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President hosts dinner in commemoration of 73rd Union Day



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greet the delegates at the dinner in commemoratin of the 73rd Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho hosted a reception and dinner to commemorate the 73rd Anniversary Union Day in the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday.

First, the President and the First Lady were cordially greeted by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and wife, Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and wife, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung and wife at the reception.

The President and the First Lady

also greeted Union level dignitaries, Union Ministers, Tatmadaw officers, regions/ states ethnic affairs ministers, Hluttaw representatives, leaders and representatives from EAOs that had signed the NCA, chairpersons and leaders of political parties, and ethnic cultural troupes from states and regions.

Afterwards, the President and the First Lady had dinner with the attendees. During the dinner, artists from Myanma Radio’s modern music troupe together with union ethnic nationals and singers provided entertainment.

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State Counsellor attends 73rd Union Day in Panglong



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi signs the visitors’ book at the ceremony in commemoration of the 73rd Union Day in Panglong, Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, attended a ceremony to mark the 73rd Union Day at the Panglong Union Monument Garden in Panglong Town of Loilem District, Shan State, yesterday.

The State Counsellor and the attendees saluted the State Flag and the fallen martyrs, followed by singing the national anthem.

Then, the Shan State Chief Minister read out the message sent by Presi-

dent U Win Myint for the 73rd Union Day.

The State Counsellor then delivered a speech at the ceremony.

(The speech of State Counsellor is covered on page - 5)

After signing the visitors’ book, the State Counsellor looked around the photos and monumental sites of signatories who represented the ethnic national groups in the Panglong Agreement before having the documentary photos taken with the attendees and dignitaries at the ceremony.

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73rd Union Day held with State Flag raising, saluting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Myint Swe attends the ceremony to celebrate the 73rd Anniversary Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to mark the 73rd Union Day was organized with the State Flag raising and saluting, in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday.

Vice-President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the Chairman of Union Day Organizing Central Committee, read out the message sent by the President.

The annual ceremony was held with the five objectives:—

1. All ethnic nationals are to work with collective strength for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of national sovereignty

2. Successful implementation of peace-making process based on Union spirit
 3. Working with collective strength of ethnic nationals for providing law and order, fair justice and safety of the citizens
 4. Promoting socioeconomic development of people by preventing dangers of narcotic drugs as a national task
 5. Striving for the emergence of a Constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union
- The State Flag was hoisted at 5:30 am in the presence of members of national races.

Beginning at 5 am., departmental personnel, members from civil societies, ethnic nationals and invited guests arrived at the venue of ceremony.

At 7 am, the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Guard of Honor marched into the square in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

Vice President U Myint Swe took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

The Vice-President and the attendees saluted the State Flag, while the national anthem was played by the Guard of Honour.

Vice-President U Myint Swe then read the Union Day

message sent by President U Win Myint, before concluding the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, senior military officers, Union Supreme Court judges, members of State Constitutional Tribunal, members of Union Election Commission, Commander of Nay

Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, Deputy Attorney-General, members of Union Civil Service Board, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ethnic affairs ministers from State/Region governments, Vice Governors of Central Bank of Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, ministerial staff members, ethnic national cultural troupes, family members of Tatmadaw regiments based in the Nay Pyi Taw council area, members of civil societies, ethnic nationals and the invited guests.— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Health officials discuss preventive measures against COVID-19

THE World Health Organization proposed an official name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus: COVID-19 on 11 February.

The Ministry of Health and Sports organized the 16/2020 daily meeting to discuss measures related to prevent acute



A daily meeting to discuss preventive measures for the COVID-19 held on 12 February 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

respiratory disease 2019 Novel Coronavirus yesterday morning.

Permanent Secretary of the ministry Dr Thet Khaing Win presided over the meeting, and discussed following the case definition of Standard Operating Procedures in accordance with the guidelines of WHO, setting up quarantine zones, isolation wards and ICU wards for emergency cases at the State/Region hospitals, and giving health advises to those who were discharged from the hospital after the 14 day quarantine period.

The Permanent Secretary also instructed for readiness of face masks and health knowledge posters at the event in Nay Pyi Taw to unveil Bogyoke Aung San Statue on 13 February. It is estimated that about 20,000 people will attend the event.

He also discussed sufficient viral transport medium (VTM) used in sending labora-

tory specimens to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon, transferral of patients to major hospitals in respective States/Regions, purchase of medical ventilator.

The Permanent Secretary also talked about preparations for medical screening when Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 06 arrived at Thilawa port in Yangon on 12 February afternoon for the joint oceanic research between the two countries.

Director-General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw also discussed the update information about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, control and prevention measures of Myanmar across the country including at the border crossings and the prevailing health conditions of 59 Myanmar students who were brought back from Wuhan, China.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

President hosts dinner in commemoration of 73rd Union Day

FROM PAGE - 1

The reception and dinner was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hluan, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi.

Also present at the event were Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Tatmadaw Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe,



President U Win Myint greets the attendees at the dinner in commemoration of 73rd Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney General, members of Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, regions/states ethnic affairs ministers, members of Anti-Corruption Commission, Deputy Chairperson and members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Hluttaw representatives, chairpersons and leaders of political parties, leaders and representatives from EAOs that have signed the NCA, departmental officials, ethnic cultural troupes from states and regions, and invited guests.

Following the dinner, the President and the First Lady together with attendees enjoyed the performance by artists from the Ministry of Re-



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho greet the MPs and dignitaries at the dinner in commemoration of 73rd Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February 2020. PHOTO: MNA

and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung.

Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor-General, Peace Commis-

sion Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman, Myanmar Nation-

al Human Rights Commission Chairman, Union Legal Aid Board Chairman, Tatmadaw senior officers and their wives, Judges of the Supreme Court of

the Union, members of the Constitutional Tribunal, members of Union Election Commission, chairpersons and members of Hluttaw affairs committees,

ligious Affairs and Culture, and states/regions cultural dance troupes.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Inter-ministerial coordination committee meets for preventing 2019 Novel Coronavirus

THE inter-ministerial coordination committee for preventing 2019 Novel Coronavirus, which was recently named as the COVID-19 by the World Health Organization, held a meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry and the Chairman of committee, reviewed the works of committee, improving health conditions of

persons under investigation at the hospitals of Yangon and Mandalay regions, the helps of state agencies to allay public fears when taking persons under investigation to the hospitals and controlling public entertainments.

He also expressed thanks to the Ministry of Information for publishing information in ethnic languages, and requested to increase its momentum at present.

The Ministry of Health

and Sports is distributing pamphlets and posters to disseminate knowledge about the disease at schools, factories and hotels.

He also requested the coordination of relevant state agencies with the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Permanent Secretary asked for the assistance of General Administration Department in collecting health conditions of people, especially those who returned from over-

seas jobs.

Up to date, the Ministry of Information has published 260 news and photos for local media, 109 news and photos for international media, 29 editorials and statements, 4 interviews, 178 TV spots for health programmes from 25 January to 7 February.

The Ministry of Information will also send some video clips about hand washing to the cinemas.

The inter-ministerial co-

ordination committee is comprised of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor attends 73rd Union Day in Panglong

FROM PAGE -1

The State Counsellor then planted an olive tree at the designated place of monument ground, marking the Union Day.

The ceremony was concluded with the song titled ‘Ultimate Truth from Panglong Land’ by local ethnic nationals.

The State Counsellor then visited Naungkut Pariyatti monastery and paid respects to and donated offertories to the presiding monk of the monastery.

In the evening, the State Counsellor and party attended the Union Day dinner at Awaiyar Hot Balloon Ground in Taunggyi.

At the dinner party, the State Counsellor and party released the hot air balloons to welcome the fourth session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference.

During the dinner, the young ethnic people and famous vocalist Zaw Win Htut entertained

with Union songs, followed by the traditional dances of Wa, Palaung, Kokang, PaO, Lisu, Danu and Intha ethnic groups.

The State Counsellor and party, together with ethnic nationals, took part in singing a group song to conclude the ceremony.

