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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint accepts the Letters of Credence from Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Ly Quoc Tuan at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of Viet Nam

MR LY QUOC TUAN, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:40 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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VP U Henry Van Thio inspects NyaungU airport upgrade, renovation of Bagan pagodas
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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with New Mon State Party Chairman Nai Han Thar and party at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives NMSP delegation in Nay Pyi Taw

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center, received a delegation from New Mon State Party led by its Chairman Nai Han Thar at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The two sides first introduced each other and the State Counsellor then discussed Myanmar's current need for peace, development and prioritizing ethnic affairs after NMSP have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and the need for cooperation for the upcoming session of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong to be successful in line with the decisions made at the 8th JICM meeting.

Next, the NMSP Chairman said they fully support the State Counsellor's aim to establish a Federal Union during the speech she made at the 4th anniversary of the signing of the NCA, ethnic races are putting more trust on the State Counsellor, and the need to overcome the obstacles in the political dialogues that have yet to reach any agreements.

After this, they discussed teaching the Mon language, regional development and the living conditions for NMSP members and their families. The State Counsellor then handed over gifts to the NMSP members and the NMSP Chairman gave presents to the State Counsellor in return. They then took a documentary photo.

Accompanying the State Counsellor at the meeting were NRPC Vice Chairman (1) Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Vice Chairman (2) Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Vice Chairman (3) Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Minister U Min Thu, Secretary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor.

Present at the meeting with the NMSP Chairman were Joint-Secretary Nai Win Hla, CEC members Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Nai Banya Lei and Military Leader Nai Banya Mae San. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw convenes second day meeting of 15th regular session

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw held its second day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday, with the answers of respective ministries to asterisked questions and approving the Tax Appeal Tribunal Bylaws.

The six newly substituted Tatmadaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw were sworn in and signed the swearing-in documents.

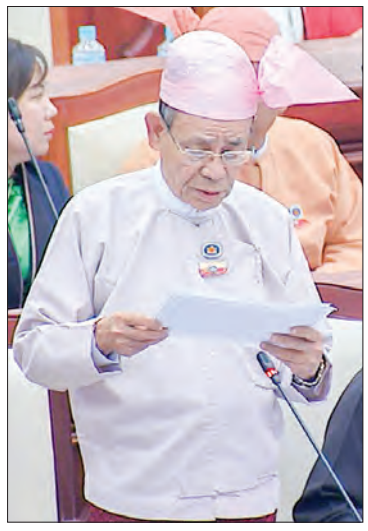
MP U Maung Myint from Mingin constituency asked about reapproving reasonable expenses for the civil service staff in remote areas of his constituency.

Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint said the government will review the list of remote and socially difficult access areas every two years, and that if the Sagaing Region's scrutinizing committee approved any area for this programme in accordance with 11 fundamental rules, then the Union-level scrutinizing committee will allow it.

MP U Aung Kyaw Zan from Pauktaw constituency asked for construction of a 33/11KV (5) MVA sub power station in Thabyaekan Village for electricity distribution to northern villages in his constituency.

MP U Maung Myint.
PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister U Tin Myint.
PHOTO: MNA



MP U Aung Kyaw Zan.
PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win replied that the sub power station and power lines will be constructed with available funds from the Union budget of 2023-2024 financial year.

MP U Khin Maung Latt from Myanaung constituency asked for construction of a sub power station in Inpin Town. The Deputy Minister also answered that it is included in the power network development project which will be implemented with the loan of Asian Development Bank by 2025.

MP Daw Mi Kun Chan from Paung constituency asked about revoking of long-term permits for hundreds of acres of land which were allowed to individuals or companies as more land areas are needed for expansion of villages and for allocation of agriculture and livestock farms for the locals; MP U Zarni Min from Shwegu constituency asked about the actual amount of rock extraction each year in his constituency, compared with the applied amount.

Deputy Minister U Tin Myint answered the questions.

MP U Tun Tun Naing from Kani constituency asked about power supply for the villages in his constituency under the phase-2 of National Electrification Project; MP U Kyaw Aung Lwin from Sedoktara constituency about repairing and replacing of a fragile generator from Kyeeon Kyeewa hydropower plant in Pwintbyu Township.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win answered the questions.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker invited submitting the names of MPs who want to submit recommendations on the fifth edition of amending bylaws of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaws and Region/State Hluttaw Election Bylaws.

Secretary of Bill Committee U Kyaw Soe Linn submitted 13 recommendations of his committee, regarding the Tax Appeal Tribunal Bylaws proposed by the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. The Hluttaw approved the recommendations with the consent of the the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry. The Pyithu Hluttaw unanimously passed the whole Tax Appeal Bylaws with amendments. The 3rd day meeting of 15th regular session will be organized on 3 February.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw accepts motion to debate minimum wage law

THE second-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 15th regular session took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where MPs raised starred questions and amendments to The Minimum Wage Law, 2013, were debated.

Firstly, uninducted Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representatives took and signed the oath of office in the presence of Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

Next, MP U Tin Wai of Taninthayi Region constituency 6 raised a question on what measures have been taken with regard to the Myeik Fisheries Department's decision to completely hand over prawn breeding ponds to Vantage Co Ltd without paying any form of compensation in Kyaukphyar Village-tract, Myeik District.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the decision for the incident was made then by the Myeik District Peace and Development Council and had paid crop compensation at a rate of K30,000 per acre. He said the Fisheries Department had paid K10 million to the General Administration Department for forming additional land, and the regional government will oversee its implementation. In addition, the K391,260,3 million received from sales was already added to the development fund for the fishery and livestock sector.

MP U Tin Wai.
PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.
PHOTO: MNA

MP U Hla Oo.
PHOTO: MNA

Next, MP U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether there were national policies in consideration to reestablish cotton fields in once-prosperous regions and resume the production of clothes and accessories.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that their ministry already have a strategic plan underway which, if implemented in 2030-2031 as scheduled, will produce 700,000 metric tons of cotton to clothe 60 million people across the country. He said they have considered the entire supply chain of planting cotton to producing end products and have a policy in the work to keep it operating efficiently.

Next, MP Dr Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 asked whether a community centre will be constructed in Monyo, Bago Region, to which Nay Pyi Taw council member U Nyi Tun replied that a 0.512 acre of land in Shwepyitha Ward, Thayawady District, is slated for building a community center and seven other businesses but the city development group has yet to acquire the required funding. He said they will include funding proposals on the 2020-2021 regional government fund proposals and act accordingly from there.

After the Q&A session, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Lal Min Htan read the committee's report the bill on animal health and development, which was sent back with amendments from the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Speaker called for the deliberation of the assembly and approved it.

Next, MP U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency 8, and is also Chairman of the Immigration and Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee, submitted the bill to amend The Minimum Wage Law 2013, and was seconded by MP Dr Khin Ma Gyi of Chin State constituency 8.

Upon asking the deliberation of the assembly and receiving no opposition, the Speaker announced that the bill has been accepted by the Amyotha Hluttaw for further scrutiny and is handed over to the bill committee.

The third-day meeting of the current Amyotha Hluttaw session will be held on 3 February.
—Aung Ye Twin

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

President U Win Myint accepts the Letters of Credence from the newly-accredited Ambassador of Canada Mr Francois Lafreniere at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of Canada

MR FRANCOIS LAFRENIERE, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

VP U Myint Swe emphasizes implementation of 14 plans to combat money laundering, financing of terrorism

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the opening address at the second coordination meeting of Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE second coordination meeting of Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday morning, with an opening speech of Committee's Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe and discussions by member of committees to implement 14 plans adopted in the Asia Pacific Joint Group meeting in Beijing, China.

The meeting was also attended by the Committee's Vice Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Sett Aung, Deputy Attoney-General U Win Myint, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force, the Directors-General, members of working committees and officials.

