

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

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President, First Lady visit Htansan Cave, Htansan Shwedagon Pagoda in Hopong



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greet the Pa-O national ethnic people near Htansan Cave in Hopong Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho who were in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Aung Thu and U Ohn Win, Chief Minister of Shan State Dr. Lin Htut, Chief of Myanmar Police Force

Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials, left the city by car and arrived in Hopong Township in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

The President and the First Lady and entourage were welcomed by Chairman U Khun San Lwin and mem-

bers of the Leading Body of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone and Pa-O people. The President cordially greeted members of the welcoming party.

Later, the President and the First Lady and entourage paid obeisance to Hopong

Novice Monk Shin Porisa and presented robes and other offertories to him in Htansan Cave.

They then, looked around the Cave, paid homage to Buddha images and offered flowers, water and fruits.

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President, First Lady visit Htansan Cave, Htansan Shwedagon Pagoda...



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho pay homage to the Htansan Shwedagon Pagoda , a replica of the Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho pay homage to the Buddha images in Htansan Cave. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho observe the Htansan Cave. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Afterwards, they arrived at the Htansan Shwedagon Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon in Yangon, and were welcomed by Pa-O people. The president cordially conversed with them.

The President and the First Lady and entourage paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, water and lights.

They then posed for documentary photos together with Chairman U Khun San Lwin and members of the Leading Body of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

In the afternoon, the President, the First Lady and entourage left Heho Airport by special Tatmadaw flight and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA



(Translated by TMT) President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greet the ethnic people as they leave Heho Airport yesterday for Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, on the 73rd Anniversary of Mon National Day celebrations

(9 February 2020)

ON the auspicious occasion of Mon National Day, highly regarded, valued and honoured by Mon ethnic nationals as a day of great significance, I send these greetings and good wishes to all Mon ethnic nationals to be blessed with good fortune and auspiciousness.

At the Conference of Mon Ethnic Nationals held in 1946, it was unanimously decided to designate the first waxing day of Taboedwe, Buddhist Era 1116, the day on which the capital city of Hanthawaddy was founded, as Mon National Day. Since that time we have been celebrating Mon National Day and this year marks the 73rd anniversary.

Since Myanmar is a Union composed of different ethnic nationals, unity of ethnic nationals is extremely important. If we review with objectivity the true nature of

the more than 70 years period after we attained independence, we were unable to establish unity among the ethnic nationals because we were not able to solve political problems through political means. As a result, our State moved further away from peace and our development has lagged behind. We have seen this with much regret.

At this time, it is known by everyone that the Union Government has given priority to the task of national reconciliation and peace, to bring an end to internal armed conflicts and to establish genuine peace by solving political problems, which are the root causes, through political means. We also firmly believe that the dreams of all union ethnic nationals namely democracy, equality among nationals, and the right to self-

termination will truly come into reality.

The fact that the NMSP – New Mon State Party has taken the path of national reconciliation and peace since 2018 and has been cooperating fully along the whole process of political dialogues is a matter which gives me great satisfaction and encouragement.

It is of utmost importance to turn the differences within the union into strength by taking firm hold of the opportunities arising out of genuine political dialogues to turn the dreams of our forefathers into reality.

The Mon National Day celebrations, not only brings honour and recognition to the age old traditions of the Mon ethnic race, their capabilities and qualities, it also shows the beauty of diversity within the Union.

I firmly believe that although there may be challenges on our path to the future Democratic Federal Union, we will be able to confront and overcome these challenges with the united strength of all union nationals based on mutual respect.

May all Mon ethnic nationals continue to participate hand-in-hand, in unity, energetically with other ethnic national brothers and sisters on the path to the future Union; may all Mon ethnic nationals living in Mon State and in other respective regions enjoy peace; and may they have continuous development.

I have great pleasure and honour to send this message of greetings with good wishes.

*Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor*

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye makes camp closure survey trip

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and responsible personnel made a camp closure survey trip to the Myaing Gyi Ngu special zone in Sonenathamyingswe city, Kayin State in accord with a national strategy for the resettlement of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the temporary shelter camp closure.

First, Union Minister and party paid obeisance to Presiding Sayadaw Baddanta Ashin Nya-neita of Myaing Gyi Ngu special zone and raised his explanatory submission to the Sayadaw on the systematic camp closure and resettlement of the IDPs in line with a national strategy.

The Sayadaw was then presented with the offertories and K 47,529,000 were given to 5,281 internally displaced persons, who are now in the area, for their one-month rice.

Next, the Union Minister met the heads of 24 villages, whose villagers are escaping from conflicts, and explained the measures to be undertaken for the betterment of the ethnic nationals and next generation children at present in the temporary shelter camps. The Government is implementing the resettlement and camp closure national strategy to create the best future for the IDPs in Kayin, Kachin, Rakhine



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and officials pose for a group photo with internally displaced persons in Sonenathamyingswe, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Shan States, he added.

The implementation work will facilitate to revitalize their secured, dignified and independent lives. Selection of resettlement sites should be whether their original lands or the nearest lands or other appropriate lands with their consents. Local ethnic national IDPs should consider in this regard. The Government, since taking its responsibilities, is giving priorities on the affairs of ethnic nationals and internal peace. Development depends on stability. Peace in Kayin State indicates a role model. Peace and stability should be sustained. Our common aim of building a democratic federal Union we should endeavour to achieve equities

among all national races. Our nation is a united entity and we should collaborate and work together with Union spirit towards our benefits.

Then, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint called for a collaborative implementation to have more appropriate and better conditions and sites for the IDPs considering the next generation youths.

The Union Minister and party then proceeded to the Myaing Gyi Ngu and Ayelinthayarkwin temporary shelter camps and met the ethnic nationals.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said: "Many children are seen here in the camps and the future of these children is

important for our future development. To develop the growth of their brains and bodies both, our ministry is providing the pregnant mothers and under-two-year old children with cash assistance and education programme, which benefit Kayin State as a priority. Elder persons (85 years old and above) and persons with disabilities are similarly provided. To survive and work in society, we need to obtain education, technologies and vocational subjects. The Government is supporting the necessities for this purpose. The Government is planning to resettle the ethnic people, who are now in the temporary shelter camps, and create employment opportunities for them towards

their durable development. You all take your roles and discuss the necessities."

Afterwards, Kayin State Chief Minister explained the work plan to conduct vocational training for the ethnic nationals.

The Union Minister then provided 261 students with school uniforms; camp dwellers with clothes; a patient hit by mine with 2 lakhs kyats; and children with nutritious snacks.

The Union Minister also coordinated with the responsible personnel to fulfil the necessities following the inspection of the designated resettlement place in front of Kyauksakwin and the loom workshop where loom weaving trainings will be conducted.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party watched the status of constructing an ex-drug addicts building of the Department of Rehabilitation in Pha-An.

The Union Minister then encouraged the ex-drug addicts, who are attending the village-based rehabilitation training, at the Dhamawizayaranthi Paro Monastery in Pha-An. He also urged them to not return to the circles of drugs and try hard to give good lessons for the next generations. Thirty one trainees are attending the training. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

We need more than ever unity, friendship, respect and cooperation

This is the time when we need more than ever, unity, friendship, respect and cooperation of all ethnic nationals in our country. Furthermore, at this time we need to consolidate and uplift qualities such as morale, discipline, determination and honesty of each individual ethnic national. In addition, I want all of you to achieve peace based on cooperation, friendship and respect.

[Extract from a speech given by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the opening ceremony of the Ethnic Culture Festival - 2020 held on 1 February 2020]



Diplomats, families on study tour in Taninthayi Region



FOREIGN embassies' officials and their family members led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin of the Ministry of International Cooperation went on a diplomatic tour from 8 to 10 February to see the natural sceneries, cultural entities, and development progress in Dawei city, Myeik Archipelago and their vicinities of the Taninthayi Region.

The diplomatic delegation left Yangon for Dawei by Myanmar Airways

yesterday morning. Responsible personnel of the Taninthayi Region greeted them at Dawei airport.

In the afternoon, the diplomatic delegation took a study tour of the Dawei special economic zones, the Maungmakan Beach and its neighbouring villages. The Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region hosted a dinner for the diplomatic delegation.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses opening of movie museum in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of the Myanmar Motion Picture Museum was held at Myanmar Motion Picture Association (MMPA) on Wingaba Road in Yangon at 1 pm yesterday.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered the keynote speech. In his address, the Union Minister expressed pleasure and honour for opening the museum. He said a museum is an interesting place which collectively and systematically showcases the history of individuals and the country. It is a place where the historical traditions are preserved and valued. Besides, visitors will also find it interesting and valuable. Every library of township-level Information and Public Relations Department office has a mini-museum which displays the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the ethnic peoples of the respective places with the aim of arousing the youth awareness of the importance of cultural heritage.

Keeping and displaying the cherished items, crafts and symbols is a valuable work as they have the power to arouse the spirit of visitors, apart from pro-

viding knowledge. Internationally, a museum serves as a place where history and uniqueness of a race are preserved and displayed, and encourages others to do the same. It is a place where lessons can be taken and knowledge can be gained. It gives the sense of valuing historical objects.

The Union Minister said the museum exhibits the founders and brilliant persons including performers, directors, cinematographers and technicians of the Myanmar movie industry all along with the 100-year history. It shows the best performances of the respective periods. He then thanked and cheered the patrons of MMPA, the chair, executive committee members, technicians and donors for the museum to become a reality.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein in his speech spoke of the need to enhance the public awareness of the museum and the cultural heritage. Arrangements should be made for the museum to become a public place. Further efforts should be made for the museum to stand as a milestone of the 100th anniversary of the

Myanmar movie industry, apart from serving as a tourist attraction and a symbol of Yangon. He said the regional government will seek means to provide assistance.

MMPA Chairman U Nyi Nyi Tun then gave a speech.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Chief Minister U

Phyo Min Thein and party formally opened the museum.

Before the ceremony, Maha and Bella company presented K 10 million for holding the centenary of the motion picture industry.

MMPA first opened the museum in 1998. After a major renovation of the building, the

museum now houses silver jubilee exhibition, golden jubilee exhibition, diamond jubilee exhibition, centenary exhibition, technical exhibition, award exhibition, special effect and animation exhibition. It will open from 9 am to 4 pm on weekends and public holidays.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the Myanmar Motion Picture Museum in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

6th Myanmar International Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference opens in Yangon

THE 6th Myanmar International Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference, 2020 was opened at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Health Dr. Myint Htwe said the rate of gastroenterology and hepatology is rising in Myanmar, causing social problems and premature deaths. At this conference, international and local medical professionals will share knowledge and experiences in gastroenterology and hepatology and seek ways to promote skill in treatment.

