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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Indian Embassy celebrates 71st Republic Day of India in Yangon

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and wife, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, and Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and wife, and dignitaries pose for a group photo at the ceremony to mark the 71st Republic Day of India in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CELEBRATION to mark the 71st Republic Day of India was held at the residence of Indian Ambassador in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday.

First, the event was opened by playing the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India. Afterwards, Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung extended greetings.

At the event, the Union Minister and wife, and Indian Ambassador posed for a commemorative group photo with attendees, followed by a dinner hosted by the Ambassador.

Also present at the event were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Mya Tun Oo and wife, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and wife and Lt-Gen Min Naung and wife from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and wife, Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and wife, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, ambassadors and charge d'affaires from embassies in Yangon, UN Resident representatives and invited guests. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Wuhan virus: Surveillance, awareness campaigns beefed up in border towns

ON ACCOUNT of the number of coronavirus cases and related deaths rising in neighboring China, the health authorities in border towns have beefed up surveillance at the border gate with China with the help of thermal scan equipment.

Health staff from the Muse Township Health Department are conducting surveillance by scanning travellers entering Myanmar from China from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday.

According to reports from China, 11 people in Yunnan Province, which neighbors Myanmar, have reported coronavirus infections. However, there has been no incidence of infections in neighboring towns in Myanmar so far. Following the outbreak of infections in Yunnan Province, the number of travellers from Myanmar to China through the border gates has dropped significantly. Meanwhile, with higher demand for masks in Muse and other border towns to prevent the virus, the towns are facing a shortage of masks.

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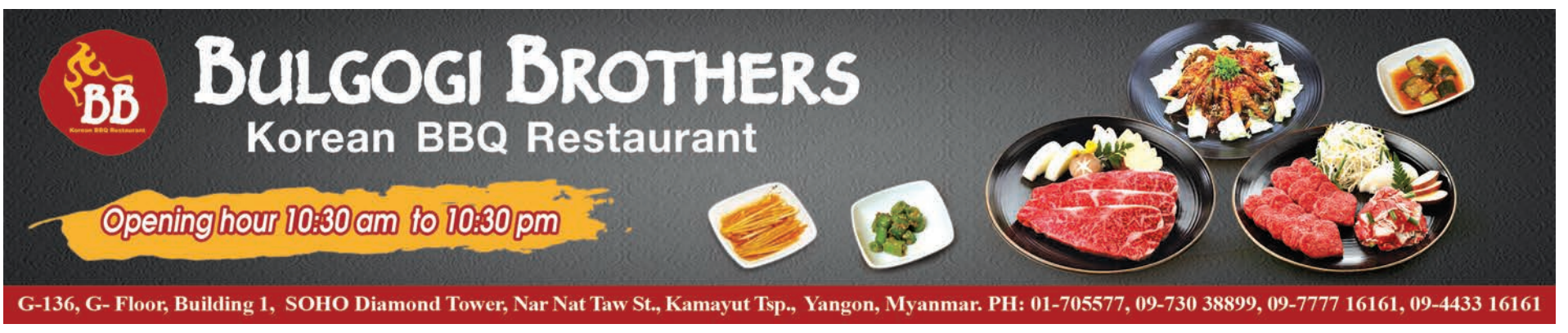

Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and wife pose for a group photo together with Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and wife and dignitaries at the ceremony to mark the 71st Republic Day of India in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA** **(NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Union Minister inspects upgrading Toungoo-Yangon railroad section

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung looked into upgrading Toungoo-Yangon railroad section between Yangon and Mandalay on 25th January.

At the briefing room of Ottwin Station, the Union Minister and party heard reports on the ongoing works of the project, including duty assignments, laying a concrete foundation, accumulation of concrete sleepers and steel railway tracks, using welding machines and rail piles. The Union Minister also advised on ensuring the quality of the project carried out by the contractors. They also inspected constructions of a creek-crossing bridge and a railway station in Pyu Township. The Union Minister and party arrived at Bago-Nyaunglebin railroad section and inspected upgrading works before reaching to repairing creek-crossing bridges in Pyuntansar and DaikU township, as well as rail track connections near Hotngyi Station.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung inspects the upgrading Toungoo-Yangon railroad section between Yangon and Mandalay on 25 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

Japanese company donates $10,000 to Mandalay School for the Deaf

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives US$10,000 donated by Japanese Kyoshin Company for the Mandalay School for the Deaf yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received US$10,000 donated by Japanese Kyoshin Company for the Mandalay School for the Deaf yesterday.

The company has already donated 22 times to the school which is operated by the ministry.

At the donation ceremony, the Union Minister said his office is cooperating with the public, civil societies, international organizations and partner countries in providing assistance to the disabled persons.

He added the donated funds will be used in purchasing teaching aids for sign language and vocational training.

The Union Minister continued saying that preventive screening children for reducing and preventing disability and rehabilitation programmes are being introduced in some States and Regions as the programmes need the participation of parents and close relatives.

He also requested contributions of international organizations in the public services of the government.

Mr Sadaaki Tachiki, the Chairman of Kyoshin Company, promised to donate required equipment for the school, and explained annual contribution of funds.

The Union Minister and party also looked around the workshops, training rooms and teaching of sign languages.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister and officials visited the Mandalay Youth's Training School under the Department of Social Welfare, and discussed rehabilitation works.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung inspected a rehabilitation course conducted by the Department of Rehabilitation for 20 drug addicts.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

108th Buddha Pujaniya festival of Sule Pagoda concludes

A ceremony to conclude the108th Buddha Pujaniya festival of Sule Pagoda was held, with a rice donation ceremony, at the pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

First, the congregation including members of the pagoda's board of trustees and well-wishers received the Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaw Thanlyin Min Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Bhaddanta Candima Bhivumsa, and listened to the Parittas recited by Members of Sangha.

This was followed by U Than Swe, Chairman of the rice donation committee of the Buddha Pujaniya festival, who is also a member of the board of trustee of the pagoda, supplicating the matters relating to the rice donation ceremony.

Afterwards, the congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Thanlyin Min Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candima Bhivumsa, and shared merits they gained.

At the event, the congregation comprised of departmental officials, members of the board of trustees and well-wishers from Kyauktada, Pabedan, Lanmadaw and Latha townships offered rice to 180 Members of Sangha and 50 nuns. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

People donating offertories to the members of the Sangha during the 108th Buddha Pujaniya festival of Sule Pagoda in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Public Health Capacity workshop held in Yangon

THE University of Public Health in Yangon hosted a workshop under the project of Strengthening Public Health Capacity to Respond to Myanmar's Disease Transition and the dissemination of the final project yesterday.

The programme was jointly supported by the European Union and the HelpAge International Myanmar. In his opening remark, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe highlighted capacity building of public health personnel in prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and the exchange programme between Myanmar teachers from medical universities and their counterparts from the Thammasat University of Thailand for sharing knowledge in promoting teaching capacities.

The Union Minister also explained the project that covered designing long strategies for development of the University of Public Health, national-level strategy for prevention of noncommunicable diseases, chronic lung diseases, 10points of policy suggestions, dispatching 100 teachers of universities under the ministry, upgrading curricula and exchange programmes among the universities to promote public health sector.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed thanks for the assistance of the European Union and the HelpAge International for the project.

Mr Kristian Schmidt, the Ambassador of European Union, delivered an opening remark on the workshop and Mr Eduardo Klien, the Regional Director from the Asia Pacific Regional Office of HelpAge International, shared experiences on implementation of the project.

Mr Godfred Paul, the Country Director from the HelpAge International, presented gifts to the officials who supported in implementing the project.

Rector of University of Public Health (Yangon) professor Dr Hla Hla Win explained implementation of project at her university and University of Community Health in Magway.

After looking around the exhibition of workshop, the Union Minister and party inaugurated the Center for Implementation Science at the University of Public Health, with the assistance of the European Union and the HelpAge International.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the Public Health Capacity Workshop in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Real estate sees most investment after power; attracts FDI of over $440 mln

THE real estate sector recorded the second highest share of foreign fund inflows at US$440 million in the October-December period of the current financial year. Power received the highest quantum of investment than any other sector in the first three months of the 2019-2020 FY.

