring new markets for various beans and pulses which have not yet penetrated China, the Myanmar Beans Market Promotion Forum is slated to be held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhang Autonomous Region of China on 8<sup>th</sup> January, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

"This effort is for pulses which are restricted on importation by India to penetrate a new market. We cannot heavily rely on only sole market. The pulses items which are new to China's market will be introduced at this forum and we will

get to know which pulses varieties are used in making China's snacks. Additionally, it is also the launching event for medicinal beans", said an official from the Trade Department. The Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, is planning to gain access to new markets following India's restriction on pulses importation that caused financial hardships for Myanmar growers.

Interested entrepreneurs are invited. For further information, call the Trade Department at 01-254024.—GNLM ■

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# Peace Talk with youths in Kayah



Daw Hin Nu Wai.



U Soe Yazar Win.



Daw Moh Moh Htin Zaw Mon.



U Phara Rae Rilo.



Daw Olivia.

## FROM PAGE-3

I think that other ethnic races have the same feelings like me. The only thing that is rooted in our mind is fear, i.e., how to overcome fear. I request you to understand me. We value honesty and want to live a simple life. Whenever we open food shops, we sell delicious food and curries, out of respect, to our superiors as usual.

We suffered a lot, especially youths, old people and women, during the civil war. We felt frightened because of constant conflicts and violence which can cause severe damage. I feel that it is high time for the armed races to cease the civil war as soon as possible. I would like to urge them to stop at once”.

### Daw Hnin Nu Wai, agriculturalist

“The main thing I would like to point out is the “internal peace process”. First of all, we need to create trust-building, mutual respect and openness among our brethren. In this way, we can achieve perpetual peace in our society.

It is better to stop the conflicts and wars so that we can maintain peace and tranquility. As you also know, everyone wants peace. Peace is far away from us due to selfishness, hatred, thirst for power and exploitation. It is necessary for us to share loving-kindness with one another. All the public are well aware that we are orientated towards peace. We do need unity, mutual respect and negotiation in order to shape peaceful environment. Our country is changing into a democratic nation, and the NCA is very important to sign peace agreement. I am sure that our Tatmadaw will safeguard our people and nation.

Moreover, people should know the agreements of NCA and be entitled to participate in

this process. I am very glad to participate in this talk. I want all youths to discuss in our dialogue. I strongly believe that we are marching towards the path of Democracy”.

### U Soe Yazar Win, writer

“All of you know that there are equal rights and belief in our national anthem. The roots which can disturb the peace process are getting un-equal rights and policies which can lead to a ruined state. Without stability and peace, we cannot build a democratic federal state. We are in need of foreign investment and technologies to boost our economy and living standards. Moreover, we must re-open the schools and try to create learning opportunities for the children in this region”.

### Daw Moh Moh Htin Zaw Mon, a private businesswoman

“The things I will discuss now are women and peace, which are inseparable in our society. The role of women in the peace process is very rare compared to other sectors. Women are victims of conflicts and wars which can separate their families. Here in Kayah State, we cannot fully enjoy the fruits of peace and stability until now. As you also know, there still remain many restricted areas in our state. Jobs and employment were very difficult to obtain for our ladies in Kayah State mainly due to a lack of peace and stability. Another problem is poor transportation systems in the region. Joblessness rates were very high in those days even though there were many graduates. Some people cannot afford to pursue their education because of many hardships. Currently, our state chief minister is trying his best to open classes for those who want to pursue further studies. We do need

peace to improve the standard of living in our Kayah State.

All are responsible to work together in order to develop the region. The joblessness rate is very high and we need to cope with this problem urgently. We need many women like Mother Su who plays an important role to shape our country.

National reconciliation and peace is important at the union level as well as in the state/region level. Just as there are people like the State Counsellor and others in the union level, there should be similar people in our state/region. On peace and national reconciliation in regions, just as duties were assigned partially to the government and people in power, will budgets be drawn for matters related to peace? Will the budget be drawn for national reconciliation? These are my own thoughts. I expect that there are better paths and processes.

In our region, there are organizations and people who are working for national reconciliation. For example, on 16 December, Kayan National Party issued an announcement that includes national unity.

Even if the states/regions government think only a little about the importance of national reconciliation and peace, the work of national reconciliation and peace that we are doing will go a long way. It will be more strong and firm.

We say national reconciliation is important because there had been many acts that disrupted national reconciliation in the past. These acts are still ongoing. An example is the political dialogues in Shan State. National reconciliation shouldn't be ignored. Only where there is national reconciliation can there be sustainable development. The federal democracy republic that ethnic nationals wanted will be strong and firm.

I would like to discuss that national reconciliation shouldn't be ignored in working for peace”.

### U Phara Rae Rilo, staff of Kayah State Hluttaw

I want to discuss the national reconciliation. When we see the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre headed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, we can understand how the national reconciliation is important for our country.

The national reconciliation is very important in the Union level and in the region and state levels. Regarding the national reconciliation, duties should be assigned to someone who has authority in regions and states and one of my idea is whether we should draw budget for peace process or national reconciliation in regions and states.

In our state, there are several organizations which are working for the national reconciliation. If region and state governments considers the national reconciliation an important step for the country, our efforts for peace process will reach to a certain extent.

There are some attempts to derail the national reconciliation process in regions and states. That reminds us of not to reduce our efforts for the national reconciliation.

### Daw Olivia, advocate for preservation of Kayaw literature and culture

“Our people mainly want peace and development. I want to discuss more literature and culture. All ethnic nationals had literature and culture. Literature and culture sound so nice but (people) don't want to do much about it.

Literature and culture is hard work. There is no salary like public servants. It is for the love of our own people and literature that this work is being

done. Although ethnic national literature is being allowed to be taught, we need the support and help of literature experts. We need teaching aids.

At the present moment it seems like the aim is to be allowed to teach only. This is my view. In some schools, ethnic literature is taught outside of normal school hours, so ethnic literature is not taken seriously. Rooms are provided to teach, but soft pens (to write on the board) were not provided. There is no funding. We seek donations from well-off people among our own people to teach the children.

Daw Olivia further discussed providing effective support for ethnic literature, both technical support and teaching, and to provide support so that teachers are qualified”.

### State Counsellor responds to discussions of local youths from Kayah State

State Counsellor conducted a Peace Talk with Kayah State local youths in the State Hall of Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning and responded to discussions made by local youths.