The first session of the Panglong meeting held in Panglong Town from 26 to 28 March of 1946 could raise hope to strive for regaining independence of the country. The second session of this historic meeting was organized from 3 to 13 February in 1947. It was attended by the Governor’s Executive Council led by Bogyoke Aung San, officers of border affairs administrative officers, representatives from political organizations, journalists, officials of foreign diplomatic missions, prominent individuals and representatives



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the 73rd Union Day ceremony in Panglong, Shan State, on 12 February 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi plants the olive tree at the ceremony to mark the 73rd Union Day in Panglong, Shan State, on 12 February 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Shan Sawbwa groups, Kachin and Shan people.

At the second meeting, the Panglong Agreement was signed by 23 ethnic representatives on 12 February 1947 to prove common agreement of the national people to strive for the independence together.

Thanks to this agreement, Myanmar regained its independence for the entire country on 4 February 1948.

The incumbent government has held the three sessions of 21st Century Panglong Conference where 52-points of the agreement were reached for establishing a Democratic Federal Union.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Win Myat Aye, Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut, Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lone Sai, Chief Justice of Shan State High Court U Kywal Kywal, Commander of Central-East Command Major General Than Hlaing; Deputy Ministers Major General Aung Thu and U Hla Maw Oo; local government ministers, Hluttaw MPs, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, ethnic affairs ministers, chairmen from leading bodies of Danu Self-Administered Zone, Pa Laung Self-Administered Zone and PaO Self-Administered Zone, representatives from political parties, offspring and close relatives of leaders participated in signing the Panglong Agreement, members of State Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, representatives of ethnic groups who will take part in peace dialogue, invited guests and local ethnic people.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

To put an end to the armed conflicts that we have witnessed for over 70 years, we should see what salutary lessons we can gain from the bitter past.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Following is the Speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 73rd anniversary of the Union Day celebration in Panglong.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

MAY I first of all wish health of body and peace of mind to you, our brothers and sisters present on the 73rd anniversary of the Union Day celebration. I am happy to see the ethnic armed organizations who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and those who have not yet done so to be present on this Union Day celebration.

We all value the Union Day as a day that brought about the unity and the union spirit of all our national races. Now I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief account of how the Panglong Conference had come to exist, and how we had undergone the hardships and obstacles.

When Myanmar fell under the British colonialists, the hilly regions and the central plains were governed separately; when the time came to grant independence without fail, attempts were made so that the hilly regions would be left out from enjoying this great opportunity. So the then AFPF government, leading the interim government, made every effort to ensure that the independence must be restored to both the hilly regions and the central plains. In January 1947, a Myanmar delegation led by Gen. Aung San went to England and held talks with the representatives of the British government to grant independence for the whole country without excluding the hilly regions. It was during the discussions that some Sawbwa council members of the Shan State sent a telegraph to the British government, stating that Gen. Aung San was not a representative of the Shan State. As a result, the discussions came to a halt temporarily. But the youths of the Shan State Independence Association held a mass gathering in Taunggyi, and there they made a unanimous decision saying that Gen. Aung San and the delegation were the genuine representatives of the people of Shan State, and then sent a telegram to Gen. Aung San and the British Prime Minister in London. Then the discussions were resumed, once again, and the Aung San-Attlee Agreement, which set a milestone for regaining the independence of Myanmar, was signed on 27th January 1947.

The Aung San-Attlee Agreement stated that the wishes of the hilly regions must be ascertained whether they would like to stand together with the central plains, and accordingly, there was a need to hold a conference.

(12 February 2020)

So Gen. Aung San held discussions with the leaders of the Shan, Kachin, and Chin in Panglong, the Shan State. The Panglong Treaty was successfully signed on 12th February 1947, that measures would be taken for regaining the independence, simultaneously, for the whole country of Myanmar, including Burma Proper, the Federated Shan States, the Kachin Hill Tracts and the Chin Hill District. That day is now known as Union Day.

Today marks the 73th anniversary of signing the Panglong Agreement. You can assume that the word “Panglong” is the key word representing the Union. What is the most important point for the emergence of this agreement of great significance is the collaboration of the people. In other words, this acknowledges the democratic values, which mean the inclusiveness of the people, and which are essential for the achievement of the important matters for the country.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to one short statement that was included in the Agreement. That sentence reads thus: “Freedom will be more speedily achieved by the Shans, the Kachins and the Chins by their immediate co-operation with the Interim Burmese Government”.

This statement highlights the fact that it is only through the collaboration of all national races that the important matters of the state could be implemented speedily, more efficiently. If we consider these two points, in order to successfully build the democratic union, it is obvious that the cooperation and collaboration of the people, of the national races, are quite a pressing demand. This is, of course, the Union Spirit - a spirit which will never grow old and one which we should effectively hold dearly forever.

It has been over seventy times that 12th February, the day of signing the Panglong Agreement has been celebrated. Ironically, it has been over seventy years that after we have regained our dearly won independence, our national races, our blood brothers, have been engaged in wars merely because of the conflicting policies and suspicions or lack of trust among ourselves. Up to the present the sound of guns can still be heard.

If we make a review of our history, we should not look at each other with the critical eye, putting blame on each other. That's not the way we can find the right solution to our problems. Don't look at what's wrong with them. Look at your own faults. What's been going wrong with all of us? What are the things we need to mend? That kind of critical point of view should be adopted. Why not adopt the new global views, and look at the union spirit that never grows old or stale? To put an end to our armed conflicts that have been going on over seventy years, we should see what salutary lessons we can gain from the bitter past.

Since the conditions of the world in relation with the history of our own country are also important, when we consider the past, we must not fail to perceive that the then related conditions were not the same as the related conditions of the present. It is very important to consider in what condition we should pass our country to the future generations. We all know what impact these seventy-year armed conflicts have made to the status of the development of our country. Our goal is to keep abreast with the other countries in the world, a democratic federal union with our own sovereignty.

The governments of the successive periods have tried their best to put an end to the armed conflicts and restore peace to our motherland, but have not yet achieved the

goals of peace. Ceasefire agreement has been only the highest form of agreement, and the sustainable peace has not yet been built. Why? Because, as our government believes, the political problems among us, which are the root of the problems of the armed conflicts, have not yet been settled, as has been highlighted in the message of the President.

Therefore, today, while the Union Government has been making efforts for national reconciliation and peace, the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong conferences have been held, which are the political talks for building the democratic federal union, which has been the dream of all national races. It was named the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong because the long-desired independence was successfully regained through the united spirit of 20th Century Panglong. This we should recall and reflect, and stand united ever again. We all should bring along the united spirit of 20th Century Panglong, and hold talks at 21st Century Panglong in relation with the times and circumstances of the present. Then we shall regain, with our collective strengths, the everlasting peace, which is now as important as our life and soul.

Our ancestors have founded this nation. If we want this union, the country whose independence our ancestors have stood united and fought for, to stand till to the end of the world, it is important to build the democratic, federal union that we shall agree upon and accept, that fits in the related conditions of the 21st century. Of course, we have different views and different beliefs. But the goal of everyone is no doubt building the democratic federal union founded on national equality and national unity. Well, how shall we shape the democratic federal union? We may have different approaches, but to reach the common goal, if we have farsightedness, and try unitedly, I believe, there is nothing that can stop our success.

As our national leaders successfully worked it out with the exercise of farsightedness at the 20th century Panglong Conference, so we will unfailingly be able to successfully build the democratic federal union if we, brothers and sisters of national races come together and work it out with farsightedness and unity.

Before I conclude my talk, I would like to draw your attention to the portraits of our fathers of the Panglong Agreement right before you. It was these great leaders who collaborated and agreed to build the union. They collaborated with the exercise of farsightedness, wisdom, magnanimity, and the spirit of taking risks. The spirit of taking risks is related to magnanimity. If you are magnanimous, if you are broadminded enough, you have the courage of setting out to do things that you have never done before. Only the narrow-minded people continue to confine themselves as the prisoners of the past. You know, they just stick to the old needs and the old demands in the old styles, as before.

The fathers of our union did it, equipped with novel visions and courage, that we would found our nation in the way we had always dreamed of, in the period we lived. We all should do that way to achieve our goals. I would like to conclude my talk that in the present period we are now living, we must have the courage, wisdom and farsightedness that, though nobody has ever done before, we shall do what we should do according to the needs of our country and our world. I would like to request you all to cooperate and collaborate without fail. Thank you.

