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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Surbung Airport construction project in Chin State

VICE President and National Tourism Development Central Committee Chairman U Henry Van Thio, accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Ohn Maung, Deputy Ministers Major General Than Htut, U Kyaw Myo, U Myint Kyaing, and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday and arrived in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

The Vice President and party were greeted at Kalay airport by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai and officials.

The Vice President accompanied by the Chin State Chief Minister, proceeded by helicopter to Falam, where the Surbung Airport construction project is under way. Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Soe of the Department of Civil Aviation gave a briefing on matters pertaining to the permission granted for the project, fund procurement for every financial year, the work done between the 2015-2016 and 2019-2020 financial years, installation of aviation communications and electrical equipment, the status of earthworks being done, construction progress of the 6,000-feet-long asphalt runway, gravel embankments, main terminal building, air control tower and fire services building, the procurement status of aviation indicators, communications and aircraft meteorological data relay equipment, and measures undertaken for airport land ownership.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung also explained the prospects of tourism development in Chin State after completion of the airport.

The Vice President responded that there should be no losses and shortcomings in the construction work; that the project should be completed on time and to ensure that it is also up to the prescribed standard.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction of the Surbung Airport in Falam Township, Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Pyithu Hluttaw

# Pyithu Hluttaw renews committee terms, debates land, mapping affairs

THE seventh-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 15th regular session was held yesterday.

### Committees' duration extended

Speaker U T Khun Myat first announced the extension of Hluttaw committees that have reached the end of their terms.

The International Relations Committee, National Races Affairs and Peace Making Committee, and Farmer and Worker Affairs Committee have been extended from 17 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The Education Promotion Committee, Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee, and Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee have been extended from 19 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The Health and Sports Promotion Committee, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, and Transportation, Communications and Construction Committee have been extended from 22 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

MP U Won Hla.
**PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.
**PHOTO: MNA**

MP Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo.
**PHOTO: MNA**

The Investment and Industrial Development Committee, and Electrict Power and Energy Development Committee have been extended from 24 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The Citizen's Fundamental Rights Committee, Economic and Financial Development Committee, and Public Affairs Management Committee have been extended from 26 February 2020 to 31 January 2021, while the Women and Children Rights Affairs Committee has been extended from 1 March 2020 to 31 January 2021.

### Question time

Next, MP U Won Hla of Nanyun constituency asked whether the plan to open the Myanmar-India border market in Pansaung Town will be carried through. Deputy Minister for Commerce, U Aung Htoo, replied that the plan will be implemented once both countries can agree on the management affairs for the border market.

Next, MP Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency asked for a precise time frame regarding promised land compensation, and for a fair policy and transparent approach in providing resettlement compensations.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo first clarified that the lands the MP is referring to were confiscated with compensation during 1940 to 1945 by the Urban and Housing Development Department. However, these lands are now involved in ongoing cases as the original farmers whose land had been taken and their inheritors have appealed to the different levels of the Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands.

The Deputy Minister said the Thilawa Special Economic Zone management committee is continuing work on the SEZ in line with the 2014 SEZ Law. He said they are carrying out land compensation, crop compensation, and social assistance to the households that are in the project vicinity, and that they are doing so with the utmost transparency. He said the Thilawa SEZ management committee will follow the decisions made by the Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands.

Next, MP U Kyaw Tin of Saw constituency asked whether the four concrete pillars of Yeshin canal in Yeshin Village, Saw Township, will be upgraded into something more resilient.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

# Amyotha Hluttaw considers replacing old school buildings

THE seventh-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 15th regular session convened yesterday and Deputy Education Minister U Win Maw Tun replied to starred questions from 6 MPs.

Firstly, MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 asked whether the dilapidated building of Kyaikpi Village's Basic Education Middle School, Kyaikto Township, will be replaced with a new two-storey one. The Deputy Minister replied that they have submitted a budget proposal for the new building under the 2020-2021 financial year's capital construction fund, and will construct the new building when it is approved.

Next, MP U Whaei Tinn of Chin State constituency 11 asked whether a new school building will be constructed for the branch high school in Meelatwa Village, Paletwa Township.

The Deputy Minister replied that they have included the budget proposal for the new building in the 2020-2021 financial year's capital construction fund and will follow due process when it is approved.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun.
**PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than. **PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

MP U Whae Tinn.
**PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

Next, MP U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12 asked whether there were plans to promote the basic education middle school in Shwewah Village to a branch high school, and the basic education primary school in Mangpan Village to a post-primary school. Both villages are located in Hopan Township, Wa Self-administered Division.

U Win Maw Tun replied that both schools will be evaluated according to existing policies and will be promoted accordingly.

Next, MP U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 asked whether an old hostel building of Dan Village basic education middle school in Htantlang Township will be rebuilt in 2020-2021 financial year.

The Deputy Minister replied that they have submitted a budget proposal for the new building and will follow due process when it is approved.

Next, MP U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether there were plans to promote the Basic Education Middle School in Thonepanhla Village, ChaungU Township, to a branch high school.

The Deputy Minister replied that as the school has maintained its current position for only 3 years and is just over 2 miles away from the Taw Kyaung Gyi high school, there are no plans to promote it during 020-2021 financial year but it will be considered the financial years to come.

Following this, MP U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 asked whether there were plans to open a Higher Grade Pleader (HGP) course for students who have passed the matriculation exam.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun first replied that the HGP exam was organized by the Union Civil Service Board and not the Ministry of Education. He said this exam was not classified as a course nor did it had any. He said the subjects to be tested are announced and the exam is held by itself in parts.

He said there are Bachelor of Laws (LLB) courses for matriculation students at universities and colleges under the Department of Higher Education and students who have completed that course may apply for an HGP position after finishing a year of chamber practice.

Next, the Health Affairs Council Bill was debated by MP U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, MP U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Captain Daw Than Than Win.

Afterwards, announced that the 12 affairs committees of the Amyotha Hluttaw have reached the end of their one-year term and are renewed for another term under the Section 107 of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Bylaw.

The eighth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 15th regular session will be held on 18 February.—Aung Ye Thwin

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

# VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Tikir Hospital in Thantlang Township

FROM PAGE-1

He added that weather data should be systematically recorded as it is situated on the mountain ranges.

The Vice President then inspected the construction site of the Surbung Airport project.

After completion of the Surbung Airport, it will be the major entry point by air to Chin State. Domestic and foreign visitors can tour the state in a shorter period of time. Local products and national ethnic races will have an easier and faster access to other places across the country.

The Surbung Airport is located in the middle of Chin State and from there travellers can instantly reach Falam, Haka, Thantlang, and Tiddim towns, Lonpee Mountain and Reed Lake. It will also provide easy and quick access to other airports in states/regions throughout the countries.

Next, the Vice President and party proceeded by helicopter to the Tikir Village, Thantlang Township and observed the 16-bed hospital and its environs.

Tikir hospital (length 141 feet by width 136 feet) RC concrete building was constructed with State funds of K 1365.45 million and its adjacent buildings include doctors, nurses, and health personnel housing.

The Vice President then watched the construction work of 20 houses, donated by the Ministry of Border Affairs, and 50 houses, donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, in Tikir Village for the IDPs from Paletwa.—MNA

*(Translated by Aungthu Ya)*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes the operation theatre at the Tikir Hospital in Thantlang, Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction work for houses donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, in Tikir Village, Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Union Minister U Soe Win receives ROK Ambassador

UNION Minister U Soe Win of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry received Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa of the Republic of Korea at his ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters pertaining to the convening of Myanmar-Korea Joint Commission on Trade and Industrial Cooperation meeting, finance and monetary issues, insurance development, investment and cooperation in industrial sector, cooperation in development of textile and garment manufacturing technology by establishing the Textile Testing Center, privatization process (public enterprises to private sector), opening of Myanmar Development Institute (MDI) with ROK government's assistance, providing trainings under the Korea Knowledge Sharing Programme, ROK aid to economy development of Myanmar, and bilateral cooperation between two countries. —MNA

*(Translated by Aungthu Ya)*

Union Minister U Soe Win holds talks with Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt and a delegation from Max Planck and the Chubb Rule of Law Fund pose for a group photo at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Chairman receives delegation of Max Planck and the Chubb Rule of Law Fund

CHAIRMAN of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt received a delegation from Max Planck and the Chubb Rule of Law Fund at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to organization structure, duties and responsibilities of the Constitutional Tribunal, collaboration between the Constitutional Tribunal and Max Planck and the Chubb Rule of Law Fund, capacity building of the Constitutional Tribunal's research staff, structure and definition of the Constitution, support in researching relation between the Constitution and international laws.—MNA

*(Translated by TTN)*

# UEC Chairman meets with Yangon Region election sub-commissions

CHAIRMAN U Hla Thein of the Union Election Commission held a meeting with the chairpersons, members and secretaries of the Yangon Region, districts, and townships election sub-commissions at the Yangon Region government office yesterday morning.

