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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussing Polish loan, JPAC report

The 15th regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds its third day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened the 3rd day of its 15th regular session yesterday, and MPs continued discussion about the Euro 50 million loan from the Government of Poland and the first section of Joint Public Accounts Committee Report(16/2019).

MP U San Myint from Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 supported the loan plan as the proposed rubbish recycling project could help create a clean environment and prevent environmental impact of pollution. He added the project could create opportunities for foreign investments and employments.

MP U Ye Lwin from Ahlon constituency said if the project could be operated efficiently, it would be useful for controlling global warming and air pollution while the volume of garbage in Yangon city is expected to double in ten years. He backed the project as it could promote a clean environment for Yangon residents, while creating foreign investment opportunities in the future and recycled products from the project.

MP U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo from Hline constituency supported the projects as the volume of rubbish disposal in Yangon city is 2,500 tons each day at present, causing release of bad smells, soil deterioration, toxic for drinking, spread of infectious disease, risks for fire and air pollution. He also urged for effective implementation of the project and better public services of Yangon City Development Committee.

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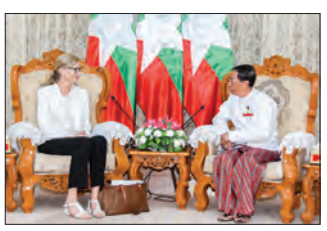

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussing Polish loan, JPAC report

MP Dr Sein Mya Aye.
PHOTO: MNA

MP U Kyaw Toke.
PHOTO: MNA

MP U Nay Htet Win.
PHOTO: MNA

MP U Soe Thein.
PHOTO: MNA

MP U San Myint.
PHOTO: MNA

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The loan plan was also discussed by the MPs from Dala constituency, Mandalay Region constituency 7, Sinbaungwe constituency, Kayah State constituency 9, Patheingyi constituency, Seikpyu constituency and Pale constituency.

Joint Public Accounts Committee Report(16/2019)

Vice Chairman of Joint Public Accounts Committee U Aung Min read out the second section of committee's report (1/2020) with the findings and remarks on the report from the Union Auditor-General Office for the period April-September 2018.

Speaker U T Khun Myat then invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the second section of report.

Regarding the first section of JPAC's Report (16/2019), MP U Kyaw Toke from Mandalay Region constituency 7 discussed the President's Scholarship programme for 2019-2020 financial year, which was announced in the selection board's website and state-owned newspapers, although no one was selected in the previous there financial years beginning 2016-2017 financial year.

MP U Myo Win from Mon State constituency 8 remarked the civil service personnel of respective ministries and organizations are to perform their duties not to be mentioned in the reports of following years.

The report was also discussed by the MPs from Bago Region constituency 3, Mawlaik constituency, Yangon constituency 4, Myinmu constituency, Aungmyethazan constituency, Thanbyuzayat constituency, Rakhine State constituency 11, Budalin constituency, Kyaiklat constituency, Pyapon constituency and Kachin State constituency 11.

The fourth day of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session will be organized on 31st January.—Aung Ye Thwin and Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MP U Thaung Htay Lin.
PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Ohn Maung receives Australian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung received Australian Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner at the guest hall of ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to development of Myanmar's tourism industry, short and long term training programmes in tourism and hospitality services for human resources development of Myanmar's tourism sector, investments of Australian investors in Myanmar tourism sector, planning on using QR codes to make it easier for tourists to know Myanmar's tourist attractions promoting tourism by means of digital technology, increasing cooperation for tourism development, FAM Trips between the two countries conducted by collaboration of government and private tourism organizations. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung meets with Australian Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Ethnic Affairs Minister receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to taking good examples from the Constitution of India to amend the Constitution of Myanmar while building a democratic federal Union, teaching and learning of ethnic languages, exchanging the cultures of the two nations' ethnic groups, creating inter-communication opportunities and positive cooperation with neighbouring countries. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin meets with Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar at he Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Air Chief Marshal Manat Wongwat, Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Royal Thai Air Force Chief

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Air Chief Marshal Manat Wongwat, Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force, at the Zeya Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the need of cooperation between the two armed forces and among the ASEAN countries on the implementation of HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response), exchanging meteorological information and data, sending trainees, and exchanging friendly visits, according to the news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Local, foreign media visit Maungtaw

LOCAL and foreign media personnel arrived in Maungtaw via Angumaw by car after they had flown to Sittway from Yangon yesterday morning.

In the afternoon, they met with U Aung Soe, Head of the Office of Maungtaw District General Administration Department, and interviewed about the preparation for accepting returnees.

The media group includes journalists from Frontier Myanmar, Black Night Media, AL Jazeera English, BBC, RFA, MRTV and MITV.

That is 35th batch of media personnel visiting Maungtaw region since December 2016. — Han Lin Naing (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

A media delegation meets with Head of the Office of Maungtaw District General Administration Department U Aung Soe in Maungtaw, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives UNSG's Special Envoy

UNION MINISTER for Defence Lieutenant General Sein Win received United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting focused on Rakhine issue and prevention of child soldiers.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win meets United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls in Ambassador of Bangladesh

U SOE HAN, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, called in Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 3 pm on 28 January 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary drew the attention of the Bangladeshi Ambassador to the Press Release recently issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh with a misleading title mentioning that "the ICJ ordered Myanmar to "stop" genocidal acts". He told the Ambassador that in fact, the ICJ indicated Myanmar to take all measures to "prevent" the genocidal acts in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention. The Court also reaffirmed, among others, that the decision in no way prejudge the questions relating to the merits of the case filed by Gambia against Myanmar.

The Permanent Secretary objected to the Bangladesh's intentional distortion of the decision of the Court on the case against Myanmar.

Such disinformation can cause misunderstanding on Myanmar by the International Community and it would in no way contribute to promoting bilateral relations and in advancing the repatriation process.

The Permanent Secretary also reiterated Myanmar's readiness to receive the verified displaced persons and Myanmar's repeated request to the Bangladeshi side for the expeditious repatriation of the verified displaced persons including Hindus who clearly expressed their willingness to return.

He also reaffirmed his concurrence to resuming of the next meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Persons at a mutually convenient date. — MNA

UEC Chairman receives Norwegian Ambassador

UNION ELECTION Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes and party at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed preparations for holding 2020 General Election in free, fair and reliable manners as a model election, scrutinizing voters list, ensuring rights for votes, participation of women in electoral processes, preventing widespread of hate speech and misleading information, releasing correct news, conducting capacity-building courses at sub-commission levels, voter education for the first-ever voters in the upcoming elections and election monitoring processes.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Information Minister receives Indian Ambassador

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for a photograph with a delegation led by Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received a delegation led by Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India on news media, Indian film festival to be held in Myanmar, the conditions of signing an MoU on media between Myanmar and India, and arrangement for meetings between the journalists of the two nations.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

School textbook tender committee holds coordination meeting

U AUNG HLA TUN, the Deputy Minister for Information and the Chairman of Committee for Accepting and Scrutinizing Tender for School Textbooks, presided over the committee's coordination meeting yesterday afternoon.

After an opening remark of the Deputy Minister, Joint Secretary and Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint explained formation of sub-committee, tender rules and legal actions against breaching the rules.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attends the coordination meeting for accepting and scrutinizing tender for school textbooks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Director General and Leader of Quality Inspecting Team U Ko Ko Naing briefed on the findings of its committee.

Officials from the Ministry of Education and representatives of printing and publishing association discussed publishing and distribution processes, rules and pledges of the contracts and awarding sub-contracts, followed by additional discussions of the committee's Secretary and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung.

The meeting was concluded with the remark of Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

FDC to analyse 'An Elephant Sitting Still' film

THE Film Development Centre will screen 'An Elephant Sitting Still' film for analysis in its 35th event of the Cinematheque Programme at its office No. 50, Shwe Taung Kyar Road (Golden Valley Road), Bahan Township, at 12 noon on 2 February.