(Translated by Dr Zaw Tun)

State Counsellor meets with local people in Panglong



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with local people in Panglong Yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Rural Areas and National Races Development Central Committee, met with local residents in Panglong at the town's Union Monument Garden yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "I hold public meetings everywhere I tour in the country. I read what my father said, including his many thoughts which came from different public meetings.

"In one of his speeches in 1947, before he was assassinated, he also said that his heart was filled with what he wanted to say to the public. First, I thought that he was young and might not live longer, so he could not say what he wanted. Now, I understand that his comment meant that our hearts are filled with thoughts for a country, when we can clearly see the country.

"Today, I want to talk about two issues. The first is the issue related to Union Day, and the other is about the knowledge and lessons I gained during public meetings nationwide, whenever I toured the country.

"I talked about the Union repeatedly. Our country is a Union, which is different from other countries which are not unions. We need unity and need to build strength through this unity. I repeatedly told the public that we need to nurture the spirit of the Union which accepts that we all are ethnic brethren of the Union.

"Some use the words "blood of the union". In fact, blood is not important in this phrase. Ideology and conception are more important in the usage of Union. There

are many Unions in the world, whilst non-Union countries. The prosperity being enjoyed by the world's countries is not connected with the Union. A country's prosperity depends on its people.

"If we have made a commitment to build a federal Union, we need to work hard and with zeal until we reach our goal."

Hence, our road to the Union has not yet finished. It started in 1947. We have not yet made our Union strong even though the 20th century finished. There are many things to think about for each one of us. Have we really completed the task of building our Union?

Unity among us is more important than brethren relationship between us. Only when we have the same ambition in major issues, can we build unity among us. We need to have the same ambition of building a Union. But, we might not have the same way of how to build the Union, but we can negotiate it.

We need unity physically and mentally to build a Union. The United States of America is the most famous Union in the world. By the term Americans we do not mean the American Indians who settled there before 15 century. Now, Myanmar people who migrated to the United States can be citizens of the United States of America. The people who left Panglong for the United States of America might be the citizens of the US. The Union with different peoples, different religions and different languages is the most powerful and prosperous country in the world not because of its richness in natural resources. That's the union.

Switzerland is a small Union. It is located among the powerful European countries and makes it-

self to become a prosperous country. We can see that the prosperity of a Union is not related with the country's size nor richness in natural resources. Switzerland is not rich in natural resources. As what I said before, the development of a country depends on the spirit, unity and diligence of the peoples of that country.

If we really want to develop our Union, our thinking must lead to it. Thinking about just for an ethnic race is not workable. Only when we think about prosperity of

about that, the National League for Democracy laid down the policy to work for that goal within the framework of the rule of law and peace.

We never considered choosing the way that could hurt the public. Self-centered attitude will not benefit the country. We are now gathering at Panglong. I have said in the morning that we should imagine the intention of our Union fathers while we are attending the Union Day.

They might have broad-mind-

"If we have made a commitment to build a federal Union, we need to work hard and with zeal until we reach our goal."

the Union, can we bring prosperity to both individual ethnic race and the whole country.

Working just for own ethnic race cannot be considered a pride. We must consider prosperity for ourselves and for others at the same time. All ethnic people are residing in our Union and we must work hard to develop our Union.

We are working hard to amend the constitution. The reason why we want to amend the constitution is to build a genuine Democratic Federal Union.

Only when our Union becomes a genuine Democratic Federal Union can all ethnic nationalities enjoy security physically and mentally and prosperity brought by our unity. To bring

edness. They might work in this attitude with courage. Big-hearted persons have courage. They had far-sightedness. Their courage could develop their firm determination. However, self-confidence is important for daring activities.

Establishing mutual trust is a frequent topic in negotiations with ethnic armed groups for ceasefire and building a Union. To get the trust of others, someone needs to trust on oneself. Similarly, someone who has trust on himself could trust others. Self-confidence can develop internal strength and capacity. They will not hesitate to share their confidence with others. Someone with enough resources could share his capacity. The

needy persons will fear to share their possessions.

Therefore, it is important to build up self-confidence, and also believe that everybody has their own value. This value cannot be judged by money or academic certificates, but it could be determined by the benevolent efforts. It is one of the ideas on the Union.

I also like to talk about my public meetings. I want to make regular contact with common people. The government and people should keep in touch. However, it is not easy to have close contact of the government with the people, especially in countries like Myanmar.

It can simply be seen in the transportation sector. Rural people cannot easily meet with officials in the towns due to poor road networks. Therefore, it is difficult to build up unity and close relations between the common people and the administrative officials.

I am giving people chances to express their concerns. I gave answers to them. I also appreciate their active role at the meetings. However, some people are misusing these opportunities. The meetings are aimed for the welfare of local people. They could have better access to the government. In some cases, people from other areas raised aggressive questions. Some of their manners were undisciplined. We allowed questions by drawing lots. Such questions were allowed after the answers to the questions submitted earlier. Some persons made problems as they did not win in drawing lot. They have blamed on us for this. It is an undisciplined manner. It is not possible to answer all questions.

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State Counsellor meets with local people in Panglong

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It will not be practical to talk with over 52 million people of the country at the same time. We do our best for public meeting as I want to know the concerns of common people. Some are taking advantage from these meetings although they are not local residents. I frequently said not to focus on the self-interest, but on responsibility. Some people do not like my advice. Freedom and responsibility come together.

Someone who always hopes for privileges is not an independent person. They seem to be relying on others. Such persons expect the rights only from others without giving up. Responsibility is to serve for others. It is own value. I once talked about the United States. When the U.S people fought for their independence, they had a political slogan of 'No taxation without representation'. Although they had to pay tax, the administration neglected their rights. And that they blamed their government for this negligence. Tax payers deserve their rights.

In developing countries, they used to insist on demanding their rights that they were dutiful citizens to pay tax, and that the government needed to consider their rights. Just taking one-sided privileges is not a good attitude.

Therefore, I will allow for questions. Although someone won the lot for questioning, I will first identify their residency whether a local or non-local. I will never allow pretending as the locals for questions. The rights must be claimed in the rules.

Through following rules and disciplines and the attitude of unselfishness, our country will surely develop. Individuals need to develop their own capacity for the prosperity of the country. We can take lessons in our surroundings, even from minor issues. I am concluding my speech to save the time although I have many issues to say.

So, develop union spirit, develop the attitude of decent citizens as the Union spirit is depending on unity and fairness. Moreover, a decent citizen practices fairness and justice. Fairness and responsibility are very important for the government and the citizens, organizations, political parties to become a developing, well-respected and valuable nation in the world.

"Our country encounters many challenges. I have no worry for this to be overcome. I'll be



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with school children. **PHOTO: MNA**

satisfied if the tasks can be performed dutifully day by day. Each and every individual should bear this in their mind. They should do their responsibilities conscientiously day by day to develop our nation with a harmonious and balanced spirit according to rules and regulations. You all should work together to build a genuine democratic federal Union," she added.

Afterwards, there followed a Q & A session. One of the pre-event questions, raised by U Ye Hlaing from Pyidaungsu Street, Ward (2), Panglong, was if a vocational school would be set up in Panglong; if Panglong town would

a concrete road. Hein Htike San company in-charge U Ko Ko Tun asked for a permit to be granted as fast as possible for opening a private bazaar under the agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Hein Htike San Company. U Nay Zaw Naing from Namhsan asked for the extraction of water from the Loilem Loi-tawng to provide sufficient water supply to local residents in Namhsan as the Namlat Creek lacks water in late monsoon. Town elder U Ne Aung from Kunhing asked a garbage truck be provided for a clean and pleasant Karli Town. Town elder U Sai Phone Khoung

Khaung from Mongshu asked for granting permission to re-open the gems mines according to the law as locals as well as others have no employment opportunities since its suspension after permit expiry in June 2019. Then, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thu, and U Ohn Win, state chief minister, ministers and officials explained the immediate and long-term measures to be executed and some matters to be carried out after review and scrutiny.

