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President U Win Myint, First Lady host 71st Anniversary Independence Day dinner



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greet diplomats at the dinner commemorating 71st Anniversary Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets attendees at the dinner commemorating 71st Anniversary Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho hosted a dinner in commemoration of the 71st Anniversary of Independence Day on the front lawn of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. The President and First Lady arrived at the dinner at 7:00 p.m. and cordially greeted the guests individually.

At the dinner, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, U Min Thu, U Kyaw Tin and their wives welcomed the invited guests.

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greeted the ambassadors and their spouses, representatives of UN agencies and their spouses on the lawn of the Presidential Palace.

Also present at the dinner were State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hlwan, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo,

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein and wife Dr. Sein Sein Thein, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife Daw Thein Yin Chay, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw

Khin Lay Thet, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-general, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Chairman of the Peace Commission, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Anti-corruption Commission Chairman, and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman and their wives and senior military officers and their wives, chairmen of Hluttaw affairs committees, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, representatives of political parties, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign missions in

Myanmar, representatives of UN agencies in Myanmar and their spouses recipients of titles and honours and their families and invited guests.

During the dinner, fireworks were set off nearby and the Myanmar Radio and Television presented entertainment programmes before and during the dinner. After the dinner, the President, First Lady, State Counsellor and guests were entertained by the Myanmar Radio modern music troupe and artists from the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Attendees and Guard of Honour salute the State Flag of Myanmar at the ceremony to celebrate the 71st Anniversary Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw holds 71st Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting, saluting ceremony

71st Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday morning.

The ceremony was held with the aims of all National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with “collective strength” to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Race and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty; for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union, to strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards; to effectively combat and protect against the use of drugs and narcotic substances which can harm and erode the health and character of all

citizens; to continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions; and to assist from all fronts the Union Government’s efforts for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy.

The 71st Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting ceremony was held with the flag hoisting platoon raising the flag at 4:20 a.m.

At 6 a.m. Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Anti-Corruption

Commission Chairman, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, union level organisations, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, 71st Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony organisation sub-committee chairman and members, deputy ministers, invited guests, departmental officials from the ministries, officers and troops from Pobbathiri cantonment, Red Cross and fire service department officials, as well as the local populace assembled at the designated staging areas took their places in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, where the State Flag hoisting ceremony was held.

At 6:45 a.m. the 71st Anniversary Independence Day State

Flag hoisting ceremony began with Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Guard of Honour contingent marching into the area in front of the City Hall to take up their positions.

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as chairman of the central committee for the 71st Independence Day celebration, took his place on the dais and received the salute of the Guard of Honour.

The Vice President, Guard of Honour and the people in attendance then saluted the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Flag as the Tatmadaw Guard of Honour band played the national anthem.

The Guard of Honour also saluted the nation’s martyrs and soldiers, who gave their lives for



Vice President U Myint Swe reads the message sent from the President to 71st Independence Day celebrations. **PHOTO: MNA**

the union and took the four-point oath.

Finally, Vice President U Myint Swe read a message sent by President U Win Myint for the 71st Anniversary Independence Day, received the salute of the Honour Guard and concluded the ceremony.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

NLD HQ celebrates 71st Anniversary Independence Day



The National League for Democracy commemorates 71st Independence Day at party headquarters in Bahan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

71st Anniversary Independence Day ceremony was held at National League for Democracy (Headquarters) in Bahan Township, Yangon at 10 am yesterday. At the ceremony, the State Flag, Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs were saluted and then an 8 seconds silence observed in memory of the monks, people and students who lost their lives in the democracy revolution.

In his opening speech, the chairman of the ceremony and central executive committee secretariat member U Han Thar Myint said “Now is a time of developing morality and psychological foundations of Myanmar

society and it is a time of struggle to achieve peace, freedom and happiness in the lives of the people. So we should raise the image of independence and fulfill the ambitions of the independence leaders by striving resolutely toward the establishment of a federal democratic union through unity and peace based on national reconciliation. Let us all strive towards becoming nationals who are worthy of independence.”

Next, a 71st Independence Day declaration of the Central Executive Committee of NLD was read by central committee member Dr. Myo Nyunt and messages sent from the Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services, political parties and organizations were put on record. The ceremony was attended by National League for Democracy patron U Tin Oo, chair member U Ohn Kyaing, NLD central executive committee members, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Hluttaw representatives, diplomats, members of the NLD, political parties and civil society organizations and invited guests.—Zaw Gyi ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

“ ‘Race’ is a collective noun applied to those who have lived through good times as well as bad together for long years, and who have accepted that they have a common destiny. It is a name given to a group of people who believe in their distinct, common identity. Although due consideration should be given to race, religion and language, a true patriotic spirit depends on a traditional desire to live together through weal or woe.”

(Excerpt from the speech given by General Aung San on the middle terrace of the Shwedagon Pagoda on 20th August, 1946)



Myanmar traditional Htamane festival in Tabodwe month. PHOTO: HTAY LWIN (AMARAPURA)

President posthumously bestows titles on two military officers



President U Win Myint bestows Thura bravery titles posthumously to Lt-Col Thura Thant Zin Oo of No. 11 Infantry Regiment (Left) and Lt-Col Thura Hla Htoo of No. 35 Infantry Regiment (Right) to the respective wife of the recipient at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ACEREMONY to bestow titles for bravery was held yesterday morning in the Theatre Room of the Presidential Palace where President U Win Myint delivered a speech and presented the titles.

The ceremony was attended by First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Daw Shwe Hlwan, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar Chairperson U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior Gen-

eral Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and wife Dr. Sein Sein Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife Daw Thein Yin Chay, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and their wives, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), high ranking officials of offices of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), Hluttaw Affairs Committee chairmen, Deputy Ministers, representatives of Hluttaw title winners and their families.

In his speech the President first welcomed the invited guests with wishes for their auspiciousness.

“Our Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been in existence in the world with our own kings and palaces with pride since ages and has a long history and tradition of being a country where ethnic national brethren lived together in harmony. However in the 19th century we came under powerful British colonial expansionists. Everyone knew that national martyred leader and independence architect, father of the Tatmadaw Bogyoke Aung San and patriotic leaders, our parents, grandparents, lives, bloods, sweats had to be sacrificed to regain the lost independence on 4 January 1948 and become a free and sovereign Republic of the Union of Myanmar” said the President.

Independence was gained through the leadership of martyred leader Bogyoke Aung San and the courage, effort and united efforts, endeavors and strengths of all ethnic

nationals in the country. It is our duty and responsibility and also of our descendants to retain the independence achieved through the lives, blood and sweat of such leaders, and our forefathers as long as the world exists.

It is the duty and responsibility of us, all the citizens, to abide by and implement with all ethnic nationals the aims of the Independence Day National Objectives and at the same time make our country modern, developed, peaceful and stable.

During the time when a peaceful, stable, modern and developed democratic federal union is being aimed for and established from all sides and angles, a ceremony is held on this auspicious 71st Anniversary Independence Day to award titles to honour persons who put in extraordinary contributions, disregarding their lives and limbs with firm minds, with exemplary and amazing bravery for the security of the nation, rule

of law, peace, stability and nation building. Honoring such outstanding persons for their extraordinary contribution are a good tradition and honoring the honorable is in accord with Mingala Sutta and thus it is being conducted, said the President.

The President added that honorary titles were bestowed upon the recommendation of the scrutiny board and two were being presented the Thura bravery award titles. The recipients went through difficulties and obstacles in their lives and still had fulfilled the tasks assigned to them with much bravery and sacrifice. Even though the recipients themselves were no longer able to accept the titles in person it will forever be an honour for their families and descendants as it is a symbol of a grateful State that recognizes their ultimate contribution.

On behalf of the State and the people the Presi-

dent expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the award recipients and their families.

The President concluded his message by urging all to cooperate hand in hand with the Government with collective strength in an exemplary manner for the country to become a peaceful, stable, modern and developed democratic federal union and last a long time.

The President then bestowed the Thura bravery titles posthumously to Lt.-Col Hla Htoo (BC 32760) of No. 35 Infantry Regiment and Lt.-Col Thant Zin Oo (BC 34022) of No. 11 Infantry Regiment. The titles were accepted by the wives of the award recipients Daw Thuza Moe and Daw Cho Cho Aung.

Afterwards the President took commemorative group photos with the families of the recipients and cordially greeted them. — MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Gold leaves on stone of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda to be renewed

GOLD leaves on the golden stone of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda will be renewed from mid-January to 20 March, according to the pagoda's board of trustees.