The Chinese drama film directed by Hu Bo won FIPRESCI Award and GWFF Best First Feature Award Special Mention at 86th Berlin International Film Festival in 2018, and Best Feature Film, Best Adapted Screenplay and Audience Choice Award at 55th Golden Horse Awards. The story is in a northern Chinese city and about an elephant that simply sits still and ignores the world, a person who feels responsible for the suicide of a friend and another one who longs for escape from a complex town.

The event will be led by Dr Aung Min, a member of FDC management board.—Thein Htike Thu (FDC) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

26 returnees accepted at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre, taken to villages in Maungtaw

OFFICIALS at the Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, yesterday scrutinized and accepted 26 displaced persons from nine households who returned from Bangladesh of their own volition.

In accordance with the procedures for accepting returnees, security personnel inspected each returnee at the designated place for security reasons, and immigration officials gathered records from them for immigration purposes.

The immigration officials issued National Verification cards to 10 male and five female aged 10 years and above from the nine families.

The authorities also provided healthcare and aid to the returnees. The process for accepting the returnees ended at 2 p.m.

Afterwards, Nga Kyu Ya Reception Centre in-charge U Maung Thar Mya took the returnees to the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre, and officials at the centre, led by director U Soe Shwe Aung, accepted the displaced persons and presented rice, edible oil, salt, beans, and kitchen utensils to them.

Afterwards, the nine families were transported to their places of origin with the help of the authorities in their villages.

The displaced persons belong to Darkyisar, Padin, Dunyaungpingyi, Paungzar, Thayatoak, Ywatnyotaung, MyoOo, and Yaykhatchaung Gwazon villages in Maungtaw Township.—U Zaw Zaw San (Maungtaw District IPRD) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Officials from Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre working to issue National Verification Cards to the displaced persons in Maungtaw, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Investment Commission's work in November and December of 2019

MYANMAR Investment Commission(MIC) is permitting local and foreign investments, according to Myanmar Investment Law.

MIC had permitted in November 2019 total foreign investment valued at US$734.885 million, and in December 2019 a total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at $137.220 million.

Foreign investments permitted during November and December of 2019 are as follows:

Sr	Sector	November		December	
		No. of investment	Capital US$ (million)	No. of investment	Capital US$ (million)
1.	Transportation and communication sector	1	0.400	-	-
2.	Industrial sector	23	74.444	30	73.471
3.	Electricity sector	2	503.540	1	35.035
4.	Housing and building construction sector	1	142.418	1	23.000
5.	Hotel and tourism sector	-	-	1	0.814
6.	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	2	6.583	-	-
7.	Other service sector	1	7.500	-	4.900
Total		30	734.885	33	137.220

* Increased in the investment was included in the investment amount.

MIC had permitted in November 2019 Myanmar national investment totaling K461901.580 million and in December 2019 Myanmar national investment totaling at K19518.464 million.

Myanmar national investment permitted during November and December 2019 are as follows:

Sr	Sector	November		December	
		No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)	No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)
1.	Transportation and communication sector		6843.500*	-	-
2.	Housing and building construction sector	2	248934.360	-	-
3.	Industrial sector	4	103005.884*	2	16707.160*
4.	Hotel and tourism sector	3	16681.833*	-	-
5.	Construction sector	-	45614.187*	-	-
6.	Mining sector	-	14498.000*	-	-
7.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	1	3300.000	-	-
8.	Electricity sector	-	7457.785*	1	1922.804
9.	Agriculture sector	-	-	1	888.500
10.	Other service sector	2	15566.031	-	-
Total		12	461901.580	4	19518.464

* Increased in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs created by foreign investments during November and December 2019 are as follows:

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		November	December
1.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	62	-
2.	Industrial sector	21669*	18191*
3.	Electricity sector	390	40
4.	Hotel and tourism sector	-	15
5.	Housing and building sector	-	34
6.	Transportation and communication sector	176	-
7.	Other service sector	62	-
Total		22359	18280

* Increased number of employees was included in the employee list.

Increased number of jobs created by Myanmar national investments during November and December of 2019 are as follows:

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		November	December
1.	Electricity sector	33*	20
2.	Mining sector	650*	-
3.	Industrial sector	1682*	217
4.	Hotel and tourism sector	384	-
5.	Housing and building construction sector	832	-
6.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	55	-
7.	Agriculture sector	-	51
8.	Other service sector	110*	-
Total		3746	288

* Increased number of employees was included in the employee list.—MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Htet Oo
Aung Khin

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,
Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

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Union Minister U Thein Swe, UN Special Envoy discuss repatriation, issuing NV cards in Rakhine

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received a UN delegation led by Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the works by UNDP/UNHCR representatives and Technical Working Group (TWG) to accept returnees in Rakhine State, and completion of 12th TWG Meeting and progress of works.

The meeting also discussed current works by UNDP/UNHCR representatives in cooperation with authorities after meeting with local people during their field visits to 45 villages in Buthidaung and Maungtaw.

The ministry side also discussed the means for contacting the ministry's officials to get information on repatriation processes and raising awareness activities about advantages of holding the National Verification Card.

Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with a delegation led by Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister also detailed about the NV cards including improvement of data quality mentioned on the card and issuing the card nationwide including Rakhine State, and issuing citizenship verification cards.

He also explained plans for issuing proper cards to those who do not hold any card.

The Union Minister also discussed taking a census at IDP camps in Sittway by the ministry's mobile teams in cooperation with local public health authorities as part of efforts for issuing NV cards.

The two sides also exchanged views on sharing and explaining the implementation processes of the ministry to NGOs, INGOs, CSOs and local people, the UN representatives' assistance on sharing programme, the government's understanding and recognition on the peace and development in Rakhine State, and ongoing aids from the UN representatives.— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoHS plans additional 5,220 flats for its staff this financial year

THE Ministry of Health and Sports MoHS will construct 5,220 additional apartments for its staff in the 2019-2020 financial year.

The ministry has so far built a total of 1,373 housing units with 6,736 apartments. Of the total housing units, 1,144 were constructed for the Medical Services Department, 112 for the Public Health Department, nine for the Human Resources for Health Department, four for the Medical Research Department, 28 for the Traditional Medicine Department, four for the Food and Drug Administration Department, and 71 for the Sports and Physical Education Department.

The ministry constructed more than 6,736 apartments in the 2016-2017 FY, and about 10,377 apartments in the 2018-2019FY for civil servants. The construction of some of the apartments was completed in the 2018-2019FY.

The Ministry of Health and Sports continued to build employee housing units in 2019. More than 830 housing units were completed in the 2018-2019 FY for the staff members of the ministry.

The apartments are being constructed to provide secure and convenient accommodation for civil servants from the ministry in places where they are posted.— Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

295,000 tons of teak, hardwood to be extracted this FY

A total of 295,000 tons of teak and hardwood will be extracted across the country in the 2019-2020 financial, as per the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Sagaing Region will have the highest extraction target of over 160,000 tons of teak and hardwood, it added.

In the current financial year, a total of 295,000 tons of teak and hardwood will be extracted across the country: 167,000 tons in Sagaing (west), 31,000 tons in Sagaing (east), 6,500 tons in the Union Territory, 17,000 tons in Kachin, 7,500 tons in Chin, 10,000 tons in Taninthayi, 4,000 tons in Bago, 17,000 tons in Magway, 10,000 tons in Mandalay, 8,000 tons in Shan (north), 9,000 tons in Shan (east and south), and 5,000 tons in Ayeyawady Region.

The Timber Extraction Division under the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) is conducting teak and hardwood extraction by felling trees, transporting logs with the help of elephants, loading logs, and upgrading the road in the forest.

The division will hire some private companies for timber extraction works in the 2019-2020 FY because it does not have sufficient labour.