Then, three out of 24 asked questions in the hall. U Law Yone (a) U Sai Yi from Panglong No 1 Ward asked for a sports ground to be built for the Panglong youths. Daw San San Aye from Namhsan No 5 Village queried for electricity supply and for retired veterans to get back their farm lands. U Tin Khaing from Mongpan asked for the procurement of agricultural water for the farmers in Mongpan and for the government buildings under construction to be scrutinized for quality buildings. Next, three out of 10 asked questions outside the hall. U Tu Tu Aung from Namhsan No 10 Village asked for the removal of those who occupied the lands owned by the veterans. Daw Khin Mar Swe queried for the complaint to be resolved for a farmland. Ma Htay Kyi from Namhsan No (3) Ward asked to get back the confiscated farmlands in Yebawhaung Village. The State Counsellor explained the status of implementation for each matter.

The State Counsellor then said: "We have answered the questions. We have heard your proposals. We have great honour that you all can present, in freedom, your desires, your

problems, and your worries. We regarded our government as a success that you all are raising your questions confidently and without any fear. Our next immediate duty is to help resolve and overcome the worries and problems of the people.

However, the people must take part in this task. Major problems and important measures of the State could not be solved completely without the people's involvement as I said earlier again and again. Some said it's the government job. If they're saying so, it may turn to support dictatorship like whatever the government wanted to do and they would take their responsibilities unless you must take responsibility. Some proposed matters are thus the consequences of the irresponsibility. I can't promise for 100 per cent but we will solve the matters raised as much as we can. It is convenient for all if we balance between us. If a person sits on two chairs it's a problem for others because one chair should be suitable for one person.

Likewise, we should be disciplined ourselves. There should be justice among ourselves. We should encourage for the development of others. Thus I thank you all. I take pride in your sincerities for raising questions in freedom. I wish every success for you all and thank you," she concluded.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor posed for a documentary photo with the ethnic nationals and children.

The State Counsellor left Panglong by helicopter and arrived in Taunggyi in the evening.—MNA

Through following rules and disciplines and the attitude of unselfishness , our country will surely develop.

be converted to Panglong Township; and if an existing 4230x12 feet tar road would be upgraded to a concrete one. Town elder U Sai Tun Oo from Laihka asked for the maintenance work of creek bank and dredging work along the Nam Teng Creek to be completed. Town elder U Sai Sai from Laihka also asked for the Nawng Peng-Wang Yang road (14 miles 2 furlongs) to be upgraded to a concrete road. U Htwet Lot from Wang Keng Village, Namhsan, queried if a stretch of 4 miles from the Kungkyaing-Bangheng Village to the Wangheng-Wangheng Village would be constructed as

from Kunhing also asked for their need to have a crematorium for a population of 9,742 residing in Kunhing Town and Wards. Kunhing town elder U Sai Nu asked for a service personnel housing to be built by the Urban and Housing Development Department in 2020-2021 fiscal year. U Sai Aung Tun from Minenaung raised the disagreements by local farmers on the land transfer to the No 2 Steel Factory (Pingpet) of the Ministry of Industry as the land includes their cultivating fields, traditional monasteries and schools, sports grounds, and village health centers. U Sai Kam

Forced labour needs to stop — for good

MYANMAR became a member of the International Labour Organization on 18 May, 1948. The country established a mechanism to deal with complaints, in cooperation with the ILO, in 2007. The move came under the Supplementary Understanding (SU) with the ILO in 2007 and was part of efforts to meet Protocol 29 of the ILO.

Prior to 2019, a High Level Working Group (HLWG), formed as a transitional body before the National Complaints Mechanism (NCM) came into existence, had dealt with complaints related to forced labour.

Now, the National Complaints Mechanism has become operational, and anyone can lodge a complaint with the NCM via the Hlut-taw, the Office of the President, regional and state governments, the Myanmar Human Rights Commission, ILO office (Yangon), Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in person or by mail. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population can be contacted by phone on 067-3430184, 067-3430229, 067-3430274

and by e-mail on mol@mpt-mail.net.mm, molipoffice@gmail.com, research.org.doLmm@gmail.com. The phone numbers and email addresses have been made available to ensure people can raise complaints easily.

Fighting forced labour involves all levels of government, and we applaud the government's commitment to curb the practice in Myanmar.

For the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour in Myanmar, the cooperation of both employers and workers is required in implementing the National Complaints Mechanism.

To arrive at permanent and comprehensive solutions to the scourge of labour coercion and abuse, investment in workers needs to be prioritized, and their capacity to organize collectively to combat exploitation is critical to securing social and economic justice that leaves no one behind.

Industries are urged to consider all approaches to end forced labour because they employ mostly women workers, who, in particular, face inequality, poverty, lack of labour protection, and criminalization globally.

Forced labour has both direct and indirect social and economic consequences.

Under the national mechanism, alleged instances of forced labour would be handled through investigation, prosecution, and adequate punishment for those found guilty, as stipulated under the terms of Forced Labour Convention No. 29.

We are confident that the new initiatives of the government would help encourage people to come forward and support those affected by the practice. Forced labour needs to end — for good.



WHO names deadly virus from China as 'COVID-19'

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the virus was a "very grave threat". But he said there was a "window of opportunity to hit hard and stand in unison to fight this virus in every corner."

THE UN health agency on Tuesday announced that "COVID-19" will be the official name of the deadly virus from China, saying the disease represented a "very grave threat" for the world but there was a "realistic chance" of stopping it.

"We now have a name for the disease and it's COVID-19," World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva.

Tedros said that "co" stands for "corona", "vi" for "virus" and "d" for "disease", while "19" was for the year, as the outbreak was first identified on December 31.

Tedros said the name had been chosen to avoid references to a specific geographical location, animal species or group of people in line with international recommendations for naming aimed at preventing stigmatization.

WHO had earlier given the virus the temporary name of "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease" and China's National Health Commission this week said it was temporarily calling it "novel coronavirus pneumonia" or NCP.

Under a set of guidelines issued in 2015, WHO advises against using place names such as Ebola and Zika — where those diseases were first identified and which are now inevitably linked

to them in the public mind.

More general names such as "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome" or "Spanish flu" are also now avoided as they can stigmatise entire regions or ethnic groups.

WHO also notes that using animal species in the name can create confusion, such as in 2009 when H1N1 was popularly referred to as "swine flu".

This had a major impact on the pork industry even though the disease was being spread by people rather than pigs.

People's names — usually the scientists who identified the disease — are also banned, as are "terms that incite undue fear" such as "unknown" or "fatal", the WHO said.

'More powerful' than terrorist attack

The virus has killed more than 1,000 people, infected over 42,000 and reached some 25 countries, with the WHO declaring a global health emergency.

Addressing scientists at the first international conference on combating the virus earlier on Tuesday, Tedros warned that the virus was a "very grave threat".

"Viruses can have more powerful consequences than any terrorist action," he told reporters later.

About 400 scientists were taking part in the two-day in-

ternational meeting in Geneva called to review how the virus is transmitted and possible vaccines against it.

"We are not defenceless," Tedros said, adding: "If we invest now... we have a realistic chance of stopping this outbreak."

Participants will also discuss the source of the virus, which is thought to have originated in bats and reached humans via other "intermediary" species such as snakes or pangolins.

WHO sent an advance team to China this week for an international mission to examine the epidemic.

It was unclear, however, whether the team would be able to visit Wuhan, a city in central China which has been under lockdown after the outbreak was registered in a food and live animal market in the city.

Roadmap for research

No specific treatment or vaccine against the virus exists, and WHO has repeatedly urged countries to share data in order to further research into the disease.

"That is especially true in relation to sharing of samples and sequences. To defeat this outbreak, we need open and equitable sharing, according to the principles of fairness and equity," Tedros told the scientific conference.



The virus, officially named COVID-19, has spooked markets around the world, having killed more than 1,100 people and infected tens of thousands since it emerged in central China at the end of last year.

PHOTO: AFP

He said he hoped the scientists could agree a roadmap "around which researchers and donors will align".

Several teams of experts in Australia, Britain, China, France, Germany and the United States are racing to develop a vaccine — a process that normally takes years.

Efforts to come up with a vaccine are being led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a body established in 2017 to finance costly biotechnology research in the wake of an Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people.

Ultimately, however, scientists may end up in the same situation they were during the 2002-03 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) — which died out before a vaccine could be fully developed.

A close cousin of COVID-19, SARS spread around the world and killed nearly 800.

First vaccine for novel coronavirus could be available in 18 months

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Tuesday that the first vaccines for the novel coronavirus could

be ready in 18 months.