He said both the treatment and control of the gastroenterology and hepatology are important. The Ministry of Health is administering children to hepatitis B vaccine 24 hours after birth as the drug can also prevent liver cancer. The ministry is giving vaccine on acute bowel disorder to children in the whole country in this month. The Union Minister lauded Myanmar Medical

Association (MMA) for its endeavours for professional development and courses through the formation of Myanmar Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association. The Union Minister said in addition to doctors, nurses also have an important role in providing gastroenterology and hepatology treatment. Topics to be discussed at the conference will be much supportive for adopting future strategies and work programs. The Ministry has allotted Ks six billion for research program during the period from 2016 to April this year. He urged the participants to improve networks between them and collectively conduct research on therapies.

Chairman of Myanmar Gastroenterology and Hepatology Team Professor Dr. Thein Myint and Chairwoman of the Conference Organizing Committee Professor Dr. Nwe Ni extended greetings.

Union Minister Dr. Myint



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials open the 6th Myanmar International Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference, 2020 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Htwe, Professor Dr. Thein Myint and Professor Dr. Nwe Ni formally inaugurated the conference. About 400 experts from

Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Canada, Japan, South Korea, India, the United States, Russia, Netherlands, Myanmar

and Hong Kong special administrative region would take part in the conference.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Central Committee on Monitoring and Prevention of 2019 Novel Coronavirus holds its daily coordination meeting (12/2020)

UNION Minister for Health Dr Myint Htwe attended the central level meeting on monitoring and controlling Novel Coronavirus 2019 in Yangon yesterday.

The Union Minister in his speech said the inclusive efforts of the relevant departments have reached a certain level. The important measure is to provide quality treatment in real time in case an epidemic appears.

He said Waibagi Hospital is being provided with sufficient medicine and medical equipment for emergency treatment, with public donations and the

allotted emergency State funds. The Chinese arrival at Yangon and Mandalay international airports have dropped drastically, as two planes landed at the two airports on 7 this month carried only 117 passengers.

The continuous monitoring process is being carried out at the hotels they are staying in. Many foreign visitors stay at the homes they have booked in advance. So, awareness campaigns are being conducted at the wards where they are staying. Hotel staff must inform at nearest health department should they

found any suspects.

The Chinese version health awareness pamphlets are being distributed at the place where Chinese tourists are staying. Applied research will be conducted to know whether the health awareness is reader-friendly and practically useful.

The Union Minister urged the health workers to step up their efforts for surveillance and to follow the instructions of the ministry in efforts for preventing the Coronavirus infection.

He also stressed the importance of carrying out a sur-

vey to achievements from the Coronavirus infection awareness through distributing the posters and pamphlets.

“Effective achievements can come from systematic sharing of duties among the social organizations, international local non-governmental organizations which are currently cooperating with each other,” said the Union Minister, urging the region and state governments to supervise the tasks.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe has called on regional and state health authorities to report their challenges to the central committee within three days.

He also stressed the importance of avoiding stigmatization to the people from the country where the Coronavirus outbreak began.

As it is found that the risk of Coronavirus infection is higher than other infectious diseases, surveillance is the most important task to prevent the deadly virus infection, said the Union minister.

In his address, the Union Minister urged the public to understand the effectiveness of the quarantine, saying that quarantine is helpful for saving the life of an infected patient and for protecting the family members

from the infection.

He urged the township-level health authorities to speed up dissemination of knowledge on Coronavirus by holding educative talks and raise awareness about the Coronavirus infection, in cooperation with departments concerned, in respective areas.

The Union minister said it is important to get assistance including medicines and medical equipment promised by the UN agencies and INGOs as soon as possible.

He also appreciated the video conferencing between the regional and state health authorities and the central committee.

Regarding the medical services at the hospitals, the Union minister asked the authorities to report the requirements at hospitals in border areas to the central body.

Following his address, the attendees of the meeting reviewed the updated situation, latest therapy, surveillance at international airports and border checkpoints, information from regions and states, health condition of the patients who are quarantined, stockpiling of medicines and medical equipment, and distribution.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the central level meeting on monitoring and controlling Novel Coronavirus 2019 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Power of democracy depends on degree of public involvement: Union Minister Dr Pe Myint

MINISTRY of Information and Yangon Region Government jointly opened a community centre in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said the ministry has four institutions. It is a common knowledge that Myanmar Radio and TV is informing, educating and entertaining the public; the Printing and Publishing Department is publishing exercise books and ballots and the Sarpay Beikman under it is conducting literature-related and knowledge sharing activities and participating in selecting National Literature and Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards; the News and Periodicals Enterprise is publishing three dailies – The Myanma Alinn, The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar.

He said the fourth one is the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). It is running community centres. IPRD has township, district and state/region branches which are attached to libraries. As IPRD is directly dealing with the people, it has substituted its unilateral approach with reciprocal



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun and Minister of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs of the regional government U Zaw Aye Maung open the Community Centre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

approach in accordance with the changing trends amidst the democratic transition. IPRD offices have transformed into community centres since the previous year.

The community centre in Bahan is built with State funds. The Information Ministry is informing the public about the endeavours of the State, and that is its responsibility. MPs have access to public opinions and suggestions at the community centres as they are the places where the public express their desires and concerns. MPs then

present and discuss these public messages at the parliament where policies are adopted.

The Union Minister said so, community centres serve as the important pillars of democracy as the power of democracy depends on the degree of public involvement. Comprehensive use of community centres is required as the public can exchange ideas there. The community centre in Bahan has all the required characteristics, but its success depends on the interest of the public of all ages and both genders.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein said it has been nearly four years since Yangon Region Government has been running community centres in cooperation with Ministry of Information, expanding the areas of its involvement with the public during the years. Community centres play an essential role in strengthening democracy.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun then presented certificates of honour to the Association of Myanmar Architects through its chairman

U Maw Lin, and to Daw Kaythi Nyunt Manager of Yangon Petrol Company, for donating computers and accessories and furniture to the community centre.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun and Minister of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs of the regional government U Zaw Aye Maung formally opened the centre.

Led by Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region Naw Pan Thinza Myo, talks were held under the theme – how to effectively run a community centre. IPRD built 16 community centres at the capitals of states and regions and other towns.

The Bahan community centre is the first to be built by the State which spent Ks 484.1 million for the centre, equipped with modern facilities. The second centre to be built with State funds is in Thandwe in Rakhine State. Although all the 417 district and township IPRD offices are not upgraded into modern facilities, they are serving as community centres as possible as they can. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)



Children reading books inside the Community Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the multimedia room in the Community Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**



Sets of computers seen at the multimedia room of the Community Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**



People use gym equipment inside the fitness centre of the Community Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thai-Myanmar border trade value down this FY

THE value of Thailand-Myanmar border trade from 1st October to 31 January in the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY) amounted to US\$1.16 billion, a decrease of \$97.34 million against last FY, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade totalled \$1.16 billion, which included \$773.6 million in exports and \$382.5 million in imports. Last year, total bilateral trade was \$1.25 billion.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbour-

ing Thailand through seven border checkpoints - Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese gates.

From 1 October to 31 January this year, the Hteekhee border gate recorded the highest trade value of \$555 million, followed by Myawady (\$362 million) and Kawthoung (\$125 million).

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, such as crab, fish and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut and turmeric, while

consumer goods, cosmetic machinery, food products, agricultural equipment and track cars are imported into the country from Thailand.

The country is also trading with neighbouring countries of China, India and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is conducted through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

JobNation digital job expo, offering hundreds of jobs, to be held in Mandalay

JOBNATION digital job expo will be held on 23 February at Marvel Hotel in Mandalay region. Both local and foreign companies will offer hundreds of jobs for local residents in Mandalay.

This job expo will be organized by JobNet.com.mm. More than 25 top companies in Myanmar will participate in the job expo, and offer many employment opportunities.

Area residents can seek jobs at the expo and meet officials from the companies. The job hunters do not need to bring hard copies of their

CVs, and they can apply for the jobs simply through CV ID technology.

But, job hunters need to bring their mobile phones to apply for the jobs using CV ID technology.

At the expo, the companies will show their ID (QR Code). Mobile phone holders can scan their QR Code to look for company job vacancies.

Also, job hunters may read through the companies' listings at the JobNet.com.mm website.—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

Farmers benefit from China-Myanmar agriculture cooperation

AS the time for growing rice in Myanmar approaches, Kyaw Thet Naing, a farmer who lives on the outskirts of the nation's capital Nay Pyi Taw, already has high hope for his harvest.

His confidence has grown from experiencing years of rich and quality yields on his five acres of rice, where he has kept planting paddy seed varieties from China and practiced related farming techniques since 2017.

"With our traditional ways of cultivation, we would normally produce about 60 baskets (1,260 kg) per acre. With China's assistance, we have added nearly 50 baskets per acre," he said.

In the past year, rice seeds and related techniques from China have become widely accepted among nearby farmers, he added.

BUILDING PLATFORMS

In 2017, the Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) in Nanning, capital of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, worked with agricultural authorities in Myanmar as well as companies from both sides to build several research platforms in Nay Pyi Taw.

The platforms, which aim to introduce, select, demonstrate and publicize high-quality crop varieties from both countries, launched research projects targeting new ways to plant and grow crops more efficiently and with greener methods in pest and disease prevention and

control.

Yang Mingtong, chairman of the Guangxi Haokay Biotechnology Co. Ltd., one of the contributors to the platform, said that the company has been conducting tests and plant trials for about 102 Chinese crop varieties, including rice, corn, cucurbit and vegetables, in Myanmar to see if they are suited to the local climate and soil conditions.

"For now, two rice varieties and two corn varieties we developed have received plantation permits in Myanmar," said Yang, adding that the high-yield hybrid rice from China helps improve the taste of Myanmar rice, allowing it to be sold at higher prices.

Ruan Shiyun, a farmer from a village near Nanning, planted two new varieties last year. "The yield increased substantially to around 3,000 kg per acre, versus 2,100 to 2,400 kg per acre in previous years, with improved disease-and-lodging resistance," he said.

The new varieties were hybridized from rice introduced from Myanmar and local ones in the China-ASEAN crop experimental station in Nanning.

Introducing Myanmar crops to China or vice versa benefits farmers from both sides, said Yang, noting that his company, among others, has tested 39 crop varieties from Myanmar for planting in Guangxi.