Responding to a statement made by U Shahrel, a public servant who lost several relatives during the internal conflict in Kayah State and asked how a solution for the areas of the state that are still experiencing fighting could be achieved, the State Counsellor said the key is to try and understand all aspects of the disagreement.

“Each of us need to think of what justice and fairness is. We need to look at it from both sides. We are unable to achieve peace yet because of our weakness in seeing both sides. If we understand the other side, if we understand the requirements and worries they had, we can find an answer more easily,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

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# Peace Talk with youths in Kayah

## FROM PAGE-6

In response to the discussion by Daw Alice Tun, who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi responds to discussions of local youths from Kayah State at the Peace Talk in Loikaw. PHOTO: MNA

If the country is developed, if the region is developed, literature and culture will also develop.

of the need for more loving and kindness, the State Counsellor said the quest for peace must be accomplished by the whole country as a team.

“There is no real peace because metta (loving-kindness, amity) is lacking. In places where there is much metta, it is impossible not to have peace. Researchers say hatred can be incited easily. It is easier to incite hatred than to urge people to have metta. As hatred can be easily incited, metta is lacking. It is not easy to spread metta,” the State Counsellor said.

“Our people are very keen on football. They wake up late at night to watch a football match. Since they are that keen, they all understand that for a football

team to win, the team needs to work together. If a single team member wanted to be good alone, all will suffer. All need to be able to work together. Peace is the most important thing. This will have to start at home. It will have to start at school. Education needs to strive toward that. Improving or correcting it through politics when we come of age is not that easy.”

On U Soe Yar Zar Win’s discussion on Kayah’s closed schools, the State Counsellor said: “It is not because the schools are closed, but that the system was not good. Once upon a time, the education system in Myanmar was at the top in Asia. Not only in Southeast Asia. Now it is near the bottom. This is because

the system was wrong. This had to be changed. But changing an education system could not be done overnight. Within the decades, students became guinea pigs. To set an education policy, about 10 years at the least should be looked toward the future”.

Efficient teaching of English should be a priority, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

“A good example is the weakness in English language. We need to use English, as it is used all over the world. In order to be competitive, we need to be proficient in English. The teaching of English was weak for decades, and we no longer have capable teachers who can teach it. But there are younger generations who can do it. Not only teaching the children, but teaching the teachers and the parents too”, said the State Counsellor.

Replying to the discussion of Daw Moh Htin Zaw Mon, who commented on the role of women in society, the State Counsellor said: “The number of women entering university is rising, while the percentage of men is declining. What needs to be done for men to be taught higher education? The government is putting an emphasis on livelihood education. Education is to enable people to drive themselves. If people can’t do anything with education and stay at home holding on to big books, it is useless. In order for people to drive themselves, livelihood education is important. I want to encourage youth about this.

“With regards to economy, girls and women had many opportunities in SMEs. In taking out loans for SMEs, the world experience is that women are more reliable than men. Some men take loan and get drunk. Or they buy things for themselves. On the other hand, women think out well for the family and invest in a business. According to world

experience, supporting women with loans is more effective”, the State Counsellor said.

Responding to the discussion of U Phara Rae Rilo, the State Counsellor said “More time is needed for national reconciliation. Reconciliation is required not only among groups but among individuals too. Unity is required for the sake of the country.

Some think national reconciliation is something that is being done with ethnic armed organizations. No. When National League for Democracy started its policy of national reconciliation, it was reconciliation between people who trust and believe in democracy and people who didn’t trust and believe in democracy. It is reconciliation for the sake of the country.

Commenting on the discussion of Daw Olivia, who wants to preserve Kayah culture and literature, the State Counsellor said: “According to the experiences of the world, it is a struggle for small ethnic nationals to maintain their literature and culture. There’ll always be difficulties. But as there is development, more will become interested in their literature and culture and support it. If the country is developed, if the region is developed, literature and culture will also develop.”

“If the literature and culture couldn’t support your livelihood, the interest will be lacking. But once there is development, it will be valued. There will be more interest. So, don’t worry too much. The government also had the responsibility to maintain these. We will support and do the best we can. But it will be seen that once the whole country is developed and enjoy the fruit of peace, literature and culture will be maintained. There’ll be more support. We will work toward this”, said the State Counsellor.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Supreme Court Bar Council meets in Attorney-General’s Office

THE Bar Council of the Supreme Court held its meeting 2/2017 in the meeting hall of Union Attorney-General’s Office yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Bar Council of the Supreme Court Chairman Union Attorney-General said the Bar Council Act has been translated by the

translation commission and will be published soon. At the same time, arrangements are being made to amend it. Suggestions and comments from relevant organisations will be obtained and members of the Bar Council of the Supreme Court are requested to provide suggestions to make the Act better and

complete. The Act also needs to support the works of rule of law, reforms in the judicial sector, supporting the people in legal matters and higher ethics of the legal practitioners.

In yesterday’s meeting, the matters of 653 applications to register as Supreme Court lawyers, applications by four who

passed the online post graduate diploma course from Yangon Distance University, Law Department to register as Supreme Court lawyers, request for comment on some Supreme Court lawyers acting unethically and putting on record the transfer to Union Attorney-General Office the complaint letters to

take action against some Supreme Court lawyers and High Court lawyers will be discussed, said the Union Attorney-General.

The meeting was attended by Bar Council of the Supreme Court Chairman and members totaling eight.—Myanmar News Agency ■



## We ourselves must bring about our national interest

**A**LLEGATIONS and pressures put on Myanmar by Superpowers were made not only at the present time but also prior to Myanmar's Independence from the British in 1948. To be exact, such incidents happened starting from the time when the British Imperialists began to settle down in Myanmar. At the time of strength and power, they were not above paying due respect by kneeling down at the courtesy call, bringing with them gifts of value to present. Contrariwise, at the time when the power of the Myanmar King was in decline, they came to treat the Myanmar King with impolite behaviors, alleging falsely and putting pressures. In this way, they finally invade and occupy our country. These are historically undeniable facts.

Now present situations happening in the country are similar. Being repeatedly scourged by subversive elements, Myanmar does not regard such events to be strange any longer. Their baseless accusations are based on their national interests, hence we need to call them neo-colonialists.

It is totally unacceptable for an international organization to make resolutions over the allegations from outsider countries

based upon affairs happening in our country. On 7th June 1946 a Conservative Senator and a Labor Senator in the British Parliament made allegations against Bogvoke Aung San and People's Comrades Forces [Pyithu Yebaw Tatphwe]. Concerning this, Bogvoke Aung San sent a telegram describing his objection, to Britain.