Myanmar produced more than 329,000 tons of teak and over 1.2 billion tons of hardwood in the 2013-2014 FY, more than 128,000 tons of teak and over 613,000 tons of hardwood in the 2014-2015 FY, more than 71,000 tons of teak and over 621,000 tons of hardwood in the 2015-2016 FY, more than 50,000 tons of teak and over 473,000 tons of hardwood in the 2016-2017 FY, and more than 14,800 tons of teak and over 221,000 tons of hardwood in the 2017-2018FY, according to the MTE.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Thailand's high tax on corn imports leading to losses for traders

A worker piles sacks of corn a commodities warehouse in Myawady.
PHOTO: MANN THAN SHWE MYINT (IPRD)

MYANMAR traders are stockpiling corns to export them to Thailand, but a high import barrier is posing difficulties, said traders from the Myawady border area.

Under a bilateral agreement between Thailand and Myanmar, corn exports were exempted from tax between 1 February and 31 August, 2019. At present, high taxes are serving as a hindrance to corn exports to Thailand.

Corn traders faced losses last year, too, owing to transportation difficulties and heavy rain.

During October-November in the current financial year, Myanmar shipped more than 100,000 tons of corn to other countries compared to 200,000 tons in the year-ago period.

As China is the major purchaser of Myanmar corn, the price is positively related to demand from the neighboring country. However, it has been one year since China suspended the importation of some agro products through the border gates, thereby forcing corn traders to turn to the Thai market.

Besides China, Myanmar exports corn to India, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand. But, the volume of exports to those markets is low.

There are more than 1.9 million acres of corn plantations in Myanmar, primarily in Sagaing and Magway regions, and Chin, Kayin, Shan, and Kayah states.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.5 million tons of corn, worth US$270 million, in the 2018-2019FY; 1.4 million tons of corn, worth over $290 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 1.2 million tons of corn, worth $250 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 1.1 million tons of corn, worth $300 million, in the 2015-2016FY. —Mann Than Shwe Myint/ Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP businesses import raw materials worth $727.59 mln in current fiscal

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses reached US$727.59 million between 1 October and 17 January in the 2019-2020 financial year, an increase of $65.7 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports of finished industrial goods touched a high of $2.98 billion, an increase of $689.26 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 financial year, according to the ministry.

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

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just $850 million in the 2015-2016 FY, but it tripled within two years to reach $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September.

In the first month of the current financial year, exports of clothes produced under the CMP system topped $320 million.

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

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar employ more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Japan's NTT opens Myanmar unit to offer telecom equipment

JAPANESE telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp has opened a wholly owned subsidiary in Myanmar for business to capitalize on the growing local telecom market.

NTT Ltd., a London-based firm in charge of the NTT group's overseas business, said last Wednesday it has started up operations at NTT Myanmar after establishing it in Yangon, in February 2019, with capital of $5 million.

With a wholesale license from the Ministry of Commerce, the subsidiary offers telecom equipment and software, as well as information and communication services such as consulting and management of such gear for local corporate users, according to an NTT statement released last week.

It also offers a training programme for engineers via sponsored courses at universities.

NTT foresees growing business opportunities in Myanmar as the telecom industry there is expanding by between 6 and 12 percent a year, the statement said. The firm declined to disclose its sales target.

NTT is also set to lay a submarine cable connecting Yangon, Singapore, and the Indian cities of Mumbai and Chennai at a cost of $400 million, seeking to begin its operation in June 2022.

The NTT group's business in Myanmar was formerly undertaken by a Yangon branch of its Thai subsidiary. — Kyodo News

NTT logo, at NTT pavilion, during theMobile World Congress day 3, on 28 February, 2018 in Barcelona, Spain. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Imports up $563.8 mln as of 17 Jan, MoC reports

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 17 January in the current financial year was pegged at $5.85 billion, an increase of $563.8 million from $5.29 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP business groups rose significantly in the current fiscal.

In the period from October to mid-January, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at $1.96 billion. The figure was $307.26 million higher compared to the same period in the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth more than $1 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed an increase of $40.8 million compared with the year-ago period.

Intermediate goods make up a large share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. In the current fiscal, imports of raw materials jumped to $2.117 billion from $1.96 billion registered in the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth $727 million were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

30 JANUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Step up efforts to end drug menace

WITH the implementation of the National Drug Control Policy in February, 2018, aimed at addressing all aspects of the drug problem and focusing on the unique needs of the country, Myanmar has made a significant shift towards an evidence-based and more people- and health-centric approach.

According to the policy statement, about 48 per cent of prisoners in Myanmar are serving sentences for drug use and drug trafficking-related cases. Inmates serving time for drug-related offenses in some prisons, such as Myitkyina and Lashio prisons, accounted for 60 to 70 per cent of the total prisoners, putting a burden on finances and management of prisons.

> If we do not collaborate and successfully combat the drug problem today, Myanmar will face a severe and drastic situation in the coming decade.

The new policy considers drug use a health issue rather than a criminal one as putting drug users behind bars has socioeconomic implications for their families.

The 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law considered drug use a crime and prescribed an eight-year sentence for it. But, the drug problem in Myanmar continued to worsen.

Following a spike in drug seizures from 2008 to 2018, a new drug control policy was adopted and a law amending the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted in February, 2018.

Along with the framing of the policy, a strategy for implementing it was also drafted. Under the strategy, the regional and state authorities are required to come up with projects, in line with the situation in their areas, and implement them.

During her meeting with local residents of Tamu on 23 January, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed concern for the rise in drug use among the youth. Statistics indicate that drug users make up 75 per cent of the youth population in Kalay.

If we cannot eradicate the drug problem in our country, our efforts for the development of youth, their health and education, will be in vain.

The new drug policy's approach is aimed at tackling challenges related to drugs to ensure safe, secure, and healthy communities. It does not encourage drug use. Drug users need to receive treatment and their families must cooperate and help them get treatment.

If we do not collaborate and successfully combat the drug problem today, Myanmar will face a severe and drastic situation in the coming decade.

The menace of drugs is slowly eroding our society, ruining the lives of our youth, and destroying the dignity and future of our country.

In this regard, we earnestly urge all stakeholders to join us in our efforts in the fight against drugs.

■■■

Novel coronavirus outbreak may reach peak in one week or about 10 days: expert

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak may reach its peak in one week or around 10 days, renowned Chinese respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan said Tuesday. By the end of Monday, 4,515 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus had been reported in 30 provincial-level regions. A total of 106 people had died of the disease, according to the National Health Commission.

Renowned Chinese respiratory scientist Zhong Nanshan receives an interview with Xinhua in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, Jan. 28, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

By Wang Pan, Xiao Sisi, Li Laifang, Lou Chen, Cui Enhui, Wang Ruiping, Liu Ruoshi

THE novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak may reach its peak in one week or around 10 days, renowned Chinese respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan said Tuesday in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

"It is very difficult to definitely estimate when the outbreak reaches its peak. But I think in one week or about 10 days, it will reach the climax and then there will be no large-scale increases," Zhong said.

Zhong is the head of a national team of experts set up for the control and prevention of the novel coronavirus-caused pneumonia and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

"There are two keys to tackling the epidemic: early detection and early isolation. They are the most primitive and most effective methods," he said.

Zhong said fever and weakness are the typical symptoms of the novel coronavirus infection for the majority of patients.

Ten to 14 days is a sound period for isolation and observation: When the incubation period ends, those who fall sick will get timely treatment and those who do not will be just fine.

He suggested that hospitals should be staffed with not only infectious disease specialists, but also specialists in treating severe cases to better save patients.

By the end of Monday, 4,515 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus had been reported in 30 provincial-level regions. A total of 106 people had died of the disease, according to the National Health Commission.

Aerial photo taken on Jan. 28, 2020 shows the construction site of Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. The construction of Huoshenshan Hospital, a makeshift hospital for treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus, is underway in Wuhan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Among the total, Hubei Province in central China reported a total of 2,714 confirmed cases of the pneumonia caused by the virus. Wuhan, the provincial capital, is the center of the outbreak.