During the October-December period, FDI of $1.164 billion, including expansion of capital, flowed into the country. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the investment committees of states and regions allowed 72 enterprises to invest in the country. The manufacturing sector absorbed FDI of $158.89 million from 59 projects in the current fiscal. The livestock and fisheries sector attracted two foreign investment projects worth $6.58 million. One project, worth $0.4 million, was approved in the transport and communications sector. The hotels and tourism sector pulled in investment of $0.8 million from one foreign enterprise. The real estate sector also raked in $440 million from three foreign projects. Over $18.87 million in FDI was pumped into the other services sector.

So far, domestic investments from 88 enterprises in the real estate sector have reached K4,669 billion, according to the DICA.

More than 23 per cent of domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens have flowed into the real estate sector, while investments have also been made in the manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the DICA.

Realtors are expecting a reduction in income tax to stimulate the realty market, which has been cool for the last three years. They are also anticipating the approval of a real estate service law, which would regulate informal deals and prevent buyers and sellers from being defrauded by unscrupulous realtors, according to real estate officials.

At present, buyers and sellers are forced to avoid paying taxes owing to high appraisal and tax rates. Most dealers are informally conducting real estate deals using only the special and general power of attorney, said realtors. The reduction in taxes is likely to persuade traders who evaded taxes in previous years to pay taxes and make changes in ownership, they added.

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the standard land price per square foot in Yangon's townships has been reduced by 10 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to the Inland Revenue Department. These prices are used for tax evaluations in real estate sales.

As per the Condominium Law, when a condominium project developed by a citizen or a foreigner is completed, foreigners have the right to own up to 40 per cent of the units.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

Wuhan virus: Surveillance, awareness campaigns beefed up in border towns

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According to reports, some people from China's border towns have entered Myanmar and bought masks in Muse, Namkham, Panhsai (Kyugok), and Monekoe.

Due to shortage of masks in Monekoe, sellers from the town are taking the masks from Muse, said Daw Ai Mong, a seller in Monekoe.

Meanwhile, due to high demand for masks in Muse, sellers from the town have ordered equipment from Mandalay and Yangon.

Traffic police in Muse distributed 500 masks to travelers yesterday in Muse, as part of efforts for raising awareness against coronavirus infections.

Local authorities in another border town, Manhero, are undertaking an awareness campaign against Coronavirus in Muse district of northern Shan State beginning 25 January.

Officials undertaking an awareness campaign against Coronavirus in Manhero, Muse district on 25 January. **PHOTO: SANDAR (IPRD)**

Coronavirus can cause pneumonia, and it was first reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

The medical team and officials in Manhero are distributing face masks at the border gate between the two countries and disseminating knowledge on the prevention of this disease.

At the border village in China near Manhero, visitors and locals have been restricted access to parks, museums, and shops as the festivals were suspended yesterday.

— Salai Van Roh Htan

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Muslim Youth's Religious Organization holds plenary meeting

THE Myanmar Muslim Youth's Religious Organization organized the 5th plenary meeting of its State/Region representatives at the City Hotel Yangon yesterday morning. Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the event. Haji U Myint Tun, the President of the organization, delivered an opening speech.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko made a congratulatory remark on the meeting.

Responsible persons from the MaMaLa headquarters, which is Myanmar acronym of the organization, and its brotherhood organizations extended greetings before the meeting.

— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivers the speech at the the 5th plenary meeting of Myanmar Muslim Youth's Religious Organization in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Police seizes illegal drugs, firearms in three townships

AS part of counter narcotic drugs operations, police seized heroin, stimulant tablets, firearms, cars and mobile phones in Mayangone, Kengtung and Tachilek townships in last two days, according to Myanmar Police Force.

On 25 January, police raided the house of Aung Ye Kyaw (a) Phoe Khwar in Wah Wah Win Street, No.2 Ward in Mayangone Township, and confiscated 0.0012 kilograms of heroins, 1,340 kilograms of stimulant tablets and two mobile phones.

Suspects named Lawtar and Lizu seen with confiscated drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

On 24 January, anti-narcotic police squad in Kengtung Township stopped and searched the car driven by Lawtar and Lizu on board, and seized K 8,400 million worth 336 kilograms of ICE, a M22 rifle, 75 bullets, three magazines, two mobile phones and a walkie-talkie.

On the same day, police from Tachilek also seized 360,000 stimulant tablets while they searched a motorcycle and a Toyota Hilux Vigo stopped on the Thitkhauk Chan forest path on Maelakeparkaw-Lunseti road near Maelakeparkaw Village in Milekoe Village-tract in Tachilek Township. In addition, police seized 1,000 kilograms of caffeine estimated worth of K 460 million from another Toyota Hilux Vigo car stopped near the Thitkhauk Chan on Maelakeparkaw-Lunseti road on the same day.

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

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Sino-Myanmar border trade up $573.6 mln in current fiscal

Trucks parking at the 105th mile trade zone in Muse. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

SINO-Myanmar border trade registered an increase of US$573.668 million between 1 October and 17 January in the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the ministry shows the value of Sino-Myanmar border trade rose to $2 billion in the current fiscal from $1.46 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

This FY, the value of border trade totaled $1.67 billion at Muse, $33.89 million at Lweje, $188.4 million at Chinshwehaw, $140.87 million at Kanpiketee, and $2.878 million at Kengtung.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, officials from the Ministry of Commerce, the related departments, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with their Chinese counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

During Chinese premier Xi Jinping's recent visit to Myanmar, Myanmar and China signed MoUs on Local Cooperation under the Framework for Joint Building of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) between the Yunnan Province of China and the Mandalay Region of Myanmar, Protocol on Plant Inspection and Quarantine Requirements for Exporting Rice From Myanmar to China, Protocol for Heat Processed Cocoons to be imported from Myanmar to China, Protocol on Quarantine Health Requirements for Slaughter Bovine to be Exported from Myanmar to China, Exchange Letter for the Project of Agricultural Product Quality Control Centre, Establishment of the Working Group for the Promotion of Smooth Trade between the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar and the Ministry of Commerce of China, and many other agreements.

Following the MoUs between Myanmar and China, bilateral trade will grow, said a market observer.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighboring country. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

External trade rises to $11.29 bln

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 17 January in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$11.29 billion, an increase of $1.7 billion compared to the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at $9.57 billion, according to data released by the ministry. Both maritime and border trade showed an increase in the current fiscal, with exports estimated at over $5.4 billion, and imports valued at $5.85 billion. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP (cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening. The government is trying to cut trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Japan realtor Yamaman to open 1st overseas hotel in Yangon in Feb.

YANGON — Japanese realtor Yamaman Co. will open a Japanese-style hotel in Myanmar's commercial capital of Yangon on Feb. 17, marking its first foray overseas.

An opening ceremony was held on Thursday for Wishton Hotel Yangon, operated by Yamaman's Myanmar arm, Hotel Yamaman Co., in the Yankin Township, located between downtown Yangon and Yangon International Airport.

A total of 91 rooms in the hotel ranging from $70 to $80 will each be equipped with a bathtub, while half of them will have a kitchen and a washing machine, suitable for long-stay guests.

With Japanese-speaking staff, the hotel will also offer a Japanese breakfast buffet.

"We think we have to launch at least five to six hotels," Yamaman head Tetsuo Shimada told NNA on Wednesday, but added that there are no specific plans in place yet.

The Tokyo-based company also intends to launch a business for training nursing-care workers, with a view to employing them at the company's welfare facilities in Japan that are suffering from labor shortages. —Kyodo News

The front desk with Japanese-speaking staff in Wishton Hotel Yangon, operated by Yamaman Co.'s local arm, is shown following an opening ceremony for the company's first overseas hotel held in Yangon on Jan. 23, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Information about pneumonia caused by 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), first identified in Wuhan City of People's Republic of China

26 January 2020

The Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports is taking priority over monitoring and responding to communicable diseases, especially the recent outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) which was first identified in Wuhan City of Peoples Republic of China, advising people in Myanmar to take up the following suggestions.

