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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of Kazakhstan

President U Win Myint accepts Letters of Credence from Ambassador of Kazakhstan Ms Raushan Yesbulatova. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ms Raushan Yesbulatova, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her 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 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

■

59 students brought back from Wuhan doing well: officials

The 59 Myanmar students brought back from Wuhan were in good health on the third day of their 14-day quarantine yesterday at the Kandawnadi Hospital in Mandalay, according to Deputy director Dr Khin Kyaw, Medical Superintendent of the Mandalay General Hospital, who is currently responsible for monitoring the students' health.

"A total of 59 people were evacuated from Wuhan – 16 male students, 42 female students, and a three-year-old girl. They all are well on the third day of quarantine, with no fever and no respiratory symptoms," said Dr Khin Kyaw.

The condition of the three health workers who took part in the mission to bring the students back is also being monitored, and they are also in good health, he added.

"Quarantine does not mean that they have been infected with the coronavirus. It is being imposed to prevent the possibility of an infection," he added.

The students will received quarantine care from a medical team led by the medical superintendent of the Mandalay General Hospital.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears loan plan from South Korea, national education commission's report

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held the 5th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday, and the deputy ministers reported on loan plan of Myanmar government from the Economic Development Co-operation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea, and Hluttaw representatives discussed a report of National Education Policy Commission for the six-month period.

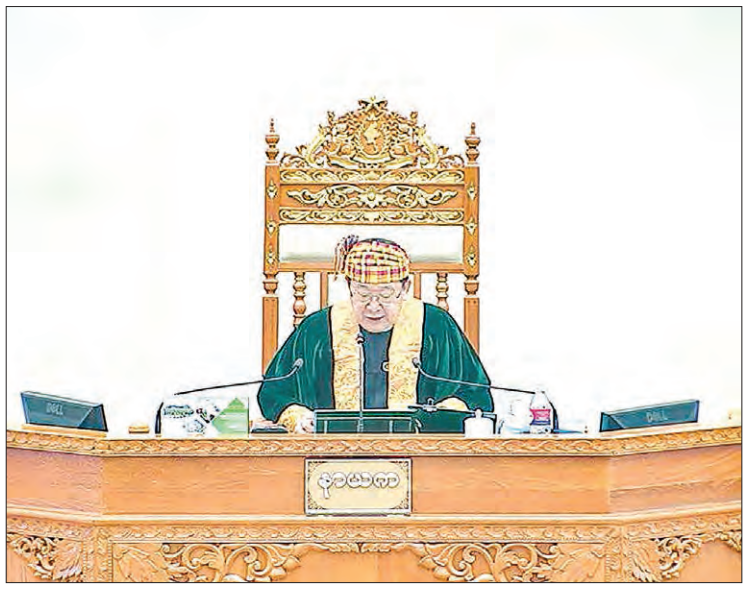
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Kyin Ngeik Mam presented the committee's findings and remarks on Myanmar Insolvency Bill sent back from the President with recommendations.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the President's recommendations on the bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win read out the committee's findings and remarks on the bill to amend Farm Land Law sent back from the President with recommendations.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the President's recommendations on the bill.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win explained US$113.036 million loan plan from the EDCF of ROK proposed by the President to upgrade natural gas pipelines of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing explained the estimated cost for the project located in Magway Region and western part of Bago Region is US$129.5 million although the loan plan is just $113.036 million, and that the government will spend its revenue in Myanmar kyat equivalent to $16.468 million for the project.

The interest rate for EDCF loan would be 0.01 per cent with 15-year grace period and 25-year settlement period. The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy would finalize the project in 48 months from the date signed the loan agreement.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win also said the gas pipeline could supply natural gas to the power plants in Shwetaung and Myanaung, as well as to Kyawswa fertilizer factory. He added the loan plan meets the existing laws and policies of the country.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited the names of Hluttaw MPs who want to discuss the loan plan.

The Hluttaw representatives discussed the report of National Education Policy Commission on its works for the six-month period from 10 April to 9 October 2019.

Pyithu Hluttaw's Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Htin Lin Oo said the number of agriculture graduates contributes only 0.5 per cent of the country's total education degree holders, and remarked the importance of commission's suggestion to reopen agriculture and livestock high schools.

MP U Kyaw Thaung from Sagaing Region constituency 1 discussed adopting an effective private school education law to protect the rights of schools and students under this law.

MP U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency advised the National Education Policy Commission to develop an appropriate education system for the country and to carefully monitor the KG+12 education system for its effectiveness.

MP U Okkar Min from Taninthayi constituency 8 discussed to specify minimum requirements of education level for the members of curriculum development boards, selection of these members with the recommendation of subject experts and reviewing the consistency of curricula with local contexts.

The report was also discussed by the other 18 Hluttaw representatives. The sixth day meeting of Pyidaugsu Hluttaw will convene on 6th February.—Aung Ye Thwin and Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chairman receives IFES President

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein received a delegation led by Mr Tony Banbury, President of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to implementation of 2019-2022 strategy for holding 2020 General Election successfully in accordance with the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of people, conducting capacity building trainings for members and staff of election sub-commissions, programmes of election monitoring, cooperation on public and voter awareness programmes, and assistances in holding the general election successfully. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talk with Mr Tony Banbury, President of International Foundation for Electoral System, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio delivers speech at peace summit in ROK

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the World Summit 2020 in Seoul yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech at the Assembly and International Summit Council for Peace of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020 in Seoul, Republic of Korea yesterday.

When he arrived at the summit venue, Kintex Center, he was welcomed by Dr. Young Ho Yun, General Secretary of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020, and officials.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio then posed for a documentary photo with the Universal Peace Foundation (UPF) Founder, state leaders, heads of governments, and ex-leaders.

Next, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr. Hun Sen, Vice President of the Philippines Mrs. Maria Leonor Robredo, Prime Minister of Niger Mr. Brigi Rayini, Deputy Speaker Mr. Lee Joo Young of the Republic of Korea Parliament, UPF Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, former UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki Moon and world ex-leaders delivered speeches on the occasion.

In his address, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said: "This summit will provide us with a great opportunity to exchange views on how to contribute to promoting peace and security around the world as well as to foster a culture of peace for all mankind.

A culture of peace is a prerequisite for creation of a stable, progressive and prosperous world. We can work together to promote a culture of peace through dialogue and negotiation, enhance tolerance, trust and mutual understanding.

The world we are living in is being confronted with various challenges and uncertainties of both nature and man-made. These are posing threats not only to global peace and human development but also to our very existence. They also have negative consequences on peace building endeavours in this world. Global challenges including climate change and terrorism cannot be overcome by countries acting alone, but require global partnership.

Peace is of vital importance to maintain security and achieve human development. Promoting a culture of peace is crucial in preventing violence and conflicts in societies.

We all need to pursue the goals of peaceful coexistence and development in our society. In order to accomplish these goals, collaboration of both non-governmental and governmental organizations is essential.

Youth plays pivotal role as a huge source of potential for country development. Therefore, young people must have equal access to quality education at all levels. We need to have a concerted effort of governments, civil societies, scholars, international organizations, and parents to use education as a platform in improving the lives now and for future generations.