Chairman U Kyi Myint and members of the Yangon Region Election Sub-Commission, the chairpersons and secretaries of the districts and townships election sub-commissions attended the meeting.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein said at the meeting that the Union Election Commission is implementing the preparation work to make the 2020 General Election a success in line with the five norms – free, fair, transparent, credible, and harmonious with people's desires. The year 2019 has been designated to compile an accurate and comprehensive voters list according to change in population. We are now in the third phase in this process. Voters and people should cooperate to bring about the comprehensive voters list. Eligible voters should not lose their voting rights. Sub-commissions should systematically correct the voters lists monthly in accordance with changing conditions. Political parties and community-based organizations should work together in awareness campaign for the voters to check when the voters' lists are announced.

The Union Election Commission is conducting electoral trainings of trainers to empower the reliable and respectable individuals and officials from the sub-commissions. Three groups were trained within November 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. Trainers then conducted district-wise multiple-trainings. After trainings, the sub-commissions can carry out their work in line with relevant election law, bylaw, guidelines and directives for the successful general election in 2020.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech at a meeting with officials from Yangon Region election sub-commissions in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting participants are to make the 2020 General Election a success in accord with the five norms. Three sub-commission members, who are non-civil servants but respectable individuals, are provided with a one-year allowance. As a reciprocal gesture towards the State and UEC, all election sub-commissions are to perform their duties conscientiously. Next, Chairman U Kyi Myint of Yangon Region Election Sub-Commission explained the preparation work being done.

Then, the UEC Chairman concluded the meeting by presenting certificates and cash prizes to honour the chairman and members of the Seikan Township election sub-commission.—MNA

*(Translated by Aungthu Ya)*

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark the birthday of the Japanese Emperor Narunito in Bahan Township in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Japanese embassy celebrates emperor's birthday

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and wife attended a ceremony to mark the birthday of the Japanese Emperor Narunito at No 80, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township in Yangon yesterday.

First the ceremony was commenced with playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and Japan.

Afterwards, the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, and Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivered speeches. The ceremony was followed by a dinner hosted by the Japanese Ambassador.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Lt-Gen Min Naung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and military officials, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Yangon and representatives of the UN agencies also attended the ceremony.—MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

# Central-level meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019 continues

THE daily central-level meeting (18/2019) on surveillance and containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Firstly, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said Myanmar shares an extensive border with China and the spread of the virus has yet to stabilize there. He said medical information on COVID-2019 must be continually shared in Myanmar and Chinese languages at the border regions. He said the leadership of state/regional health department leaders is crucial in this stage and medical staff are actively assisting as well.

The Union Minister said the border check points require constant surveillance and the five hospitals near the border with China are receiving regular supplies of medical equipment. He said informational posters will be further distributed in communities of Yangon and Mandalay that have high numbers of people entering from China living there. He said the addresses of international travellers staying in Myanmar will be compiled into a map.

The Union Minister said they are continuing surveillance of possible sick visitors in hotels and currently 25 out of 194 WHO member nations have confirmed the spread of the virus. He said a report traces the spread of the coronavirus to bats from China. He said the virus was transmitted from animals, especially from slaughterhouses, and this is why they must be properly inspected.

The Union Minister urged the public to refrain from handling wild animals or consuming unusual meat products (e.g. bats). He said they will boost understanding of home quarantine for people being monitored. He advised the public to practice washing hands more, as it is one of the most effective methods to prevent the spread of the virus.

WHO has held a 2-day forum to assess the current level of knowledge about the new COVID-19 disease, identify gaps and work together to accelerate and fund priority research needed to help stop this outbreak and prepare for any future outbreaks, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the daily meeting for prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said they are in constant contact with WHO and share information and news regarding the virus with it and other affiliated organizations. He said the WHO Director-General has stressed the importance of research, and the directives and regulations issued by his ministry need to be amended to reflect the current situation where necessary.

The meeting then discussed various topics, including the formation of a clinical management committee, how no person with suspected symptoms were found at the three international airports and the 27 official border check points of 20 townships in 8 states/regions. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

# Officials provide aids to children injured in shelling at school in Rakhine State

OFFICIALS from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash and supplies to the school children who were injured by artillery fire hit the Basic Education Post-Primary School of Khamwe Chaung (Khami) village, San Nyinwai village tract, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State on 13 February.

Officials from the Ministry led by Administrator of the Maungtaw District General Administration Department donated K 850,000 (K 50,000 for each student), ten men's longyi, seven women's longyi, 34 T-Shirts, 17 mosquito nets, 17 bars of soap and 17 towels to 17 students who were injured in the artillery fire.

The officials also encouraged the students and their families.

Out of 17 injured students, two students named Ma Khin May Oo aged 11 years old and Ma Ni Khaing aged 9 years old got severe injuries and they were sent to the People's Hospital of Buthidaung Township and other 15 students are now receiving treatment at the Gandari Philanthropic school, officials said. —MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the reception to mark the Nordic Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Nordic Day Grand Reception held in Yangon

THE Grand Reception hosted by diplomats from four Nordic countries Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden to mark the Nordic Day celebrations was held yesterday at the Nordic House in Yangon.

During the Grand Reception, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes delivered the welcoming speeches.

Next, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye posed for a group photo together with Ambassadors from Embassies of Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden followed by a dinner hosted by the Ambassadors.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon and representatives of the United Nations and invited guests attended the ceremony.

The Nordic House of Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden in Yangon was opened in 2012.—MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

# Pyithu Hluttaw renews committee terms, debates land, mapping affairs

FROM PAGE-2

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that this canal is diverted from Chi creek in Mindat Township, Chin State, that requires its own upgradation of its piers, flumes and abutments. He said this requires coordinating with the Chin State government and the budget proposal for this will be included in the Magway Region government's fund proposal for 2020-2021 financial year.

Next, MP Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency asked whether there were plans to construct factories in the country that will produce the necessary farm machinery, fertilizers and farm equipment for farmers.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that they are importing all necessary items for the farmers, as well as inviting foreign investment to set up the factories the MP has mentioned.

Next, MP U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency asked when a verified map of Namti, Mogaung Township, will be released. U Hla Kyaw replied that they are still at the stage where the Mogaung Township General Administration Department, Township Administrator and relevant government departments are working on mapping the roads and railways of the region. He said they will follow all due processes and adhere to existing laws to complete the entire mapping process.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced he has received the bill amending the Myanmar Medical Council Law from the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments. He called for MPs interested in submitting amendments to enroll their names.

The eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 15th regular session will be held on 18 February.—Aye Aye Thant

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

MP Daw Cho Cho. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Nay Pyi Taw Council to enforce smoking, tobacco products consumption ban

NAY PYI TAW Council announced yesterday that it would enforce smoking ban and consumption of tobacco products in the council's area.

The announcement came at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw to create more smoking free areas in the capital city after the Nay Pyi Taw Council made a public announcement on smoking and tobacco products control on December 23, 2019.

According to the announcement, the Nay Pyi Taw authorities would enforce its rules on prohibiting smoking at public areas in the city.

"If we can not control the smoking and tobacco products consumption, half of the budget of the Ministry of Health and Sports would have to spend on providing medical services to patients with preventable diseases caused by smoking and tobacco products consumption," said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe in his opening speech at the ceremony.

He also invited the participation of the people in the drive to control the smoking and consumption of tobacco products in efforts to reduce the chronic diseases in the country.