(a) Major symptoms of 2019-nCoV

Patients are said to be suspected with Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) when they have got fever (38 C and above), cough, breathing difficulties and fatigue after they have travelled to Wuhan, China, in 14 days, had close contact with the suspected or confirmed patients in 14 days

(b) Transmission of disease

Although the epidemiology of 2019-nCoV has not been definitely identified, the transmission may occur through respiratory tracts, like other coronaviruses, from cough and sneeze that can transmit influenza virus, or touching with bare hands to virus on the materials

(c) Recommendations to prevent infection of 2019-nCoV

* Stay away from the people with the symptoms of respiratory diseases such as fever, coughing, sneezing
* Avoid going to crowded areas
* Wash hands frequently with soap and water
* Use clothes and facemask to cover nose and mouth during sneezing and coughing, especially on buses not to transmit to others
* Carefully leave used tissue papers in sneezing and coughing into a waste bin, and wash hands again soap
* Avoid touching to animals in bare hands
* Consume animal meats and fishes only after fully cooked
* Take care of personnel hygiene and get enough sleep
* Have nutritious foods and take regular physical exercises
* Health workers need to follow the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for prevention of the disease whenever they contact with the patients, and Wash hands after touching materials exposed to patients and direct contacts with the patients
* Domestic/Foreign travelers at the international airports are to follow travel advice issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports

If someone is suffering from the above-mentioned symptoms of 2019-nCoV or found a suspected patient, the case must be reported to the nearby hospital, clinics and health centres for medical treatments. Departmental officials, private hospitals and clinics, health workers, operators of hotels and tourism and public are also advised to report immediately on the suspected cases of 2019-nCoV to the nearby health facilities.

The Ministry of Health and Sports
26 January 2020

Lion, dragon dance kicks off in Yangon

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Lion, dragon dance kicks off Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Myanmar's Yangon

The competition started with the performance of a 160-ft long lion which is bought from China.

A total of 13 teams including two from China and two from Thailand will participate in the competition which will end on 29 January.—GNLM

Doors open next month for 2nd Yangon International Motor Show 2020

THE 2nd Yangon International Motor Show 2020 will be held from February 21 to February 23, 2020 at Yangon Convention Centre (YCC).

The main goal of this unique and exciting event if to conducting due diligence to promote development of Myanmar Automotive Market under the Concept of "Future Driving Society", recognizing the new policy given by the Ministry of Industry, which aim to support auto-related business and local transportation, and to promote road safety through the usage of left-hand driving vehicles.

The press conference for 2nd Yangon International Motor Show 2020 being held in Yangon. **PHOTO:KYAW ZEYA**

The President of Yangon International Motor Show, Mr Anothai Eamlumnow said—" I am delighted to welcome all 15 brands and a big thank to the 6 brands from last year for your continued support.

After the first year, we have been working closely with AAM to develop the automotive industry of Myanmar through our international standard Motor Show. With more participating brands, it shows that automotive market in Myanmar has a great potential to grow in the future, which GPI will surely continue our business to strengthen automotive and exhibition industry."

The show will feature various international Automotive Brands including the like of—BMW, Brilliance, DFM, Ford, Fuso, GAC, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes –Benz, Nissan, Scania, Suzuki, Toyota and Volvo.

Visitors can participate in many interesting activities such as Test Driving, Modified Street Car Contest, and have a chance to explore Accessories area, which features trustful shops of various automotive products such as TRK Auto Seat, Limina Film, Aung Thein Than (Caltex), etc.

Moreover, visitors who complete the questionnaire at registration counter will have a chance to win the latest smartphones through the Lucky Draw campaign. A total of 9 smartphones will be given away throughout the 3-day show, 3units for each day, and plus another 5 prizes of trendy gadgets through the Facebook fan page campaign, such as a JBL speaker, car camera and etc. —GNLM

Boeing's new 777X airliner makes first flight

WASHINGTON — Boeing's new long-haul 777X airliner made its first flight on Saturday, a step forward for the company whose broader prospects remain clouded by the 737 MAX crisis.

The world's largest twin-engine aircraft landed at Boeing Field near Seattle after approximately four hours in the air, following months of delays and erratic weather in recent days.

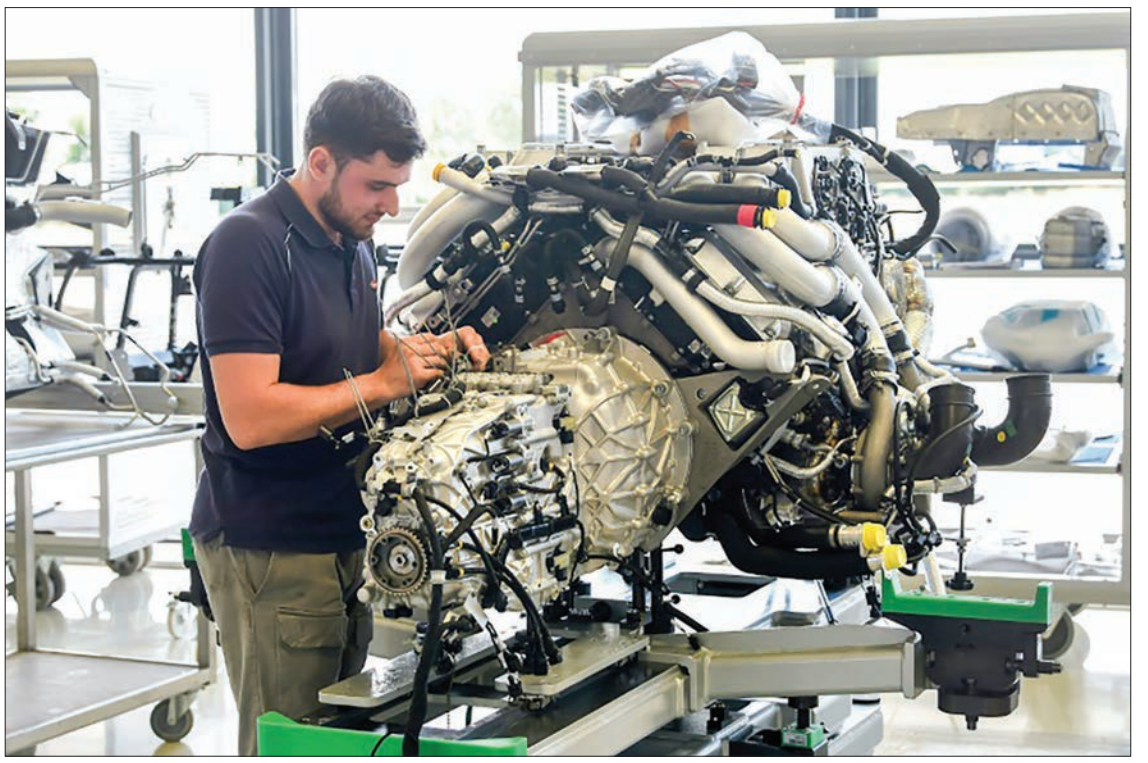
High winds led to the maiden flight's postponement on Friday, and the company blamed weather for an earlier delay on Thursday, which was rainy.

A few minutes after 10:00 am local time (1800 GMT), the plane took off from the rain-slicked runway at Paine Field in Everett, Washington, home to Boeing's northwest US manufacturing site.

"Yes!" Boeing spokesman Josh Green shouted as the plane's wheels finally lifted off the tarmac.

Just minutes earlier, the pilots deployed the plane's winglets — folding wing tips — designed to improve the craft's fuel efficiency and make it possible for the plane, with the widest wing span ever from Boeing, to be accommodated at more airports.— AFP ■

Boeing employees and others watch as a Boeing 777X airplane taxis before taking off on its inaugural flight at Paine Field in Everett, Washington in the United States on January 25, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**



Bugatti now uses biomass and other green alternatives to power its factory in Molsheim, eastern France. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bugatti touts green ambitions while storming full speed ahead

PARIS — Supercar manufacturer Bugatti, fresh off one of its best years, wants the world to know it has taken environmental concerns to heart even as it prepares a next generation of heart-pounding -- and gas-guzzling -- speed machines.