Vice President U Myint Swe said the meeting was aimed to support relevant ministries and organizations for their successful implementation in fighting against money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Myanmar became a member of Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering- APG on 9 March 2006. The successive governments effectively took measures against money laundering and financing of terrorism.

To enforce the measures, the President's Office formed the nine-member Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism assigned with nine duties led by the Vice President, and the 10-member working committee assigned with nine tasks led by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Sett Aung on 23 October 2019.

The Steering Committee also formed a five-member Studying and Scrutinizing Committee and a six-member Monitoring and Inspecting Committee on 4 January 2020, with issuing rules to follow inspection process of the committee.

The Vice President added the anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism must be implemented as it is included in the objectives of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

The Asia Pacific Joint Group meeting recently held in Beijing, China, adopted 14 plans for Myanmar. The Vice President advised all the relevant ministries need to design plans with specific time frames to successfully carry out these plans and to present monthly reports on developments to the Steering Committee, and to organize its meeting once in three months.

The Myanmar National Risk Assessment Executive Summary Report concluded that the country is being affected by money laundering and threats, and the relevant departments and organizations need to fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, corruption and bribery, environmental crimes and tax evasions.

The Vice President instructed to appoint implementation officers for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, while the financial investigation teams are to cooperate with local and international organizations. He continued saying that the relevant committee and departments to enforce the international standard laws, norms and recommendations.

Based on an assessment report on money laundering and financing of terrorism, and reciprocal evaluation report of member countries, the new Anti-Money Laundering Law is expected to release soon.

The Vice President also called the participants at the meeting for their suggestions to implement tasks and 14 plans adopted in the APJG meeting.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Sett Aung, the Steering Committee's Secretary, explained implementation of 14 plans from the APJG meeting. Union Minister U Soe Win discussed managements on confiscated state-property, illegal money transition and illegal currency flows.

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung presented banking management and implementation of rules for hundi in trade and credit transition. Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge, Myanmar Police Force Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Directors-General Daw Tin Nwe Soe, U Chan Aye and U Maung Maung Kyaw briefed on implementations of 14 plans by their organizations.

Vice President U Myint Swe coordinated the discussions before concluding the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects NyaungU airport upgrade, renovation of Bagan pagodas

VICE President U Henry Van Thio inspected upgrade of NyaungU airport for customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) facilities and renovation of quake-affected pagodas in Bagan.

During the trip, the Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and departmental heads.

They were welcomed by Acting Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Zar Ni Aung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min, Regional Government's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min, its Planning and Finance Minister U Myat Thu and officials in NyaungU.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the upgrading process of the NyaungU airport project in NyaungU yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the briefing room of NyaungU airport project, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung reported on upgrading the airport for international passenger flights and Bagan-Siam Reap direct flights between Myanmar and Cambodia.

Deputy Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation U Kyaw Soe explained facts about the airport and related matters including environmental impact assessment, noise levels, potential airlines, facilities and services.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung made discussions about the tourism development plans related to the new airport, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Health and Sports about healthcare services, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population U Aye Lwin about immigration processes and officials from Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Airways International about Bagan-Siem Reap direct flights.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio advised cooperation of relevant ministries for sustainable development of UNESCO World Heritage site Bagan and tourism development in the area, passenger lounge, installation of modern equipment for security, health and immigration checks at arrival and departure areas of the airport and setting up QR code for travel information.

After the meeting, the Vice President and party climbed up Nan Myint Tower, and enjoyed the scenic view of Bagan area.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of National Cultural Central Committee, and party arrived at Bagan Archaeological Museum, and heard reports on renovation works at the pagodas.

The Vice President also advised coordination of relevant departments and organizations in preservation and renovation of cultural heritages.

They later looked around renovation works at Myinpyagu, Thatbyinnyu, Sulamani and Dhammayangyi pagodas and contributed cash donatons.

The Vice President and party arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw by cars.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC, Facebook Team discuss 'Connecting with Communities'

UNION Election Commission and the Facebook Team discussed preparations for relaunching the commission's social media page ahead of 2020 General Election.

U Hla Thein, the Chairman of Commission, made an opening remark on the meeting under the topic 'Connecting with Communities'.

He said the UEC is using its website, state-owned television and newspapers to release news about the commission, and it is also publishing update news on the upcoming elections to prevent false and fake news.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech during the meeting with Facebook Team in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The commission launched UEC Facebook Page in December 2014 and suspended it in November 2017.

As the number of first time youth voters is expected to reach 4 million in 2020 General Election, the commission will relaunch its Facebook page to conduct civic education, voter education and speedy flows of information to the people. It will also form social media supervising committee and monitoring committee for its page.

Director of Public Policy in Southeast Asia from Facebook Team Mr Ratael Frankel extended greetings and the attendees discussed the use of Facebook for electoral purpose and community standards. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Ethnics Culture Festival 2020 opening to be broadcast live

MYANMAR Ethnics Culture Festival 2020 will have the unveiling of its archway and exhibition booths at 7:30 am on 1 February and its formal opening ceremony at 6 pm on the same day in Kyaikkasan Grounds of Yangon Region. The festival will be held from 1 to 7 February.

The unveiling ceremony will be broadcast live starting from 7:15 am and the opening ceremony at 5:45 pm on the TV channels MRTV, MITV, NRC, Skynet Up To Date, Channel 9, Fortune TV, DVB, Myanma Radio and the Facebook pages of MRTV Radio, Ministry of Information, MRTV and Myanmar Digital News on the same day.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, committee's chairpersons hold coord meeting

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker and chairpersons of committees held Coordination Meeting (1/2020) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening remark, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the term of second Hluttaw has reached 4th anniversary on 31 January, and MPs performed their duties of legislations, checks and balances and representations to the public during this period, with passing 124 laws in the second Hluttaw, totaling 356 laws with the first Hluttaw.

He also called for cooperation in unity to overcome all the challenges and difficulties.

The chairpersons of the committee and the Head of Hluttaw Capacity Building Advisory Group discussed bills handled by the relevant committees, complaint letters and findings and recommendations in reports.

The meeting was concluded after the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker coordinated the discussions.

It was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein, chairpersons of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Head of Hluttaw Capacity Building Advisory Group, secretaries of committees and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the opening speech at the coordination meeting (1/2020) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, and committee chairpersons at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint addresses the meeting of oversight committee on car imports and related activities in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Commerce discusses auto imports

THE Oversight Committee on Car Imports and Related Activities held meeting No. (1/2020) at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

Committee Chairman and Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint said they had announced the model year regulation for car imports in 2020 with Notification No. 60/2019 on 31 October, 2019. He said they also issued Notification No. (2/2020) and (3/2020) to ensure companies, sales centres and showrooms are done so systematically. He urged attendees to discuss the challenges departments face in importing cars.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Union Minister.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoALI prepares for FAO Regional Conference

MINISTRY of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized a preparative meeting for the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) which will be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 17 to 20 February.

The preliminary meeting of national-level held at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw was attended by FAO Representative in Myanmar Ms Xiaojie Fan, MoALI's Deputy Director General from the Department of Planning Dr Thandar Kyi, directors and officials from relevant departments and organizations.

At the meeting, they discussed the state of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region (including future prospects and emerging issues), preparing agriculture for a productive future in the face of increasing water scarcity, building resilience of small-scale fisheries to ensure food security and nutrition in the Asia and Pacific, building sustainable and resilient food systems in the region and leveraging digital agriculture in implementing the goals of sustainable development.