In the meantime, he tweeted, "there's a lot we can do to prevent transmission and prepare for any further spread."

Earlier at a press briefing on Tuesday, he told reporters that while the world needs investment in research and development, "we also need investment in stopping the COVID19 outbreak now," adding that the development of vaccine and therapeutic is an important part of the research agenda.

China virus death toll tops 1,100 as new cases fall

The death toll from China's new coronavirus epidemic climbed past 1,100 on Wednesday but the number of new cases fell for a second straight day, as the World Health Organization urged global unity to combat the "grave threat".

As Beijing scrambles to contain the virus, the number of people infected on a cruise ship off Japan's coast rose to 174 — the biggest cluster outside the Chinese mainland.

Another 97 people died in China, raising the national toll to 1,113, while more than 44,600 people have now been infected by the newly named COVID-19.

Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne presents Credentials to President of the Italian Republic

Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, presented her Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic on 6 February 2020, in Rome.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 12th February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 13th February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty of (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of night temperatures in the whole country.

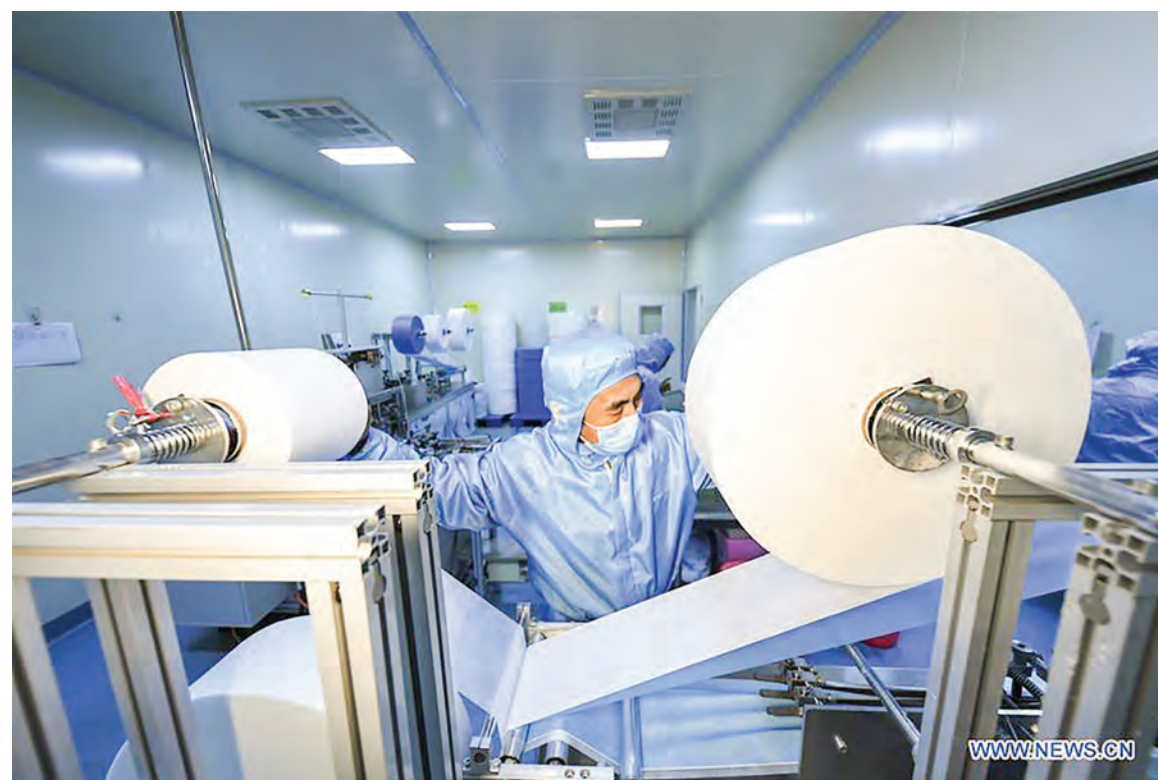
FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th February, 2020: Fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar



A worker makes masks at a medical supply company in Nan'an District, southwest China's Chongqing, Feb. 11, 2020. PHOTO: (XINHUA/WANG QUANCHAO)

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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.

NLD Headquarters in Yangon commemorates 73rd Anniversary Union Day

THE 73rd Anniversary Union Day ceremony was held at National League for Democracy (Headquarters) in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.
At the ceremony, the State Flag, Bogoyoke Aung San and the martyrs were saluted and then an 8 seconds silence observed in memory of the monks, people and students who lost their lives in the democratic revolution.

Secretariat member of the Central Executive Committee of NLD U Han Tha Myint acted as the chairman of the ceremony and delivered the opening speech. It was followed by CEC Member Dr Myo Nyunt reading out the four-point declaration of the NLD CEC. The CEC put on record the messages sent from politicians and embassies.

The ceremony was attended by NLD Patron U Tin



The National League for Democracy commemorates 73rd Union Day anniversary at party headquarters in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**
Oo, NLD CEC members, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, members of parliament, diplomats, members of the NLD and invited guests.— Zaw Gyi
(Translated by TTN)

People hold 73rd Union Day, Manaw Festival in Sumprabum

MORE THAN 500 people participated in the 73rd Union Day celebrations and the Manaw Festival on 12 February on the township public sports ground in Sumprabum Town of Kachin State.
Initially, Township Administrator U Zarni Toe read a message for the 73rd anniversary Union Day sent by President U Win Myint, while officials gave awards to the winners of an essay competition about the Union Day held across primary, secondary, and high schools.

Then, Township Administrator U Zarni Toe and the Traditional Committee members formally cut the ribbon and fired guns to open the Manaw Festival. At the



Sumprabum Township Administrator U Zarni Toe reading out the message for the 73rd anniversary Union Day in Sumprabum Township, Kachin State. **PHOTO: PHON KAN (PUTAO)**
festival, the manaw dance was performed to entertain the audience. Showrooms of various departments were also opened at the festival to mark the 73rd anniversary Union Day.—Phon Kan (Putao)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

CarsDB Auto Show Mandalay 2020 to begin on 6 March

THE CarsDB Auto Show Mandalay 2020 will be held from 6 to 8 March at the Mandalay Convention Centre, it is learnt.
The auto show organized by CarsDB will be held from 10 am to 8 pm every day. It has been organized with the aim of developing the Myanmar automotive industry by creating opportunities to purchase brand new cars of buyers' choice, or

reconditioned cars, and get other automotive-related services through car manufacturers, distributors, banks, and insurance companies.
At the auto show, brand new cars such as BAIC, DFSK, Ford, GAC, and Gold AYA will be displayed and prospective buyers will be allowed to take a test drive. Car accessories and services related to auto-

mobiles will also be provided at the show.
The show will also include a lucky draw for visitors with a chance to win three motorbikes and other items.
The show's organizers will keep doctors and an ambulance on standby. Arrangements will be made to measure body temperature and provide hand sanitizers and masks free

of charge to visitors.
CarsDB Auto Show Mandalay 2020 will be co-sponsored by AYA bank and Morris Garages (MG). CMC Advertising and Exhibition Company Limited will be the official contractor, while Redline Media and Mizzima TV will provide support as media partners. —GNLM
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bangladesh buying over 300,000 viss of Myanmar onions daily

BANGLADESH is purchasing more than 300,000 viss of onions from Myanmar every day during the summer onion season in the local market, according to sources from the onion market in Mandalay Region. (One viss equals 3.6 pounds)

Currently, around 500,000 or 600,000 viss of onions are being supplied to the domestic market. Bangladesh onion traders are purchasing onions from Myanmar via the border areas.

China is also purchasing onions this year through the border. China usually purchases onions

from Myanmar between February and August.

In the summer season in Myanmar, onion prices are likely to decline to K500 per viss. But this year, the price of onions is above K1,000 per viss.

The Ministry of Commerce has issued an import license to export and import companies, at the recommendation of the Myanmar Onion, Garlic and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association. Moreover, the authorities have allowed them to import onions using Individual Trading Cards (ITC).



Sacks of onion heaped up at a wholesale shop in Monywa. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

In the 2017-2018 financial year (FY), Myanmar earned over US\$9 million from the export of 22,000 tons of onion. Myanmar earned over \$20 million from the

export of 87,000 tons of onions in the 2018-2019FY. Myanmar exports onions mostly to China, Thailand, India, and Bangladesh.

