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VP U Myint Swe holds meeting with entrepreneurs in bid to raise Ease of Doing Business Ranking



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 32nd regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Private Sector Development Committee held its 32nd regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon yesterday morning, attended by its chairman Vice President U Myint Swe.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe said the Private Sector Development

Committee was established on 24 October 2016 for the effective implementation of the issues covered by the framework of private sector development. During the period of over three years, five task forces were formed for the success of the functions of the committee and solving the problems of entrepreneurs. Beginning December 2016, the committee started holding regular meetings

with entrepreneurs, and since then it has responded to 369 suggestions of entrepreneurs in connection with their difficulties through the UMFCCI.

The committee completely solved some of the matters, but some of the issues need time. Hence, members of the task forces are holding public-private dialogues with business persons in looking into the issues and solving

them through different stages till a satisfactory result is achieved, he said.

The Vice President said thanks to harmonious cooperation between the Government and the private sector in trade, which is of vital importance for national growth, the country's trade volume reached USD 35.147 billion in fiscal year 2018-2019, and USD 13.101 billion till January

in fiscal year 2019-2020. As the private sector's contribution to the total trade volume was USD 11.295 billion it represents 86 per cent of total trade volume.

Apart from trade, there must be an increase in investment for national economic growth. Hence, the Myanmar Investment Commission is approving investment projects.

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Announcement on systematic re-registration of SIM Cards

1. The Directorate of Communications under the Ministry of Transport and Communications has been issuing its directive namely the Code of Practice for Mobile Service User Registration to the mobile operators in order to avoid

any possible crimes by unregistered SIM Card holders in the Mobile Financial Service and to ensure safe and secure service as well as for SIM Card holders to be accountable in using the service.

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Turning of Nantmongyi Falls in Pinlaung Township, Shan State into community-based destination underway



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the Nantmongyi Falls in Pinlaung Township, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of the National Tourism Development Central Committee Vice President U Henry Van Thio, accompanied by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and departmental officials, left Nay Pyi Taw by car yesterday morning and arrived at Paunglaung Town in Pinlaung Township, Shan State, and was welcomed by cabinet members of the state U Soe Nyunt Lwin, Dr. Nyi Nyi Aung and U Sai Hson Sai and Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone U Khun San Lwin.

At the briefing hall of Paunglaung jetty, the Vice President heard a report on the history of Nantmongyi Falls, aim of the tourism destination, year-wise

visitor arrivals, current situation, bamboo huts for visitors set up by the locals, prospects for tourism development, infrastructure requirement, proposed investment for Nantmongyi Falls and proposed building designs, long-term development programs of the destination, community-based tourism program, human resources development program and environmental friendly program, and the salient points and tourism development project of Panlaung Pyadalin Wildlife Sanctuary in Ywangan Township. Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Shan State ministers and the Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone also explained the progress in developing the Nantmongyi Falls tourism destination and

the bright prospects.

In response, the Vice President said a master plan should be adopted to link the Nantmongyi Falls tourism destination with the nearby attractive places such as Leinli Bridge, Har Falls and hot springs. Attention should be paid to ensuring profits for the investor and the long-term benefits and job opportunities for the locals. Waterway and food should be improved for the safety of visitors. Special care should be made in protecting and preserving the natural environment and solving the garbage problem. As the location of the Nantmongyi Falls is contiguous with other destinations, a large number of locals as well as foreigners may visit it. So, safety and cleanness and pleasantness should always

be the priority. Human resources development courses should be conducted for the locals to produce personal goods from bamboo and other raw materials.

The Vice President and party left the jetty and arrived at the jetty of Nantmongyi Falls after observing the conservation of the watershed area of Paunglaung Dam and water inflow.

The Vice President viewed a series of cascades of the Nantmongyi Waterfall, environmental greening and arrangements for development of the destination. He then posed for documentary photos together with the members of his entourage and the visitors.

The Vice President and party left Nantmongyi Falls by boat and arrived at Paunglaung jetty

where they proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw by car and arrived there in the evening.

Nantmongyi Waterfall is located in Leinli Forest Reserve in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South) 12 miles north of Pinlaung. Efforts are being made to attract more local and foreign visitors to the blue waterfall. Over 8,000 visited the place in 2018 and 12,000 in 2019. A motor schooner transport service is available for the tourists. The destination is being developed into a community-based tourism site, and arrangements are underway for building bungalows and other interesting events at the Nantmongyi Waterfall. — MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Tatmadaw holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Tatmadaw True News Team organized a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The press conference was attended by Chairman of Tatmadaw True News Team Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chairman Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, Secretary Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Media personnel from local news agencies, daily newspapers, journals, local TV news agencies and locally-based for-

ign news agencies also attended the press conference.

First, the Chairman of Tatmadaw True News Team explained the conditions of EAOs in February 2020, confiscation of narcotic drugs, and peace processes in 2020.

Vice Chairman Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi also clarified the press releases issued in January and February on AA's violent attacks, killing and threatening company staff, village/township leaders, government employees, former military personnel, members of Myanmar Police Force and civilians, pounding villages



Tatmadaw True News Team hold the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and planting mines.

Afterwards, officials from the Tatmadaw True News Team

replied to queries raised by reporters from news agencies, according to the report of Office of

the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

VP U Myint Swe opens GS1 Myanmar official launch ceremony

VICE President U Myint Swe opened the GS1 Myanmar official launch ceremony held at the Mingalar Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win first explained the history of GS1 and relevant measures being undertaken, the exerted efforts to advance the GS1 Myanmar Barcode, and the prospective benefits by using it. Myanmar Barcode Association Chairman U Wai Phyo also briefed on the status of establishment of the Myanmar Barcode Association (MBA) in order to become a member of GS1 Global for easy access to GS1 Barcode with Myanmar Prefix, the GS1 Myanmar services, the process to be carried out for GS1 Myanmar Membership, and the measures being done for the GS1 Myanmar Barcode to be used in the local products.

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Ministers U Soe Win and Dr Than Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win and General Secretary U Aye Win, Myanmar Barcode Association Chairman



Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister Dr Than Myint, Union Minister U Soe Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, officials and invited guests pose for a group photo at the official launch ceremony of the GS1 Myanmar in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

U Wai Phyo and Patron Daw Win Win Tint of the Myanmar Retailers Association formally opened the GS1 Myanmar official launch ceremony by pressing a button.

After this, the Vice President posed for a documentary photo with the attendees. The first session of the ceremony then concluded.

The GS1 Myanmar official launch aims at both consumers'

benefits and economic interests of local businesses as Myanmar products can be barcoded according to global standard. By using GS1 Myanmar Barcode system, there will be other benefits such as the faster identification of key information about products, the losses and shortcomings of products being reduced, and the systematic distribution and maintenance of products throughout the

Supply Chain. More Myanmar products will be not only retailed locally but also exported to the world market efficiently.

Present at the event were Union Minister U Soe Win of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung

Win and U Aung Htoo, the Yangon Region cabinet members, the foreign diplomats, the departmental heads, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win, the vice chairpersons and executive committee members, Chairman U Wai Phyo of the Myanmar Barcode Association, officials and invited guests among others. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

VP U Myint Swe holds meeting with entrepreneurs in bid to raise ...

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Till January this year, it approved 1,943 foreign investments amounting to USD 83.964 billion and 1,676 domestic investments valued at Ks 20,232.720 billion including USD 1.563 billion, he said.

As regards the rise in the global illegal trade indicators resulting from the illegal trade in Myanmar, the country established the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee as a way of cementing national level cooperation between the departments, and based on the indicator, the relevant ministries set up the action committees in connection with the government policy, selling and buying power, transparency and trade, and customs. Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions also formed special anti-illegal trade teams. The teams could make 2,709 seizures in which contraband goods at an estimated value of Kyats 24.162 billion were also impounded till January this year, he said.

As for the improvement in



Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win.



Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.



President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win.

the rankings in Ease of Doing Business, the Vice President said as the Doing Business 2021 Report of the World Bank will take into account the activities only till

end April, the relevant ministries need to multiply their current rate in conducting reforms for ensuring a better economic environment within the remaining two

months. The department should broaden the public knowledge of their reforms.

He said coordination is required for the entrepreneurs to have knowledge of the departmental reforms in correctly answering a series of questionnaires of the World Bank, and requested UMFCCI to provide necessary links. He also thanked the UMFCCI for the formation of the Ease of Doing Business Task Force which paves the way for the accelerated participation of the private sector in improving the country's ranking of the Ease of Doing Business. The task force should join forces with the Ease of Doing Business Ranking Improvement Team led by the deputy minister for Commerce.

The Vice President then invited open discussions between the entrepreneurs and the Union Ministers, deputy ministers and officials attending the meeting.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained the measures to ease the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) impact on the import and export business,

to improve the Ease of Doing Business ranking, and to develop the private sector.

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win elaborated on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing activities, programs to adopt laws, bylaws, and provisions and to set up a project bank, and financial issues.

Chief Minister for Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein dealt with the arrangements for private sector development of the region and for organizing international expos.

President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win presented the progress in realizing the resolutions of the previous meeting, the holding of public-private talks, export promotion programs and sector-wise progress of work.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained the procedures to solve the problems of entrepreneurs through the five task forces and to have occasionally hold meetings with foreign entrepreneurs.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

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Bago Chief Minister inspects construction of Sittaung river crossing bridge



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein visits the construction of Sittaung river crossing bridge (Yedashe). **PHOTO: HEIN HTET (BAGO)**

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Win Thein on 21 February inspected the construction of Sittaung river crossing bridge (Yedashe), together with related departmental officials.

During the inspection, bridge section team deputy director U Win Lwin and Bago Region road department direc-

tor U Toe Toe explained the progress of the construction of the Sittaung river crossing bridge and the approaching bridge to the Bago Chief Minister and departmental personnel. Also, the Bago Chief Minister offered words of advice and inspected the bridge construction.

The Sittaung river cross-

ing bridge is located near Kweyaungpyin village in Yedashe township on Yedashe-Kayinchaung-Laiktoe Road. The bridge is 800 feet long and 24 feet wide. The bridge includes a three-foot-wide pedestrian walkway.

Work on the iron bridge was begun on 28 May, 2018 at

a cost of K 5,542 million from the Union and Regional government budgets. To date, the construction of the bridge is 72 per cent completed. Upon completion of the project, the bridge will connect Bago Region and Kayin and Kayah States. —Hein Htet (Bago)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Earthen pots in demand during toddy juice season in Ngathayauk

EARTHEN pots are selling well in the palm climbing season in Ngathayauk Township, Mandalay Region, said U Nay Lin, a local earthen pot maker from Taunggone village.

"Every household from Taunggone village makes earthen pots for use in climbing palm. The elder people from Taunggone village do not know how many years earthen pots have been made in their villages. But everyone knows that villagers have been engaged in the earthen pot manufacturing business for many years, because people can see earthen pot baking sites and big kilns," said U Nay Lin.

The villagers make pots of different sizes and designs. But every household makes pots for use in the palm business. The

raw materials used in earthen pots are rough earth and clay. The clay is mixed with sand to create a special substance that keeps liquids cooler than a typical pot.