The findings from this preliminary meeting will be discussed at the APRC 35 where ministers and senior officials from Asia and Pacific countries will find solutions on addressing current and emerging regional trends and challenges.—Than Oo (Lay Myat Hnar)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

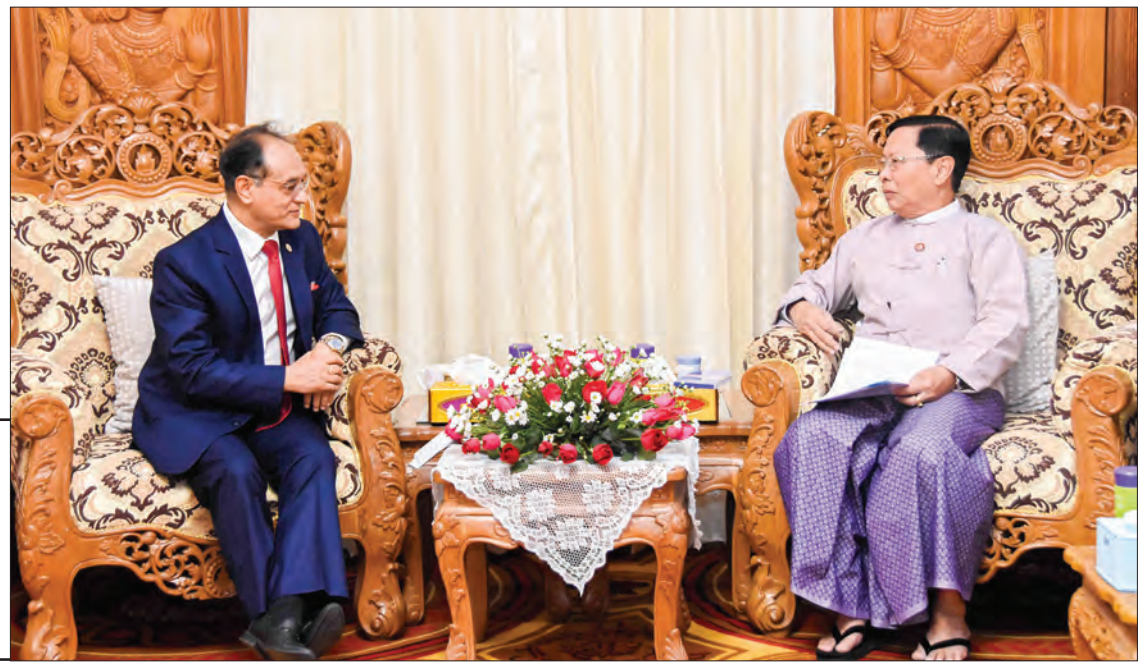
Deputy Director General Dr Thandar Kyi, FAO Representative in Myanmar Ms Xiaojie Fan and officials holds a meeting for the preparation of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) which will be held from 17 to 20 February 2020 in Thimphu, Bhutan. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Religious Affairs Minister receives Nepali Ambassador

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhim K. Udas at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed to hold the International Buddhist Conference and Buddha Day Ceremony in Nepal and to hold the 60th Anniversary of Nepal-Myanmar Diplomatic Relations.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim K. Udas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with a delegation led by UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives UNSG's Special Envoy

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener and party at the former's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting discussed implementation of recommendations in the Independent Commission of Enquiry(ICOE) report, preparing third report on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), development in peace-making process, bill for preventing violence against women and enforcing child rights law.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Invitation for BIMSTEC Flag and Logo Contest
(Cash Award: US$ 3000)

Duration for submitting designs : From 15 February to 15 March 2020.

- Any Myanmar citizen (individual or group) can participate in the contest.
- Contestants can get reference at the BIMSTEC website: www.bimstec.org.
- Submission forms and detail facts about the contest is available at the web link: http://bimstec.org/?page_id=2600 starting from 15 February.
- For further information, contact the Sub-division Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 067-3412447 in office hour.

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Local, foreign media gather news in Maungtaw

JOURNALISTS from local and foreign media groups gathered news in Ywama, Myoma Zetitaung, Thityin and Tatyar villages in Buthidaung Township yesterday. They met and interviewed village administrator and local people.

In the afternoon, they went to Kanyinchaung Economic Zone in Maungtaw. Maungtaw Township Administrator, and officials from the economic zone detailed about the zone and answered the questions raised by media groups. The media group also collected the information in the economic zone.

In the evening, they arrived new Aungbala Village, which is constructed by the donation of India, in Maungtaw and interviewed the villagers.

The media group includes journalists from Frontier Myanmar, Black Night Media, Al Jazeera English, BBC, RFA, MRTV and MITV. That is 35th times of media personnel visiting Maungtaw since December 2016. —Han Lin Naing (MNA)

(Translated by TTN)

Journalists conducting interview with local residents during their trip to a village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union NREC Minister receives Nepali AMB

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win received Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim K Udas at his ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on the preparation for the Sagarmatha Sambadd – A Global Dialogue to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in April, Myanmar's processes for environmental conservation and climate change, and cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Ohn Win meets with Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim K Udas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Education Minister attends 2020 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses the event of the 2020 International Commemoration Day in the memory of victims of the Holocaust in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended the 2020 International Commemoration Day in the memory of victims of the Holocaust at Arts Hall of University of Yangon yesterday morning.

The Union Minister made a speech at the event, saying the term 'Holocaust' means brutal killing and discrimination in societies which should be prevented not to happen again.

He added the UN Resolution 60/7 adopted on 1 November 2005 urged member States to develop educational programmes that will inculcate future generations with the lessons of the Holocaust in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide.

The Union Minister also recounted the killing of Jews between 1943 and 1945 in the history of Second World War.

As a member country of the United Nations, Myanmar organizes annual commemorative event of Holocaust at the University of Yangon with the supports of the UN and embassies of Germany, France and Israel to share knowledge on this catastrophe, and educate for peaceful existing among diverse cultures, races and faiths.

Dr Stephan Paul Jost, the WHO Representative to Myanmar, read out the message sent by the UN Secretary General, followed by the remarks of Israeli, German and Czech ambassadors and two Myanmar men played the song titled 'When the Heart Cries'.

The ceremony was concluded with lighting candles, screening documentary video and commemorative songs.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union SWRR Minister receives UN Special Envoy

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar, Ms Christine Schraner Burgener, and delegation at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on resettling IDPs, sharing details of the master plan to close down temporary camps to relevant state/regional governments, representatives, CSOs and INGOs, future implementation of the plan, clearing explosive mines as an important part of the resettlement process, coordination to begin closing temporary camps in Kachin and Rakhine states, setting laws, bylaws and policies to implement the rights of women and children, current processes for implementing peace, stability and development in Rakhine State and continued assistance from ASEAN, negotiations between the two countries to begin accepting IDPs who fled to the other country, humanitarian and rehabilitation for IDPs in Rakhine State, the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry formed by the Myanmar government and its future processes, and having the international community understand Myanmar's genuine efforts.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with the UNSG's Special Envoy to Myanmar, Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

31 JANUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Coronavirus outbreak in China a wake-up call

SEVENTEEN years after the SARS outbreak of 2002-2003, the first global pandemic of the 21st century, another novel zoonotic coronavirus has been reported from Wuhan, China.

Again, initial human cases have been traced to a local market where a variety of live animals were sold.

During the SARS outbreak, about 11 per cent of those infected with the virus had died. Scientists linked the early cases of SARS to wildlife markets and restaurants in Guangdong, China, after researchers found SARS-like coronaviruses in animals, including masked palm civets and a raccoon dog.

> . . .we have to hope that the coronavirus outbreak serves as a wake-up call for the regulation of wildlife trade and animal health, and the safety of food and biosecurity in markets.

But, as yet, there is no scientific evidence that the new virus has been isolated from any animal although a recent report stated that "15 environmental specimens collected in the western section (of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market) were positive for 2019-nCoV virus through RT-PCR testing and genetic sequencing analysis". The report continues: "Despite extensive searching, no animal from the market has thus far been identified as a possible source of infection."