PROMOTING EXCHANGES

Meanwhile, bilateral exchanges and cooperation among



A farmer uses a machine to prepare a rice paddy for planting. PHOTO: CHIT THET LEL

scientists and technical personnel have laid a solid foundation for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier in January, Myanmar researcher Cho Cho San concluded her one-year exchange as a beneficiary of the ASEAN Talented Young Scientists (Guangxi) Program in GAAS and went back to Myanmar.

"Apart from lab experience, I was able to learn from established findings in molecular biotechnology and bioinformatics, some of which have not yet been done in Myanmar," she said.

She now serves as a plant pathologist for the Department of Agricultural Research in Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI).

"I will share with my colleagues some of the technical experience and knowledge that I got from Guangxi through practical training, seminars and presentations in conference meetings," she said, adding that the most meaningful aspect of her career is that the team's collective work could help farmers.

INCREASING BENEFITS

For the past two years, hundreds of Myanmar students and scientists gained opportunities to study and conduct research in China under programs sponsored by the Chinese government and companies.

Guangxi, the only region in China that boasts water and land gateways to ASEAN countries, attracted nine young scientists from Myanmar to advance their

research. Most of them study bio-science, a field closely related to agriculture.

Soe Thet Naung, the Myanmar Consulate General to Nanning, said that Guangxi's climate is similar to that of the Shan and Kachin states of Myanmar, an aspect that could help fructify and deepen bilateral exchanges in agricultural research. He highly valued the bilateral cooperation in agricultural research between China and Myanmar.

Ye Tin Tun, director general of the Department of Agriculture under MOALI, said that China is advanced in technology, and Myanmar farmers need quality seeds and an increase in agricultural productivity. With China's technical assistance, these farmers are expected to see more benefits.—Xinhua

Stigmatization not helpful for prevention of spread of Coronavirus infection

SAPEGUARDING public health is a priority. Since the Coronavirus spread beyond China, the health authorities of Myanmar have struggled to find the correct response to prevent the introduction of the deadly virus in Myanmar. Those returnees and travellers from China who displayed high temperatures and fevers were quarantined for two weeks, and discharged after laboratory results confirmed they were free of the Coronavirus.

Health authorities have also beefed up surveillance at the border check-points, considering that a 1,300 mile long border with China is an important part to monitor for prevention of the Coronavirus infection, as travellers from both countries can cross the border through legal checkpoints, as well as illegal gates.

Meanwhile, the health authorities have distributed Coronavirus awareness pamphlets, written in Chinese, to hotels, guest houses and places where travellers from China often stay.

These efforts by health workers and local authorities have resulted in receiving information from the public about people who are suspected of having the Coronavirus infection, and health authorities quickly responded to this information and visited such people.

The real-time information released by the Ministry of Health and Sports on the Coronavirus has also been helpful for private and state media to relay information to the public and prevent the spreading of rumours.

Also, authorities have tightened rules for international travellers, as those who do not fill out the Health Declaration Card at the nation's airports should not be allowed to enter Myanmar,

since this information is very important for surveillance.

These efforts and achievements have shown that we have been carrying out the proper precautions to prevent the Coronavirus infection from spreading in Myanmar. The authorities are also doing the correct thing in tracking down and preventing false information and panic.

We do believe that our people have been made aware that the stigmatization of infected people is not helpful for combating the Coronavirus infection, and can cause unnecessary problems.

We should have knowledge about the Coronavirus infection, and we should not panic. We should be aware of those people who have recently traveled to China and had close contacts with people who have been quarantined.



U Ding Ying (Chairman, DELCO)

Exclusive Interview by Oxford Business Group

"There are huge deposits across the country, and geological studies show that there is potential beyond the gemstones for which the country is known."

U Ding Ying, (Chairman, DELCO)

In what ways are Myanmar's new mining rules impacting international investment?

U DING YING: The new mining laws implemented in 2018 were designed with international firms in mind and have made it more straightforward to operate. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation received over 1000 applications for new licences in the first six months after lifting the moratorium, signalling a degree of trust and suggesting

that international firms believe that they will be able to operate in compliance and safely.

However, it still takes some time to receive this and other approvals. For exploration permits, for instance, companies can receive different information from different authorities, which can result in significant delays. It can take months for approvals to move between regional and union government bodies, and this may deter foreign investors. That being said, the processes at the Myanmar Investment Commission are quick and up to international standards.

How do you assess the effectiveness of current mining

exploration efforts, and what opportunities are emerging as a result?

DING YING: Myanmar remains unexplored, and this will not be able to change without the latest technology. There are huge deposits across the country, and geological studies show that there is potential beyond the gemstones for which the country is known. However, much of this information is dated and does not reveal the full picture, especially at a deeper level.

Exploration licences are not quick nor easy to get, which means that firms must commit to the market for the long term. However, our joint venture (JV) with a foreign company – the first in the mining sector –

opened the door for additional such partnerships. Moreover, officials will feel more comfortable giving licences as there is an example to follow. An increase in JVs will bring jobs to rural areas and enable the upskilling of local processing capabilities. Foreign capital and expertise are highly valued, and domestic partners can bring their experience to the table with the central and local government.

Where does community engagement play a role in the process of receiving a licence?

DING YING: In order to gain exploration approvals, a firm must engage in community consultation and education. This is not easy, but it is vital to ex-

plain to the local population the process of opening a mine, and what inconveniences and benefits it would bring. It is particularly important to highlight the construction of supporting infrastructure, financial multipliers and local job creation. In our experience a village-by-village seminar, including questions and answers, is the most effective manner for communicating with communities. The challenge is that in the past mining was associated with land grabs and environmental degradation. Trust must be gained, and this can be achieved by connecting with elders.

What will the impact of tin and tungsten be on the commodity

export portfolio in the medium term?

DING YING: Tin and tungsten make up 10% of the mining sector, but we expect output to increase 10 times over in the coming years. The market for these minerals historically fluctuated significantly, especially when new mines opened. Despite this, demand for these minerals is rising. Due to its strength and high melting point, tungsten has been reclassified as a critical mineral by the US. Similarly, tin's value as a coating material has led it to join the list of 35 essential minerals for the country. As such, both are considered vital for US economic and security interests, and we are starting to see demand reflect this. Today, China remains the world's largest processor of tungsten, but in light of potential trade disruptions, a diversified supply will be necessary for countries such as the US.

WHO to accelerate research and innovation for new coronavirus

WHO is convening a global research and innovation forum to mobilize international action in response to the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

"Harnessing the power of science is critical for bringing this outbreak under control," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "There are questions we need answers to, and tools we need developed as quickly as possible. WHO is playing an important coordinating role by bringing the scientific community together to identify research priorities and accelerate progress."

The forum, to be held 11-12 February in Geneva, is organized in collaboration with the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness.

The forum will bring together key players including leading scientists as well as public health agencies, ministries of health and research funders pursuing 2019-nCoV critical animal health and public health research and the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, among other innovations.

Participants will discuss several areas of research, including

identifying the source of the virus as well as sharing of biological samples and genetic sequences.

Experts will build on existing SARS and MERS coronavirus research and identify knowledge gaps and research priorities in order to accelerate scientific information and medical products most needed to minimize the impact of the 2019-nCoV outbreak.

The meeting is expected to produce a global research agenda for the new coronavirus, setting priorities and frameworks that can guide which projects are undertaken first. "Understanding the disease, its reservoirs, transmission and clinical severity and then developing effective counter-measures is critical for the control of the outbreak, to reduce deaths and minimize the economic impact," said Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist.

This will also fast-track the development and evaluation of effective diagnostic tests, vaccines and medicines, while establishing mechanisms for affordable access to vulnerable populations and facilitating community engagement.

"The WHO R&D Blueprint is a global strategy and preparedness platform that drives coordinated development of drugs

and vaccines before epidemics, and allows the rapid activation of R&D activities during epidemics. It speeds up the availability of the diagnostics, vaccines and treatments and technologies that ultimately save lives," added Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme.

Setting clear global research priorities for the novel coronavirus should lead to more efficient investments, high-quality research and synergies among global researchers.

Pangolins may have spread coronavirus

Chinese researchers investigating the animal origin of the coronavirus outbreak in China have said that the endangered pangolin may be the "missing link" between bats and humans.

Bats are known carriers of the latest strain of the disease, which has infected at least 31,000 people and killed more than 630 worldwide, mostly in China where the outbreak started.

A genetic analysis showed that the strain of the virus currently spreading among humans was 96% identical to that found in bats.



Experts speculate that the endangered pangolin is the intermediary host between bats and humans for the coronavirus. PHOTOGRAPH: ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP

But according to Arnaud Fontanet, from France's Pasteur Institute, the disease did not jump straight from bats to humans. "We think there's another animal that's an intermediary," he told AFP.

The Sars outbreak of 2002-3, involving a different strain of coronavirus, was transferred to humans by the civet, a small mammal whose meat is considered a delicacy in China.

Many animals are capable

of transmitting viruses to other species, and nearly all strains of coronavirus contagious to humans originated in wildlife.

Several studies have shown that the bat-borne virus lacks the necessary hardware to latch onto human cell receptors. But it's still not clear which animal is the missing link.

Fontanet believes the intermediary was "probably a mammal," possibly belonging to the

badger family.

After testing more than 1,000 samples from wild animals, scientists at the South China Agricultural University found that the genome sequences of viruses in pangolins to be 99% identical to those on coronavirus patients, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

REFERENCES WHO; AFP News and Feature stories Updates

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to preserve and protect for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of National Unity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty.
2. To work on the peace process till success is achieved based on Union spirit.
3. To strive with the collective strength of all ethnic nationals for rule of law, a fair justice system and the security and safety of all citizens.
4. To prevent/protect all people from the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty and thereby uplift their standard of living.
5. Emergence of a Constitution which will be in alignment with a genuine Democratic Federal Union.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 8th February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9th February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States. Degree of certainty of (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th February, 2020: Partly cloudy.

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Dinner marking Japan-Myanmar Festival held in Yangon

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and dignitaries attend the Pre-Event Reception for Japan Myanmar Festival 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRE-EVENT dinner marking the 6th Japan-Myanmar Festival 2020 was held at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon at 7 pm yesterday.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Information and Ambassador of Japan to Myan-

mar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama extended greetings at the dinner.

Then the video clip of message sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the festival was screened.

Also presented were the speaker and the deputy speaker

of Yangon Region Hluttaw, cabinet members of Yangon Region government, officials of Myanmar-Japan Traders Associations and specially invited guests.

The goal of the festival is to further strengthen friendly relations between Myanmar and

Japan through mutual cooperation. The first Japan-Myanmar Festival was held in December 2014. This year's festival will be held on a grand scale at the Thuwanna Bommi Event Park in Yangon on 9 this month.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Sixth Myanmar Food Expo to be held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA) will hold its sixth exhibition, Myanmar Food Expo 2020, from 14 to 16 February at Fortune Plaza, Yangon.