Scaffolding work will start on 17 January and is targeted to be completed on 28 January. Pasting of gold leaves on the stone will start on 29 January and the scaffolding will be removed in mid-March, once the pasting of leaves is complete. The board of trustees renews gold leaves on the stone every three years. Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is a well-known Buddhist pilgrimage site in Kyaikto Town of Mon State.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)/(Translated by AMS)



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda will be having its gold leaves renewed this year. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Yangon puts on grand spectacle for 71st Independence Day

A GRAND ceremony was held at the Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon in commemoration of the 71st Independence Day yesterday.

The ceremony featured the raising and saluting of the national flag.

The flag was hoisted at 4:20 am, the hour when Myanmar gained her independence from the British Empire.

A ceremony to salute the national flag was held at 4:25 am and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein took the salute from the Guard of Honour and saluted the flag together with the people. Those present at the ceremony also paid tribute to fallen leaders and soldiers.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also read a message sent from President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day.

Also present at the ceremony were Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein addresses the audience gathered in Maha Bandoola Park on 71st Independence Day. PHOTO: MNA

Tun, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon, Yangon Region Chief Justice U Hla Aye, MPs of Yangon Re-

gion Parliament, senior military officers, representatives from political parties, departmental officials, ethnic people, students

from respective Universities and local people.—Thant Zin Win, Zaw Min Latt ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Fire destroys 160 houses in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region

A fire broke out in a village in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region, about 2 pm on 3 January, destroying 167 houses and leaving about 600 people homeless.

The fire started at about 2:00pm at a thatched-roof bamboo house in Chaungwa Village

in Pyapon Township and it spread to another houses and engulfed nine concrete houses, 25 wooden houses and 133 huts in No. 3 ward and No. 4 ward in Chaungwa Village.

The combined team comprising of officials from department of disaster management,

police members from township police station, fire fighters from Township Fire Service Department and volunteers put off the fire.

The authorities has established a temporary shelter at the Thathana Tagun Monastery in the village and provided shel-

ter and aid to the fire victims.

“Donors from villages and townships gave food, health care service and other necessary help to the fire victims” said U Thein Soe, administrator of Pyapon Township.—Thu Za Nwe (Pyapon) ■

(Translated by JT)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Daily rice exports via Muse drop 50% as China cracks down on illegal trade

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S daily exports of rice through the Muse border gate have declined by half as China has intensified its crack-down on illegal rice trade, said U Min Thein, the deputy chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

"Since mid-October, 2018, China has intensified its crack-down on Myanmar rice exports, and consequently, traders are facing difficulties in transporting rice. Merchants are making less profit as they are spending more on transport charges than earlier. The result is that rice exports to China have dropped significantly. Earlier, about 40,000 bags of rice were traded daily at the Muse Wholesale Centre. Currently, the number of bags traded at the centre has fallen to about 20,000 a day," said U Min Thein.

Myanmar mainly exports rice to China through the Muse (105th mile) trade zone. Now, the country has raised exports of rice via sea.

"Earlier, the Muse gate accounted for 70 per cent of the country's total rice exports with the remaining 30 per cent rice shipped through the maritime routes. Currently, only 35 per cent of border exports have been conducted through the normal trade routes on account of China's crackdown, and exports of rice via sea have increased to 65%. Traders cannot cover costs from rice exports

by sea. But, the profits earned from sea trade are higher than at Muse," said U Min Thein.

There has been a growing stockpile of export-quality 25-mark rice in the market after China intensified its crack-down on rice trade, said U Than Oo, the secretary of the Bayaintnaung Wholesale Centre in Yangon.

"The Yangon market has seen a significant increase in inflows of 25-mark rice, especially at the Bayaintnaung Wholesale Centre. Currently, there is excess supply in the market. Merchants are now selling rice to exporters, who conduct normal trade, at a regular price. There have been some difficulties in sale of rice, including delays in discharge of freight," he said.

For the time being, the market is seeing a decline not only in exports of rice, but also in rice prices, said U Min Thein.

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar exported over 1.5 million tons of rice and broken rice over the last nine months, earning US\$528 million. The current volume and value are lower than expected.

The MRF targeted to export over two million tons of rice during the six-month mini-budget period in 2018.

Myanmar primarily exports 25-mark rice and broken rice to China. ■

(Translated by
Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Gold jewellery displayed at a shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Gold prices hit record high in domestic market

By Nyein Nyein

GOLD prices reached a record high of K1.05 million per tical in the domestic market on 4 January, taking cues from the rising global gold prices, said U Ohn Myaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The current prices are higher compared with the record of K1.047 million reached in September, 2017, said traders.

Gold prices have been rising gradually in the domestic

market since mid-December 2018.

"Right now, global gold prices are skyrocketing. At present, gold is priced at almost US\$1,300 per ounce in the global markets. There will be illegal outflows of local gold if local prices are not linked with global gold prices. Despite the price increase, there is a high demand for gold in the local market," said U Ohn Myaing.

In the last three months, domestic gold prices recorded a low of K969,000 per tical on 1 October. The prices increased

to K1.04 million on 31 October. Gold prices stood at K1.044 million on 2 November and declined to K1.027 million on 30 November. The price of gold touched a low of K987,000 in early December, and rose to K1.043 million in late December.

Starting from 21 July, 2017, domestic gold prices have remained above K900,000, tracking high prices in the global gold market. In 2017, gold prices reached a record high of K1.047 million on 20 September from K989,000 in August. (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Mangiumcia growers visit Viet Nam to study technology, market

By Yamon

A group of 24 growers cultivating Acacia mangium, the fast-growing flowering tree in the pea family which is known as mangiumcia in Myanmar, is currently on a visit to Viet Nam to explore market opportunities and production technology.

The trip is aimed at promoting friendly ties with Vietnamese mangiumcia growers' associations, exploring export opportunities for both finished and raw mangiumcia products, and observing the production technology used by Vietnamese producers.

The group left for Viet Nam on 4 January and will arrive back in Myanmar on 8 January, said U Myo Ko Ko Thein, the chair of the temporary association representing mangiumcia growers and producers.

The temporary association, which was founded in November 2018, said it will register itself officially after the group concludes its visit to Viet Nam. After registration, the association will invite members.

The association has been formed with the aim of increasing the number of mangiumcia growers and developing forest areas in Myanmar, seeking and

sharing modern cultivation techniques and production technologies, and creating more business links in the international market.

The association will work with experts, well-wishers, entrepreneurs, and local and foreign organisations to obtain technology to carry out commercial plantation.

U Myo Ko Ko Thein said the association will establish a factory to produce valued-added products, and there are plans to set up a public company in the future. He urged growers to extend their mangiumcia plantations because of market demand.

Efforts are being made

to export mangiumcia timber overseas as raw material in the future, he said.

Mangiumcia is used to make consumer products such as paper and wood pulp, and in parquet flooring. It has become the tree of choice for commercial plantations in Myanmar. Mangiumcia is harvested after 15 years of planting. Myanmar imported mangiumcia, which is native to India, for over a decade.

At present, Myanmar has over 30,000 acres of mangiumcia plantations. A ton of mangiumcia timber is currently priced at K700,000-K800,000 in the domestic market, while a

log of mangiumcia is valued at K300,000-K400,000.

"The Japanese use this kind of wood to make fuel pellets and they want to import 500,000 tons of mangiumcia per year from Myanmar, if possible. However, the country cannot produce enough mangiumcia to meet the foreign demand as there are few growers," said Daw Khin Mya Oo, a mangiumcia grower.

Raising public awareness on the cultivation of mangiumcia tops the association's list of priorities, said U Myo Ko Ko Thein. ■

(Translated by
Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Win Myint, on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From His Majesty King of Thailand
Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayava-
rangkun

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to extend to Your Excellency my cordial felicitations and best wishes for your good health and happiness as well as for the great success and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

I am truly convinced that the wide-ranging cooperation efforts between our two countries, driven by shared commitment and Your Excellency's string support, will further strengthen our close ties of friendship in the many years ahead.

From General Payut Chan-o-cha (Ret.)
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand, I have the honour to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Thailand and Myanmar have always enjoyed amicable ties and understanding. Not only do we share traditional, cultural and religious values, but also face intertwined challenges and opportunities as close neighbours. Upon the foundations built by these common bonds, I am delighted that our two countries have successfully become Natural Strategic Partners.

I wish to take this opportunity to reassure you that Thailand is committed to deepening our bilateral cooperation in all areas and working together with Myanmar to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

From Bounnhang Vorachith
President of Lao People's Democratic
Republic

On the auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the entire Lao people and on my own behalf, I have the great pleasure to convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the entire people of Myanmar.

I firmly believe that the friendship and the traditional long-standing bond of close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and enhanced in the years to come for the mutual benefits of our two peoples.