Epidemiologically, the novel coronavirus is homologous to the virus discovered in a type of bat in 2017, said Zhong, adding that the 2019-nCoV probably has an intermediate host that may be a certain kind of wild animal.

"The SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak lasted about six months, but I don't believe the novel coronavirus outbreak would last that long," said Zhong.

The country has taken a series of powerful measures, especially early detection and early isolation. "We have sufficient confidence in preventing a major outbreak or a recurrence as long as the two measures are in place, although we still need to conduct much scientific research," he said.

Noting that a key for Wuhan is how to reduce infections inside hospitals, Zhong said he supported the construction of makeshift hospitals in the city to control the infectious disease.

Zhong said the activation of top-level public health emergency response was aimed at reducing the chance of infection.

The vaccine development may need three to four months or even longer, said Zhong. "Now scientists are speeding up research of neutralizing antibodies of the virus, but it takes time."

"With help from across the country, Wuhan, a heroic city, will pull through," Zhong said.

■■■

Education for All

By Lokethar

Since last two decades ago, thru the efforts of UNESCO emerged EFA movement, for educational attainment to start the global plan, to educate every human. Perhaps to many people, it meant "Degrees for All." Higher Education entrance, by the student's perseverance was way to earn a "degree", it would make everyone happy.

The general belief of the people in most countries of the world is that earning a College/University "Degree" is the recognition of being "educated". According to statistics in Myanmar, only about 4% of the population have an initial degree from one of over one hundred Government Colleges and Universities across Myanmar. Four percent of the population with a degree isn't such a high figure. If young people seek formal learning and the recognition of their education by earning a "Degree," so be it.

If the traditional higher education leading to a degree is quality assured, it can be good grounding for acquiring lifelong learning as is the emerging trend considering the exponential pace of technological advancement the world is currently witnessing. Continuing "learning, un-learning and relearning" in "Non-formal" or "Informal" mode supported increasingly by "on-line learning" will enable one to keep pace with the ever-changing requirements of work and life in a fast changing world.

However, if young people could acquire vocational education and training right at the outset, chances are that it will help them immensely in seeking and securing wage or self-employment . It can also enable the more enterprising young persons, after "Graduation", to start on a business venture either on their own or in partnership with like minded other young people.

For example, learning metal welding skills can help many to get employment in the expanding steel furniture industry. The same is true for those learning "woodworking," to seek employment in the wood furniture making industry; learning the culinary arts would enable one to get employment in the booming hotel and restaurant industry, and so on (the list could be long indeed).All these "wage earners" after some years of on-the-job experience in the "industry" could, if they so intended, start their own business ventures, with "loans" possibly from the SME or other private banks and earn more money than in wage employment.

If as mentioned above, the students and their parents covet degrees, then the Vocational/Professional "stream", like in many other countries, can offer courses starting with awarding of Occupational Competency Certificates and continuing upwards to awarding of Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees (like B.Tech/B.Voc Degree for instance) and open up a pathway to earning Higher Professional Qualifications, awarded by Professional Bodies.

As for "direct" entry to the diploma/ degree courses of the Vocational Education and Training Institutions, it could be dependent on passing the Matriculation Examination as is the entrance requirement to higher education in any other College or University. The emphasis on the "outcome" of the Vocational oriented diploma/ degree course would, of course, be more on practical application of the specific technology. A Cap and Gown ceremony could mark Graduation at these Vocational Education and Training Institutions which would make young persons and their parents proud. Perhaps, if I may express my view, it was what HE The State Counsellor alluded to in her speeches on her visit to the Chin and Kachin States by way of encouraging young people to join more TVET courses.

With Charity to all and Malice towards none.

■■■

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 Wednesday 29th January, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30th January, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy 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: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th January, 2020: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th January, 2020: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th January, 2020: Partly Cloudy.

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Protests in Germany as cabinet passes coal exit law

BERLIN — German ministers on Wednesday signed off a law to end coal electricity generation that demonstrators and environmentalists say does too little, too late.

The 202-page draft, under the clunky German title of "Kohleverstromungsbeendigungsgesetz" (KVBG) lines up an inching exit from coal by 2038 at the latest.

By that date, all coal-fired power plants and coal mines in Germany should be inactive.

Outside Chancellor Angela Merkel's office, marchers brandished signs reading "Shut off the coal plants NOW" and "Smash (power company) RWE".

In a slight concession to pressure from the streets, notably the "Fridays for Future" youth movement, the exit timetable could be stepped up to 2035 based on reviews planned for 2026 and 2029.

"What the government is doing is setting in motion a huge and fundamental transformation in our energy supply," Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin.

That was true "even if some elements of this law are of course debated in the public sphere and criticised," he added.

Activists and campaign groups such as Greenpeace say the planned law falls far short of what is needed for Germany to fulfil its climate promises.

Outside Chancellor Angela Merkel's office, marchers brandished signs reading "Shut off the coal plants NOW". **PHOTO: AFP**

"We're in the middle of a climate crisis, and it's unjustifiable for the coal plants to keep warming the Earth for another 18 years," Greenpeace energy sector expert Lisa Goeldner said.

"This draft law disdains the hundreds of thousands of voices of young people" who have demonstrated for swift climate action, added Quang Paasch of the Fridays for Future movement.

Brown coal blues

Among the first coal plants where the lights will go out is one operated by energy giant RWE, near the massive Garzweiler open-cast mine in western Germany.—AFP ■

Researchers to conduct major ocean microplastics survey

TOKYO — Scientists will begin a two-year survey of microplastics in the coastal waters off Japan from April, a research group announced on Wednesday, with concern growing about the impact of plastics on the oceans.

The survey organised by Japanese scientists and the Tara Ocean Foundation will be conducted by several marine research facilities located across Japan, from the northern island of Hokkaido to southwestern Kyushu.

Researchers will collect samples for analysis of microplastics and measure their impact on marine life, as well as work to raise awareness locally about the issue.

The Tara Ocean Foundation last year produced an unprecedented study of plastic pollution in European rivers, finding 100 percent of its samples contained plastic and microplastics.

"These rather alarming findings led us to prepare a project here in Japan," the group's executive director Romain Trouble said at a press conference in Tokyo.

The goal, he said, would not be to point the finger at a particular region.

"We're trying to find out what this plastic pollution is and where it comes from, so public funding goes to the right place to stop plastic pollution," he said.

The project will also be a chance to talk to local communities, including the fishing industry, schoolchildren and municipalities, and discuss the role that each can play in consuming, sorting and recycling.

The group's flagship vessel Tara has been to Japan before, for a 2017 survey of coral in the Pacific Ocean, but will not be involved in the new project.

Instead, the research will rely on the Japanese Association for Marine Biology (JAMBIO) network, which has more than 20 coastal facilities equipped with research infrastructure.—AFP ■

The Tara foundation's last expedition found that 100 percent of samples from European rivers contained plastic and microplastics. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Tokyo 2020 unveils Olympic 'plaza' made from donated wood

TOKYO — The Tokyo 2020 Olympic organisers on Wednesday unveiled the "Village Plaza", a key part of the Athletes' Village that is being built from wood donated by municipalities across Japan.

The facility will be a gathering place for athletes and their teams, as well as the site of welcome ceremonies and press briefings during the Games.

The unusual structure is made mostly from wood, with the floors, walls and parts of the roof using timber including larch, Japanese cedar and Japanese cypress.

The vast complex nods to both modern and traditional elements.

"It's based on Japanese traditional wood buildings, but not on any specific building in particular," said Nariki Makihara, Tokyo 2020 senior manager for venues sustainability.

Novel features include columns made by laying wooden planks at inclines against each other, and roof beams made by weaving planks into a latticework.—AFP ■

The Village Plaza will be a key part of the Athletes' Village and is constructed largely from wood donated by municipalities across Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Boeing reports 2019 loss of $636 mn, 1st year in red since 1997

NEW YORK — Boeing reported its first annual loss in more than two decades Wednesday as the lengthy grounding of the 737 MAX undercut the company's revenues and exploded costs.

