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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint sends message of sympathy to PRC President

U WIN MYINT, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy on 3 February 2020, to Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, for the loss of lives due to the recent outbreak of the 2019 nCoV Virus epidemic in Wuhan, the People's Republic of China.

In his message, the President expressed his belief that under the able leadership of Mr. Xi Jinping along with the solidarity of the Chinese people and its advanced medical technology, the People's Republic of China will be able to successfully contain the outbreak of the epidemic and overcome the difficulties at the shortest possible time. Moreover, Myanmar also expresses its readiness to work with China in finding ways to overcome this virus outbreak, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio attends peace summit in ROK

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020 in Seoul yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MYANMAR delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio and accompanied by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and officials to attend the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020 left for the Republic of Korea on 2 February and arrived Seoul at 7:15 am local time yesterday.

Vice President and his entourage were greeted at the Inchon International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin, Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Aisa-Pacific Regional Chairperson Mr. Ek Nath Dhakal, staff and family members of the Myanmar Embassy, and officials.

Next, Vice President and party proceeded to Lotte Hotel Seoul.

In the afternoon, Vice President U Henry Van Thio accompanied by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials attended the opening ceremony of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020.

In the evening, Vice President U Henry Van Thio received General Secretary Dr. Young Ho Yun of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020 at the Kintex Center.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed the upcoming third Asia-Pacific summit to be jointly held by Myanmar Government and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

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Pyithu Hluttaw holds 3rd day meeting of 15th regular session

THE 15th regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw held the 3rd day meeting yesterday, with answers to the asterisked questions and tabling a motion.

MP U Shwe Hla Kyaing from Kangyidaung constituency asked about legal action against land owners who have not built any building although they have already taken land permits in the last 20 years and the township has been 24 years.

He also urged the Union government to invite business firms for investments on the remaining land plots which have not been issued for permits.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Nyi Tun said the land owners will be remained againt to construct buildings on the plots, and those who want land permit might submit their proposals.

When the Kangyidaung Township was laterally expanded, compensations were given out to the original land owners although some of them have not received it. Instead they are still using their lands for cultivation.

U Nyi Tun said that if private businesspersons want to do business on the lands, they need to negotiate with the original land owners.

MP U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung from Manaung constituency asked about appointments of teachers for ethnic languages at the basic primary schools in his constituency.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

MP U Shwe Hla Kyaing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Nyi Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

MP U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that appointments of teaching assistants will be made in 2020-2021 academic year when the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs handed over application forms for the positions.

MP U Paik Ko from Pakokku asked about promoting a post-primary school to a middle school by 2020-2021 academic year in his constituency.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied that the promotion will be carried out in upcoming academic year by relaxing some rules as the 30-year-old school has only 19 children and is located just 9 miles away from the nearest school.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun answered to the questions of MP U Nyunt Win from Kanpetlet constituency about removing collecting toll gates in Kanpetlet and Mindat townships and MP U Hla Tun Kyaw from Maungtaw constituency about distribution of water from Myakantha Pond to 4 Mile ward in Maungtaw Township.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied the questions of MP U Myint Oo from Thanatpin constituency about finalizing Type-C temporary school buildings in Bago Region and MP Dr Hla Moe from Aungmyethazan constituency about systematic use of education budgets for education reform programmes and implementation of digital text to replace traditional paper text books.

MP U Nyan Linn from Shwepyitha constituency tabled a motion to form student teams for school activities at basic and higher education schools commencing 2020-2021 academic year in developing democratic practices and student-centered learning.

MP U Zarni Min from Shwegu constituency supported the motion. As the Hluttaw also agreed to discuss it, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the motion.

U Nay Myo Tun, the member of Bill Committee, discussed Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill just to follow 58 points of resolutions by Pyithu Hluttaw, and MP U Win Htut from Pyapon constituency debated to agree suggestions of Amyotha Hluttaw on the controversial 58 provisions.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought the approval of Bill Committee and the Ministry of Education on this motion.

Bill Committee member Dr Wai Phyo Aung tabled a motion to get decision of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the controversial issue.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker agreed to put forward the issue to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The 4th day of 15th regular session will convene on 5 February.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw organizes 3rd day meeting of 15th regular session

THE 15th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 3rd day meeting yesterday.

MP Dr Sai Sai Kyauk Sam from Shan State constituency 6 asked about land of Kengtung Haw Hong (Haw Nan) in eastern Shan State.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt replied that the land has been leased out to two businesspersons through a 70-year contract with the approval of Myanmar Investment Commission, and they are operating hotel businesses on the land.

He also remarked that application of original owners and their inheritors for getting back the land could be processed in accordance with the laws only when the term of contract terminated.

MP U Myo Htet (a) Salai Myo Htike from Chin State constituency 12 asked about expansion of a motorway from 18 ft to 50 ft in 2020-2021 financial year.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied that the road will be expanded up to 34 ft with the budget of Chin State government in upcoming financial year.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt. **PHOTO; MNA**

MP U Myo Htet (a) Salai Myo Htike. **PHOTO; MNA**

MP U Thein Lwin. **PHOTO; MNA**

MP U Thein Lwin from Kachin State constituency 10 asked about construction of a concrete bridge from Shwekyeena ward to Sintkin village crossing Tapein creek in Bhamo Township, Kachin State.

The Deputy Minister also answered that feasibility study will be conducted in 2020-2021 financial year as the total length for construction project, including approach roads, is 2,000 ft, and construction of the bridge will be carried in the following year.

MP U Pe Chit from Yangon Region constituency 9 asked renovation of 1 mile 7 furlong long outer town road of Htaukkyant town and removal of squatters near the road.

The Deputy Minister replied the renovation will be carried out in 2019-2020 financial year with paving tarred concrete and fine aggregate. He also said legal actions will be taken against the squatters as notice letters have been sent to them one time in September and two times in December.

MP Daw Htu May from Rakhine State constituency 11 asked for finalizing road upgrade on An-Tattaung motorway in Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine, and questioned the budget expenditures (Union and State budgets) of the Highway Department from 2015-2016 financial year to 2019-2020 financial year in An Township.

The Deputy Minister replied that An-Tattaung motorway is under the management of Rakhine State government, and finalizing road upgrade will be carried out by State budget. He added K17.5 billion from Union fund and K18.415 billion from State government fund, totaling K35.915 billion for this road section.

MP U Hwae Tin from Chin State constituency 11 asked about reconstruction of Yokechaung suspension bridge on Paletwa-Abaungtha-Khawei motorway.

The Deputy Minister replied the project will be implemented in 2020-2021 financial year with the State funds.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye read out the report of its committee on National Library Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with recommendations.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than invited the names of MPs who want to table motions for recommendations.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will hold its 4th day meeting on 5 February.—Aung Ye Thwin/ Soe Win Tun

(Translated by Aung Khin)

VP U Henry Van Thio attends peace summit in ROK

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Present at the meeting were Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han and officials.

Then, Vice President U Henry Van Thio enjoyed the dinner in honour of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020. — MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents the gift to the Universal Peace Federation yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Second coord meeting for implementing JICM resolutions to be held in mid-February

GOVERNMENT officials and representatives of ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) in Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) could make three agreements and take two records after the second day of the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement yesterday.

After the two-day meeting, they agreed to hold the next discussions on 17 and 18 February.

Coordination Leader of NCA-S EAOs Sao Sai Nguen made a conclusion remark on the meeting, saying, "I really appreciate the efforts of both sides for reaching three agreements and two records after the two-day meeting. The success has reflected firm determination of negotiation teams and keeping promises for peace."

He added the meeting also agreed to find ways for persuading more ethnic armed groups to sign NCA and to organize regular meetings for holding the 4th Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Vice Chairman of NRPC Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo also said, "We will discuss details about the frameworks on peace process beyond 2020. We also agreed to meet on 17 and 18 February, and to make preparations for 21st Century Panglong by April.

The second day meeting was attended by Vice Chairman of NRPC Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Office of Commander in Chief (Army), Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission Advisory Group members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo and Director General U Zaw Htay from the Office of the Ministry of the State Counsellor.