More than 180 showrooms from over 120 companies will be displayed at Food Expo 2020. At the expo, domestic and foreign

investment businesses, supporting industry businesses to develop the food sectors, domestic and foreign wholesalers, distributors and retailers, domestic and foreign producers, export and import enterprises, technology and advisory services, and businesses from the related departments and asso-

ciations will also participate in the expo.

"This expo will be held with five objectives. The main purpose is to display locally produced food at the same place and same time. Moreover, a forum will be held during the expo to establish the needed infrastructure related to the

production of quality food in Myanmar. This forum will be held in cooperation with MFPEA, as well as entrepreneurs and government organizations. This is one of the important forums for our food production businesses," said an official from MFPEA.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Police seize narcotic drugs in Ngaphe, Mabein, Mongmit

Suspect named Ma Thandar (alias) Thandar Sein Phyo seen with confiscated drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

AUTHORITIES seized illegal drugs in Ngaphe, Mabein, Mongmit townships on 7 February, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Police from Ngaphe confiscated 40,000 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from Ma Thandar (a) Ma Thandar Sein Phyo who was driving a motorcycle at the Nat Ye Kan joint inspection gate in Ngaphe Township in Magway Region.

Similarly, police from Mabein seized 2,000 stimulant tablets from a motorcycle driven by Nay Lin Oo and Ma San Wai on

board on Mongmit-Mabein road at Pway Tu Village, Thahe Village-tract in Mabein Township.

In addition to the case, police separately searched the house of Ma Than Than Lwin (a) Ma Than, Wai Yan Min (a) Min Min and Lae Lae Hnin in Myitsonne Village in Mongmit Township, and seized 740 stimulant tablets and 0.05 kg of heroin.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Motorcyclist killed in collision with car

A motorcyclist was killed when he collided with a car in Taninthayi region on 7 February.

The accident happened at 8 pm at a location between mileposts 32/1 and 32/2 on Da-

wei-Myeik Road, Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi region. The accident involved a motorbike and an automobile.

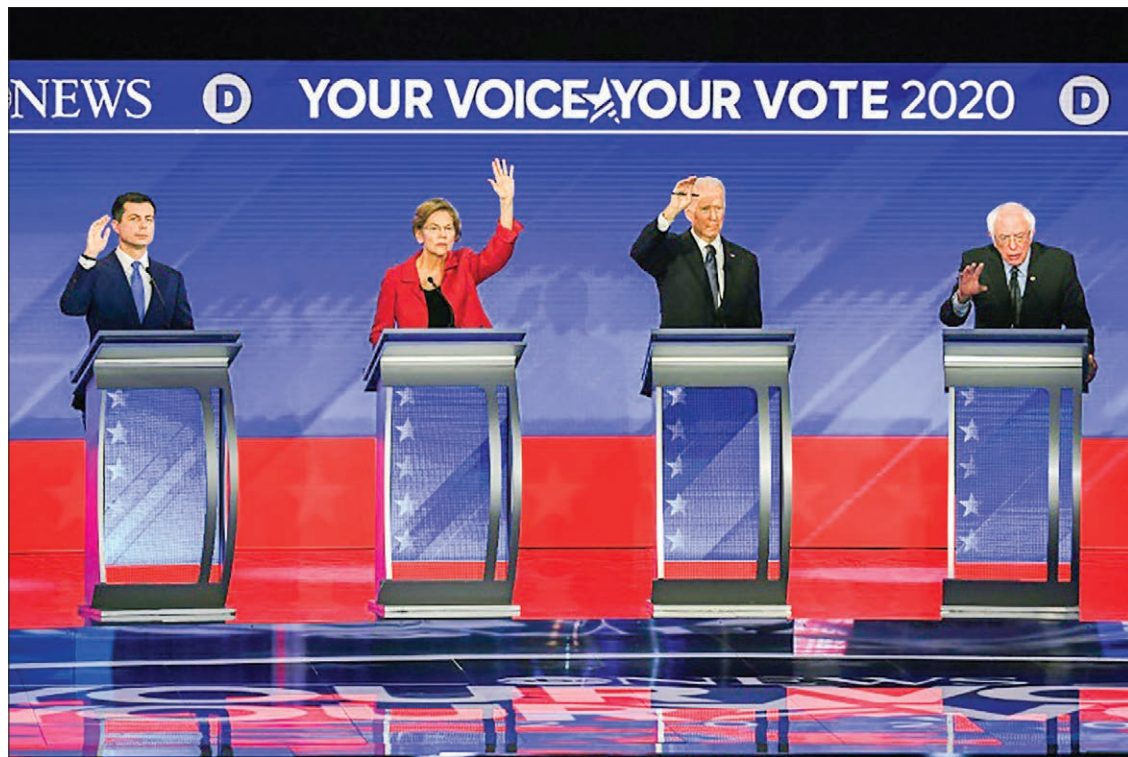
According to the investigation, the car was heading for

Myeik from Dawei, driven by Phyo Wai Myo, 36, from Pulaw township. It apparently collided head on with a motorbike driven by Kyaw Hein Chit, 19, when both drivers lost control. The motor-

bike driver was pronounced dead at the scene. The police from Winwa police station filed a case of reckless driving against both men.—Myo Chit Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Top hopefuls Buttigieg, Sanders under fire in Democratic debate



Left to right, presidential hopefuls Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders at the eighth Democratic primary debate of the 2020 campaign season in Manchester, New Hampshire. PHOTO: AFP

MANCHESTER (United States) — White House hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg — riding neck-and-neck in the polls ahead of the next Democratic primary contest — come under sustained attack on the debate stage from rivals seeking to

challenge Donald Trump in November.

Buttigieg, a former mayor of South Bend, Indiana who at 38 is a fresh face on the national stage, defended himself against charges of inexperience and, in a dig at Sanders, urged Americans

to elevate a nominee who will “leave the politics of the past in the past.”

The 78-year-old leftist Sanders, eyeing the moderate Buttigieg as his possible chief adversary, aimed his own shots at his far younger rival in the

Manchester, New Hampshire debate — casting him as the candidate of Wall Street.

“I don’t have 40 billionaires, Pete, contributing to my campaign,” Sanders said.

Buttigieg and Sanders finished atop the pack earlier this week in Iowa’s chaotic caucuses, and both hope to renew the performance Tuesday in New Hampshire, as the Democratic Party seeks to pick a challenger to Trump in November.

But Sanders, a veteran senator calling for “political revolution,” was in the firing line from several rivals, including former vice president and fellow septuagenarian Joe Biden who branded his policies too radical to unite Americans.

The 77-year-old Biden, fighting to keep his White House hopes alive after finishing an unnerving fourth in Iowa, insisted liberal policies like Sanders’s flagship universal health care plan would be too divisive, expensive and difficult to get through Congress.

“How much is it going to cost?” Biden asked about Sand-

ers’s Medicare for All bill which estimates the project would cost tens of trillions of dollars.

“Who do you think is going to get that passed” in Congress?

Biden performed more aggressively than in previous showings, seizing a chance to argue that today’s global tensions required an experienced statesman to guide the nation out of a dark period.

Despite the Iowa setback he also made plain he still views himself as best placed to mount a centrist challenge to the Republican Trump, who this week survived an impeachment trial that did little to dent his electoral support. A national unknown one year ago, Buttigieg has run an ambitious campaign that resonated with voters who appreciate his articulate explanations of policy.

But rivals including Senator Amy Klobuchar argued Buttigieg is an untested novice on the world stage.

“We have a newcomer in the White House, and look where it got us,” she said in a gibe at both Buttigieg and Trump. — AFP ■

Ireland votes in ‘three horse race’ for power

DUBLIN (Ireland) — Ireland began voting in a general election on Saturday, with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar hoping to secure a new term on the back of Brexit — though voters are more likely to judge him more on his domestic record.

Polls opened across the country at 0700 GMT, although a small number of islands off the west coast voted on Friday to allow for rough seas potentially disrupting the transport of ballots by boat.

Varadkar’s Fine Gael party has been in power since 2011 but polling suggests they are trailing centre-right rivals Fianna Fail and left-wingers Sinn Fein.

In Monday’s final opinion poll, Sinn Fein — the former political wing of the now-defunct Irish Republican Army paramilitary group — were out in front on 25 per cent, with Fianna Fail on 23 per cent and Fine Gael on 20 per cent.

In Dublin a slow trickle of morning voters made their way to polling stations for the weekend vote, which breaks with Ireland’s tradition of elections being held on Friday, in a bid to decrease disruption and improve turnout.

Voters told AFP they were looking to break the historic duopoly of centre-right parties Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

“I’m hopeful there will be change. In this country for far too long it’s been dominated by two parties,” said 60-year-old James Comiskey.

“Hopefully I’m looking for a more left government of Ireland,” said 22 year-old Alexander Faw. Some 3.3 million people are eligible to vote to elect 159 members of the Dail, the lower chamber of parliament in Dublin.

A single transferable vote system is used to elect multiple members from 39 constituencies. — AFP ■

Russian FM slams US sanctions on Venezuela as ‘illegal’

CARACAS (Venezuela) — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday slammed US sanctions against Venezuela as “illegal” during an official visit to Caracas.

“These sanctions are illegal and are the main cause of the crisis in the Venezuelan economy,” said Lavrov after meeting his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza.

Russia is one of the main backers of Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro, along with China and Cuba.

US President Donald Trump has launched a new wave of sanctions against Venezuela’s economy, which has been in crisis for years, as well as against Maduro and his ministers.

Among those measures, Washington imposed sanctions on Venezuela’s oil industry last year, targeting the country’s main source of hard currency, and on Friday it hit its flag airline, Conviasa.

The US administration has said the sanctions are aimed at forcing Maduro to step down.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) speaks with his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza (R) at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Caracas on 7 February 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Juan Guaido, the leader of the opposition who has declared himself Venezuela’s rightful president, was a guest at the US Congress when Trump delivered his State of the Union speech earlier this week. He later met with Trump at the White House, receiving the same reception as a head of state.

Washington warned Venezuela against harming Guaido or attempting to block his return to the country.

On Thursday, Elliott Abrams, the US administration’s pointman on Venezuela, hinted that Washington is planning to target Russia for backing Venezuela, amid reports that the US could sanction Russian state oil giant Rosneft for its increasingly close relationship with Caracas. “Russia may soon find out that their continued support of Maduro will no longer be cost-free,” Abrams said. — AFP ■

China virus toll hits 722, with first foreign victim

BEIJING (China) — The death toll from the novel coronavirus outbreak soared to 722 in China on Saturday, including the first foreign victim, as Hong Kong imposed a mandatory quarantine on mainland arrivals to block the spread of an epidemic that has caused global panic.