On the occasion of the New Year 2019, I would like to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency good health, happiness and success in your noble tasks for the continued progress and prosperity of the Myanmar people.

From Nguyen Phu Trong
President of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State and people of Viet Nam, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency and, through Your Excellency, to the State and people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations. May Myanmar, under Your Excellency's clear-sighted leadership, continue to achieve greater accomplishments in the cause of reform and national development and raise her status in the international arena.

I am delighted to note that, in the past year, the Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership has continued to be strengthened and deepened. It is my conviction that, with the joint efforts of the leadership and people of our two countries, the fine relations between Viet Nam and Myanmar will elevate to new heights, for the benefits of our people, and for peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region and the world at large.

From His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal
Bolkiah
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei
Darussalam

I have great pleasure in sending my warmest congratulations to you and to the government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on your country's Independence Day.

Our two countries and people have long enjoyed close friendship since we established diplomatic relations 25 years ago. Through these much-valued relations, we have benefitted many areas of cooperation and I look forward to strengthening these important ties in the years ahead.

With my kindest regards and very best wishes for a happy celebration.

From Mr. Ueli Maurer
President of the Swiss Confederation

On behalf of the Swiss Federal Council and the people of Switzerland, it gives me great pleasure to send you and your country's people our best wishes for your day of independence. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish a peaceful and serene future – for you in your official role as well as for the residents of your country.

Switzerland is committed to maintaining a strong relationship with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Through the renewal of its cooperation strategy in Myanmar for 2019-2023, Switzerland will continue supporting your country in its efforts to achieve peace, democracy and sustainable development. We look forward to building on this for the prosperity and benefits of our people.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr. Hun Sen
Prime Minister of Cambodia

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and the People of Myanmar on the joyous occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am gratified by the longstanding amicable ties between Cambodia and Myanmar which so happily exist since the establishment of our diplomatic relations many decades ago. With our joint efforts, I remain firmly optimistic that our bilateral relations will be further consolidated and expanded, and our two peoples will enjoy greater prosperity in years to come.

May I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal good health, happiness and greater success in fulfillment of your noble tasks and for the prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

From Thongloun Sisoulith
Prime Minister of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic

On the auspicious occasion of the 71st anniversary

of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the long-standing traditional bond of friendship and good cooperation both bilateral and multilateral stages between our two countries as well as our two governments will be further enhanced. I stand ready to working closely as well as with Your Excellency in order to bring about mutual benefits of the two countries and two peoples as well as for peace, friendship and cooperation in the region and international fora.

From Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government and People

of Viet Nam, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar the warmest felicitations.

I wish to congratulate the country and people of Myanmar on their important achievements recorded over the past 7 decades. It is my conviction that, under your Government's effective administrations, Myanmar will achieve greater success in the cause of national construction and development, and continue to elevate her position in the region and the world.

I am delighted by the positive developments in the traditional friendship between Viet Nam and Myanmar in recent years. More significantly, the frequent high-level visits and meetings have helped reinforce and strengthen the mutual trusts and understanding as well as the existing fine cooperation between our two countries, both bilateral and within multilateral frameworks. I am truly convinced that, with the concerted efforts of our two Governments, the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between Viet Nam and Myanmar will further blossom in the years ahead.

President confers bravery titles on soldiers

Interviewer: Myo Thu,
Lu Maw

ON the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a ceremony to confer bravery titles was held in the Theater Room at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, President U Win Myint presented two Thura title winners for their bravery, and the following are interviews with their family members.

Daw Thuzar Moe, wife of Lt-Col Thura Hla Htoo

I am a Middle School teacher and teaching at No.1, B.E.H.S in Meiktila. I have attended this ceremony to accept the honorary award on behalf of my husband, Lt-Col Thura Hla Htoo. I feel proud of my husband who sacrificed his life for the cause of the State and Tatmadaw because the State has conferred this award with ceremony.



Daw Thuzar Moe. PHOTO: MNA

I would be very pleased to see as a family member or as a member of the audience under the stage if my husband had received the award in person on the stage. I feel proud of being a mem-

ber of his family and he sacrificed his life without having any fear for the sake of the country and the people. I would like to say that not only the Tatmadaw but also all our fellow citizens are duty bound



Daw Cho Cho Aung. PHOTO: MNA

to maintain the perpetuation and eternal peace of the country.

As an ordinary person, I am very proud of the Tatmadaw soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country and the people.

But I feel down-hearted for the loss of my husband and would like to say again that I am very proud of them.

Daw Cho Cho Aung, wife of Lt-Col Thura Thant Zin Oo

I have received this honorary award conferred by the State on behalf of my husband Lt-Col Thura Thant Zin Oo. I feel very proud of my husband who sacrificed his life while performing his duty for the State and Tatmadaw, and feel thankful for the State to confer this award with ceremony. I know that this honorary award is conferred to those who sacrificed their lives for the State. On the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the Independence of the country, I am very pleased and feel proud of being a wife of a Tatmadaw soldier. I looked upon them as noble men for their sacrifices and bravery in action, and I pay respect to them forever.

(Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung)

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

FROM PAGE-6

From Milos Zeman,
President of the Czech Republic

I would like to sincerely congratulate you and the people of your country on the Independence Day of your country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my firm conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop and deepen in many areas.

I wish you and the people of Myanmar lots of success in the future.

From Md. Abdul Hamid,
President of Bangladesh

The Government and the people of Bangladesh and I would like to convey our best wishes and warm felicitations to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and the people of the Republic of Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day.

Bangladesh is steadfast and resolute in her policy of 'friendship to all, malice towards none'. With this objective in mind, Bangladesh will continue to work with Myanmar to bring about shared peace, prosperity and development for the peoples of our two countries.

I take the opportunities to extend my best wishes to your personal well-being and success and continued progress and prosperity of the peoples of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Jigme Khesar
King of Bhutan

I am pleased to convey warm felicitations on behalf of the people of Bhutan, on the joyous occasion

of the celebration of your Independence Day.

I wish the people of Myanmar continued peace, progress, and prosperity, and send my best wishes to you for your well-being and happiness.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Sheikh Hasina,
Prime Minister of Bangladesh

I would like to convey our heartiest felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through you to the peoples of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As a neighbor Bangladesh attaches great importance to her relations with Myanmar. We would like to see the region grow and prosper in an environment of peace, security, stability and development. Bangladesh is committed to work together with the Government of Myanmar whereby the peoples of our countries can realize their progressive goals and aspirations.

I avail myself of this opportunity to wish you good health and happiness and continued peace and prosperity for the peoples of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa,
President of the Portuguese Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations and sincere wishes for your personal well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Andrej Kiska
President of the Slovak Republic

On behalf of the people of the Slovak Republic and on my own behalf I have a great pleasure to convey my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of your country. May I take this opportunity to wish the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and all its citizens peace, stability, prosperity and strengthening of democratic society.

I believe that the friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries will continue to develop to their mutual satisfaction.

Accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez
President of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

Upon the celebration of the 71st anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you our cordial congratulations and I express to you our wishes to broaden the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries.

Please receive assurances of my highest consideration.

From Kim Yong Nam,
President
Presidium
Supreme People's Assembly
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

I extend my warm congratulations to you and to your friendly government and people on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

I avail myself of this opportunity to wish you greater success in your responsible work for peace, stability and prosperity of the country.

We must work together with honesty and trust

“I would like to urge all the national people to strive with goodwill for the building of a democratic federal union, for peace, prosperity, and modernization of the union, and for everyone to enjoy the fruits of democracy regardless of the states and regions they reside in,” said President U Win Myint, in his message to commemorate the 71st Independence Day yesterday.

There is much to take note of in the President’s message. It encourages us to be united in goodwill and kindness as we strive to develop our nation, and instill peace and prosperity throughout the land as we continue to establish a democratic federal union in the present age.

The essential components to a free, independent Myanmar are a successful peace process and the establishment of a democratic federal union. To achieve these objectives, all citizens need to unite in goodwill and genuine kindness. This fact must be expounded at every opportunity. The third 21st Century Panglong Conference has been successfully convened for strengthening national reconciliation and peace.

The conference has reached agreements on democratic practices and federal principles. As we move towards ensuring peace and democracy, we must strive together with pure goodwill and genuine kindness. Once we achieve both lasting solidarity among the national races and national reconciliation, with actions based on mutual trust, understanding, and cooperation, we will, without a doubt, succeed in establishing a peaceful democratic federal union, an ideal we are all wishing for and working towards.