Representatives from NCA-EAOs included NCA Implementation Framework Coordinating Leader Sao Sai Nguen, NCA Implementing Coordinator U Myo Win, its members U Hla Htay, Saw Mra Yar Zar Lin, Dr Salai Lian Hmone Sar Kaung, Salai Htalaw Hay, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw Tar Do Moo, Pado Saw L Kalu Say, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Kyar Solomon, Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Khun Myint Tun and Dr Sai Oo. After the meeting, Director General U Zaw Htay and NCA-S-EAO representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay held a joint-press conference.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 43/2020

10th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1381 ME
3 February 2020

Permission to register as a political party

THE Kachin National Party headquartered at No. 118, Area 7, Ayechanthayar 2 Street, No1 Ward, Lashio Township, northern Shan State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 3 February 2020.

The registration number of Kachin National Party is 125.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Tatmadaw True News Team holds press conference

THE Tatmadaw True News Team held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, on the violent assaults committed by the AA group at the villages of Kingtaung and Theintan villages in Buthidaung Township.

Secretary of the Tatmadaw True News Team Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun said the AA members pounded Kingtaung Village in Buthidaung Township in the morning of 25 January, killing two villagers and injuring seven. They also raped the women in Theintan Village, and threatened the villagers of the village.

At the event, Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the two assaults of AA group with the help of witness video footages, photos and maps.

Afterwards, he replied to the queries raised by reporters from local and foreign news agencies, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in -Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

What is Unity?

It is important to understand what Unity is. This paragraph and this sentence show us the characteristics of unity. We must have the same benefits; the same effort and the same purpose. For what reason do we need to be united? For what purpose do we need to be united? We must have a purpose. Why do we need to be united? Is it to get positions? Or do we need to be united to oppress the citizens of this country? Why do we need to be united? The unity that we need is for the independence of the whole country and all the people; for the benefit of all the people. This sort of unity of purpose, the same sort of benefits, the same type of efforts. For all the citizens to get the same sort of benefits. The type of unity that we need is the one that will make us work in unity.

[Extract from the proposal presented by General Aung San to the AFPFL Conference on 23 January 1946 on the topic of Unity.]

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talk with the delegates of Myanmar Network Organization for Free and Fair Elections. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC Chairman receives MYNFREL delegates

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received the delegates of Myanmar Network Organization for Free and Fair Elections (MYNFREL) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to preparations for holding 2020 General Election in accordance with the norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of people, raising voter awareness, courses on raising voter awareness that will be conducted by MYNFREL, and awareness programmes for checking the voters' lists by the public to be accurate. Members of the UEC Commission and officials from the Commission Office were present at the meeting. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Central Committee on coronavirus prevention holds first meeting

THE Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) held its first meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by chairman of the central committee, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss preparations and lay down plans for tackling challenges and dealing with the consequences of the outbreak in the long run, said committee chairman U Kyaw Tin.

The Union Minister also gave a briefing on preventive measures taken by the central committee, including suspension of visas on arrival to visitors from China since 1 January, after the outbreak was declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization.

On 2 February, 59 out of 63 Myanmar students were brought back to Mandalay from Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak started.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin expressed his thanks to the authorities concerned, including the Mandalay Region Government and Mandalay Mayor, for helping accomplish the mission which boosted the image of the country.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe briefed on condition of the Coronavirus outbreak in China and preventive measures in Myanmar, calling on ministries concerned to cooperate in systematic and synchronized coordination in preventing the infection of the disease.

He also stressed the importance of communication channel between ministries as the Ministry of Health and Sports is beefing up its surveillance at international airports and border checkpoints.

The Union minister has also stressed importance of public awareness about surveillance and suspects about the infection, especially information from the hotels and tourism sector and from the transportation sector.

Regarding the releasing information on prevention of the infection, the Union Minister said his ministry posted the updated information in real time on the ministry's website www.mohs.gov.mm.

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, as the Secretary of Central Committee," explained prevention, control and treatments on pneumonia caused by 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Dr Thet Khaing Win briefed on setting up a hotline for public information on the disease, coordination with the World Health Organization, collaboration with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to educate service providers in hotel business, close monitoring on Myanmar students who were brought back from Wuhan, health workers who had close contacts with those students and flight crew, accumulation of medicines and medical equipment, treatments to persons under investigation, tightening fever checks at the border checkpoints and setting up quarantined wards if the suspected were found, preparations at Waibargi hospital, Mandalay hospital and 1,000-beded Nay Pyi Taw hospital and health education programmes.

Those present at the meeting discussed coordination among the Union-level and State/Regional levels, monitoring foreign visitors at the hotels, real-time and correct media reports, medical monitoring teams at the international airports, jetties and border checkpoints and preparations for imports of personal protective equipment and face masks.

In his conclusion remark, Central Committee Chairman U Kyaw Tin recognized measures of Chinese government against transmission and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a public health emergency of international concern of WHO about the country with weaker health systems without recommending unnecessary restrictions on any travel or trade.

He finally remarked Myanmar needs to abide by the rules of WHO and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and to make a balanced response in consideration of bilateral relations and preventing Myanmar citizens from the virus infection. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin, Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin addresses the Central Committee Meeting on Prevention, Control and Treatment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Vietnamese Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador of Viet Nam Mr Ly Quoc Tuan at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promoting collaboration between parliaments of Myanmar and Viet Nam for promoting friendship relations and cooperation. They also discussed matters related to economy, trade, investment and legislation of parliament. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talk with Ambassador of Viet Nam Mr Ly Quoc Tuan yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Soe Win receives Vietnamese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win received Ambassador of Viet Nam Mr Ly Quoc Tuan at the minister guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to investment in industrial zones in Myanmar by Vietnamese businesspersons, investments in Yangon Stock Exchange, microfinance and banking sectors, txation related to investments and future cooperation. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister U Soe Win holds talk with Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Ly Quoc Tuan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives Vietnamese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Ambassador of Viet Nam Mr Ly Quoc Tuan at the minister guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed cooperation between the two armed forces and military defence sector co-operation in ASEAN. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win holds talk with Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Ly Quoc Tuan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun opens IPRD Capacity Building Training 1/2020

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun attended the capacity building training 1/2020 held at the training hall of the Information and Public Relations Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his opening address, the Deputy Minister said: "This course is the first in the year 2020. Its aims and topics are good and will support the needs in today's media. The responsibilities of the ministry are to inform, to disseminate the information, and to entertain the public. The most important among them is to inform the public. It is necessary to have a broader watch on current news and information in order to make quick and timely dissemination of correct information to the public. Training participants should diligently learn the topics relating to libraries and media information as well as departmental management.

When you are back to your respective workplaces you all should make better use of the lessons learned and share them among the co-staff, who are yet to attend the training, he urged.

The Information and Public Relations Department has been conducting the similar training courses to empower the staff to be competent in their implementation work of the Ministry.

Thirty-five township officers from states/regions will attend the training until 28 February. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of capacity building training in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Course on Sangha Nayaka & judgement on disputes 1/2020 opened

COURSE No 1/2020 (Central) on Sagha Nayaka and delivering judgement on disputes involving the ecclesiastic code was opened yesterday at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall at Thiri Mingala KabaAye Hill, with address by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa has pointed out the weaknesses of Sangha Nayaka committees in regions and states in solving the disputes related with monasteries.

The purpose of the course is to build the capacities of the Sangha Nayaka Sayadaws and Sayadaws who are taking responsibility for delivering judgement on disputes with monks and monasteries, said the chairman Sayadaw.

Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa urged the trainees to work hard during the course so that they can open the multiplier courses in their respective regions and states as part of efforts for producing the Members of the Sangha who will strive for the Sasana.

The similar course was held in 1981 one year after the first Meeting of All Orders in Yangon in 1980 for the Purification, Perpetuation and Propagation of Sasana.

Lectures at the 1981 course were compiled and published as the manual for rules for Sangha Nayaka. The State Sangha Nayaka Committee also ordered directives and approved the Vinaya Manual for judging the disputes.

Sangha Nayaka committees were established at region/state, township, ward/village levels after the 1980 meeting of the All Orders of the Sangha.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Union Information Minister meets with editorial team of Sarpay Beikman in Yangon

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting with editorial members of Sarpay Beikman in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint held a meeting with editorial members of Sarpay Beikman in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed conducting capacity-building course for the editorial members, learning from books for on-job training, developing English language skills to be able to read international literatures, media and information literacy, fact checks on news for work improvement and publishing quality books.

The meeting was also attended by Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing, Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint, officials, invited guests and editorial members of Sarpay Beikman.

Officials discussed implementation of instructions made by President U Win Myint during his visit to Sarpay Beikman on 27 November 2019 and publishing Myanmar Encyclopedia, Myanmar Classic Series 100, Shwe Thway Journal and recruiting more members of Sarpay Beikman.