In his telegram, Bogvoke definitely objected, "Senator" Garmen's allegations that PCF is not a separate organization and the news that Bogvoke Aung San's followers disrupted

political meetings at border areas by threatening are completely wrong. The British authorities we invited to come and investigate events happening in Myanmar if they dared."

On 24<sup>th</sup> December the UNGA made a draft resolution on the motion put forward by OIC under the title, 'situations on human rights in Myanmar'. The resolution was voted against by Myanmar, Russia, China, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Vietnam, Belarus, Syria and Zimbabwe. The resolution called for full and unhindered humanitarian aid access and for Myanmar to grant full citizenship rights to Bengali returners. Though being a UN resolution on a country, it has no binding effect on Myanmar.

They repeatedly made allegations and resolutions on Myanmar based on exaggerated and fabricated news concerning the occurrences which took place in Rakhine State. Whatever it is, Myanmar's internal affairs must be solved in accordance with its rules and laws. But, being a UN member country Myanmar act in accordance with the UN charter and will fulfill its obligations as a member of the UN.

Yet, the present UN resolution adopted under pressure of the OIC and its partners does not reflect the actual situations and laws of Myanmar. Accordingly, now that Myanmar is performing the needed tasks in Rakhine not only for the immediate tasks of resettlement and rehabilitation but also for long-term development, it is important for the international community to make their own decisions, without being pressured by the OIC. We know that the OIC has its own one-sided agenda for reasons best known to it. ■

# Agricultural Development Sector of Myanmar

By Than Aung Soe [Pyithu Hluttaw Representative]

**B**EING a country which mainly depends on agriculture, Myanmar has 70 percent of the populace living in rural areas, eking out their lives as farmers. My parents, my offspring and I live on farming, but we are still in poverty and we cannot get out of the vicious circle of debts.

### Why we lagged behind others

There are many agricultural countries in the world. Why did we lag behind other countries though they are gradually developing? We grow paddy and eat rice which is our staple food. Rice is the major necessity for the national consumption. Adequacy of rice is of greatest importance for the country. We find it difficult in exporting the excess rice to overseas markets. Why? It may be attributed to poor quality of rice, mixture of unqualified rice and contamination of pesticides and their residues.

### Good agricultural practice [GAP]

Less attention was paid to the market's need in the past, as for us. Consecutively in the past we paid more attention to high-yield of crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield-rate from 40-50 baskets per acre to 70-100 baskets per acre. Thus, we neglected GAP [Good Agricultural Practice.] It is important for farmers to exercise the GAP, assuming that only GAP can bring about favors for our farmers' ag-

ricultural produce in overseas markets. In regard to rice, we have noticed our neighboring country—Thailand with similar climate like ours. Its population is greater than our country, with its paddy growing acreage less than Myanmar. But, its rice export is ranked second in the global market and its rice quality regarded to be the best. So, even if we study the situations from the nearest country we can find out the solution.

### Crops demanded by markets

Will we grow paddy only in our land? It is necessary for us to constantly monitor the needs of the global market. Brazil grows coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice and corn, with in USA corn grown, soybeans in Argentina, potato and onion in Netherland, chilli in India, pepper in Vietnam respectively for export as demanded by markets. Only if crops demanded by markets are grown can they fetch good prices.

### Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climates. Without water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge against climate changes, dams were built with broader foresights. But, it did not result in as expected. Annual budgets were spent but it failed to bring about good results for farmers.

### Needs in Myanmar agricultural sector

Myanmar abounds with lots of land acreage for growing various kinds of crops, delta area,

plain grounds, hilly regions and etc. Researches had also been made according to the classification of the land. We are pretty poor in analyzing soil test, nutrient content in the soil and measurement in salinity of the land. Occasionally nutrients can change, we have nothing for reference. Farmers tend to sow and spray fertilizers and pesticides according to oth-

can cause to yield high and which will be adaptable to the climate of the region. As for farmers, they individually need keep the seeds from their produce, as in previous days. But previous ways of keeping seeds were not systematical. Due to the plantation of different paddies such as Hsin Thu Kha, Hsin Eikari, Ayar Min, Taung Pyan, Hsin Thwe Latt, Pale

Some farmers borrow money from usurers at unfairly high rates of interest to pay back loans from the government. After that they have to take loans from the government to repay the loans to the usurers. Colloquially speaking, this is called in Myanmar, "qyf-xkwf-xkwf-qyf" "pay back—take out—take out—pay back.

ers' information and accounts, without knowing as to what the land needs—urea, t super, phosphate or lime to raise soil. Due to failure to choose rightful requirement, it will not be worthwhile.

On account of false evidence form 7 concerning the ownership of the land, farmers find it difficult in carrying out the tasks. The State may face problems in implementing the projects as the accurate data of the growing land was not available.

Agricultural Research Department also is inventing and producing pedigree seeds which

Thwe and etc., in adjacent plots, pedigree seeds automatically become hybrid seeds. After harvesting, sheaves of different kinds of paddy are separately heaped, paddies are easily mixed on the threshing ground.

### Utilization of modern machineries

With a view to avoiding such incidents, arrangements had been made for making one-acre plots for plantation, growing only one kind of paddy in a cluster of close plots and utilizing machineries in harvesting and winnowing. Mech-

anized agricultural organizations and private entrepreneurs are more utilizing machineries. The Government also is supporting farmers by lending loans to manage to purchase the machineries.

Farmers want to rely upon imported multi-brand fertilizers instead of natural and foliar fertilizers. Without consulting with knowledgeable persons, they rush to buy fertilizers sold on hire-purchase, fertilizers sold with persuasive advertisements and fertilizers sold with incentives attached.

Sharing agricultural know-how is also beyond the knowledge of farmers because of excessive uses of academic terms. Also, it is necessary for authorities concerned to take action against sales of fake fertilizers and unqualified pesticides.