The main objective of human development approach is to upgrade people's freedoms and lives. Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly share Myanmar's experience in promoting peace and national reconciliation. Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country with a long history of prolonged infightings. Therefore, soon after assuming the responsibilities, our government has been striving for long-lasting peace as its topmost priority and pursuing through a complicated peace process involving 18 ethnic armed organizations.

As part of the peace agenda, we have successfully convened three sessions of the Union Peace Conference and agreed on a total of 51 basic principles for building a Democratic Federal Union. Despite many challenges ahead, it is encouraging to see that our people have started to embrace the culture of political dialogue as a means to solve internal conflicts. We firmly believe that achievement of lasting peace is an essential part of Myanmar's journey towards sustainable and inclusive development.

As we truly believe that peace, security and human development are fundamental needs for mankind in this globalized world, we are of the view that the peoples, the governments, together with the civil societies, organizations can and should work together by sharing knowledge, experiences, and positively assisting each other in promoting peace and stability as well as sustaining universal values.

So, let us join hands and renew our joint endeavours in promoting peace, security and human development across the globe," he urged.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and General Secretary Dr. Young Ho Yun of the Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020 signed the Letter of Intent for the Asia-Pacific Peace Summit 2020 to be held in Myanmar.

Similarly, the Prime Minister of Niger, the representative of the African Union and UPF Secretary signed the Letter of Intent for the African Peace Summit.

Also present on the occasions were Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin, Permanent Secretary U Soe Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

The Peace, Security and Human Development World Summit 2020: Assembly and International Summit Council for Peace will be held until 6 February and a total of 6,000 world delegates including state leaders of 171 countries, and 25 heads of governments and ex-leaders.

The Vice President then attended the luncheon of the World Summit 2020.

In the evening, Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended the biography debut of Dr. Hakja Han Moon, Founder of UPF and the dinner in honour of Mother Foundation. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and the dignitaries attend the World Summit 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

Today is the time when all the national brethren have been striving with a strong union spirit to obtain eternal peace

Today is the time when all the national brethren have been striving with a strong union spirit to obtain eternal peace and to achieve mutual understanding and trust without doubts and conflicts while taking the lessons in the past. The Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong has been successfully held three times in order to obtain peace and national reconciliation and some agreements for building a democratic federal union have been reached. We have been undergoing the peace process in order to build a federal union all the national races have been craving for.

(Excerpt from Message of President U Win Myint, sent to the 72nd Independence Day 4th January 2020)

Union Minister U Soe Win holds talk with Mr Paul Scully, British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Myanmar, Thailand and Brunei in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Planning, Finance, Industry Minister receives British PM's Trade Envoy

UNION MINISTER for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win received Mr Paul Scully MP, the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Myanmar, Thailand and Brunei, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral economic cooperation, assistances from Department for International Development (DFID), Myanmar's banking and financial sectors, development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and cooperation on trade and investment sectors.

Deputy Ministers for Planning, Finance and Industry U Set Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, British Ambassador Mr Daniel Chugg, Head of DFID Mr Rurik Marsden and officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Report writing group meets for PWDs' rights

THE Annual Report Writing Group of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held its fifth coordination meeting yesterday afternoon in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Information U Aung Hla Tun, in his capacity as Group Chair, said: "This is the fifth meeting and some basic points relating to the annual report were approved after a round of discussions in the previous meetings. Moreover, a work programme was coordinated and allocated to collect, edit and print the drafts from the ministries and organizations concerned. After reviewing a collection of the drafts, discussions will be made to release a highly qualified report in time."

Next, Deputy Director-General of Resettlement Department Dr. Tun Zaw briefed on completion of works decided in the fourth meeting and Shwe Minthar Foundation Chairman U Myat Thu Win explained their work on the department-wise drafts from the respective ministries.

A round of discussion was then followed by the meeting of participants.

Then, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun concluded the meeting which was attended by deputy directors-general, directors and officials concerned. — MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the fifth coordination meeting of the Annual Report Writing Group of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union IFER Minister receives British PM's Trade Envoy

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun, received Mr Paul Scully MP, the British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Myanmar, Thailand and Brunei at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw. The British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy was accompanied by Mr Dan Chugg, the UK Ambassador to Myanmar.

The Union Minister and the UK Trade Envoy discussed matters relating to the promotion of bilateral trade and investment relations between Myanmar and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. —MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 4/2020

11th Waxing of Tabodwe 1381 ME
4 February 2020

Reassigned to perform original military duties

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lieutenant-General Kyaw Swe has been reassigned to perform his original military duties.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 5/2020

11th Waxing of Tabodwe 1381 ME
4 February 2020

Appointment of Deputy Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 section (a) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) sub-section (9) of the Union Government Law, following persons have been appointed as Deputy Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names.

(1)	U Min Lwin	Deputy Minister Ministry of State Counsellor Office
(2)	Dr Myint Kyaing	Deputy Minister Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

CBM Governor receives Vietnamese Ambassador

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received Ambassador of Viet Nam Mr Ly Quoc Tuan at Gantgaw hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to seeking opportunities of co-operation in banking sectors and economies of two countries. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Dollar exchange rate drops below K1,450

THE US dollar continued to slide against the Kyat in the local currency market, with the exchange rate touching a low of K1,447 per dollar on 4 February, said money exchangers.

On 3 January, the rate was pegged at K1,455, while the US dollar index was above 97 in the global market.

"The current appreciation of the Kyat in the forex market can be attributed to higher exports and a low inflow of the Chinese Yuan due to the New Year holidays and the coronavirus outbreak. Also, dollar demand is falling in the market," said a money exchanger.

The dollar has depreciated even though the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been buying dollars from private banks to govern the market. The CBM had set the reference exchange rate (weighted average market rate) at K1,457 per dollar on 3 February.

In October last year, the dollar exchange rate had hit a high of K1,600. Thereafter, the dollar has been falling in the local currency market.

With the Kyat gaining against the dollar in the internal forex market, the domestic gold price plunged to K1.185 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) on 5 December from a record high of K1.3 million in early September.

In 2019, the exchange rate stood at K1,540 on 1 January and fell to a low of K1,515 on 15 January. It continued to drop and reached K1,503 on 28 February. Thereafter, it rose to K1,527 on 18 March and touched K1,538 on 14 May. The rate stood at K1,259 on 1 June and K1,514 on 26 August. Then, the dollar exchange rate hit a peak of K1,565 on 6 September. It was pegged at around K1,528-1,537 in October. In November, the rate moved in the range of K1,510-1,524. Last month, the dollar rate started to dip below 1,500. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar opium cultivation continues to drop as production ranking declines from second to third

MYANMAR has seen a decline of opium cultivation in 2019 to 33,100 hectares, which was over 11 per cent drop from 37,300 hectares in 2018, according to the Myanmar Opium Survey 2019 report released in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The survey was jointly conducted by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and it has been carried out annually since 2001, together with collecting socioeconomic data of locals in opium cultivation areas.

At the report launching ceremony, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu said Myanmar's opium cultivation and production continued dropping since 2014. The three consecutive years of decline were recorded from the 41,000 hectares in 2017 to 37,300 hectares in 2018 and to 33,100 hectares in 2019.