The Wuhan virus outbreak has reminded us of the Salmonella virus detected in raw chicken at markets in Yangon last year. The finding, disclosed at the 48th Myanmar Health Research Congress last year, had sparked concern among people.

But, the virus is no longer a threat to Myanmar people who cook meat well.

Salmonella infection (salmonellosis) is a common bacterial disease that affects the intestinal tract. Salmonella bacteria typically live in animal and human intestines and are shed through feces. Humans become infected most frequently through contaminated water or food.

The current concerns of countries, especially those neighboring China, such as Myanmar, involve the Wuhan virus outbreak.

Some wildlife species, including bats and snakes, were, at first, selected as the source of the virus. But, animals testing positive for the virus may not be the source of the current outbreak.

Nevertheless, we have to hope that the coronavirus outbreak serves as a wake-up call for the regulation of wildlife trade and animal health, and the safety of food and biosecurity in markets.

Severe action should be taken against the sale of meat without a proper production chain in place and illegal wildlife trade.

Action is urgently needed to protect human health and the environment.

Early reporting, isolation, diagnosis "best way to contain coronavirus": official

Early identification, reporting, isolation, diagnosis and treatment is the best and most effective way to contain the pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus . . . .

Wu Hao (head of the Fangzhuang community health service center in Beijing)

THE general public should reach a consensus that early identification, reporting, isolation, diagnosis and treatment is the best and most effective way to contain the pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus, a health official said in Beijing on Wednesday.

With intensive media coverage of the situation, the public has been aware of the urgency of curbing the outbreak, but efforts are still needed to mobilize the whole society to conduct health management in communities, Wu Hao, head of the Fangzhuang community health service center in Beijing, said at a press conference held by the National Health Commission.

"Such comprehensive prevention and control measures are the best and most effective way to prevent the virus from further spreading and ultimately contain the outbreak," Wu said.

The official also introduced practices of joint prevention work, saying local governments have promoted multiple measures to help residents recognize that the temporary inconvenience to their daily lives is for the good of them and their families and cooperating is their social responsibility.

Information technologies have been used in community-level health consulting, monitoring, and epidemic prevention, and online psychological consultants are also available to help ease anxiety amid the virus outbreak, according to Wu.

In many neighborhoods in Beijing, family doctors have teamed up with neighborhood committees to better manage the health of residents, and family doctors have launched effective checks of suspected patients to avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, said Wu.

In Fengtai district, a family doctor mobile application is providing health information and sending messages to residents' mobile phones.

All these measures have helped residents recognize that isolation and medical observation at home are necessary parts of epidemic prevention and control, Wu said.

Spread to all of the country's 31 provincial-level regions

China's Tibet Autonomous Region has confirmed its first case of a patient with a new pneumonia-causing coronavirus, health authorities said Thursday, meaning the infection has spread to all of the country's 31 provincial-level regions.

The death toll across China from the new virus has increased to 170, including nearly 130 in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, while at least 7,800 cases of infection have been identified, official media reported.

Against the backdrop of the continuing rise in confirmed cases, the Chinese Football Association said Thursday it will postpone the Feb. 22 start of the domestic league's season to protect the health of fans, players and coaches.

The coronavirus, known to be transmitted between humans, has already spread to other Asian nations such as Japan and South Korea, as well as North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

Feng Zijian (C), deputy head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Wu Hao (R), head of the Fangzhuang community health service center in Beijing, attend a press conference held by the National Health Commission in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 29, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A man disinfects a vehicle at an entrance to Qianzhangjiazhuang Village in Jiangshan Town of Laixi City, east China's Shandong Province, Jan. 28, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In the past two days through Thursday, Finland, the Philippines and India reported their first confirmed cases of the mysterious and deadly coronavirus, as the number of infected pneumonia patients in China has, in recent days, climbed by more than one thousand each day.

The Chinese government has been struggling to prevent the expansion of the virus, saying supplies of personal protection equipment for medical experts have become tight.

All eyes are on whether the World Health Organization will declare a public health emergency of international concern over the current situation at an urgent meeting convened on Thursday.

The new virus is believed to have begun spreading late last year in Wuhan, around 1,000 kilometers south of Beijing. The city is a major business and transit hub with a population of some 11 million.

Zhong Nanshan, head of a high-level expert team in China's government-run National Health Commission, was quoted Wednesday by the state-run Xinhua News Agency as saying the new coronavirus originated in bats.

The Chinese pulmonologist, who combated the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, said the new coronavirus has the same origin as a virus found in a type of bat in 2017, the news agency reported.

In Hubei Province, whose capital city is Wuhan, the number of deaths stemming from the new virus has risen to 162 as of Thursday morning, up 37 from the previous day.

But some types lead to more serious, sometimes deadly respiratory diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome or Middle East respiratory syndrome, known as SARS and MERS, respectively.

The SARS pandemic sickened 8,098 people and killed 774 globally.

Incubation period at around 5 days

The period between exposure to the new coronavirus that originated in China and symptoms is 5.2 days on average, but varies greatly among patients, according to one of the largest studies yet published on the deadly epidemic.

While admitting that the estimate is "imprecise," the Chinese team behind a paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on Wednesday said their findings support a 14-day medical observation period for people exposed to the pathogen.

The World Health Organization said in an update Monday that the incubation period ranged from between two and 10 days before symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath and acute respiratory distress emerged.

The incubation period estimate in the new study was based on 10 patients.

The researchers also studied the virus's first 425 patients in order to establish two other fundamental characteristics of the outbreak.

Since it first emerged in Wuhan in December, the number of cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus doubled every 7.4 days, the researchers wrote.

They also estimated that each infected person then infected an average of 2.2 other people, a figure known as the basic reproductive number, or R0 (pronounced "R-naught").

The figure doesn't predict how big an epidemic will eventually be, but is a useful measure nonetheless. In this case, it is relatively low: close to the seasonal flu (around 1.3), much less than the measles (12 or higher) and comparable to the SARS-epidemic of 2002-2003 (3).

The team also found that human-to-human transmission had been occurring among close contacts since the middle of December 2019.

The Chinese findings echo research by a team in the Netherlands that found an incubation period of 5.8 days, with large variations.

REFERENCES:

Xinhua; Kyodo; AFP News Updates

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

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

Maintain unity of all ethnic brothers
Remember Union Day!

Living on the same land and drinking the same water,
We are all Union nationals of the same blood.

A hundred fruits from the same stem,
Our Union built in brotherhood.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 30th January, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the West Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31st January, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, 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 (4-6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated rain in Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st January, 2020: Partly cloudy .

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st January, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st January, 2020: Partly cloudy .

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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.

Locals strive to develop other industries in bid to preserve Mogok's natural resources

WHILE Mogok is known for its mining of precious gems as its main industry, local elders are teaming up with relevant government departments to improve their travel industry in order to reduce damaging the natural environment.

Restrictions for international travellers to Mogok were relaxed in September 2018 and nearby villages of Bernard, Panlin and Kaukpyathat were also allowed entry in 2019, contributing to increased travel in the region.

Mogok elder Daw Phyu Phyu Myint said visits to Mogok increased noticeably in 2019, especially from domestic travellers, while international travellers mostly visit Bernard Village. She said while mining had been the main industry since their ancestor's time, she wished for development in an alternative industry to reduce dependence on mining of precious gem resources.

She said this will conserve the national environment and preserve the natural resources for years to come. Thus, the entire city has decided to partner with government departments to develop other sources of income, said Daw Phyu Phyu Myint.

Photo shows the panorama view of Mogok which is also known as Ruby Land.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAHN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Currently, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is working with local residents to fix roads leading to Mogok and Bernard and construct lodgings for travellers, while sharing information on cooking regional foods that are healthy for international travellers. Local residents expect this to raise travel to their region in 2020.