At the ceremony, authorities detailed about the rules and announcement to the public.

The ceremony was also attended by Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung.

Every year, more than 8 million people die from tobacco use, according to WHO data. More than 7 million of those deaths are from direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are due to non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Smoking and consumption of tobacco products kill more than 60,000 people every year in Myanmar.

Myanmar has lost about 3.3 per cent of its GDP due to consumption of tobacco products.

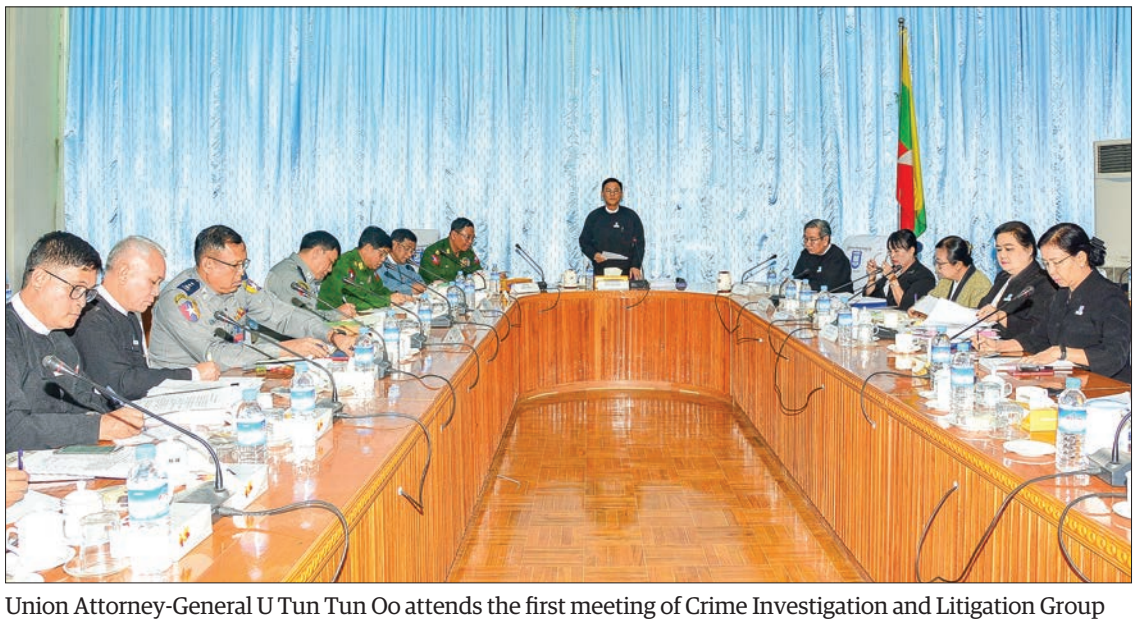
Tobacco products, including cigarettes, can cause at least 16 different cancers of the body, including lung cancer, cancers of the mouth, larynx, pharynx, esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas, liver, cervix, stomach, colon, and rectum.

According to a survey conducted by the World Health Organization in 2014, the prevalence of risk factors for contracting non-communicable diseases was one for 94 per cent of the people and three to five for about 19.6 per cent of the people.—MNA

*(Translated KZL)*

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung look around the posters displayed on the exhibition hall during the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Investigation team into alleged crimes in Rakhine hold first meeting



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attends the first meeting of Crime Investigation and Litigation Group yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Committee held their first meeting at the office of the Union Attorney-General yesterday evening.

UAG U Tun Tun Oo, who is also chairman of the committee, first said ARSA attacked police outposts, police stations and a Tatmadaw battalion in northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017. ARSA and security forces then clashed after this.

The final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) said crimes have been committed during those conflicts in 13 areas of Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethedaung townships. The crimes were said to have been committed by ARSA and its affiliates and by security forces and civilians.

The UAG said they are to investigate into these alleged crimes and pursue legal action where required. He said this committee was formed with Order 19/2020 from the President's office on 24 January 2020.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint who is the vice chairman of the committee, committee members and other invited guests. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

# FDA-approved Myanmar products on display at food expo

THE Sixth Myanmar Food Expo 2020 is being held till 16 February at the Myanmar Expo hall on Min Nanda road in Thakayta Township, Yangon.

The Expo has been organized by the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association.

The opening ceremony of the expo on 14 February was attended by the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Regional Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) President U Zaw Min Win. They formally cut the ribbon to open the fair.

"The Myanmar products being displayed at the event have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and all of them are of high quality and ready to consume. Each product is described in both Myanmar and English languages. We are making efforts for Myanmar products to penetrate not only the local market, but also the foreign market," said U Zaw Min Win, President of the UMFCCI.

At the expo, Myanmar food products, personal goods, and products with attractive packaging are being displayed in 200 showrooms opened by over 150 companies.—Myint Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials open the sixth Myanmar Food Expo 2020 at the Myanmar Expo hall in Thaketa Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

# Myanmar earns over $310 mln from rice exports

MYANMAR earned more than US$310 million from exporting nearly 1.1 million tons of rice and broken rice in the first four months of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Between 1 October and 24 January in the current FY, the volume of rice and broken rice exported was estimated at over 1.094 million tons, worth $314.043 million, according to the MRF.

During the period, Myanmar earned nearly $228 million from exporting over 760,000 tons of rice to 57 countries and over $85 million from shipping over 330,000 tons of broken rice to 45 countries.

Myanmar exports rice and broken rice via sea and land routes. While shipments are sent to the EU and African markets via maritime routes, they are sent to China through the Muse border gate. In October-January, Myanmar exported 14 per cent of rice and broken rice through the land route, earning over $31 million, while it shipped 85 per cent of rice and broken rice via sea.

In the 2018-2019FY, Myanmar exported 2.355 million tons of rice and broken rice and earned $709.693 million. In the 2017-2018FY, Myanmar exported nearly 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, the highest figure on record in over 50 years, according to the MRF. —Aye Cho

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

# Palm growers concerned over shortage of tree climbers

PALM growers in Yenangyoung and Chauk townships of Magway Region are facing difficulties due to a shortage of palm tree climbers.

"Three or four years ago, there were around 40 palm tree climbers in the four village-tracts in these two townships. Now, in the current palm-tree climbing season, there are only over 20 climbers. Men aged above 45 years are no longer climbing palm trees. And, many men from that generation have moved out to towns for work. So, there are a few people who climb palm trees, and so, we just have to leave some trees intact," said a local palm tree owner from Kyaungyartaw village-tract in Chauk Township.

"Five years ago, we sold palm jaggery for K500 or K600 per viss. When we sold jaggery in town, we had to bear the transportation charges. We also had to buy firewood to cook the jaggery. We had to give three viss of jaggery per tree to palm owners. So, we could not make much profit. We are now unwilling to climb palm trees. We just want to find another job in town. So, the palm businessmen are faced with scarcity of palm tree climbers in our village," said a local palm tree climber from Magyikan village-tract in Chauk Township.

"Although this is the palm business season, we've found only a few palm tree climbers. Last year, some trees remained untouched," he added. Palm trees are grown mostly in Yenangyoung and Chauk townships. —Hsan Nyunt (Yenangyoung)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Photo shows palm trees in Magway Region. **PHOTO: HSAN NYUNT (YENANGYOUNG)**

# Dollar exchange rate continues downward trend

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar exchange rate has continued to slide since December on the back of low dollar demand and suspension of trade due to the China coronavirus, said money changers. The rate stood at K1,500 per dollar on 25 December and slid to K1,447 per dollar by 14 February, they said.

"The dollar exchange rate has declined because trading has stopped on account of the coronavirus outbreak in China. On the other hand, the local demand for the dollar is falling in the market," said U Than Lwin, senior consultant with Kanbawza Bank (KBZ).

"I think the dollar exchange rate has declined because of the coronavirus adversely affecting the trading market. The US dollar is needed for the import market, which is still running, but only a few products were imported recently. This is happening around the world. But, Myanmar is using fewer US dollars and so, the US dollar exchange rate has declined. The export market is also faced with the same problem," said U Than Lwin.

