TIME TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President, First Lady to visit India in near future

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and spouse Daw Cho Cho will pay a State Visit to the Republic of India in the near future.— MNA

State Counsellor pushes for speeding up e-Governance plans to ensure development

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Patron of the e-Government Steering Committee, made a speech at the 4th e-Government Conference & ICT Exhibition held at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

After the opening ceremony, images of ancient Myanmar with an interactive experience of real world environment were presented by using augmented reality (AR) system.

After the presentation, the State Counsellor, Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Ministers U Min Thu and U Thant Sin Maung, Myanmar Computer Federation's Patron U Thein Oo and Chairman U Min Zeya Hlaing had a photo taken with the image of Crown Prince Kanaung created in AR.

In her opening remark, the State Counsellor said, "I prefer modern technologies in Myanmar version. It means I want Myanmar people to understand and apply these technologies. Technologies should be modified into Myanmar versions gradually so that even ordinary Myanmar people can become accustomed to modern technologies.

"The implementation of e-Government is intended for many benefits, including easy and smooth activities at government agencies, effective functions, making right decisions, better services, appropriate responses to fulfill public needs and socioeconomic development of the people. The e-Government will also help closer cooperation between the government and the people, between the government and private firms, among state agencies, and between the government and civil service staff.

"The e-Government is also an enabler that can drive economic development of the country. It is also taking a crucial role in implementing sustainable development and poverty alleviation of the country.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the 4th e-Government Conference & ICT Exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries about squatter issue, complaint centre of MPF

THE 8th day of Pyithu Hluttaw's 15th regular session was held yesterday, with raising queries to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Home Affairs, and heard an amendment bill for the Law Protecting Privacy and Security of Citizens.

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

Squatter issues from internal migrations

MP U Sein Bo from Myawady constituency asked about issuing family registration certificates for the families of Myanmar citizens who are regarded as the squatters.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing replied those who are illegally living on the lands of any organization are regarded as squatters and they cannot receive family registration certificates. However, the ministry could issue relevant certificates and identity cards to internal migrants in line with the existing rules and regulations.

MP U Kham Khant Htan from Tonzang constituency asked about releasing the names of ethnic races under the code number 914 for 'others'—people who are not included in the official 135 ethnic groups of Myanmar in accordance with under the 2014 Population and Housing Census programme.

The Deputy Minister also replied that the issue must be resolved in coordination with relevant ministries, ethnic leaders, historians, relevant local governments with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MP U Mya Sein from Dagon Seikkan Myothit (Seikkan) constituency asked for running an office of the Department of Labour.

The Deputy Minister replied that it was not included in the organizational structure, and labour affairs of Dagon Seikkan Myothit (Seikkan) Township could be handled at the DoL office in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Queries to Ministry of Home Affairs

MP U Win Myint Aung from Dabayin constituency asked about promoting the status of Saipyin police station in his constituency and constructing staff apartments in 2020-2021 financial year.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Thu replied that the process is underway to promote status of local police station and to construct new buildings there.

MP Daw Myint Myint Soe (a) Daw May Soe from Botahtaung constituency asked for establishing a complaint centre for easy communications between the Myanmar Police Force and the common people. The Deputy Minister replied that MPF is receiving complaints through its hotlines, its website and 333 DEO sub-accounts of Toolkit created by the Anti-Corruption Unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MP U Kyaw Soe from Bamauk constituency asked to construct two units of new four-storey- quadruplex apartments at the police station in his constituency in 2020-2021 financial year, MP Daw Mya Khwar Nyo Oo from Shwetaung constituency about promoting the status of auxiliary fire stations in her constituency and MP Daw Thandar from Einme constituency about operating a local fire station in Ywathit village of her constituency.

The questions were replied by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Amendment bill for the Law Protecting Privacy and Security of Citizens

Pyithu Hluttaw Justice and Legal Affairs Committee Chairman U Tin Htwe submitted an amendment bill for the Law Protecting Privacy and Security of Citizens, and the report on this bill was read out by committee member Daw Mar Mar Khaing.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat invited the names of MP who want to offer recommendations on this bill.

The 9th day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will convene on 20 February.— Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw hears nationwide plans for preparedness, response to earthquakes

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 8th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday, hearing reports on nationwide plans for preparedness and response to earthquakes.

MP U Tun Tun Oo from Mandalay Region constituency 2 asked about preparedness and response plans for earthquake to prevent serious losses amidst the unexpected disaster.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied the formation of disasters management committee led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, comprising advisory board with relevant experts in disaster management, setting up funds, drawing plans for emergency response, and getting supports of Japanese government and World Bank to reduce severe damages at historical and cultural heritages of the country.