U San Yu, Deputy Director of the Mandalay Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, said Mogok is famously known as Ruby land and the local government is working with the people to properly manage the region and develop tourism. He said they are also preserve ring the traditions and culture of local ethnic races through developing human resources.

While international travellers used to be restricted entry into Mogok, the ban was lifted on the third week of September 2018 and further bans to surrounding villages, war cemetery and old ammunition storages in Bernard, Panlin and Kyaukpyathat were lifted on 31 January 2019. Over 1,400 international visitors entered Mogok in 2019.—Min Htet Aung (Mahn Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Motorcyclist killed in head-on collision with car in Seikpyu

A motorcyclist was killed after colliding head-on with a Probox car on 29 January near Gabagyi village, Seikpyu-Salin road in Seikpyu Township of Magway Region.

According to witness accounts, the Probox car was en route to Salin from Seikpyu, when it collided with a motorbike headed in the opposite direction. The driver of the car is yet to be identified. The motorcyclist has been identified as U Myo Nyunt Aung, 53.

The Probox driver fled from the scene of the accident. U Myo Nyunt Aung sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Chauk People's hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

The Seikpyu Township police have registered a case under Sections 304-A and 202 of the penal code, and have launched a search for the driver. —Ko Zwe (Anyar Myay)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Digital literacy training provided in 26 townships

AS part of a digital literacy initiative launched by Ooredoo Myanmar and Facebook, trainers visited remote areas near 26 townships across the country in the last two months of 2019 to educate people on using the internet safely and responsibly.

In the months of November and December, two vans carried trainers to villages in 26 townships: Hlegu, Taikkyi, Thanlyin, Thongwa, Kayan, Kawhmu, Dala, Htantabin, Twantay, Kungyangon, Uto, Kyauktan, Phaung Gyi, Shwepyithar, Bago, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Mingaladon, Satthwadaw, Wundwin, Thazi, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Myingyan, and Thaungtha.

The trainers educated mobile phone users in the areas about digital literacy. The training was conducted with the aim to strengthen the nationwide 'Internet 101' (Internet One on One) digital literacy campaign launched by Ooredoo Myanmar and Facebook.

"We are aware that, on the one hand, internet usage among Myanmar citizens has been increasing steadily, and on the other hand, it is very crucial for people to know how to use the internet safely and responsibly in order to get the best opportunities and avoid unnecessary consequences. That is why, Ooredoo has teamed up with Facebook to launch this 'Internet 101' digital literacy campaign to equip people with the basic knowledge on how to use the internet properly. As a committed partner to enriching people's digital lives, we are so pleased to see that the program worked very well, and we are hoping that this training will be reaching more people across the country in the coming years," said U Tint Naing Htut, head of corporate communications, Ooredoo Myanmar.

Ooredoo Myanmar launched the 'Internet 101' campaign in June, 2019 to raise awareness and increase the adoption of mobile internet in Myanmar. For the campaign, Facebook is serving as an enabler and Ooredoo Myanmar is driving the internet education program across the country. Training is being provided at exclusive Ooredoo retail points across the country, and according to statistics, as of September, 2019, more than 300,000 people have taken part in the digital literacy campaign.—GNLM

Early bloomers, low yields lift strawberry prices in PyinOoLwin

STRAWBERRIES began blooming earlier this harvesting season in PyinOoLwin and with low yields, cultivators are receiving about K8,000 per viss, marking a good start for this year's season.

January is when strawberries usually start growing in PyinOoLwin but this season saw them bloom early in December. In addition, the heavy rains during that period damaged most of the buds and reduced the production number, allowing cultivators to fetch an unusually high price for the first crops.

Ko Poe Thar, a strawberry farmer from Pinlain Thabyayay Village in PyinOoLwin Township, said the first strawberry crops usually fetched K6,000 per viss buy the wholesale buyers in Yangon and Mandalay were willing to pay K2,000 extra this year due to the low yield. He added that production would go up in February and March, provided there was no heavy rain. (1 viss=3.6 pounds)

With the recent influx of strawberries from China entering the Mandalay market has caused the price to drop to K4,000 per viss as of the last week of January. However, proliferate production in February is expected to fetch K3,000 per viss.

An acre of strawberry fields can produce about 1,500 viss from the start of the season to the end of April, yet this rate depends on the weather conditions, with the fruits preferring a drier season. Strawberry plantations can be the main source of income for most families in PyinOoLwin.

Strawberries don't like the cold, they produce more fruits in hot weather, said Ko Poe Thar. He added that the fields which produce them the earliest can get the highest price as the first wave but the price then drops to around K1,200 in March. However, they also usually rise back up to K2,000-K3,000 per viss at the end of the Thingyan Festival. — Min Htet Aung (Mahn Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Growers packaging fresh red strawberries to sell at the market in PyinOoLwin. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAHN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Rubber prices fall to K100 per lb in Mon State

A farm worker checks the quality of smoked rubber sheets at a rubber market in Thuwunnawady in Mon State. **PHOTO: KHONE (WIN PA)**

A slight decline in the rubber market has led to prices falling to K100 per pound this season compared with last November. Local farmers from villages near Thuwunnawady, Thaton Township, Mon State said they are not happy with the fall in price.

"We earned over K700 per pound for ribbed smoked sheets (RSS). When we deducted labour charges and other general costs, there was no profit for us. Additionally, we can produce only a little rubber. Some of the rubber farms have been closed because of insufficient supply of labour. And, we could not get rubber sheets like earlier. So, we are selling rubber at the price that is offered," said a local rubber farm owner.

"We are not sure why the price of rubber has declined. When the rubber season started, rubber was being sold for over K800 per pound. Now, the price has declined as the demand has fallen significantly. The prices of rubber RSS-1,2,3 are moving up and down daily. So, we have to write down daily prices on the board to keep track. Although the production of rubber has also declined, around 10,000 pounds of rubber is being sold daily. The cost of cultivation is high, which pulls down profits," he added.

Rubber is grown mostly in Mon State. The state mainly produces raw rubber. But, locals who grow rubber on a manageable scale have not been able to produce the same quality rubber. So, the sale has declined as it depends on quality.

Of late, only a few people have shown interest in growing rubber in the town. —Khone (Win Pa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Domestic, foreign enterprises permitted in current FY create over 100,000 jobs

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic and foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and other region and state investment committees created over 100,000 jobs in the first four months of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

During the October-January period, 100 foreign enterprises were issued permits and endorsements, creating about 80,000 jobs for locals. The existing foreign investment projects also recruited more than 12,000 new local employees, as per data from the DICA.

Additionally, 39 domestic enterprises created 5,000 jobs for local people in the current FY. Also, more than 1,800 people were recruited by existing domestic enterprises.

The existing domestic and foreign businesses employed more than 2,600 expatriate workers.

Between 1 October 2019 and 24 January 2020, FDI of US$2.08 billion flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises. With the inclusion of $76.14 million in investments in the special economic zone, the FDI totaled $2.156 billion.

Domestic investments by Myanmar citizens, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, reached K748.3 billion including $134.469 million as of 24 January in the current financial year, according to a press release issued by the MIC.

During the period, 39 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with an estimated capital of over K647.68 billion including $113.545 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

China coronavirus hurts Muse watermelon trade

WATERMELON prices are dropping over coronavirus worries, leading to losses for Muse traders.

"Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, a ton of watermelons fetched K800,000. Now, the price has plummeted to K300,000 per ton," according to Lin Tun Thit fruit depot in Muse.

"Recent outbreak of Coronavirus has hit China's watermelon demand and led to a drastic reduction in price. Traders are suffering because of this. The prevailing watermelon price is quite different from the price quoted before the virus outbreak. Earlier, a 12-wheeled truck carrying watermelons was valued at K10 million. At present, the price has dropped to K4 million. We see huge losses on account of this," said Daw Nway Nway from the Lin Tun fruit depot in Muse.