The French automaker has implemented a series of measures to offset the carbon emitted by the 81 racers it produced last year, including a shift to biogas and other green energy sources to power its manufacturing facilities in northeast France.

But will Bugatti, which has hinted at "surprises" this year, be joining other luxury carmakers in shifting to electric or hybrid models?

The short answer: Not right now.

"For the next 10 years to come, only the W16 motor provides the emotion and the passion expected by our supercar clients," Stephan Winkelmann, the firm's chief executive, said recently in reference to its massive 16-cylinder engine.

Nonetheless, the Volkswagen-owned brand believes it can offset its own greenhouse gas emissions as well as those of its clients, a challenge admittedly made easier by its limited production runs.— AFP ■

Ex-nurse helping revive struggling fishing business in Hokkaido

YAKUMO — Shiho Tateoka, who lives in a small fishing village in Hokkaido, Japan, rises almost every day at 6 am and sends her three children off to school before starting her day of handling fish sales to various customers.

Then she's back on social media searching for more clients.

Years ago, Tateoka, 43, was a single mom in Tokyo, who was busy working both as a nurse and saleswoman for a home medical care service. Fish, you might say, was the furthest thing from her mind.

But life changed when her cousin, a fisherman based at Otoshibe port in the town of Yakumo on Japan's northernmost island, visited her home six years ago. Yuki, 37, who later became her husband, described his worries to her as a fisherman on a sinking ship.

"When I listened to his story, I thought there may still be room for the fishing industry to grow," Shiho explained in a recent interview.

"I thought I may be able to commit to a new sales job and dedicate myself to a new life."

Yuki had been concerned whether he could continue his career as the fishing industry faced various challenges, such as a depleted fish population due to rising ocean temperatures linked to climate change and years of overfishing.

But when Shiho took him to a Tokyo department store, he was surprised to see the high prices the fish sold for.

He said he had been unaware of how his hauls were treated after they were handed over to a local fishery cooperative, which was in charge of sales.

Yuki was hoping to increase the value of his catches and cultivate a customer base to boost earnings but was clueless until Shiho decided to move to Yakumo, a struggling seaside town, and work together with him, drawing on her sales experience.

Photo taken on Dec.16, 2019 shows Shiho Tateoka standing near fishermen's catches in Otoshibe port in Yakumo, Hokkaido. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

In April 2014, Shiho helped Yuki launch Funkawan Sengyo Oroshi Ryujinmaru, a company delivering fresh seafood such as flounder, shrimps and crabs caught in nearby waters directly to wholesalers, restaurants and consumers nationwide, and became its sales manager.

The company now has about 30 clients per month and earns 5 million yen (around $45,400) annually.

Since then, Shiho's life has become very busy, soliciting restaurants and fish markets nationwide by social media, phone and direct visits to buyers.

She also advised Yuki to process fish damaged by fishing nets, which was previously disposed of.

She now uses social media, including Facebook, to promote the processed products such as salted dried fish and flathead flounder pickled with cherry leaves.

Other posts describe the couple's daily fishing activities, fish freshness and cooking methods, and prices.— Kyodo News ■

27 JANUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Quick response important for containing Wuhan virus

IN 2003, the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus, or SARS, sparked a major health crisis in a number of countries around the globe.

While it originated in China, the coronavirus spread quickly to other countries. There were 8,098 cases of SARS registered across the world, which resulted in 774 deaths in 37 countries. The virus overwhelmed some hospitals and medical centers, sparked fear in communities, and led to mass immunizations.

Since 2004, no case of SARS had been recorded — until recently. Now, a new and potentially dangerous coronavirus from China, the Wuhan flu, has spread to other countries.

> The Public Health Department has instructed private hospitals to provide information on suspected patients, in real time.

The virus originated in Wuhan City, located in China's Hubei Province, which has over 11 million residents.

While officials moved quickly to close down a market believed to be at the epicenter of the recent outbreak, it proved to be too late, with Beijing and Shanghai cities, and Guangdong Province reporting new cases.

The World Health Organization has identified some common signs of infection related to the Wuhan flu. Typical cases include fever, cough, respiratory problems, and shortness of breath. More severe cases could involve pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

Health officials have suggested that people wash their hands, cover their mouths and noses when coughing and sneezing, and cook meat and eggs as thoroughly as possible. It's also important to avoid close contact with those showing symptoms of respiratory illness, such as coughing and sneezing.

Up to 26 January, there were 56 deaths and 2,070 confirmed cases in China.

Outside of China, several countries, such as Japan, South Korea, and Thailand, have reported cases of Wuhan flu on their soil.

In Myanmar, one Chinese tourist, who entered Myanmar through the Muse border gate, was found suffering from high temperature and fever recently and quarantined. Local authorities announced that she recovered from a normal fever and showed no signs of Wuhan virus infection.

Like other countries, Myanmar is also taking early precautions.

The Public Health Department has instructed private hospitals to provide information on suspected patients, in real-time. The instructions from the PHD include the method of sending information, symptoms and particulars of the virus, and signs shown by affected patients.

The health authorities have also beefed up surveillance at international airports, sea ports, border crossings, especially the ones with the People's Republic of China.

The daily Wuhan-Yangon and Wuhan-Mandalay flights run by China Eastern airways have been suspended to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in Myanmar.

A quick response would be very important to contain any infection, if it is found on our soil.

■ ■ ■

The global spread of the coronavirus: Where is it?

Latest on the coronavirus outbreak: 2,070 cases confirmed in China, 56 dead

THE pneumonia outbreak was first reported in Wuhan City, central China's Hubei Province, in December 2019. Experts have attributed the outbreak to a novel coronavirus that has since spread across China and abroad.

Here is what we know so far:

- Confirmed cases: At least 2,070 in China, 37 abroad
- Deaths: 56
- Cured: 49
- Human-to-human transmission confirmed
- Health experts say the virus has the potential to mutate
- 30 cities and provinces have launched Level I emergency response, while Hong Kong declared its "highest" emergency response.

As of 10:00 p.m. on January 26, China has reported at least 2,070 confirmed cases and another 37 cases have been confirmed abroad. The death toll has risen to 56.

A total of 14 cases have been confirmed in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

But there is also hope. On on 26 January, at least 11 members of the medical staff in Wuhan City, who were confirmed infected, had tested negative for the virus.

Locals in Wuhan stocked up on vegetables and supplies. **PHOTO: AFP**

'2019-nCoV' cures underway in China

The 2019-nCoV does not currently have an effective medicine treatment or vaccine, though efforts to develop them are underway.

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) announced on 26 January that it started research and development of a vaccine for the coronavirus. And the organization is also conducting drug screening for treatment.

China has mobilized seven groups of 900 medical staff to aid Hubei Province and will send 12 more teams with 1,600 medical personnel in two days to Wuhan City, the center of the novel coronavirus outbreak, as part of the latest efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus, said officials at a press conference on 26 January.

Here are the places that have confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus:

France

There are three known cases of the coronavirus in France, the first European country to be affected by the outbreak.

One person is sick in Bordeaux and another is ill in Paris. A third person, who is a close relative of one of the other two, has also been confirmed to have the virus.

All three had recently travelled to China and had now been placed in isolation.

Japan

Japan's health authorities confirmed a second case on Friday. Local media said the patient was a man in his 40s who was originally from Wuhan and on a trip to Japan.

The country's first case was reported by the health ministry last week: a man who had visited Wuhan and was hospitalised on January 10, four days after his return to Japan.

Australia

Australia on Saturday confirmed its first case of the virus, a man who arrived in Melbourne from China a week ago.

Authorities said they were contacting people who had travelled on the same plane from China and offering advice.

Malaysia

Malaysia confirmed its first three cases on Saturday. All are Chinese nationals on holiday from Wuhan who arrived in the country from Singapore two days earlier.

A 66-year-old woman and two boys, aged two and 11, are in a stable condition and are being kept in an isolation ward at a public hospital, Malaysia's health minister said.

Nepal

Nepal said a 32-year-old man arriving from Wuhan had the deadly disease.

The patient, who was initially quarantined, recovered and was discharged. The government said that surveillance has been increased at the airport "and suspicious patients entering Nepal are being monitored".