### Living in a vicious circle of loans

Apart from some farmers, most have no enough money for agricultural farming. The State Government is disbursing agricultural loans for monsoon and winter crops, increasing from K 100000 per acre in the past to K 150000 per acre at present. But, they usually get the agricultural loans for monsoon paddy just at the time of harvesting. Very soon later, they rush to sell their paddies to pay back loans. As for those who cannot sell paddy, they have to substitute it with Mya Sein Yaung Loans and winter crop loans, thus living in a vicious circle of loans. Some farmers borrow money from usurers at unfairly high rates of interest to pay back

loans from the government. After that they have to take loans from the government to repay the loans to the usurers. Colloquially speaking, this is called in Myanmar, "qyf-xkwf-xkwf-qyf" "pay back—take out—take out—pay back." In this way, they cannot get out of the vicious circle of loans."

At the time when prices of crops are soaring up, they had already sold out, leaving nothing to be sold. So, peasants want long-term loans. In repaying loans as well, they prefer the system of taking responsibility and accountability to the present system which are not yet adaptable to Myanmar farmers.

Most of farmers usually live in their traditional living styles. They seldom calculate as to how much investment they make for the cultivation and how much profits they get for the year. Harvest depends upon weather/rain and spending spree depends on crops' prices. Otherwise, they used to complain that bad weather and lower prices of crops are attributed to bad luck. For regularity of farmers' lives, it is necessary for them to earn profits from agriculture at the end of the year. Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation is making arrangements for emergence of crop insurance system.

For the development of agricultural sector, a department alone or a person alone cannot afford. Provided that all collectively will make concerted efforts, Myanmar Agricultural Sector will rapidly develop. ■

*Translated by Khin Maung Oo*



Farmers plant rice in a field in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

## Let us learn from other Asian countries

### Transportation in other Asian countries

IN Singapore, coaches and buses carry passengers efficiently from the suburbs to the city, and then from the city back to the suburbs, from dawn to dusk, stopping only to pick up passengers. It's very lovely indeed in Singapore. There is no wasting of time, especially during the critical rush-hour periods. This is one of the reasons why Singapore is considered to be a developed nation and found to be a good example to follow for other Southeast Asian countries.

### Flow of Traffic

The flow of traffic in the major cities of Japan and Singapore are very systematic. In both countries, main streets have room for 4 vehicles to be driven abreast one way at limited speeds in the city area. Buses, coaches, public ferries, school ferries are in the outer lane, and public sedans, vans, pick-ups, etc. take up the inner lanes of the roads.

### Traffic Laws and Regulations

In order to be sure that traffic rules and regulations are observed, traffic police are placed at every traffic junction for necessary monitoring to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. If any break of law is observed, traffic police will take action on the spot. For instance, if a taxi tries to overtake unnecessarily, police blow their whistle to make it understood that action is being taken against him. But the traffic flow is never interrupted or jammed up. But the guilty taxi driver shall be called by the appropriate Court of Law and charged for all alleged traffic law offences. Accordingly, if found guilty, he shall be fined a penalty to be paid not in one lump sum, but in bids as a punishment, so as not to commit the same offences. That was one of the examples I experienced while I was in Singapore over the past 40 years.

In Japan, all public taxis are equipped with two-way intercoms. They all are grouped at a central location. If they leave their headquarters, they have to report their position turn by turn. If there no more passengers, they are not to roam about for nothing. They have to come back to headquarters straightaway. It is a way of clearing traffic in the major cities in Japan.

Nowadays, our government has been formed elected by the majority of people and the country has been introduced to democracy, stepping forward to set up a federal system in each and every region. We need to maintain or keep discipline in every respect.

If someone be found breaking discipline, action should be taken at once accordingly. It is legal or permitted by law to levy the right of penalty from law breakers on the motorways every day, throughout 24 hours.

Now is the time for our people's government to clear up such kind of rubbish by levying fines, taking lessons from the traffic laws of Singapore. ■

Sincerely yours,

*Pho Pho (U Than Zaw)*  
Day Care Center For the Aged (D.C.C.A)  
Mayangone District, Yangon.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

**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 works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Real 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 news office



Reorganizing of Union Legal Supporting Group

UNION Chief Justice has issued a notification dated 29 December 2017 on the reorganizing of the Union Legal Supporting Group it is learnt.  
The full notification is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Supreme Court  
Notification 1018/2017  
12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho 1379 ME  
(29 December, 2017)

Reorganization of Union Legal Supporting Group

1. The Union Legal Supporting Group formed in accordance to Section 5 of the Union Legal Supporting Law with the Union Supreme Court Notification 865/2017 dated 15 November 2017 is reorganized with following persons.

(a) U Nyan Win Advocate (No-1203)	Chairman
(b) U Soe Lwin Director Union Judicial Supervisory Office Union Supreme Court	Member
(c) U Aung Tsan Director Department of Prosecution Union Attorney-General's Office	Member
(d) U Thein Htay Director Bureau of Special Investigation Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(e) Daw Lei Yin Win Director Social Welfare Department Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Member
(f) Dr Khin Mar Yi Professor (Head of Department) Department of Law, Yangon University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Member
(g) U Kyaw Hoe Advocate (No. 1933)	Member
(h) U Kyaw Htay Advocate (No.1488)	Member
(i) U Thet Tin Lin Director Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Member
(j) U Kyaw Soe Bo (a) U Kyaw Soe Advocate (No-1616)	Member
(k) U Maung Maung Hla Thaung (a) U Hla Thaung Advocate (No.1666)	Member
(l) Daw Nan Kham Ohn Advocate (No.4470)	Member
(m) U Khin Zaw Advocate (No.1475)	Secretary

2. Rights and responsibilities of the Union Legal Supporting Group are in accord with the prescription of Section 6 and 7 of Union Legal Supporting Law.

Htun Htun Oo  
Union Chief Justice

1,150 tablets of WY/R brand drugs caught in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces seized 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets in Myoma Taung Ward, Maungtaw Township yesterday afternoon. According to information received, security forces searched Aminur and Zafaw Ahmet of Maung Ni Village on Mi Set Gyi East Road, Myoma Taung Ward, Maungtaw Township and found 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets inscribed with the WY/R logo in a white sack. The tablets were in 23 packets, with each packet containing 50 tablets, for a total of 1,150 tablets worth about Ks2.3 million. A case has been opened while the investigation continues. – Myanmar News Agency

U Myint Swe appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. — Myanmar News Agency

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017) Concludes



U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation delivers the concluding speech. PHOTO: MNA

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017), conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Winzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry at 10 a.m. yesterday, with a closing address delivered by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation. Retired Ambassadors presented the certificate to trainees. The 12-week long course comprised the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international relations, international law, international conferencing, contemporary international affairs, economics, etc., and also the simulation exercises for some subjects. And it was attended by 207 trainees. Since 2000, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted Basic Diplomatic Training Courses for the public who are interested in diplomacy and international affairs. At present, there are 6,733 trainees graduated from the training program.