After mixing the mud and clay, a man and a woman will work together to operate a potter's wheel. Typically, a man pumps a foot pedal to spin the wheel, while a woman sits on a low stool and shapes the clay around it. Palm farmers prefer to purchase pots made in Taunggone village because they are light and thin. The palm climbers usually bring seven pots to put palm liquid in. So, they need light and thin pots, said U Myint Maung, a local palm farmer from Tamagar village in Ngathayauk Township. The Taunggone



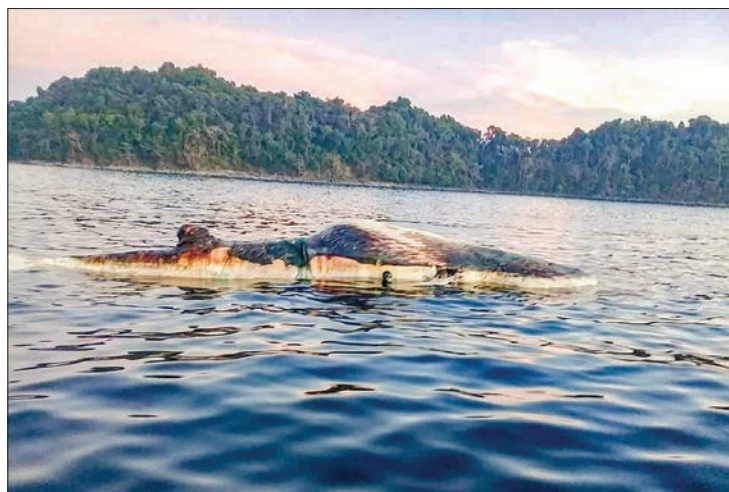
Earthen pots are selling well in the palm climbing season in Ngathayauk. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

village sells some 25,000 palm pots per day in the palm climbing season. Palm pots are sold for K 120 per pot. Earthen pot makers have sold more than 250,000 palm pots in the past three months. Each palm pot contains three liters of palm liquid, said Daw

Hsan Yone, a local pot maker from Taunggone village.

The pots are mostly purchased from Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Nyaung-U, Bagan, Chauk, Taungzin and Janhlee villages.—Ko Htein (Ngathayauk)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



The whale was found dead near Pale Island in Ngapali. **PHOTO: YAN NYEIN (IPRD)**

Whale found dead near Pale island, Ngapali

A whale was found dead near Pale Island in Ngapali town in Thandwe district, Rakhine State on 20 February.

The dead whale was floating in the sea when local fishermen found it.

After being notified, the Thandwe district fisheries department deputy head and staff arrived at the scene. The dead whale did not wash up onto

shore, but remained floating in the sea to the northwest of Pale Island.

On 21 February, the fisheries department went to the scene again at 8 am and continued their investigation. The dead whale measures some 40-45 feet in length and 30 ft in circumference. Foreign tourists also visited the scene.—Yan Nyein (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Chumphon Chamber of Commerce eyes investments in Myeik

THE Chumphon Chamber of Commerce in Thailand is interested in investing in Myeik and asked for more information about the investment process at the recent Myeik-Chumphon business matching.

The business matching was held on 20 February in Myeik, Taninthayi Region. Present at the discussion were officials from the Myeik District Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department, Myeik District Chamber of Commerce and Industry and related departments, SME entrepreneurs and Psiboon Limlertvatee, president of the Chumphon Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by 18 Thai

businessmen.

At the discussion, Limlertvatee showed interest in investing in Myeik District, and the head of the Myeik District Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department explained the investment process and regulations.

The participants also held discussions on potential investments in aviation, gold and mining, agriculture, livestock and fishery, tourism, culture, freight forwarding, as well as the power and manufacturing sectors. Chumphon businessmen also inquired about holding a trade fair in Myeik District.—Myint Oo (Myeik)



The business meeting being held to discuss investments in Myeik. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

GAC takes part in Yangon International Motor Show

CHINESE car maker Guangzhou Automobile Group Motor Co (GAC) is selling its luxury car models in the Myanmar market at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC). The 2nd Yangon International Motor show is being organized by

GPI Myanmar and the Automotive Association of Myanmar (AAM).

The show features latest car models, cutting-edge technology, and innovations. —GNLM

(Translated by KZL)



CMP businesses import raw materials worth \$900 mln as of mid-Feb

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses have been valued at US\$909 million for the four-and-a-half month period beginning in October in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, an increase of \$29.5 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

However, some CMP enterprises import raw materials, mainly from China. These businesses might face shortages of raw materials in the coming months, owing to the current impact of the coronavirus. Further, they might find themselves battling against other importer countries for CMP raw materials. These businesses can grind to a halt due to the lack of raw materials and there can be layoffs in factories, according to Myanmar Garment Manu-

facturers Association (MGMA) officials, speaking at a press conference held on 21 February at the UMFCI office.

In the first four months of the current financial year 2019-2020, exports of clothing produced under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system reached over \$1.6 billion, an increase of \$170 million from the same period in the 2018-2019FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The exports of garments under the CMP system brought in over \$1.4 billion during the year-ago period.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP, to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as very promising in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY. During the last fiscal year, incomes from garment exports were over \$1 billion higher than the previous fiscal year, according to the Ministry's data.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labor, such as Myanmar. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YRIC clears 16 foreign, one domestic proposal to create over 8,000 expected jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee, at a meeting held on 19 February, has approved 16 foreign projects, with an estimated capital of US\$28.507 million. It has also endorsed one domestic project worth K3 billion.

The projects will create over 8,900 jobs, according to the committee.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region,

with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

Also for the current fiscal year, the YRIC has approved 68 domestic and foreign projects in the manufacturing sector, bringing in \$124.259 million and K7.27 billion.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services

sectors. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

According to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar; Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the

other regions and states receive only a small share of investments.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Myanmar movie industry gets new service provider



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the launching ceremony of the movie and television production aid provider of CMB Films Myanmar Co; Ltd in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the launching of the movie and television production aid provider of CMB Films Myanmar Co; Ltd in Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon, yesterday.

In his keynote speech at the ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the ministry has made relaxations in the rules apart from providing assistance for the development of the movie world. The ministry is also inviting local and foreign investors for the film industry as well as internal and external cooperation, while supporting and encouraging the film artists, technicians and producers in various ways, it has sought during its study tours.

Myanmar movie world is witnessing progress when

compared with the previous years. MOI has also invited international producers to shoot scenes in Myanmar. Thanks to the visits of foreign film artists and technicians, Myanmar movie-makers have come to know the kind of equipment they need in improving their work, and the service that opened today will be the provider of such materials. The commissioning of a new film and video shooting aid provider will be a reinforcement in the ongoing efforts for the progress of the film and video industry, he noted.

CEO of Forever Group U Win Maw explained the services of the CMB Films Myanmar, and Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin extended

greetings.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, Managing Director Mr. Jim Baltazar of CMB Films Myanmar and CEO U Win Maw and Director U Khin Maung Htay of Forever Group formally opened the company.

The Union Minister and officials looked round the technical aids for the film and video industry.

The Union Minister also visited Myanmar Media Development Center (MMDC) where he observed basic film and TV production and distribution course and the joint efforts of Forever Group and international organizations to run film and TV courses. MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Power sector tops \$1 bln in Oct-Jan period

FOREIGN direct investment of over US\$1.026 billion has flowed from six enterprises into the power sector in the past four months of the current fiscal year, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The total investment in power is higher than in any other sector.

During the October-January period, FDI of \$2.089 billion, including an expansion of capital, has flowed into the country. The Myanmar Investment Commis-

sion (MIC) and the investment committees of states and regions have allowed 106 enterprises to invest in the country.

In the current fiscal year, the manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$253.25 million. The livestock and fisheries sector has drawn foreign investments of \$15.53 million, and over \$145.4 million has been pumped into the transport and communications sector, while the hotels and tourism sector has pulled in investments of \$27.954 million.

The real estate sector has also reported investments of

\$600 million. Over \$19.37 million in FDI has been pumped into the other services sector.

In the current fiscal, the MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion. In the 2018-2019FY, FDI into Myanmar totaled \$4.5 billion, falling short of the \$5.8-billion target by some \$1.3 billion.

Foreign direct investment into Myanmar was registered at \$1.76 billion in the last mini-budget period, \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$6.6 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$9.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

News release on surveillance activities of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has been performing its surveillance activities on the COVID-19 acute respiratory disease, which has spread throughout China and some countries around the world, at the international entry-exit checkpoints, the hospital-based and community-based as well as the collaborative actions with private hospitals.

2. There are no new patients under surveillance on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in States and Regions between 8 pm on 21 February and 8 pm on 22 February.

3. Result from the referral laboratory on 22 February showed that the patient under surveillance at the Magwe Region General Hospital had no positive indication of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

4. Eight patients, who are under 48-hour surveillance despite no symptoms at respective states/regions hospitals, are all in good health condition as of 6 pm on 22 February 2020.—MoHS

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Handmade bomb found at Laungdone Bridge in Maungtaw

An improvised explosive device (IED) was discovered under the Laungdone Bridge near Salsalgone Village on Laungdone-Ngakhuya road in Maungtaw Township on Friday, according to Myanmar Police Force.

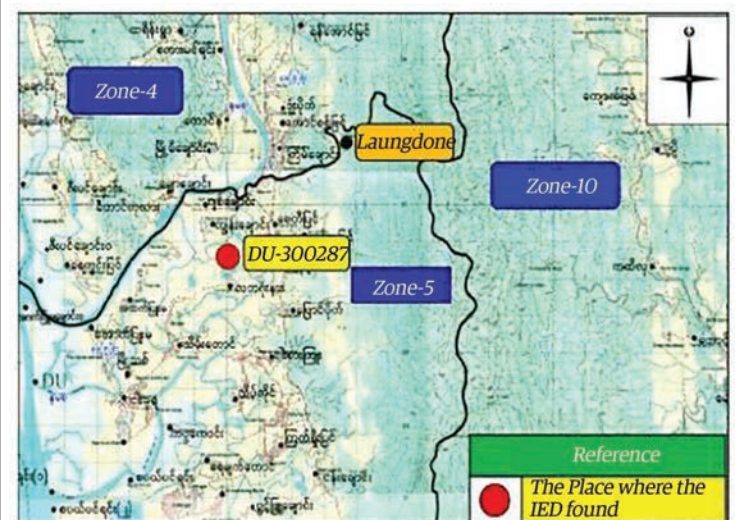
Being informed that a suspected object supposed to be a mine was found at the Laungdone Bridge, authorities went to the place and investigated

the object.

It was an IED composed of cotton, gunpowder and mercury powder, nearly 1,000 glass balls, a watch, a circuit, two 9-volt batteries and initiators in a pot that is wrapped in a blanket.

The authorities deactivated the IED and handed it over to the related officials.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



COVID-19 prevention in Magway Region as important as in border areas: Union Minister for Health and Sports

A meeting to take Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) measures with added momentum was held at the Magway Region Office of the Public Health Department on 21 February.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said in consideration of the area of Magway Region and the spread of returnees from China who went there as guest workers in its various towns and villages, the prevention and control of the disease in Magway Region is as important as in the border areas. The rate of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) infection is still high in China. Although no COVID-19 patient is found in Myanmar, the disease may occur at any time. Hence, relevant departments, social organizations, private hospitals and clinics and the Public Health Department should continue their prevention and control undertakings through coordination.