With the instruction of National Leader Bogyoke Aung San, Sarpay Beikman was established on 26 August 1947 to publish books by adopting a motto of 'Light where Darkness was'.

The four-storey Sarpay Beikman building is place of public library with book store, reference library, e-library and child library.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Stakeholders meet for equal rights of PWDs

The"ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" meeting was held at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

ASEAN Affairs Department Director-General U Hau Khan Sum and officials pose for a group photo at the stakeholders' meeting on "ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting, ASEAN Affairs Department Director-General U Hau Khan Sum said: "The 63rd United Nations General Assembly has adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on 13 December 2006 to uphold and protect the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities. The international development frameworks inclusive of 2020-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being carried out to accelerate the advancements of rights of persons with disabilities in conformity with the UN convention. The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration was adopted in 2012 and its member-governments' commitments were embodied for the respect for and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms inclusive of persons with disabilities.

He added that Myanmar ratified the CRPD on 7 December 2011, and promulgated the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2015) and Rules on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017). The implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan benefits equality and high quality of life for about 4.6 million persons with disabilities in Myanmar. All stakeholders should draw a new work plan for 2020-2025 and execute the priorities to benefit the entire society inclusive of persons with disabilities in order to ensure successful Masterplan 2025," he urged.

Next, Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) Executive Director Daw Yuya Thu explained the objectives of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population, the Union Election Commission, persons-in-charge of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), and the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities, representatives of the non-government organizations, the civil society organizations, the community-based organizations, and the persons with disabilities organizations. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Steps taken for resettlement of IDPs in Rakhine State

A delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye made a field trip to Kyawukpyu, Rakhine State, and met with local people yesterday in preparation for closing a camp of the internally displaced persons-IDPs in Kyaukpyu.

Before the field trip, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye held a meeting with local authorities at the General Administration Office in Kyaukpyu and heard report on current condition of the Kyauktalone IDP Camp and site chosen for resettlement of the IDPs.

Also present at the meeting were Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Chief Coordinator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD Dr Aung Tun Thet, Adviser to UEHRD U Toe Oung, ethnic entrepreneurs from the UEHRD, directors-general of the Ministry of SWRR and officials.

First, the director-general of the Disaster Management Department reported on preparations for closing the IDP Camp.

Following the meeting, the Union minister and party visited Kyaukpyu and inspected Kyauktalon IDP Camp, the site chosen for relocating the IDPs, two conduit pipes and making embankment to prevent inflow of sea water and other tasks.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with officials and IDPs of the camp.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union minister urged the IDPs to cooperate with his ministry through coordination in implementing the tasks of the National Strategy on closing IDP camps and resettlement of IDPs to close the IDP camp.

To establish the rule of law and bring about socio-economic development in Rakhine State, the state's Stability and Development Committee has carried out tasks through its four working committees since its formation in 2016.

The committee has been cooperating with INGOs, partner countries and entrepreneurs in implementing the tasks for socio-economic development of the local people, but the conflict happened in August, 2017 delayed the tasks, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting with local authorities at the General Administration Department Office in Kyaukpyu yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

IDPs should shelter at the camp temporarily, and long stay there would damage the socio-economic development, said the Union Minister.

At the meeting, IDPs discussed education, livelihood, freedom of movement and difficulties for getting the National Verification Card.

In the afternoon, the Union ministers, MPs and authorities exchanged views with townselders and representatives of IDP camp over the resettlement plan.

The process for the closing the Kyauktalon IDP Camp and resettlement of IDPs would be continued in accordance with the national strategy.— MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Joint press conference of Director General U Zaw Htay and NCA-S-EAO representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay

Peace negotiators agreed to continue implementation of 8th JICM resolutions.

DIRECTOR GENERAL U Zaw Htay from the Office of the Ministry of the State Counsellor and NCA-S-EAO representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay held a press conference after the two-day 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday. In brief explanations on the meeting, Director-General U Zaw Htay said, "The meeting focused on how to implement all the resolutions of 8th JICM. We have got three agreements to hold working group meeting on 16 February, the following meeting on 17 and 18 February and to hold discussions on finding common terms and definitions for NCA before JICM,"

"The two records were a proposal for discussions with the groups which have not taken part in the national dialogue for successful holding of the 4th Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong and another proposal for public consultation," he added.

National dialogue

Regarding the two proposals, the Director-General said, "We will hold a national dialogue with RCSS in Langkh Township in Shan State. It is required for the Conference which is scheduled to be held in the first four months of this year. Matters related to political talks for national dialogue will need approval from the UPDJC.

NCA-S-EAO representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay said, "RCSS will lead the national dialogue. Some EAOs have taken part in national dialogue. We have suggested to hold further discussions in their respective ergion."

Unification of security forces

Regarding possible discussions about the merger of security forces during the 4th Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, the Director-General replied, "The government has offered unification of security forces in the NCA implementation framework. We also proposed the formation of single Tatmadaw and Union Tatmadaw comprised with ethnic groups in NCA. The issue will be discussed in respective groups, and it would be one of the top agendas in the next round of discussion."

Director-General U Zaw Htay answers the questions raised by the journalists during the press conference. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Nai Aung Ma Ngay said, "Unification of security forces is a proposal of government. We will discuss it at the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) as it is included in the ceasefire roadmap."

Persuading non-signatories in NCA

Regarding an agreement between the government and NCA-S-EAOs to persuade non-signatories in NCA, the Director-General said, "We always invited the non-signatories to every Conference. Although they will not get the same chance like the NCA signatories, they can study our meetings. Some of them see our debates. They were also invited to take part in framework review meetings for acquiring ownership for them. Some of them were present, while some others absent. We will offer them to the next round of framework review meeting, and to the next Conference with the agreement of UPDJC."

— Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)

4 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

To build an ideal nation, ensure PLWDs enjoy equal rights

MYANMAR has taken several steps over the past few years to build an inclusive environment in the country and ensure the rights of people living with disabilities (PLWDs) are not infringed upon.

Now, the time has come for the ASEAN member countries to draft the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025. The rights of persons with disabilities must be taken into account for the plan.

In keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Myanmar has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law (2015) and its related bylaw (2017).

The Union Government formed a National Committee on 14 September 2017 to better enforce the law and bylaw. The committee, which reached its second and a half year in 2019, has been working in accordance with directives from the Union Government to ensure the rights enjoyed by disabled persons are in line with international standards and the prevailing situation.

> When it comes to rights of PLWDs, there must be a systematic gender-wise record of PLWDs, PLWD demographics, needs of the different demographics, and their requirements in terms of education, healthcare, and employment.

We are confident that including the rights of disabled persons in the ASEAN master plan 2025 would ensure equal rights and necessary services for 4.6 million people living with disabilities in Myanmar.

The strategic plan will support PLWDs in six areas: healthcare, education, employment, social protection, management of natural disasters and other emergency situations, and ease of access.

This is to make sure people living with disabilities do not suffer and enjoy the same rights as all citizens, and to help create an inclusive social environment in the country.

An important sector for PLWDs is natural disasters and other emergency situations. While implementing plans for these areas, PLWDs should not be left out and should be allowed to cooperate so that their needs can be accurately addressed.

The role of an independent monitoring mechanism would be vital to ensuring full rights to ethnic people with disabilities, freedom from violence, and reviewing the PLWD law as seen fit.

When it comes to rights of PLWDs, there must be a systematic gender-wise record of PLWDs, PLWD demographics, needs of the different demographics, and their requirements in terms of education, healthcare, and employment.

The authorities concerned and organizations involved in the sector are obliged to draft policies and action plans that incorporate inclusive development in each sector and to draft the strategic plan for 2021-2025.

Myanmar people who possess the fine traditions of perseverance, friendliness, generosity, and sympathy always actively participate in humanitarian tasks in the communities.