Moreover, the country's total opium production dropped from 550 metric tons in 2017 to 520 metric tons in 2018 and 508 tons in 2019 respectively.

The Deputy Minister also said Myanmar's opium production ranking dropped from the second largest opium producer to the third position.

The major opium cultivation areas in Myanmar were mountainous remote States of Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Chin, according to the survey.

The Deputy Minister added the government is implementing infrastructural and socioeconomic development programmes in fighting against opium cultivation and production in coordination with private business firms and international organizations. Mr Troels Vester, the Country Manager of UNODC, made a speech and Mr Jeremy Douglas, the Regional Representative of UNODC for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, explained the report.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Opium Survey 2019 being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 5/2020
10th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1381 ME
(3 February 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to pre**vent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the** Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 1 February 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Daw Htwe Yin who lives in Hmankinn Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 January 2020, police searched the house of Daw Htwe Yin, 53, daughter of U Thein Maung, who lives in Hmankinn Village, Mohnyin Township, and arrested her and her son Chit Thu, 19, son of U Maung Hsain, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Lonton)MaYa(pa)4/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Thein Maw who lives in Phonekonelay Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 January 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Thein Maw, 45, son of U Aung Shein, who lives in Phonekonelay Village, Htigyaing Township, on the road to Myataung Model Village of the same township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Thargyi who lives in Monsu Ward, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 26 January 2020, police searched the house of Thargyi (a) Thein Tun Oo, 28, son of U Than Tun, who lives in Monsu Ward, Myeik Township, and arrested him, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Myeik)MaYa(pa)16/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Naing Nge who lives in Taungnge Village, Bokepyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 January 2020, police searched the house of Naing Nge (a) Naing Lin, 31, son of U Tun Myint, who lives in Taungnge Village, Bokepyin Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and speciosa powder. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Mandaine)MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Ma Ni Ni Win who lives in No 19 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 28 January 2020, police searched the house of Ma Ni Ni Win, 24, daughter of U Soe Thein, who lives in No 19 Ward, Hlinethaya Township and arrested her and Ma Kyaw Zeya (a) Ma Mae Lone, 15, daughter of U Hla Myo Win, who lives in the same ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Hlinethaya)MaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Mi Ni who lives in Kannar (west) Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 January 2020, police arrested Mi Ni (a) Ma Ni Ni Lwin, 43, daughter of U Kyaw Thein, who lives in Kannar (west) Ward, Insein Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on the Dhana Theikdi Street in the same ward. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Insein)MaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Mi Khaing who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 January 2020, police searched the house of Mi Khaing (a) Khaing Thanda Oo, 35, daughter of U Myint Oo, who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (North Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 964 cases have been opened files as of 1 February 2020. A total of 1,489 people, including 1,240 men and 249 women had been arrested with 7502.3814g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,339.02166 g of opium, 661.27 g of low-quality opium, 53242.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 463,432 stimulant tablets, 10310.42 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 19 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts:

Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Vice President's wife visits Kachin Manaw celebration in Yangon

DR Shwe Hluan, the wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, visited Kachin Manaw event at the 2020 edition of Myanmar Ethnics Culture Festival in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The event was also attended by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and wife, spouses of Union Ministers, Chairman and members of Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association and ethnic people at the festival.

Dr Shwe Hluan, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, attends the Kachin Manaw celebration in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The guests and ethnic people participated in Manaw dance in front of Kachin cultural booth.

The five major versions of traditional Manaw dances are performed to mark victory for war, success in business, poor health and deaths of elder persons, developing a new land for brothers and demarcating a new area and administration.

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin also joined Kayah tradition Kaehtobo festival which is intended for good weather, good harvests of crops, free from natural disasters, peace, prosperity, national unity and preservation of traditional culture.

Dr Shwe Hluan, Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and dignitaries enjoyed Kachin traditional dinner to encourage unity among national people, and they also watched performance of ethnic dance troupes at the main entertainment stage of festival. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Health authorities discuss activities against 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the meeting with health authorities on monitoring and preventive measures against 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presided over a meeting of health authorities on monitoring and preventive measures against 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), held at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the coordination meeting (8/2020), officials discussed update announcements of World Health Organization, possible transmission rate of virus calculated by international experts, trial treatments on respiratory disease caused by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus in China and other countries, detail analysis on the spread of 2019-nCoV from the epidemiological perspective and tightening monitoring measures.

They also shared knowledge on medical treatment procedures to suspected/confirmed patients in quarantined wards, monitoring persons under investigations and information exchange with WHO.

Health service personnel also discussed activities of monitoring teams at three international airports of the country and 20 border checkpoint in 10 townships of 4 States/Regions, reduction of daily flight landings from China from 26 to 2— one from Shanghai and one from Hong Kong, medical services for suspect patient and persons under investigation and collaboration with private hospitals and clinics.

They also discussed instructions to hotels and guesthouses to report on suspected symptoms to the nearest health centers, health conditions of 59 Myanmar students who were brought back from Wuhan city to Mandalay on 2 February, accumulation of funds, medicines and equipment and distributions of medical items.

The Union Minister advised for making adequate response to prevent the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, suggestion of WHO to quash rumours on the disease and real-time information of the ministry on its internet website and social network page.

He also suggested the use of dashboard format for public information about spread of disease, taking specimens for laboratory tests and working with the National Health Laboratory.

The Union Minister added collecting the number of new health facilities which has not been used across the country, collaboration with the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Defence Services in monitoring disease at the border areas and postponing some entertainment events.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ye Toe Thwin, Deputy Director-General of Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, as Managing Director of the Electricity Supply Enterprise of the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

59 students brought back from Wuhan doing well: officials

FROM PAGE-1

The team comprises four doctors, eight nurses, and eight general health workers.

"They (the students) have showed no symptoms of the coronavirus infection yet. If one of them shows symptoms such as fever with high temperature, the patient will be checked by a physician who also participated in the mission to bring them back from Wuhan to Myanmar," said Dr. Khin Kyaw. "I would like to tell the people of Mandalay not to be very anxious about the disease. Too much anxiety can cause panic among people," he added. Quarantine rooms have been arranged at the Mandalay General Hospital, a 550-bed hospital, and a 300-bed teaching hospital and the Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay to provide medical care to suspected patients.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

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Joint committee of constitutional amendment holds meeting

THE Joint Committee on Scrutinizing Second Bill Amending 2008 Constitution held a meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Scrutinizing Committee and the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Chairman of the joint scrutinizing committee and Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Zaw Min, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint Secretary of the joint scrutinizing committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary of the Committee U Kyaw Soe Lin, members of the joint scrutinizing committee from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, the representatives of the MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw who submitted the Second Bill Amending 2008 Constitution — U Thein Tun of Kyaungkone constituency, Dr U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Aung San Chit, U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency 5, U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho from Dawbon constituency, and officials from Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Joint Committee of Constitutional amendment meeting being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting discussed matters related to the approval of amending legal writing methods on the second bills amending the Constitution, and compiling a report to be submitted to the Pyiduangsu Hluttaw by the joint scrutinizing committee. —MNA

5 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Good understanding of rules key to contract farming success

TO promote cooperation between farmers and companies involved in the value chain of the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 31 January announced rules for contract farming.

Contract farming is a system under which companies provide farmers technology and seeds to grow crops and once they are harvested, the companies sell the crops.