The Union Minister said arrangements to treat patients at the newly opened five-storey



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the meeting to take Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) measures at the office of the Public Health Department in Magway Region yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

ward of Magway People's Hospital, in case infection occurs, are satisfactory. Necessary mechanical ventilators and 24-hour patient monitoring machines are being provided to intensive care units of hospitals as infection prevention is of vital importance. The Ministry of Health and Sports is holding the central level meeting on disease prevention and control daily, issuing

guidelines and distributing information continuously.

Basic health staff and experts should make field tours in taking control and preventive measures township wise under the leadership of the respective township offices of the Public Health Department, while the state and region office of the PHD are serving as the chief coordinators of the project, he said.

The public should constantly be in touch with the ministry's prevention and control undertakings, guidelines for the undertakings, standard procedures and public health knowledge posted on www.moh.gov.mm and social network pages of the ministry, he said.

The Union Minister went on to say that now, the National Health Laboratory can confirm

the infection of COVID-19 within six hours in testing the suspected cases. He said according to disease control centre of China, of the 100 COVID-19 patients, 80 percent suffer from mild infection, while 15 percent of the cases are severe and five percent are at the acute stage. In case the infection occurs in the country it may face the same order. Staff of the ministry should strive to save the country from COVID-19, and to stop the infection and fatality rate should it occurs in the country, with the conviction to serve the public interest.

Relevant officials then presented the latest developments of the COVID-19 infection in China and global countries, monitoring and surveillance at international gateways, control and prevention, preparations at hospitals in accord with the instructions, broader public awareness campaigns, and control and preventive measures in Magway and the assistance of the Union government. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Announcement on systematic re-registration of SIM Cards

FROM PAGE-1

2. However, due to ineffectiveness in the registration process by the mobile operators and mobile sales centers, there are many SIM Cards still to be systematically registered. Notifications have been issued via newspapers and media for SIM Cards registration within 11 months from August 2016 to June 2017. About 6.5 million unregistered SIM Cards have been reprieved as of 30 June 2017. After scrutiny, it is found that some SIM Cards could not be registered with the consumers' genuine data and information as no limitation was stipulated of how many SIM Cards could be registered with one national identity card or citizen card or certified card. As of 31 January 2020, the following list of respective mobile operators such as MPT, MyTel, Ooredoo and Telenor showed that more than two SIM Cards were registered for one consumer though a directive was issued in April 2019 that only two SIM Cards could be purchased with one citizen card or certified card.

Operator	OML	MPT	Telenor	MyTel	Total
SIM 3 – 9	1,983,503	4,416,144	907,034	965,470	8,272,151
SIM 10 – 19	1,436,496	1,435,379	679,564	696,946	4,248,385
SIM 20 – 29	653,846	834,701	420,277	1,056,813	2,965,637
SIM 30 – 39	284,146	578,937	305,722	835,124	2,003,929
SIM 40 – 49	185,053	570,799	244,931	450,854	1,451,637
SIM 50 – 99	54,866	1,389,764	750,040	394,152	2,588,822

SIM 100 – 199	0	1,067,980	701,073	10,485	1,779,538
SIM 200 +	0	2,660,701	2,040,533	185,996	4,887,230
Total	4,597,910	12,954,405	6,049,174	4,595,839	28,197,328

3. Consumers need to re-register the SIM Cards via mobile operators' online services and at the mobile sales centers after checking if their respective data and information are true and genuine. This re-registration process deadline will be on 30 June 2020.
4. Consumers can check if their data and information are true and genuine at the mobile sales centers as well as the mobile operators' online services via their Websites and Mobile Applications.
5. Mobile operators shall provide their services to the consumers in an easy and convenient way. Whoever, with one national identity card or citizen card or certified card, use more than two SIM Cards will not be allowed after 30 April 2020 when they cannot use outgoing calls except to Call Center for enquiry about re-registration process. Their un-registered SIM Cards will be reprieved after 30 June 2020.
6. Thus, all consumers are notified that the SIM Cards they are using should be systematically re-registered and they should not buy pre-registered SIM Cards, currently in the market. —MTC

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

The time to conserve our diverse cultural heritage is now

MYANMAR is endowed with a wealth of tangible iconic monuments and intangible cultural heritages among every ethnic group in the country.

Being rich in tangible and intangible heritage is the pride of the Union.

But, we should be aware that some of our intangible legacies have disappeared with the passage of time, and the remaining will also disappear if we do not conserve them.

It is worth noting that Myanmar's traditional Thanakha or sandalwood paste wearing on peoples' faces is to be submitted to UNESCO for listing in the world's intangible heritage list.

Local governments are obliged to make commitments to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage through implementing strategic guidance funded by the Union Government.

Meanwhile, measures are being taken to settle illegal dwellings by squatters and to enforce rules for the conservation of tangible cultural heritages and enact laws for the preservation of intangible cultural heritages.

In this regard, people should be effectively prohibited from climbing cultural buildings, and rules must be enforced to provide protection to vulnerable heritages, such as wall paintings and statues in pagodas, often found on the outskirts of cultural zones.

Three Pyu cities, Bagan, stone inscriptions in Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay, the bell with scripts donated by King Bayinnaung at the Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Sandra Stone Inscription in Myauku, have been listed on the world heritage list.

So far, some 2,217 intangible heritages have been recorded for the national intangible heritage list. The remaining would be researched and placed in the list.

While 549 intangible cultural heritages representing 127 countries have been listed

by UNESCO, regrettably, there is nothing yet from Myanmar on the list.

However, the silver lining in the cloud is that our people in urban and rural areas are still very fond of their centuries old intangible heritages, such as festivals, though they don't understand the value of heritage and how intangible heritage contributes to their social cohesion and benefit local communities.

Local governments are obliged to make commitments to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage through implementing strategic guidance funded by the Union Government.

Also, local governments should create jobs and raise the level of the socio economic life of local people, in accordance with the existing Cultural Heritage Law.

Additionally, the time is now for establishing a heritage conservation fund to save endangered and at-risk tangible and intangible heritages across the country.

To safeguard, champion and celebrate our rich and diverse heritage is essential for all stakeholders and the people.



Centenary of the Myanmar films Myatt Lay, the most extraordinary film star in the 100 years' period

Maung Nyi Nyutt

IF the one who appreciated any kind of art, he would be familiar with another kind of art easily. The late academy award winner Myatt Lay was such kind of an artist. He was good at film, literature and music. He was a versatile artist in his days. The origin of his livelihood was a songwriter. By the time the turning of a new page in the Myanmar music, he was a well-known musician. He was a New Age musician in our country. He knew music as well as poetry. As he liked the style of the rhyme in Saya Hmine's poetry very much, he wrote his songs as the rhyming songs like him. So, he was known as a rhyming songs writer. During his career as a musician, he was very fond of film. He studied some cinematography books as much as he could. At the time of the ninety fifties, the sons of the A.1 film and the British Burma film companies went abroad to get B.A (cinema). He could not go abroad like them. He stayed in his native land and studied cin-



Myatt Lay was a victorious actor in a conventional style.

ematography earnestly. After he had studied it some years ago, he knew very well about the cinematography. He knew the art of a scriptwriter, the art of a director, the art of an actor and all about film in theory, too.

Studying cinematography, he watched the international films, such as the American Classic 'Gone with the Wind', 'The Birth

of a Nation', 'Napoleon' by Francis Ford Coppola, 'The Bicycle Thief', some comedies by Charlie Chaplin and 'The Ten Commandments' by C.C.D.B Mills. Then he knew the difference between international films and Myanmar films.

In the ninety fifties, most of the Myanmar films were full of cheap emotions and tragedies. Most of the Myanmar films did not free from these kinds of categories. The audience could not watch the new films in accordance with the time. It was pity that people had no choice to choose some new films, a new categories and some new outlook for pleasure from the films. All Myanmar films did not go against these kinds of trends. They made the movies just like the same as the six blind Brahman touched an elephant. The audience could not go in the right way. They could not go where to escape. It was very pity to see them.

As a newly independent country like Myanmar, these old trends of movies did not go well with it. Aiming the international film standard was too far like the

sky and the earth. Watching these old trends of films one should get the idea to change some new films as soon as possible. He realized that no change, no gain. As he knew the knowledge of cinematography, he wrote the script of his film himself. He directed it himself and he also made himself an actor in it. He was a new actor, too in his premiere film. It was very strange and no one could be seen such an act like him before in the history of the world and Myanmar.

When he started his film, he did not ask for help from any person in the world of film. He started with the help of his comrades in the music world and he made Tin Tin Mu as an actress in his premiere film.

The story of 'Pinlon Htiak Htar Oo' was about the love story of a songwriter of the plain and a girl of Shan nationality from Pinlon who was fond of music. As he loved a girl of Pinlon in the Shan State and he loved her very much, he called his love the Empress of Pinlon lovely. The audience could know easily the name of the film was matched

with it.

There was a cut in the film nobody could be seen in the other film before. During the actor was chatting with his love, he immediately drew a map of Myanmar on the mirror and asked her, "Show me where the Shan State is". Then she replied, "As I've learnt Geography, why don't I know where it is. Here it is." Then he said, "Well, we live together on the same land and we drink together the same water, too. That's why I love you." It was the best cut in it. It reflected the spirit of Pinlon heartily. The audience knew how much respect he paid to the result of the Pinlon convention. 'Pinlon Hitek Htar Oo' was going together with the condition of that time. Some of the plenty of cheap emotion films were left far behind it.

After Pinlon Hitek Htar Oo was shown, U Ne Win, the son of the British film who got B.A, (cinema) from abroad praised the creator of 'Pinlon Htiak Htar Oo'. He welcomed him to his own film company to make some more films. He liked his talent very much and he became

a talent-scout for his talent. A real ruby cannot sink in the mire is true for Myatt Lay.

'Crying Because of Singing' was the first picture released from the British Burma company and directed by Myatt Lay. The film was ended by tragedy. The audience did not like tragic ending. The talented artist let the audience see his film technique for the first time at the end of his film. No one saw the split screen with the two versions in the film before. According to the new theory, the solution was not to be made by the director but let the audience choose their solution themselves. He showed the tragic end in one side and the happy end in the other side on the cinemascope screen. His innovative art was marvelous. He was praised by all. He showed his talent in his days by saying "No one like Myatt Lay in the presentation, no one like Myatt Lay in the dialogue. It was true that Myatt Lay was the most extraordinary film star in the 100 years' duration.



G20 ministers weigh coronavirus risks at Saudi meeting

FINANCE ministers and central bank governors from G20 nations weighed the potential impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the world economy as they met in Riyadh Saturday for a two-day gathering.

At the meeting in Saudi Arabia, the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency, financial leaders from the world's top 20 economies are discussing the risks of coronavirus.

The gathering comes amid growing alarm over the new coronavirus as Chinese authorities lock down millions of people to prevent the spread of the disease, with major knock-on effects for the global economy.

The impact of the epidemic could see a "V-shaped" trajectory, with a sharp decline in China's GDP followed by a sharp recovery, but the situation could have more dire consequences for other

countries as the impacts spill over, said IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva.