AGTI Society donates Ks10 million for Rakhine State Maungtaw region

FORMER students of AGTI (Associateship of Government Technical Institute) Society donated Ks10 million to implement the redevelopment works in the Maungtaw Region of Rakhine State, it is learnt. The former students of AGTI Society donated Ks10 million “for the health, education and redevelopment of the ethnic nationals and people of Buthidaung, Yathedaung and Maungtaw townships of Rakhine State who were attacked by ARSA extremist terrorists on the morning of 25 August”, a representative said. The donation was made in the guest hall of the Rakhine State Chief Minister’s office yesterday morning and was accepted by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, (Rakhine) state ministers and officials who in return presented documents of honour. – Win Min Soe (IPRD)





## Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day

In commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Independence Day, the Myanmar Post Office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications is issuing three special 100 Kyat stamps starting at 9 am on 4 January in states/regions capital post offices.

In honour of Independence Day, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office and the Mandalay Post Office will affix a postal date on the stamps bought on 4 January, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



## Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks30 billion as of 15th December

THE value of border trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) amounted to Ks30 billion as of 15th December, which includes the export value of Ks2.8 billion and the import value of Ks28 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks23 billion. According to Ministry statistics, the export value with the ITC was Ks6.8 million as of 15th De-

cember, while the import value with ITC was Ks23.4 billion. The trade value via ITCs at individual border points was: Ks1 billion at Tamu trade camp; Ks25 million at Muse border gate; Ks881 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks70 million at Lwejei trade camp; Ks4 million at Chin Shwe Haw border gate; Ks1 billion Kan-piketee; Ks599 million at Kaw-thaung border town; Ks696 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks0.63 million at Htantalan border trade camp; 1 billion at Maw-

taung gate and Ks140 million at Keng Tung border trade camp. The total trade value with ITCs was Ks18.97 billion in the fiscal 2016-2017. The Ministry of Commerce has permitted 292 ITCs in 2012-2013 FY; 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY; 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY; 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY; 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY and 134 cards in this fiscal year as of 15th December.

Since its introduction, the ministry has issued a total of 1,398 ITCs to date.—Zwe ■



## Poppy plantation in Waingmaw Tsp destroyed

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpaikti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. **PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD**

## Police arrests suspect for child smuggling at Thandwe Airport



Ma Mi Mi Htay. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**



Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

POLICE arrested a women on suspicion of smuggling a child at Thandwe Airport on Wednesday.

During interrogation, Ma Mi Mi Htay, 30, who lives in Myothit Ward, Ponnagyun Township, said that she accepted the job to transport Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee, 8, from a IDP camp of Sittway, to Yangon for K100,000.

The job was offered by U Tin Than, 49, of Hsinkhaung Village,

Thandwe Township, she said.

She was arrested by the police shortly after U Tin Than gave two air tickets to her at the airport.

While police were inspecting Ma Mi Mi Htay, U Tin Than managed to escape.

Police has opened files against the two suspects at the Gi Taw Police Station. \_ Myanmar News Agency ■

## Stimulant tablets and marijuana seized in Maungtaw



Acting on a tip-off, police arrested four men in connection with yaba pills and marijuana found in a house in Maungni Village in Maungtaw Township on 27th December.

The police searched the house of Adu Har Shein, 28, in Maung Ni Village, Maungtaw

Township on Wednesday night and discovered 660 stimulant tablets and 1,456 g of marijuana, estimated worth Ks1,378,000.

They also arrested Adu Har Shein, the owner of the house, and other three who were found in the house.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Issuing of NVCs and NIDs in Maungtaw

MUSLIMS living in Shwezar Village, Maungtaw Township were being issued with NVCs (National Verification Cards) and NIDs (National Electronic

IDs), and as of 25 December, 1,457 were issued with an NVC and 1,503 were issued with an NID, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



# Land of the freeze: arctic wave hits northern United States

NEW YORK — An arctic blast sent most of the US Northeast and Midwest into a deep freeze that set record lows in several spots on Thursday as forecasters warned the frigid temperatures could last through the New Year holiday.

A cold front bearing down on the Pacific Northwest was expected to dump as much as 3 feet (1 m) of snow from Friday morning in parts of Washington state and the northern Rocky Mountains, the National Weather Service said.

The weather is set to test the mettle of hundreds of thousands in New York's Times Square as they ring in the New Year on Sunday night. Forecasters said the temperature is likely to dip under 10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 12 C), well below the typical average low for the day.

In Times Square, thousands were bundled up for a chill that hit the city. "It's really cold but I



Crowds walk through Times Square as a cold weather front hits the region in Manhattan, New York, US, on 28 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

love it. My fingers feel like they're going to break but it's OK," said Tashena Eason, 28, a registered nurse from Miami, Florida.

For a time, the hashtag #ItSoCold was the top

trending US topic on Twitter on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Tioga, North Dakota, about 200 miles (320 km) north of Bismarck, was one of the coldest spots in the con-

tinental United States on Thursday at minus 15 F (minus 26 C) early on Thursday afternoon.

For most of the region encompassing New England, northern Pennsyl-

vania and New York, the National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories or warnings as temperatures were expected to be below 10 degrees F in a wide area.

For upstate New York, east of Lake Ontario, the NWS warned of "dangerously" cold wind chills of minus 5 F to minus 30 F through Friday.

Erie, a city of about 100,000 on the shores of Lake Erie in northwest Pennsylvania, was expecting a fresh round of winter storms that could bring as much as an additional 10 inches (25 cm) of "lake effect" snow, forecasters said. The area is already buried under more than 65 inches from a record-breaking storm earlier this week.

At Erie's UPMC Hamot hospital — the only trauma center in the area — employees used their own four-wheel-drive vehicles to ferry snowbound workers to the hospital to ensure it could continue to operate.

Some employees stayed overnight to avoid getting stranded, Jim Donnelly, the hospital's chief nursing officer, said on Thursday.—Reuters ■

## Beijing renovates charging posts for electric cars

BEIJING — Beijing is renovating public charging posts for electric cars to make them conform to new national standards.

Beijing has 112,600 charging posts, including 80,800 private ones and 31,800 public ones, the Beijing Municipal Commission of City Management said.