Some border trade zones have suspended trading owing to the coronavirus, said traders, adding they are concerned about the virus.

A Myanmar fruit body has also notified growers about the trade restriction, and asked them not to harvest fruits immediately and to consider market conditions first.

Watermelons and muskmelons top the list of fruits exported to China, and the export volume has been increasing significantly year over year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar currently exports around 800,000 tons of watermelons per year.

The volume of watermelon exports was estimated at 500,000 tons in the 2014-2015 financial year, more than 560,000 tons in the 2015-2016FY, and more than 170,000 tons in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September).

Watermelons and muskmelons are primarily grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan State. Myanmar's watermelons and muskmelons have grabbed a large market share in China. — Salai Vanro Than (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Thailand arrests two for 'fake news' posts on coronavirus

BANGKOK — Thai authorities arrested two people for posting "fake news" about the coronavirus as a senior official on Thursday warned internet users to think twice before sharing incorrect information about the pathogen.

The Southeast Asian country has detected 14 cases, the second-highest number outside China where 170 have been killed since the outbreak emerged in the city of Wuhan.

Thailand's digital economy minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta told AFP that a man and woman were charged with violating the computer crimes act — which can carry up to five years in prison — for separate social media posts about the SARS-like virus.

One was a misleading video clip while another promoted false information about an alleged case in a beachside city.

"They already admitted that they created fake news," Buddhipongse said, adding that more suspects are being investigated and others should take note.

"You better think a lot more and look for sources of where news comes from."

The internet has unleashed a deluge of misinformation over the virus, from misleading death tolls to quack remedies and even prejudice against Chinese people.

Thailand, which relies heavily on Chinese tourism, has come under a barrage of criticism online for its perceived slow response to the crisis.

But it has also ramped up efforts to monitor misinformation online, arguing it is trying to avoid panic.— AFP ■

Thailand has so far detected 14 cases of the new coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

China virus fears prompt homemade barricades and online shaming

BEIJING — Villages and apartment complexes across China are taking the fight against a deadly viral epidemic into their own hands with improvised barricades and the online shaming of potentially-infected strangers.

The government has taken drastic measures to contain the spread of 2019-nCoV since it emerged at the end of December in a market where wild animals were sold.

More than 50 million people in and around the epicentre of Wuhan have been confined to their cities, while nationwide travel has been heavily curtailed.

Alarmed by daily reports of new cases across the country, ordinary citizens and local officials have buttressed these efforts with their own blockades, fearful that travellers from Hubei will infect their communities.

In one Beijing residential compound, a motley stack of shared bicycles have been haphazardly woven together and wired to a wooden ladder, blocking a side gate and forcing visitors to register with guards at the main entrance.

Staff at the Zhongfangli complex said the bike barrier was built at the start of the week to help them control the flow of people into the compound and stop the virus spreading to residents inside. Photos of homemade roadblocks elsewhere in China have been shared widely on the microblogging platform Weibo.

In one image, a man wearing a surgical mask and brandishing a traditional martial arts weapon squats on a barricade in front of a village. A hand-written sign on the structure reads: "Outsiders forbidden from entering".—AFP

Unofficial checkpoints have been set up outside villages – like this one in Zouping – to stop outsiders bringing in the deadly virus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Three Japanese evacuated from Wuhan test positive for virus

Ambulances arrive at Haneda airport in Tokyo to meet the second charter flight evacuating Japanese citizens from the Chinese city of Wuhan. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — Three Japanese evacuated from the epicentre of a deadly new coronavirus outbreak have tested positive for the illness, the government said Thursday, as it faced criticism for the country's minimal quarantine measures.

The new cases were announced as another evacuation flight from Wuhan landed in Tokyo, and the government confirmed a second local case of apparent person-to-person transmission of the virus.

More than 400 people have now been repatriated from Wuhan, the centre of the outbreak that has killed 170 people and infected thousands.

But while returnees praised the government's effort to bring them home quickly, there has been criticism of Japan's decision to allow the arrivals to "self-quarantine".—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

China reports 7,711 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus pneumonia, 170 deaths

BEIJING – Chinese health authorities announced Thursday that 7,711 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus had been reported in 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps by the end of Wednesday. A total of 170 people have died of the disease.

The National Health Commission said in its daily report that 1,370 patients remained in critical conditions, and 12,167 people were suspected of being infected with the virus as of the end of Wednesday. A total of 124 people had been discharged from hospital after recovery. Wednesday saw 1,737 new confirmed cases, including the first confirmed case in Tibet Autonomous Region, 4,148 new suspected cases, and 38 deaths – 37 in Hubei Province and one in Sichuan Province.–Xinhua ■

Thousands held in cruise ship in Italy over feared coronavirus cases

ROME – More than 6,000 tourists were under lockdown aboard a cruise ship at an Italian port on Thursday after two Chinese passengers were isolated over fears they could be carrying the coronavirus.

Samples from the two passengers were sent for testing after three doctors and a nurse boarded the Costa Crociere ship in the port of Civitavecchia to tend to a woman running a fever, the local health authorities said. Costa Crociere confirmed the ship, carrying some 7,000 people in total including the crew, was in lockdown.

It came as China reported its biggest single-day jump in coronavirus deaths and global fears deepened over a spread of the disease, with at least 15 countries confirming infections.

Costa said a 54-year old woman from Macau "was placed in solitary confinement in the on-board hospital last night with her travel companion", and the crew was following instructions from the health ministry.– AFP

Stock markets retreat as virus death toll surges

LONDON — Stock markets retreated Thursday on growing concerns over the economic impact of the new coronavirus that has killed 170 people in China after a spike in the number of deaths.

Tech stocks and airlines were among key losers as the World Health Organization called an urgent meeting on whether to declare a global health emergency over the virus.

Around 1100 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down 0.7 percent. Investors were looking ahead also to a policy update due 1200 GMT from a Bank of England meeting that could see an interest rate cut on the eve of Brexit to help boost Britain's stalled economy.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 index shed 1.0 percent and the Paris CAC 40 slumped 1.2 percent.

"With the coronavirus death toll leaping... the European markets reverted back to panic mode, quickly unravelling the rebound managed in the last couple of sessions," said Connor Campbell, analyst at Spreadex trading group.

The pound dropped also, with investors "clearly anxious about this afternoon's knife edge Bank of England meeting", he added.

Traders' main focus remained the virus and increased concerns over its spread weighed heavily also on oil prices Thursday, with benchmark Brent crude sliding more than two percent.

The WHO, which initially downplayed the severity of the disease, has warned all governments to be "on alert" as China reported 1,700 new cases of the SARS-like virus that has infected 7,700 people and been detected in at least 15 countries.

Airlines around the world are either suspending or paring back services in and out of China following cases of human-to-human transmission outside the country, and manufacturers have also been cutting their Chinese operations. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the coronavirus posed a new risk to growth in China and elsewhere.—AFP

US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the coronavirus posed a new risk to growth in China and elsewhere. **PHOTP : AFP**

BoE slashes UK growth forecast on eve of Brexit

LONDON — The Bank of England on Thursday slashed its estimates for UK economic growth this year and next, one day before the country exits the European Union.

It came as BoE policymakers, in governor Mark Carney's final monetary policy meeting, voted to keep its main interest rate at 0.75 per cent by a 7-2 majority.

Some analysts had expected Carney to have joined the ranks of those demanding a quarter-point rate cut to 0.50 per cent.

The minutes of the latest meeting showed that two doveish policymakers had cited "downside risks" to the bank's projections arising from "Brexit uncertainties and a weaker world outlook".

While not agreeing to a rate cut to help prop up Britain's economy, the central bank did predict troubles ahead.