With 86 more people dying in mainland China — the highest one-day jump so far — the toll was closing in on the 774 killed worldwide during the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic.

A 60-year-old US citizen diagnosed with the virus died on Thursday in Wuhan, the city at the epicentre of the health emergency, according to the US embassy, which did not provide more details about the person.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement to AFP that the victim was a US citizen of Chinese origin.

A Japanese man in his 60s with a suspected coronavirus infection also died in hospital in Wuhan, the Japanese foreign ministry said, adding that it



Hong Kong has begun enforcing a two-week quarantine for anyone arriving from mainland China. **PHOTO: AFP**

was "difficult" to confirm if he had the illness.

The only fatalities outside the mainland were a Chinese man in the Philippines and a 39-year-old man in Hong Kong.

Nearly 35,000 people have been infected by the new strain, which is believed to have emerged in a market selling wild animals in Wuhan last year before spreading across China. The epidemic has prompted the government

to lock down cities home to tens of millions of people, as anger mounts over its handling of the crisis, especially after a whistleblowing doctor fell victim to the virus.

Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, on a visit to quarantined Wuhan this week, instructed officials to take a "wartime" approach as they implement drastic measures that include combing the city for feverish residents. — AFP ■

Delhi records over 57 pc voter turnout

NEW DELHI (India) — Delhi recorded a voter turnout of over 57 per cent in the Assembly election, the polling for which was held on Saturday, according to the Election Commission officials.

However, the final figure is yet to be out since voting has not concluded at several polling stations. "The voter turnout data is in the public domain. It is 57.06 per cent. This is the tentative data, because the voting has not yet concluded not in many loca-

tions. At many polling stations, there was a long queue even at 6 pm," Delhi's Chief Election Officer Ranbir Singh said while addressing a press conference here.

Earlier, Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain said the elections took place peacefully and smoothly. He informed that a total of 672 candidates were in the fray and more than 98,000 officials were deployed for the polling. The counting of votes will be done on February 11. — ANI ■

Two dead, approx 11 injured in firecracker explosion in Punjab's Tarn Taran

TARN TARAN (India) — Two people lost their lives while approximately 11 were injured in a firecracker explosion that took place near a village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district, according to IGP, Border Range, Sarinderpal Singh. "Two people have been killed and approximately

11 people have been injured, the injured are being treated at a local hospital," Sarinderpal Singh told ANI over the phone. Earlier, SSP Dhruv Dahiya said that the accident took place during a 'nagar kirtan', the firecrackers had burst in a tractor-trolley which led to the injuries and fatalities. — ANI ■

Thai soldier kills more than 10 in shooting rampage

BANGKOK — A Thai soldier shot dead more than 10 people Saturday in a shooting rampage in the country's north-east, police said.

The deputy spokesman of the national police said the death toll could not be immediately confirmed, and that he could only say more than 10 were killed and several injured.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha expressed his condolences over the loss of life and instructed officials to catch the gunmen as soon as possible, according to the government spokeswoman.

The soldier first shot dead his commander and two others at a military camp in Nakhon Ratchasima before fleeing to a nearby shopping center where he opened fire on civilians, me-

dia reports said.

CCTV footage shows that the gunman is still inside the Terminal 21 shopping mall, with gunshots heard inside the building, a local TV station reported, quoting police and military.

A manhunt has been launched for the attacker, who is still at large and believed to be holed up in the Terminal 21 shopping mall.

Although the motive for the attack is unclear, local media reported that it may have stemmed from animosity between the soldier and the commander.

The Japanese Embassy said it had no information of any Japanese being caught up in the shooting. — Kyodo News ■

N. Korea marks army's founding anniversary amid virus woes

BEIJING — North Korea on Saturday marked the 72nd anniversary of the founding of its army, amid wide-ranging efforts by the country to prevent the spread of a new pneumonia-causing coronavirus raging in neighbor China.

On the anniversary in 2018, North Korea staged a military parade in Pyongyang at which it displayed what appeared to be intercontinental ballistic missiles including its Hwasong-15, seen as capable of carrying a nuclear warhead to anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

This year, North Korea's state-run media did not report that Pyongyang conducted such a parade in a break from past years.

The Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's most influential newspaper, said Saturday that the nation's army has overcome "so severe and dangerous difficulties," but made no direct mention of nuclear forces and the United States.

In late January, a photo taken by a private satellite showed many soldiers practicing forma-



Women wear masks in Pyongyang on Feb. 6, 2020, amid the spread of a new coronavirus. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

tions at an airfield on the outskirts of Pyongyang, raising speculation that North Korea would hold a military parade in the not-so-distant future.

North Korea, however, has

apparently shifted its focus to strengthening measures to contain the new coronavirus, such as effectively prohibiting foreign tourists from crossing the border from China. — Kyodo News ■

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Japan, Britain agree to aim for “ambitious” trade deal

TOKYO — The top diplomats of Japan and Britain agreed Saturday to work quickly toward a bilateral trade deal that will be “at least as ambitious” as Japan’s agreement with the European Union.

In their first meeting since the United Kingdom formally withdrew from the European Union on Jan. 31, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and his British counterpart Dominic Raab also affirmed ongoing cooperation on security issues, arranging to hold “two-plus-two” talks involving their countries’ defense chiefs at an early date.

“Preliminary discussions have begun in building a new bilateral economic partnership and I hope we will be able to start and conclude negotiations as early as possible,” Motegi said in a joint press conference after the meeting in Tokyo.

Raab said the two discussed a deal that would be “at least as high standard, if not higher, and at least as ambitious” as the Japan-EU economic partnership agreement that entered into force in February last year. Such a deal would “send a very powerful

signal of our shared commitment to free and rules-based trade,” he added. Motegi also expressed support for Britain’s interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11-member free trade pact also involving Australia, Canada and Mexico.

Regarding security matters, the foreign ministers agreed to continue working toward the complete denuclearization of North Korea and to continue enforcing U.N. sanctions on the country. They also exchanged views on heightened tensions in the Middle East, noting the importance of Iran remaining in a landmark 2015 deal that put limits on its nuclear program. In a separate meeting later in the day, Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said he and Raab affirmed their cooperation heading into the U.N. climate change conference scheduled for November in Glasgow, Scotland.

Speaking to reporters, Raab said it was an honor that Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako had accepted Queen Elizabeth’s invitation to make a state visit in the spring. — Kyodo News ■

Stock markets take a breather after rally

NEW YORK (United States) — Global stocks mostly fell Friday as investors pocketed profits from this week’s rallies, despite data showing a surge in US job creation.

Equities largely bounced back this week after heavy losses triggered by worries about the economic fallout from China’s deadly coronavirus outbreak.

But major US indices, which ended at all-time highs on Thursday, spent all of Friday’s session in the red.

And major bourses in Asia and Europe also dipped.

“Having already rallied hard this week, it was going to be hard to push equities higher into the weekend, especially given the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus in China,” said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at online trading firm IG.

The focus of the day was the US employment report, showing employers added 225,000 new non-farm jobs last

month, far surpassing expectations, thanks to big gains in construction, and leisure and hospitality.

And while the unemployment rate ticked higher, this was due to more people entering the labor force. Wages rose modestly.

But stocks retreated as “investors take a breather to reassess after a string of four-straight days of solid gains,” analysts at Charles Schwab brokerage said in a statement.

Meanwhile there is a sense the global economic impact of the virus outbreak could be limited.

Observers say the virus, which has killed more than 600 people and infected 31,000, will batter Chinese growth in the first quarter but the economy could rebound later in the year, as it did after SARS.

“If the pattern of the SARS impacts are a guide, there is the potential for the Chinese economy to rebound with an above-potential growth rate once the outbreak subsides,” said T. Rowe Price analyst Chris Kushtlis.

Among individual companies, Uber Technologies surged 9.5 per cent as it moved up the target date for becoming profitable to the fourth quarter of 2020, rather than in 2021.

Ford dropped 1.7 per cent as it promoted Jim Farley to chief operating officer and announced the carmaker’s automotive President Joe Hinrichs will retire.

Shares have been under pressure following a disappointing 2020 outlook released earlier this week. — AFP ■



Wall Street stocks ended a strong week on a tepid note, retreating from records despite a strong US jobs report. PHOTO: AFP



Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (R) and his British counterpart Dominic Raab shake hands in Tokyo before their meeting to discuss a bilateral trade deal. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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M.V HTK NEPTUNE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HTK NEPTUNE VOY. NO. (0220) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1115 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1115 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Newly-built Yadana Hninsi high-class housing complex in Yangon

By Swe Oo Wai

Yadana Hninsi housing project. **PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR**



NEW housing projects are emerging one after another in Yangon. Now is the time for the government to be trying in every way for the implementation of housing projects so as to meet the apartment demand for growing population in Yangon. Currently, the public have gained easy ac-

cess to a variety of choices such as location, area, design and price to buy apartments of the housing projects as they like. These housing projects not only make contribution to the development of Yangon but also are the good opportunities for those who are in need of shelter and stay. Yadana Hninsi high-class housing built by the Department

of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction has now emerged in Yangon.

Five 18-storeyed buildings

This housing project is located on Yadana Road in No 6 Ward, Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region, covering an area of 18 acres on which five

18-storeyed buildings are constructed. There are a total of 276 apartments. Every building has lift each installed so that those living at the apartments can easily go up and down. The design of the housing project was created by Surbana Jurong company from Singapore. With the use of this design, the Ministry of Construction had to shoulder responsibility of constructing the housing. The services include security, garbage collection, sports activity, recreation area, shopping facility as it is high-class housing. This housing project has two types of apartment—the first type is the apartment of 600 square feet and the second is the apartment of 1,200 square feet. These types of the apartment are airy. It is made up of two to four bed rooms.

The implementation of the housing project is one hundred percent completion. Now the public can purchase the apartments as they wish. It is situated not far from the downtown Yangon with easy access to other townships through good transportation links. Moreover, it is also located on the road to link with Hanthawady International Airport (Bago) that will soon emerge. There is a viewing deck area on the tenth floor of Yadana Hninsi high-class housing where one can overlook impressive views of Yangon. The residents of the housing can spend leisure hours relaxing on the viewing deck area.