Some of the charging posts are operated on old equipment and

standards.

The renovation will improve safety features, compatibility and the openness of the facilities, it said.

So far, over 12,000 public charging posts have been renovated.

Electric car drivers can access [www.evehicle.cn](http://www.evehicle.cn) to download an app to check the location and availability of charging facilities and make payments.—Xinhua ■

## Macedonia introduces emergency measures as smog chokes capital

SKOPJE — Macedonia took emergency measures against dense smog enveloping its cities, an annual winter scourge in the Western Balkans blamed on a mix of coal burning, aging industry and high-polluting emissions from older vehicles.

The government said residents of Skopje and Tetovo had been granted free travel on trains and buses to discourage use of cars while those with chronic illnesses and pregnant women were excused from work. Outdoors sports activities were also banned.

Local media said shops ran out of face masks as many people sought to protect themselves from the subzero and largely windless air in Skopje, which sits at the bottom of a valley. A World Health Organisation (WHO) study



Vehicles and pedestrians are seen during evening fog and air pollution covering Skopje, Macedonia, on 14 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

published early this year said Skopje was among 10 European cities with the highest concentration of toxic particles.

Skopje and four other Balkan cities in that list rely for their energy including heating during frigid winters on high-polluting lignite coal, a holdover from decades of old Communist Yugoslav rule. Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica in Bosnia,

as well as Kosovo's capital Pristina, suffer from similar high air pollution.

A recent study by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) found 16 aging, communist-era lignite plants in areas of former Yugoslavia emit as much pollution as all of the European Union's 296 power plants combined.

With an eye on future EU membership, the gov-

ernments of ex-Yugoslav republics have pledged to tackle emission levels.

Under the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive, emissions in the region would have to be reduced by 90 per cent for sulfur dioxide, by 67 per cent for nitrogen oxides and 94 per cent of airborne particulates by 2028.

But the region plans to invest billions of euros in building more coal-fired plants with a total capacity of 2,600 megawatts (MW) to meet rising demand for electricity as old plants are phased out in the next decade. Environmentalists fear the renewed investment in coal could backfire if governments are forced to spend hundreds of millions of euros more to meet EU environmental standards to qualify for accession to the bloc.—Reuters ■

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2018 (New Year Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.



# India rooftop restaurant fire kills 14 during birthday party

MUMBAI — Fire swept through a rooftop restaurant in the Indian financial hub of Mumbai early on Friday, killing at least 14 people, most of them women attending a birthday party, including the celebrant who had just turned 28, police and family said.

The fire department received a call about the blaze in a commercial building in the Kamala Mills district around 3 in the morning, an official said. “The fire brigade and police are investigating the cause of the fire, but we still don’t know how it started,” a senior police officer told Reuters.

Kamala Mills is home to several corporate offices and is a major night life district, with several high-end pubs and restaurants opening up in recent years.



Firefighters carry a victim on a stretcher after a fire at a restaurant in Mumbai, India, on 29 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The fire started at a 1 Above, a popular bar-restaurant on the top floor, which engulfed the whole building in less than 30 minutes, media reported.

Several media outlets also use the compound for their offices and the offices

of at least three national news channels suffered damage. “The magnitude of the fire was huge, disrupting our operations temporarily. All our employees were evacuated safely,” the Times Network said in a press release. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences. “Anguished by the fire in Mumbai. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. I pray that those injured recover quickly,” the PM’s Office tweeted.—Reuters ■

# China says reports of Chinese ships sending oil to DPRK untrue

BEIJING — China on Friday said the reports of Chinese ships sending oil to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) “do not accord with facts.”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a daily press briefing. Reports alleged that a Chinese ship sent oil to a DPRK ship at high sea on 19 October. The United States said Thursday that it was disappointed with China allowing oil to enter the DPRK.

Hua said that China had immediately investigated the relevant ship and found that it has not docked in any Chinese ports and had no entry and departure records of Chinese ports since August.

She said China did not know if the ship had

docked in the ports of any other countries. “The relevant reports do not accord with facts,” she said. “China has always comprehensively and strictly implemented the UN Security Council’s resolutions and carried out its due international obligations.”

“China has never allowed any Chinese citizens or enterprises to conduct any activities that run counter to Security Council resolutions,” she said. “If there is solid evidence proving that there is on the Chinese side any violation of the Security Council resolutions, China will surely deal with it in accordance with laws and regulations.”

Meanwhile, Hua called for “comprehensive and balanced” implementation of all DPRK-related resolutions.—Xinhua ■

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. ( 075 )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. ( 075 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TURST VOY. NO. (1801)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TURST VOY. NO. (1801) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW 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

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANG SAOTONG VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANG SAOTONG VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-1 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 WONG SAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928



## Sam Smith wants to collaborate with Stevie Wonder

LONDON — Sam Smith says he dreams of working with legendary singer Stevie Wonder.

The 25-year-old singer-songwriter, who is a long-time fan of the music icon, has revealed he would love to fulfil his ambition of working with Stevie on his next album, reported Contactmusic.

“I don’t want to do it unless it is natural, but it would be great to sing with Stevie Wonder. That’s the dream. I just love him. I would freak out,” Smith said. He is also an admirer of Amy Winehouse and Joni Mitchell.

“I also wish I had written any Amy Winehouse or Joni Mitchell song. I wish I had written (Rihanna’s hit) ‘Umbrella’ too. When that song came out I thought ‘Oh my God, I’m gay’.—PTI ■



Singer Sam Smith. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sylvester Stallone spends USD 400k on statue of himself

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Sylvester Stallone has splashed out over USD 400,000 on his replica Rocky statue from “Rocky III”.

The “Expendables” star handed over the hefty amount for the replica after making an anonymous bid at it in an auction, reported TMZ.

The statue is nine foot tall, weighs 1800lbs and was pur-

chased by Stallone for USD 403,657, before being shipped to Los Angeles.

It was made by the artist, A Thomas Schomberg, and the original, which was used in the movie, has been put on display in Philadelphia. This one had been displayed in the San Diego Hall of Champions but it had to be sold off after the place closed down.—PTI ■

## I’m content even without being in a relationship: Barrymore

LOS ANGELES — Actor Drew Barrymore says she never knew she could be “this content” without being in a relationship.