The aerospace giant reported a $1.0 billion loss in the fourth-quarter and a loss of $636 million for all of 2019, the company's first year in the red since 1997.

Newly-installed Chief Executive David Calhoun, who took the reins this month to stabilize the situation, pledged to turn the company around even as Boeing disclosed $9.2 billion in new costs connected to the MAX.

Some analysts had expected new costs twice as high, and despite the hefty charges, Boeing shares rallied early Wednesday in pre-market.

The MAX has been grounded since March following two crashes that killed 346 people which opened the doors to intense scrutiny of Boeing's safety practices — and regulatory oversight of its productions — as well bruising congressional investigations which have revealed a troublesome culture at the aviation giant.

"We are committed to transparency and excellence in everything we do," Calhoun said in a statement. "Safety will underwrite every decision, every action and every step we take as we move forward."

Calhoun has been at the helm of Boeing only since 13 January after Dennis Muilenburg was ousted in December following criticism of his handling of the crisis, and immediately after damning series of internal communications were released.

Calhoun is targeting mid-2020 to win approval from aviation regulators to resume flights on the MAX, which is seen as a more realistic timeframe after Muilenburg repeatedly pushed a more optimistic schedule.

Boeing reported its first annual loss in more than two decades as the lengthy grounding of the 737 MAX weighed on revenues and added to costs. **PHOTO: AFP**

Higher costs

The grounding of the MAX dented Boeing's earnings in multiple ways, halting deliveries of new planes to customers, a major source of revenues.

Boeing revenues in the fourth quarter plunged 36.8 per cent to $17.9 billion, while revenues for all of 2019 dropped 24.3 per cent to $76.6 billion.— AFP ■

Economic burnout: India's struggling workforce

NEW DELHI — India's government releases its 2020 budget on Saturday, facing stuttering growth and record unemployment and a jump in inflation that has further widened India's wealth gap.

A botched nationwide tax rollout, the 2016 shock cash ban, and a sharp liquidity crunch in the vast shadow banking sector all played their part in creating the crisis that roils Asia's third-largest economy.

AFP spoke to Indians from different sections of society about the impact of the economic slowdown, which has put Prime Minister Narendra Modi under considerable pressure.

Unemployed millennial

An engineering degree from a prominent university followed by a job that paid 42,000 rupees ($590) a month: Rahul thought he was set for life.

But when the slowdown struck and companies laid off thousands, Rahul — whose name has been changed at his request — lost his job and has been struggling to land another.

"I am constantly sending my resume hoping to get an interview call but companies barely respond. The situation is depressing," he said. The 27-year-old told AFP he now relies on his father's savings and pensions to keep their household running.

Drowning in debt

At 50, Saroj Ahire was forced to take two jobs and work through the night to earn 15,000 rupees a month, simply to keep her head above water.

But the increase in income is no match for inflation, she said.

"By the 25th of every month, I run out of cash and have to buy rice on loan from local shopkeepers," the domestic worker told AFP. With rising prices prompting her to think twice about what she eats — onions are now a luxury rather than a staple — planning for the future is impossible. — AFP ■

Saroj Ahire, a domestic worker, buys vegetables at a local market in Mumbai on 22 January, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Apple posts record Q1 revenue amid strong iPhone sales

Apple's Kaiann Drance talks about the new iPhone 11 during a launch event on Apple's Cupertino, California campus. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc. Tuesday reported a record 91.8 billion US dollars in revenue for the first quarter of fiscal 2020 as it witnessed strong sales of iPhone 11 and iPhone 11 Pro series for the period.

The quarterly revenue rose by an all-time record of 9 per cent over the corresponding quarter of a year ago, yielding quarterly earnings per diluted share of 4.99 dollars, up 19 per cent, said the company.

Sales from iPhones generated 55.96 billion dollars in revenue for the first quarter, up 8 per cent year over year, which beat market expectations of 51.5 billion dollars. "We are thrilled to report Apple's highest quarterly revenue ever, fueled by strong demand for our iPhone 11 and iPhone 11 Pro models, and all-time records for services and wearables," said Apple CEO Tim Cook.

He said the strong holiday sales have significantly pushed the across-the-board revenue growth in the quarter, with the total number of installed devices hitting more than 1.5 billion.

Apple said its net income reached a record 22.2 billion dollars for the quarter, and its international sales accounted for 61 per cent of the quarter's revenue.

However, Apple reported a slight fall in its services revenue, from 12.98 billion dollars in the last quarter to 12.72 billion dollars, for the 2020 first quarter. —Xinhua ■

Coronavirus in China to have economic consequences: Moody's

NEW DELHI — Moody's Investors Service said on Wednesday that impact of coronavirus outbreak in China can have economic consequences as the SARS epidemic of 2003 demonstrated.

"The fear of contagion could dampen consumer demand, and affect tourism, travel, trade and services in affected countries," said Atsi Sheth, Managing Director for Credit Strategy at Moody's Investors Service. "The burden on healthcare sectors in affected countries will also potentially increase," he said in a statement.

The foremost risk around the coronavirus infections in and outside China is human health-related, and borne by those exposed to infection, said Sheth.

"Should the incidence of infections escalate, it could also have economic consequences as the SARS epidemic of 2003 demonstrated."

The pneumonia of unknown cause was first reported in the WHO Disease Outbreak News on 5 January. By 12 January, the outbreak was confirmed.

On Tuesday, SBI's research team Ecowrap also said the impact of coronavirus outbreak will be severe as Wuhan is the hub of transport and industry.—ANI

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with visiting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 28 January, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Xi orders military to contribute to winning battle against epidemic

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping has ordered Chinese military to keep its mission firmly in mind and shoulder responsibility to make contribution to winning the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a recent instruction to the military on the prevention and control of the outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus. —Xinhua

'Draconian' travel curbs needed to halt spread of virus: scientists

HONG KONG — Governments need to implement "draconian" travel curbs to stop a mystery coronavirus in China becoming a global epidemic, a team of experts mapping the outbreak said Monday.

Scientists at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) presented a briefing warning that the spread of the deadly SARS-like virus that first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan was accelerating.

"We have to be prepared that this particular epidemic may be about to become a global epidemic," said Gabriel Leung, head of the team.

"Substantial, draconian measures limiting population mobility should be taken sooner, rather than later."

Leung leads a group of researchers who are mapping the virus, which has so far infected more than 2,700 people in China and killed 81 people.

While the epicentre remains in Wuhan and the central Chinese province of Hubei, it has since spread to some of the country's biggest cities — including Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing, and the southern cities of Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

"We are expecting to see epicentres of self-sustaining epidemics in these other major city clusters on the mainland," Leung predicted.

Given those cities have major regional and international transport links it was "highly likely" they would spread the virus further afield once those cities have self-sustaining outbreaks, he added.

The Wuhan virus has been detected in a dozen other countries — as far afield as North America and Europe — but only via a handful of people who travelled primarily from the epicentre in Wuhan.

The latest models from HKU warned that the number of actual infections was likely to be much higher than the official tolls, which only account for those who have been found and have tested positive.

HKU believes as many as 44,000 people may have been infected as of Saturday after evidence emerged suggesting people may be infectious even when they are not showing symptoms.

Leung said the number of infections would likely double every six days, peaking in April and May for those places currently dealing with an outbreak, although effective public health measures could bring that rate down.

The Chinese government has sealed off Wuhan and neighbouring cities, effectively trapping tens of millions of people, in a bid to contain the virus. — AFP ■

Hong Kong scientists say "draconian" measures are needed to stop the spread of the new virus. **PHOTO: AFP**

China virus sends shockwaves through Asia tourist industry

TOKYO — A deadly virus that has prompted travel restrictions in China is sending shockwaves through Asia's tourism industry, which has become increasingly reliant on growing numbers of Chinese visitors.