The British economy would expand by only 0.8 percent this year, the BoE said, down sharply on its previous 1.2-per cent forecast.

In 2021, gross domestic product was expected to grow by 1.4 per cent, down on November's estimate of 1.7 per cent. Britain departs the European Union on Friday ahead of an 11-month transition period during which time Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government will seek to strike new trade deals with the EU and countries worldwide. Carney — soon to become UN special envoy on climate action and finance — steps down as BoE chief in March.— AFP

UK car output crashes in 2019 on bumpy road to Brexit

LONDON — Britain's car output crashed last year to a near-decade low, hit by delays to Britain's exit from the European Union, industry data showed Thursday.

The nation's production dived 14.2 percent to 1.3 million vehicles in 2019 from the previous year, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) revealed on the eve of Britain's long-awaited departure from the EU.

That was the lowest annual production level since 2010, according to the SMMT industry organisation that also blamed weak consumer confidence worldwide and poor demand for high-polluting diesel cars.

Factory shutdowns in the face of last year's Brexit delays had a "marked" impact on the sector, it noted.

"Output was affected by multiple factors, including weakened consumer and business confidence at home, slower demand in key overseas markets, a number of significant model production changes and a shift from diesel across Europe," the SMMT said.

"Factory shutdowns in the spring and autumn, timed to mitigate expected disruption arising from the anticipated departure of the UK from the EU on 29 March and 31 October, also had a marked effect."

The nation's EU departure was originally scheduled for March 29, 2019, but was then delayed three times owing to deadlock in Britain's parliament. It will now occur finally on Friday.

Going forward, SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes repeated the industry's call for a free trade agreement that includes no tariffs, to help carmakers. Britain's car industry, which is largely foreign-owned, employs around 160,000 people in the country and is eager for a post-Brexit Brussels trade deal that will safeguard its future.— AFP ■

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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 NEPTUNE CROWN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NEPTUNE CROWN VOY. NO. (07/19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (033N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (033N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

PM Modi pays tribute at Gandhi Smriti on Mahatma Gandhi's 72nd death anniversary

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Smriti on his 72nd death anniversary.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi here. Earlier today, President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Modi along with other leaders, had paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat.

Offering tributes to the late leader, Prime Minister Modi earlier today said the ideals of Bapu will continue to inspire people to build a strong, capable and prosperous country.

"A tribute to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary. The ideals of Bapu will continue to inspire us to build a strong, capable and prosperous New India," PM Modi tweeted in Hindi.

President Ram Nath Kovind visited Rajghat to pay homage to the Mahatma.

"In his final sacrifice, Gandhiji left a constant reminder for us: Unconditional love, especially for The Other. I am confident, more and more of us will discover Gandhiji's true message," the official twitter account of Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gandhi Smriti on Thursday. **PHOTO :ANI**

Mahatma Gandhi, the man who led India to freedom from the British colonial rule, was assassinated on 30 January, 1948. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, who was against Gandhi's idea of partition. Bapu, as he was lovingly called, played one of the most prominent roles in India's freedom struggle through non-violence and peaceful ways.

In India, five days are declared as Martyrs Day to honour those who laid down their lives for the country. Of these, the first day is 30 January, when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in 1948.—ANI ■

former emperor briefly loses consciousness

TOKYO — Japan's former emperor Akihito, who abdicated last year, temporarily lost consciousness and collapsed at his residence this week, but medical checkups found "no abnormalities", the government said Thursday.

The 86-year-old was examined by court doctors after Wednesday's incident, an official at the Imperial Household Agency told AFP. Akihito "had an MRI examination Thursday morning but doctors found no abnormalities", the official said, adding doctors would continue to monitor his condition. In July, Akihito suffered temporary cerebral anaemia, a condition involving insufficient blood supply to the brain. The former monarch has previously had surgery for prostate cancer and heart problems. He shocked the country in 2016 when he signalled his desire to step down after nearly three decades in the job, citing his age and health problems.—AFP ■

Moonstruck: Japan billionaire cancels hunt for lunar love

TOKYO — A Japanese billionaire who launched a public search for a girlfriend willing to join him on a trip into space abruptly cancelled the hunt on Thursday, despite attracting nearly 30,000 applicants.

Yusaku Maezawa earlier this month said he was looking for a mate willing to join him when he heads on a trip around the Moon in 2023 or later, as the first private passenger on a voyage offered by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

His search for a soulmate was due to be turned into a TV show for a web-streaming service.

But on Thursday Maezawa dashed the hopes of thousands, citing "personal reasons."

"Despite my genuine and honest determination toward the show, there was a part of me that still had mixed feelings about my participation," he wrote, in English, on his Twitter account.

Yusaku Maezawa has cancelled his search for a girlfriend willing to join him on a journey to the moon. **PHOTO: AFP**

"To think that 27,722 women, with earnest intentions and courage, had used their precious time to apply makes me feel extremely remorseful," he added.

Maezawa, formerly chief of the online fashion company Zozo, is known for his penchant for publicity stunts — including offering cash to people on Twitter.—AFP ■

Japan's NTT to test traffic monitoring system for Malaysia smart city

KUALA LUMPUR — Japanese telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will test a traffic monitoring system for a smart city in Malaysia, its first such project in the Asian region.

The project will run from February to March in Cyberjaya, an information technology hub located around 40 kilometers south of the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, according to an NTT statement released on Wednesday.

NTT will place eight cameras at busy intersections and monitor traffic to help smooth vehicle flows as well as identify vehicle types to detect stolen models.

It will also examine the feasibilities and challenges involved in implementing in such areas as handling of traffic accidents, customer flow management, digital signage at intersections and search for stolen vehicles, an NTT spokeswoman told NNA on Wednesday.

"Around 40 inquiries have been made from Asian municipalities and companies," she said, adding the company is considering offering its service to other Southeast Asian countries based on the results of the Malaysian project.

The project, part of the Japanese government's research on a smart city model in Malaysia, will be conducted in cooperation with local information technology firms, Cyberview Sdn. Bhd. and Allo Technology Sdn. Bhd.

NTT introduced a similar system in Las Vegas, Nevada, from February 2019 after testing it in the US city in 2018. It will apply technologies used in the US project to the Malaysian smart city research.—Kyodo News

FILE: Inside the tech truck of NTT. **PHOTO:KYODO NEWS**

White House seeks to quash Bolton testimony at Trump trial

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's defense team, seeking a speedy acquittal at his Senate impeachment trial, resisted Democratic efforts on Wednesday to have former national security advisor John Bolton testify, arguing that it could prolong the divisive proceedings for months.

Trump lashed out at Bolton on Twitter, saying his former aide was coming out with potentially damaging allegations in an upcoming "nasty & untrue book" because he was fired from his White House position.

Bolton reportedly claims in the book that Trump told him military aid to Ukraine was tied to Kiev investigating his political rival Joe Biden — the charge at the heart of the two articles of impeachment approved on December 18 by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

The fight over Bolton's testimony intensified as the senators who will decide Trump's fate began directly questioning Democratic prosecutors and White House lawyers.

Taking turns by party, senators spent 10 hours submitting written questions, which were then read aloud to the chamber by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who is presiding over just the third impeachment trial of a president in US history.

The 100 members of the Senate will return at 1:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Thursday to pose further questions to the White House defense lawyers and the seven House prosecutors seeking Trump's removal from office for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Democrats are seeking the testimony of former National Security Advisor John Bolton at the Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

Senate Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said it may be an "uphill fight" to garner enough Republican support to issue a subpoena to Bolton, who has said he is ready to testify.

Republicans hold a 53 to 47 seat edge in the Senate and four Republicans would need to side with the Democrats to compel Bolton to appear.

Trump called on Republicans to reject a push for witnesses when the issue comes up for a vote on Friday and blasted Bolton, whom he fired in September.