Singapore

Singapore has announced at least three cases -- a 66-year-old man and his 37-year-old son, who arrived in Singapore on Monday from Wuhan, and a 52-year-old Wuhan woman, who arrived in the city-state on Tuesday.

South Korea

South Korea confirmed its second case of the virus on Friday.

The health ministry said a South Korean man in his 50s started experiencing symptoms while working in Wuhan on Jan 10. He was tested after his return earlier this week, and the virus was confirmed.

The country reported its first case on January 20 -- a 35-year-old woman who flew in from Wuhan.

Both remain in treatment and are in stable conditions.

Taiwan

Taiwan has uncovered three cases so far. It has since advised against travel to Wuhan and Hubei province and on Friday said any arrivals from Wuhan would be rejected by immigration.

All arrivals from the rest of China -- including Hong Kong and Macau -- must fill out health declaration forms on arrival.

It has also banned the export of face masks for a month to ensure domestic supplies.

Thailand

Thailand has detected five cases so far -- four Chinese nationals from Wuhan and a 73-year-old Thai woman who came back from the Chinese city this month.

Two of the Chinese patients were treated, and have since recovered and travelled back to China, the Thai health ministry said this week.

United States

On 21 January US health officials announced the country's first case, a man in his 30s living near Seattle. On 24 January a second case was announced -- a woman in her 60s living in Chicago.

Both were treated and are recovering.

Vietnam

Vietnam confirmed two cases of the virus on 23 January. An infected man from Wuhan travelled to Ho Chi Minh City earlier this month and passed the virus on to his son.

Both are being treated in hospital and are stable, Vietnam health officials said.

It's entirely new

The virus appears to be a never-before-seen strain of coronavirus - a large family of viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed 349 people in mainland China and another 299 in Hong Kong between 2002 and 2003.

Arnaud Fontanet, head of the department of epidemiology at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, told AFP the current virus strain was 80 percent genetically identical to SARS.

It's being passed between humans

The World Health Organization said it believed an animal source was the "primary source" of the outbreak, and Wuhan authorities identified a seafood market as the centre of the epidemic.

It is milder than SARS

Compared with SARS, the symptoms appear to be less aggressive, and experts say the death toll is still relatively low.

According to authorities in Wuhan, 25 of the more than 200 people infected in the city have already been discharged.

It could lead to an international public health emergency

The WHO held a meeting on 22 January to determine whether the outbreak constitutes a "public health emergency of international concern" and if so, what should be done to manage it.

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1. Here's What Scientists Know So Far About The 'Novel Coronavirus' From China (HELEN ROXBURGH, AFP)
2. Latest on the coronavirus outbreak (CGTN)
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■ ■ ■

A woman shopped for New Year decorations in Shanghai ahead of the holiday. The escalation of the coronavirus coincides with Lunar New Year, China's biggest holiday. Major celebrations were canceled in several big Chinese cities, including Beijing and Wuhan. **PHOTO: AFP**

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 26th January, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 27th January, 2020: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (4-6) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of decrease of night temperatures in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th January, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th January, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th January, 2020: Fair weather.

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New China virus 'not as powerful as SARS': health official

BEIJING — A top Chinese health official said Sunday that a new deadly virus that has infected nearly 2,000 people and killed dozens in China is "not as powerful as SARS".

The new virus has sparked alarm amid a rising death toll and the discovery that it comes from the same family of coronaviruses as SARS, which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong.

But Chinese officials told reporters that the new disease was less powerful than SARS — though it was becoming more contagious.

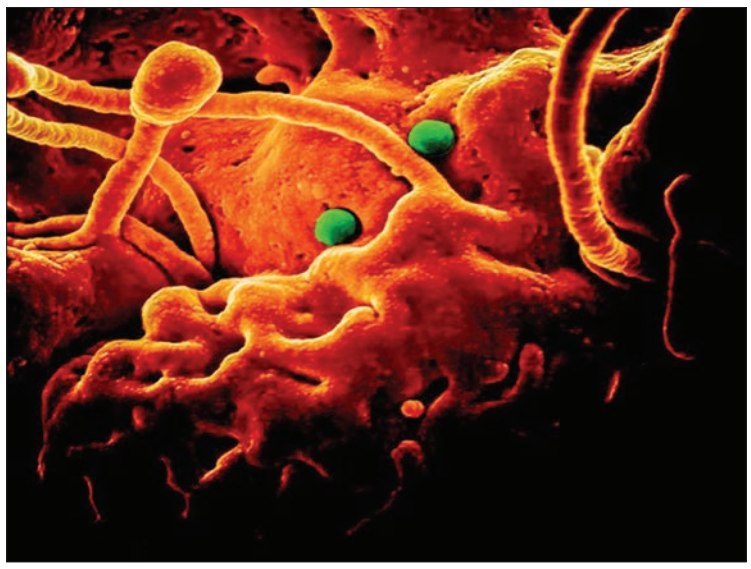
"From what we see now, this disease is indeed...not as powerful as SARS," said Gao Fu, head of China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, at a press briefing in Beijing.

However, it also appears that the "spreading ability of the virus is getting stronger," added Ma Xiaowei, head of China's National Health Commission (NHC).

The new disease also has an incubation period of up to two weeks, Ma said at the press conference, and that it was "contagious during the incubation period."

"This is very different from SARS," he added.

The new virus was first reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan last month, but has since spread to at least 30 regions in China, resulting in restrictions on public transport and even tour groups as Chinese authorities scramble to contain the disease.



Representative image Image Credit: ANI

Four cities — including Beijing and Shanghai, and the eastern province of Shandong -- announced bans on long-distance buses from entering or leaving their borders, a move that will affect millions of people travelling over the Lunar New Year holiday.

And on Thursday, the Chinese government put the hard-hit province of Hubei under effective quarantine in an unprecedented operation affecting tens of millions of people to slow the spread of an illness that President Xi Jinping said posed a "grave" threat.—AFP ■

Wuhan residents are pitching in to the relief effort by driving sick fellow citizens to hospital. **PHOTO: AFP**

Local heroes: Wuhan motorists defy virus threat to help neighbours

WUHAN — Citizens of China's virus-stricken city of Wuhan have been told to stay indoors, avoid strangers and keep their cars off the road, but locals like Zhang Lin are refusing to sit by and watch their hometown suffer.

Defying the threat from a contagious respiratory illness that broke out in the city and has killed dozens of people, Zhang and other Wuhan residents are pitching in by driving sick fellow citizens to hospital.

"We're from Wuhan, and even though you guys are here to help us, our own citizens should also come out to (help)," Zhang Lin told AFP journalists as he waited for a patient to emerge from a clinic for the drive back home.

"There has to be someone who does this."

The 48-year-old Zhang and others have been enlisted by the government to provide the free service, and it is sorely needed.

Wuhan has for days been the nucleus of a transport lockdown that began in the city of 11 million and has since been expanded to much of the rest of Hubei province, in an attempt to cut off transmission routes for the virus.

Wuhan's public transport system has been halted, taxi services curtailed and, on Sunday, new restrictions were introduced banning most cars from the streets.—AFP ■

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A new surgical procedure to fix broken ribs faster

WASHINGTON — Doctors have come up with a new surgical procedure to fix rib fractures.

Evert Eriksson, a co-author of the paper said: "Offer medicine for the pain and a ventilator if breathing is an issue. But otherwise, the bones will form a callus over time that allows it to function as it needs to." Offer medicine for the pain and a ventilator if breathing is an issue," said Evert Eriksson, M.D., a trauma surgeon at the Medical University of South Carolina and co-author of the paper.

"But otherwise, the bones will form a callus over time that allows it to function as it needs to." And while that idea has morphed over the last decade to make multiple-fracture repair more common, patients with less severe fractures often still go untreated despite the pain.

This extended discomfort is what led Denver Health Medical Center surgeon Fredric Pieracci, M.D., along with several other trauma surgeons to conduct a study with members of the Chest Wall Injury Society.