At least 81 people have died since the new strain of coronavirus emerged in China's Wuhan, and millions are now under an effective quarantine, with all flights in and out of the city grounded and a ban on Chinese tour groups domestically and abroad.

The measures come amid a boom in Chinese foreign travel, with the number of tourists from the country increasing nearly tenfold since 2003, according to a report by research firm Capital Economics.

But businesses in destinations that rely on the huge numbers of Chinese tourists are already feeling the heat, with complaints of "deserted" beaches and shops, and concerns about the future.

There will be a less immediate impact in Europe, which is currently off peak season for visitors from China.

The outbreak carries echoes of the SARS crisis, which paralysed regional travel and battered local economies from late 2002. Chinese tourist numbers then fell by around a third.

"If they fell by a similar amount again, it would knock around 1.5-2.0 percentage points from (gross domestic product) in the most vulnerable countries," Capital Economics said.

In Japan, the fall in Chinese visitors was already being felt in Asakusa, a popular tourist destination near the Sensoji temple.

"We've definitely been seeing less people this year," said Yoshie Yoneyama, 31, manager of a shop selling traditional Japanese sweets and a rice-based drink called amazake.

Chinese visitors make up 37 per cent of all Japan's inbound tourists and the virus outbreak is likely to affect a range of local businesses. **PHOTO: AFP**

Beaches 'deserted'

"I think there are less than half the numbers of last year or the year before," she told AFP.

The number of Chinese holidaying in Japan has exploded from around 450,000 in 2003 to 8.4 million in 2018, accounting for 27 percent of all inbound tourists as Tokyo works to expand the sector.

But it will now be "very difficult" for Japan to achieve its target of 40 million tourists in 2020, Yuki Takashima, an economist at Nomura Securities, told AFP.

And the effects will be felt beyond hotels, restaurants and tourist sites, because many Chinese tourists visit Japan specifically to shop.— AFP ■

Wuhan's second makeshift hospital to accommodate more patients

WUHAN — The second makeshift hospital in Wuhan, the center of a coronavirus outbreak in central China, will accommodate 1,600 beds, 300 more than the previous design, as the number of local patients increases.

The hospital, named Leishenshan Hospital, is expected to expand to 60,000 square meters and accommodate over 2,000 medical staff, according to China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co., Ltd. which undertook the project.

Following Beijing's SARS treatment model, Wuhan is building two makeshift hospitals to treat pneumonia patients infected with the novel coronavirus. The two facilities are expected to be put into use on 3 February and 5 February, respectively. —Xinhua ■

EU announces strict 5G rules, but no Huawei ban

BRUSSELS — EU countries could ban telecoms operators deemed a security risk from critical parts of 5G infrastructure under guidelines issued Wednesday, amid US pressure to shut out Chinese giant Huawei.

The EU plan, which closely mirrors rules set out by Britain allowing a limited role for Huawei, stops short of barring the company from the next-generation communications network with near-instantaneous data transfers.

It leaves member states with the responsibility to ensure the safe rollout of 5G and warns them to screen operators carefully, saying security of the network will be critically important for the entire EU.

A pedestrian passes a sign advertising 5G in London on 28 January 2020 after Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced limited participation of the Chinese company Huawei in the UK's 5G network. **PHOTO: AFP**

The so-called "toolbox" outlined by the European Commission avoids naming Huawei and does not call for an outright ban on any supplier. But it urges countries to "assess the risk profile of suppliers" and "apply relevant restrictions for suppliers considered to be high risk" accordingly, including shutting them out of "key assets defined as critical and sensitive". It also recommends EU states avoid "major dependency on a single supplier" and "dependency on suppliers considered to be high risk".— AFP ■

Post-Brexit UK faces '3D chess game' in world trade

LONDON — The day after Brexit, "Global Britain" was meant to regain the buccaneering spirit of imperial times past and adopt a new vision for foreign trade. Reality has proven messier.

After its divorce from the European Union takes effect on Friday night, Britain will be free to negotiate its own trade pacts for the first time since joining the bloc in 1973, and will take an independent seat at the World Trade Organization.

For now, until a transition period expires on 31 December, Britain will remain inside the EU's customs union and single market, which takes nearly half of all British exports including cars, meat and pharmaceuticals, accounting for millions of jobs.

Japan chose Britain as its EU carmaking hub in the 1980s and is now said to be keen to strike a trade deal to maintain stability. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We are passionate believers in free trade. The UK has been for a long time," finance minister Sajid Javid said in Davos last week.

He vowed that a new deal with the EU itself "absolutely can be done" before the transition period ends, but also warned anxious British business chiefs to prepare for the two sides to diverge in their regulatory regimes.— AFP ■

Brexit sealed with final Brussels vote

LONDON — Britain's departure from the European Union was set in law Wednesday as London returned a signed treaty and MEPs prepared to vote to ratify the divorce.

After half-of-century of sometimes awkward membership, the United Kingdom will leave the EU at midnight Brussels time on Friday. The day began with Britain's permanent representative — soon to be ambassador to the EU — Tim Barrow handing back the withdrawal agreement.

This had already been signed by Brussels' top figures and had been sent to London for Prime Minister Boris Johnson to sign for the UK government.

"This step ensures that the UK has fulfilled its legal obligations regarding our exit from the EU," his office said.

Leaving the church

Then Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's Brexit Party and for two decades a thorn in Brussels' side in the European Parliament, addressed reporters.

"At 11:00pm UK time on January 31 will leave the European Union and we pass the point of no return," he declared at a triumphant news conference.

Farage said he had loved playing the "pantomime villain" in the Strasbourg assembly, feeding opposition to Europe at home with theatrical YouTube clips. But he insisted on the seriousness of Brexit, comparing its significance to Henry VIII taking Britain out of the Catholic church in 1534. "He took us out of the Church of Rome, and we are leaving the Treaty of Rome," he said, referring to the EU's 1957 founding document.— AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(32/2019-2020)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-194(19-20)	Geophone Element / FDU Sercel(428) / 4 ½" TRI Cone Rock Bit / 4 ½" Insert Bit / Battery (12V Dry Cell Battery)/ 2 x 23 PVC Insulated Cable Firing Wire (6) Items **{Retender for DMP/L-123(2019-2020)}**	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-195(19-20)	Upgrading and Maintenance of Geovation Processing Software with On Job Training **{Retender for DMP/L-123(2019-2020)}**	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-196(19-20)	Greenzyme (12) Drums **{Retender for DMP/L-113(2019-2020)}**	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **30 January 2020** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
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 28 February 2020**.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **28-2-2020, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (079N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (079N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE SYROS VOY. NO. (004 N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE SYROS VOY. NO. (004 N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LEADER SW

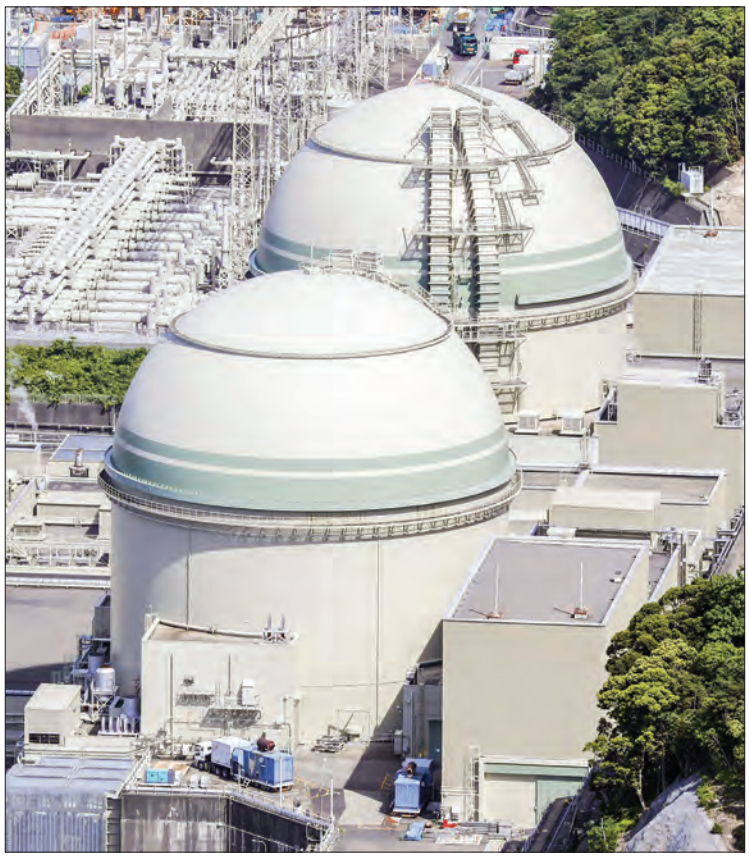
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LEADER SW VOY. NO. (2001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD
Phone No: 2301928