"Frankly, if I listened to him, we would be in World War Six by now," Trump said. "(He) goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book. All Classified National Security. Who would do this?"— AFP ■

UK's Johnson holds talks with US on Brexit eve

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's meetings with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson threaten to become a damage limitation exercise for the "special relationship". **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson will hold talks on post-Brexit trade with the top US diplomat on Thursday, eve of Britain's historic departure from the European Union.

The British premier will aim to paper over recent disagreements as he hosts US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo the day before nearly half a century of EU membership ends late Friday.

With Britain at a historic crossroads, Johnson wants to strike post-Brexit trade deals with both the bloc and the US, but has seen recent strains in the so-called "special relationship" with Washington. Britain will enter a new chapter when it becomes the first country to quit the EU's institutions at midnight Brussels time (2300 GMT) on Friday.

Although it will remain under most EU rules during an 11-month transition period, Britain is then likely to lose privileged access to the single European market — the world's largest and most important for UK trade.

But Johnson has argued he will negotiate an ambitious free trade agreement with his 27 former partners while also striking a lucrative trade deal with the US.

"It is a great moment for our country... a moment of hope and opportunity," the British leader said Wednesday, as he prepares to address the nation at 2200 GMT Friday — an hour before Brexit.— AFP ■

Deadly strikes hit Syria rebel bastion as army advances

ARIHA (Syria) — Air strikes killed 10 civilians near a bakery and a medical clinic in Syria's rebel-held Idlib region on Thursday, as government forces kept up a ground offensive.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian warplanes hit the Idlib province town of Ariha, but the Russian defence ministry said its "aviation did not carry out any combat tasks in this area of Syria."

The government and its Russian allies have upped their deadly bombardment of Syria's last major rebel bastion, slowly chipping away at it from the south. Rebel-held territory has shrunk to just over half of Idlib province, along with slivers of neighbouring Aleppo and Latakia, following a series of government gains.

The saw Damascus loyalists retaking the strategic northwestern town of Maaret al-Numan on Wednesday.

Early on Thursday, Russian air strikes hit near a bakery and the Al-Shami clinic in Ariha which is now out of service, the Observatory said.

The monitor says it determines whose planes carried out strikes according to type, location, flight patterns and munitions. A dust-covered doctor ran out of the clinic screaming following the strike, which partially damaged the facility's walls, an AFP correspondent reported.

Nearby, three entire buildings had collapsed and several vehicles were reduced to mangled wrecks.

The wailing of women and children rang out as rescue workers searched for corpses beneath the rubble.

Toufic Saado, a paramedic, said he was inside the medical facility when three air strikes ravaged the area. "The wounded were lying on the floor outside the medical centre," he said.— AFP

A volunteer firefighter battles a blaze after a night-time air strike on the Idlib province town of Ariha. **PHOTO: AFP**

Palestinians protest against Trump's Mideast peace plan

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army announced an increased presence in the West Bank and near Gaza Wednesday evening, as US President Donald Trump's controversial peace plan sparked outrage among Palestinians.

The plan, seen as overwhelmingly supportive of Israeli goals and drafted with no Palestinian input, gives the Jewish state a US green light to annex key parts of the occupied West Bank.

It was widely cheered in Israel, but sparked fury among Palestinians, with protests breaking out in the West Bank and the Hamas-run Gaza Strip.

One rocket was fired from the strip Wednesday evening.

In response, the army said, "(Israeli) fighter jets and aircraft struck a number of Hamas terror targets in the southern Gaza Strip." Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli security forces clashed in various locations in the West Bank and further Palestinian protests are expected in the coming days. The Israeli army announced Wednesday it would deploy additional troops in the West Bank and the near the Gaza Strip. "Following the ongoing situation assessment, it has been decided to reinforce the Judea and Samaria and Gaza Divisions with additional combat troops," the army said in a statement, using the Israeli terms for the West Bank.— AFP ■

Myanmar Football Federation holds 2020 Congress, election

Myanmar Football Federation president U ZawZaw delivers a speech at the MFF Congress 2020, held yesterday in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar Football Federation held its 2020 Congress and election yesterday at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon.

MFF president U Zaw Zaw, vice presidents of the football federation, Dr. Sai Sam Htun and U Pyae Phyo Tay Za, coordination committee members, officials from the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League I and II, representatives of football elections, officials from township football association, and officials from FIFA and ASEAN Football Federation and Asian Football Confederation attended the ceremony.

The Congress opened with a welcoming message by Major General KhievSameth, president of the ASEAN Football Federation.

Next, MFF president U Zaw Zaw delivered a speech. This was followed by the election of the new president and representatives of the Myanmar Football Federation.

U Zaw Zaw was re-elected as president of the football federation, along with the two vice presidents, Dr. Sai Sam Htun and U Pyae Phyo Tay Za.

U KhunNaung Myint Wai, U Hla Htay, and U Zaw Min Thein were elected as representatives of the Myanmar National League I, while U Htaung Htar Htan was elected as the representative of the Myanmar National League II.

U Tin Myint Aung was elected as the coaching representative, and U Than Toe Aung was made the representative of national footballers, and U TunHla Aung the referee representative.

Meanwhile, DawMyatMyatOo was elected as the women's football representative, and Dr. Ye Mon Htet as the Futsal football representative. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

The Myanmar women's football squad and coaches seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday before heading to South Korea. **PHOTO: MFF**

Team Myanmar leave for South Korea for 3rd round of Olympics qualifiers

THE Myanmar women's national football team left for South Korea from the Yangon International Airport yesterday to compete in the third round of the 2020 AFC Women's Olympics qualifying tournament.

The tourney will start on 3 February at the Jeju World Cup Stadium in Seogwipo, South Korea.

Twenty players have been chosen on the squad, and they have been accompanied by football coaches for the tourney.

Before the team's departure from the Yangon International Airport, the Myanmar Football Federation president came and spoke words of encouragement to the players, according to the MFF.

"I am happy to see all the players trying their best, with unity. We are reaching the final round stage and at this stage, you all must not be disheartened even if the opponents are great teams. You all should take care of your health in different weather conditions," the MFF president told the players.

Myanmar will play the opening match against South Korea at 4.30 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time on 3 February at the Jeju World Cup Stadium in Seogwipo.

The team will then take on Viet Nam on 6 February, while South Korea will face Viet Nam on 9 February at the same venue.——Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

WLC: 'Battlebones' fight to be held in Yangon today

A special event of the World Lethwei Championship titled 'Battlebones' will be held today at the TheinPhyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

The main bout — the 75-kg weight class event — is scheduled to take place between Myanmar's middleweight king and lethwei pound-for-pound Number 1, Too Too, and Muay Thai star Naimjon Tuhtaboyev of Uzbekistan.

The co-main event (Bantamweight class) will feature Myanmar's SomiongLuktupfah and Cambodia's SokRith.

In the women's Bantamweight class event, Souris Manfredi of France will fight with Tran ThiLua of Viet Nam.

In the men's welterweight class event, Myanmar's Saw KaungHtet will take on Italian fighter Samuel Toscano.

In the men's lightweight event, Hein Tun Aung of Myanmar will face EmSothy of Cambodia.

Another men's welterweight event will feature two Myanmar fighters — Thar Win Tun and Eh Mwe. In another lightweight event, Lin Htet Naing of Myanmar will take on Zin Bo of Myanmar. Doors for the tourney will open at 5 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time, and tickets will be priced at K15,000 and K30,000 and will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis, according to the World Lethwei Championship.

The lethwei fights will be broadcast live on Canal Plus Channel and UFC Fight Pass. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar lethwei star Too Too (l) and Muay Thai fighter NaimjonTuhtaboyev (R) pose for a photo ahead of the 'Battlebones' lethwei fight. **PHOTO: WLC**