He added the ministry is coordinating in these measures with the Ministry of Information for educative programmes, with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Tatmadaw for rescue efforts,

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.
PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

with the Ministry of Health and Sports for medical services and with the Ministry of Education for constructing safe schools.

The government has set up earthquake warning systems across the country, safety factors in constructing dams and reservoirs and inspecting damages at these water storage facilities in person and technically.

The Yangon City Development Committee and the World Bank are renovating public buildings to be able to resist earthquakes.

The Deputy Minister added the National Disaster Management Committee is leading Union-level ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council, State/Region governments, civil societies and international organizations to conduct drills for disaster management with the public participation.

Queries to Ministry of Education

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Thant from Mon State constituency 11 asked about construction of a new 30x90 ft science classroom at the high school of Mukkhamu village in Kyaikto Township.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied that his ministry will submit the budget for construction of school building in 2020-2021 financial year.

MP Daw Than Than Aye from Magway Region constituency 7 asked about construction of a new school building at the high school in TaungU village of Minhla Township of her constituency. The Deputy Minister also pledged to allocate budget for the school building if it has been approved.

MP Dr Win Myint from Bago Region constituency 11 asked about plan to narrow the gaps between the numbers of male teachers and female teachers at the primary and high school levels. The Deputy Minister also said 4,189 male teachers and 9,753 female teachers, making the ratio 1 to 2, for 2019-2020 academic year.

MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency 9 asked about construction of a new school after demolishing the old and fragile building at U Phyu primary school in Thaton Township, MP Daw Htu May from Rakhine State constituency (11) about promoting the status of a high school (sub) in Sitpyar village Yambye Township, and MP U Okka Min from Taninthayi constituency 8 about construction of a new building at the high school in Kanmaw village of Kyunsu Township in his constituency. Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun answered these questions.

Myanmar Telecommunication Commission Bill

MP Dr Pyae Phyo from Ayeyawady Region constituency 7 and MP U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe from Taninthayi Region constituency 10 discussed the Myanmar Telecommunication Commission Bill. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed receiving bylaws related to election of Supreme Court Bar Council, with the recommendations of Pyithu Hluttaw. He also invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the bylaws with the specific number of paragraphs. The 9th day meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw will be organized on 20th February.— Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor pushes for speeding up e-Governance plans to ensure development

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a group photo together with attendees at the 4th e-Government Conference & ICT Exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

The e-Government has many benefits. Without practicing e-Government system, no country would see development. The United Nations has set an indicator to measure development of a country in relations with the e-Government system, based on the three indicators in online services, telecommunications, infrastructural development and human resource development.

"Out of 193 global countries, Myanmar's e-Government index stood at 169 in 2016, and it jumped up to 157 in 2018 thanks to improvements in online services and telecommunication infrastructure. However, Myanmar's index is still under the average rank of ASEAN member countries. It shows that we need to try more tremendously.

"Although Myanmar has experienced a certain degree of increases in some sectors such as education, the country has not overtaken other ASEAN countries. Instead, a slight decrease has been noticed. It showed that our neighbouring countries have moving forward at a faster pace, and that we need faster development. It is expected the e-Government could help in this movement.

"It is also important to ensure the coverage of e-Government services to be fair, with mobile and internet communications even in remote and far-flung areas.

"The journey for e-Government is very long. For successful accomplishment of this journey, vision and leadership of successive State leaders play a crucial role. Relevant committees have been formed to implement these tasks, with the cooperation of the private sector such as the Myanmar Computer Federation and universities.

"Required infrastructures have been set up and a network has been established for linking among the ministries. Plans are underway to build a national data centre to safely store information of these ministries and to provide efficient services. Some laws concerned with the e-Government have been enacted and laws for cybercrimes and data securities will be promulgated. While State/Region governments are practicing e-Government system, the institutes of civil service and human resource development sub-committee is providing ICT training courses at the government agencies. The Ministry of Transport and Communications is conducting specialized skill trainings. The government agencies need to align its processes with implementations of e-Government system. Without making appropriate reforms, successful results will not turn out in the e-Government scheme.

"Digital transformation is a system of using digital technologies in our society for speedy completions of our works. Smart phones are used for communications such as exchanging information and business dealings. These gadgets have become a de facto digital platform. And that the e-Government activities need to be moved to digital platform.

"User authentication is required in using mobile SIM cards as persons who could not identify themselves and who are committing acts of sabotage and cybercrimes are spreading false news, hate speech and cybercrimes by taking advantage of weaknesses in SIM card registration processes. Rules and regulations are being developed to handle these problems. And that citizens with responsible and accountable attitudes should be cooperating in the SIM card registration process in supporting peace, stability and development of the country.