Kansai Electric to halt 2 reactors after missing antiterror deadline



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 30 May, 2019, shows the No. 3 (back) and No. 4 reactors at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Takahama nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture, central Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

OSAKA — Kansai Electric Power Co. said Wednesday it will suspend operations at two nuclear reactors after missing the industry regulator's deadline to build counterterrorism facilities.

The suspension of Nos. 3 and 4 reactors at the Takahama plant in Fukui Prefecture — for about five months from August and four months from October, respectively — will be the second such shutdown in Japan.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority had told Kansai Electric it must suspend operations if the facilities — to be at least 100 meters away from the reactors and finished within five years of the start of construction — were not ready around a week before the respective deadlines of August 3 and October 8.

Osaka-based Kansai Electric — which said construction would now be completed by November — added the move will result in its monthly fuel cost increasing by some 9 billion yen ($82.5 mil), as it will need to use alternative thermal power generation.

The company will meet required levels of power supply through procurement from other utilities, said Yoshinori Kondo, deputy head of nuclear business operations, at a press conference.

The NRA last April said it would not allow power companies to operate reactors if they failed to put in place sufficient antiterrorism measures by its deadlines.

Its requirements include an emergency control room, standby power supply, and reactor coolant pump to maintain cooling procedures via remote control and prevent the release of radioactive materials. —Kyodo News ■

Cabinet approves official amendments to National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill 2019

NEW DELHI — The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved official amendments in National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill to ensure necessary regulatory reforms in homoeopathy education.

An official release said the cabinet approved official amendments in the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill 2019 for amending the Homoeopathy Central Council (HCC) Act 1973. The bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

Homeopathy medicine. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The amendments will ensure necessary regulatory reforms in the field of Homoeopathy education and enable transparency and accountability for protecting the interest of the general public," the release said.

It said the commission will promote the availability of affordable healthcare services in all parts of the country.

The release said that the Act provides a solid foundation for the growth of medical education and practice in Homoeopathy, but various bottlenecks in the functioning of Council have been experienced "which has resulted in serious detrimental effects on medical education as well as delivery of quality Homoeopathy healthcare services". —AFP ■

Over 2 dozen Afghan security personnel killed as insurgency ascends in northern region

KABUL — More than two dozen security personnel including police and army have been killed in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan and Kunduz provinces over the past two consecutive days as the Taliban fighters have intensified activities in the country's northern region, officials said Wednesday.

At least 13 troopers including army and police personnel have been confirmed dead as the Taliban fighters stormed security checkpoints in Dasht-e-Archi district of the restive Kunduz province early Wednesday, a member of provincial council Safiullah Amiri has confirmed.

District governor Nasrudin Nazari Saadi has confirmed the fighting but insisted that the attacking militants have fled the area after four hours of fighting and leaving 15 bodied behind.

Zabihullah Majahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in contact with media claimed that more than 30 soldiers had been killed in the raid.—Xinhua ■

FILE: Afghan soldiers gather at a street in Kunduz after Afghan security forces "repelled" a coordinated Taliban assault on the northern city of Kunduz. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan's Nippon Travel launches crisis management center in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR — Japan's Nippon Travel Agency Co. has launched a crisis management center for travelers and expatriates in the capital of Malaysia, to cash in on an increasing awareness of crisis management among overseas Japanese firms.

The travel agency and its Singaporean arm, NTA Travel (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., as well as their partners including a crisis management firm, established Taskal Resources Sdn. Bhd. in Kuala Lumpur with a capital of some 1.8 million ringgit ($450,000) in January, said a Taskal statement released on Tuesday.

Taskal will support users in trouble 24 hours a day via its business chat app and multilanguage call center providing a one-stop solution.

The business-to-business service includes the immediate dispatch of local staff to the location of trouble in more than 100 countries, medical consulting and air ticket arrangements in emergencies.

The firm will market the service to Japanese firms with overseas workers, hoping to acquire 3,500 new account contracts a month in the initial business year.

"As Japanese people are expanding their fields overseas, Japanese companies' awareness of crisis management is increasing," Tadayuki Kabeta, representative of Taskal, told NNA on Monday.—Kyodo News

Sadness and hopes for future at EU's post-Brexit centre

Farmer Karin Kessler says the few dozen inhabitants have "very mixed feelings" about the new distinction. **PHOTO: AF**

GADHEIM (Germany) — In the tiny village of Gadheim in northern Bavaria, a lovingly laid out garden marked with regional, German and European flags marks the spot that will stand at the geographic centre of the European Union after Brexit.

Wrapped up in a woolly hat and scarf against the January cold lying over the bare fields, farmer Karin Kessler says the few dozen inhabitants have "very mixed feelings" about the new distinction.

When she heard in March 2017 that the EU's centre would shift to Gadheim, she believed it was a far-fetched April Fool's joke nine months after the British voted to quit.

But the spot — nine degrees, 54 minutes and seven seconds east and 49 degrees, 50 minutes and 37 seconds north — was calculated precisely by France's IGN geographic institute using a "centre of gravity" model taking into account the bloc's remaining territory.

"My son found the coordinates and sent me a picture on WhatsApp," Kessler remembers.

"I zoomed in and said, oh, that's on our neighbour's field. And he replied, no, it's on our land!"

Since then, the municipality and the local landscape gardening school have pitched in to help shape the plot marking the new centre, even during the many months of suspense over when Brexit would come — or whether it would at all.

"I definitely followed the debate in Britain, I was always getting the news on my phone. It was like a never-ending story," Kessler says.— AFP ■

Colombia in extradition quandary over lawmaker arrested in Venezuela

Colombia said it would seek the extradition of a fugitive former lawmaker through a request to Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido, who has been recognized by more than 50 countries as interim president. **PHOTO: AFP**

BOGOTA — Colombia said Tuesday it would seek the extradition of a fugitive former lawmaker arrested in Venezuela, though its refusal to recognize the government of President Nicolas Maduro presents a legal conundrum.

Maduro responded by calling the extradition request ridiculous and the country's attorney general, Tarek William Saab, announced that the former congresswoman, Aida Merlano, would remain under arrest.

Merlano was detained by Venezuelan security forces in the northwestern city of Maracaibo after illegally crossing into Venezuela, police there said on Monday.

She was serving a 15-year prison sentence for vote buying when she staged a spectacular escape in October after giving her guards the slip while visiting a dentist.

"When the competent judge requests the extradition of Mrs Aida Merlano, the national government will make the request before the legitimate government of Venezuela, headed by Juan Guaido," a Colombian government statement said. President Ivan Duque's right-wing administration is one of more than 50 countries to recognize Guaido as interim president.

Venezuela broke off relations with Bogota in February 2019 after Guaido's failed attempt to breach a border blockade and bring US food and medical aid into the country through Colombia. "I ask permission not to laugh. A real ridiculousness," Maduro said, during a meeting with ministers and governors broadcast on state TV.

Maduro remains in control of all state institutions in Venezuela, with the exception of the opposition-dominated but sidelined National Assembly, which is led by Guaido.