Latest Developments Make headway in curing COVID-19

China has made progress in curing patients of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as it steps up epidemic prevention and control measures and medical reinforcements, a health official said Saturday.

In the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province, a total of 36,680 confirmed COVID-19 patients were still being treated in hospitals on Friday, compared with the peak number of 38,020 on Feb. 18, said Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission (NHC), at a press conference.

TCM aids treatments of COVID-19 cases Traditional Chinese medi-

cine (TCM) has participated in the treatments of over 60,000 patients of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in China, data from the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine has shown.

The TCM has shown positive effects in stopping mild cases developing into severe cases and has been included in the national diagnosis and treatment plan for COVID-19, said Xu Nanping, vice minister of science and technology, at a press conference Friday.

Japan woman tests positive

A Japanese woman who left the coronavirus-hit Diamond Princess cruise ship Wednesday has tested positive for the virus after returning to her home in Tochigi Prefecture, eastern Japan, the prefectural government said Saturday.

She is the first person found to have been infected with the pneumonia-causing virus out of a total of 969 people who disembarked from the ship over three days through Friday after testing negative following a two-week monitoring period through Wednesday.

S. Korea reports 229 new cases

South Korea reported on Saturday another 229 cases of the new coronavirus, its largest daily increase so far, with most occurring at a hospital and among members of a religious group, bringing the total to 433.

The nation's third death from the pneumonia-causing virus was also confirmed Saturday, according to local media.

According to South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, out of the new COVID-19 infections, 95 were related



French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told his G20 counterparts the key question was whether the world economy would bounce back from the disruption caused by the coronavirus or slide into a protracted slowdown (AFP PHOTO/FAYEZ NURELDINE)

to a hospital in the southeastern county of Cheongdo, and 100 have been traced to a minor Christian sect, known as Shincheonji

Church of Jesus. The remaining 34 cases are still being investigated.



Weather icons and Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 22nd February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 23rd February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Northern Shan States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd February, 2020: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Conservatives ahead as Iran poll results trickle in

TEHRAN (Iran) — Conservatives took an early lead Saturday as the first results of Iran's parliamentary election came in, boosted by a predicted low turnout following the disqualification of nearly half the candidates.

Friday's election followed months of steeply escalating tensions between Iran and its decades-old arch foe the United States.

Voters had been widely expected to shun the polls, disillusioned by unfulfilled promises and struggling to cope in a country whose economy has buckled under harsh US sanctions.

About half of the 16,000-odd candidates were disqualified. Among them were many reformist and moderate candidates — including dozens of sitting MPs — leaving conservatives with virtually no competition.

By midday (0830 GMT) Saturday, votes had been counted in 71 constituencies out of 208, according to National Elections Committee figures reported by semi-official news agency ISNA.

Tehran is the biggest catch in the election with 30 seats.

The conservative and ultra-conservative alliance ap-



The conservative and ultra-conservative alliance appeared to have a comfortable edge in the capital in early results. **PHOTO: AFP**

peared to have a comfortable edge in the capital in early results, the committee's spokesman Esmail Mousavi said on state television.

Most votes went to the first three names on the alliance's list, he said.

Leading the race was Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, a three-time presidential candidate, former police chief and member of the Revolutionary Guards who was Tehran mayor from 2005 to 2017.

Reformists and moderates hardly figured in the 37 other

names of "leading Tehran candidates", Mousavi said.

Final results for both the capital and other provinces would be announced by early Sunday at the latest, he added.

If the results are confirmed, it will mean President Hassan Rouhani's slender majority of reformists and moderates elected with fanfare four years ago is nearly purged.

"A lot of people voted in the previous parliamentary election, but the enthusiasm faded away every day after that," Ali, a Tehran taxi driver, told AFP.—AFP ■

Sanders warns Russia, Trump scoffs as new meddling charges hit US election

WASHINGTON (United States) — Bernie Sanders on Friday warned Russia not to meddle in the Democratic presidential race, as Donald Trump angrily dismissed assertions that Moscow was again seeking to boost his election chances.

Trump has come under fresh fire for removing US intelligence chief Joseph Maguire, replacing him with a loyal partisan with no direct experience in the field, days after Maguire's staff told lawmakers that Russia was again interfering in a US election to support Trump.

Sanders, a self-described socialist who is leading the race for the Democratic nomination to challenge Trump in November, told reporters that US officials briefed him "about a month ago" of efforts to interfere in the 2020 race.

"Unlike Donald Trump, I do not consider (Russian President) Vladimir Putin a good friend. He is an autocratic thug who is attempting to destroy democracy and crush dissent in Russia,"

Sanders said in a statement.

"I don't care, frankly, who Putin wants to be president," he added. "My message to Putin is clear: stay out of American elections, and as president I will make sure that you do." His comments came moments after The Washington Post reported that US intelligence told Sanders that Russia was seeking to help his campaign.

The form of assistance was unclear but Sanders has suggested that Russia could be behind belligerent online remarks by his professed supporters that have drawn condemnation from other candidates. "They're trying to cause chaos, they're trying to cause hatred in America," Sanders told reporters in California.

An exhaustive report by former FBI chief Robert Mueller found that Russia backed Trump's 2016 campaign, including by manipulating social media, but did not find that the campaign colluded with Moscow.—AFP ■

Fox and NBCUniversal in talks to acquire streaming platforms: report

NEW YORK (United States) — Media groups Fox Corp. and NBCUniversal are looking to buy ad-supported streaming platforms meant to lure customers who don't want to spend money on subscriptions, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

Fox, the Murdoch-family controlled media group which owns the Fox News Channel, has said it would be willing to shell out some \$500 million for Tubi, a streaming platform which airs mostly older movies and TV shows, the report said.

A tie-up could help expand the footprint of Fox, which last year sold much of its film and television assets to Disney but retained its broadcast television network in the deal.

Tubi, sometimes called the "free Netflix," claims to have some 25 million users and recently announced an expansion

into Europe. It already operates in the United States, Canada and Australia.

NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast, is meanwhile engaged in what the WSJ called advanced talks with Vudu, a Walmart-owned, ad-supported service that allows users to rent and buy movies or watch them online via a free streaming platform.

NBCUniversal already has plans to launch a new streaming television service called Peacock in April, which can be accessed both ad-free or with ads at different payment tiers.

The potential Fox and NBCUniversal acquisitions come as internet platforms and entertainment groups are launching streaming and on-demand services as part of a larger trend to attract viewers who are veering away from traditional television.—AFP ■

Dozens detained as Kazakh opposition calls for protests

ALMATY (Kazakhstan) — Police in Kazakhstan detained dozens of activists Saturday after two opposition groups announced plans to hold anti-government protests in the oil-rich Central Asian country.

An AFP correspondent saw police detain at least ten activists from the unregistered Democratic Party who were attempting to hold a protest in the largest city Almaty.

Eyewitnesses said that police had detained up to 70 people, who were en route to the site where the group said it would hold a protest.

Authoritarian Kazakhstan has long faced criticism from local and international rights groups for its restrictive laws regulating demonstrations.

Zhanbolat Mamay, a filmmaker and prominent figure in the Democratic Party was arrested and sentenced to three days in administrative detention on Friday.

Mamay told AFP by telephone Friday that "at least ten" members of his group had re-



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev pledged to reform laws governing freedom of assembly shortly after succeeding long-ruling Nursultan Nazarbayev as president last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

ceived sentences of up to five days in detention earlier this week — a measure he said was intended to prevent the Democratic Party holding a conference.

He was detained later in the day. Another group, Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DCK), also announced plans to hold a rally on Saturday.

A Kazakh court banned the group as extremist in 2018, and the country's state prosecutor

on Friday warned citizens not to participate in the group's protest.

DCK's France-based leader, Mukhtar Ablyazov, thanked the state prosecutor for giving the group "an advert" ahead of the demonstration.

Ablyazov, a former energy minister, banker and long-time opponent of Kazakhstan's regime has said the court ruling is simply a pretext to crack down on the group.—AFP ■

Exiled Dalai Lama marks 80 years as Tibet's spiritual leader

NEW DELHI (India) — The Dalai Lama on Saturday marked the 80th anniversary of his enthronement as the spiritual leader of Tibet, a position held almost entirely in exile and as a target of constant vilification by the Chinese state.

Hundreds of miles from Lhasa's imposing 1,000-room Potala Palace, the sandal-wearing monk now ministers to his fellow Tibetan exiles from Dharamsala in the foothills of the Indian Himalaya.

He remains the universally recognised face of the movement for Tibetan autonomy, but the global spotlight he enjoyed after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 has dimmed and the deluge of invitations to hobnob with world leaders and Hollywood stars has slowed.

Partly because the ageing leader has cut back on his punishing travel schedule, but also due to China's growing economic and political clout.

Beijing accuses the 84-year-old Dalai Lama of wanting to split China, and regularly refers to him as a "wolf in a monk's robe".

His office said there would be no commemoration of the anniversary and a teaching



Beijing accuses the 84-year-old Dalai Lama of wanting to split China. **PHOTO: AFP**

event scheduled for March — that usually would attract devotees from across the world — has been cancelled over coronavirus fears.

Born into a peasant family in the Tibetan village of Taksar on July 6, 1935, he was identified as the incarnation of Tibetan Buddhism's supreme religious leader at the age of two after picking out objects that belonged to his predecessor.

He was given the name Jetsun Jamphel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso — Holy Lord, Gentle Glory, Compassionate Defender of the Faith and Ocean of — and two years later arrived in Lhasa where he was formally enthroned as the 14th Dalai Lama.

In 1950, aged 15, he was hastily enthroned as head of state after the Chinese army invaded Tibet.

For the next nine years he tried to keep Tibetans out of harm's way. But the effort failed in 1959 when China crushed a popular uprising.

Fearing for his life, the young monk trekked through the Himalayas accompanied by a 37-strong entourage, and crossed into exile in India.

There he set up a government-in-exile and launched a campaign to reclaim Tibet that gradually evolved into an appeal for greater autonomy — the so-called "middle way" approach. — AFP ■

'Dieselgate' recall of more Mercedes vehicles 'likely'

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — German authorities will "likely" discover software rigging the level of diesel emissions in Mercedes-Benz cars other than those already sanctioned, the Daimler group warned on Friday.

Daimler stands accused of hiding the fact that it was using illegal software in diesel cars to cheat emissions tests.

"It is likely that in the course of the ongoing and/or further investigations KBA (Federal Motor Transport Authority) will issue additional administrative orders holding that other Mercedes-Benz diesel vehicles are also equipped with impermissible defeat devices," the manufacturer wrote in its annual report.

KBA has already ordered the recall of nearly a million Mercedes cars.

The manufacturer disputes the illegality of the "engine management functions" under the spotlight but at the end of Sep-

tember agreed to pay a fine of 870 million euros (\$944 million) for selling non-compliant vehicles.

Faced with the threat of new recalls, the manufacturer has suspended the sale of certain models "as a precaution".

Total charges of 5.5 billion euros from dieselgate, which began with Volkswagen in 2015, and a mass recall of vehicles fitted with faulty airbags from supplier Takata contributed to net earnings slumping by 64 percent to 2.7 billion euros (\$2.9 billion) last year.