The main ingredient for ensuring the success of the peace process and building a democratic federal union is mutual trust. We must shun discrimination and thoughts of prejudice. One way to achieve this is to inculcate sympathy, loving-kindness, and patience. By doing so, we will be able to build a promising future. We must cast away suspicion and nurture complete trust as we work together to find solutions. With complete solidarity among the nation’s races, we must strive together for the emergence of a constitution drafted in accordance with democratic practices and federal principles that suit our nation.

In conclusion, just as the President urged, we, the citizens of the Union of Myanmar, must strive to achieve the best in our respective spheres so that our country can stand firmly and proudly on the global stage, with resolute ethnic solidarity and lasting sovereignty.

The main ingredient for ensuring the success of the peace process and building a democratic federal union is mutual trust. We must shun discrimination and thoughts of prejudice.

The Architect of Sovereignty, and Myanmar’s First Independence Day

An Interview with veteran journalist Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing

By Ye Gaung Nyunt, Nandar Win

PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

(CONTINUED FROM THE ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE 3 JANUARY ISSUE)



Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing.

Question: Please explain his simple way of life and his dress code.

Answer: I am always careless in my clothing; however, Bogoyoke was far more casual and humble in his dress code. When he stayed at home, he used to wear only military green vest with common cotton sarong. If there was no work to carry out, he did gardening and planting vegetables in the compound and lived a life of simple way. He dressed up only when Bo Tun Hla and Daw Khin Kyi urged him to do so.

On 17 June 1947, he dressed up clean and neat when he delivered a speech from the upper deck of portico at the City Hall to the public gathered at Maha Bandoola Park.

Sadly, on another occasion he was in neat attire when he was assassinated. He wore a double length men’s silk sarong in a shining black shoe with pink color Myanmar turban that matches with white silk shirt. I remembered only two days Bogoyoke was in his best clothing, neat and clean.

As a leader of the nation, he had no time to choose fine clothing. Almost working for (24) hours, and when he was sitting in his chair, he was thinking something seriously for the country. He never felt unhappy or depressed, but contemplate and work on the plan that he thought appropriate.

His main focus of thinking was independence of the nation. He was in fact a national hero, a separate entity that a common individual could never take up.

He made extreme sacrifices for the country, and that he had no time for proper dress code.

Question: Once Bogoyoke Aung San mentioned that he preferred to have boiled garden pea and round Indian flat bread. Please tell us in this regard.

Bogoyoke who loved boiled garden pea and left over rice

Answer: Sure. I would like to talk about that matter for confirmation in the chronicle. He was born in upcountry of Myanmar, and led a very simple way of life. He never ever making fuss around for meals all of his life.

One day, Bogoyoke Aung San and the British Governor had a discussion on the future of Myanmar. The intended future meeting was supposed to be taken up with Mr. Atlee in London. Bogoyoke came back home and called for Cabinet and Executive Committee meeting in debriefing his colleagues.

On that day, he wrote to his wife Daw Khin Kyi on a simple sheet asking that he would like to have boiled garden pea and left over rice (customary staple breakfast for common people) sprinkled with ground nut oil. He signed on it, and asked Bo Tun Hla to deliver it to Daw Khin Kyi. I was there near him.

As had been requested, Daw Khin Kyi fulfilled the wish by placing left over rice with boiled pea, adding ground nut oil into an ordinary simple enamel bowl. At that time, the country had no proper cutlery, but homemade crude spoon made out of metals from crashed aircrafts during the war. There was no problem in using such homemade crude metal spoon for Bogoyoke Aung San. Generally, he was sitting on a common and ordinary two seats settee made of cane, old and worn out piece. Nothing was grandeur or splendor.

Question: Tell us about the relationship with the journalists.

Answer: Bogoyoke had high impression on journalists, and treated them like brothers. He always informed the journalist in advance about his schedules and plans. He always welcomed the journalists, as he believed and had faith in journalists. The journalists always informed the people with accurate news and that Bogoyoke understood the condition. During the time of Bogoyoke, there were only (12) to (13) official press conferences taken place. He always informed us offhandedly all his work plans.



Question: Please tell us any specific experience travelling along with Bogoyoke.

Answer: While we were travelling to Panglong, U Pu Galay was with Bogoyoke on the vehicle, a Bedford car complemented from US army, and that we had to follow them in another vehicle. On the way, the people from AFPFL and government officials from towns and cities welcomed Bogoyoke and entertained with refreshments.

Bogoyoke refused to be with them for longer period as he had to be in Panglong in time, and therefore, he did not waste time. He stopped the car where he preferred and ate the meals at his own expense. He also paid for the meals that we enjoyed.

Next, we arrived at Taunggyi where they had arranged a public meeting, but Bogoyoke did not waste time as he was heading direct to Panglong. It showed the way of thinking of Bogoyoke on his concentration and thoughts on one main subject to be implemented at the earliest. He moved straight to his destination. Throughout our dealing and relationship as journalist, he was always straight forward with us and candid.

One day, an incident had occurred that some arms and ammunition from COD compound in Bothataung Township were taken out by an unknown group of people.

Moreover, some weapons from Mingaladon Military Munitions Depot were taken away. We heard that it was the conspiracy

of U Saw, and that the Bama Khit Newspaper reported it first to the public.

Our newspaper was late because we had been telling the news to Bogoyoke, giving assumption that it might be the assassination attempt to Bogoyoke. However, he responded that there was no conspiracy at all as he had no enemy, and added that he was working for the country and did not mind if anyone would like to kill him. If they intend to kill him, he said that he was ready to die. We insisted to keep security team, but he did not listen.

Risky situation

I would like to talk about the shadowy shooting incident that occurred at Myaynigone Ward. The British Governor invited Bogoyoke in the morning and U Saw in the evening with regard to the invitation to London.

At that time, Bo Pe Chit and Yangon Ba Swe were in Myaynigone Ward after having heavy drinks from the local squatter there. Bo Pe Chit was earlier a member of Dedaye Thakin Soe Association, and later he became a member of Insurgent Suppression Military Unit holding the position of an officer with a revolver of point 45 caliber.

When Bo Pe Chit, in heavy drinks, saw the vehicle and U Saw, he took out the revolver and shot at U Saw. The bullet shattered the front windshield of the car and hit U Saw and severely injured the eye. This episode was very

important in history. U Saw was hospitalized at Yangon General Hospital, where Bogoyoke visited and cheered up the same evening.

However, U Saw assumed the assassination plot was carried out with the instruction of Bogoyoke, as the location of People’s Power Journal and Burma Communist Party Headquarters of Thakin Than Tun was situated in Myaynigone Ward. That was the reason why U Saw assumed that the killing intrigue was the conspiracy of Bogoyoke Aung San using the secret arms of People’s Yebaw (Comrades) Organization.

In fact, the real culprits were Ba Swe and Bo Pe Chit. In the book entitled “Who Killed Aung San?” written by Khin Aung, mentioned that General Ne Win was the conspirator, which was totally wrong. I am not going to clarify about that matter.

The remorse of Galon U Saw

When Galon U Saw was escorted to the death gallows, I was there. During that period, I was friendly with the warden, assistant wardens and staff members, and that the warden was Wunna Kyaw Htin U Tin Maung, who happened to be my second cousin.

I wanted to take a photograph and that I got a small camera as small as a lighter, and took the photos secretly. At that time, the Secretary of Justice Ministry was U Thaug Sein, who was also a Commissioner of Penitentiary Department.

Next, U Tin Maung and U

Thaug Sein escorted Galon U Saw to the gallows. At the last moment, U Saw said that in 1938, he had acquired a standing Buddha statue made of Thitkanet black hard wood, and that he experienced all the bad omen and ill lucks from the very day he got the Buddha statue. He asked his wife Ma Than Khin to donate the Buddha statue to Shwedagon Pagoda.

He also told U Tin Maung that he had no grudge whatsoever over Bogoyoke Aung San and also not an enemy, but he did not know and understand himself why he had committed such a conspiracy in the assassination of Bogoyoke. U Saw wished this kind of killing be the last one in the cycle of life. This was the last confession of Galon U saw.

Question: Please tell us the situation of media in the past and the present.

Answer: During our era, the media enjoyed freedom. If we had written anything wrong, we are fined with three thousand Kyats. If we smear other persons, we were charge with the bind of law. Therefore, we abide by the media ethics. I had the opportunity in attending Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) in 1952-1953 at the Rangoon University. We maintained ethics. We were not the same with the media people of today.

Question: Please tell us more.

Answer: We have some differences in the past and the present. We followed the rules and law, and uphold ethics. In present era, the people in the media are young in age and I am of the view they lacked in the study of journalism and in professional way, which is compounded with the interference of foreign intervention.