It is important for farmers and companies to participate in contract farming with confidence as the government will also play a part in the sector by monitoring businesses under the Stakeholder Participatory Monitoring system.

> we all need to understand that contract farming allows not just a higher profit margin, but also helps both sides understand the needs of the domestic and foreign markets.

The contract system outlines 9 provisions for farmers and 10 for farming companies, while it lists 9 obligations that need to be fulfilled by the authorities concerned.

The ministry has posted the contract on its website (www.agri.com.mm), and has urged the two sides to study it thoroughly before going into business.

The contract farming system is part of the government's efforts to encourage Private-Public Partnerships involving the government and the private sector.

The strategies, directives, and procedures for contract farming are aimed at ensuring a strong market for crops and quality crops. Under the contract farming system, farmers and companies can decide on the price and quality of crops before cultivation, which can help create a sustainable market.

For Myanmar farmers to reach their full potential in agriculture, they need more investment, crop diversification, access to information and research, along with complete mechanization of cultivation.

These challenges can be overcome by farmers as private companies, under the contract farming system, are obliged to support farmers in terms of technology and supervision, in cooperation with governmental departments.

Farmers, on their part, would be responsible for growing crops using Good Agricultural Practices and producing crops that meet the quality, quantity, and standards set by both sides under the contract.

We are confident that the contract farming system would push the development of farmers as well as the private business sector.

But, we all need to understand that contract farming allows not just a higher profit margin, but also helps both sides understand the needs of the domestic and foreign markets.

The most important factor for the success of the contract farming system is a good understanding of the contract and its observance by both sides.

■■■

Strengthen readiness to respond to the new coronavirus

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region must continue to strengthen their readiness to respond

THE outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The highest level of international solidarity and cooperation is needed to protect health and keep people safe. Since the novel coronavirus emerged late December, the number of cases reported globally has climbed. Human-to-human transmission has been reported in a number of countries. It is imperative that countries report and share information on suspected cases early, provide detailed reports on confirmed cases, and ensure all people receive the care they need in accordance with the rights and dignity that is due.

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

The WHO South-East Asia Region must continue to strengthen its readiness to respond. In recent weeks several countries in the Region have detected and reported cases of 2019-nCoV. The vigilance of health authorities in each country is commendable, and reflects Region-wide efforts to strengthen emergency risk management, which is one of the eight Flagship Priority Programmes in the Region. Member States have made substantial progress in recent years to strengthen health systems to achieve universal health coverage and to build core capacities required by the International Health Regulations – the international legal framework that helps countries work together for global health security.

The response to the emergence and spread of 2019-nCoV has been rapid. Over the past month, WHO has worked with countries across the world to roll out a series of preparedness measures, including guidance on how to detect and manage cases, improve infection prevention and control, and reduce transmission. In the South-East Asia Region, WHO and its Member States have focused on increasing capacities to rapidly detect and care for patients, and to guard against onward transmission. To date, most cases reported in the Region have been imported. It is imperative that countries in the Region scale up vigilance and prepare to prevent, control and interrupt local transmission.

There is much that we do not yet know about the virus, but which we are working to find out. The world's best scientists are on the case. As we learn more, WHO will continue to provide Member States and the public high-quality information through regular situation reports and our social media accounts. Accurate, timely information empowers all people to assess risks and to take preventive measures. Regular hand-washing, coughing or sneezing into one's elbow, avoiding close contact with people with flu-like symptoms, and thoroughly cooking meat and eggs are all great ways to stay healthy and to limit one's exposure to pathogens.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Region's own Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness, which Member States adopted in September 2019, are clear: By implementing evidence-based policies, health authorities can increase their capacity to detect and control emerging and reemerging diseases, care for affected people and protect health workers. As Member States make all efforts to tackle 2019-nCoV, several priorities stand out.

First, we must strengthen early warning, alert and disease surveillance systems. To help individuals monitor their own health, authorities at ports of entry can provide information on the virus to incoming and outgoing travelers. Where they don't already exist, contingency plans to assess and manage ill passengers should be developed. Event-based surveillance should be scaled up, including via detailed case reporting, which will help authorities better understand the virus and more effectively respond. Regular risk assessments using multiple sources of data should be carried out.

Second, infection prevention and control (IPC) in health facilities should be stepped up. By ensuring IPC protocols are enforced, health authorities will limit the spread of the virus. By making personal protective equipment accessible, they will protect health workers. Triaging systems for patients with acute respiratory illness will increase the efficiency of health facilities, as will clear patient placement and transportation procedures. WHO's technical guidance on clinical case management should inform facility-based care.

Third, rapid response teams must be equipped to act decisively. At national and sub-national levels, response teams must have adequate resources, both logistic and financial. They must have the skills to carry out contact tracing and collect biological samples for respiratory pathogens. It is imperative that national command and coordination structures for emergency response are activated, and relevant sectors – such as the animal health sector – are brought on board where appropriate.

Finally, the importance of providing accurate and timely information must be fully grasped across sectors, and at all levels of government. Streamlined procedures for developing and clearing transparent communication and messaging will increase responsiveness. Information that empowers people to protect themselves will promote trust. Systems to correct misunderstandings, misinformation and rumors will ensure all people can make health-positive decisions that are fact-based and evidence-informed.

The emergence and spread of the novel coronavirus highlights the need for all countries to be ready to respond to acute public health events by acting on the 'four I's' of emergency risk management: identify risks, invest in people and systems for risk management, implement plans, and interlink sectors. As the current situation evolves, and the Region strengthens its readiness, we must continue to implement the Delhi Declaration and achieve full IHR compliance. We live in a dynamic world that is interconnected and on the move. We are moving with it. Member States in the Region will continue to step up and stand tall. WHO will continue to support them to secure health for all.

■■■

THE PROGRESS IN RAKHINE STATE

- Myanmar also sent its strong objection to the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon on 11 March 2019 against the allegations made by Bangladesh relating to the terrorist shootings from within Bangladesh territory in the vicinity of Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Post No. 41 against a police outpost on the Myanmar side.
- On the visit to Rakhine State by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and party from 20 to 24 May 2019, arrangements were made to enable the delegation to visit IDP camps and villages in Maungdaw and Buthitaung.

Border Trade between Myanmar-Bangladesh

	29 Dec 2017 to 9 Aug 2018	29 Dec 2018 to 9 Aug 2019
Sittwe Trade Centre	USD 59.284 million	USD 7.063 million
Maungdaw Trade Centre	USD 9.791 million	USD 6.062 million

- For the construction of Thazin Myay Trading Centre in Sittwe, Rakhine State, a work contract was signed with Western Wave Co. and construction work started on 9 February 2019. The construction has now been 100% completed.

Construction of Thazinmyay Trade Centre

Regional Relations

State Counsellor received:

- Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Viet Nam and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung and party on 28 January 2019;
- Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr. Sun Guoxiang on 27 February 2019.

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 4th February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5th February, 2020: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State 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: Decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th February, 2020: Fair weather.

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Yangon Circular Railway to change train schedule from 8 Feb

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Circular Railway will revise train schedules from 8 February on account of upgrade work on railroads between the Paywetseikkone and Pazundaung stations, said officials during a press conference held yesterday at the Yangon Central Railway Station guest house.