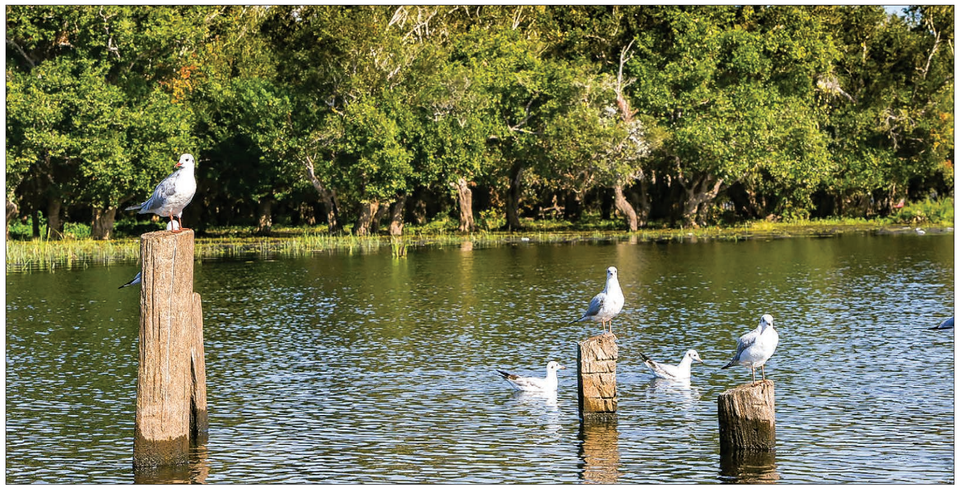
Now, all the people and officials in the respective sectors are urged to contribute to building an ideal country that ensures persons living with disabilities enjoy equal rights and encourages their participation by removing barriers.

■■■

Geoparks: Conserving Geodiversity and Biodiversity

By Than Htun(Myanmar Geosciences Society)

THE Earth history with all the variability and richness of different abiotic and biotic processes is recorded in geological formations. By studying these processes we are able not only to understand them, but also predict the future environmental changes according to the phrase: "the past is the key to the future". The evidence for the history of the Earth is one of the most important features of geodiversity (Eberhard, 1997).



IndawGyi Lake is one of the wetlands of Myanmar. **PHOTO: HTAY AUNG**

Geopark

Geopark, a kind of unique natural area, has the geoheritage landscapes of special geological scientific significance, rare natural attributes, high ornamental value and a certain scale and distribution scope as the body and integrates other natural landscapes and human landscapes. It provides people not only with the places of high scientific taste for tourism, leisure vacation, healthcare and rehabilitation and cultural entertainment, but also is the key protection zone of geoheritage landscapes and biological environment and the base for the research and popularisation of earth sciences. Main objectives of building geopark include the following three aspects; protection of geoheritage, popularisation of geoscience knowledge, expansion of tourism and promotion of local economic development.

Imagine, if you can, the earth is very uniform planet which composed of a single monomineralic rock such as a pure quartzite. A planet that is a perfect sphere with no topography and where there is no such thing as plate tectonics. Although it has weather, this is very similar everywhere with a solid cloud cover, light rains and no winds, so that there is little variation in surface processes or weathering. Consequently, the soil is also very uniform. The absence of gradients and surface processes means that there is little erosion, transportation and deposition of sediments. This planet has been few changes in its 4.6 thousand million year history and there is, in any case, no sedimentary record of these changes. To say the least, our planet earth is not a diverse or dynamic planet.

Thankfully our world is not like this. It is highly diverse in almost all senses – physical, biological and cultural – and although this produces problems for society and even conflicts and war, would we really want a less diverse and interesting home? The diversity of the physical world is huge and humans have put this diversity to good use. We have found that the diversity of physical resources on the planet is valuable to us in an enormous number of ways, even if we often fail to fully appreciate this fact. Diversity also brings with it flexibility of technologies and a greater ability to adapt to change. (M. Gray, 2004)

Geodiversity

There are two aspects of lithosphere conservation:

1. The economical aspect encompasses mineral deposits, surface and ground waters, soils and atmosphere (mainly troposphere) making up a source of abiotic natural resources. These elements constitute a basis for sustainable development.

2. The natural aspect includes geodiversity which is an integral part of ecosystems influencing both biodiversity and landscape. The relationship between geodiversity and landscape is visible especially in desert and semi desert areas covered with scarce vegetation.

Geodiversity (geological diversity) may be defined as a natural diversification of Earth's surface including geological, geomorphological, soil, and surface water features, and systems formed by natural (endogenic and/or exogenic) processes, in places with a different anthropogenic imprint. Based on this definition, geosite may be determined as an outer manifestation of these processes. Most of the geosites can be used as geoindicators for monitoring physical and chemical changes in the environment. However, the term mentioned last includes also other abiotic elements that do not exhibit outer features, i.e. changes of water table, variations in chemistry of waters, sediments, soils, etc..

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is defined as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems." The importance of this definition is that it draws attention to the many dimensions of biodiversity. It explicitly recognizes that every biota can be characterized by its taxonomic, ecological, and genetic diversity and that the way these dimensions of diversity vary over space and time is a key feature of biodiversity. Thus only a multidimensional assessment of biodiversity can provide insights into the relationship between changes in biodiversity and changes in ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services. Biodiversity includes all ecosystems—managed or unmanaged. Sometimes biodiversity is presumed to be a relevant feature of only unmanaged ecosystems, such as wildlands, nature preserves, or national parks. This is incorrect. Managed systems—be they plantations, farms, croplands, aquaculture sites, rangelands, or even urban parks and urban ecosystems—have their own biodiversity. Given that cultivated systems alone now account for more than 24% of Earth's terrestrial surface, it is critical that any decision concerning biodiversity or ecosystem services address the maintenance of biodiversity in these largely anthropogenic systems (MA, 2005).

> Without geodiversity there would be little biodiversity, and an integrated approach to nature conservation and sustainable land management ought to be obvious.

Geoconversation

It is prudent here to highlight the difference between conservation and preservation as applied to the natural environment. Conservation can be taken as meaning the 'active management of something to ensure its quality is retained'. This places the emphasis on management of something to retain a particular quality, rather than on preservation of the feature, site, process etc. with no change at all. Geoconservation, therefore, usually involves working with natural change to retain a feature of interest, for example, maintaining a clear exposure of a stratigraphical sequence in an eroding cliff, despite the erosion. It is not about stopping the erosion and freezing the exposure in time.

Preservation on the other hand, can be taken as 'keeping something in the same state, stopping it from changing', i.e. mothballing it and allowing no physical change. In simple terms geoconservation can be defined as action taken with the intent of conserving and enhancing geological and geomorphological features, processes, sites and specimens. As successful conservation often depends on understanding and valuing the feature, process, site, or specimens to be conserved, the actions taken often also include promotional and awareness raising activities.

Why does society need geoconservation?

The implementation of effective geoconservation strategies brings great advantages to society. Firstly, it raises awareness of the need to understand natural systems and the geological component of ecosystem services. Moreover, well-managed geological sites can support different types of sustainable use with clear benefits for the society, such as scientific, educational and economic use. This is already happening in many territories around the world such as with Global Geoparks which have been recently fully recognized by UNESCO.

IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature – is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. The interest of IUCN for geoconservation has increased in the last decade as revealed by the approval of three geoheritage focused resolutions in 2008, 2012 and 2016, the creation in 2014 of the Geoheritage Specialist Group under the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and the integration of a geoconservation chapter in the "Protected Area Governance and Management" handbook published in 2015. IUCN is also responsible for the assessment of the "Outstanding Universal Value" of geoheritage included in new UNESCO World Heritage applications, together with a strong cooperation regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks.

There are several organisations that are involved especially in geodiversity conservation, e.g. IUGS (International Union of Geologic Sciences), ProGeo and UNESCO. Both ProGeo and IUGS have developed a program which objective is to create a network of geosites. By contrast, the UNESCO initiative is focused on geoparks aiming at geological heritage promotion and economical development.

Studying geodiversity enables us to understand the history of our planet and how life has evolved. This information helps us not only to manage the environment but also to better understand global changes and natural hazards, i.e. flash floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcano eruptions etc. Geoconservation should be driven by the need to conserve geodiversity, given its value and the real and potential threats to it. Without geodiversity there would be little biodiversity, and an integrated approach to nature conservation and sustainable land management ought to be obvious.

References:

1. Murray Gray, 2004. Geodiversity valuing and conserving abiotic nature.
2. Murray Gray, 2005. Geodiversity and geoconservation
3. MA, 2005. Biodiversity and Human Well-being

■■■

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.

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No 2/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 1February.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 1February.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 5 1February issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 3rd February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 4th February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of night temperatures in Naypyitaw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th February, 2020: Fair weather.

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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.