The foreign hands are providing the media with some sort of assistances, and that if our people worked for the sake of such cash, and then they might become the slaves of money. They did not care for being sent to prison with the hope and believe of the foreign relief and assistance, and then it is tantamount to destroying the country. It could be compared with the sad incident of King Thibaw Min being taken away to India. That was why, I had poured out my hard feelings on the day of respect paying ceremony to the veteran writers a few days ago.

The interviewers thanked the veteran journalist and the interview came to an end.

(Translated by UMT (Ahlon))

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Friday 4 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon regions, (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below January average temperatures in Yangon Region, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and about January average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (-2°C) in Haka, (1°C) in Heho and (4°C) each in Hsipaw, Namhsan, Pinlaung, Loolin, Tiddim and Ramthlo.

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm (Pabuk) over the Gulf of Thailand and has continuously crossed Chang Klang (Thailand). It is forecast to move Westwards and reach to Andaman Sea.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 5 January 2019: Rain will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Shan and Kayah states and isolated in Bago and Yangon regions, Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional Squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January 2019: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Region and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region.

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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

AA launches massive coordinated attacks on four border police outposts in Buthidaung Township, leaves 9 injured, 13 police personnel killed



Bullet holes and damages left by coordinated attacks by AA insurgents on four police outposts in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State on 4 January 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

As a result of massive coordinated attacks launched by the AA insurgent group on four border police outposts in Buthidaung township of Rakhine State yesterday morning, 9 police personnel were injured and 13 lost their lives, it is learnt.

The massive coordinated attacks which occurred at 6:45 a.m., involved the use of small and heavy firearms. An estimated 100 group of AA insurgents attacked Ngamyinbaw police outpost, an estimated 100 group of AA insurgents attacked the Kyaungtaung police outpost, an estimated 50 group of AA insurgents attacked the Gokepi police outpost, and an estimated 100 group of AA insurgents attacked the Khahtihla police outpost.

Immediately after the inci-

dents occurred, patrolling columns from the number 8 Border Police Company and Tatmadaw columns rushed to these outposts to provide support. They arrived at Ngamyinbaw outpost at 9:35 a.m., Kyaungtaung outpost at 12:15 p.m., Gokepi outpost at 9:20 a.m. and Khahtihla outpost at 9:30 a.m. to provide assistance and support.

Before the relief columns arrived at the Ngamyinbaw outpost and Kyaungtaung outpost, due to more pressure exerted by the AA insurgent group, the police personnel at these outposts had to abandon these outposts. Gokepi outpost and Khahtihla outpost received heavy artillery backup from Tatmadaw columns at around 7:30 a.m.

The police in these outposts

put up a stiff resistance. The AA insurgents tried to overrun these outposts using superior numbers. However, in spite of their efforts to break down the fence they failed in their attempt to take over these outposts so the insurgents surrounded the two outposts. Beginning from 8:10 a.m. in the morning, two Tatmadaw helicopters provided air support. Tatmadaw relief military columns used massive firepower to break through the insurgent lines surrounding the two outposts.

By using speed and force, the relief columns of the Tatmadaw were able to join forces with the defenders at 9:30 a.m. It is learnt that the AA insurgents withdrew to the east.

As a result of these attacks

launched by the AA insurgent group, 9 police personnel were killed and 2 were injured from the Ngamyinbaw police outpost. From the Kyaungtaung police outpost, 2 police personnel were killed and 1 police was injured. From the Gokepi police outpost, 3 police personnel were injured. From the Khahtihla police outpost, 2 police personnel were killed and 3 were injured.

In this incident, a total of 13 police personnel lost their lives and 9 were injured. An assorted number of 40 firearms, 16111 rounds of assorted ammunitions, and one walkie-talkie were lost. It is learnt that Tatmadaw military columns and combined forces are in hot pursuit of the insurgents by blocking their escape routes. Villagers from the

four villages which are in the vicinity of the four border police outposts have abandoned their villages. Efforts are being made to locate them.

The Union Government has been working strenuously with special focus for peace and development of Rakhine State. These acts of terrorist attacks by the AA further complicate the current situation.

This is a carefully planned premeditated attack to harm the lives and property of the people and to further aggravate the instability in the Rakhine State. It is learnt that the security forces will take effective offensive actions to crush the terrorist attacks of the AA. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

Bogyoke Aung San film production updates now available on social media

The launching ceremony for introducing social media pages on Bogyoke Aung San film production was held yesterday morning at Kanbawza Yeiktha (Chin Chaung Nan Daw) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.

At the ceremony, U Lu Min, Joint Secretary -2 of Bogyoke Aung San's Biopic Producing Committee said the ceremony aims to inform the public of the biopic's producing process. He added that the ceremony aims to share the official social media outlets to the people, including Facebook, Instagram and

Twitter. The State Counsellor has remarked the production of this film was very delicate and tough, he said. The Bogyoke Aung San Film Producing Committee was formed with Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko as Chairman comprised of artistes, technicians and other ministries. We are convinced the film will be developed in line with international standards, and we as of the media to offer suggestions, said U Lu Min.

Next, the biopic's casting director Pan Chi Soe Moe said we should genuinely support the movie. He

said they consulted historians and technicians to remain true to the historical background of the film.

After that, directors Lu Min, U Soe Moe, Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, Tun Aung Zaw, Soe Kyaw San replied to queries raised by media personnel. Comments and suggestions for the Bogyoke Aung San's Biopic can be made through <https://www.instagram.com/aungsanmovieofficial>, <https://www.facebook.com/aungsanmovieofficial>, <https://twitter.com/aungsanmovie>. — Yi Yi Myint (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Launching ceremony of Bogyoke Aung San biopic's social media platforms. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Russia to start flight tests of Sarmat heavy ICBM in spring

MOSCOW — The flight development tests of Russia's most advanced RS-28 Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) are expected to start from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in north Russia in the second quarter of 2019, a source in the domestic defense industry told TASS recently.

"The Sarmat's flight development tests are planned to be launched from the second quarter of next year," the source said.

During the tests from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome and from the base of the Uzhur missile division stationed in the Krasnoyarsk Region in East Siberia, "several experimental prototypes are planned to be launched. The year 2020 is the declared term of the trials' completion," the source said.

After that, a control launch of the serial missile will be accomplished, the source added.

In the coming two or three months, work will continue to carry out the missile's ground tests and create the necessary infrastructure in the Uzhur missile division, the source said.

TASS has no official confirmation of this information yet.

As Russian Strategic Mis-



The RS-28 Sarmat is the Russian advanced silo-based system with the heavy liquid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile. PHOTO: TASS

sile Force Commander Sergei Karakayev told journalists on 18 December, the flight tests of the Sarmat heavy liquid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile will first be conducted from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome and then from the base of the Uzhur missile division. As the commander noted, "work is currently underway to create the [missile's] experimental prototypes and prepare

the sites for the flight tests."

A day before that, on 17 December, Karakayev told Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper that the trials of the Sarmat ICBM would start "in the immediate future."

Before that, the pop-up tests of the Sarmat ICBM were successfully conducted.

Sarmat ICBM

The RS-28 Sarmat is the Rus-

sian advanced silo-based system with the heavy liquid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile. It has been in the process of its development since the 2000s to replace the R-36M2 Voyevoda ICBM. It weighs about 200 tonnes and has a throw weight of around 10 tonnes. The media reported in late December 2017 about the first successful pop-up test of the Sarmat ICBM. — Tass ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Democrat Pelosi elected US House speaker for 2nd time

WASHINGTON (United States) — Veteran Democratic lawmaker Nancy Pelosi was elected speaker of the House on Thursday for the second time in her political career, a striking comeback for the only woman ever to hold the post.

The convening of the new Congress ushers in an era of divided government in Washington, with Pelosi and her Democrats eager to confront Republican President Donald Trump and help their party mount a successful challenge for the White House in 2020. — AFP ■

Ghosh demands hearing to clarify grounds for his detention: Japan court

TOKYO (Japan) — Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn on Friday lodged a request for a hearing to clarify why he has been detained since his arrest in November, the Tokyo District Court said.

"Mr Ghosn today submitted a request for the disclosure of the reasons for his detention. No date has been set," the court said.

The court cannot refuse such a request and Japan's public broadcaster NHK said it needs to provide a hearing within five days in principle.

NHK said Ghosn wants to attend the hearing himself if there is one. Article 34 of Japan's constitution stipulates that "no person shall be arrested or detained without being at once informed of the charges against him or without the immediate privilege of counsel." — AFP ■

Six people dead, 8 injured in US highway crash

WASHINGTON — Six people were killed and eight others injured on Thursday afternoon in a multi-vehicle crash on a highway in US state of Florida, authorities said.

The incident occurred on Interstate 75 near Gainesville, said Alachua County Fire Rescue on social media.