"Currently, the Myanmar-China border market is nearly halted due to the coronavirus. Fish, prawns, crabs, rice, and corn are being exported to China through the border camps, but now the export of these products has been discontinued 100 per cent. Watermelons and muskmelons have been an exception, but the volume of exports has been small," said U Min Thein, vice chairman of Muse Depot.

"Now, we are faced with the worst situation. The whole trading mechanism has almost halted. So, we are suffering dramatic losses and thus, in great trouble. The government, on its part, is losing a lot on taxes. The government lost 95 per cent of taxes this year compared to last year. Traders are hoarding goods in their hands," said U Min Thein.

"We need to monitor the US dollar's fluctuations because the market is unstable," said U Than Lwin.

"Moreover, crops are harvested in the open season in our country for export to other countries. At that time, the dollar exchange rate declines," said Dr Soe Tun, a businessman. If the US dollar exchange rate goes on declining, the export sector is likely to suffer substantially, said exporters.

Currently, the dollar buying rate is pegged at K1,436 and the selling rate is K1,448. For other currencies, the buying rate for one Singapore dollar is K1,015 and selling rate is K1,030; the buying rate for one Euro is K1,530 and selling rate is K1,550; and, the buying rate for one Thai baht is K45 and selling rate is K47.

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

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# To prevent infectious diseases, strengthen healthcare system

AS the death toll mounts in the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) has begun calling attention to the risks the virus poses to the poorest and most vulnerable nations.

Since the start of the outbreak in China, health authorities in Myanmar have advised precautions against the infectious disease, including washing hands, moving away from people before coughing, avoiding public places, and using masks. Besides, people have been asked to ignore the grim prophecies dished out by social-media goblins, check information on official websites, and exercise common sense.

> To prevent and control the spread of coronavirus effectively, we need a legal framework, such as an infectious disease control law, which can enforce isolation and quarantine and restrictions, with the cooperation of the people.

This does not mean that deadly infections like the coronavirus (COVID-19) should be shrugged off. The emergence of the virus worldwide is of real concern to healthcare experts.

To prevent and control the spread of coronavirus effectively, we need a legal framework, such as an infectious disease control law, which can enforce isolation and quarantine and restrictions, with the cooperation of the people.

At the same time, issuing preventive guidelines and information about the deadly virus in Kachin, Wa, and Kokant languages for the ethnic people is an urgent requirement.

Health officials must keep watch on the progress of coronavirus, review updates from the epidemiology perspective, and learn about countering novel viruses.

Meanwhile, the authorities are urged to work in collaboration with countries with robust healthcare systems and development partners to distribute sufficient medicines and medical equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals.

The 2003 SARS outbreak showed why it was essential for nations to share information quickly. It prompted health officials to establish protocols for screening, treatment, and containment, and to share expertise across borders.

Other outbreaks, such as the H1N1 flu pandemic of 2009, also demonstrated that sharing information with the public is essential to quell panic or mistrust. Health officials are applying these lessons to the coronavirus.

The outbreak of the coronavirus in China and infections in other countries remind us again that epidemics can happen any time and reach our doorsteps without warning.

The best we can do is to strengthen our healthcare systems.

■■■

# Laboratory tests required to tell COVID-19 infection from flu — WHO

## Cambodia's premier Hun Sen welcomed around 100 tourists who were handed flowers and scarves as they stepped ashore after an uncertain two weeks at sea.

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has published an article on the difference between the flu and the illness caused by the latest novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.

According to the WHO, people with COVID-19 infection, the flu, or a cold typically develop respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough and runny nose. Even though many symptoms are alike, they are caused by different viruses.

Because of their similarities, it can be difficult to identify the disease based on symptoms alone. Therefore, laboratory tests are required to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

In the article, the WHO recommends that people who have cough, fever and difficult breathing should seek medical care early. Patients should inform health care providers if they have travelled in the 14 days before they developed symptoms, or if they have been in close contact with someone who has been sick with respiratory symptoms.

Passengers thanked Cambodia for allowing them onto dry land. **PHOTO: AFP**

As for the incubation period of the current novel coronavirus epidemic, the WHO said the current estimates of the incubation period range from 1 to 12.5 days with median estimates of 5-6 days.

These estimates are expected to be refined as more data become available. However, based on information from other coronavirus diseases, such as MERS and SARS, the WHO said that the incubation period of COVID-19 infection could be up to 14 days.

### The latest developments

Japan on Friday began allowing elderly passengers who test negative for the new coronavirus to leave a quarantined cruise ship and finish their isolation in government-designated lodging.

Japan's government has given passengers aged 80 or older in poor health or confined to windowless inner cabins on the Diamond Princess the chance to move from the ship to accommodation on land.

But only those who test negative for the virus that has so far infected more than 200 people on board the ship have the option to move.

The first of them departed the massive cruise ship on Friday afternoon, travelling in buses with blacked out windows.

### Cruise passengers land after two weeks at sea

Passengers on a cruise ship that was turned away from ports around Asia over fears they could be carrying the new coronavirus finally began disembarking in Cambodia on Friday.

Cambodia's strongman premier Hun Sen welcomed around 100 tourists who were handed flowers and scarves as they stepped ashore after an uncertain two weeks at sea.

The Westerdam was supposed to be taking its 2,257 passengers and crew on a 14-day cruise around east Asia, beginning in Hong Kong on February 1 and ending on Saturday in Yokohama, Japan.

But the vessel was barred by Japan, Guam, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand over fears it was carrying someone with a new virus that has now killed around 1,400 people and sickened 64,000, mostly in China.

*REFERENCES*
*Xinhua; AFP; Kyodo News Updates*

■■■

# International Treaties and Conventions

By Lokethar

THE term "International Treaties" by definition includes "International Conventions", "International Agreements", "Covenants", "Charters," "Pacts", "Accords" etc, which are written Documents to be voluntarily signed, ratified, or acceded to by a Member State of the Organization concerned. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties relates to International Treaties. It was signed in 1969 and came into effect in 1980.

Ratification is the process by which Member States bind themselves to an International Treaty. Ratification may be made after an International Treaty is put up for ratification following its signing by Member States of the International Body concerned. Additions to the original Treaty may evolve in the form of "Protocols" to the Treaty. Member States ratifying the source Treaty may also ratify the "Protocols" if they so choose to do so.

After the Treaty / Convention is ratified, it is obligatory up on the Member State concerned to abide by it. Generally speaking, many of the International Treaties and Conventions, call for the ratifying Member State, to enact laws to give effect to the obligations under the Treaty / Convention concerned. Some Treaty/Convention requires annual reports to be submitted by the Member States' authorities concerned to the International Body in which the Treaty/Convention originated. Some Treaties/Convention require periodic reports by the Member State every two to four years.

Myanmar is under obligation to abide by International Treaties / Conventions, signed / ratified, including those ratified prior to gaining Independence in 1948.Unless Myanmar has opted to withdraw from/denounce any of the Treaties and Conventions, Myanmar is bound by these International Treaties and Conventions.

After the advent of the Hluttaw (Parliament) and the parliamentary democracy form of Government in Myanmar in 2011, any International Treaty or Convention which may need to be ratified, is submitted to the Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw finally debates on it as to its applicability in the context of the Union Constitution and the concerned laws in force and as to whether any valid Reservations need to be made by Myanmar regarding certain provisions of the Treaty/Convention for Ratification of the Treaty by Myanmar. The same process applies to withdrawing from or denouncing of Treaties previously ratified.

Myanmar is currently faced with the allegation of violations of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, better known as the Genocide Convention. Myanmar has been a party to the Genocide Convention since it's coming into force in 1956. The case, as we all know, was taken to the UN's International Court of Justice by The Gambia.

As the recent MRTV Talk Panel on the topic informed the people, Myanmar stands firmly on it's stand that there was no violation of the Genocide Convention. It seems that the ICJ, after it's first sitting, has reminded Myanmar to comply with the Genocide Convention which anyway, is as required by the Genocide Convention itself. The people, by watching and listening to the Experts on International Laws participating in the talks, have come to realize the complexity of interpreting issues relating to International Laws.