Twelve centres from across the United States came together to evaluate the success of surgical stabilization of rib fractures (SSRF), which involves installing a plate to line up the two ends of the fracture and hold them in place throughout the healing process.— ANI ■

Scientists to search for relatives of extinct Galapagos tortoises

QUITO — A scientific expedition to the Galapagos Islands will spend ten days searching for relatives of two tortoise species believed to be extinct, including those of the archipelago's Lonesome George, park officials said Friday.

George, the last known member of the Pinta tortoise species, died in 2012 at over 100 years of age after refusing to mate in captivity with females from related subspecies.

Park rangers and scientists from the Galapagos National Parks (PNG) and Galapagos Conservancy will tour the Wolf Volcano on Isabela Island in hopes of "locating and removing a group of giant tortoises with partial lineage" to the extinct Pinta and Floreana species, the park said in a statement. They chose the area because whalers and pirates who would eat the animals were thought to have dumped some of the tortoises there in the past to lighten their ships' loads.

Lonely George, the last giant tortoise of the Pinta species, is seen at Galapagos National Park on Santa Cruz Island in June 2006. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Galapagos Islands, located 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, were made famous by Charles Darwin's studies of their breathtaking biodiversity.

In 2008, a similar expedition took blood samples from 1,726 tortoises, 17 of which had a "significant percentage" of genes in common with the Pinta species while about 80 showed a "partial lineage" to the Floreana species, PNG said.—AFP ■

Women grab limelight at India's Republic Day pageantry

NEW DELHI— Huge crowds gathered for India's Republic Day parade Sunday, with women taking centre-stage at the annual pomp-filled spectacle of military might featuring army tanks, horses and camels.

For the first time, the riders performing daredevil stunts on motorbikes to the delight of the crowds lining New Delhi's central Rajpath boulevard, were women.

Inspector Seema Nag saluted the gathered VIPs as she led her fellow bikers, one precariously perched at the top of a ladder wedged behind her vehicle's handlebars as others formed a human pyramid, drawing the loudest cheers from thousands of spectators.

And in front of the guest of honour, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, Captain Tania Shergill, a fourth-generation army officer, led an all-male Corps of Signals contingent.

Bolsonaro sat next to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- who wore a saffron turban -- and waved and clapped from behind a bullet-proof glass.

January 26 is the anniversary of India's adoption of its constitution in 1950.

The two-hour showcase of military might and cultural diversity included everything from battle tanks and state-of-the-art weaponry to traditional dancers.

Scaled-down models of the Rafale aircraft were paraded by the air force, following the South Asian nation's purchase of 36 jets from France in 2016 in a multi-billion-dollar deal. The mounted camels of the Border Security Force put in an early showing, strutting down the avenue in brightly coloured caparisons.

Traditional dancers representing some of India's diverse regional cultures performed on elaborately decorated floats showcasing selected states.

The show culminated with a Su-30 MKI fighter jet roaring through the sky in a "Vertical Charlie" aerobatic manoeuvre.—AFP ■

For the first time, the riders performing daredevil stunts on motorbikes to the delight of the crowds lining New Delhi's central Rajpath boulevard, were women. **PHOTO: AFP**

India, Brazil sign 15 pacts to boost mutual cooperation

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hands with Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro before a meeting in New Delhi, India, Jan. 25, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEW DELHI— India and Brazil on Saturday inked 15 agreements for boosting mutual cooperation on a wide range of areas, including cyber security, oil and natural gas, and health and medicine.

Other agreements covered the cooperation in traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy, cultural exchange, social security, scientific and technological cooperation, geology and mineral resources, and animal husbandry and dairying, etc.

The agreements were signed in the presence of visiting Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bolsonaro arrived in New Delhi on Friday for a four-day visit. He will be the chief guest on the occasion of Republic Day Parade on Sunday in the Indian capital.—XINHUA ■

Japan's Yokohama city attracts tourists for winter sports

YOKOHAMA — Yokohama, a port city in Japan, has emerged as a very popular tourist attraction showcasing the history, art, and culture of the region.

The Red Brick Warehouses (Aka-Renga) are among the landmarks of the city. Formally these were the Customs Inspection House for Yokohama Bay's shipping activity after being opened in 1859. These beautiful red brick buildings were closed in 1989 and in the year 2002, these were converted into one of Yokohama's most popular family and date spots with many unique shops and restaurants inside.

Many features of these old warehouses are still being preserved, even the close-by railway station.

Throughout the year, many events take place in the Red Brick Warehouses.

"The main event in winter here is the Art Rink. The event began in 2005 and now we are celebrating its 15th anniversary. It is an event to add enjoyment to winter through collaboration between art and ice skating by various artists. The theme of this season is 'Sweets Ice Rink', with the surroundings designed by Thai illustrator Wisut Ponnimit, who has created a modern yet retro atmosphere featuring his adorable Manga character Mamuang who love sweets," said Mitsuhiro Obara of Yokohama Arts Foundation.

Red Brick Warehouses has played a major role in domestic and overseas development as a global logistics base since its foundation. And now it is a place for the creation of art and culture.

"Actually my kids love skating and we did not have opportunity anywhere else and we knew that Yokohama has the skating rink so they love it and happy," said a visitor. —ANI ■

Many features of these old warehouses are still being preserved, even the close-by railway station. **PHOTO: ANI**

Over and out: Britain readies to leave the EU

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been an enthusiastic supporter of Brexit since leading the 2016 campaign to leave. **PHOTO; AFP**

LONDON — Britain calls time on almost half a century of European Union membership this week, striking out alone in a historic move that has bitterly divided the country.

At 11:00 pm (2300 GMT) on January 31, the UK will become the first country to leave the 28-nation EU, the world's largest single market area that it joined in 1973.

Nothing will immediately change, owing to a transition period negotiated between London and Brussels to allow both sides to agree a new future partnership.

Britons will be able to work in and trade freely with EU nations until December 31, and vice versa, although they will no longer be represented in the bloc's institutions.

But legally, Britain will be out.

The exit process has been tortuous, with the years since the 2016 EU referendum marked by bitter arguments that paralysed the government and forced two prime ministers to quit.

Four years ago, 52 percent of Britons backed Brexit but 48 percent wanted to stay, and the country is still split between "Leavers" and "Remainers".

The political chaos came to an abrupt halt last month when Prime Minister Boris Johnson won a decisive victory in a general election with a promise to "Get Brexit Done".—AFP ■

Key vote in Italy as Salvini seeks to topple government

The youth-driven Sardines movement was born in the region and has become a symbol of protest against the far-right. **PHOTO; AFP**

ROME —Italians voted Sunday in a key regional election which the far-right hopes will shake the country's fragile coalition government to its core and return strongman Matteo Salvini to power.

The wealthy centre-north region of Emilia Romagna has been a stronghold of the Italian left for over 70 years, but while left-wing values still hold sway in its cities, the right has been rallying serious support in towns and the countryside.

The last polls published before the pre-election media blackout showed the anti-immigrant League neck-and-neck with the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), which governs Italy in coalition with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S).

Some 3.5 million citizens are eligible to cast ballots to elect the region's president between seven am (0600 GMT) and 11 pm, alongside similar regional elections in the smaller southern region of Calabria.

Turnout in Emilia Romagna was high at midday (1100 GMT), at over 23 percent, compared to just 11 percent at the same time during the last regional elections.

The League is hoping for a repeat of its historic win in October in Umbria, which had been a left-wing fiefdom for 50 years.

Its candidate in Emilia Romagna, Lucia Borgonzoni, 43, has been overshadowed by Salvini, who has held daily rallies and inundated social media with snaps of him sampling delicacies in the Parma ham and Parmesan cheese heartland.

Salvini infuriated the left Saturday wehn he broke the pre-election silence -- which under Italian law means candidates cannot campaign the day before a vote -- by tweeting about the "eviction notice" he was set to deliver to the government.—AFP ■

Thousands rally across Australia for 'Invasion Day' protests

MELBOURNE — Thousands of people joined Invasion Day protests in cities across Australia Sunday to mark the beginning of British colonisation of the vast continent.

January 26 is officially recognised as Australia Day, a public holiday to celebrate the origins of the modern nation and is commemorated with fireworks, concerts and citizenship ceremonies.