Onions are mainly grown in

Monywa, Myingyan, Taungtha, Pakokku, Kyaukse, Mandalay, and Magway in Myanmar. — Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Individual trades exceed K18 bln at border gates in Oct-Jan

TRADE conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders at the border gates crossed K18 billion between October and January in the 2019-2020 financial year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Department issued 32 cards in October-January, and card holders conducted trade worth K18.8 billion. While imports exceeded K17 billion, exports were valued at just K1.78 billion.

The Myawady gate recorded the highest trade by value at K11.3 billion in the current FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflects imports as individual

trading card holders did not export goods through the gate.

The value of trade conducted by individual card holders stood at K1.5 billion at Tamu, over K6.1 million at Muse, K143.86 million at Tachilek, K22.96 million at Lweijel, K319.7 million at Kanpikete, K695.5 million at Kawthoung, K405.5 million at Reed, K3.53 billion at Mawtaung, K2.086 billion at Hteekhee, and K127.7 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November, 2012 to 31 March, 2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; crossed 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY;

stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY; rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY; K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018); and K9.38 billion in the 2018-2019FY.

The trade department has issued 1,719 cards so far with the aim of boosting trade. Businessmen can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted trade of up to K15 million over five days. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Maritime trade up \$1.3 bln in Oct-Jan

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 31 January in the 2019-2020 financial year totaled US\$9.3 billion, an increase of over \$1.3 billion compared to the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$3.69 billion, imports were registered at \$5.6 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2018-2019 financial year, imports were

higher by \$584.87 million, while exports registered an increase of \$732.43 million.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border gates was estimated at \$3.78 billion, an increase of \$470.5 million.

The country's total external trade reached \$13 billion, which was higher than the \$11.3 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest

products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar beans body seeks extension of export quota period for mung beans

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association has sought an extension of the March-end deadline for exporting 250,000 tons of mung beans to India as it estimates it will need more time to ship the entire quota, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the association.

The association has also made a request to India through Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce to declare the quota limit for the 2020-2021 financial year.

"We will have to ship the beans around 15 to 20 March so they can reach the Indian port by March-end. However, we cannot export the whole quota by the deadline. Moreover, pulses and beans will be harvested until May. Having said that, we have requested that the period for export quota be extended and the quota limit for the next financial year be declared in the end of March. India has not yet responded to the request," said U Min Ko Oo.

India had increased the mung beans quota from 150,000 tons, set earlier on 12 December last year, to 250,000 tons, according to a trade notice issued by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

The increased quota of 250,000 tons will have to reach India by 31 March, 2020.

India recorded low mung beans yield due to erratic weather last year. Under the provincial government's approval, more mung beans are being purchased beyond the previous quota limit, which has driven the mung beans price up to above K1.3 million per ton.

At present, mung beans are fetching about K970,000 per ton.

"Demand and supply determine the market price of mung beans. India increased the quota limit in December, 2019 and then, the merchants obtained a license in 20 January, 2020. Thus, the period for export is short. There was active supply and demand relation in February. Nevertheless, the price of mung beans dips in the domestic market when the price in the Indian market declines amid bulk supply in the Myanmar market. More beans will be harvested in the coming months," said U Min Ko Oo.

Currently, mung beans are being loaded on ships for export to India. The export ships are set to leave Myanmar port every seven to ten days, according to the association.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon Govt organizes 73rd Union Day



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein addresses the event to mark the 73rd Union Day at Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

YANGON Region Government held the 73rd anniversary of Union Day in front of Independence Monument in Maha Bandoola Park yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Government Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein took salute of Yangon Command’s Guard of Honour and Myanmar Police Band.

The Chief Minister and the attendees at the ceremony saluted the State Flag, and he read out the message for 73rd Union Day sent by the President before concluding the ceremony which was also attended by the Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, Commander of Yangon Command Major General Thet Pon, Chief Justice of the Yangon Region

High Court, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, members of Yangon Region Government, Chief Legal Officer, State Auditor General, senior military officers, Hluttaw MPs, representatives of political parties, departmental officers, social organizations, ethnic people, students and common people.— Min Thit
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Bronze statue of Bogoyoke Aung San to be unveiled today



People visit the exhibition to mark the birthday of Bogoyoke Aung San in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: SHWE PIN LAE (RESEARCH)**

THE bronze statue of Bogoyoke Aung San will be unveiled on his birthday today at the Thapyaygone roundabout in Nay Pyi Taw.

To mark the birthday of Bogoyoke, Information and Public Relations Department of Ministry of Information set up a display room yesterday near the Thapyaygone roundabout.

The photographs on display reflect the student life, Tatmadawman life with thirty comrades, political life, family life and foreign visits of Bogoyoke Aung San. The features of the show include his handwritings, excerpts from his speeches and the books and poems



People visit the exhibition to mark the birthday of Bogoyoke Aung San in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: SHWE PIN LAE (RESEARCH)**

about him. The display room was crowded with visitors yesterday.

U Hla Myint, a visitor to the display room, said

“I was interested since the bronze statue of Bogoyoke was built. It is graceful after finishing it. Experiences and knowledge are gained

from the display room as the records of political life and university student life of Bogoyoke Aung San are seen.”

“I come to know about the Bogoyoke Aung San by myself as I previously knew about Bogoyoke from others. I bought the books on Bogoyoke’s speeches. I’m very proud and will visit again with my children and grandchildren,” he added.

The display room to mark the Bogoyoke’s Birth-

day will be opened until the evening of 14 February. — Shwe Pin Lae (Research)
(Translated by KZT)

Samsung joins the fold with Galaxy Z Flip smartphone

SEOUL — Samsung on Tuesday unveiled its second folding smartphone, a “Z Flip” handset with a lofty price tag aimed at “trendsetters.”The smartphone flips open, like a case, opening into a 6.7-inch screen, and fits in a pocket when folded.Ultrathin glass used for the screen can be folded and unfolded more than 200,000 times and resists scratches, according to Samsung. The Galaxy Z Flip will be available beginning Friday at a starting price of \$1,380, head of Samsung product marketing in Rebecca Hirst said at a San Francisco unveiling. — AFP ■

Invitation for Bids

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No.:_5727-MM

Date: 13rd February 2020
Contract Title: Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project
Reference No. ICB: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-G10/2020

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Pole for National Electrification Project.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of concrete pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 74,600 Concrete Poles to be delivered in 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 5 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmomoe@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project) Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City : Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code : 15011
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 3431176
Facsimile number : +95 673431176
Electronic mail address : nep.pmomoe@gmail.com

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 26th March 2020. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 26th March, 2020.

Meeting Room (2), Ground Floor, Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code: 15011.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above Para 5 and 6 are:
Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City : Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code : 15011
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 3431176
Facsimile number : +95 673431176
Electronic mail address : nep.pmomoe@gmail.com

Union Election Commission Chairman arrives back in Yangon from India

A DELEGATION led by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein arrived back in Yangon yesterday after observing the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections in India.

Officials from Indian Embassy in Yangon, and officials from UEC Office and Yangon Region Sub-Election Commission welcomed the UEC Chairman and party at the Yangon International Airport. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein is welcomed back by officials from Indian Embassy at the Yangon International Airport in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

French wine industry faces ‘challenging year’ as US exports drop

PARIS — French wine exports to the United States plunged by almost a fifth in the last quarter of 2019 as punitive tariffs kicked in, the FEVS industry body said Wednesday, and warned of a “challenging year” ahead.

Despite an overall 5.9 per cent rise in wine and spirits exports last year — some 14 billion euros (\$15 billion) in total — the federation was downbeat as it pointed to uncertainties in its three main markets, the United States, China and Britain.

Even the global increase, it said, was partly motivated by fear as jittery buyers placed “anticipation” orders “in an international context of strong trade tensions and uncertainty”.

The French Associa-

tion of Wines and Spirits Exporters repeated a call it launched Tuesday for the government to set up a 300 million euro emergency compensation fund.

“The 2019 positive result must not be misinterpreted: international political environment and trade tensions had a severe effect on French wines and spirits exports, suggesting 2020 will be a challenging year,” FEVS president Antoine Leccia said in a statement.