According to its annual report, the group more than doubled its provisions for "governmental and legal proceedings and measures" with 4.9 billion euros (\$5.32 billion) entered on the balance sheet for 2019 against 2.1 billion at the end of 2018.

It also increased its provision for possible related costs at 8.7 billion euros, as opposed to 7 billion at the end of 2018. — AFP ■



Daimler have admitted that authorities are likely to discover more software rigging the level of emissions in their Mercedes-Benz cars. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump's visit to India demonstrates strong and enduring Indo-US ties: State Dept

WASHINGTON DC (United States) — Donald Trump will arrive in Ahmedabad, capital of the eastern state of Gujarat, on February 24 as a demonstration of strong and enduring ties between India and the United States that, in parts, have earlier been exemplified by close bond shared between the American President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the State Department said here on Friday (local time).

Divulging his scheduled in one his most awaited tour to South Asia, the Department said after arriving in Ahmedabad, the President is scheduled to deliver a speech at the newly built Sardar Patel Stadium, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi. "The visit

will focus on several key areas, including building economic and energy ties between India and the US. Just to note that two-way trade in goods and services exceeded \$142 billion in 2018, and there's certainly much more room to grow, particularly in energy," the Department officials said at a weekly briefing while recalling the Strategic Energy Partnership that was launched by Trump and Modi in 2017 that further facilitated Indian imports of American crude oil, LNG, and coal.

As per the schedule, the President, who will be embarking on his official two-day visit to India, along with First Lady Melania Trump and Prime Min-

ister Modi will visit the Taj Mahal in Agra.

With the President and the First Lady, there will be a 12-person official delegation that includes US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, and senior advisors to the President daughter Ivanka Trump as well as son-in-law Jared Kushner among others.

The team will then fly to New Delhi and receive a ceremonial welcome, attend bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister on Tuesday, apart from holding a business event with Indian investors, with a special focus on companies that are investing in manufacturing in the US. — ANI

Finance Minister Sitharaman holds bilateral meeting with her German counterpart

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday held a bilateral meeting with her German counterpart Olaf Scholz here.

"Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman holds bilateral meeting with Federal German Minister for Finance Mr @OlafScholz on the sidelines of #G20SaudiArabia meeting in Riyadh today," Finance Ministry said in a tweet.

On February 20, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had met his German counterpart Heiko Maas in Berlin and

discussed a range of global and bilateral issues, including climate change, counter-terrorism, multilateralism, connectivity, besides sharing their perspectives on the situation in Afghanistan and the Gulf.

In his remarks at a press interaction with Maas in Berlin after the meeting, Jaishankar had said that they also discussed of working together in the Alliance for Multilateralism - a Franco-German initiative that was launched during the ongoing 74th UN General Assembly last year. — ANI ■

China's Xi writes thank you note to Bill Gates for virus pledge

BEIJING (China) — Chinese President Xi Jinping has written a letter expressing thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the organisation's "generosity" and support tackling a deadly virus epidemic, state media said Saturday.

The outbreak of the new COVID-19 strain has claimed 2,345 lives in mainland China and infected more than 76,000 people, with cases in more than 25 countries.

Earlier this month the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation committed up to \$100 million for the global response to the outbreak. "I deeply appreciate the act of generosity of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foun-

ation and your letter of solidarity to the Chinese people at such an important moment," Xi wrote in the letter, according to official news agency Xinhua.

China is at a "critical moment" in the fight against the outbreak, he said.

Millions remain under lockdown in central Hubei province, where the virus emerged in December, although new hotspots were found in several prisons and hospitals on Friday.

Nearly 400 new cases were reported nationwide in China on Saturday — less than half the number of new cases the previous day. "We have rallied the whole nation and adopted a string of unprecedented

measures to contain and mitigate the epidemic and treat the sick," Xi wrote.

"These extraordinary measures are delivering substantial results," he said. The Gates Foundation said the funding will be used to strengthen detection, isolation and treatment efforts, including protecting at-risk populations and developing vaccines and diagnostics.

The foundation said it would direct \$20 million to organizations like the World Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Protection, the National Health Commission of China and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. — AFP ■



The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation committed up to \$100 million for the global response to the outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

Afghans mark start of week-long partial truce amid isolated attacks

KABUL (Afghanistan) — A week-long, partial truce appeared to be largely holding across Afghanistan on Saturday, with jubilant civilians celebrating in the streets to mark a potentially historic turning point in the war, even as isolated attacks threatened to undermine the process.

The Taliban, US and Afghan forces have all agreed to a so-called "reduction in violence" marking only the second lull in fighting since 2001.

"It is the first morning that I go out without the fear of being killed by a bomb or suicide bomber. I hope it continues forever," Kabul taxi driver Habib Ullah said, while in other parts of the country people danced in the streets after the truce kicked in at midnight.

However in Balkh province in the north, Taliban fighters attacked a district headquarters near the provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing two Afghan soldiers, a local official told AFP. There were also reports of a separate incident in central Uruzgan province.

General Scott Miller, who leads US and NATO



Peace activists gather in Kandahar to celebrate the partial truce, a potentially historic turning point in the war. PHOTO: AFP

forces in Afghanistan, did not directly address those incidents, but stressed that Western forces would continually monitor the situation.

"We've stopped our offensive operations as part of our obligations," Miller told reporters.

In the event of any breaches of the truce, Miller said the US would communicate with the Taliban through various channels set up in Doha, where the insurgents have a political office.

"As more days go on we will have a better understanding of what trends are," Miller said.

"Very clearly this is a conditional effort, this is a trial period."

The partial truce is

expected to set the conditions for Washington and the insurgents to sign a deal in Doha on February 29 that could, ultimately, pull US troops out after more than 18 years and launch war-weary Afghanistan into an uncertain future.

A successful week would show the Taliban can control their forces and demonstrate good faith ahead of any signing.

It also gives a much-needed respite to civilians, who have long borne the brunt of the bloody conflict.

The UN's Afghanistan mission said Saturday that more than 10,000 people had been killed or wounded in the war in 2019 alone. — AFP ■

S. Korea confirms 229 more cases of COVID-19, 433 in total

SEOUL — South Korea confirmed 229 more cases of the COVID-19 on Saturday, raising the total number of infections to 433.

As of 4 p.m. local time (0700 GMT), the number of infected patients totaled 433, up 229 from the previous day. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) has updated the figure twice a day at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time.

Of the new patients, 200 were residents in Daegu, about 300 km southeast of the capital Seoul, and its surrounding North Gyeongsang province.

The total number of infections in Daegu and

North Gyeongsang province soared to 352 from 152 in the prior day.

Of the total cases, 231 were linked to the church services of a minor Christian sect, called Sincheonji, in Daegu. It was up 100 from the previous day.

Other 111 cases were traced to Daenam Hospital in Cheongdo county, just south of Daegu.

At the hospital, the first and second deaths from the COVID-19 were reported on Wednesday and Friday each.

The number of COVID-19 infections rose sharply in recent days, after 173 new cases were reported from Wednesday

to Friday.

Daegu and Cheongdo were designated as a "special management zone" on Friday.

The health authorities kept the four-tier virus alert at the second-highest "orange" level, vowing to take measures with an urgency corresponding to the highest "red" level.

Since Jan. 3, the country has tested more than 21,000 people, among whom 15,116 tested negative for the COVID-19 and 6,037 were being checked.

Eighteen patients have been discharged from quarantine after making full recoveries. — Xinhua ■

Extension in Date

Expression of Interest sought for Private Sector Participation in Myingyan Steel Mill No.(1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Planning, Finance & Industry

With reference to Expression of Interest published in the Global New Light of Myanmar on 15.01.2020 and 16.01.2020 for "Private Sector Participation in Myingyan Steel Mill". The date of submission of EoI has been extended as per following detail, the **Extension Selling for the EoI form is [24 Feb to 6 March 2020]**.

Submission : Last date for submission of EoI documents on 10.03.2020 at 15:00 PM.

Address : Managing Director,
Office No.30, No.(1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise,
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry,
Zeya Htani Road, Naypyitaw.

Phone : 067-3405158, 067-3405159, 067-3405322

Email : hie1.steel@gmail.com

EU budget summit ends with no deal

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — An EU summit called to set the bloc's next seven-year budget ended in impasse late Friday, riven by competing groups among the 27 member states and pressure to fill a funding gap left by Brexit.

Differences were "still too great to reach an agreement," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told report-

ers at the end of the two days of talks in Brussels.

No date had yet been set for another summit to try again, but Merkel added that "we are going to have to return to the subject".

The trillion-euro-plus budget, the multiannual financial framework, is meant to be operational from next year and run to the end of 2027.

But the summit revealed stubborn differences between a handful of wealthy "frugal" states and a larger group wanting more money to meet both big European ambitions and to fill the 75-billion-euro shortfall left by Britain's exit from the EU last month.

"Unfortunately we have observed it was not

possible to reach an agreement, we observed we need more time," said European Council President Charles Michel, who had called the extraordinary summit and stewarded the talks.

He said, however, he was right to make the effort: "As my grandmother said, to succeed you first have to try."

'Goup vs group'

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who is counting on a big enough budget to meet her executive's "geopolitical" ambitions, said the EU discord was sign of "democracy".

Despite Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron teaming up to back Michel in his search for an acceptable

compromise, two groups of countries dug in their heels.

One was the so-called "frugal four" made up of Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden, which wanted the budget reined in to reflect the UK's absence and to avoid them having to shoulder a bigger budgetary burden.— AFP ■

G-20 finance chiefs meet as virus spread looms over global economy

RIYADH — The finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies kicked off their two-day meeting Saturday in Riyadh to assess the economic fallout from the new coronavirus outbreak in China and discuss ways to tax digital giants.

It is the first G-20 gathering since the outbreak of the pneumonia-causing virus, which has brought the Chinese economy — the world's second largest — nearly to a standstill, in what the International Monetary Fund has called the "most pressing uncertainty" in the global economic outlook.

The coronavirus issue is "certain to become a major point of discussion," from the viewpoint it is considered a risk to the global economy, Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda told reporters ahead of the meeting. He is representing Japan with Finance Minis-



The finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies kick off their two-day meeting Saturday in Riyadh on 22 February 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ter Taro Aso.

The meeting is also the first ministerial meeting after Saudi Arabia took over the G-20 presidency from Japan late last year. As the first Arab nation to take the helm of the forum, the kingdom is back in the spotlight after facing harsh criticism over the killing of

Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

The virus, which first emerged in the Chinese central city of Wuhan in December, has since quickly spread across China, causing disruption in the operations of factories, offices and shops. Public movement has also been

restricted amid efforts to contain the disease.