Trade fair of ethnic nationals opens at Ethnics Culture Festival

AN exhibition displaying the traditional products of ethnic nationals was opened at the Kyaikkasan Grounds in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Akha Ethnic Affairs Minister U Arr Bay La, Bamar Ethnic Affairs Minister U Khin Maung Myint (a) U Deik, Chairman of Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA) U Yaw Satt and officials cut ceremonial ribbons to mark the opening.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party observed the booths of ethnic nationals displaying local products, traditional foods, traditional cultures, utensils and souvenirs of the ethnic people.

Rakhine ethnic dance troupe perform with traditional dances at the Ethnics Culture Festival in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

An ethnic dance troupe perform with their traditional dances at the Ethnics Culture Festival in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

In the evening, the Union Minister and party attended a traditional feast hosted by Wa ethnic people. The purpose of organizing such traditional ethnic feasts is to strengthen friendship between ethnic peoples, assist in peace making processes, promote unity and exchange cultural traditions among them.

They also enjoyed the entertainments of artists and cultural performances of the ethnic peoples at the event.

With directives of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Yangon Region Government and the Kayah State Government, and jointly conducted by Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association and Kayah Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association, the Ethnics Culture Festival 2020 was being held.

The third day of the festival yesterday was packed with people from different regions, enjoying the traditional ethnic performances. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Yangon Region Chief Minister opens staff housing in Shwepaukkan

FOUR semi-detached houses with three floors were formally opened for government employees on 3 February at Shwepaukkan Myothit in North Okkalapa Township.

The staff housing was constructed at a cost of K264.93 million, allocated from the Yangon Region government's fund for the 2018-2019 financial year. ATY Co Ltd started construction of the buildings on 15 January, 2019.

Staff housing is being provided to ensure the security of government employees and improve their living standards, said officials.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, regional minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Power U Han Tun, and officials yesterday inaugurated the building located in Ward 19 of Shwepaukkan Myothit.

Afterwards, U Min Swe, Director of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Department of Yangon Region, explained the structure of the staff housing and officials toured the building. —San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein opens the staff housing in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Higher exports help trim trade deficit to $627 mln in Oct-Jan

HIGHER exports have helped narrow Myanmar's trade deficit to US$627.226 million in the four months since October in the current Financial Year, a significant drop from a trade gap of $1.07 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 October and 24 January, Myanmar's external trade increased to over $12 billion from $10.22 billion recorded in the year-ago period. While exports were estimated at $5.7 billion, imports were valued at $6.34 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports showed an increase of $1.14 billion, while imports climbed up by $697 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at $1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 financial year, $1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), $3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, $5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics provided by the Central Statistical Organization. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Exports uncertain, Yangon Region government arranges land for watermelon, muskmelon market

Trucks loaded with watermelons are seen. **PHOTO: HAN HTAY (LASHIO IPRD)**

By Nyein Nyein

IN wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the Yangon Region government is focusing on creating a local market in the region for watermelons and muskmelons that cannot be exported to China, said U Naing Win, chair of the Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Exporters and Producers Association.

The authorities have temporarily designated four warehouses of Ministry of Commerce in Satsan, Yangon and 1.5 acres of land near the Tamway chicken and duck market as points of sale for watermelons and muskmelons.

If growers want to sell the fruits at the Myanmar Ethnics Culture Festival, the regional government will arrange a space for them. The government is also planning to create more points of sale in Danyingon and other local markets for the fruits.

"The Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Exporters and Producers Association has already invited growers to come and sell the fruits. China's border market is likely to reopen on 8 or 10 February. Growers are uncertain about the market and they are concerned about the decay of fruits. If there is no trade possibility in China's border market, they will surely come to Yangon," said U Naing Win.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, exports of watermelons and muskmelons to China have dropped, leading to prices plunging by half, according to the association. "The losses have been increasing. At this time last year, 700 trucks of watermelons were seen at Muse gate. Now, trade is not going well: only 30-50 trucks are entering the border market," said U Naing Win.

Except Kayah and Chin states, other regions and states export watermelons and muskmelons to China. The coronavirus outbreak has forced growers to sell watermelons in local markets.

"In addition, the yield has surpassed demand this year. If China's market does not reopen in the coming weeks, the losses will mount drastically," said traders.

The Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Exporters and Producers Association (Central) said it is ready to help growers link with markets in Yangon. Growers can get further details from the association.

The association has also sought the assistance of the Trade Promotion Organization under the Commerce Ministry to help traders penetrate other foreign markets.

Myanmar exports more than 800,000 tons of watermelons and 150,000 tons of muskmelons every year. At present, only 200,000 tons of watermelons and a small volume of muskmelons have been shipped to external markets. In addition, a large quantity of watermelons and muskmelons are expected to be harvested in Myanmar until May-end.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports up $564 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S mineral exports topped US$880 million between 1 October and 24 January in the 2019-2020 financial year, reflecting a remarkable increase of $564 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, mineral exports were pegged at just $317 million.

Both private and public sector mineral exports witnessed an increase in the current fiscal, with private sector exports valued at $426.6 million and public sector exports estimated at $454.87 million.

Of the seven export groups, exports of agricultural products, minerals, fishery products, and finished industrial goods showed an increase, while the exports of livestock, forest products, and other goods declined.

Export values stood at over $1 billion for agricultural products, $50 million for livestock, $326 million for fishery products, $54.6 million for forest products, more than $3 billion for manufactured goods, and $107.4 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources such as natural gas and jade has been lessening.

Due to limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous year. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar's mining sector has again been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Democrats make final pitch in Iowa hours before first US vote

DES MOINES (United States) — Democratic candidates made their frantic, final campaign pitches Sunday in Iowa, on a mission to persuade undecided voters one day before the state's nominating contest officially starts the US presidential election season.

Iowa, a largely rural state of three million people, has traditionally served as a vital launching point -- or burial ground -- for presidential hopefuls.

Even as all eyes turn to the debut vote, Donald Trump's US Senate impeachment trial weighs over the Democratic kick-off, with the president expected to be acquitted just days after the Iowa contest.

"This is the most consequential election, certainly in the modern history of this country... and it all begins tomorrow night," Senator Bernie Sanders, the leading progressive in the race, told invigorated supporters at a meet-and-greet event in Iowa City.

Similar scenes played out across the state this weekend as most of the 11 remaining candidates made their final push to convince undecided voters that they are best positioned to defeat Trump. Monday's caucuses have created an air of suspense with no clear frontrunner. Several hopefuls look to strike gold here and seize the momentum going into the next contest, in New Hampshire on 11 February.

Leftist Sanders holds only a narrow lead over moderate former vice president Joe Biden. South Bend, Indiana ex-mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Elizabeth Warren are mere points behind. "Tomorrow, you can ruin Donald Trump's night!" Biden said as he rallied 1,100 supporters at a Des Moines middle school.—AFP

Harry Potter theme park set to cast spell in Tokyo from 2023

TOKYO — A park based on the Harry Potter film franchise is expected to open in Tokyo around spring 2023, replacing 94-year-old amusement park Toshimaen, a source close to the matter said Monday.

Seibu Holdings Inc., the parent company of Toshimaen's operator, is considering closing the park in stages from this year, and is in talks with Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., founder of the franchise based on the children's novels written by British author J.K. Rowling, the source said.

The US film distributor is discussing opening a park featuring reproductions of sets of Harry Potter films, the source said.

It would be similar to "Warner Bros. Studio Tour London — The Making of Harry Potter," a facility in London that lets visitors experience the wizardly world through costumes, sets and props, the source said. USJ LLC, the operator of Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, western Japan, invested some 45 billion yen ($414 million) to create a Potter-themed attraction area in 2014 on the site, which includes a virtual-reality ride and a rollercoaster themed on the wizardly world.

Toshimaen opened in 1926 and is one of the biggest amusement parks in the capital, with over 30 rides and attractions, including a wooden carousel that was manufactured in Germany in 1907 and brought to the park in 1971, and a double-flip rollercoaster.— Kyodo News ■

Photo taken 3 February 2020 from a Kyodo News helicopter shows Toshimaen amusement park in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Thilawa silk Road

Thilawa silk Road is like the cheek of the pure virgin.
This is really amazing.
It is not created by magical power but done by human being.
This is Thilawa access road constructed by Max Myanmar Construction Co., under the guidence of Japanese Engineers applying their technologies.
Come across over the Thanlyin rail-cum-road bridge.
Thilawa silk road is ready to serve you.
You will see that is as soft as silk, smooth as glass-surface.
No raindrops can stay on the road and it is as hard as diamond as well.
For your safety, there are guard rails in the middle of the road.
Two lanes on both left and right.
When the sun set, silver lights will shine bright from the lamp posts from each side of the road.
Night scene of the silk road is like a picture.
I think, if the Thanlyin Bridge and Thilawa Silk Road were constructed long long time ago.
On! Dear., I am sure of that we couldn't hear the tragedies of ShinMweNwan and MinNandar.
Now that with safety, we can walk, we can bike, and we can drive on and through the silk road.
Wishing all the persons, wheels and vehicles using Thilawa Silk Road may arrive their destinations with convenience without any danger and disturbence.
Hoping people from all walks of life can access the road safely, peacefully and efficiently.
Oh I wish all the citizens can enjoy the road with so much joy and be satisfied.