"It is not required to worry about these rules if someone did not commit any offensive act. If someone is using a SIM card secretively, it is generally assumed that such persons are suspected of committing some immoral acts. And that ordinary people are urged to use mobile phones with registered SIM cards.

"The Government will continue its implementation work on the "Open Data System" for the public to know the data and information that will lead to their benefits. Necessary preparations are being made to issue the "Certification Authority – CA, digital signature for online users to identify themselves. Furthermore, plans are underway to formulate the "Unique ID" for the identification and registration of those who are residing in Myanmar by using information technologies. With the accomplishment of the systems that I mentioned earlier, the pre-requisites of the e-Government process – Verification, Identification and Authentication – will be fast, accurate and secured.

"Today the world order directs towards the fourth industrial revolution. Data and information can be automatically extracted and analyzed from the source like "Big Data" via various sensor networks. If the technological advantages like 'Smart Factory", "Smart Car", "Smart Healthcare", "Smart Farming", and "Smart City" cannot be followed through, we will surely be left behind.

"We have certain capabilities. Mandalay is now commonly known as a "Smart City". If we try hard we can follow through. However, we need to quicken our development programme and try harder than other countries.

"Digital transformation is applied in the "Industry 4.0" implementation. Information technologies are being used in the beginning and the finish line of the whole production process. So, necessary preparatory measures should be carried out to face the IR 4.0 (Industrial Revolution 4.0). We need to accelerate and strengthen our efforts to transform the Government functions into e-Government through the application of information and communication technologies.

SEE PAGE-4

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks around the booths displayed at the 4th e-Government Conference & ICT Exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) of India

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) of India, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 February 2020 at 2 pm.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation including human resources development and natural disaster management. —MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) of India in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor pushes for speeding up e-Governance plans to ensure development

FROM PAGE-3

We need collaboration to find out ways and means. We are hopeful this e-Government conference will come out with good results.

"We need to consider the good advice and suggestions that will be suitable for our country. We don't need to do in line with what other countries do for themselves. What we're doing might not be good enough. We need to emphasize on the essential requirements for our country in order to try hard towards much faster development.

"This e-Government Conference and ICT Exhibition is important for the e-Government implementation work in Myanmar. It is a well-planned event that we can view the e-Government systems and technologies, exhibited by the ICT booths. Special thanks are given to the e-Government Steering Committee, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Myanmar Computer Federation.

"Everyone should understand the goals and objectives of the e-Government and dedicate to work for the successful accomplishment of the e-Government systems in Myanmar. We will fail unless we have firm dedication. I mean all-inclusive of the civil service personnel at State-, regions/states-, districts-, townships-, and villages-levels, the economic businesses, the associations and organizations, the intelligentsias and citizens. All need to make collective efforts," she concluded.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of e-Government Steering Committee and Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Vice Chairpersons of the Committee Union Minister U Min Thu, and Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung, Union Ministers, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chief Ministers of State/Region governments, Chairpersons of Hluttaw Affairs Committees, Deputy Ministers, State/Region ministers, Permanent Secretaries, departmental heads and officials, the patrons, chairpersons, vice chairpersons, CEC members of Myanmar Computer Federation, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Myanmar Engineering Society, representatives of technology companies, technicians and the invited guests. Next, the State Counsellor, the Vice President and guests posed for documentary photos with the patrons, the chairperson, the vice chairpersons and the executive members of the Myanmar Computer Federation, the chairpersons of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies and officials.

Then, the State Counsellor and the Vice President were briefed on the status of implementation work by President U Min Zeya Hlaing of the Myanmar Computer Federation; and on the Fourth Industrial Revolution versus Future Myanmar by Federation Vice President Dr Tun Thura Thet.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor, the Vice President and the dignitaries took a tour of the exhibition booths displayed by the ministries, the federations and the technology companies concerned.

The second session of the conference was then followed by Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung of the Ministry of Transport and Communications explaining the ongoing implementation work undertaken by the e-Government Steering Committee, and U Min Zeya Hlaing of the Myanmar Computer Federation on the work done by the federation.

The Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) namely "Technology Cooperation for Union Development" were signed by Chairman U Min Zeya Hlaing of the Myanmar Computer Federation and President U Zaw Min Win of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman U Aung Myint of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies and President U Min Zeya Hlaing of the Myanmar Computer Federation respectively. The talks on "Towards Digital Government" and a round of discussions on "Myanmar's Fourth Industrial Revolution versus Future Myanmar" were then held. The e-Government Conference will continue till the 19 February 2020. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin, Aungthu Ya)

Union Minister U Min Thu, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and officials open the 4th e-Government Conference & ICT Exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group Chair

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Chair Mrs Renate Kunast of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group at the Hluttaw Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed strengthening bilateral friendship between Myanmar and Germany, ongoing assistances, legislation and election matters including participation of more women in the coming election.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman Dr Than Win and members Dr U Kywal Kywal of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee on International Relations and Interparliamentary Cooperation, and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Chair Mrs. Renate Kunast of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group Chair

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Chair Mrs Renate Kunast of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Speaker U Tun Tun Hein of the Pyithu Hluttaw received Chair Mrs Renate Kunast of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group at the Hluttaw Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged the views on the enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation between Germany and Myanmar, the Hanns Seidel Foundation's assistance to Myanmar Parliament, democracy, human rights and elections in Myanmar, the improvement of bilateral trade and investment and legislation process of Myanmar Parliament among others.

Present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairpersons U Zaw Thein and U Khin Aye, Committee Secretaries U Bo Bo Oo and U Khin Maung Soe and officials with the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Norwegian People's Aid to collaborate on mine clearance actions

NORWEGIAN People's Aid (NPA) affimed its commitment to cooperaiton in clearing land mine in Myanmar, according to the meeting between the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the NPA yesterday.

The meeting between Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and a delegation led by the NPA's Country Director Ms Marte Graff Jenssen held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed resettlements and the condition of carrying out humanitarian mine clearance works by relevant ministries and state governments after the National Strategy for the Closure of IDP Camps in Myanmar was unveiled.

They also talked about cooperation with international organizations including ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center-ARMAC and NPA on technical assistances and human resources development for mine clearance activities.

The meeting also discussed conducting mine risk education programmes, provide assistances for mine victims, and establish a mine action authority organization that can provide guidelines for mine risk.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with a delegation led by the NPA's Country Director Ms Marte Graff Jenssen in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 7/2020
9th Waning of Tabodwe, 1381 ME
(17 February 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 15 February 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Maung Lwin Oo who lives in Sinnaine Village, Homalin Township, Sagaine Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 February 2020, police arrested Maung Lwin Oo (a) Tun Lwin Oo, 35, son of U Win Pe, who lives in Sinnaing Village, Homalin Township, together with heroin on a road of Sinnaing Village. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Htamanthi)MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Soe Thu Lwin who lives in Motewa Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 February 2020, police searched the house of Soe Thu Lwin, 32, son of U Tun Lwin, who lives in Motewa Village, Kawlin Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin)MaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Win San who lives in Natchaung Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 February 2020, police searched the house of Win San, 53, son of U Kyaw Than, who lives in Natchaung Village, Kalay Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay)MaYa(pa)23/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Wone Gaw Kyin who lives in Thazin Ward, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs, arms and ammunition to Tiddim, Tonzang and Cikha towns.	On 14 February 2020, police searched the house of Swan Shan Kane Hlan, 34, son of U Shandate Pyaung, who lives in Doee Wayine Chaung Village, Kalay Township and arrested him together with heroin. Acting on a tip-off, drug dealer Kyint Hlwe Mang, 26, son of U Zan Khant Nan, who lives in Kyothonepin Ward, was arrested together with heroin, A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kalay)MaYa(pa)24/2020 under Section 19(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police continued to search the drug dealer's house and arrested his brother Kap Swinn Mwmaung, 30, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets, heroin and a rifle and its magazine. Acting on an interrogation, he bought the gun from San Pee, 25, son of U Hlan Saunt Mone, who lives in Tarhan Ward. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kalay)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a), 22(b) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on an interrogation, police searched the house of Wone Gaw Kyin, 50, U Hout Shin Khaing, who lives in Thazin Ward, and arrested together with a rifle and its two magazines, and three pistols, its five magazines and its 352 bullets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) (pa)347/2020 under Section 19(f) of the Arms Act.
5	Information received of Than Win who lives in Donepaleau Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 February 2020, police searched the house of Than Win (a) Than Win Htut, 40, son of U Kyaw Win, who lives in Donepaleau Village, Kyunsu Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kyunsu)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Khin Maung Myint (a) Kyargyi who lives in No 9 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 February 2020, police searched the house of Khin Maung Myint (a) Kyargyi, 52, son of U Tun Myint, who lives in No 9 Ward, Hlinethaya Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Thaunggyi)MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Khant Nyar who lives in No 18 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 15 February 2020, police searched the house of Khant Nyar (a) Saw Myo Satt Moe, 24, son of U Saw Oo, who lives in No 18 Ward, Hlinethaya Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Thaunggyi)MaYa(pa)9/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Sai Aung who lives in No 10 Ward, Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 February 2020, police searched the house of Sai Aung, 42, son of U Myo Chit, who lives in No 10 Ward, Mawlamyinegyun Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlamyinegyun) MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 981 cases have been opened files as of 15 February 2020. A total of 1,515 people, including 1,264 men and 251 women had been arrested with 7643.1814g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,339.02166 g of opium, 661.27 g of low-quality opium, 53242.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 503,475 stimulant tablets, 10311.42 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 24 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