An IMF report prepared for the G-20 meeting warned that the halt in production and limited mobility of people in China could spill over to the global economy, affecting tourism and supply chains.— Kyodo News ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipment to all hospitals in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (24.2.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (23.3.2020), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411634, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (255W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (255W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1115 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1115 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (046N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (046N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (001S/002N)

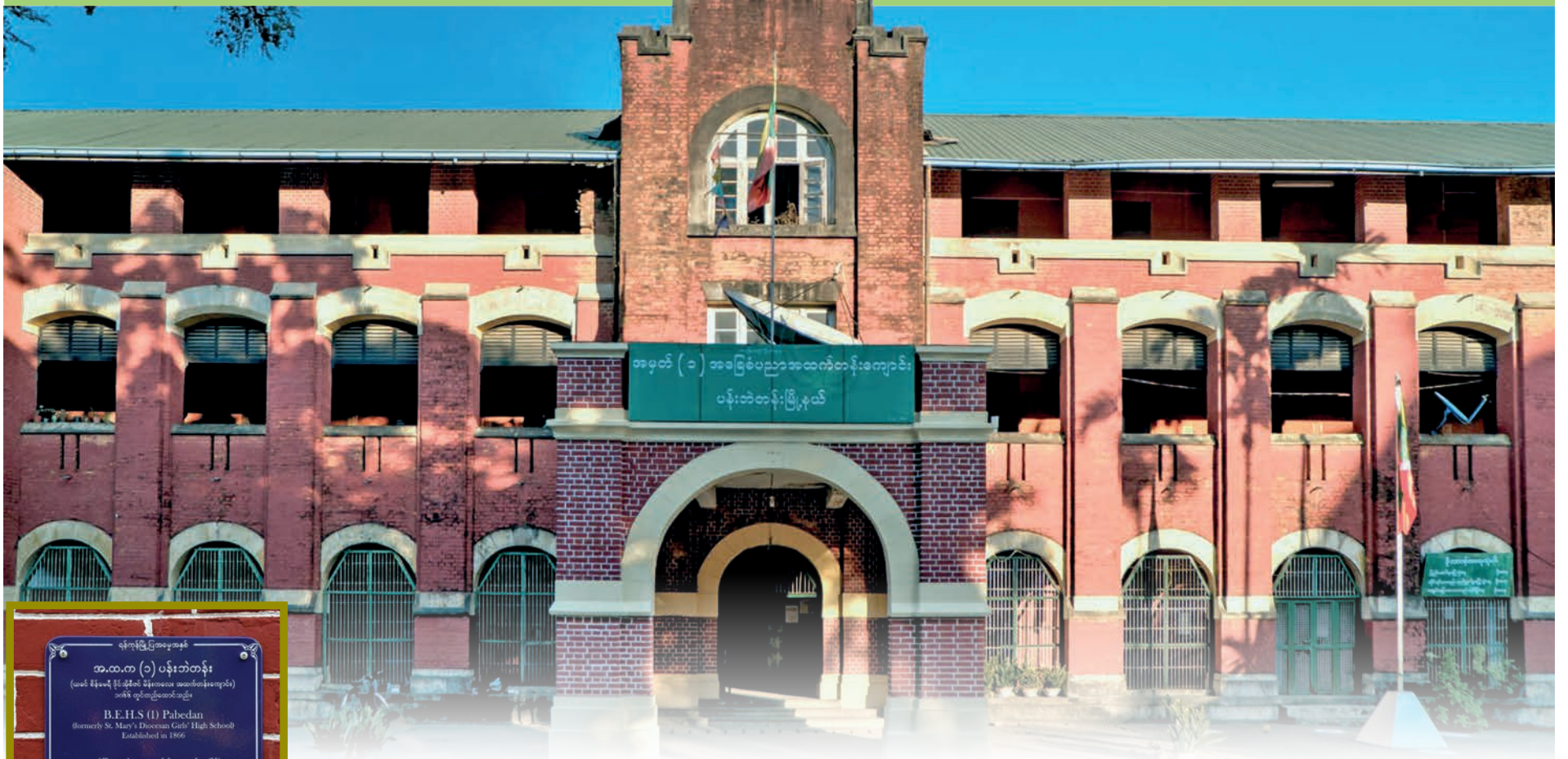
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (001S/002N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185



Developing Yangon city teeming with ancient cultural heritages

By Shin Naw
Photos: Yangon Heritage Trust

THE transition velocity of Yangon is growing higher and higher day by day. Seminars and meetings concerning high rise housing, tall fencing construction sites and a new satellite town project are not new for the Yangonites. The Yangonites are going to catch sight of the new town project

centering Yangon in full view before long.

A city for relaxation

The old Yangon city will be seen as the city teeming with ancient cultural heritages within ten years. The old Yangon city will turn new Yangon, which is surrounded by industrial towns,

port towns and recreational towns with lots of housing. New Yangon and old Yangon must be upgraded rapidly and harmoniously. To be able to establish new Yangon as desired, it is required to renovate old Yangon in a systematic manner so that ancient urban heritages will be able to be well preserved. The Yangon

Heritage Trust (YHT) believes that Yangon will appear as a modern developed city without having negative effect on original urban heritages.

Urban project matters

The Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) was established in 2012, chaired by historian Dr Than

Myint Oo and architect Daw Moe Moe Lwin is a director of the YHT. At the initial stage of the establishment of the YHT, it is aimed at realizing more about resources of urban heritages and calling on the authorities to protect them, but later it turned attention to a wide range of measures of urban project.

The installation of Blue Plaques is one of the measures taken by the YHT. The aim of installing Blue Plaques is to raise public awareness of historic heritages and boost public's knowledge about them. The YHT already installed Blue Plaques at thirty-four historic sites.

Yangon's 35th Blue Plaque was unveiled at Basic Education High School No (1) Pabedan (formerly St Mary's Diocesan Girls' High School), located at Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Pabedan Township, on 11 January. The installation ceremony was attended by the Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Mayor of Yangon City Development Committee U Soe Lwin and invited guests. The school which is now known as B E H S (1) Pabedan was one of the earliest girls only school in Yangon. The school was established in 1866 by the noted Anglican missionary the Rev Dr J E Marks. From its founding in 1866, St Mary's was a leading girl's school. The school was nationalized in 1965 and re-



Russian Ambassador to Myanmar HE Nikolay A Listopadov and officials cut the ribbons to open the ceremony.

structured as Basic Education High School No (1), Pabedan, according to the YHT.

Installation of Blue Plaques

Regarding the consequences of the installation of Blue Plaques, Ko Thurein Aung of the YHT said, “The Blue Plaques are being installed in public places for enabling the people to come to know more about Yangon history while going around the city. If it is easily said, the tourist guide explained the Blue Plaque to the tourists when they arrived in front of the Strand Hotel. Most of the buildings existing around Pansodan Street have got the Blue Plaques. The tourist guides can explain the histories of ancient buildings through these Blue Plaques. Now local people have become interested in the installation of the Blue Plaques at the ancient structures. The students are studying the Blue Plaques and writing resource papers. The students from University of Foreign Languages write papers with the title of Blue Plaques. The regional government is also providing necessary assistance.”

With regard to the installation of the Blue Plaques, Aunty Stella who was an old student of St Mary recounted the salient points of the school 60 years ago, “At that time, the headmistress was Daw Khin Khin. In our childhood, inter-school sports festival was held in the sports ground of the school. I remembered that I played Htoke-se-toe together with singer Mar Mar Aye from

Mayangyan school. At that time, Mar Mar Aye just produced a song with the title “I will play on the rainbow”. Mayangyan school played against St Mary school in Htoke-se-toe. Our school competed in SEA Games with Gabyalut (A Myanmar basic dance solely accompanied by rhythmic beats). Our school is very strict. When we put on gowns without belts and socks, we had to pay a fine. When we wanted to go out, we had to speak in English. We are not allowed speaking in gesture. We had to speak in English like “Please may I go out.”

The 36th Blue Plaque was installed at Inya Lake Hotel in Mayangon Township on 18 February, 2020. The ceremony was attended by Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar H E Nikolay A. Listopadov and Deputy Mayor of Yangon City Development Committee U Soe Lwin and invited guests. The Inya Lake Hotel is one of the important examples of post-war modernist buildings in Yangon. Built between 1958 and 1962, it was one of the most famous hotels in Rangoon (now Yangon).

The first Soviet-Burma trade agreement was signed in 1955 and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, then the first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, made a high-profile state visit in December 1955. During the visit, the Soviet Union presented the Government of Myanmar with three gifts; one of which was the Inya Lake hotel.

The Director of Yangon Heritage Trust, Daw Moe Moe Lwin, said, “Inya Lake Hotel is one of the rare examples of post-war modern architecture landmarks in Myanmar. It is also a fine building of its period and has played an important role in the social history of Myanmar. Numerous social and commercial functions and events were held at this place, which can be considered one of the icons of Yangon.”

The Yangon Heritage Trust is planning to carry out continued installation of the Blue Plaques commemorating ancient urban heritages, one after another without delay not later than the coming monsoon.

YHT is installing a system of commemorative Blue Plaques around Yangon to highlight significant historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. The plaques, in Burmese (Myanmar) and English, will draw attention to both the known and forgotten histories of the city, serving as a reminder for the city’s residents and providing interpretive signage for visitors. The Royal Philips Corporation has partnered with YHT to honor these key sites throughout Yangon by providing funding for historical research, manufacturing, and installation of the plaques. The first plaque was installed in mid-August, 2014 at Yangon’s City Hall.

*Translated by Htut Htut
(Twantay)*



Inya Lake Hotel.

GIZ announces four flagship thematic areas and opens a new office in Myanmar

GIZ has announced four flagship thematic areas for its development partnership with Myanmar in conjunction with the inauguration of its new office in Yangon. This 2020, GIZ is strengthening its support towards inclusive and sustainable growth in Myanmar through GIZ Business, GIZ Skills, GIZ Food & Nutrition, and GIZ Energy & Climate Change. Dr Petra Schill, Country Director of GIZ Myanmar, said: “GIZ is sharpening technical assistance in Myanmar across four thematic areas: Business, Skills, Food & Nutrition, and Energy & Climate Change. We believe that the best and holistic solutions require smooth collaboration between local and international expertise; and between these different thematic areas. Our goal is to empower people and partners to generate visible impact and own their success.”

GIZ has been a partner in Myanmar’s economic and social reform efforts since re-entering the country in 2012. It is recognised in Myanmar and around the world for its high-quality technical expertise and strategic approach to problem solving. GIZ’s new Myanmar office, located at the Uniteam Office Tower, houses a team of various thematic areas, collaborating daily with each other in a modern working environment.