The changes in timetable will not apply to rush hour periods. Commuters will be notified of the new train timetable through posters and pamphlets.

"The train schedule will change from 8 February. Passengers will be notified through railway stations. Pamphlets will be distributed to passengers," said U Zaw Lwin, traffic manager for the No.7 division of MR.

Eight trains will provide Yangon circular service under the revised schedule, with four trains each assigned for upstream and downstream services.

During rush hour, 12 trains will arrive at the Yangon Central Railway Station in the morning, while 14 trains will leave for the respective road sections from the station.

There are seven stations between Paywetseikkone and Pazundaung railroads in eastern Yangon, spanning 8.5 miles. The upgrade is slated to finish in July.

The upgrade project has been divided into two parts. The Shwetaung Company is conducting the upgrade on the eastern part of the Yangon railway, while the A1 Company is working on the western part.

The western part from Insein to Kyimyindine railway stations, spanning 5.5 miles, and the eastern part from Danyingon to Paywetseikkone, spanning 7.25 miles, are being upgraded simultaneously.

"After upgrading the Yangon Circular Railway, the Myanma Railways (MR) will be able to offer its services to triple the current number of passengers. And, the upgrade will help reduce travel time on the entire Yangon circular rail network by an hour," said U Zaw Lwin.

"At present, the Yangon circular rail is providing transportation services to 85,000 commuters. It takes 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete the whole route, spanning 29.5 miles," he added.

The capacity of the circular railway has been decreasing over the last 20 years. Once the upgrade is finished, the MR will ensure 100 per cent on-time running services to daily commuters.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Kyaukpadaung onion growers expect good harvest, better prices

A farmer waters the onion plants in his farm in Kyaukpadaung township. **PHOTO: KO NAY (KYAUKPADUANG)**

FARMERS growing onions along the creek in Seikhtein Village of Kyaukpaduang Township, Mandalay Region, are expecting a good harvest and better prices this year.

Growers from the village are cultivating onions on 70 acres of land along the creek. Last year, a total of 1 million viss of onions were grown in the village.

Onions are grown mostly in the month of October and December. Before sowing onions, farmers have to do grounding, composting, and sanding in advance. Local farmers are growing onions with seeds.

Last year, traders from China purchased onion seeds from farmers. Onion seeds were sold for K1-1.2 million per basket. Some local farmers earned K2.5-3 million from the sale of onion seeds. However, China is not likely to make any purchases next year, said farmers.

Farmers expect to get better prices if there is demand from other countries this year.

"We have to grow onions by ourselves because it is difficult to find labour. I have grown 20 pounds of onions at a cost of over K300,000. My onion farm is very close to the village. If the farmland is far from the village, onion cultivation costs more. If we employ labour, we have to pay an exorbitant rate. Last year, local farmers earned K2,700 per viss. We expect that onions will fetch a better price if we get demand from other countries this year," said U Kyaw Shin, 73, the owner of an onion plantation.

Last year, onion prices had gone up because of high demand from India and Bangladesh. This time, onions are selling at K1,000-1,200 per viss. Local growers expected prices to touch K700 per viss in the earlier onion season. —Ko Nay (Kyaukpaduang)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Two injured in Yangon-Mandalay road accident

TWO persons were injured in a collision between a car and a motorbike on 3 February on the Yangon-Mandalay road in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region.

According to accounts of witnesses, Aung Htay Naing was headed to Meiktila from Mandalay in a white car when he spotted U Kyaw Oo approaching from the opposite direction on a motorbike. Tun Yan Aung, an attendant at a petrol station, was riding pillion with U Kyaw Oo, who had stopped earlier to fill petrol in his bike.

Aung Htay Naing tried to stop his car to avoid hitting the motorbike, but the brake malfunctioned. U Kyaw Oo and Tun Yan Aung were injured in the collision and rushed to the Meiktila People's Hospital.

The police have filed a case of reckless driving under Sections 337/338 of the Penal Code against Aung Htay Naing. —Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Business matching event for French, Myanmar firms held at UMFCCI

The business meeting between French businessmen and Myanmar officials being held in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

FRENCH entrepreneurs met with their Myanmar counterparts at a business matching event organized on Monday at the headquarters of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The French businessmen were led by Mr Francois Corbin, President of the French-Myanmar Business Council and ASEAN Committee for MEDEF International. They were accompanied by the French ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christian Lechervy.

The French delegation included 20 entrepreneurs engaged in energy, water and sanitation, railway transportation services, infrastructure building, banking and micro-finance services, gas, food, water transportation services, road transportation, and trading businesses.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win gave the welcoming message at the event. He said Myanmar currently has good potential for boosting trade and promoting foreign investment.

"France is a developed country in terms of manufacturing, science and technology innovations, and economy. I hope this business matching will bring greater cooperation and benefits to the two countries," he said.

Afterwards, Mr Christian Lechervy said the business matching event aimed to explore opportunities to link French entrepreneurs with their Myanmar counterparts, encourage interaction between private sector players, and promote opportunities through business relations.

As part of the programme, French entrepreneurs will also visit the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to explore potential investment opportunities.

In addition, vice president Dr. Maung Maung Lay spoke about the current economic climate and the investment and trade situation in Myanmar. Entrepreneurs from the two countries discussed potential investments and business opportunities.

Between 1988 and December, 2019, 22 enterprises from France have brought in foreign direct investments of over $550 million into Myanmar, according to data on existing enterprises provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Price of rice, defy predictions, move up in Chinese New Year

THE prices of rice and broken rice have been on the rise in the Chinese New Year, defying expectations of a decline, according to the Rice Merchants Association of Mandalay.

"We expected the prices of rice and broken rice to decline as usual during the Chinese New Year. But Chinese traders have purchased a large quantity of rice to store in their warehouses as a result of the panic following the outbreak of the coronavirus. Moreover, traders have purchased rice through contracts and it has been shipped via the sea route," said U Sai Kyaw, General Secretary of the association.

"In January, the price of rice rose to K2,000 per bag, while the price of broken rice increased to K500-1,000 per bag. There are 11 companies permitted to export Myanmar rice," according to the Rice merchants Association of Mandalay.

"Myanmar has sold a large volume of rice. And, we guessed China would purchase a lot of rice when the time is up. Moreover, the demand for rice will be higher than the supply this year. We won't suffer because of the virus," said U Sai Kyaw.

Myanmar farmers grow both summer and monsoon paddy. Monsoon paddy is mostly grown in every village in the country.

Myanmar exports nearly all types of rice and broken rice to China, except the Pawsanhmwe, Majandaw and Ayarmin varieties, which are mainly consumed by the local populace.—Tin Zar Hlaing

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Workers packaging sacks of rice at a warehouse in Yangon. **PHOTO: TIN ZAR HLAING**

Animal product exports plunge to $50 mln in four months

MYANMAR'S export of animal products between 1 October and 24 January in the current financial year reached US$50 million, a sharp drop from $233.95 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY.

In the current fiscal, animal products exports have been solely driven by the private sector. Prior to the Chinese New Year and the coronavirus outbreak, the live cattle export market at Muse had cooled, leaving more than 3,000 heads of cattle stranded in the border area and causing difficulties to traders.