The International Treaties and Conventions which Myanmar is signatory to or has ratified, perhaps needs better understanding on the part of the authority or authorities concerned. To this effect it may require the services of highly qualified and practicing National experts on International Treaties and Laws, to provide advice and service regarding compliance with the various ratified Treaties and Conventions.

Another part of International Law is Private International Law which generally deals with private international commercial transactions and disputes. With Myanmar easing restrictions on doing business in Myanmar, the Foreign Direct Investment culture is bound to catch on with big business investments being made in the future in Myanmar by foreign private business entities. Hence there may arise issues in commercial transactions and disputes involving business Agreements. Myanmar needs qualified, practicing professionals on Private International Law to provide the needed expertise as to their application.

Hence it is keenly felt that Myanmar needs to educate more professionals on International Law. It, therefore, needs to provide opportunities for motivated young persons of the upcoming generation to have access to formal professional degree courses in International Law. The entry requirements should be of a standard equivalent to University entrance requirements to the other professional courses.

Perhaps the major Government Universities in Myanmar, in cooperation with well known Universities in the advanced countries, could establish separate Departments of International Law (or maybe make extensions of the present Law Departments) and offer courses both in Public and Private International Law leading to Bachelor, Master and Doctorate Degrees in International Law.

With Charity to all and Malice to none .

■■■

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

**(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14th February, 2020)**

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15th February, 2020:** Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty of (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Northern Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th February, 2020:** Fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th February, 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th February, 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

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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.

# Officials, MPs, experts review Right to Information Bill in Nay Pyi Taw

A COORDINATION meeting on reviewing the Right to Information Bill was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, officials of the Ministry of Information, MPs and experts reviewed the bill and discussed the amendments to it.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that experts from other organizations related with right to information would also review the bill after the meeting.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting on reviewing the Right to Information Bill in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin and committee members U Zaw Win, U Aung Sein and U Sai Tun Aye, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Myo Win, U Soe Thein and U Soe Moe, and Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Managing Directors and Deputy Directors-General and officials from offices of Chief Justice of the Union, Union Election Commission, Ministries, Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Anti-Corruption Commission and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing detailed about plans for discussing the bill with other organizations concerned and excerpts from the suggestions proposed by the bodies representing the three pillars of the democracy to the Right to Information Bill.

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department Daw Thida Tin also presented the suggestions from ministries and organization, and the attendees also took part in the discussion.

Then, Director General U Ye Naing presented the findings of the discussion and general consensus. The meeting was concluded with the closing remark by the Union Minister.—MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

# MRTV Channel to broadcast regularly in high definition

1. MRTV Channel tested broadcasting in High Definition (HD) in addition to its regular Standard Definition (SD) starting from 15-1-2020 and will now only broadcast in HD starting from 15-2-2020.
2. Digital receivers will be capable of receiving transmissions in HD quality.
3. Analogue receivers will not require any adjustments and can be viewed as normal.
4. Viewers can perform Auto Tuning on their DVB-T2 Set-top Box or LCD/LED TV with DVB-T2 Tuner to view MRTV Channel in HD.

(a) For DVB-T2 Set-top Box, go to 'Menu' and select 'Auto Search' and press 'OK'

Menu → Channel Search → Auto Search → OK

(b) For LCD/LED Flat TVs with DVB-T2 Tuner, go to 'Menu' and select 'Channel', then choose 'Antenna' under the 'Tuner Type' and press 'OK'. Then press 'Auto Scan'. Select (Myanmar) in 'Country' setting and (DTV+ATV in 'Mode'. Press 'Start' and then 'OK'.

Menu → Channel → Tuner Type → Antenna → Auto Scan → Country (Myanmar) → Mode (DTV+ATV) → Start → OK

(c) To align the picture settings on an Analogue TV (Tube) and Set-top Box setup, select 'Menu' on your Set-top Box and choose 'Picture'. Then go to 'Aspect Ratio' and choose '16:9 Wide Screen' and press 'OK'.

Menu → Picture → Aspect Ratio → 16:9 Wide Screen → OK

5. After calibration, the following channels will be available in the Channel Box:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | MRTV HD | (12) | MNTV |
| (2) | MRTV Hluttaw | (13) | Channel-9 |
| (3) | MRTV NRC | (14) | Mizzima |
| (4) | MRTV Farmer | (15) | DVB |
| (5) | MRTV Sport | (16) | Channel K |
| (6) | MITV | (17) | YTV |
| (7) | EDU | (18) | Fortune TV |
| (8) | MRTV Entertainment | (19) | Myanma Radio |
| (9) | MRTV-4 | (20) | Upper Tineyinthar |
| (10) | Channel-7 | (21) | Lower Tineyinthar |
| (11) | 5 Plus | | |

6. Viewers will need to perform Auto Tuning after 15-2-2020 to receive the digital channels mentioned above.
7. Viewers are encouraged to contact the following phone numbers if any inconvenience arises:

(a) 9 Meter Earthstation (Tatkon, HQ) Phone: 09-408082090
(b) 9 Meter Earthstation (Yangon, Pyay Road) Phone: 09-408082080

Myanma Radio and Television

# Drugs seized in Myawady, Mabein, Kunhein

A local police in Myawady, Kayin State, seized 1,000 Yaba pills from a man found besides the Thaungyin River on 13 February.

The police identified the suspect as Kyaw Soe Moe (a) Saw Kyaw Kyaw.

Similarly, a combined team comprised of the local police and members of the anti-drug squad in Mabein, searched a car driven by Htwe Aung on the Momeik-Mabein Road on 13 February and discovered 1.52 kg of heroin and two mobile phones.

On the same day, a local police, acting on a tip-off, discovered a house of Ma Nan Kyar Pwint, in Karli, Kunhein Township, and found 1,750 stimulant tablets. They also seized K40,000 and one mobile phone during the search.

Actions have been taken against all the suspects under the Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

# Pachauri, leader of Peace Prize winning climate panel, dies at 79

Rajendra Pachauri led the UN climate change group that won a Nobel Peace Prize for pressing countries to take action over global warming. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW DELHI — Indian environmentalist Rajendra Pachauri, who led the UN climate change group that won a Nobel Peace Prize but whose later years were dogged by sexual harassment allegations, has died at the age of 79.

Pachauri — who helmed the the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for more than a decade — died in a New Delhi hospital late Thursday after undergoing open heart surgery this week, his family said.

During his tenure, the IPCC and former US vice-president Al Gore were jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for their work on pressing countries to take action over global warming.

The Nobel committee hailed the way the IPCC and Gore had laid "the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change."

But Pachauri was forced to step down from the panel in 2015 over sexual harassment accusations made by a staff member at an Indian environment institute he led.

**He always denied any wrongdoing.**

Trained as an engineer and economist at top universities in India and the United States, Pachauri became a leading voice on the dangers of global warming.

Many of his warnings highlighted how climate change would disproportionately affect poorer countries, while richer countries would be forced to confront subsequent migration crises. — AFP ■

A Half Moon Island iceberg is pictured in Antarctica in November 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Antarctica registers record temperature of over 20 C

BRASILIA — Scientists in Antarctica have recorded a new record temperature of 20.75 degrees Celsius (69.35 Fahrenheit), breaking the barrier of 20 degrees for the first time on the continent, a researcher said Thursday.

"We'd never seen a temperature this high in Antarctica," Brazilian scientist Carlos Schaefer told AFP.

He cautioned that the reading, taken at a monitoring station on an island off the continent's northern tip on 9 February, "has no meaning in terms of a climate-change trend," because it is a one-off temperature and not part of a long-term data set.

But news that the icy continent is now recording temperatures in the relatively balmy 20s is likely to further fuel fears about the warming of the planet.

The reading was taken at Seymour Island, part of a chain off the peninsula that curves out from the northern tip of Antarctica. The island is home to Argentina's Marambio research base.

Schaefer, a soil scientist, said the reading was taken as part of a 20-year-old research project on the impact of climate change on the region's permafrost.

The previous high was in the 19s, he said. "We can't use this to anticipate climatic changes in the future. It's a data point," he said.

"It's simply a signal that something different is happening in that area."

Still, he added, a temperature that high had never been registered in Antarctica.