Opportunities become plentiful

The selling price is reasonable enough for those who want to live in peace. The housing is good to live and those who are



Good transportation links



going to buy can do immediate and full payment at the time of purchasing the apartments. Moreover the housing also offers installment plan for the buyers. The housing is full of chances with a variety of choice intended for different people to live in. Having taken increased demand on apartments and growing number of population in Yangon into consideration, Yangon region government in partnership with relevant departments, Yangon City Development Committee and private organizations is implementing a host of housing projects in Yangon. At the same time, low-cost housing, affordable housing and high-cost housing have been emerging one after another in Yangon.

Now a large number of housing projects can be seen in Dagon Myothit Seikkan, Dagon Myothit (North), Hline-

thaya, Shwepyitha and on the outskirts of Yangon. Some housing projects have already been finished and some are under construction.

Implementation of new projects

The implementation of industrial garden cities, smart cities and new towns are underway. There are also a lot of projects waiting for implementations. Even though such new housing projects are being undertaken, Yangon regional government will have to strive for further implementation of affordable housing projects intended the working class people to live in. Yangon has a total of 149 projects to carry out implementations as it is trying for all-round development in all areas, 80 of them have been created by respective departments in Yangon Region and the

remaining ones are from seven committees of socio-economic development project of Yangon regional government. Most of them contain on the list of Yangon project.

Reconstruction activities Housing projects that intend the population of Yangon are among these projects. Some projects are in progress but some are poised to begin. Yangon regional government is undertaking new housing projects while it is carrying out reconstruction of the old housing.

At a time when housing projects are being undertaken, Yadana Hninsi high-class housing has appeared as the option for the people so as to meet the apartment demand for growing people in Yangon. Moreover, Yadana Hninsi high-class housing is a part of contribution to the development of Yangon. *Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)*

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

AJISHIN

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

ANAIMO

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

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

BUSHIDO

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

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

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

DINNING FUKUROU

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

EDOZUSHI

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

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

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

FUJINOBO

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

FURUSATO

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

GEKKO

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

HIMARI MYANMAR

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

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

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

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

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

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

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

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

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

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

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

CHATRIUM

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

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

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

HOTLE 51

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

HOTEL KAN KAW

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

HOTLE SIDNEY

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

INYA LAKE HOTEL

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

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

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

MERCURE HOTEL

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

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

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

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

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

PARK ROYAL

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

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

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

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

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

SAVOY HOTEL

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

SEDONA HOTEL

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

SULE SHANGRI-LA

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

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

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

SUPER HOTEL

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

Myanmar National League: Yangon United defeats ISPE 2-0



Yangon United's Zin Min Tun carries the ball during the match against ISPE FC at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday. **PHOTO: YUFC**

YANGON United defeated Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) FC by a score of 2-0 in week-5 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 at the Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Yangon's youth player Aee Soe saw his first appearance with the team this season.

Aee Soe had opportunities to score, but most of his attempts went over the goal post.

Yangon United found their opening goal when Aboubarcar scored at 40 minutes with a free-kick, with support from Nyein Chan Aung.

After 1-0, Yangon United made continuous shots on goal,

but the MNL debut team ISPE were strong in defense.

In the second half, Zin Min Tun substituted for Aee Soe.

At 56 minutes, Mg Mg Lwin scored the second goal, with the assist of Zin Min Tun, to bring the score to 2-0.

Yangon United held the score until the final whistle and celebrated the 2-0 victory over ISPE FC.

Yangon United is now standing in second place, earning 13 points from 5 plays, 4 wins and 1 draw. They are trying to reach the first position, now occupied by Hantharwady United, according to team officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Bale returns to Madrid squad, Zidane insists 'no problems'

MADRID (Spain) — Gareth Bale will return to the Real Madrid squad for the first time in five games on Sunday when Zinedine Zidane's side take on Osasuna in La Liga.

The club announced on Saturday that Bale has been called up, despite the Welshman being left out of Madrid's last four matches against Real Valladolid, Real Zaragoza, Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad.

Bale has only made two appearances so far this year. He played 90 minutes against Getafe on January 4 and then 53 minutes against Unionistas de Salamanca two weeks ago in the Copa del Rey, when he came off with an ankle sprain. Yet he has been fit for the last three fixtures and not been selected. Zidane said in a press conference on Saturday he has no problems with the way Bale has been training.

"Gareth is here and I am happy with all the players I have,"

Zidane said. "I know the answer you're looking for but I have 25 players and I have to choose. There are no issues or problems. I am sure Gareth is going to keep working as he has been." Asked if leaving Bale out of the squad amounted to a lack of respect, Zidane said: "I don't think so, the most important thing is he is here, working hard and he wants to train.

"There are times when he isn't named in the squad but I wouldn't read too much into it. Everyone has a role and Gareth is a player I will need between now and the end of the season."

After almost leaving Madrid last summer, Bale has endured another stop-start season under Zidane. A calf injury ruled him out for four weeks in October and November, when Bale provoked anger in Spain by playing for Wales and then celebrating victory behind a flag that read: "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order." — AFP ■



Gareth Bale has endured another stop-start season under Zinedine Zidane at Real Madrid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar Futsal League: MIU scores big in Week-20

MYANMAR Imperial University Futsal club scored a big win in Week-20 of the Myanmar Futsal League, played at the National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday.

Amid the support of their fans, Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club defeated Myoma JY Futsal Club by a score of 10-2.

In another match, U-19 futsal team of the Myanmar Football Federation beat AMM Brothers Futsal Club 5-3.

Also, first place team Victoria University College (VUC) futsal team defeated third place team GV FC by a score of 2-1.

The match between On Doctor Futsal Club and Winner Futsal Club went to a 1-1 draw, while Dream Team Futsal Club and Do Do Ko Ko Futsal Club



MIU FC player (yellow) attempts to block the ball from GV FC player (black) during Week-20 of the Myanmar Futsal League match at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

finished with a 5-5 draw.

Again, Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club beat Let Wel Thone Nara Futsal Club 6-4.

Yesterday's matches were

the conclusion of Week-20 and two teams, VUC and MIU, are fighting for first place with the same points but a difference in goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

France captain Ollivon prepared for Storm Ciara ahead of Italy Test

PARIS (France) — France captain Charles Ollivon said on Saturday forecast hurricane-strength winds would have an impact on his side's tactics for this weekend's Six Nations match against Italy in Paris.

Storm Ciara could bring gusts of more than 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles per hour) on Sunday for both outfits' second match in this year's tournament.

Les Bleus opened their campaign with an impressive 24-17 win over England last Sunday at the Stade de France and the Azzurri were hammered 42-0 by

Grand Slam champions Wales.

"There might be changes with the set-pieces and in open play but in all cases we'll see because last week they said there would be heavy rain for the whole match even it wasn't necessarily the case," 26-year-old Ollivon said.

"We have prepared for all the scenarios but remained focused, no matter the weather it's going to be difficult."

The French Rugby Federation and local government officials told AFP earlier in the day game would go ahead as planned.

Ollivon, who will lead his

country for just the second time, said he was aware of his team's tag as favourites against the visitors, who are on a 23-match winless streak in the competition.

"The most important thing is to say we are certainly conscious about the fact that we are possibly more favourites than last week, it's even a certainty," he said.

"We have to be conscious of that.

"We have to know how to act in the right way to put in place the right tools for the match. We can't not talk about it," he added.— AFP ■

Say Goodbye to **Negative** Self-Talk



By Htar Sandi Naing
*English Specialization,
University of Yangon*

Have you ever looked into yourself in the mirror and had self-talk? At that time, what do you usually talk about? Sentences can be either filled with positive words or negative ones that might drag you down. Self-talk is basically the internal monologue which has a huge impact on you. Self-talk can be either positive self-talk or negative self-talk. Which one you choose depends on 'YOU'. You are like holding a bucket of paint to color your own world. It is obvious that no one would want their life filled with darkness. I am quite certain that everyone prefers a rainbow over a dark cloud. I mean who in this world would want to say harsh words to themselves.

First of all, negative self-talks can definitely make you lose confidence. It makes you feel like your legs are given out that you can no longer stand up straight. Having negative thoughts in your mind can definitely lower your confidence level. You should never say to yourself, "I can never reach my goal." or "I am pretty sure I will lose" or "I can sense my failure." Why should you lose your confidence when you haven't even given a try? You should never judge yourself harshly as we are all unique human beings living on this same planet. So, you should quickly end your negative self-talks because if not, it will end your life.

Moreover, it is clear that you are the only person who has authority over yourself. You should love yourself more than anything. If you don't love yourself, who would love you? If you are concerned about yourself, you shouldn't open the door for negative thoughts to enter. Bear in mind that once you fall down, you can always get back up. Do you always keep lying down and waiting for someone's help? Obviously, it is a 'NO'.

Would you rather let a devil stay on your shoulder or an angel? Would you rather let a positive cloud float over your head or a dark one? You know about yourself more than anyone. You shouldn't be unsatisfied with yourself. You have to appreciate who you are. Sometimes, we have to change the way we think or the way we look at ourselves because if not, it might lead to negativity in our lives. We can destroy that toxic by saying, "I can do it!", "I will definitely succeed!" If you have a positive self-talk, then you can definitely have a positive vibe flowing in your blood.

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Let your weakness be your strength

By Kyal Sin Phu

2nd Year Honours Student
(English Specialization)
University of Yangon



It is true that we, human beings, are naturally endowed with both strengths and weaknesses. Although we all know the fact that Nobody is Perfect, most of us tend to strive for perfections, and we are more likely to feel dissatisfied with the areas we are weak in rather than appreciating the areas where our strengths lie. In other words, as the saying goes "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence", we often envy others for their impressive capabilities and feel bad for those competencies we lack while taking our strong points for granted. In fact, such our seemingly weak points could probably become our unique strengths if we see them from a different perspective, fully exploit them, and make the most of them.

Let me give you a few

examples to illustrate the aforementioned scenario. Firstly, some students are not academically gifted, i.e. they can hardly ever demonstrate outstanding performance in academic tests. In short, it seems that they are not high achievers in terms of academic grades. However, they, on the other hand, may actively partake in a wide range of extracurricular activities and well-equipped with some valuable soft skills such as interpersonal skills, communication skills, public speaking skills, teamwork skills, negotiation skills and problem-solving skills. They might have also established broader social networks, creating opportunities for their future career development.

The second example I would like to mention is that being multitalented is hailed as one of the admirable assets nowadays. However, it does not mean that we should feel inferior if we do not happen to possess a variety of talents.

Because, we could survive and even thrive if we have a profound aptitude in a specific field.