Traders usually transport 20-25 heads of cattle per 12-wheeled truck from Mandalay to Muse gate. The live cattle have to undergo an inspection at the 16th mile gate, Yebyu gates, and the animal disease surveillance station near Pakyu Village in Kutkai Township. Officials check whether the livestock meet the export standards and a health certificate has been issued for them.

Normally, a large cow fetches over K1.8-2.2 million, but trade suspension often leads to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering lower prices.

"We prefer a Government-to-Government agreement for live cattle trade as it can benefit both the traders and the two countries. While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trade is still not permitted by China, leading to traders incurring debts. If there is a legitimate market for cattle exports, we can get a good price and a regular market. We are hoping for it to happen," said traders from Kyaukse Township.

In the previous fiscal, animal products exports were registered at $178.28 million.

Myanmar has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade Cooperation and Coordinating Committee (JBTCC) meetings on legal exports of cattle and cross-border control of communicable diseases.

Myanmar, which allowed livestock trade in late 2017, is now exploring new export markets for cattle.

The country exports cattle that are above five years old. The cattle are exported along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

According to trade figures, between the 2017-2018FY and the month of October in the current FY, more than 460,000 heads of cattle, worth over $581 million, have been exported to China through Muse.

The authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in Magway Region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Malawi court cancels presidential election result, orders new vote

Mutharika will remain president until the fresh polls . **PHOTO: AFP**

LILONGWE (Malawi) —Malawi's constitutional court on Monday ordered a new presidential poll after annulling the results of a vote that re-elected President Peter Mutharika last May, citing widespread irregularities including the use of correction fluid on ballot papers.

Mutharika, who will remain president until the fresh polls, has the right to appeal the verdict, which is expected to stoke turmoil in the normally peaceful southern African country.

"We hold that the first respondent (Mutharika) was not duly elected as president of Malawi on May 21, 2019," ruled lead judge Healey Potani.

"We hereby nullify the results of the presidential elections and we order for a fresh election" within 150 days, he added, sparking jubilation in the court.

The verdict was greeted with festive cheer in the second city of Blantyre, where residents in impoverished townships set off fireworks.

"I'm delighted. I am short of words really but this is a bright new day for Malawi, " said an university student Laura Banda.

"I hope this is a turning point for the country," the 22-year-old added.

The main opposition Malawi Congress Party, which led the court challenge, hailed the ruling as "a very fair judgement" that had "set a precedent" for future elections.

The five judges concurred that "the irregularities and anomalies have been so widespread, systematic and grave... that the integrity of the results has been seriously compromised".

They added that the results announced by Malawi's Electoral Commission (MEC) "cannot be trusted as a true reflection of the will of the voters".

Neither the ruling party nor the government responded to requests for comment.

"I am still consulting and will only be able to talk to you once I have talked to my superiors," government spokesman Mark Botomani told AFP.

Sporadic protests have broken out across the country since Mutharika was declared the winner by a narrow margin, with 38.5 percent of the vote.

Runner-up Lazarus Chakwera, who lost by just 159,000 votes, said he was robbed of victory and took the matter to court.

The case gripped the nation, keeping Malawians glued to their radios for hours on end as witnesses presented evidence of alleged vote-rigging during six months of hearings. – AFP

Democrats turn sights on New Hampshire after Iowa fiasco

MANCHESTER (United States) —Democratic candidates were anxiously awaiting results from the Iowa caucuses on Tuesday after technical glitches plunged the kickoff vote of the US presidential nominating contest into chaos, drawing the mockery of President Donald Trump.

Pete Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, claimed victory although the Iowa Democratic Party had not yet released any official results, and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders also declared that he had done "very, very well."

Former vice president Joe Biden's campaign for its part said that although it had "zero official data" so far it believed it had won its "fair share" of the vote and it was a "tight race with bunched up candidates."

But Joe Rospars, chief strategist for Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, chided the other candidates, tweeting that "any campaign saying they won or putting out incomplete numbers is contributing to the chaos and misinformation." The Iowa Democratic Party said precinct results were still coming in and blamed the delay on an app that was reporting only partial data.

"While our plan is to release results as soon as possible today, our ultimate goal is to ensure that the integrity and accuracy of the process continues to be upheld," it said in a statement.

"We have every indication that our systems were secure and there was not a cyber security intrusion," it added. — AFP

Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg claimed victory in Iowa although official results have not yet been released. **PHOTO: AFP**

WADA asks CAS for public hearing on Russia doping case

MONTREAL (Canada) — The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said Monday it has asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for a public hearing on its case for Russia's exclusion from international sporting competitions.

At stake in the hearing will be the fate of Russian athletes hoping to compete in such events as this year's Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and 2022 football World Cup.

WADA director general Olivier Niggli said his group made the formal request for a public forum to resolve the dispute would ensure the world hears the case from both sides and understands how punishment, if any, is administered.

"WADA's investigations on Russia, and this latest case of non-compliance, have generated huge interest around the world," Niggli said.

"It is WADA's view — and that of many of our stakeholders — that this dispute at CAS should be held in a public forum to ensure that everybody understands the process and hears the arguments."

WADA sent its case against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) to CAS, the world's highest sport court, last month.

It will be a CAS panel that must decide whether to confirm the four-year ban WADA imposed on Russia last month after considering Russia's case against the epic sanction.

In December, WADA imposed a four-year ban on Russia over what it considers a state-sponsored doping scheme -- prohibiting Russia from participating in such events as this year's Tokyo Olympics.

WADA says Russia "manipulated" data from an anti-doping laboratory in Moscow in the latest move in a long-running scandal that began with the 2015 revelation of long-term institutional doping involving senior Russian officials, secret agents and trafficked urine vials.

Under the sanctions, Russians would be allowed to compete in the Tokyo Olympics only if they can demonstrate they were not part of the doping network -- the same situation Russian athletes faced at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

RUSADA disputed the WADA executive committee ban on December 27, setting the stage for WADA to send the case to CAS.—AFP

World currently 'not in a pandemic' of China virus: WHO

GENEVA (Switzerland) —The World Health Organization said Tuesday that the outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus, which has spread from China to two dozen countries, does not yet constitute a "pandemic".

"Currently we are not in a pandemic," Sylvie Briand, head of WHO's Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness division, told reporters in Geneva.

Instead, she said, "we are at the phase where it is an epidemic with multiple foci."

The disease has killed more than 425 people and infected a further 20,000 in China, nearly all of them in central Hubei province -- the epicentre of the outbreak -- and spread to two-dozen countries since it emerged in December.

Briand said that while there is rapid spread of transmission in Hubei, outside the province there are mainly "spillover cases" with sporadic clusters of transmission.

"In these other places in China, the strategy currently is to stop transmission," she said, adding that the same was true for affected countries outside of China.

"We would like to make sure that we don't have a second Hubei type of scenario," she said.

Authorities in China have taken dramatic measures to halt transmission, while other affected countries have put in place steps to rein in the spread. —AFP

Japan quarantines 3,700 on cruise ship over new coronavirus

YOKOHAMA (Japan)—Japan has quarantined a cruise ship carrying 3,711 people and was testing those onboard for the new coronavirus Tuesday after a former passenger was diagnosed with the illness in Hong Kong.Eight people on the vessel, which arrived at Yokohama Bay on Monday, have symptoms such as fever, top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said. Television footage showed several quarantine officers boarding the Diamond Princess cruise ship at the port of Yokohama on Monday evening to check all 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew.