Accelerating melt-off from glaciers and especially ice sheets in Antarctica is helping drive sea level rises, threatening coastal megacities and small island nations.— AFP ■

# Aussie croc wrangler joins Indonesia bid to save tyre-tied reptile

JAKARTA — An Australian television personality has thrown his hat in the ring to help capture a giant Indonesian crocodile and remove a motorcycle tyre stuck around its neck.

Matt Wright, host of National Geographic's "Monster Croc Wrangler" show, was on the island of Sulawesi Thursday with a team using traps baited with duck, a drone and even a harpoon in a bid to reel in the reptile.

"It (the harpoon) doesn't hurt the crocodile," the croc wrangler told reporters Thursday in the city of Palu.

"It just goes in a little bit. It's like getting your ears pierced."

Wright told more than 200,000 followers on Instagram that the team had trapped a smaller croc on Wednesday "training for the main event".

But catching the bigger beast was a challenge, he said, because of the tough environment and the fact that it wasn't hungry due to ample food in the river.

"If we don't get him this trip with me over here, the boys will keep the trap set. They'll keep trying," Wright said.

"We might not catch him in two days... but eventually we should catch him."

Wright, joined by fellow Australian crocodile wrangler Chris Wilson, is working with the local conservation agency, which has struggled for years to rescue the croc.

The animal made headlines last month after a competition was rolled out offering punters an unspecified financial reward for any brave individual who captures the four metre (13-foot) beast.

Officials later called off the contest and said they would redouble efforts to free the croc from its rubber vice, which conservationists feared could endanger the croc's safety. — AFP ■

Australian crocodile wranglers Matthew Nicolas Wright (right) and Chris Wilson (left) directing the Indonesian team in setting the trap in the river in Palu. **PHOTO: AFP**

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# Montenegro needs own church to repel Serb nationalism: president

Djukanovic, who has run the small Adriatic country for nearly 30 years, doubled down on the stance as Montenegro is roiled by protests over the status of the Serbian Orthodox Church. **PHOTO: AFP**

PODGORICA — Montenegro needs its own Orthodox church to ward off meddling from Serbia and cement its identity, President Milo Djukanovic told AFP, as tensions seethe over who controls a faith shared by both countries.

Djukanovic, who has run the small Adriatic country for nearly 30 years, doubled down on the stance as Montenegro is roiled by protests over the status of the Serbian Orthodox Church (SPC) inside its borders.

Long-running tensions over the issue exploded when the government passed a law in December that could turn many of the church's oldest monasteries into Montenegrin state property, trigging huge demonstrations.

The SPC, based in Belgrade, is still the main religious body in Montenegro, which was one country with Serbia for nearly 90 years until 2006.

Speaking to AFP in the Montenegrin capital Podgorica, the president accused SPC clergy of undermining his efforts to consolidate the country's 14-year independence.

"The Serbian Orthodox Church is among important instruments used by the ideologists of a 'Greater Serbia' nationalism against Montenegro, against Montenegrin independence, against its national, cultural and religious identity," Djukanovic said. The 57-year-old called for the creation of an autonomous branch of the Orthodox church in Montenegro, similar to the Ukraine church's split from Russia.

It would "would unite all Orthodox believers, both those of Serbian and those of Montenegrin national affiliation," explained the leader of a country where around a third of the population identify as Serb.

While an independent Montenegrin church was declared in the early 1990s, its footprint and flock are still tiny, and its religious authority is not recognised by the major Orthodox power centres.

### Prayers and protests

While Djukanovic's government defends the new property law, the SPC has flexed its muscles over the past month and a half by mobilising tens of thousands of demonstrators to weekly prayer marches across a country of around 620,000 people.—AFP

# Bloomberg courts black vote in Democratic candidate countdown

AUSTIN — US billionaire Michael Bloomberg has launched a charm offensive to convince black voters, an important bloc in Democratic politics, that he is the right candidate to take on President Donald Trump in November.

The former New York mayor rallied supporters in Texas on Thursday, with his sights set on so-called "Super Tuesday" on March 3, when voters in 16 states and territories will cast their ballots in the Democratic primary.

It is Bloomberg's sixth visit to the Lone Star state since he entered the race to be the party's presidential candidate.

"This month, we look back and celebrate black history together, because black history is American history," Bloomberg said at the Buffalo Soldiers museum, named after a Civil War regiment of African-American soldiers, where he kicked off his "Mike for Black America" campaign.

With 19 campaign offices and 150 employees in Texas he now has a larger presence than any other candidate in the state.

Texas is key to the Democratic primaries because it has such a large number of delegates, 228, more than the total of all the other states that vote in February, where the billionaire chose not to run.

If a candidate obtains a majority of delegates, or 1,991, he or she will take on Trump in the presidential election.

Bloomberg has thrown large amounts of money from his personal fortune into the campaign — spending more than $300 million across the country and about $29 million in Texas alone, according to the Kantar/Campaign Media Analysis Group.— AFP ■

Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg is hoping to rally the all-important black vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Israeli attack on Damascus kills 7 fighters: monitor

BEIRUT — Israeli strikes on Damascus airport killed seven fighters, a war monitor said Friday, the latest in a string of attacks targeting Iran's military presence in Syria.

Syrian state media said only that its air defences intercepted missiles over the capital overnight while Israel did not immediately comment on the strikes.

Israel routinely fires missiles at what it says are Iranian targets in Syria, where elite Iranian forces and allied militia play a key role. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the strikes launched late Thursday hit military targets in the area of the international airport.

Rami Abdel Rahman, the director of the Britain-based Observatory, said the dead were three Syrian soldiers and four members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. A Syrian army source quoted by SANA said the attack took place at 11:45 pm (2145 GMT), when an AFP correspondent in Damascus heard loud blasts.

"Our air defences intercepted hostile targets over the skies of Damascus," SANA said.

It said the "missiles were launched from over the occupied Golan Heights".

Several missiles were intercepted before they could reach their targets, said the agency, which rarely admits to casualties among army or Iranian ranks.

The Observatory said the targets in the airport area, which has been repeatedly hit in similar strikes, included an arms depot.— AFP ■

# Police search home of French writer accused of raping a minor

PARIS — French police on Thursday searched the home of a writer accused of raping a minor and who repeatedly described relationships with young teens in his work, a source said.

Gabriel Matzneff, who has never made any secret of his preference for sex with adolescent girls and boys, is to stand trial this year on a charge of justifying paedophilia.

Specialist investigators are looking for written passages that never appeared in any of Matzneff's published work, a source told AFP following a raid a day earlier at his Paris-based publisher Gallimard. Prosecutors on 3 January launched a rape investigation after a bombshell book by publisher Vanessa Springora claimed she had a sexual relationship with the author three decades ago, starting when she was 14.

In her book "Le Consentement" (Consent), Springora described how her experiences with Matzneff, now 83, left lasting scars.— AFP ■

# S Korea's money supply growth hits 46-month high in December

FILE PHOTO: A South Korean flag flutters in the wind as motorists drive on a road in front of a group of high rise commercial and residential buildings in downtown Busan, on 9 October, 2012. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEOUL — South Korea's money supply growth hit the highest in 46 months in December amid the record-low policy rate, central bank data showed on Friday.

The M2, called broad money, gained 7.9 per cent in December from a year earlier, marking the fastest increase since February 2016, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It came as the BOK cut its benchmark interest rate to a record low of 1.25 percent in October last year. The target rate was lowered from 1.75 per cent to 1.50 per cent last July.

The M1, dubbed narrow money, was up 9.6 percent in December, after rising 7.0 per cent in the previous month.

The M1 refers to the currency in circulation, demand deposit, transferable savings deposit equivalent to cash. The M2 adds money market funds, tie deposit and financial products that mature in less than two years to M1. The liquidity of financial institutions called Lf expanded 8.2 per cent in the cited period. The year-over-year increase of liquidity aggregate, the broadest measure of money supply, was 7.5 per cent.—Xinhua

## Hopes pale for German growth rebound after late 2019 flatline

BERLIN — Europe's largest economy Germany marked time in the fourth quarter of 2019 as its export-oriented industry's woes continued to weigh on growth, official data showed Friday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) was flat quarter-on-quarter in October-December, federal statistics authority Destatis said, disappointing the agency's own expectations and those of analysts surveyed by Factset.