However, the date is a time of mourning for indigenous Australians, who have inhabited the land for 65,000 years and view the arrival of British settlers in 1788 as heralding two centuries years of pain and suffering.

Annual rallies have steadily grown in size as protesters bring attention to injustices faced by indigenous people and call on the government to change the date of Australia Day.

It was only formally established as a nation-wide celebration in 1994.

This year, non-indigenous Australians were asked to give reparations in the form of a donation to the #PayTheRent campaign.

Melbourne rally organiser Lidia Thorpe, a former Victoria state government politician, drew attention to the plight of Aboriginal families who had to pay for the funerals of relatives who died in custody.—AFP ■

Indigenous Australians performing in Sydney on Australia Day, which celebrates the origins of the modern nation. Many indiginous Australians, however, mark the day with mourning. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lagos waterfront evictions highlight Nigeria oil and land squabbles

LAGOS— The lagoon waters at the port entrance to Lagos, Nigeria's economic capital, are usually teeming with small fishing boats.

But the bustling waterfront slums of Lagos are now quiet after the navy evicted tens of thousands of residents from their homes in recent weeks.

The evictions are highlighting tensions over real estate in the megalopolis of 20 million where building space is an increasingly rare commodity.

The operation has also exposed the stark contrast of shantytown fishing communities in the shadow of Lagos' Ilashe beach with its villas for billionaires and expat executives.

Nigeria is rich in crude oil, an OPEC nation and Africa's largest petroleum producer.

Its army says the operation stopped residents tapping into pipelines to illegally siphon off fuel oil that is pumped from the port.

But locals and rights groups say the brutal evictions are an illegal seizure of precious building space in a city where the population is booming.—AFP ■

The bustling waterfront slums of Lagos are now quiet after the army evicted tens of thousands of residents. **PHOTO: AFP**

For US Fed, it's steady as she goes... for now

WASHINGTON— The Federal Reserve is overwhelmingly expected to begin 2020 as it ended 2019: by leaving interest rates right where they are.

As they prepare to hold their first policy meeting of the year in the coming week, central bankers are sending clear signals they think monetary policy is in a sweet spot.

Frayed nerves on both sides of the Pacific have begun to ease after President Donald Trump last month called a truce in his China trade war, and trade relations within North America have resolved as well, with the signing of a new continental pact.

Meanwhile, employers are still hiring, workers are still spending, unemployment is still low and inflation is still tame.

In a nutshell, US growth appears to be cooling back towards a long-term trend of around two percent and the recession scare of late summer 2019 feels far off.

Both the economy and policy are "in a good place," as Fed number two Richard Clarida said in a speech this month.

So after cutting rates three times in 2019, Fed policymakers have made it clear they will not move again unless things get significantly and unexpectedly worse.

"They've been taking a victory lap for the last couple of months and I expect them to continue doing that," economist Joel Naroff told AFP.

Futures markets have taken that expectation to the bank. As of Friday, they predicted the Fed will not resume cutting interest rates until September at the earliest.—AFP ■

Trump immigration clampdown may threaten Americans' jobs, wages, economists say

WASHINGTON— The 20-year-old San Diego bakery Con Pane Rustic Breads & Cafe went out of business this month after an audit by US authorities found immigrants working there illegally.

In April, a small Nebraska town lost a potato processing plant, and the local revenue it generated, in the wake of an immigration raid on its facilities. A restaurant in New York appears to have suffered similar fate in August.

Farmers say they are planting less, turning to automation, eliminating some crops, leaving them to rot in the field or contemplating selling out of the business altogether -- all because they cannot find enough immigrant labor.

As the US birth rate is falling and a labor shortage is worsening, President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigrants could make the situation worse for businesses like these.

Trump and others who favor tighter immigration controls say low-skilled migrant workers compete for American jobs and drive down wages for all workers.

But a growing body of research suggests the contrary: that removing immigrant workers can be destructive, resulting in lost jobs, lower wages, canceled investments and less affordable services -- even for Americans.

About 7.6 million unauthorized migrants work in the United States, amounting to 4.6 percent of the labor force, according to the Pew Research Center, and the share is shrinking even as demand for workers is strong.—AFP ■

Honduran caravan members look through through a fence at the US-Mexico border in San Ysidro, California in November 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (174 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (174 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° 5889-MM. The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) of the Ministry of Construction, in its role as implementing agency of the FLERP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract C2-DRRD-G02 for the supply of Laboratory Equipment. DRRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Procurement Package C2-DRRD-G02: Laboratory Equipment

Reference No.	Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity
C2-DRRD-G02	01-09	1	Laboratory Equipment for the DRRD Regional Labs	various sets
C2-DRRD-G02	10-16	1	Laboratory Equipment for the DRRD Soil Test Lab	various sets
Supply to	Department of Rural Road Development, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw			

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ).

Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 10:00 am Myanmar time**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Quotations will be evaluated on a Lot by Lot basis and contracts will be awarded to the quotation with the lowest evaluated price per Lot. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 and revised July 2014.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Road Development under the Ministry of Construction, Yanaung (2) quarter , North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Telephone (+95-67) 24821. Electronic mail address: flerp.drrd@gmail.com and flercproject.drrd@gamil.com . Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send.

Elephants and their mahouts. **PHOTOS: THIHA LULIN**

Worth-visiting nearest Nature Elephant Camp in Yangon

By Thiha Lulin

WITH the programme backed by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), we from Myanmar together with Laura, a woman travel blogger and Mathias, a man lifestyle blogger from Denmark, went on a tour of Myang Hay Wun Elephant Camp to find out nature of elephants and actual life of mahouts from the close range. Having put up at the camp for one night, we came to know that it is a worth-visiting site for nature lovers and those who are fond of visiting. Let me share the information about natures of elephants and their mahouts to nature lovers and those being fond of visiting. It is located in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.

Fantastical capture of untamed elephant

The location of Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp is a short distance away from Bago mountain ranges and this point is uncommon. Wild elephants used to take the wrong way to nearby villages and plantations due to various reasons. The camp is to prevent against the danger of wild elephants in practical terms. As chance would have it, herds of wild elephants can be explored by riding elephants in the camp. Howdahs considered to hurt elephants are not used in taking a ride of the elephant. Visitors can ride on the bare back of the elephant. This elephant ride can cool me down to some degree. It is unsuitable for the visitors to accompany on the trip to drive out wild elephants, but don't miss a chance of scouring for a herd of elephants like a family. Sound mustn't pass through. We encountered a herd of elephants running away in the forest as we screamed out when a swarm of red ants fell. But it is known to us that if a male wild elephant remains isolated, we should keep away from it.

A mahout preparing to bathe the elephants.

A visitor and a mahout bathing the elephant, namely shwe Toe Win.

The elephant Myanmar people love

Myanmar people love elephants among the animals. Our country is a natural habitat for the animals including elephants that are in danger of becoming extinct. We almost forget to conserve wildlife and we take no notice of what to do. Pangolin is now almost extinct. Elephant is also the same matter. The survey forecasts that there are nearly 5,000 elephants, half of them are in the elephant conservation camps. It is estimated there is a number of wild elephants ranging from 1,400 to 2,000.

Be careful of the attack of the hunters first. The extension of plantations and housing has taken the place of the habitats of the elephants. The natural habits of the elephants are gradually narrowing nowadays. In this way, men and elephants become unfriendly with each other. As a result men murder elephants or vice versa. We come to know much more about the elephants from visiting elephant camps. The elephants should be well kept in terms of nature rather than putting them to work. Tame elephants can be used in driving out wild elephants arriving in the villages and the plantations. In this way we can protect our villages and plantations from being destroyed by wild elephants.

The reasons for killing elephants

If people are asked why the elephant is killed, they will easily answer to want ivory. Nowadays this answer isn't enough.