The 42-year-old star, who is currently single after splitting from husband Will Kopelman last year, said she is really focused on raising her kids - Olive, five, and Frankie, three, reported InStyle magazine.

“My daughters are so fulfill-

ing that I feel like my cup is just avalanching over. If love took on a physical analogy form, I’d be an overstuffed turkey or pinata.

“So I’m not really hungry for it at this moment. I don’t think I would have ever known that I could be this content, this whole, without being in a romantic relationship. That would have been a surprise to my younger self,” Barrymore said.—PTI ■



PHOTO: PTI

## Albanian TIFF festival selected for Oscar nomination race

TIRANA — The Oscar Academy has selected Albania’s International Film Festival (TIFF), as one of Academy’s official festivals, Agron Domi, director of this festival told reporters Thursday.

Domi expressed enthusiasm about the news, noting that Albanian festival would have the Oscar nomination for the short film award.

According to him, this is a great opportunity for all Albani-

an filmmakers as it opens a new window for them.

“Among other things, it gives TIFF, as the only international film festival in the Balkans, the opportunity to suggest short film for “Oscar” but also a high reputation for displaying premieres of European films and not only,” Domi told reporters.

There are only 84 important international festivals that their winner is nominated for “Oscar”

shorts in animation, action or documentary categories.

This means that the winner of the International Film Festival in Tirana, who will receive the Best Film Award, will qualify for screening in the short film category for “Oscar”.

Therefore, Domi opened Thursday the applications for the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of TIFF, inviting all filmmakers to present their movies.—Xinhua ■

## Veteran male rock’n’roll acts had biggest 2017 world tours

LOS ANGELES — Veteran, white male rock stars raked in the most cash from world tours in 2017, according to an annual list released on Thursday, while the highest-ranked women - Celine Dion and Lady Gaga - failed to make the top 10.

Irish band U2 grossed a leading \$316 million from its 30th anniversary, 50-date “Joshua Tree” tour. It was followed by hard rock band Guns N’ Roses which took in \$292.5 million, according to trade publication Pollstar’s ranking of the Top 20 worldwide tours of 2017.

British band Coldplay came in third, with \$238 million, on a



Irish group U2 receive an award at the 2017 MTV Europe Music Awards at Wembley Arena in London, Britain, on 12 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

list where Bruno Mars, 32, of Puerto Rican and Philippine descent, was the only musician of colour in the top ten. Mars grossed \$200 million. Ed Sheeran, 26, was the youngest singer in the top ten, pulling in \$124.1 million.

At a whopping \$1,500 average, Bruce Springsteen’s limited Broadway run had the highest ticket prices and grossed \$87.8 million to give the “Born to Run” singer 14<sup>th</sup> place.

In 11<sup>th</sup> place, Dion was the top female act with \$101.2 million, while Lady Gaga’s “Joanne” tour grossed \$85.7 million for 15<sup>th</sup> place.

The touring numbers mark a strong contrast with US music sales and streaming preferences, where hip hop and R&B music this year became the most consumed music genre, according to a July Nielsen Music report.

The top 20 tours grossed \$2.66 billion in 2017, a record high and an increase of more than \$264 million from 2016, Pollstar said.

Pollstar’s ranking is based on ticket sales data and does not include revenue from merchandise which can add a sizable chunk to tour earnings.—Reuters ■



# Don't miss the chance: Shopping with us to buy products of social enterprises at Weekend Bazaar

A SMALL wooden booth in the promotion area of MarketPlace by City Mart shopping centre displays handicrafts and personal and household effects; such fancy items as earrings and necklaces; creative purses made of recycled materials but good souvenirs; organic clothing which are the finished products turned from raw materials found in Myanmar; and foods. Just out of curiosity, I asked and found out that it was a social enterprise.

Pursuing such marketing strategy for selling high quality products through social enterprise will surely contribute to burgeoning of markets for community, and is vital for developing countries.

A social enterprise can be a for-profit or non-profit organization that applies commercial strategies to produce good results and maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being. Generating income in a sustainable way through these processes is a part of its goal. Especially, vocational trainings were conducted for those who have less employment opportunities than the normal people, women and disabled persons.

As organizations within and without the country and civil society organizations are nearly entirely to rely on donors abroad, financial difficulty is a big challenge for them. So, approaches have been made from the point of sustainable development to settle this problem and they are trying to stand on their own. In such efforts, focus is on production of locally made products by locals, and wastes are turned into to consumer goods to raise awareness of bad consequences of using

plastic materials. The question then arises as to where can these products be sold?

To solve this problem, City Love & Hope Foundation formed by City Mart Holding Co., Ltd introduces Weekend Bazaar programme. This is also to follow the rules of Corporate Social Responsibility including social activities.

Daw May Zin Soe Htet, Marketing Director of City Mart Holding Co., Ltd said that the Weekend Bazaar programme has been initiated with the combined strength of groups which are trying to stand on their own, and to contribute to survival of those who are struggling to earn their livings.

To realize this goal, a suitable and sustainable approach has been made for them with the aim of enabling them to adapt to the programme; cultivating them to come up with good results in civil society; and solving social problems from profit point of view.

The Weekend Bazaar programme introduced by MarketPlace by City Mart situated in Golden Valley in Yangon on 20 December 2014 gave birth to 19 social enterprises.

Social problems include poverty, hunger, lack of job opportunities, difficult access to a good quality education, health and nutrition problems, uneven social conditions, gender discrimination, political pressures, etc.

In carrying out social activities, Social Enterprise also known as SE has to face numerous challenges within and without it in addition to various limitations.

Limitations within it are human resources problems called Human Capital, degree of perception, and lack of access to capital.

British Council published



Social Enterprise Landscape in Myanmar in September 2013 in which it states that limitations of lack of basic physical infrastructure; underdeveloped banking system; limitations for development organizations to provide services in their supply of goods that make profits for them; high staff salary in donor funding structures and lack of volunteers; high cost for renting office and land for the real estate business; and changing political and economic environment are major hindrances for making plans for long term development plans.

This causes great effects on long term development plans implemented by organizations in the country and poses a great challenge to their survival

Programme Director U Kyaw Kyaw of Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association (MDCDA) pointed out the fact that it has been very difficult for disabled persons to go to

Theingyi Market to buy raw materials to make handicrafts and the materials they need are very expensive because the amount of selling these materials are too small. The disabled persons cannot get materials as they want and when shortages of these materials occur, they cannot make handicrafts as much as they can. He also said that as MDCDA has not enough funding, they cannot store and distribute raw materials and finished goods.