Thirdly, I would also like to give an example from my personal experience. This is what I perceived as my weakness turns out to be my strength when I see it from a different angle. Since I was young, I have not been a fast learner. It usually takes me longer hours than my peers in order to understand a particular lesson. Ninety nine times out of a hundred, I have to work hard and almost double my efforts so as to catch up with my classmates. At first glance, I thought being a slow learner is a stumbling block to my academic achievement. And, I used to blame myself for not being bright like some people. At that time, I often wish I was a fast learner. However, with the passage of the time, I came to realize that being a slow learner is not something that holds me back, but indeed "a blessing

in disguise". Because, having understood that I am not a fast learner, I tend to be motivated to work hard, devoting myself to the tasks that I have to do. As a positive consequence, I usually get them finished in time. I hardly ever postpone something I have to do until the last minute unlike most of the fast-learners who tend to be deadline-fighters. In this way, my seeming weakness as a slow learner shape me up as a committed and well-prepared person. Most people admire and appreciate me for my dedication, persistence, and for being a well-organized person.

All in all, it is undeniable that strengths and weaknesses are two sides of the same coin. Thus, we need to accept some of our weak points like we embrace our strong points. Then, we should maximize our plus sides and minimize our less capable aspects.





By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM;
Dip in English.



THE LIFE OF A TEACHER: A NOBLE PROFESSION

Profession means a type of job that needs special training or skill, especially one that needs a higher level of education. There are different types of professionals. They are the medical profession, the legal profession, the teaching profession and so on. I take up teaching as a profession because I am interested in teaching. I think 'teaching' is the noblest, among many ways of life.

A teacher is regarded as one of the five noblest ones comparable only to the Lord Buddha himself. In our Myanmar society, we look at all teachers with love and respect. We pay as much respect to teachers as to our parents. It is good to be a teacher in our Myanmar society. So, teaching is a noble profession. Anyway, the life of a teacher is not easy because he must have special qualifications apart from educational qualifications.

A teacher has definite duties to perform towards his pupils. He

must teach them and guide them by precept and example to bear a good moral character. A teacher should be a model to the pupils in everything he does because the pupils generally imitate their teachers in mannerism.

A teacher has to avoid those that are considered not respectable by society. He must try his best to become a good and able teacher. He should be ready to improve himself in knowledge and master the subjects he specializes in and teaches.

A teacher should prepare the lessons thoroughly before teaching the pupils. He should also teach the pupils to behave themselves. The pupils must be taught to be obedient and faithful to their country.

Besides, a teacher must do all he can to protect his pupils from harm and evil. According to Loka Niti, the Book of Wisdom, a teacher must direct his pupils to

a higher place of study or recommend them to a suitable occupation.

In fact, the life of a teacher is just like the stone for sharpening knives. The pupils may become doctors or engineers or high ranking officers, but the life of a teacher may remain the same. However, a teacher has a high social status in our Myanmar society. He is respected by every person.

A teacher is also one of the key factors in social reforms. Whenever a teacher thinks of transferring to another job, the thought is usually washed away by a single greeting 'Mingalaba' from the students. Therefore, I choose teaching as a profession.

Now that we are building a new society, the life of a teacher is more enhanced. He bears a grave responsibility to train the youths of the country on the correct lines. This is the life of a teacher I wish to become. ■■■

Invitation to young
writers for Sunday
Special

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



Moments with "Ah-Hey" (Let's march to victory) at Naga new year festival

By Nat Ye Hla

PHOTOS: TIN WIN (BEIKTHANO)

In comparison with the situation 10 years ago, this year's Naga new year festival in January saw changes for artists and well-heeled local and foreign travellers, who sought to witness the traditional culture of Myanmar's hill-tribe in the country's north-western area.

A group of artists set off by car from Bagan to Lahe ahead of the festival, which was held on 15 January. They had to spend two nights on the way to reach Lahe.

"The progress, compared with the past, is seen on the road to Lahe. It reflects that Naga zone will be improved with better roads," said U Tin Win, a prominent artist. He has been to the Naga festival about 10 times to take pictures of ethnic people in traditional dress.

He recounted his past experiences, such as sharing an alcohol bottle he brought from Yangon with tourists at past festivals because of the freezing cold in Naga hills, which is one of his vivid memories. In those days, there was only traditional alcohol made from

rice, and food prepared by a tourism company, while sleeping in temporary bamboo huts, which were the best available for visitors.

Today, there is food and drink from restaurants and shopping stalls, and with the better condition of roads, motorcycles are the most common means of transportation for local people.

The dense forests seen on the way surprised many visitors. The artists also visited the villages of Naga ethnic people to take photos of their daily lives.

One of the sad moments in the trip was when the artists were stopped by villagers who asked for medicine.

"A villager asked if we had medicine, because one was suffering from fever in the village. The villager could not describe which medicine he wanted. Just medicine for fever," said Tin Win.

Thein Shwe Kyi, in his 50s, another prominent artist in Myanmar, found that it was not an easy job to take photos of Naga people during his first trip to Lahe.

"Once we focus on them, they run away," he said, "This is different from my experiences during my trips to Chin hills."

The skulls of wildlife decorated the house of Naga ethnic people. For their livelihoods, they are mainly relying on hunting and cultivation.

During the trip, the artists could not take many photos of ethnic people, because of other obstacles.

Modern plastic identity cards, which were seen on the ethnic dancers during the festival, run contrary to ethnic dancers in traditional dresses.

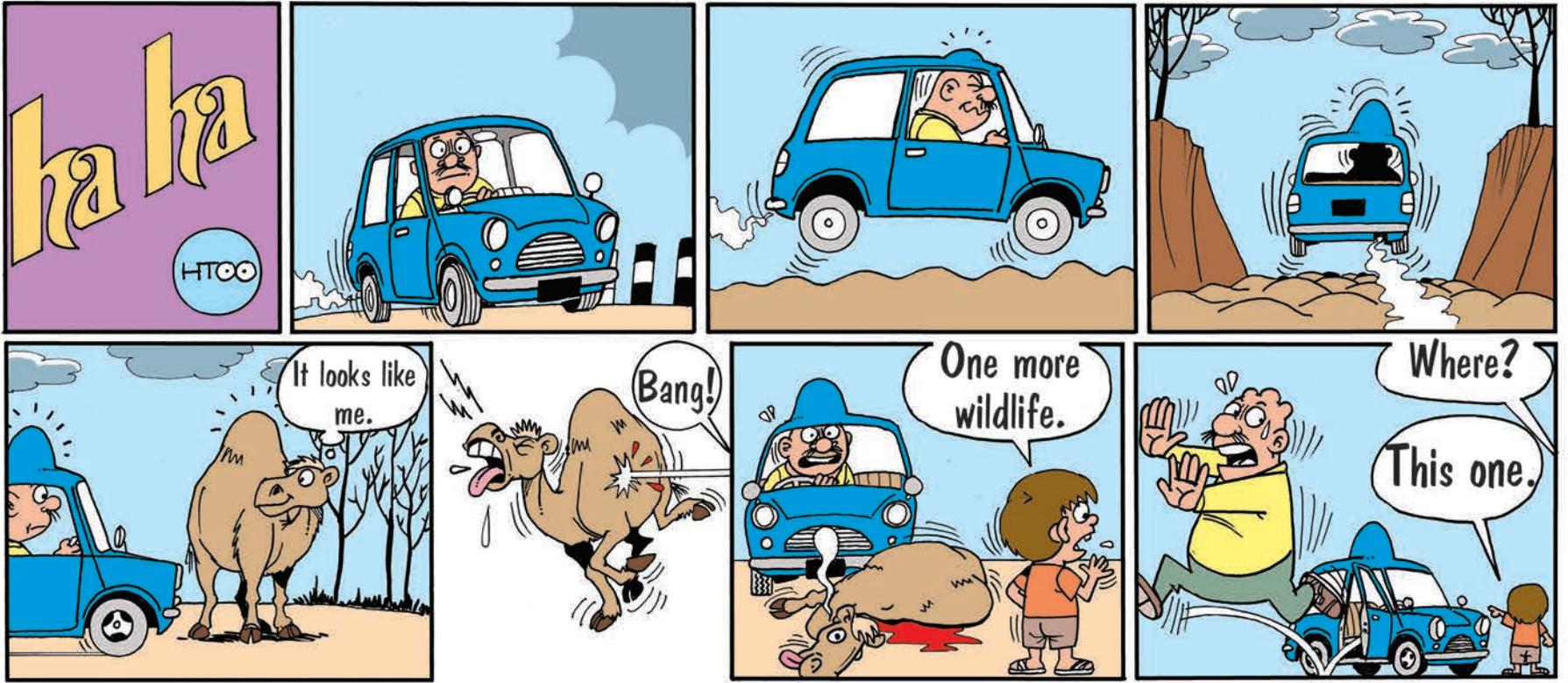
"For artists, we can ignore the plastic cards when we turn the photos on the canvas," said Tin Win, "But for tourists and photographers, the plastic cards are not helpful for photos."

Another artist who could not take good photos was U Zaw Min, in his 60s.

"I'm still hearing 'Ah-Hey' 'Ah-Hey' (Let's march to victory) of the Naga dancers," said U Zaw Min.