Engr. Hla Min
(Max Myanmar)

Trump impeachment trial to resume for final arguments

US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump arrive for a Super Bowl viewing party at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, the day before final arguments in his impeachment trial. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump's impeachment trial resumes for final arguments Monday before an expected acquittal later in the week that Democrats have said will be invalid because no witnesses testified.

The president was impeached in December for abuse of power over pressure on US ally Ukraine to announce investigations that would have helped him politically, including into Joe Biden, a leading challenger for this year's presidential ballot.

Biden is among the candidates Monday in the Iowa caucuses that choose the state's Democratic nominee and mark the official start of election season.

The selection process in largely rural Iowa, coinciding with final impeachment arguments in Washington, will be closely watched as a sign as to which of 11 Democratic candidates are gaining early momentum to challenge Trump in November's election.

At only the third impeachment trial of a US president, Trump is all but assured of being acquitted Wednesday, the day after his annual "State of the Union" speech, which the president said will carry a "very, very positive message."

Republicans hold 53 seats in the Senate to 47 for the Democrats, but a two-thirds majority, or 67 senators, is needed to remove him from office.

Adam Schiff, the leader of the House prosecutors, known as impeachment managers, told CBS on Sunday that it was "pretty remarkable" that senators on both sides had acknowledged that Democrats proved their case against the president.

"But I'm not letting the senators off the hook. We're still going to go into the Senate this week and make the case why this president needs to be removed. It will be up to the senators to make that final judgment, and the senators will be held accountable for it."

Republican Senators Lamar Alexander and Joni Ernst on Sunday said Trump's behavior was troubling but not impeachable.— AFP ■

Shanghai tanks on virus fears to lead fresh Asia market retreat

HONG KONG (China) — Chinese equities plunged almost eight percent Monday as nervous traders returned from their extended Lunar New Year break, hit by fears that the coronavirus, which has killed more people than SARS, could hammer the country's economy.

The steep losses led another sell-off across Asia following a painful week for global markets with the virus death toll topping 360 people and more than 17,000 infected, and governments around the world banning flights to and from China.

Analysts have warned the outbreak could slash global growth this year, throwing a spanner in the works just as economies were showing signs of stabilising after more than a year of slowing.

Observers said that with China being a crucial part of the global trade infrastructure, other countries would also be badly hit, while major corporate names have frozen or scaled back their Chinese operations, threatening the global supply chain.

The World Health Organization invoked a global health emergency last week but stopped short of recommending trade and travel restrictions that could have had a bruising effect on China.

"The situation is terrible and China's economy will be dealt a bad blow," said Stephen Innes at AxiCorp.

"As will (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries that have built significant trade ties with China, even more so those countries that are tourist destination spots and service providers to Chinese tourists. They will be dealt the nastiest blow of all."

Several countries have banned flights to and from China as the coronavirus continues to spread, fanning concerns about the impact on the world economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shanghai plunged almost nine percent at the open on the first day back after the Chinese New Year break as traders played catch-up with last week's global retreat.

The market had been due to reopen on Friday but authorities extended the holiday to buy time in the fight against the virus.

Monday's losses were the biggest since the 2015 market rout, though the composite index managed to pare some of the losses, helped by the central bank's decision to pump 1.2 trillion yuan ($173 billion) into the economy. The yuan fell about 1.5 per cent against the dollar.

Firms linked to tourism and travel were among the worst hit, with energy, telecoms and tech companies also well down. More than 2,600 stocks fell by their daily 10 percent limit, while the main iron ore contract fell by its maximum allowed eight percent. Copper, crude and palm oil also sank by their limit.

"The near-term impact on Chinese GDP growth is likely to be large," Oxford Economics said in a research note.

"Considering the affected areas account for just over 50 percent of total Chinese output, we think this could lead China's annual GDP growth to slow to just four percent in (the first quarter)," it added — down from a previous forecast of six percent growth.—AFP ■

Panasonic April-Dec. operating profit drops 17% on weak China sales

TOKYO — Panasonic Corp. said Monday its group operating profit fell 17.8 per cent in the April to December period from a year earlier to 240.67 billion yen ($2.2 billion), as sales of manufacturing equipment declined on slowing capital spending in China.

The Japanese electronics maker said it is too early to assess the impact of the outbreak of a new coronavirus in China and maintained its full-year guidance as cost-cutting and reform efforts will offset slumping sales of auto electronic parts in the world's second-largest economy.

For the first nine months of fiscal 2019, Panasonic posted a group net profit of 178.15 billion yen, up 2.6 per cent, due to a lower tax burden after the sale of its semiconductor businesses. Group sales fell 5.4 per cent to 5.76 trillion yen.

Sluggish sales of factory automation devices slashed operating profit in the industrial solutions segment 85 percent to 9.8 billion yen.

The company logged an operating loss of 29.2 billion yen in the automotive electronic parts business, widening from a loss of 9.2 billion yen a year earlier.

The wider loss reflects falling auto sales in China, which outweighed growth in sales of car batteries for Tesla Inc.'s electric vehicles.

"Sales of vehicles have chilled for quite some time in China and I think the severe situation will continue for a while," Chief Financial Officer HirokazuUmeda said at a press conference.

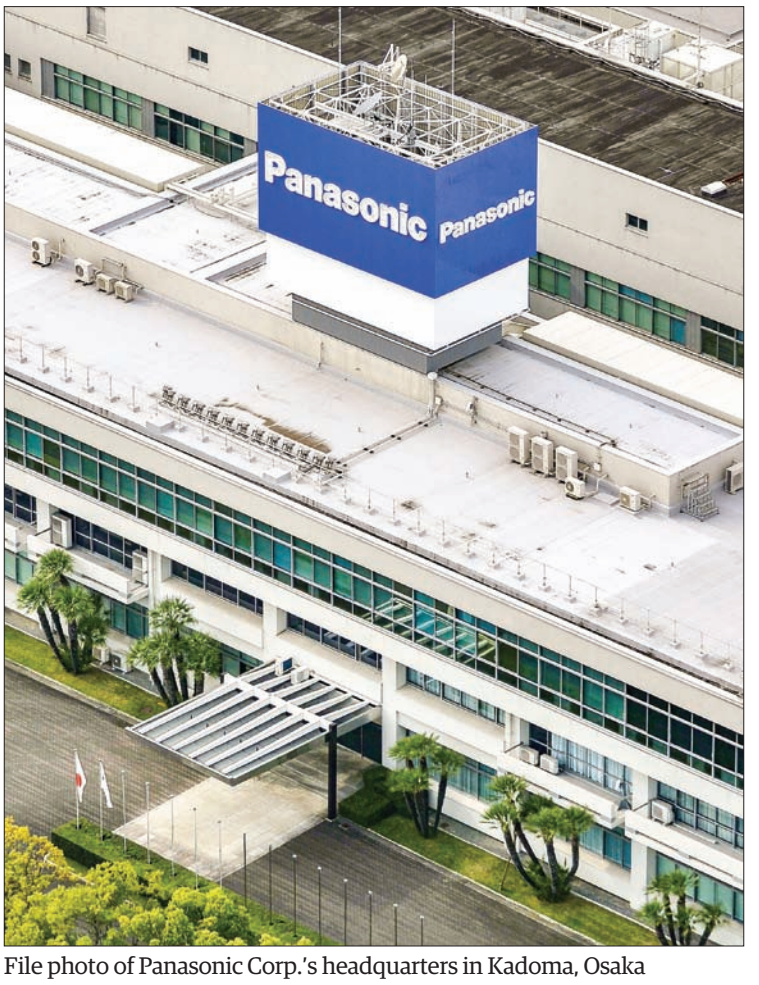
The October consumption tax hike to 10 per cent from 8 per cent in Japan also dented domestic sales of home appliance business products such as air conditioners.