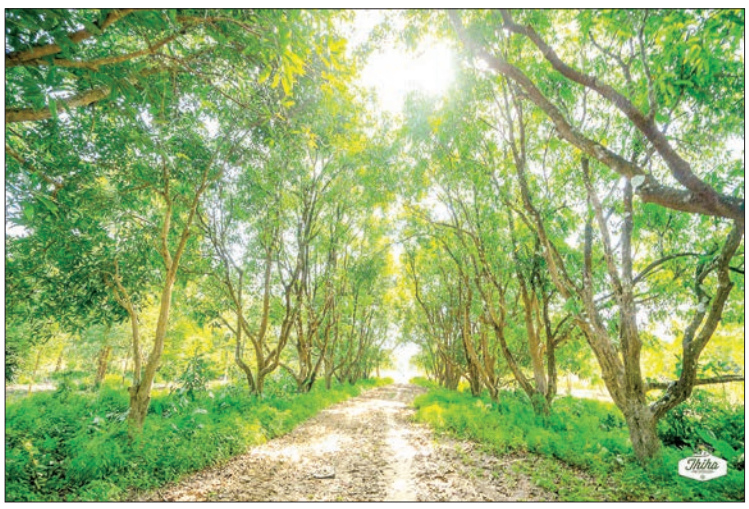
On the way of mango farm of a local villagers .

Hunters are murdering elephants as they want elephant skin regardless of ivory. Elephant hunters are skillful.

It was learnt that they managed to kill the elephants without difficulty as they came from a community close to elephants. Elephant skin has to be cut into square forms in a speedy manner.

The square forms from cutting elephant skin have to be easily carried in polyethylene bags. Therefore, elephant camps, environmentalists and forest police have to join hands in preventing the elephants from being killed.

We also came to know that elephant keepers are not allowed carrying weapons so they have difficulty when they see the armed hunters.



On the way to mango farm of a local villager.

Life of a family of a mahout.

Night stay at Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp

Lack of facilities at the camp is some kind of attraction. It is very close to the forest. We had to stay at the camp by nature. We were hosted in great variety just like a lifestyle of village. The visitors can learn how to keep tame elephants by nature. It is very nice to listen to the life of mahouts. We gained experience of mahouts how to care elephants in one sitting during the night stay. The camp provides the mahouts service quarters their families to live. There is also a mess hall where breakfast, lunch and dinner are available. The hall is not so large. About 12 people can stay there. There are more than 30 elephants including baby ones in the camp. Some elephants are almost 60 years old.

Fifty-six-year-old elephant named Shwe Toe Win

The elephants including Shwe Toe Win have to be taken to water to bath them in the mornings. There is a creek in the gully of the camp to bath the elephants. We bathed Shwe Toe Win in the creek in the morning on the day when we returned. While we were rubbing Shwe Toe Win with soap, we saw a kind of tree called Sue Yit. We cut it with a knife to get its bark. When it is crashed, it changes to foam. The elephants can be cleaned with this foam. Ivory can be cleaned by rubbing them with sand.

Other activities near elephant camp

Lahamangae lagoon is located near the elephant camp where the visitors can enjoy a day's fishing. There are also Pyinkadoe and sugarcane plantations. The visitors can enjoy hiking and trekking to some degree. We visited the mango plantation as well. The wild elephants used to come when the mangoes become ripe. U Pyaung Gyi, the owner of the mango plantation, told us that he had to ask for help from the elephant camp when the wild elephants came to the mango plantation. The visitors can visit nearby villages by motorcycles.

Weather conditions

It is hot in the summertime. It is difficult to go from one place to another in the rainy season because the roads are earthen. The cold season is the best to go. The weather is fairly cold so it will not be easy to have a bath.

Where is it and how to go?

Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp is in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region, which is reachable by car. Get off in Pa-Lon village of Taikkyi and then take motorcycles. It is a thirty minutes' motorcycle drive to the camp. Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp can be reached by motorcycles in half an hour. The car drive is also the same matter. Off-road vehicles like four-wheel drive are better than small ones as the road is rough. If the car body is low, its flooring may touch the road. If you ride a motorcycle to Myaing Hay Wun, it costs about K5,000.

Other expenditures

One night stay at Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp costs K10,000 per person. Breakfast is worth about K10,000 per person. Charge for elephant ride is K5,000 per person.

Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp is quite unlike any other one that I have ever visited. The camp is in a situation of a difficult access. The animal keepers are taking care of the elephants by nature. The elephants are usually put out to pasture. Regular patrol is made to prevent against the danger of untamed elephants coming to the area of the camp. Sometimes, the visitors ride the elephants here and there in the camp. The mahouts put the elephants out to the pasture in the mornings and return them to their usual place in the evenings. The environmental conservation organizations like the daily activities taking place in the camp. We were much satisfied with a rare chance of observing lifestyles of the mahouts and their families with the close range. I soon am going to post Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp on a blog to capture the attention of nature loving travellers. Wishing all the people could travel with best of health and happiness free from all obstacles.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

Myanmar martial arts tourney concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar traditional martial arts tournament concluded on 25 January at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, with participants from different states and regions taking home medals.

In the women's 45-49 kg Bando striking event, Khin Moe Aye (Taninthayi Region) won the gold medal, Moe Pwint Phyu (Mon State) won the silver, and Thitsar Min (Sagaing Region) and Ngu War Shweyi Tun (Bago Region) won the bronze medals.

In the men's 53-57 kg Bando striking event, Min Maw Maw (Sagaing Region) won gold, Thet Oo Kyaw (Ayeyawady Region) secured silver, and Kyaw Kyaw Zin (Magwe Region) and Kyaw Maw Htet (Shan State) took home bronze medals.

Meanwhile, in the men's 61-65 kg Bando striking event, Han Saw Oo (Sagaing Region) won the gold medal , Hein Thein Thein Lin (Shan State) got the silver medal, and Ar Tawparr (Kachin State) and Wai Yan Soe (Nay Pyi Taw) secured the bronze medals.

The best fighter award for men was secured by Khin Yati Ko (Yangon) and for women by Manshin Paung (Chin State).

The shield for women martial artists was won by Shan State, while the shield for men martial artists was garnered by Sagaing Region. The shield for all-round martial artists was also won by Sagaing Region.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Women competitors at the Myanmar Martial Arts Tournament in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

MNL derby match: Yangon United ties with Yadanarbon

THE two former champions of the Myanmar National League, Yangon United and Yadanarbon F.C., tied to a 2-2 draw in the derby match of Week-3 of the Myanmar National League, held yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

Yangon United's Than Paing (green) tries to breach Yadanarbon's defense at the MNL derby match yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Goals for Yadanarbon F.C. were scored by local stars Zaw Ye Tun and Myo Ko Tun, while the goals for Yangon United were scored by foreign player Emmanuel.

Yadanarbon F.C., which comprised local players, put in a strong performance against the competing team, which included foreign players.

Yangon United dominated in the first half of the match, which started with a surprise kick by Yangon's Kaung Htet Soe hitting the right post of the goal net and bouncing back.

Emmanuel scored the ice-breaker for Yangon Untied at 38 minutes over a cross ball by Zarni Htet.

Yangon United lead the first half with a score of 1-0.

Adopting a new tactic, Yadanarbon F.C. played a far better game than in the first half, with Zaw Ye Tun scoring the equalizer at 55 minutes. Another leading goal was scored by Myo Ko Tun at 56 minutes.

After Yadanarbon established a 2-1 lead, Yangon opened attack.

Yangon United scored their second goal after they were awarded a penalty at 77 minutes. The penalty was converted by Emmanuel.

In the later minutes, there were no more goals by either team, and the match ended with Yadanarbon and Yangon United conceding to a 2-2 draw.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Hantharwady United leads Myanmar National League

HANTHARWADY UNITED is currently leading in the Week-3 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 after winning all three matches and securing full 9 points.

Meanwhile, Yangon United is in the second place with 7 points from two wins and one draw, and Ayeyawady United is third with the same points as Yangon United, but with goal differences.

Rakhine United is placed fourth on the standing table with 6 points from two wins and one loss, and defending champion of the Myanmar National League, Shan United, is in the fifth place with the same points as Rakhine United, but with goal difference.

Meanwhile, Yadanarbon F.C., comprising local football stars, is sixth with 5 points from one win and two draws, and Sagaing United F.C. is seventh with 4 points from one win, one draw, and one loss.

Newcomer Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) team, Southern Myanmar F.C., and Zwekapin United are at the bottom of the table, with no wins and no points yet.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)