The German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thomas Neisinger, Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, and GIZ Management Board Member Mr Thorsten Schaefer-Guembel were among the guests for the GIZ office inauguration last week. Mr Schaefer-Guembel also met GIZ’s development partners such as the Government Technical Institute (GTI - Insein) to exchange on the TVET system in Myanmar, visit practical classes and meet some of the winners of the Myanmar Skills Competition training for the ASEAN Skills Competition. Empowering Myanmar educators and training partners to transform human potential into relevant skills for real life achievements – this is what GIZ Skills stands for. Saying this, GIZ ensures that skills development is an integral part of all its projects from the banking and finance sector, through food safety and aquaculture to the classical system level support for the Ministry of Education in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

To name an example, GIZ Skills supports the National Skills Standards Authority to build an assessment and certification system of skilled workers, who have acquired experience and occupational skills by learning on-the-job (recognition of prior learning). As of 2019 December, more than 14,000 technicians were enabled to access and certify with the international standard by the National Skills Standard Authority. The program elevates the living standards of people in Myanmar and contributes towards realising occupational goals of disadvantaged groups such as marginalised women and youth, ethnic minorities and school drop outs in general. Since 2017, GIZ Skills has also been supporting internally displaced persons and host communities providing skills and livelihood opportunities to disadvantaged youth, women and affected communities in North Shan and Rakhine regions. Adapted to the needs of internally displaced persons in the area, the training programmes aim to meet private sector demand to strengthen the livelihoods of the beneficiaries through strong market linkages. More than 2600 vulnerable young people and IDPs received professional skills training at 40 locations across Rakhine State. “Skills training is one of the most sustainable forms of development and the government’s main tool to develop capacity and drive the country’s economy. Our work is inclusive of vulnerable groups and wide-ranging from commercial to humanitarian contexts. By equipping individuals to improve their lives, contribute to stronger businesses and institutions we aim to build a brighter future for all,” said Mr Eiko Kauffmann, Head of Thematic Area GIZ Skills. “Global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and socio-economic inequalities require strong multi-sector partnerships. Myanmar’s challenges for this new decade and beyond cannot also be tackled by an institution or organization alone. We must tackle them through cooperation, and I am delighted by our partners’ efforts in working together with us to achieve this. The best is yet to come in 2020,” Dr Petra Schill added.—GNLM

MNL Derby: Yangon shares point with defending champions Shan United

YANGON United played to a 2-2 draw against defending champion Shan United at a Week-7 Myanmar National League derby match at the Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

The draw result means the two teams each shared one point. Goals for Shan United were scored by Hein Phyo Win and Yakubu Abubakar; while Shori and Barfo scored for Yangon United.

The match was exciting, as both teams are national league giants who launched their attacks from the beginning of the match. Shan United received an opening goal at 12 minutes, scored by Hein Phyo Win. Yangon United missed their early opportunities for goals due to the necessary finishing by Emmaunel, Mg Mg Lwin and Aung Kyaw Naing.

Yangon United found their equalizer at 28 minutes, while

Yangon foreign player Shori scored a low and surprise kick over a corner, assisted by Maung Maung Lwin. At the end of the first half, the score was a 1-1 draw.

With a new tactic, Yangon United scored more goal attempts in the second half. Yangon United, however, missed their chance for a goal in the second half, as Aung Kyaw Naing's goal was not allowed. Yangon United again led the match, following a score by substitute player Barfo at 73 minutes.

But Yangon United fans did not remain happy for long, as visitor Shan United scored a fast equaliser three minutes later with a goal by Yakubu Abubakar.

At the final whistle, host Yangon United shared the points with defending champions Shan United with a 2-2 draw.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Shan United's Hein Phyo Win (red) passes the ball from Yangon's Yan Paing Soe during the two team's MNL derby match at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday. **PHOTO: SUFC**

Hantharwady United to play Sagaing United today

IN the Week-6 match of the MNL, Hantharwady United, the team which is leading the standing table of the Myanmar National League, will play against Sagaing United today at Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

Donald Bissa, striker of Hantharwady United, said he is facing his former football club Sagaing United, but he is only focusing on winning so the team might earn three full points.

Donald noted that Sagaing United is a good team and he knows well the team's footage and abilities. He also warned his fellow players to take care of the opponents, he said.

Meanwhile, head coach of Sagaing United, U Zaw Lin Tun, said his team will play with an attacking strategy, even though some key players have been injured.

U Zaw added, "Hantharwady United is now in good shape in the MNL with their sharp attack style, but we will play with attack and we will not be hesitating anymore. And I also believe in my boys' abilities," the coach added.

The match will start at 3:30 pm and will be broadcast live on Channel K and also streamed live on MySports Facebook page, according to the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Wilder, Fury bulk up for heavyweight showdown

Las Vegas (United States — American boxer Deontay Wilder will be at a career high weight, but will still be 42 pounds lighter than Tyson Fury for their much-anticipated heavyweight rematch at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

Wilder weighed in at 231 pounds (105 kg) and Fury tipped the scales at 273 pounds on Friday as both boxers weighed in much heavier than they did for their first fight 14 months ago. Wilder is 18 pounds heavier and Fury added 15 pounds to his frame. Organizers cancelled Friday's face-to-face photo op at the weigh in after the fighters exchanged shoves during the final news conference on Wednesday.

But the pair did jaw at each other from a distance on the podium. "That's my belt. That's mine," Fury yelled at Wilder, who holds the WBC heavyweight title.

The two will square off in one of the biggest heavyweight fights recent memory Saturday at the MGM's Grand Garden Arena.

Tickets for Saturday's bout have been changing hands for up to \$11,000, while promoters predict the event could generate more than 2 million pay-per-view sales in the United States alone.

At the centre of the action are two of heavyweight boxing's most charismatic and skilful protagonists, the hard-hitting "Bronze Bomber" Wilder and Fury, the



British fighter Tyson Fury gestures towards American champion boxer Deontay Wilder during their weigh-in at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. **PHOTO: AFP**

eccentric, self-styled "Gypsy King" from northern England. Both men will be taking unbeaten records into the 12-round contest, with the 34-year-old Wilder looking to add Fury's name to a tally which reads 42-0 with one drawn and 41 knockouts.

The fight is a classic clash of styles, pitting Wilder's devastating knockout power against the more elusive, mobile defensive style of Fury.

In their first fight in Los Angeles, Fury recovered from two juddering knockdowns to claim a draw, miraculously climbing off the canvas in the 12th round to hang on for a share of the spoils.

Once the final bell rang, the judges ruled it a controversial

split draw: 114-112 for Fury, 115-111 Wilder and 113-113.

Wilder will be making the 11th defence of his title in an attempt to break a tie with Muhammad Ali for consecutive heavyweight defences. He demolished Dominic Breazeale in one round last May, and then scored a spectacular one-punch seventh-round knockout of Cuba's Luis Ortiz in November.

Fury has promised to take a more aggressive approach this time around. But cuts are a worry after he required more than 40 stitches to patch up a horrific gash over his right eye in an unimpressive win over Otto Wallin in his last fight in September. — AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

23 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

In commemoration of the Union Day, the craze of literary talk was annually embedded in the people of my ward since 2010. This year as well with the famous speakers such as Sayar Chit Oo Nyo and Sayar Mg Sein Win (Padigone), the literary talk was announced 3 weeks before the Union Day. In fact, many of their original topics are still being used in today's talks, but with a different style and format. Some of the talks are focused on the improvement of society and the quality of life. They focus on topics such as literature, children, the workplace, and everyday life. People even feel a special attachment to their favorite talk-show hosts and talk about them as if they know them. Literary talk is given by logic and standards of objectivity, and is controlled by good manners—a social activity of nice people like them.



The Union Day Literary Talk



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

These talks actually educate people right from wrong. That day catch talks with titles such as "No Title by Sayar Chit Oo Nyo", (he said without title he can talk whatever he fancies) and "The flowers grown on a fishing boat" by Sayar Mg Sein Win (Padigone). His talk was quite clear that if we survive in the wrong place, the wrong potential can affect both our body and soul. How much the flower smells sweet, the foundation itself grown cannot overwhelm the fishy smell.

Then Sayar Chit Oo Nyo gave a talk. Listening to him, looking at his face, I heard his voice as smooth, softly crushed by time-stricken. He usually wears Myanmar Jacket and longyi, and he had a gentle, formal

manner. Whenever he made some little jokes, he chuckled slightly, exceeding the propriety of the audience. Telling jokes, I think, calls attention to his for sure. I knew the strong effects of stories and poems, through him, I discovered about the effects as if the audience devoted fully in the stories and poems, just as his voice is exacting in his face. When Sayar Chit Oo Nyo read poetry (National Anthem) aloud, his voice became vibrant and lyrical, and the air of our ward was full of pleasure, feeling its way into me with my very breathing. Reading alone or being read to was always an anxious sort of happiness.

The most remembrance in his talk was "about the competition of two consecrators"; both of the consecrators named consecrator-Sayar Kyaw and Sadaung-Thaung who are famous on their own ways. They were invited by the donors of novitiation ceremony, made them compete for the consecration in order to gain more pleasure. The story went as follows: the consecrator-Sayar Kyaw firstly arrived at the ceremonial hall with his best attire while

Sadaung-Thaung got to appear in poor appearance and a bit drunk. The newly consecrator highlights his "complementary strengths," according to his appearance. Then consecrator-Sayar Kyaw made the self-esteem speech to the audience ironically underestimating Sadaung-Thaung. The audience gave his preach standing ovation and hoped Sadaung-Thaung orate the foul speech. Though he was gentle and careful, never making anyone feel impertinent or stupid, he gave the experienced and best preach to the audience who were astonished in silence. Now the consecrator-Sayar Kyaw felt embarrassed for his insult over Sadaung-Thaung's appearance and realized that he just judged a book by the cover. So he went and apologized Sadaung-Thaung to forgive him. The Sayar Kyaw realized that partnerships between rivals harm outsiders rather than help them. Team up with rivals for a win-win negotiation only when you expect to create net value for society, and be upfront and open about your partnership.

SEE PAGE- S-8

Don't forget to call your parents!



By Htar Sandi Naing
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

Have you called your parents today? Do you usually call your parents?

"Hi, Daddy! Hi, Mommy! I miss you both so much. I love you! How are you?"

A simple phone call can definitely put a big smile on their faces. JK Simmons once said, "Call your mom. Call your dad. If you're lucky enough to have a parent or two alive on this planet, call them." Though they might not tell you all the struggles they had been through because of you, you need to bear in mind that 'YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE' today because of them.

Nowadays, mobile phones are one of the most important things in our lives. It can definitely connect people from all over the world. I believe almost every human being has a phone. So my question is "Why do we have cell phones?" The answer is obvious. Cell phones are capable of both receiving and placing phone calls. I believe parents should be the first priorities to receive a call. Though I'm in my 20s, I call my parents almost all the time. Since I turned 18, I had to live apart from my parents as I had to attend the university. At that time, I couldn't even express how much I missed my parents. That's why I call my parents everyday to tell them about my day and ask them back about theirs, too. They are always there for me whenever I need them. No matter how much I have to face difficulties in life, I always feel safe and sound whenever I hear my parents' voices. Their voice is my energy.

Keeping in touch with your parents will fill all of your lives with happiness and laughter. Because of the advanced technology, no matter how far you are apart from your parents, you can easily dial their numbers. Cell phones truly bring you all closer regardless of how many miles you all are apart. Talking to them is a golden moment which you might never forget. Laughing together with them will never be erased from your memory. You are truly the luckiest person on Earth to have them by your side.

The days passed. Time flies. Nothing is reversing back unless you have the time machine. It is never too late to dial your parents' number and tell them how thankful you are. You are forever a little kid in their eyes. Therefore, their minds are always filled with worries. They always wonder whether you are doing well in your field. Therefore, it is your responsibility to call them. Be sure to give some time to chat with your parents. Keep in mind that nothing in life is more valuable than parents.

To sum up, we shouldn't forget to call our parents. Always remember their unconditional love for you. No matter how busy you are or how tired you are, just call them for a short amount of time. Hearing your voice for a single second will definitely brighten their day. As you get older, you will understand their feelings even more. You will realize how precious they are for you. Have they left you behind and walked away when you were young? Of course, it's a 'NO' because parents are the only two human beings in this universe who will never walk away from our hearts. Instead of regretting later, please call them now. They are waiting for your call...