The move comes after an 80-year-old passenger who disembarked on January 25 in Hong Kong tested positive for the virus, which has killed 425 people in China.The man "did not visit a medical centre inside the ship while he was sailing with us," cruise operator Carnival Japan said in a statement."According to the hospital where he is staying, his condition is stable and infection was not found among his family members who sailed with him," the statement said.

A woman in her twenties who was sailing with her mother on the ship told private broadcaster TBS on Tuesday that all passengers "were asked to stay in their rooms to wait for virus tests".—AFP ■

Singapore announces first local coronavirus transmissions

SINGAPORE (Singapore)—Singapore on Tuesday announced the first local transmissions of the deadly coronavirus from China as a major aviation conference was scrapped due to the escalating health scare.

The Ministry of Health said it had found six additional cases, four of them involving human-to-human transmission in Singapore, bringing the total infections to 24 in the city-state.

"Though four of these cases constitute a local transmission cluster, there is as yet no evidence of widespread sustained community transmission in Singapore," the ministry said in a statement.

Singapore health minister Gan Kim Yong said that if the local transmissions escalate in the community the government is prepared to consider 'measures to reduce human-to-human interaction'. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two of the local transmission cases involved women working at a health products shop primarily serving Chinese tourists. A third was one of the women's Indonesian maid.

Another was a female tour guide who had brought groups to the health shop.

In addition to the local transmissions, two cases were among the Singapore residents evacuated from Wuhan on January 30.Health Minister Gan Kim Yong said that if the local transmissions escalate in the community the government is prepared to consider "measures to reduce human-to-human interaction".—AFP ■

Transferring Distributor of Registered Pesticide

The distributor of the following pesticide registered by Agricultural Chemicals (M) Sdn., Bhd. is transferred from Marlarmyaing Company Ltd. to Sein Wut Hmon Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can be notified to the Director, Plant Protection Division, West Gyo Gone, Insein within 14 days.

No	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration number	Registration Type	Change to new distributor
1	Marlarmyaing Company Ltd.	Siputox	Metaldehyde 5% w/wG	P2017 - 1770	Provisional	Sein Wut Hmon Co., Ltd.

Agricultural Chemicals (M) Sdn., Bhd.
09 427870309

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Jingbo Agrochemicals Technology Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Dab Hand 50 WDG	Emamectin Benzoate 5% WDG	Provisional	P2019-4613

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

circulation order is in easier way.
Hot Line : 09974424114
Advertise with us/
Hot Line : 018604530

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th FEBRUARY 2020 (Union Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ARISE VOY. NO. (0193-600 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ARISE VOY. NO. (0193-600 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (032W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (032W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE., LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SERENA VOY. NO. (003S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS SERENA VOY. NO. (003S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (139N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (139N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

A Small-scaled model of New Economic Zone in Yangon. **PHOTO : ZIN LIN MYINT**

Yangon strives to establish additional special economic zone

By Zin Lin Myint

IT is an undeniable fact that Yangon is considered the commercial hub not only by businesspersons but also by investors from home and abroad. Yangon, of course, is the commercial city with the largest number of industrial zones and it is all eyes by local and foreign investors. Thilawa Special Economic Zone is among 29 industrial zones in Yangon. Now Yangon is also trying for land reclamation to establish further special economic zone.

Land reclamation for the establishment of new special economic zone

Speaking to the opening ceremony of the new sub-power station near Kamakaloat and Kayingyoung villages in Kyauktan Township, southern Yangon Region on 6 January in 2020, U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, said Yangon regional government is in the process of conducting a geological survey and a feasibility study as we are striving for the emergence of one more special economic zone inside Yangon.

The site for the establishment of the special economic zone is adjacent to the areas of Dala, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. The soil of these adjacent areas contains sea water, thereby causing a change in its fertility and finally being unable to produce good crops. The proposed site has tens of thousands of acres of land. In addition to the special economic zone there is a prospect of building a seaport as well.

Establishment of more industrial zones

Yangon regional government has got a plan to establish about 11 industrial zones

View along Yangon Port. **PHOTO: ZIN LIN MYINT**

on the outskirts of Yangon. Two out of 11 industrial zones will be rapidly implemented. Speaking to the press conference on Yangon regional projects held on 22 October in 2019, Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Yangon Region's Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister said industrial zones will be established in Htantabin and Hlegu townships, the outskirts of Yangon. Further implementation of establishing industrial zones in Thanlyin and Kyauktan is still under negotiation. The businesspersons are casting covetous eye to the establishment of the industrial zones in Hmawby, Twantay, Kungyangon, Dala and Kawmhu Townships.

Plan to build a new seaport

Yangon Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein said on 6 January, "A feasibility study on the proposed special economic zone was already conducted in Dala, Kawhmu and Kungyangon a few days ago.

There is also a plan to shift the jetties in Yangon to the mouth of the river where it meets the sea. As a result of that a new seaport to be built in Thayettaw Village in Kawhmu Township is currently in preparation."

Yangon city is the commercial hub of Myanmar with Thilawa Special Economic Zone already in existence. Located 20 km southeast of Yangon, Thilawa Special Economic Zone has now gained momentum and it is the most developing special economic zone. Thilawa SEZ is the first-ever special economic zone not only in Yangon but also in Myanmar and now is in operation. Investments have been made in Thilawa SEZ by more than 112 companies from 19 countries. Thilawa SEZ full of business enterprises and industries is now operating with added momentum.

Thilawa SEZ is divided into two zones with the factories and industries that have been implemented since December in 2013. The factories and industries established in Zone-A with an area of 405 hectares are currently in operational for commercial purpose. The phase-1 of Zone B covers an area of 101 hectares and the phase-2 of Zone B, an area of 77 hectares and both phases are underway. The phase-3 of Zone B is also under implementation on the designated land plot. Thilawa SEZ with the emergence of business enterprises and industries is currently fully operational. Thilawa SEZ managed to create more than 10,000 job opportunities.

The special economic zones just like Thilawa ensure a drive in the economic development of the country, thereby not only promoting the development of Yangon but also creating job opportunities. For that reason Yangon regional government is striving for the establishment of another special economic zone in Yangon.

At a time when Yangon regional government is striving to establish a new special economic zone in Yangon, most of income of Yangon is to come from the west bank of Yangon River. When we take an aerial view of Yangon, a large number of fields can be seen on the west bank of Yangon River. The soil in these fields contains sea water and many of these fields are unable to produce good crops. Yangon region government, therefore, is planning to set up a new special economic zone on the adjacent areas of Dala, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. Those areas located near Yangon have attracted the attention of foreign investors, companies and businesspersons.

The marine trade route is an essential part in time of implementing industrial economy. The emergence of the seaport is related to the establishment of special economic zone. For that reason the feasibility study is underway.