The Florida Highway Patrol said the crash involved two tractor trailers, a sedan and a passenger van. All vehicles but the sedan caught fire. Alachua County Fire Rescue said the fire, fed by about 190 liters of diesel, had been extinguished. — AFP ■

Dangerous powder from lost cargo found on Dutch island

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — A bag containing dangerous powder washed up on a small Dutch island on Thursday, a day after some 270 containers tumbled from one of the world's biggest cargo ships in rough weather, as authorities scramble to clean debris-strewn beaches.

Frisian Island authorities, which said the bag was found closed, identified the powder as "organic peroxide", a highly flammable substance used in making plastics.

"A bag containing 25 kilogrammes (55 pounds) of powder was found on the beach of Schiermonnikoog," Jan-Willem Zwart, spokesman for the security services in the region, told AFP.

The Panama-registered MSC Zoe, which was mostly carrying toys, furniture and auto parts, lost the containers late on Tuesday while battling a storm off the Frisian Islands, an archipelago off the northwestern Dutch coast also known as the Wadden Islands.

Coastguards said three containers that had been transport-

ing organic peroxide on the MSC Zoe have not been located and are thought to have sunk.

So far, around 20 containers have been located near the shores of these islands while another six were found in German waters.

Following appeals from officials in the affected islands, the Dutch ministry of defence announced soldiers would arrive Friday to help the clean-up operation on coastlines strewn with rubbish, notably polystyrene.

Volunteers have been helping collect items washed up on the beaches, which "look like a mess", Zwart said. Authorities have warned volunteers and locals not to touch any bags but to call police or the fire brigade.

"We strongly advise residents and people who have come to clean the beaches to... immediately seek medical attention if they come into contact with the bags (containing organic peroxide)," Zwart said, warning that the chemical substance "can cause burns".

On the tiny island of Ameland "130,000 kg of debris has already



Dutch volunteers have been helping to collect the washed-up content from containers onboard the MSC Zoe. PHOTO: AFP

been collected from eight km (5 miles) of beach", the authorities said in a tweet.

In a statement shipping firm MSC Mediterranean Shipping said it took the incident "very seriously, both in terms of the impact of such accidents on the natural environment and in terms of any damage to customers' cargo".

The firm said it had appointed a salvage company to help retrieve cargo and the clean-up and had deployed ships equipped with sonar after what it described as a

"substantial spill of containers".

Dutch broadcaster NOS on Wednesday broadcast footage of locals gathered around one of the containers, with toys and other materials strewn across the beach and one man carrying off a flat screen television.

The MSC Zoe, which berthed at the northern German port of Bremerhaven late Wednesday, is one of the world's largest container vessels at 396 metres (1300 feet) long and 59 metres wide. It was built in 2015. — AFP ■

Abe to confirm 1 April as day to announce Japan's new era name

ISE, (Japan) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to officially confirm at his New Year press conference later Friday that Japan's new era name following the abdication of Emperor Akihito will be announced on 1 April.

The press conference will be held in Ise, Mie Prefecture in central Japan, after Abe pays his annual visit to the Ise Grand Shrine.

Abe is likely to say that the next era name will be endorsed at a Cabinet meeting on 1 April ahead of Emperor Akihito's April 30 abdication and Crown Prince Naruhito's ascension to the throne on 1 May. Emperor Akihito will be the first living Japanese monarch to give up the throne in about 200 years.

The move is intended to ensure a necessary preparation period for government offices and companies to update their information systems and to avoid possible confusion among the public. The era name is widely used in calendars, newspapers and officials documents, along with the Gregorian calendar.

A "gengo," or era name, is used for the length of an emperor's reign. The current Heisei era, which means "achieving peace" commenced on 8 January, 1989, the day after Emperor Hirohito, posthumously known as Emperor Showa, died.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pictured during an annual visit to Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Prefecture.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

In a rare video message in August 2016, Emperor Akihito, who turned 85 last year, expressed his strong desire to step down, citing concerns about his advancing age and declining health.

Conservative members of Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have demanded the new gengo be announced after a ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the enthronement of Emperor Akihito slated for 10 April and also that a government ordinance on the era change should be promulgated only after the ascension of

the new emperor.

But the government has decided that the era name should be unveiled a month before the imperial succession for the sake of computer system updates and that the ordinance should be issued by the current emperor on 1 April.

Earlier in the week, Natsuo Yamaguchi, who heads the Komeito party, the LDP's junior coalition partner, said the next era name will be unveiled on 1 April and become effective on 1 May, when Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne.—Kyodo News ■

S Korea's navy conducts maritime drills in western waters

SEOUL — South Korea's navy on Friday conducted this year's first maritime drills in western waters, south of the maritime buffer zone which the country set with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to reduce military tensions.

Mobilized for the drills were battleships, including a 2,500-ton frigate, a guided missile patrol gunboat, and

a patrol frigate, as well as a maritime operation helicopter, according to local media reports.

A live-fire exercise was included in the drills to build teamwork among service members, the navy was quoted as saying.

The maritime maneuvers exercise was carried out in waters south of the maritime buffer zone, which was

set near the inter-Korean sea boundary under the comprehensive military agreement between the two Koreas.

The military accord was signed by defence chiefs of the two Koreas during the Pyongyang summit in September last year between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un.—Xinhua ■

Ex-Malaysian PM Najib to be jointly tried with former 1MDB CEO

KUALA LUMPUR — Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak will be jointly tried with former 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arul Kanda, a court ruled here on Friday.

The pair faces charges over tampering with an audit report of the state investment fund meant to

be presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), an organ of the Malaysia's parliament, tasked with reviewing the country's public accounts.

The chief prosecutor for the case applied to have the duo jointly tried after they had been charged separately in December last year with the judge agreeing to a joint trial

and setting 1 March for the case to be mentioned.

Najib had been charged for using his position as prime minister to protect himself from ethical, civil or criminal actions against him in relation to 1MDB, by ordering the alteration of the final audit report before it was presented to the PAC.—Xinhua ■

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Modernization of Public Finance Management

Supply of Computers

Ref No: MPFMp-C1-GS 541

Date: 5 January 2019

- This Invitation for Bids is for the supply of Computers (1) Desktop Computer, (2) Laptop Computer for the Treasury Department.
- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this Invitation for Quotation: Supply of Computers, Ref No: MPFMp-C1-GS541
- The Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply as indicated above.
- Bidders are required to meet the following **minimum key qualification criteria and shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following requirement(s):**
 - Have completed within the last 3 years at least one contract of a similar nature of at least 50% of the value of the bid or have sold similar goods of at least twice the volume /quantity required
 - Have authorization or dealership from the manufacturer to sell the goods
 - Have shops or offices in Myanmar to provide after sales services
 - Demonstrate that they are paying taxes to the Government.
 - Not be under any notice of suspension or debarment issued by the Government, or the World Bank
- Bids must be delivered to the address given below at or before **2 p.m. of 5 February 2019**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in public immediately there after at the address given below in the presence of the Bidders' representatives and the project's beneficiaries who choose to attend shall be allowed to be present in person.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Documents, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration as described in the bidding documents**, any bid not accompanied by one will be rejected as non-compliant.
- The address where the document may be inspected and obtained is:

Modernization of Public Finance Management Project

Ministry of Planning and Finance

Project Office, Building No 26, Nay Pyi Taw

Email: mmt.budget@gmail.com, zawnaing652011@gmail.com, sukumarshep@gmail.com, phyuphyusoe2007@gmail.com, aungminoo151@gmail.com, sansankyu872@gmail.com

sansankyu872@gmail.com

Telephone: 067-410575, 067-410162, 067-410161, Fax: 067-410575

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (1/2019)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	IFB-039(18-19)	10" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (32200) MTR	US\$
(b)	IFB-040(18-19)	4" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (16,100) MTR	US\$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **7 January 2019**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 4 February 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **4-2-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

Climate change? Russian meteorologist says 2019 may turn out as warmest year on record

MOSCOW— As 2019 approaches, it may turn out to be the warmest one on record because of the so-called El-Nino phenomenon, Head of Russia's Federal Service for Hydro-meteorology and Environ-

mental Monitoring Roman Vilfand told TASS.

"The El-Nino phenomenon occurs when ocean temperatures rise in the central and eastern Equatorial Pacific," he said.

"The warming has

been affecting larger areas, including other oceans. There has been a huge heat transfer from the ocean to the atmosphere, it gradually engulfs the entire Earth," Russia's top meteorologist added.

Temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific have risen by half a degree, which is rather a large increase. As a result, 2019 may prove to be the warmest year in history, Vilfand added. —Tass ■



Roman Vilfand, director of Russia's weather forecasting agency, GidroMetTsentr. PHOTO: TASS

Tourists hunker down as Storm Pabuk has Thailand in its sights

SURATTHANI (Thailand) — Tourists marooned on Thai islands hunkered down on Friday as Tropical Storm Pabuk edged closer, forcing airports and ferries to close and bringing downpours and massive sea swells hours before its expected landfall.

Boats were recalled to shore across the Gulf of Thailand, while two key airports — Koh Samui and Nakhon Si Thammarat — were shut until

Saturday, leaving tourists who remain on islands now cut off from the mainland. "Ten thousand tourists are still on Koh Phangan," said Krikkrui Songthane, district chief of the island which neighbours Samui and is famed for its full-moon party.

"But I talked to foreigners last night and they are not scared, they understand the situation," told AFP. Pabuk, the first tropical storm in decades

to strike during the peak holiday season, is expected to make landfall on Friday evening with the eye passing over Nakhon Si Thammarat further to the south.

"But all tourist islands in the Gulf of Thailand including Koh Samui, Koh Phangan, Koh Tao will be affected because Pabuk is huge," said Phuwieng Prakhammintara, head of the Thai Meteorological Department. As it churns through the sea, Pabuk

has picked up speed with 75-kilometre-an-hour (45 mile) winds stirring huge waves of up to five metres high (16 feet). Social media videos showed oil rigs being battered by waves, and tankers navigating terrifying walls of water.

With rains lashing the entire south, the Meteorological Department warned coastal communities to expect "inshore surges" as winds whip up the sea.

Authorities have

opened evacuation shelters for vulnerable communities across Thailand's southernmost provinces. Pabuk is forecast to pass over the narrow neck of land between the Gulf of Thailand and into the Andaman Sea — home to the tourist resorts of Phuket and the Similan National Park, a diving paradise.

Tens of thousands of tourists have already fled the southern zone. "It's very empty... the beaches

are deserted of tourists," Pui Suriwan, a Koh Phangan resident, told AFP. On neighbouring Koh Tao, one of Southeast Asia's most popular dive spots, tourists and residents were bracing for a torrid 24 hours ahead.

"The weather is turning worse as the winds pick up, I've finished buying supplies... there's no gas anywhere on the island, 7/11 is already running out of things," a Spanish dive instructor told AFP.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (025 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (025 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1096 S/N)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1096 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T 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

Engagement Announcement

Both parents are pleased to announce the engagement of

KHIN KHIN SAN AUNG
Daughter of
AUNG MYINT + SAN SAN MYINT,
No. 47, Lanthit Street,
Lanmadaw Township, Yangon,
To
ROCKY KAW
Son of
(PO YONE KAW) + WAI WAI DAW,
14127 Dartmouth CT, Fontana,
CA 92336,
in the presence of both parents, relatives and elders on Friday, the 4th January, 2019, at Western Park Royal Restaurant, Yangon.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (130 W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (130 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V DA HONG XIN
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DA HONG XIN (V.38) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 COSCO SHIPPING SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO., LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

ပိုးသတ်ဆေးဖြန့်ဖြူးသူ ပြောင်းလဲခြင်းအတွက် ကြေညာခြင်း

Close Friend Co., Ltd မှ ဖြန့်ဖြူးသူအဖြစ် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသော SHANDONG ZHONGXIN KENONG BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGICAL CO., LTD ၏ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပိုးသတ်ဆေး (၁) မျိုးအား Friends' Helper Co., Ltd သို့ လွှဲပြောင်း ဖြန့်ဖြူးမည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ကန့်ကွက်ရန်ရှိပါက သီးနှံကားကွယ်ရေး ဌာနခွဲသို့ (၁၄) ရက်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် အကြောင်းကြားပေးပါရန် အသိပေးကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

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(၁)	Prodigy 50 WDG	Pymetrozine 50% WDG	Experimental Reg:	E2018-4363

Close Friend Co., Ltd ဖုန်း ၀၉-၉၇၀၄၁၂၂၃

Yagonites celebrate 71st Independence Day



Young girls participate in gunny sack racing, (Left), young boys dashing in a potato picking race, (Right), in Yangon on 71st Independence Day celebrations. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Children hold balloons in a race, (Left), young girls balance sieves on their heads as they race across the street, (Right) during 71st Independence Day celebrations in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Buzz grows on 'flying cars' ahead of major tech show

MOUNTAIN VIEW (United States) — Will flying cars take off at the upcoming Consumer Electronics Show?

Well, sort of. The prototypes won't be soaring over the Las Vegas Strip during the technology extravaganza which runs from 8-11 January.

But a number of flying car designs will be on display, portending what many see as an inevitable airborne future for short-range transport with vertical takeoff and landing, or VTOL. NFT Inc co-founders Maki and Guy Kaplinsky, a couple developing a flying vehicle in Israel and California, will have their vision on display at show, with a media session on Sunday.

"We believe we have a winning design that will enable us to make the Model T of flying cars — a low-cost production model," Guy Kaplinsky told AFP in a Silicon Valley office park where a prototype model was being as-

sembled.

A doorway to the rear of the NFT office in Mountain View opened onto large blue tarps hung from the ceiling to hide the workshop.

A team of veteran aviation engineers is focused on research at the startup's facility in Israel, and the founders plan to expand the staff of 15 people.

The startup is designing hardware and software, while enlisting original equipment manufacturers to crank out products at scale. "We learned from Tesla that Elon Musk spent too much time on the production side," Guy Kaplinsky said.

"We are spending our time on the technology side and will partner with companies on assembly." The NFT vehicle with a projected price tag of \$50,000 will function as a car, but be able to take off or land vertically and fly on auto-pilot.



A number of designs for flying cars have been unveiled including the "Pop, up next" by Audi, italdesign and Airbus seen at the Geneva International Motor Show on 6 March, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Regular Joes?

Several companies, including Uber and start-ups backed by Google co-founder Larry Page, are working on people-carrying drones or similar flying vehicles.

In Japan, volunteers in a "Cartivator" group are out to build a "Skydrive" flying car and have set their sights on using one to light the flame at the opening

of the Olympic games in Tokyo in 2020.

The crowdfunded effort has gotten backing from Japanese auto giant Toyota, where some Cartivator members work.

A scaled-down replica of "Toyota's flying car" is to be shown at CES.

"Our team consists of people with diverse professional back-

grounds and is working hard every weekend towards developing the flying car," the group said at a cartivator.com website.

"We aim to build a prototype, establish theory of flight control, as well as form alliances with major corporations to make mass production of the flying car a reality."

Door-to-door solution

NFT is working to marry a plane with a car, meaning no airports or heliports would be needed.

"We believe door-to-door is the solution," Kaplinsky said.

"Our approach is more for the mom and three kids; you load everyone in the car one time and get where you need to go." A smartphone mapping application could be paired to a navigation center hosted in the internet cloud, routing drivers to takeoff points and providing instructions to auto-pilots in cars. —AFP ■

Study identifies sex differences in deadly brain tumours

CHICAGO — A team of researchers led by Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis has identified distinct molecular signatures of glioblastoma in men and women. This suggests that tailoring treatments to men and women with glioblastoma based on the molecular subtypes of their tumors may improve survival for all patients.

Culling patient MRI scans and survival data from a cancer research database, the researchers calculated tumour growth velocity every two months for the duration of therapy in 63 glioblastoma patients, 40 males and 23 females who received standard chemo-radiation treatment following surgery. While initial tumour growth velocities were similar between females and males, only the females showed a steady and significant decline in tumor growth after treatment with temozolomide, the most common chemotherapy drug used to treat glioblastoma.

“The males did not respond

as well, and we wanted to understand why, so we looked at the underlying genetics of patients’ tumours,” said Joshua B. Rubin, a Washington University professor of pediatrics and of neuroscience and the study’s co-senior author.

The researchers tapped into The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), and applied sophisticated statistical algorithms to distinguish male- or female-specific gene expression patterns from such patterns that were shared among the male and female patients. They then focused on the sex-specific gene expression to identify molecular subtypes that corresponded to differences in survival for males and for females.

“We observed tremendous genetic sex differences in the tumors of glioblastoma patients that correlated with survival,” said study’s co-senior author Jingqin “Rosy” Luo, a Washington University associate professor of surgery in the Division of Public

Health Sciences.

Specifically, the researchers showed that the tumors of patients with glioblastoma cluster into 10 distinct subtypes: five for tumors in males and five for tumors in females. The clusters are distinguished by gene activity and survival.

The researchers validated the clusters in three additional data sets and also showed that even genes activated at similar levels in tumours in males and females can result in substantial sex-specific effects on survival.