The statisticians also revised their third quarter growth figures, saying that GDP had added 0.2 rather than 0.1 per cent.

Over the whole year, the annual growth rate of 0.6 per cent was Germany's worst since 2013. The economy "remains in a weak phase," the economy ministry in Berlin said, highlighting "very weak" industrial production and incoming orders for manufacturing firms towards the end of the year. After a surge in 2017-18, Germany's export-oriented economy has been sapped since late 2018 by trade conflicts and other sources of uncertainty, including Brexit and slower growth in emerging economies. For some analysts, that meant simply avoiding a second quarter of shrinkage in 2019 after the contraction in April-June was worth celebrating.—AFP ■

**Changing Distributor For Registered Pesticides**

Distribution of pesticide registered by Sinamyang Group Pte Co., Ltd is changing from Myanmar Agrigreen Group Co., Ltd to Aka YarZar Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

| Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Registration Number | Provisional |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sinafat75sp | Acephate 75%SP | P2017-3897 | Provisional |

Original Distributor-Myanmar Agrigreen Group Co., Ltd
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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V TUG; NAUTILLUS, BG; SINGA BESAR-2801**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TUG; NAUTILLUS, BG; SINGA BESAR-2801 VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-5 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 ZENITH OVERSEA MARINE SERVICES PTE, LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0114 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0114 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## Invitation for Bids

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | **17th February 2020** |
| **Loan No. and Title:** | **Loan 3748-MYA: Power Network Development Project** |
| **Contract No. and Title:** | **Package No. (2) – 47(T) DPTSC(PTP)/ (2019-2020): Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 230 kV Ye and Dawei Substations and Extension of 230 kV Mawlamyine Substation** |
| **Deadline for Submission of Bids** | **2nd April 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)** |

1. The Republic of the Union Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Power Network Development Project. Part of the financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 230 kV Ye and Dawei Substations and Extension of 230 kV Mawlamyine Substation** (the "Facilities"). The Facilities are located within Mon State and Tanintharyi region.

3. **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in the bidding:

- Minimum average annual turnover of US$22 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
- Participation in at least one (1) contract as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last five (5) years and that is similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds US$17.5 million.
- For the above or other contracts executed as main contractor, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following activities:
  - Two (2) projects on turnkey basis successfully in operation for three (3) years;
  - 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above;
  - Each project shall be Outside Bidder Country for International Bidder. For Myanmar bidders, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, Bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

**Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)**
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC),
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286
Email: dg.dptsc@moee.gov.mm, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, dd1ptp.dptsc@moee.gov.mm, dir1ptp.dptsc@moee.gov.mm
Fax: 95 67 81042886

6. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for the Facilities and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) in Myanmar Kyats equivalent to US$100.

7. A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on **3rd March 2020 at 14:00 hours (local time) at Meeting Room No(2), Ministry of Electricity and Energy**.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before **13:00 hours (local time)** on **2nd April 2020** together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid submission deadline in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

11. Any request for extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

**Tender Committee**
**Department of Power Transmission and System Control**
**Ministry of Electricity and Energy**
**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**
**Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209**

# The longest-lasting Manawramma Golden Monastery in Myaing Township

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

Manawramma Golden Monastery. **PHOTOS :MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

AMONG ancient wooden monasteries in some areas of Myanmar, the buildings in Yadanabon and colonial eras were in the largest numbers. Of them, Manawramma Golden Monastery which was also called Ohnton Golden Monastery in Beikmanma Village of Myaing Township is the oldest.

The monastery built in 1738 AD is now more than 280 years old. Travellers have easy access to Beikmanma Village, one mile right of Pakokku-Myaing Road in Myaing Township by car and by motorcycle.

## Historic Myaing City

As primate fossils as the earliest emergence of human beings throughout the world 40 years ago were found in Myaing Township of Magway Region, it was famous that human beings began in Myanmar. Myaing Township which positioned on 785.551 square miles of land possesses a large number of historical heritages and evidences.

Based on data of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bagan King Alaungsithu on his tour of the site in current Myaing town saw an image of gold horse in the sky. The king renovated the pagoda in the place where the image was found in the sky and established a village. The environment of the village was covered with thick foliage of trees. So, it was named Hmaing Village. Later, the title of village changed to Myaing Village, according to the history of Shwemyintin Pagoda in Myaing.

Township in the west, Pakokku Township in the south and Pale and Salingyi townships in the north. The plain area of Myaing is close to 1,905 feet high Tantkyi Hill in the west.

With regard to the geographical conditions, the 19-mile Yama Creek flows from the west to the east in northern Myaing which is 886 feet higher than the sea level. Moreover, Myaing, Htanngetaw, Kyauksauk and Na-in creeks are streaming in the township. Many species of tropical trees grow in Myaing Township.

According to the data released in October 2017, there were 1,379 temples and stupas and 391 monasteries in Myaing Township, one of which was the oldest ancient wooden monastery called Manawramma Golden Monastery.

**Manawramma Golden Monastery**

Originally, the monastery was formed with 12 halls in construction of 17 sections from the east to the west wings and 13 sections from the south to the north wings, said Buddhist monk U Jatila, who maintains the monastery. Each section of the original monastery was six feet wide but as all the halls had collapsed, there remain 42 of 252 teak posts at present.

In line with the architectural structures of ancient Myanmar monasteries, Manawramma Golden Monastery might be consisted of the tier-roofed hall, Sanu hall, main hall and Bawga hall. Current building is main hall. A current door installed with a ladder might be the entrance to Bawga Hall.

The monastery took the style of Zetawun Hall with triple tiers, and the backdrop of the hall and doors were decorated with floral works. Five of six sections of the hall were framed with floral arabesques. The centre of the backdrop was decorated with peacock statues in various masterpiece designs.

Partitions inside the monastery were gilt and remaining parts decorated with golden paint. Veteran historian Dr. Toe Hla remarked that such a grand monastery was small but similar to that of kings. It might be built in the area gradually with far distance of wars in the condition without need to seek approval from the king.

Well-wisher of the monastery

Construction of the monastery in 1738 AD was in the reign of last king of Nyaungyan dynasty Maha Dhammarazadipati (1733-1752 AD). At that time, deteriorations happened along Chindwin River and Mu River due to attacks of Kathe on Myanmar. So, these regions lacked influence of the king.

At that time, U Hsu Thar and family together with relatives from Sinkan Village, near Beikmanma Village in the past, built Manawramma Monastery and copied the Pitakat treatises. The construction record showed it cost K 2,825 for construction of the monastery. The well-wishers donated the monastery to Abbot U Uttamalankara before completion.

Veteran historian Dr. Toe Hla copied the records on manuscripts in 1968 and translated Pali verses into Myanmar language for public observation.

Construction of the monastery started on 6 May 1738, Saturday, with the aim of giving the accommodation for mental wellbeing of Buddhist monks. It was donated to Ashin Uttamalankara on 18 June 1738, Sunday. Gilding the monastery finished on 2 July 1742, Friday and then the monastery was donated for the second time.

**Art works in golden paint and records**

It was assumed that the monastery faced the north because there remain some parts of ladder on the northern wing of the building. Inscriptions on construction and meritorious deeds were expressed on the posts and beams in the northeast of the monastery. As Abbot U Jatila who maintains the monastery showed the record in manuscripts of monastery donation, I took a documentary photo on them and then read the inscriptions for the monastery on the beam.

The inscriptions consisted of 13 lines in Pali, Pali & Myanmar and Myanmar languages, saying that may the monastery for the Buddhist monks be perpetual existence.

The end of the inscription shared merits gained to all living beings. The ceiling of the monastery was created with a footprint of the Lord Buddha but it cannot be seen today.