For the full year ending in March, Panasonic left its outlook unchanged, expecting a group net profit of 200 billion yen and group operating profit of 300 billion yen, down 29.6 per cent and 27.1 per cent from a year earlier, respectively. It forecast group sales of 7.70 trillion yen, down 3.8 per cent.

Umeda said his company will restart plants in China on 10 February as planned, but it would consider moving production out of China if its supply chain is disrupted. It is still difficult to assess any financial impact at present, he added.

"At present, we plan to restart operations of our plants in China from 10 Februaryin line with policies by China's central and local governments.

That means we would be behind schedule by one week, which can be covered (by holiday shifts)," he said. — Kyodo News ■



File photo of Panasonic Corp.'s headquarters in Kadoma, Osaka Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

S Korean carmakers' global auto sale falls in January

SEOUL — South Korean carmakers' global automotive sale fell in the first month of this year as the Lunar New Year holiday reduced the number of working days, industry data showed Monday.

The number of cars, sold globally by five local carmakers including Hyundai, Kia, Ssangyong, GM Korea and Renault Samsung, was 553,558 in January, down 6 per cent from a year earlier.

It came as the number of business days declined by 2.5 days in the month due to the Lunar New Year holiday.

Hyundai Motor, the country's biggest automaker, sold a total of 304,076 vehicles globally last month.

Hyundai's local car sale tumbled 21.3 per cent over the year to 47,591 units in January, while the overseas sale added 0.6 percent to 256,485 vehicles.

Kia Motors, affiliated with Hyundai, posted a global sale of 215,112 units in January, up 2.5 per cent from a year ago.

In the domestic market, Kia's auto sale slipped 2.5 per cent to 37,050 units in the month, but the overseas sale grew 3.6 per cent to 178,062 units.

Ssangyong's global car sale tumbled 33 per cent over the year to 7,653 units in January amid a weak demand both at home and abroad.

GM Korea, the South Korean unit of the US automaker General Motors, sold 20,484 vehicles globally in the month.

The carmaker's local car sale inched up 0.9 per cent, but its export plunged 54.3 per cent.

The local car sale by Renault Samsung contracted 16.8 per cent from a year earlier to 4,303 units in January, and its export dropped 77.3 per cent to 1,930 units.— Xinhua ■

UK police search homes in terror stabbing probe

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British police were searching two homes on Monday after shooting dead an extremist who knifed two people in London in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group, as the government vowed a review of the system for the early release of convicted terrorists.

Sudesh Amman, 20, who was wearing a fake suicide vest, was shot on a busy shopping street in south London on Sunday.

IS's propaganda arm called Amman "an IS fighter and he carried out the attack in response to a call to target nationals" of countries belonging to the global coalition fighting it.

Amman was recently freed early from prison after serving part of his sentence for a string of Islamist-related terror offences -- namely the possession and distribution of terrorist documents.

Counter-terror officers were conducting searches at one address in south London and one in Bishop's Stortford, north of the capital near London Stansted Airport.

Amman had been arrested in London in May 2018 on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack. He was jailed for three years and four months in December 2018 for 13 separate offences.

Police officers conduct a search on Streatham High Road in south London after a man was shot dead by police. **PHOTO: AFP**

As part of what police said was a "proactive counter-terrorism surveillance operation", armed officers were following him on foot following his release.

PM plans law change

Sunday's incident in the Streatham district came just over two months after a similar incident when armed police shot dead a convicted terrorist on early release near London Bridge in the heart of the city.

He had stabbed two people to death after attending a prisoner rehabilitation conference.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said plans would be announced later Monday to change the system on handling the release of convicted terrorists.

He had previously promised such changes following the London Bridge attack. "What was he (Amman) doing out on automatic early release and why was there no system of scrutiny, no parole system to check whether he was really a suitable candidate?" he told reporters.

"Looking at the problems we have with re-educating and reclaiming and rehabilitating people who succumb to Islamism, it's very, very hard and very tough — and it can happen that the instances of success are really very few.

"My anxiety is that we do not want to get back to a system where you have a lot of very, very, laborious surveillance by our hard-pushed security services.... when a custodial version might be better." London Mayor Sadiq Khan meanwhile told ITV television he was "angry" that the government had not already acted to change the law.

The Labour party politician said there were "roughly" more than 70 people in London who have been convicted of a terrorist offence, served time in prison and have been released.

Britain downgraded its terror threat level from "severe" to "substantial" — the third-highest of five levels, warning a terrorist attack is considered "likely" rather than "highly likely" — in early November. That was its lowest rating in more than five years.—AFP ■

Turkey and Syrian regime in deadly flare-up

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Turkish and Syrian troops traded deadly fire in Syria's northwest on Monday, further raising tension between Ankara and regime backer Moscow over the war-torn Idlib rebel enclave.

An air strike also killed at least nine civilians in the same area, where the latest government offensive has caused one of the nine-year-old Syrian conflict's worst waves of displacement.

The tit-for-tat shelling between Damascus and Ankara was the deadliest since Turkey deployed troops in Syria in 2016 and escalated tensions between the conflict's two top foreign brokers.

Turkish President RecepTayyipErdogan had offered rare criticism of Russia last week, accusing it of "not honouring" agreements to prevent a regime offensive on the northwestern region of Idlib.

The overnight clash began with regime shelling on Turkish positions in Idlib, hours after a Turkish military convoy of at least 240 vehicles entered northwest Syria, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor.

The clashes came a day after Turkey sent a convoy of tanks and armoured vehicles into northern Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

The attack killed four Turkish soldiers and wounded nine others despite previous coordination on where Ankara's forces would be in the region, Turkey's defence ministry said.

The Russian defence ministry said Ankara had failed to give prior warning of its troop movements at the time of the incident.

Retaliatory rocket attacks by Ankara on regime positions later killed at least 13 Syrian government troops and wounded 20 others in Idlib and the neighbouring provinces of Hama and Latakia, the Observatory said.

Most Syrian troops were killed south of Saraqeb, a flashpoint Idlib town that Damascus has been trying to encircle in recent days, said the Observatory.

State news agency SANA said the Syrian army had not suffered any casualties.—AFP ■

Iraqi protesters dig in heels despite new PM-designate

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — Furious anti-government youth in Iraq's capital and south on Sunday rejected the nomination of Mohammad Allawi as prime minister, but came up against rival sit-ins by supporters of an influential cleric backing the new premier.

Allawi was named prime minister-designate after a hard-won consensus among Iraq's rival parties, who had struggled to agree on a candidate since outgoing premier Adel Abdel Mahdi resigned under growing street pressure two months ago.

Mass rallies have rocked Baghdad and the mainly-Shiite south since October, with protesters demanding snap elections and an independent prime minister as well as accountability for corruption and recent bloodshed. Young demonstrators have expressed contempt for the ruling elite and on Sunday, they slammed Allawi — a former lawmaker and minister — as part and parcel of the system they want to overhaul.

"We are here to reject the new prime minister because he has a well-known history within the political class," said 22-year-old university student Tiba protesting in Baghdad.

Hundreds of students flooded the streets around the capital's main protest camp of Tahrir Square, carrying pictures of Allawi with an "X" over his face.

They blared upbeat Arabic music through speakers to drown out somber Islamic hymns played by demonstrators loyal to populist cleric Moqtada Sadr. Sadr backed the protests in October but has split with the main movement over Allawi, whose designation he welcomed as a "good step".

Dozens of hardcoreSadrists responded by storming a key Baghdad building known as the Turkish restaurant, a symbol of the uprising, to drive out activists and remove banners listing their demands.—AFP ■

China 'urgently needs' medical gear and masks as virus toll tops SARS

BEIJING(China) — China said Monday it urgently needed medical equipment and surgical masks as the death toll from a new coronavirus jumped above 360, making it more deadly than the SARS crisis nearly two decades ago.

The 57 new deaths confirmed Monday was the single-biggest daily increase since the virus was detected late last year in the central city of Wuhan, where it is believed to have jumped from animals at a market into humans.

The virus has since spread to more than 24 countries despite many governments imposing unprecedented travel bans on arrivals coming from China.

The World Health Organization has declared the crisis a global health emergency, and the first foreign death from the virus was confirmed in the Philippines on Sunday.

"What China urgently needs at present are medical masks, protective suits, and safety goggles," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a press briefing.

Authorities in provinces that are home to more than 300 million people — including Guangdong, the country's most populous — have ordered everyone to wear masks in public in an effort to contain the virus.