MDCDA was established in 2009. Basic handicraft courses were conducted for 102 disabled persons and their products have been sold at market festivals including Weekend Bazaar of City Love & Hope Foundation. These products are also available online.

Different raw materials are used to produce flower buttons, hairpin, necklace, hairclip, decorated flowers and bracelet. As these products are displayed at supermarkets to which most shoppers visit, they have a great opportunity to attract domestic customers directly. The sellers are to pack their products neat and tidy to display at Weekend Bazaar and they have a good practice of doing such thing and as a result there are orders for them.

Financial sector plays a pivotal role in development of social enterprise. To stand on one's own capital is also important. The organizations belonged to them will surely conduct courses for them and direct them how to produce domestic goods, but to find market is one of the most important steps in the process.

Foreign guests are targets

for selling handicrafts produced by social enterprise.

Founder of Amazing Grace Naw Eh Wah said, "Small enterprises have to face difficulties in finding a place to sell their products, If they join the Weekend Bazaar Programme, they are in no need of paying for a booth and thus the programme contributes much to them. I hope this programme will be expanded."

Most of the staffs are women with less employment opportunities and disabled persons are also included. Coachers go right down to their homes to conduct handicrafts making courses and this help promote their skills to produce quality products.

Weekend Bazaar is a place of introducing handicrafts, products made of recycled materials, and other goods and services to the people. Weekend Bazaar Programme is aimed at contributing to sustainable development of social organizations based in the country.

The programme will be on 30 and 31 December at MarketPlace by City Mart in Sixth-and-a-half-mile. On weekends, the programme will be taken place at MarketPlace by City Mart in Golden Valley and Tamwe Ocean Super Center alternately.

The products on display are recycled products manufactured by disabled youth, and handicrafts created by war victims children and women.

Let us help Social Enterprises by participating in Weekend Bazaar Programme aiming at producing more meaning than creating handicrafts. ■







Myanmar football star Kaung Sat Naing(middle) seen in Thai's League 2 club, Samut Sakhon F.C. **PHOTO: SAMUT SAKHON F.C**

## Myanmar footballs star Kaung Sat Naing to stay with Samut Sakhon F.C

Myanmar football star Kaung Sat Naing, a former striker for Yangon United FC, recently renewed his contract with the Thai team Samut Sakhon FC.

He has played for Samut Sakhon since 2016 and is highly regarded by the team, fans and officials.

"I am happy being here, and I'll do my best for the team", said Kaung Sat Naing, 24, of his contract renewal. Samut Sakhon is a Thai professional football club based in Samut Sakhon Province,

administered by Samut Sakhon Provincial Administrative Organisation (PAO). They currently play in Thai League 2.

Samut Sakhon was formed in 2009 and known as TTM-Samut Sakhon F.C. Their home turf is the Institute of Physical Education Samut Sakhon Stadium.

At the end of the 2009 season, TTM F.C. decided to relocate in Phichit Province. Udon Krai-wattananusorn, Chief Executive of the Samut Sakhon PAO, decided to found the club as "Samut

Sakhon Football Club" in 2010 and hired Kij Meseesuk, former coach of TTM-Samut Sakhon F.C. to be the head coach of the team. Samut Sakhon F.C. was one of 8 new teams that joined Regional League Division 2 after league expansion was setup in 2010.

After some football and sports policies were amended in Thailand, some Myanmar's football stars are getting a chance to playing in the Thailand's professional league.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

## Independence Day Lethwei Fight to be held in Toungoo

A Lethwei bout marking the 70<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Independence Day will be held on 4 January in Toungoo, Bago Region, according to the Myanmar Ring website.

The event is supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and organised by Myanmar Media Group,

Seven men's fights and one women's match will be included on the card at the Independence Day Lethwei Fight.

"Our Myanmar Media Group has been arranging the Lethwei event simultaneously for five years, including this year. We arranged the events to maintain the tradition rather than to make a profit.

Entrance fees for the event are only Ks5,000 and Ks3,000. If you see the foreigner fight event, you will see our goodwill for the event" said Ko Lin Htet Aung, CEO of Myanmar Media Group.

The seven men's fights at the event feature Nay Ruby (STL) versus Pat Khun Chin Pi Yar Pan (Thailand), Swan Htet Naing (Burma Thway) versus Fighter (STL), Zaw Chit Aung (Burma Thway) versus Kyaw Win Aung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit), Mike Thway (Burma Thway) versus Sit Min (Yarma Nya Arman), Htae Gyi (STL) versus Thein Nyi Nyi (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit), That Lu (Yamanya Arman) versus Ye Thway Aung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit) and Thura Lake (Burma Thway) versus Soe Lin Aung (STL).

A special women's fight at the event will feature Bayaw Ni Kar (Phae Khone) versus Mway Bwe Ma (Mwayhouse Min).

The Independence Day Lethwei Fight is sponsored by Victory Myanmar Group and will be held at Kaytumadi Stadium, Toungoo Town, Bago Region at 2pm on 4 January. —GNLM Sport ■

## Burnley's flowering the result of player development, says Dyche



Burnley's Steven Defour celebrates scoring their second goal with team mates at Old Trafford, Manchester, Britain, on 26 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LONDON — The blossoming of Burnley this season is the result of a collective drive for incremental player improvement at the club, manager Sean Dyche said ahead of Saturday's Premier League trip to Huddersfield Town.

Burnley, one of the Premier League's smaller clubs in terms of resources, have been a revelation this season. They have already collected 33 points from 20 games and are just seven short of last season's tally.

The Clarets punched above their weight to stun defending champions Chelsea in their opening game and have also held Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool and Manchester United along the way.

"I've been pleased with the development of the players. It's a big underlying thing of mine. Is the team continuing to move forward? I believe it is," Dyche said.

Individually and collectively we're getting stronger and that's a really big marker for me as a manager.

"That's beyond results. Results are what I'm measured by as a manager but there's a journey beyond that and that's the one for me. I keep seeing these players improving and that's really pleasing going into the New Year."

Burnley battled to avoid relegation last season and their success this campaign has raised hopes of challenging for a spot in Europe. Dyche, though, is solely focused on that incremental development, starting with improving his squad when the January transfer window opens.

"It was a very good season to stay in the Premier League and then to build on that into this season ... over the whole year it's very pleasing," he said. —Reuters ■