“In males survival was all about regulating cell division, which suggests that drugs that block cell-cycle progression may be more effective in men. For females, survival was all about regulating invasiveness, which suggests that drugs targeting integrin signaling may be more effective in women,” Rubin said. “This tells us it might be better to separate males and females and examine their sex-specific genetic signatures.” —Xinhua ■



In results published in Science, researchers confirmed they had been successful making tobacco plants 40 per cent bigger thanks to a “genetic hack” or “shortcut”. PHOTO: AFP

Scientists boost plant yield by 40% through ‘genetic hack’

WASHINGTON (United States) — For years, researchers at the University of Illinois have been trying to find out whether it is possible to genetically modify a crop to boost its growth.

In results published in Science on Thursday, they confirmed they had been successful in making tobacco plants 40 per cent bigger thanks to a “genetic hack” or “shortcut.”

The wider goal isn’t to produce more tobacco but to apply the technique to wheat or soy beans, in order to meet mankind’s growing appetite.

Their work is part of an international project that is being financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and the British government, among others.

Farmers have long used fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural methods to achieve higher productivity, but these techniques appear to have run their course and it is thought unlikely they can extract more significant gains.

The scientists at the university’s Carl R Woese Institute for Genomic Biology say they have found a way to make the process of photosynthesis, the process by which plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into energy, inherently more efficient.

An enzyme called Rubisco is key to the process of converting atmospheric carbon into an organic compound the plant consumes, a process known as “carbon fixation.”

But the enzyme also acts to “fix” atmospheric oxygen, converting it into toxic compounds that the plant expends considerable energy eliminating — energy that could otherwise be spent in growing. This competing process is known as photorespiration.

Taking a shortcut

The Illinois team came up with the idea of implanting bits of algae DNA into the tobacco plant’s cells to create a type of biological shortcut that would speed up photorespiration.

Lead author Donald Ort told AFP: “If you take a shortcut, when you’re driving your car, you travel less distance, and you use less fuel.”

When a plant uses less energy on photorespiration, it “is able to take that energy and put it into plant growth and plant productivity, rather than using it to metabolize this toxic compound.”

The study is of particular significance because it is the first time that the technique, which has been discussed for several years, resulted in such a major impact in an open field as opposed to a laboratory environment.

Other techniques had tried to limit photorespiration, but have often led to negative impacts on the plant’s other functions.

“What’s cool about this is that they’ve been very clever in targeting the pathway in a way that doesn’t cause side effects,” David Stern, president of the Boyce Thompson Institute, which was not a part of the study, told AFP. But it is still far from being ready to be used on an industrial scale. The same team wants to reproduce their results with soybeans, black eyed peas, and potatoes. It is also necessary for the technique to work in diverse climates, notably Africa and Southeast Asia.

Some doubt they will succeed. Professor Arnold Bloom from the University of California at Davis points out that such experiments have been carried out for the past five or six years, without achieving their goals. — AFP ■

Archaeologists find Mexico temple to god of skinning sacrifices

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Archaeologists in Mexico have found the first temple to the pre-Hispanic deity Xipe Totec, a god of fertility and war who was worshipped by sacrificing and skinning captives.

Evidence indicates that priests ritually sacrificed their victims on one of the temple’s two circular altars, then flayed them on the other and draped themselves in their skin, Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History said in a statement.

Historians have long known that Xipe Totec (“the flayed god”) was worshipped by numerous peoples across what is now central and western Mexico and the Gulf coast.

But the discovery — made among the ruins of the Ndachjian-Tehuacan archeological site in the central state of Puebla — is the first time a temple dedicated to the god has been found, the institute said.

The artefacts uncovered at the site include three stone sculptures of Xipe Totec: two skinned heads and a torso, whose back is covered in engravings repre-



A statue of Xipe Totec, a pre-Hispanic god whose priests sacrificed and then skinned humans, and then wore their flayed skins on their own backs as part of a fertility ritual in what is now Mexico. PHOTO: AFP

senting the sacrificial skins worn by the god.

“Sculpturally speaking it’s a very beautiful piece. It measures approximately 80 centimetres (30 inches) tall and has a hole in the belly, which according to historical sources is where a green stone was placed to ‘bring it to life’ for ceremonies,” said Noemi Castillo Tejero, the lead archaeologist on the project.

The skulls measure about 70 centimetres tall and weigh some 200 kilograms (440 pounds).

The temple would have been used from around the year 1000

until about 1260, the institute said. The Spanish takeover of Mexico began in 1519 with the arrival of the conquistador Hernan Cortes.

The institute said Xipe Totec was one of the most important gods in pre-Hispanic Mexico, and was worshipped in a ceremony called Tlacaxipehualiztli, which in the indigenous Nahuatl language means “to wear the skin of the flayed one.”

Sacrificial victims were killed either through gladiatorial combat matches or by being shot with arrows, then flayed to glorify Xipe Totec, it said. — AFP ■

Yangon streaming with 71st Independence Day celebrations



Children compete in sprinting contest, top-left, a child partaking in needle threading, bottom-left, young men scramble for possession of a coconut, right, as part of games and activities held to commemorate the 71st anniversary of Independence Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

THE streets of Yangon City were full of people holding celebrations, games and sporting events in commemoration of the 71st Independence Day yesterday.

U Tun Hlaing, member of the Development and Management Committee of Shwe Lin Ban Low-Cost Housing 2 in Hlinethaya Township, said it is their first time holding fun fairs and sport contests to honour Independence Day. “We planned some fun activities for the children and presented prizes to them from modest cash dona-

tions from kind donors,” said U Tun Hlaing. “We’ve included a lot of sport contests too. We planned these events so that every citizen, young or old, will remember and value Independence Day.”

Yesterday was a valuable day for all Myanmar citizens, as they can be seen commemorating 71st Independence Day in various wards of Yangon City. In addition to fun fairs, activities, commemoration events, and sport contests, almost every ward held ‘sathuditha’ (giving charity food).

The various fun games and activities held included relay races, eating contests, balloon popping, sprinting, sack racing, potato picking, threading needles, coconut scramble, lighting candles, piggyback racing, slapping a tin can, hitting coconuts, htote-see-htoe (game combining hopscotch and tag), climbing a greased pole, pillow fights, and football matches.

Fifth grader Maung La Min Maung said, “It’s always happy on Independence Day because there are so many fun activities.

I got prizes in sprinting and relay racing. I entered contests in previous years too, and won prizes. Independence Day is always in our hearts because they always plan memorable activities.”

Daw Moe Moe Kyi, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative, said successive generations had held fun activities for children and sport contests to commemorate Independence Day. She said it has become a tradition for the people to do so. She added that the activities and contests give children the opportunity to get

fitter and healthier, which will aid in their brain development.

Fun fairs and activities held on Independence Day intend to raise public awareness on the endeavors of Bogoyoke Aung San, the architect of independence, and the national martyrs in their quest for independence, to inform the history of Independence Day and to value its significance, to promote unity and sportsmanship, and to revive the fading traditional games of Myanmar. —Zaw Gyi ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar U-19 women’s football team to compete in Japan tourney

AT the invitation of the Japan Football Association (JFA), the Myanmar U-19 women’s national football team will compete in the Japan-ASEAN Youth Sports Exchange Women’s Football Tournament, to be held in the Okinawa Prefecture of Japan from 2 to 6 March. The football tournament is being organized under the JENESYS Inbound Program. Along with Myanmar, teams from Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam will also take part in the tournament, said a source with the Myanmar Football Federation.

More information, including the fixtures for the matches, will be released later by the Japanese football authorities and will be put up on the MFF website, said the



Myanmar women’s national team footballers take part in their training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

source. The Myanmar U-19 team will be headed by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. Currently, team Myanmar is training in Yangon for the upcoming international football competitions, said the

source with the MFF.

The Myanmar U-19 women’s football team has passed the 1st round of the Asian Women’s Football Championship 2019.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MFF aiming for success in FIFA, AFC, ASEAN games with 4-year plan

THE Myanmar Football Federation has chalked out a four-year plan to ensure success in international championships such as the FIFA and the AFC, and ASEAN-level tournaments such as the AFF Suzuki Cup and the Southeast Asian Games, said a source with the MFF on Thursday.

The long-term plan has been drawn for a period starting this year to 2022, according to the MFF website.

The MFF will unveil its Four Years Strategic Plan 2019-

2022 at a press conference to be held at 2 p.m. on 16 January at the headquarters of the football federation, said an MFF official.

The plan has been drawn by Eric Abraham, the Technical Director of the MFF, said the source. He will present the plan at the press conference and also introduce the coaches for the Myanmar national football teams.

The MFF said it has invited media persons for the press conference.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■