But factories capable of producing around 20 million masks a day are only operating at between 60 and 70 per cent of capacity, industry department spokesman Tian Yulong said, adding that supply and demand remained in "tight equilibrium" as a result of the Lunar New Year break.

Tian said authorities were taking steps to bring in masks from Europe, Japan and the US, while the foreign ministry said countries including South Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan and Hungary had donated medical supplies.

All but one of the 57 new deaths reported Monday were in Wuhan and the rest of Hubei province, most of which has been under lockdown for almost two weeks.

The national death toll reached 361 — exceeding the 349 mainland fatalities from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2002-03. The number of infections also jumped significantly, passing 17,200.

SARS, caused by a pathogen similar to the new coronavirus and also originated in China, killed 774 people — with most other deaths in Hong Kong.

Economic woes

The virus is taking an increasing economic toll, shutting down businesses across China, curbing international travel and impacting production lines of major global brands.

The Shanghai stock market plunged almost eight percent Monday on the first day of trading since the holiday as investors played catch-up with last week's global retreat.

The coronavirus has spread to more than 24 countries, despite many governments imposing unprecedented travel bans on people coming from China. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Wuhan, which has been transformed from a bustling industrial hub into a near-ghost town, residents have been living in deep fear of catching the virus.

The city's medical facilities have been overwhelmed, with state news agency Xinhua reporting Monday that 68 medical teams of 8,300 staff had been sent to Hubei.

And amid mounting pressure, the government has been racing to build two new hospitals to treat the infected.

The first of those, a 1,000-bed facility, was due to open on Monday, just 10 days after construction began.

However, with the death toll surging in Wuhan and other areas of Hubei, it was not immediately clear what overall impact the hospitals would have on containing the epidemic.

The industrial city of Wenzhou, 800 kilometres (500 miles) to the east, was placed under a similar lockdown to Wuhan on Sunday and its nine million people ordered to stay indoors.— AFP ■

1st plane of Australian coronavirus evacuees from Wuhan touches down

SYDNEY — The first of two planes carrying 243 Australian citizens and permanent residents out of Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, landed Monday in the state of Western Australia, local media reported.

According to the Australian Broadcasting Corp., the Qantas flight, carrying 200 Australian citizens and 43 permanent residents, landed on Monday afternoon at a Royal Australian Air Force base.

Passengers arrive at Sydney International Airport on 23 January 2020 in Sydney, Australia. The flight from Wuhan departed the Chinese city prior to officials temporarily closing down transport from the city to help stop the outbreak of a strain of coronavirus. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Evacuees will undergo a medical examination before being transported in smaller, military planes to Christmas Island — a small Australian territory some 2,600 kilometers off the mainland — where they will spend two weeks in quarantined isolation.

Earlier Monday, Foreign Minister Marise Payne said of the 243 passengers, 89 are under the age of 16 including several infants.

While in the plane, passengers were required to change face masks hourly and use personal hand sanitizers. So far, there have been 12 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Australia, with over 17,300 cases reported globally.— Kyodo News ■

Political design behind Jamia, Shaheen Bagh protests: PM Modi

NEW DELHI (India) — Amid the agitations against Citizenship Amendment Act, National register of Citizens and National Population Registration across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that there is a "political design" behind all these protests including in Delhi's Jamia and Shaheen Bagh to ruin the harmony of the nation.

"Be it Seelampur, Jamia or Shaheen Bagh, protests held over the past several days regarding the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Is this just a coincidence? No. This is an experiment," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first election rally for Delhi polls at Karkardooma. "There is a political design behind all these protests including Jamia and Shaheen Bagh. These protests are a conspiracy to divide India. These protests are going to ruin the harmony of the nation," he asserted. Lambasting the opposition parties including Congress and Aam Aadmi Party for supporting the ongoing protests, he said: "But AAP and Congress are provoking people. Constitution and tricolor are being kept in front and attention is being diverted from the real conspiracy."

"These people were doubting the ability of our forces during surgical strikes. Do citizens of Delhi want such people in power? These people are saving those who want to break India into pieces," he added.

People have been protesting at Jamia and Shaheen Bagh against CAA, NRC and NPR.

Members of the Opposition have deemed CAA "discriminatory and anti-Constitution" while the Centre has maintained that the new law has no effect on Indian citizens. — ANI■

East China province launches online exhibitions amid epidemic

NANCHANG — East China's Jiangxi Province has rolled out a series of online exhibitions for people to enjoy a cultural feast via the Internet while local museums and memorial halls are closed amid fight against novel coronavirus outbreak.

The Jiangxi Provincial Museum launched a new program on its official WeChat account Monday to feature one treasure in the museum each day for 20 days. On Monday, a bronze tiger dating back to the Shang Dynasty (1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.) was exhibited online. Meanwhile, the museum has also opened several online thematic shows including exhibitions on cultural relics unearthed from the tomb of the Marquis of Haihun, princess's jewelry from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and pictures of the Chinese zodiac relics.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar's July Kyaw (red) vies the ball with South Korean goal keeper (yellow) during yesterday's Women's Olympic Qualifier at Jeju World Cup Stadium. **PHOTO: MFF**

Women's Olympics Qualifiers: Myanmar lose to South Korea 0-7

THE Myanmar women's national football team suffered their first 0-7 loss in the group stage of the 2020 Women's Olympics Qualifiers against host South Korea yesterday at the Jeju World Cup Stadium in Seogwipo, South Korea.

Both teams have been placed in Group A for the qualifications.

As a world-class team, the South Korean squad deserved the win, with all players executing and tackling well.

For most of the match, South Korea controlled the ball and passed crisply.

Led by head coach Tin Myint Aung, team Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Mya Phoo Ngon, Ei Yadanar Phyo, Khin Myo Win, Khaing Thazin, July Kyaw, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Captain Khin Malar Tun, Khin Moe Wai, Chit Chit, Nu Nu, and Yee Yee Oo.

South Korea scored the opener at 4 minutes from a penalty kick. The penalty was kicked successfully by Ji Soyun.

Lee Sodam scored the second goal for the team at 37 minutes.

The third goal for South Korea was scored by Jisoyun at 52 minutes.

A minute later, South Korea's Park Yeeun scored the fourth goal at 53 minutes and the fifth goal at 70 minutes.

Next, Yeo Min Ji scored the sixth goal at 80 minutes and the seventh goal at 88 minutes to secure a big win for the team over Myanmar.

Myanmar will play the next Group A match against Viet Nam on 6 February at the same venue.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

U-19 Myanmar National League: Shan United beat Yangon United by two goals

SHAN United beat Yangon United by 3-1 in the U-19 Myanmar National League match held yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

The goals for Shan United were scored by Khun Aung Naing, Htoo Htoo Naung, and Aye Min Thu.

The clash between the two giants in the U-19 national league proved to be an entertaining one with players displaying good football skills.

Shan United dominated over Yangon United right from the start of the match.

Shan United youth player Khun Aung Naing scored an early opening goal for the team soon after the match began.

Yangon United netted the equalizer at 31 minutes. The goal was scored by Than Toe Aung off an assist from teammate Kaung Zin Moe.

With stylish play, Shan United scored their second or leading goal at 48 minutes. The goal was scored by Htoo Htoo Naung.

The third goal for Shan United was scored during additional time by Aye Min Thu and the match ended with the team winning over Yangon United by two goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Shan United youth player (red) vies for the ball with Yangon United player during their U-19 Myanmar National League match yesterday at Yangon United Sports Complex. **PHOTO:YUFC**

Myanmar Futsal League: VUC still leading with no losses

AFTER the conclusion of the Week-18 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League, the Victoria University College Futsal Club is still at the top of the scoring table of the Myanmar Futsal League with a no-loss record.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Imperial University (MIU) Futsal Club is second with the same points, but with goal differences. GV Futsal Club, trailing the first and second placed teams by 4 points, is third.

On Doctor Futsal Club is placed fourth with 29 points from nine wins, two draws, and seven losses and Winner Futsal Club is in the fifth place with the same points, but with goal differences.

Myoma JY Futsal Club is sixth with 27 points from nine wins and nine losses, and the Myanmar Football Federation U-19 futsal team is in the seventh place with 22 points from six wins, four draws, and eight losses.

Twelve teams are participating in the tourney, and the Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club is currently at the bottom of the table with four points earned from one win, one draw, and 16 losses.
—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

The Victoria University College Futsal Club seen at a Myanmar Futsal League match. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**