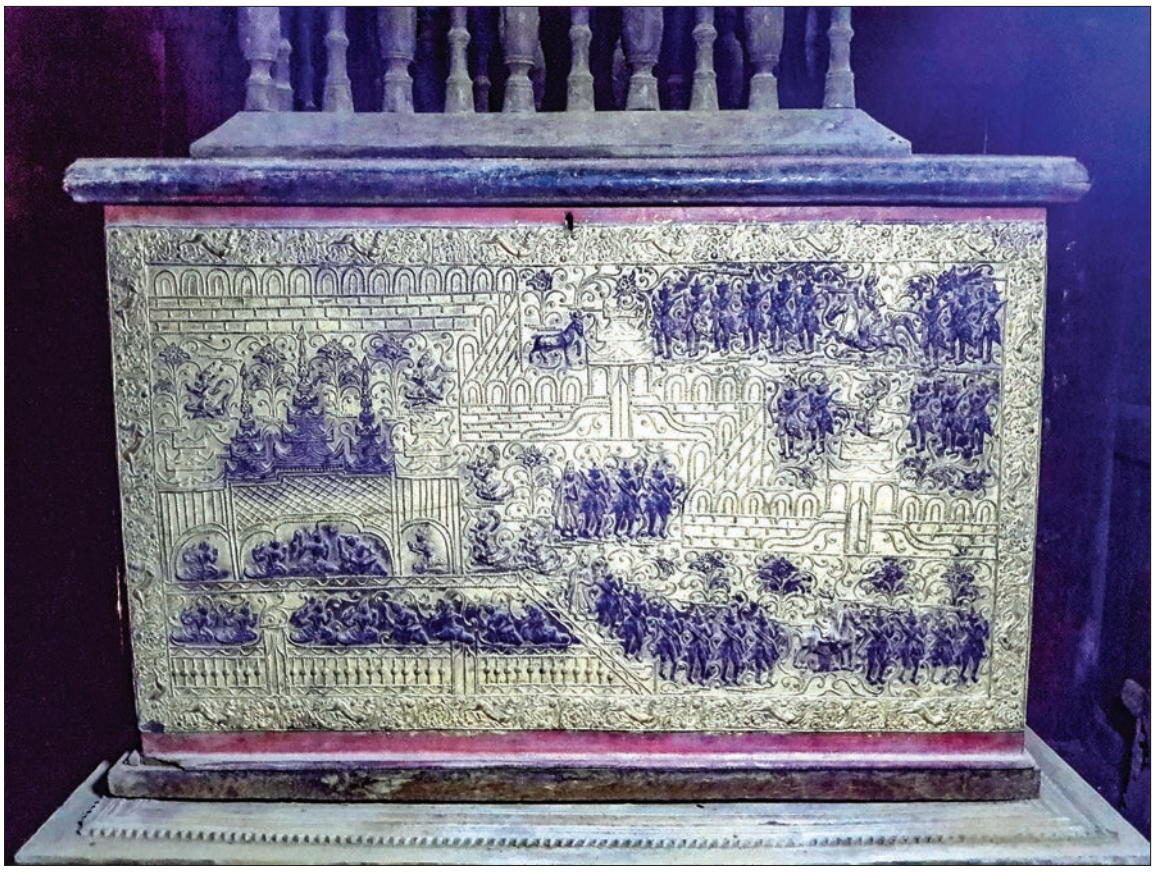
**Cupboards for keeping palm-leaves of Tri Pitakat treatises**

Although packets of Tri Pitakat treatises on palm-leaves donated by well-wishers were kept in gilt cupboards in Manawramma Monastery, broken palm-leaves can be seen till today. These palm-leaves bear round and beautiful manuscripts in Pali and Myanmar languages. But, it was difficulties to read the pieces of palm-leaves.

The teak cupboards in coffin, cupboard and rectangular shapes were gilt and the front view of each cupboard decorated with floral arabesques. Veteran historian Dr. Toe Hla remarked that coffin shaped cupboards might be original ones at the monastery and rectangular shaped ones built in Konbaung era might be donated by later well-wishers.

Manawramma Gold Monastery, the longest lasting one among ancient wooden monasteries in Myanmar, was built 280 years ago. It needs to continuously maintain such an oldest monastery for its existence so as to create chances for new generations to observe historical heritages of Myanmar.

Teak Cup board.



Take Cupboard for keeping plan-leaves of Tri Pita Kat treatises.

The Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs designated Myaing as a town on 3 June 1972 and formed it as a township with one town, three wards and 329 villages from 81 village-tracts on 24 February 1974.

Myaing Township, 42.5 miles in length from the east to the west and 30 miles in width from the north to the south, shares border with Yesagyo Township in the east, Pauk

*Reference:*
*Paper on Manawramma Golden Monastery (Dr Toe Hla)*
*Regional facts about Myaing Township (Ministry of Home Affairs)*

*(Translated Than Tun Aung)*

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# Japanese football experts conduct coaching course in Yangon

FOOTBALL experts from Japan conducted the Myanmar-Japan Football School Coaching Course yesterday at the conference room of the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The course was attended by officials from the Myanmar Football Federation, and coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers from Myanmar National League clubs.

The course opened with speeches by coaching committee executive of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Tin Myint Aung, and Japanese veteran coaches Yoshio Kikugawa and Kenichi Yatsuhashi (aka) Keny.

Yoshio Kikugawa, 75, is a former veteran coach and coaching instructor. He holds an 'S' certificate, the highest football certification in Japan, and played for the country's national football team from 1969 to 1971.

He took up coaching after retiring from professional football.

As a football coach, he headed Japanese League II club, Chuo Bohan SC.

Kenichi Yatsuhashi holds an AFC Pro License and several other international football coaching licenses.

He acted as a technical director at the Football Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic from 2012 to 2014.

He also served as head coach of International Allies F.C. of Ghana from 2017 to 2018.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Japanese coach Kenichi Yatsuhashi (r) conducting the coaching course yesterday in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

# MNL Week-6 matches to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE Week-6 matches of the Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement issued by the league.

The match between Hantharwady United and Yadanarbon FC, scheduled at 3.30 pm today at Bago Stadium, will be broadcast live on Channel K and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Another match featuring Rakhine United vsMagwe FC, scheduled at the same time at Waitharli Stadium, will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

The match between Chin United and Ayeyawady United will be played at 4 pm today at Thuwunna Stadium, and it will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Meanwhile, on 16 February, defending champions Shan United will take on ZwekapinUnited, and the match will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports.

On the same day, ISPE FC will play against Sagaing United at Mandalar Thiri Stadium, and the match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Southern Myanmar FC will take on Yangon United on the same day at Mawlamyine Stadium. The match will be shown on Fortune TV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Yadanarbon United's striker Aung Thu (blue) vies the ball with Shan United's Yakubu Abubakar in a Myanmar National League match in Mandalayon 2 February. **PHOTO: SUFC**

# Mourinho defends Alli over coronavirus video

LONDON — Dele Alli is not racist and regrets posting a social media video which appeared to joke about the new coronavirus, said Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho on Friday (Feb 14).

Mourinho put the 23-year-old Spurs and England midfielder's Snapchat video down to "a young generation" error, although the player has been asked by the English Football Association (FA) to explain the post.

Alli's video - which was subsequently deleted after several complaints were made - showed him wearing a face mask in an airport departure lounge with the message 'Corona whattt, please listen with volume'.

He moved the camera towards an Asian man before showing a bottle of antiseptic hand wash, with a caption saying "This virus gunna have to be quicker than that to catch me".

The death toll from China's virus epidemic neared 1,400 on Friday with six medical workers among the victims, underscoring the country's struggle to contain a deepening health crisis.

Nearly 64,000 people are now recorded as having fallen ill from the virus in China.

The COVID-19 epidemic - as the World Health Organization formally named it - has also reached Britain where nine cases have been identified.

"I spoke with him (Alli) about that but it was quite an easy conversation because he was very sorry about - let's say, the mistake - but it was never his intention to hurt or offend," said Mourinho at his Friday press conference.

"He immediately regretted and recognised it was a young generation mistake and he apologised.

"I have a son at the same age as Dele and many of the players.

"I know social media is for his generation but when you are a public person like footballers are, they have to know and they have to be very, very careful.

"Dele is a great guy. The last thing he is, is anything connected with racism."

The FA's guidelines around media comments and social media posts remind participants that it will consider charges under Rule E3 if it is felt that someone has acted in an improper manner or brings the game into disrepute.

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva was banned for one game and fined £50,000 (US$65,000) earlier this season after what was deemed an inappropriate tweet to team-mate Benjamin Mendy.

—AFP ■