The real legislative power in the country lies with the Maduro-controlled Constituent Assembly. — AFP ■

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Syria army says retakes key northwest town

BEIRUT — Syria government forces recaptured a strategic highway town in the northwest from jihadist and allied rebels Wednesday, in the latest blow to the country's last major opposition bastion.

Maaret al-Numan, a former anti-government protest hotspot turned ghost town after weeks of bombardment, lies on a key highway connecting the capital to second city Aleppo.

The M5 highway has long been in the sights of the government, as it seeks to revive a moribund economy ravaged by almost nine years of war.

"Our forces managed in the past few days to stamp out terrorism in many villages and towns," including Maaret al-Numan, an army spokesman said.

In 2011, Maaret al-Numan was one of the first towns in the northwestern province of Idlib to rise up against the Damascus government.

The following year, it was captured by rebels fighting against President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

It is the latest town to fall in a Russian-backed offensive on the Idlib region this year. The region of some three million people is dominated by jihadists from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, but allied rebels are also present.

The government has slowly chipped away at the south of the bastion, despite several deals between government ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey intended to avert a broad military offensive.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Moscow on Wednesday of "not honouring these agreements".

'Cleanse all Syrian soil'

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the government's advance into the south of Idlib in recent weeks, seeking safety closer to the Turkish border further north.

The violence has displaced around 358,000 people in Syria's northwest since December, the United Nations says. — AFP ■

ဘုရား၊ ရဟန်း၊ သိမ်၊ ကျောင်း ဒါယိကာမကြီး

ဒေါ်ခင်သန်း

အသက် (၉၉) နှစ်

(ဦးဖိုးရှင်း-ဒေါ်သိန်းရင်)တို့၏ သမီး၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ ကျောက်တန်းမြို့နယ်၊ စင်မကော်စံပြကျေးရွာနေ (ဦးသောင်းညွှန့်)၏ ဇနီး၊ ဦးအုန်းမြင့် (ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီး-ငြိမ်း၊ ဒုတိယဗိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီး-ငြိမ်း)-ဒေါ်နုနုဆွေတို့၏ မွေးသမိခင် ကျေးဇူးရှင်၊ ဦးကျော်သီဟ-ဒေါ်ရွှေးအိအိဇင်၊ ကိုရဲနီထွန်း-မသီရိဆွေတို့၏ အဘွားဖြစ်သူ ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းသည် ၂၈-၁-၂၀၂၀ ရက် (အင်္ဂါနေ့)နံနက် ၁၀:၄၅ နာရီတွင် အမှတ် (၂) တပ်မတော် ဆေးရုံ (ခုတင်-၅၀၀) တွင် ကွယ်လွန် သွားပါသဖြင့် ၁-၂-၂၀၂၀ ရက် (စနေနေ့) နံနက် ၁၁:၀၀ နာရီတွင် ရေဝေးအအေးတိုက်မှ ရေးဝေးသုသန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင်မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါမည်။ (နေအိမ်မှကားများ နံနက် ၈:၀၀ နာရီတွင် ထွက်ခွာပါမည်။)

[ကွယ်လွန်သူအားရည်စူးခြင်း ၃-၂-၂၀၂၀ ရက် (တနလာ်နေ့) နံနက် ၈:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၁:၀၀ နာရီအထိ အမှတ် (ဘီ/8)၊ ပန်းကေ့ဗီလာအိမ်ယာ၊ ကျိုက်ဝိုင်းဘုရားလမ်းနှင့် မင်းခမ္မလမ်းထောင့်၊ မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ် နေအိမ်သို့ ရက်လည်ဆွမ်းကျွေးတရားတော်နာ ကြွရောက်ပါရန် ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။]

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

Myanmar announces squad for 3rd round of Women's Olympics qualifiers

Players from the Myanmar women's national football team during a physical training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar Football Federation recently announced the final player list for the Myanmar women's national football team for the third round of the 2020 AFC Women's Olympics qualifying tournament, scheduled to be held on 3 February at the Jeju World Cup Stadium in Seogwipo, South Korea.

The goalkeepers selected on the squad are Mya Phoo Ngon, May Zin New, and Thandera Oo.

The defenders picked on the team are Khin Myo Win, Chit Chit, Ei Yadanar Phyo, Khaing Thazin, Phyu Phyu Win, Zune Yu Ya Oo, and Aye Aye Moe.

The MFF has chosen midfielders Khin Malar Tun, Thin Thin Yu, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Nge Nge Htwe, and Nu Nu.

Strikers Win Theingi Tun, Khin Moe Wai, Myat Noe Khin, Yee Yee Oo, and July Kyaw have also made it to the final player list.

Myanmar has been placed in Group A for the tourney with host South Korea and Myanmar's ASEAN competitor, Viet Nam.

Myanmar will play against South Korea on 3 February at the Jeju World Cup Stadium in Seogwipo and it will take on Viet Nam on 6 February at the same venue.

South Korea will take on Viet Nam on 9 February at the same venue.

The two best teams from Group A and Group B will advance to the play-off round of the tourney, scheduled for 6 March (first leg) and 11 March (second leg). The two play-off round winners will get to compete in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yangon United's Mg Mg Lwin (green) tries to breach Indera SC's defense line during the 2nd leg of the AFC Cup 2020 play-offs yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: YUFC**

AFC Cup: Yangon United beats Indera SC, advances to group stage

YANGON United secured a place in Group F for the AFC Cup 2020 after beating Brunei club Indera SC yesterday in the 2nd leg of the play-offs for the championship at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Yangon dominated over Indera SC from the kick-off, with youth player Kaung Htet Soe and foreign players Emmanuel and Barfo creating goal chances.

At 12 minutes, Yangon United got a goal chance when the team's star player Mg Mg Lwin crossed over to Barfo, but Barfo's attempt missed the goal, hitting the goal bar.

But, as the ball bounced back, Kaung Htet Soe stepped in and kicked it directly into the net, scoring the first goal for Yangon United.

Yangon's lead did not last long with Indera SC scoring the equalizer over a penalty kick at 37 minutes. The goal was scored by Rodrigo Tosi.

The score was 1-1 at the end of the first half.

Yangon United increased their tempo during the second half. Emmanuel scored the second leading goal for the team at 63 minutes.

After the goal, Yangon United substituted Zin Min Tun and Than Paing in place of Kaung Htet Soe and Emmanuel.

Than Paing scored the third goal for Yangon United at 77 minutes off an assist from teammate Mg Mg Lwin.

With the win over Indera SC, Yangon United has secured a place in Group F for the AFC Cup 2020 and will face Vietnam club Ho Chi Minh City F.C., Singapore club Hougang United, and Laos club Lao Toyota in the group stage. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar Futsal League: Week-17 ends with big wins

THE Week-17 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League ended yesterday with huge victories for Victoria University College, On Doctor, Myanmar Imperial University, and GV futsal clubs. The matches took place at the National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon. While Victoria University College Futsal Club drubbed AMM Brothers Futsal Club by 19-1, On Doctor Futsal Club beat Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club by 8-1. The Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club beat Dream Team Futsal Club by a decisive 8-1. GV Futsal Club claimed a huge 10-0 win over Let Wel Thone Nara Futsal Club Meanwhile, Myoma JY Futsal Club beat Winner F.C. by 3-1. The match played between the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U-19 Futsal Team and Do Do Ko Ko Futsal Club proved to be a thrilling one, and ended with the teams conceding to a 2-2 draw.

An MFF U-19 team player (left) vies for the ball with a player from Do Do Ko Ko F.C. during the Week-17 match of the Myanmar Futsal League yesterday in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

With the conclusion of the Week-17 matches, the Victoria University College Futsal Club is still leading the scoring table with no losses, and the Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club is second with the same points, but with goal differences.

Meanwhile, the GV Futsal Club is in the third place, trailing the first and second placed teams by four points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)