It is absolutely certain that the special economic zone capable of doing all-round trade will boost internal and external interest. Yangon is the most economic developing city in Myanmar and will become a world-class commercial city alongside a new special economic zone.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

The locally developed Handler Myanmar OTA is now ready to serve the local traveller

HANDLER Myanmar, the provider of the absolute best accommodation deals across Myanmar, launches their OTA (online travel agent) web and mobile application at Lotte Hotel today. Designed and developed by the local company Myantel, Handler Myanmar is a travel booking application which is designed and developed for hotel owners and people who love traveling to provide the best solution to the hotel booking process.

With the vision of "ONE VISION and ONE DREAM", Handler Myanmar is dedicated to creating a platform that will help promote local tourism and provide easier hotel bookings with local deals.

Handler provides an easy booking process for local travellers and for hoteliers to promote specifically to local audiences. The launching event was attended by the most of the major heads of various companies in the Tourism industry, influencers, invited guests, and media.

"We see that the local tourism market has huge potential against foreign ones. We aim to present the best deals on travel needs and handle all the busy work of travellers. I am very thankful to our strong team and partners, we could not establish ourselves in the industry within a short period of time without them.

With our strong efforts and dedication, we will provide our best services and deals for our local travel and help in the development of Myanmar Tourism Industry." said Ko Dana, CEO and founder of Handler Myanmar Handler OTA comes with several benefits especially for the free independent traveler with an easy and user-friendly platform. The platform helps locals to plan their next trip, directly dealing with hotels with easy payment as both online and offline Payments are available and it is in Kyats. Both website and application are available in Myanmar Language since it is dedicated to locals.

"We have been creating this app for more than a year and a half with the support of our strong and experienced team. Our app has the most local user-friendly interfaces such as a 3-step booking system, option to choose languages (Myanmar or English), and live time availability status tools.

The users can also check out the detailed pictures of each hotel room, make payment with most of the payments that are available in Myanmar and access to 24/7 fast customer service centre via Messenger," said Ko Aung Nan Myint, COO and Co-founder of Handler Myanmar. " We also have an interface for our partners where they can control their needs such as changing or editing the hotel room pictures, information, room list, booking list, allotment, pricing, and profits.," he added.

Handler application is available to download on both iOS and Android and is ready to provideseveral accommodation choices at the best price which is up to 50% cheaper than other OTAs thatare in the market.

At the present time, Handler has covered 23 cities with more than 650 properties as Hail (agent) partner and 65 as an Instant partner. It not only provides the best prices for Myanmar Citizens but also supports most of the available payment systems in Myanmar such as Visa, Master, MPU, KBZPay, Wave Money, M Pitesan and payment over the counter such as Grab & Go, ABC, City-Mart, Denko Mart. etc Handler Myanmar is providing the best deals for hotel booking at the moment and they are aiming to expand the service by providing the flight booking and a platform for Travel Agents (Web &Tablet Version) as well.

Handler will keep moving up to be Myanmar's fastest hotel booking systemand will support the development of local tourism as Handler is made for local by local.—GNLM ■

PHOTO: HANDLER MYANMAR

Lethwei event planned in Japan on 22 Feb

A Myanmar traditional lethwei event titled 'Lethwei in Japan 15 (Kizuna)' will be held on 22 February in Osaka, Japan, according to a statement issued by the International Lethwei Federation of Japan.

It would be the 15th lethwei event to be held in Japan with the aim of promoting the traditional Myanmar martial art in Japan.

The event will feature five special bouts that will pit Myanma lethwei fighters against Japanese and Thailand martial artists.

All the bouts will be fought bare-knuckled, without gloves, with only tape and gauze allowed on the hands of the fighters, said an official.

In the 60-kg bout, Makoto Basta of Japan will fight Myanmar's Saw Shwe Lay.

In the 62-kg event, Tono of Japan will take on Myanmar's Byat Gha. In the 63.5-kg event, Higashi of Japan will face Myanmar's Tun Lin Aung.

Meanwhile, in the 65-kg event, Naing Win Tun of Myanmar will take on Joe Seishikai of Thailand.

In the 73-kg event, Myanmar lethwei fighter Auk Chin Thway will face Japanese fighter Nagashima.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Ayeyawady United plans training turf in Pathein

AYEYAWADY United is planning to build a training ground for its team within two years in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region. Ayeyawady United players have been training at the Pathein Kyauk Taing Stadium, but the team needs another special training ground in Pathein, according to officials.

"We are aiming to build our training ground in Pathein, and I think it will be finished within two years. We plan to use the training field before our matches and hold regional football matches and tournaments," said Ayeyawady United chairman U Min Hlaing.

"It will be more convenient to train properly in Pathein after constructing our training ground," he added.

Ayeyawady United finished second in the 2019 season of the Myanmar National League. The team is currently headed by former football star U Myo Hlaing Win. The team was founded in 2009 and comprises a mix of young Myanmar football stars and foreign players.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Ayeyawady United players taking part in a training session ahead of the 2020 season matches of the Myanmar National League. **PHOTO: AUFC**

'Adopted' Italian Steyn plays down Smith South African favouritism

PARIS (France)—South Africa-born back-rower Braam Steyn said on Tuesday he had been 'adopted' by Italy and denied any preferential treatment from new interim head coach Franco Smith. Steyn, 27, who grew up in the Eastern Cape, moved to club side Mogliano in 2012 and made his Azzurri Test debut in 2016 after qualifying on residency grounds. Smith, 47, who made nine Springboks appearances in the late-1990s, took over from Conor O'Shea on a temporary basis for the ongoing Six Nations after last year's Rugby World Cup. "I've been adopted by Italy and that is where I feel at home. My life and my country is Italy at the moment," Steyn said. —AFP ■

Barcelona's Dembele out with badly torn hamstring

MADRID (Spain)—French international forward Ousmane Dembele has suffered a badly torn hamstring, his club Barcelona announced on Tuesday."Tests carried out on Tuesday on Ousmane Dembele have shown that the player has a complete proximal hamstring tear in his right thigh," the club announced. "In the next few hours a decision will be made on the treatment to be followed for his recovery."The 22-year-old has struggled with hamstring problems. He had only just returned to training from an injury to the right thigh he suffered in November before suffering a fresh problem in training on Monday.Dembele joined Barcelona from Borussia Dortmund in August 2017 in a deal worth up to 147 million euros. He has played 21 times for France and was part of the squad that won the World Cup in 2018.That year he was also criticised for his lifestyle by France coach Didier Deschamps.

"It's up to him to be aware of all the demands of top-level football," Deschamps said. "I don't think he's fully aware of them." The latest injury is similar to one Dembele suffered in 2017, in his first league start for Barcelona. Then he was out for five months with a ruptured tendon in his left thigh.There was instant sympathy from another young French striking star."My brother, I know for you this must be too much and this is becoming unbearable, but you have to stay strong in spite of everything," tweeted Kylian Mbappe of France and Paris Saint-Germain. "Of course it's easier said than done but I'll always be there to support you and I know you'll come back to amaze us."Barcelona play Napoli in the Champions League round of 16 on February 25. France kick off their Euro 2020 campaign against Germany in Munich on June 16.—AFP ■

Barcelona's French forward Ousmane Dembele sits on the ground after an injury during the UEFA Champions League Group F football match between FC Barcelona and Borussia Dortmund at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 27 November 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**