A key concern was the entry into force on October 18 of additional tariffs of 25 per cent on French wine exports to the US, which the FEVS blamed for a 17.5 per cent drop in bottled still wine exports in the last quarter of 2019, along with a turnover decrease of 40 million euros. Last week, the French finance

ministry said the value of wine exports to the US fell 44 percent from October to November last year. The tariff hike was in retaliation for EU subsidies to Airbus, arch-rival of America’s Bo-

eing. The FEVS also pointed to an economic slowdown in China and political tensions in Hong Kong, and said its export turnover in the region declined by 3.1 per cent.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NAUTICAL GEORGIA VOY. NO. (251)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NAUTICAL GEORGIA VOY. NO. (251) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WIMAR 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301178

Invitation for Bids

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Electrification Project
Credit No.: 5727-MM

Date: 13th February 2020

Contract Title: Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East) & Bago (East)

Reference No: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3/2020 and MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W6/2020

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3/2020 for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East) & MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W6/2020 for Bago (East).**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3/2020 for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East) & MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W6/2020 for Bago (East)** in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this **installation bidding MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3/2020 process for Shan (East), Shan (South) & Shan (North)** is:

- Lot 1: Shan (South) – 42 Villages
- Lot 2: Shan (South) – 32 Villages
- Lot 3: Shan (South) – 43 Villages
- Lot 4: Shan (South) – 31 Villages
- Lot 5: Shan (South) & Shan (East) – 51 Villages
- Lot 6: Shan (North) – 52 Villages
- Lot 7: Shan (North) – 44 Villages
- Lot 8: Shan (North) – 60 Villages
- Lot 9: Shan (North) – 48 Villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this **installation bidding MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W6/2020 process for Bago (East)** is:

- Lot 1: Bago (East) – 54 Villages
- Lot 2: Bago (East) – 61 Villages
- Lot 3: Bago (East) – 47 Villages
- Lot 4: Bago (East) – 49 Villages
- Lot 5: Bago (East) – 56 Villages
- Lot 6: Bago (East) – 59 Villages
- Lot 7: Bago (East) – 72 Villages
- Lot 8: Bago (East) – 60 Villages
- Lot 9: Bago (East) – 51 Villages
- Lot 10: Bago (East) – 69 Villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoe@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below:

Attention : **Project Manager**
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City : **Nay Pyi Taw**
Country : **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Zip Code : **15011**
Telephone : **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number : **+95 673431176**
Electronic mail address : **nep.pmomoe@gmail.com**

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m, 16th March 2020. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below:

Attention : **Project Manager**
Meeting Room No.2, Ground Floor, Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City : **Nay Pyi Taw**
Country : **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Zip Code : **15011**
Telephone : **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number : **+95 673431176**
Electronic mail address : **nep.pmomoe@gmail.com**

7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”

Notice for Change of registration holders

Notice is hereby given that the official registration holders have been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Myanma Awba Group Co.,Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number	Registration Holders	
					Old	New
1	Partner 60EC	Chlorfenapyr 6% + Profenofos 54%	Full	F2017-1515	AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd.	Chrysalis Crop Pte., Ltd.

Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary. Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

US-Taliban breakthrough appears closer as Ghani reports progress

KABUL — The US and the Taliban appeared closer Wednesday to a breakthrough in talks over an American troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said there had been “notable progress” in negotiations.

Washington and the insurgents have been locked in gruelling discussions that have stretched over more than a year for a deal that would see the US pull thousands of troops out of Afghanistan.

In return, the Taliban would provide various security guaran-

tees and launch eventual talks with the Kabul government.

In a series of tweets late Tuesday, Ghani said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had called him to inform him of developments in the talks, which are taking place in Doha.

“Today, I was pleased to receive a call from @SecPompeo, informing me of the notable progress made in the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban,” Ghani said on his official Twitter account.

“The Secretary informed me about the Taliban’s proposal with



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said there had been ‘notable progress’ in negotiations. **PHOTO: AFP**

regards to bringing a significant and enduring reduction in violence.”

A Taliban source in Pakistan told AFP that insurgent and US negotiators would meet again

Wednesday in Doha. Citing Afghan and US officials, the New York Times reported that US President Donald Trump had given conditional approval to a deal with the Taliban. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Rights groups want swift hand over of Sudan’s Bashir to ICC

KHARTOUM — Rights groups pushed Wednesday for the swift handover of Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court after Sudan’s new authorities pledged to bring the ousted strongman to justice for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

Top Sudanese officials said Tuesday that the country’s new rulers had agreed with rebel groups to send Bashir and three former aides to The Hague-based court for their role in the conflict in the western Darfur region.

“The Sudanese authorities should translate these words into action and immediately transfer al-Bashir and other individuals (facing ICC arrest warrants) to The Hague,” Amnesty International acting secretary general Julie Verhaar said. “Omar al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC over the murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture and rape of hundreds of thousands of people during the conflict in Darfur.” — AFP ■

Libya’s eastern-based army denies UN planes to land in Libya

TRIPOLI — The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Wednesday said that the eastern-based army had denied to grant permission for the mission’s planes to land in Libya.

“The UN in Libya regrets that its regular flights, which transport its staff to and from Libya, are not granted permission by the LNA to land in Libya. This practice has been repeated on several occasions in the past weeks,” UNSMIL said in a statement. The eastern-based army’s move “will severely hinder UN’s humanitarian effort at a time when all UN staff are working relentlessly to push forward the ongoing intra-Libyan dialogue and to provide humanitarian assistance to the civilians,” the statement said. In late November of 2019, the eastern-based army announced the imposition of a no-fly zone in and around the capital Tripoli where the armed conflict between the eastern-based army and the UN-backed government continues. — Xinhua ■

Pakistan jails Mumbai terror attack suspect, says lawyer



Hafiz Saeed had denied being the mastermind of the 2008 terror attacks on India’s financial capital. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISLAMABAD — The alleged mastermind of a deadly attack on India’s financial capital over

a decade ago has been jailed in Pakistan for nearly six years on separate terror charges, his law-

yer said Wednesday. Hafiz Saeed was found guilty of “being part of a banned terrorist outfit” and for “having illegal property”, his lawyer Imran Gill told AFP

He is wanted in India for allegedly planning a shocking 2008 attack in Mumbai, when 10 Islamist militants armed with assault rifles, hand grenades and other explosives killed 166 people and injured hundreds more on a three-day rampage.

Lawyer Imran Gill gave no details about Saeed’s conviction apart from saying he would be kept in prison in the eastern city

of Lahore. The firebrand cleric — declared a global terrorist by the United States and United Nations, and with a \$10 million bounty on his head — is the leader of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa Islamist charity.

Its militant wing Lashkar-e-Taiba is believed by Washington and Delhi to be responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

Saeed has denied involvement, but has spent years in and out of varying forms of detention in Pakistan, sometimes under house arrest, on various charges.—AFP ■

Bat for sale at Indonesia’s wildlife market despite virus warning

JAKARTA — Bats, rats and snakes are still being sold at an Indonesian market known for its wildlife offerings, despite a government request to take them off the menu over fears of a link to the deadly coronavirus.

Vendors at the Tomohon Extreme Meat market on Sulawesi island say business is booming and curious tourists keep arriving to check out exotic fare that enrages animal rights activists.

But scientists are debating how the new virus, which has killed more than 1,100 people in China and spread to dozens of countries around the world, was transmitted to humans.

A wildlife market in Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus, is thought to be ground zero and there is suspicion it could have originated in bats.

The possible link wasn’t on many radar screens at the Indo-



Scientists are debating how the novel coronavirus, which has killed more than 1,100 people in China and spread to dozens of countries around the world, was transmitted to humans. **PHOTO: AFP**

nesian market, however.

Its grubby stalls feature a dizzying array of animals including giant snakes, rats impaled on sticks and charred dogs with their

hair seared off by blowtorches — a gory scene described by some critics as “like walking through hell”.

Bat seller Stenly Timbuleng

says he’s still moving his fare for as much as 60,000 rupiah (\$4.40) a kilogram to buyers in the area, where bats are a speciality in local cuisine.—AFP ■

Italy Senate votes on migrant trial for far-right head Salvini

ROME — Italian senators will decide Wednesday whether far-right leader Matteo Salvini should face trial on charges of illegally detaining migrants at sea last year, for which he could be jailed for 15 years.