The moment that I meditate

By Mg Htin



Mg Htin, a rural folk who came to Yangon in pursuit of a success, was staying in a hostel. Like other guys who came to Yangon and stay in hostels, he mostly goes to work and joins classes on holidays.

He tried to earn money and learn new subjects as much as he can. After a couple of years, he got a certain material gain. He got a promotion from his job and got several certificates from his classes. He was proud of his improvement and doubled his efforts.

Most parts of the money he earned was invested in learning new subjects as he believes that education is the best investment. According to the success gurus' suggestions, he set goals for his life. He made one-month and one-year plans.

He tried to live his life in accordance with his plans. When works got done, he was happy. But, he was unhappy and distressed when he failed to do the tasks that were included in his plan.

Then, he was struggling,

especially with himself. Though he likes his improvement, the success of others made him discontent and dissatisfied.

He earned a certain amount of money, but nothing was provided for his parents. What matter worst is he didn't understand that one's parents should be taken care of.

The more he tried to chase for quick improvement, the lesser happiness in his heart. At first, the Yangon, the job and the classes were his first experiences for his life. He was excited, trying hard and dreaming to be successful. After several years working in the developed city, his enthusiasm became lesser. The educational certificates he took couldn't help take him right path for his life.

In addition, his relationships with some of his friends and his parents were worse. He didn't know what to do and unwillingly carried out the tasks included in his plans. Some of his friends said, "Mg Htin is changing."

The 2016 Thingyan festival was the holidays that a great good luck touched Mg Htin. It was also a turning point in his life.

Meditation and I

I'm Mg Htin. I never spoke of meditation, not until I took a seven-day meditation course that I left on its fifth day at a monastery in Mingaladon. During the five days, I tried to train my mind through breathing in

and out with the guidance of a meditation teacher from the monastery.

On the first day, I was unable to concentrate even for a few minutes, and felt painful from my body. I thought that meditation was painful and hard. On third and fourth days, I could concentrate for a certain minutes.

The certain minutes I got concentration made me free from distress and unhappiness for certain minutes. I felt and understood that it was a precious moment for me and came to understand that precious moments can be obtained through a meditation practice.

A year later, I took a ten-day course at the Dhamma Joti Meditation Centre. I came to know more about the meditation. It is not only for Buddhists. In fact, it is for all human beings and can bring "happiness" to those who practise it.

During the ten-day course, what I knew more was that nothing is "impermanent." When I feel unhappy, it is impermanent. When I feel sad or depressed, it is impermanent. When I am happy, it is also impermanent. Everything appears to be disappeared. The view on life changed me completely after the course.

The vocabularies of "gratitude", "loving-kindness" and so on came into my mind. I came to understand the debt of gratitude that I owe to my parents and friends. My relationships with my friends and parents were better and also happier with my daily tasks.

I don't understand too much what meditation can make. However, I know well that the positive changes in my life originated from the moments that I meditate.





Making Myanmar known to the world through soft power of art

By Nat Ye Hla

In the arts, artists are beyond boundaries, where there is no race, no colour, etc. But, when it comes to viewing nature, their views are different from others, even from other artists, and their differing creations come from their diverse views of nature.

It can be seen that a local artist's work on Bagan is different from the work of foreign artists. For example, scenes viewed frequently or daily are often nothing special for ordinary people. But, they are good subjects for artists, especially for artists from different countries.

Bagan, Myanmar's historical-cultural heritage, has long-attracted local and foreign artists. But, we can witness the different tastes from the creations based on Bagan by foreign artists, compared to creations by local painters.

A local artist who has been to Mongolia said he has vivid memories of his days in Mongolia. The green, grass planes, horses grazing and clouds on the horizon were wonderful for him. But, for locals in Mongolia, such scenes are normal.

To publicly view Myanmar's culture and ethnic people, some 40 artists from 13 countries will gather in Yangon on 25 February at the Yangon Gallery to display their arts, and will also visit Yangon and Inle Lake in southern Shan State as part of the Myanmar-International Women Artists' Exhibition 2020 organized by Beikthano Gallery in Yangon.

During their stay, the artists will use their powerful tool of art to depict the culture, struggles and daily lives of the people in their creations. This programme is to be a

part of efforts to expose the world, and learn more about Myanmar.

We do believe that after seeing the scenes of Myanmar culture, its natural environment and diverse ethnic peoples, the artists would understand more about the prestige of Myanmar and its culture.

Besides, their soft power of art, with different techniques and views, would help people throughout the world to understand more about our country.



Suparuedee Maneechun
Thailand



Chiou Ling Chy
Malaysia



Viet Kim Quyen
Viet Nam



Huang Yen-Jung
Taiwan



Yi Khin
Myanmar

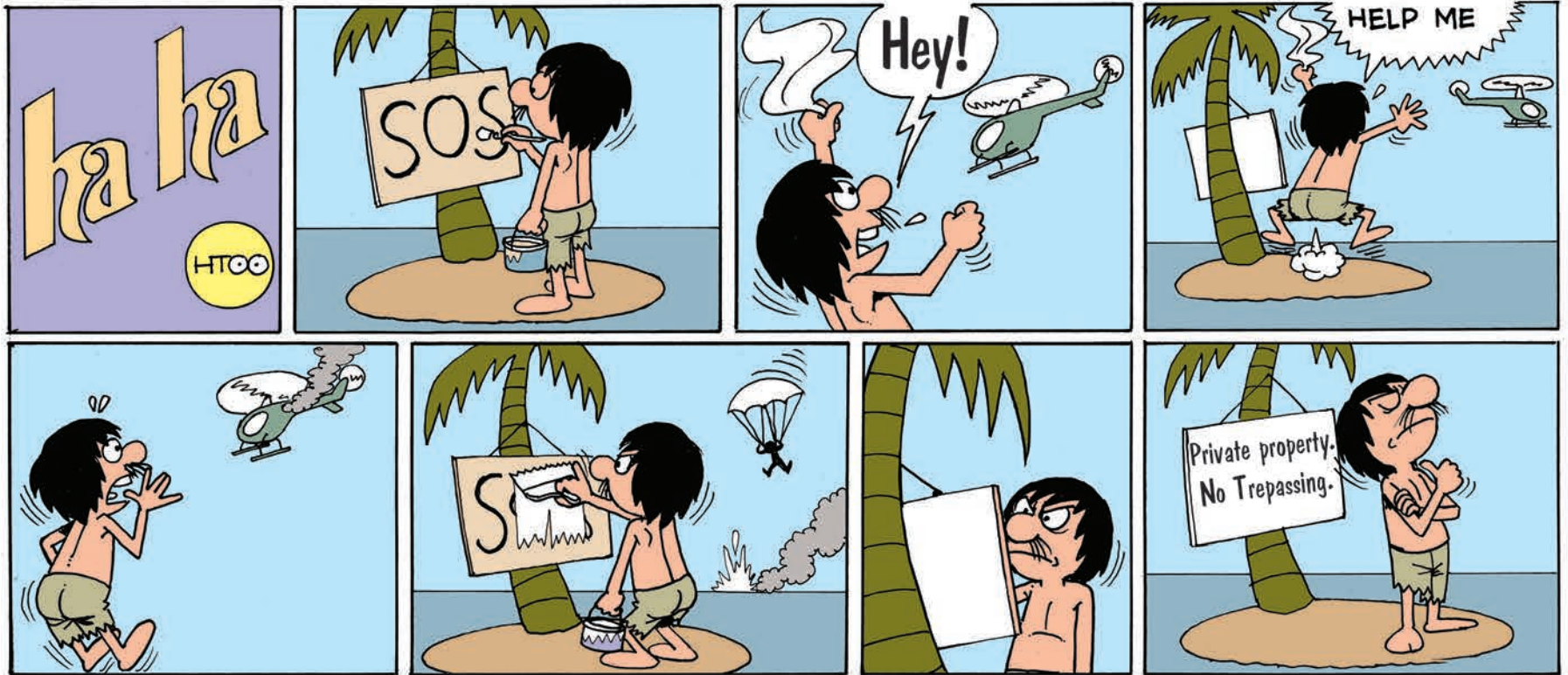


Nasantsengel Bayanjargal
Mongolia



Susanna Wong
Singapore

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



A person who can unlock the treasure inside a child

‘EVERY child is special’ is a Hindi Bollywood movie which was produced and directed by Aamir Khan. Aamir Khan acted as a teacher of an 8-year-old dyslexic child. The film was released on December 14, 2007 and it was in the public eye for many years. It is a worldwide popular film and in some countries, education seminars based on the film were held. In our country too, film-related education seminars were held by Saya Pyae Khaing. The film is popular especially among the people who are interested in education. The film is about an 8-year-old dyslexic child, Ishaan Awasthi and how his art teacher, Ram Shankar Nikumbh, helped him succeed in his talented subject, drawing. Ishaan, who was first thought like an idiot, became an outstanding student especially in art with the help of his teacher. One of the messages given by the film is that no child is stupid and every child is special in their own way. So the film is named ‘Taare Zameen Par’, a Hindi name, which means every child is special. Its international name is ‘Like stars on earth’.

child when his problem was not realized by his teachers, parents as well as his cohorts. As a result, he was not happy with his classes and played truant once and went around the whole city. His truancy and lower performance in his subjects forced his father to send him to a boarding school. At the beginning when he first arrived at the school, everything did not go well with him and he was not totally used to anything including living with strange roommates and rules and routines of the school. Besides, his teachers did not realize his problem and did not know his talent either. To make a long story short, a new art teacher, Nikumbh, noticed Ishaan’s abnormal behavior and subsequently he tried to know his problem. Finally, he realized that his student’s problem is dyslexia. In addition, he visited Ishaan’s home and knew his real talent by chance. Then he made up his mind to help Ishaan eliminate dyslexia and do his talent, drawing, best. He used many teaching methods based on drawing and in the end, the dyslexic child could read and write well. Moreover, he won the first prize in the drawing competition of the school by drawing his masterpiece.

From the film, it is realized that a teacher’s knowledge, decisions and courage for the truth are very important to a child’s life. If a teacher makes a wrong decision, his student’s life might become useless at all. Moreover, a teacher should dare to stand on the right side. A teacher needs to prove the truth he believes right as Nikumbh did in the film. Last but not least, it is very important to notice children with problems and solve theirs. Otherwise, they will become problem children and juvenile delinquency at the end. In conclusion, as it is said in the film, every child is special if his problem and talent are also realized well. However, they will become only idiots if they are labelled wrongly.



By Htet Zaw Htoo (SUOE)
Senior Assistant Teacher
at B.E.H.S. Minemaw

For a student who is specialized in educational guidance and counselling like me, it is a must-watch film. There are many things that can be learned concerning my specialized subject. In one of the modules of the specialized subject, I have to study education for children with special needs. Consequently, the film shared lots of things that we should know about education for children with special needs. In the film too, Ishaan is a special child who is dyslexic. He cannot read and write well. Unfortunately, his former teachers and parents did not know what was happening to him. They forced him to study his best and did not realize his problem. One of my teachers once said, “Children with problems might become problem children if their problems are not solved in time and they could become even juvenile delinquency at the end.” Ishaan too became a problem

**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