SUNDAY COMICS



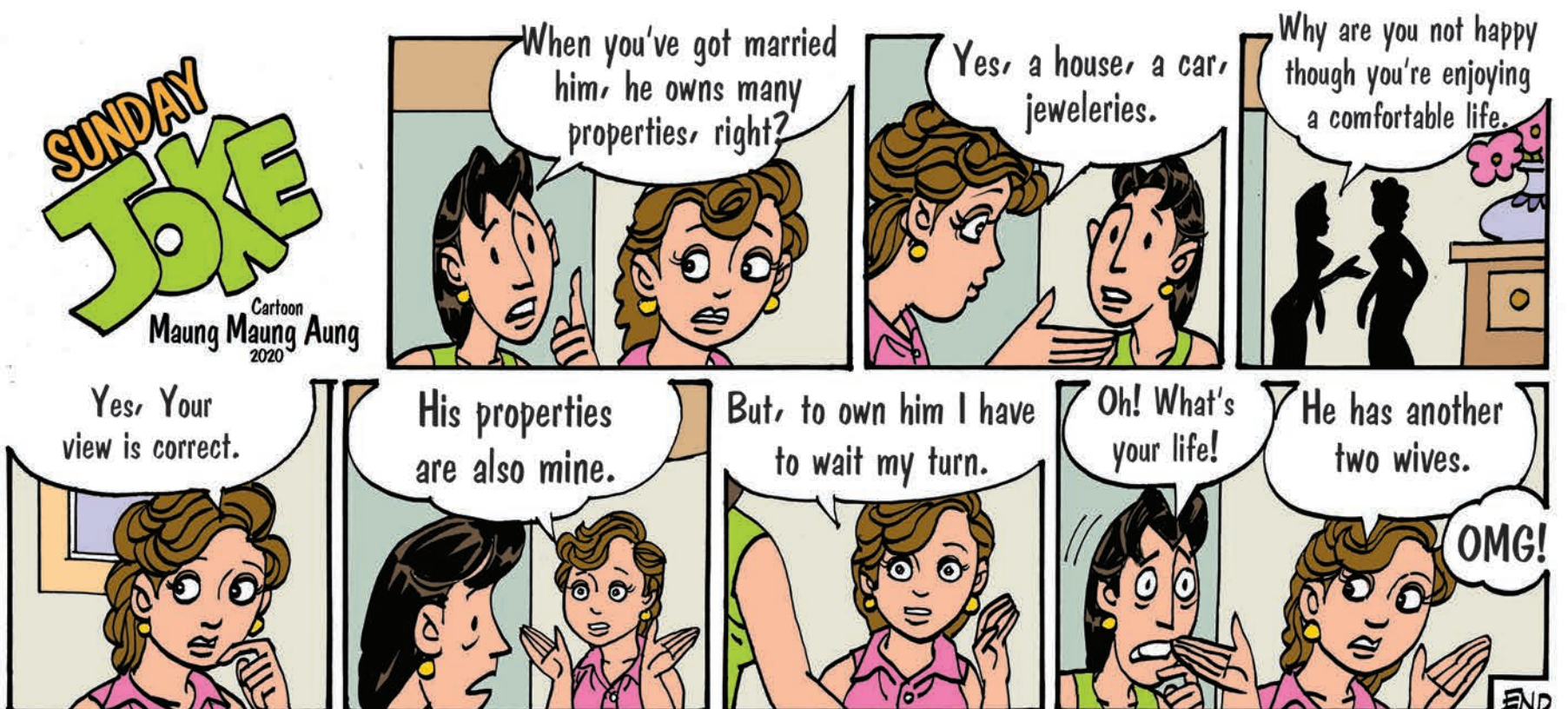
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020





A fascinating insight into a charming village in **Ayeyawady Delta**

By Kyaw King

It was an afternoon of first Thursday in February 2020 when I departed from Yangon for Hayman, a village in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Delta Region.

The village Hayman is located seven miles away from Bogale Town, Pyapon District. Its name got after the cool season when the village-leaders went to the authorities in Bogale to get the official name for their village, according to a villager from the village.

Most of the tourists visited Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the ASEAN Heritage Parks, via Bogale which is the nearest town to the wildlife sanctuary.

The small city of Bogale is located in the south-western part of Myanmar. It can be reached by waterway and by

land. It takes about four hours by car, while it takes around nine hours by waterway.

The buses to Bogale are running from the two bus stations in Yangon -Dagon Ayar Highway Bus Station in Hinthaya Township and Dala Bus Station in Dala Township. Its ticket prices are K3,000, 3,500 and 4,000.

Those who live around downtown Yangon mostly chose to take the buses from Dala. Dala bus terminal can be easily reached by boats from Pansodan Ferry Terminal in Pansodan Township.

There are buses and vans running from Dala bus station. I chose to go by car, and bought a van ticket for 4:30 pm at the Dala station.

After some minutes of its departure, the vehicle reached



A ferry carrying students is seen.

outside the town. Both sides of the road are green paddy fields which cannot be seen in the city. By seeing the green paddy fields, the phrase "everything in nature has a value" came into my mind. Most of the rural folks including I came to developed cities like Yangon for development and earning more money after leaving native places. Cities have their

developmental values, and countrysides also have their environmental values. Which one is more valuable?

Without getting the answer, my eyes were attracted by the red sun which is going down to the west. It was approaching sunset. The loaf-shaped van I took was running on the narrow road. It was like an arrow released from the

bow. The van under twilight was running even on the uneven road rapidly to reach to its destination in time.

I was excited as I was visiting a village surrounded by water. Our car had passed the towns of Kahmu, Kungyangone, Dala and Pyapon, and arrived in Bogale around 8 pm.

As my destination is village Hayman, I got off from the vehicle near Nat Chaung Bridge which is located at the entrance of the Bogale Town.

The boats to Hayman village usually depart from Bogale before noon. No ferry boats are available at night, and only water taxis are available. I took the boat of my uncle who lives in the village.

It took nearly an hour by the boat, and arrived at the village around 9 pm when most of the people in the village are silent. My uncle said, "they are going to sleep."

I woke up around 7 am the next morning after falling asleep deeply last night. Then, I went to the wedding ceremony of my friend. The bride and my friend bridegroom are happy at their marriage ceremony, welcoming guests with their happy smiles.

In the evening, I swam at the creek taking bath. Most of the people in the village take a bath at the creek swimming.

SEE PAGE- S-8



FROM PAGE- S-7

Farming and fishing are the major occupations of the villagers like other parts of Bogale Township. The houses in the village are mostly lighted with solar lamps.

At the South entryway of the village, there is a wire bridge, a pagoda and a monastery. The Public Health Centre is located in the middle of the village near the police outpost which is behind the basic education high school buildings.

The village is peaceful, noiseless and beautiful. Those who visit can enjoy the beauty of nature. The farms of flowers, fruits, trees, small plants and vegetables surrounded the village.

Along the village, there are a creek which is surrounded by mangrove forest and "Dani" roofing plants (Nipa Palm or mangrove palm).

In the morning of Friday, I saw students going to school on foot and by boat. The students of the village go to school both on foot, while the students from other villages go to school on foot and by boat. Most of the students of other villages come to school on foot through paddy fields.

I also went round the paddy fields with my friend who is a farmer. He said growing paddy this season is not like previous seasons as the water from creeks doesn't reach naturally to the fields. Therefore, all farmers this year have

to pump water with the use of pumping machines. It is because of climate change, he said.

Most of the people in the village are Bamar, the believers of Theravada Buddhism. There is a daily ferry boat running between Bogale Town and Hayman village.

My friend is very proud of the unity of the people of their village. He said that because of their villagers' united



A pile of hay in farm.

effort, a concrete road came on the scene and matric students can sit their exam at their own school in the village. Twenty-hours lighting will also come soon, he said.

I returned to Yangon on Saturday. For me, it was a lovely happy visit to a beautiful village in Ayeyawady Region.



FROM PAGE- S-1

It takes time to train our brains to be filled with positive thoughts. If you have positive self-talk, then you can be less stressed. By being stress free, you can live much longer on this Earth happily. Bear in mind that no one is perfect on this Earth and no one is better than the other. There is no such thing as a perfect person or a thing. You should always believe in yourself. You must have faith in yourself. You should never ever limit your abilities due to that little voice in your head saying, "Don't even try because you will fail." When that happens, never forget to ignore it. At that time, think of yourself like the most powerful person on this planet who can definitely conquer the world. So when you talk to yourself, you should repeat, "I am proud of myself. Kudos to me! I did it" and so on. I would like to share a secret with you. In order to boost my confidence level, I sing along to the song called "This is Me!" by Keala Settle. Sing along, "I am brave, I am bruised. I am who I'm meant to be, this is me..." I AM WHO I AM! You shouldn't care about all the things. If you do so, you will lack confidence and feel sad. It is never too late to build up your confidence.

To conclude, it is always better to have a self-talk whenever you feel down. In that way, you can encourage yourself again. Never forget to reward yourself as well. Never ever have a negative vibe cover up your body. Keep in mind that as you wave goodbye to negative self-talk, you can definitely sense the change. I recommend you to have a positive self-talk everyday to appreciate yourself more and more. You can do it in a short period of time. Repeat to yourself that you are the one who has the power over yourself and nothing can push you down. Let's say goodbye to the negative self-talk and welcome the positive self-talk.



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK		BANGKOK TO YANGON		YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR		KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON		YANGON TO KUNMING		KUNMING TO YANGON					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE				
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily	TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily	AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily				
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily	PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7	MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily				
UB019	7:25	9:20	Daily	TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily	OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7				
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily	8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily	MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7				
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7	UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily	AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily				
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily	PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily	OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6				
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily	PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily								
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily	TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily	YANGON TO HONG KONG							
UB017	17:35	19:30	Daily	8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE				
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily	PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily	KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,3,4,6,7				
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily	UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily	UB8027	7:05	11:45	3,5,7				
								KA275	17:05	21:50	1,3,5,7				
YANGON TO DON MUEANG				DON MUEANG TO YANGON				YANGON TO DHAKA				DHAKA TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily	DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6	BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily	FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily					YANGON TO DUBAI			
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7	SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7					FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily	FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily					FZ1586	1:50	5:45	Daily
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily	FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily	<th colspan="4">YANGON TO BEIJING</th>				YANGON TO BEIJING			
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7	SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7					FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily					CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,4,5,7
YANGON TO GUANGZHOU				GUANGZHOU TO YANGON				YANGON TO HANOI				HANOI TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7	CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6	VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily	VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6	8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7	VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily	VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily
CZ3056	17:30	22:00	1,5	CZ3055	14:40	16:30	1,5					YANGON TO HO CHI MINH			
YANGON TO SINGAPORE				SINGAPORE TO YANGON				YANGON TO TOKYO				TOKYO TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily	SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily	NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily	NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily
8M231	8:20	12:40	Daily	3K581	9:10	10:35	1,2,3,5,6,7					YANGON TO DOHA			
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily	UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily					FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7	8M232	13:45	15:15	Daily					QR919	1:05	4:55	1,3,4,6,7
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily	M1518	15:15	16:40	1,2,4,6,7					YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
M1519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7	M1520	14:10	17:35	3,4,5,6					FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
M1521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6	3K583	17:30	18:45	1,4,5,7					PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,5,7
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7	UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON				SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				YANGON TO HONG KONG				HONG KONG TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE472	23:30	7:25	Daily	KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily					KA250	21:50	23:35	1,2,3,5,6,7
												KA254	14:20	16:10	1,3,5,7
YANGON TO TAIPEI				TAIPEI TO YANGON											
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE								
CI7916	10:45	16:20	Daily	CI7915	7:00	9:50	Daily								

AIR LINES CODES					
3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines				
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air				
AI = Air India	MU = China Eastern Airlines				
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways				
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways				
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways				
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air				
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways				
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways				
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines				
KA = Dragonair	UN = Myanmar National Airlines				
KE = Korea Airlines	UB = Vietnam Airlines				

DATE	4 = Thursday
1 = Monday	5 = Friday
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday

Subjected to change by respective airlines.
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