A court in Sicily has recommended that former interior minister Salvini stand trial for blocking migrants on a coast guard boat last July.

Under Italian law, ministers cannot be tried for actions taken while in office unless a parliamentary committee gives the go-ahead.

That committee voted in January to strip the anti-immigrant head of the Lega party of his parliamentary immunity, and now the final decision rests with the Senate.

A simple majority of 319 senators is required, with the result of the vote likely to be known on Wednesday afternoon.

Before the debate began, Salvini took to Facebook to say



Salvini has repeatedly said that he wants his day in court, and most parties have said they will vote for him to go to trial. **PHOTO: AFP**

that he had his “head held high, with the calm conscience of those who have defended their land and people”.

“If a man is not ready to fight for his ideas, either his ideas are worthless, or he is,” Salvini wrote.

Salvini had refused to allow 116 rescued migrants off of the Gregoretti coastguard boat — where they had been languishing for about a week in insalubrious

conditions — until a deal was reached with other European states to host them.

A Catania court accused him of “abuse of power” in blocking them on board from July 27-31, 2019, and of illegally detaining them. Salvini insists the decision was not his alone, but had the backing of the government and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.— AFP ■

Ukrainian President Zelensky hopes for elections in E. Ukraine this fall

KIEV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that he feels it will be possible to hold the elections in the East of Ukraine this fall, Interfax-Ukraine reported on Tuesday.

In an exclusive interview with the news agency, the president underlined that it is possible only after the active phase of the conflict stops in the East of Ukraine, and the foreign armed forces are withdrawn from the

territory of Ukraine.

“Once we agree, we will still need about three months, at least, to ensure security for everyone -- for journalists, for the CEC, for the observers... I believe that it is possible, for some reason, I have such a feeling,” said Zelensky, noting that much will become clear after the Normandy Four summit scheduled for April this year.

In October 2019, Ukraine,

Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) signed the accord known as the Steinmeier Formula, giving the green light to the elections in the East of Ukraine.

In December 2019, the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany met in Paris for the Normandy Format summit dedicated to resolving the conflict in the East of Ukraine.

—Xinhua

Sanders wins in New Hampshire as Biden crashes and burns

CONCORD — Bernie Sanders won New Hampshire’s high-stakes Democratic primary on Tuesday, according to US network projections, leaving rivals including party stalwart Joe Biden in his wake as he staked his claim to challenge President Donald Trump in November.

Sanders, the flag-bearer for the party’s progressive wing, had 26 percent of votes with most of the count complete in the northeastern state, where he routed Hillary Clinton in 2016.

“Let me take this opportunity to thank the people of New Hampshire for a great victory tonight,” Sanders told cheering supporters after NBC and ABC called the result in his favor.

“This victory here is the beginning of the end for Donald Trump,” the senator from neighboring Vermont added as raised the roof with his rallying cry for fairer taxes and health care reform.

Indiana ex-mayor Pete Buttigieg finished in second place at

24 per cent as he readied for the more difficult battlegrounds ahead.

“Now our campaign moves on to Nevada, to South Carolina, to communities across our country. And we will welcome new allies to our movement at every step,” he said.

Midwestern moderate Amy Klobuchar maintained a late surge to place third on about 20 per cent, while liberal Elizabeth Warren finished in fourth at about nine per cent.

Trump weighed in, tweeting: “Bootedgedge (Buttigieg) is doing pretty well tonight. Giving Crazy Bernie a run for his money. Very interesting!” Trump tweeted.

After months atop the pack, Biden had already conceded he expected to do badly in New Hampshire, as he did a week earlier in Iowa — and the former vice president’s worst fears were beginning to materialize as he languished in fifth with just over eight per cent.— AFP ■



Pat Provencher, 89, a Pete Buttigieg super fan, shows off her American Flag jacket covered in buttons at a watch party at Nashua Community College, New Hampshire on 11 February, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australia admits ‘national shame’ of failing to help Aboriginals

CANBERRA — A pledge to close the health and wellbeing gap between Aboriginal and other Australians is failing, the government admitted Wednesday, describing the situation as a source of “national shame”.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said just two of seven key targets to improve the lives of Australia’s indigenous people were on track — unchanged from last year.

More Aboriginal children were enrolled in early education and graduating from high school



FILE PHOTO: A pledge to close the health and wellbeing gap between Aboriginal and other Australians is failing, the government admitted Wednesday, describing the situation as a source of “national shame”. **PHOTO: AFP**

than ever before, he said, but attendance rates were still lagging behind other groups.

Other targets to halve the gap in child mortality, literacy, life expectancy, and unemployment rates were not being met.

Morrison called the failure to give indigenous children equal opportunities to other Australian kids “a national truth and a national shame”. The admission comes 250 years since Captain James Cook’s first voyage to the vast continent, a journey that led to British colonisation and up-

ended indigenous communities.

The life expectancy for Aboriginal Australians is about eight years lower than the national average. Indigenous children are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday and 25 times more likely to be incarcerated than the rest of the population, according to official statistics. The report marks 12 years since former prime minister Kevin Rudd made a historic apology to Aboriginal people for centuries of injustice and launched the “Closing the Gap” initiative.— AFP ■

Sports event held to commemorate 73rd Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw

AN inter-ministerial sports event was held to commemorate the 73rd Union Day yesterday at the training grounds of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. The event was held under the supervision of the Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The event included a variety of competitions in the men's and women's categories: 100

meter, 200 m, 400 m, and 800 m races, a three-legged race, greasy pole climbing contest, pillow fight, hopscotch, sack race (Gunny Sack Race), and tug-of-war.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr Mya Lay Sein, and officials presented awards to the winners of the sports events. —MNA (Translated by KyawZin Lin) ■



Men competing in a tug-of-war yesterday at the training ground of the WunnaTheikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

AFC Cup: Shan United lose to Kaya FC by two goals



Shan United's Yakubu Abubakar (No. 80) vies for the ball with a player from Kaya FC during their opening AFC Group H match yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: AFC**

IN the opening Group H match of the AFC Cup, Shan United, which is representing Myanmar, conceded a 0-2 loss against Kaya Iloilo FC of the Philippines yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Shan United used key players, including Thiha Si Thu, David Htan, Nanda Kyaw, Yan Naing Oo, and Maximum, and also used striker Zin Min Tun and Dwe Ko Ko Chit in the second half.

The winning goals for Kaya FC were scored by Jovan Bedic and Eric Giganto in the second half.

Though Shan United showed good form and dominated over their opponents, the team failed to convert goal chances and that helped the opposing team win.

The first half ended with a scoreless draw.

Shan United missed a great chance at 48 minutes as Abubakar's strong kick hit the goal post, and the ball bounced back to be kicked again by Nanada Kyaw, but fell wide off the mark.

Kaya FC got a penalty kick at 74 minutes and it was scored successfully by Jovan Bedic.

After their first goal, the Philippines club launched another attack, and at 85 minutes, taking advantage of a misunderstanding between Shan United defenders, Eric Giganto scored the second goal for Kaya FC, and the match ended with a two-goal win for the team.

Shan United will next play against Indonesian club PSM Makassar on 26 February, while Kaya FC will take on Tampines Rovers FC the same day. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar Futsal League: VUC in lead with no losses

THE Victoria University College Futsal Club is still leading the scoring table of the Myanmar Futsal League at the conclusion of Week-21 of the league.

After 21 matches, VUC FC has collected 61 points with 20 wins and one draw.

Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club is second with the same points as VUC FC, but with goal difference.

GV FC is in the third place after winning 18 matches and losing three.

During the Week-21 match-

es held on 11 February, second placed MIU FC managed a big win over third placed GV FC, and first placed VUC FC defeated fifth placed Winner FC by 6-1.

In other Week-21 matches, the Myanmar Football Federation U-19 team trounced Let WelThone Nara Futsal Club by 10-4, and Myoma JY Futsal Club earned a narrow win over Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club, while On Doctor Futsal Club beat Dream Team Futsal Club by 3-1.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Victoria University College Futsal Club seen before the Myanmar Futsal League match. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**