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

Contacts:

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

Government, NCA-S EAOs make 8 common agreements after three-day ceasefire talks in Yangon

GOVERNMENT officials and representatives of ethnic armed organizations signed in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement concluded their three-day meeting yesterday in Yangon, reaching eight common agreements to implement the decisions of the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on the NCA.

The meeting also discussed preparations for holding the 4th edition of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong as scheduled within the first four months of 2020, peace procedures beyond 2020 and implementation processes.

In his conclusion remark on the meeting, NCA-S EAO's Negotiation Leader Sao Sai Ngin said, "The meeting turned out positive results after detailed discussions. We could adopt plans for holding he Union Peace Conference within scheduled period."

He added that both sides agreed on the meeting programmes with their time lines, and made agreements on holding regular meetings of UPDJC, work committees, national level political dialogues, JMC and JICM.

The meeting successfully discussed preparations for holding public consultation and the upcoming UPDJC meeting will approve the preparatory measures. They also exchanged views on possible scenarios to persuade non-signatories into NCA.

Government officials and representatives of ethnic armed organizations attend the meeting in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Vice Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo also said, "We made single text agreements during the three-day meeting. The remaining parts will be discussed in the future. We also agreed on the three implementation processes after 2020. It is hopeful we could approve some points for democracy and federal topics in upcoming meetings."

The final day of the meeting was attended by Vice Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, military officers from the Office of Commander in Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Secretary of Peace Commission Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Advisor of Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe, as well as Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office.

The EAO representatives included NCA Framework Negotiation Team Leader Sao Sai Ngin, its negotiator U Myo Win, its members U Hla Htay, Saw Mra Yarzar Lin, Salai Hta Hlar Hay, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw Tadomu, Pado Saw Al Klu Sae, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Salmon, Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Khun Myint Tun and Dr Sai Oo.

Peace Commission's Advisor U Hla Maung Shwe and NCA-S EAO representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay held a press conference on the three-day meeting.

U Hla Maung Shwe said, "The next round of JMC meeting is scheduled on 10, 11 and 12 March. We discussed seven decisions, from 2 to 8, of JICM. The working group meeting will also be held in Yangon on 5,6 and 7 next month. The UPDJC secretary meeting will be organized in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 March, and the UPDJC will meet on 12 March.

Regarding the meeting on 17 and 18 February, Nai Aung Ma Ngay said, "We could turn out good results. We could make eight common agreements, and the remaining 12 points will be discussed in next meetings. Both sides proposed their plans. We will hold talks on these issues in the upcoming meetings." — Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Intelligence specialists discuss eradication of illegal drug, precursor

THE first day meeting of Drug and Precursor Intelligence Specialists was held yesterday at the Mercure Hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

At the meeting, Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and Precursor Programme Manager of UNODC for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Mr Reiner Pungs made opening remarks.

Afterwards, the delegates from Myanmar, UNODC, ASEAN countries, Canada, Australia, Bangladesh and India discussed about the misuse of precursor chemicals, illegal drug production and trafficking, and latest conditions of drug producers and traffickers who are committing drug crimes in gang.

The UNODC coordinated over the discussions of the delegates, and sought ongoing cooperation and drawing up plans for eradication of illegal drug and precursor chemicals. Senior police officers led by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, and delegates from Canada, Australia, Bangladesh, India, UNODC, DEA and AFP attended the meeting. The meeting will continue till 20 February. —MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Participants pose for a photo at the Drug and Precursor Intelligence Specialists meeting in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

Coronavirus: Nine quarantined patients doing well

THE Ministry of Health and Sports said yesterday there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus infections in Myanmar.

Thirty-five people suspected of being infected with the virus are being monitored, while two more are undergoing treatment, it said.

The figures were recorded between 31 January and 18 February.

Of the total suspected patients, 28 tested negative for the virus, while the laboratory results for nine are awaited from Thailand.

Of the 37 patients, 35 had traveled to China, while two had no record of visiting China.

All nine patients who are being treated in isolated wards are in good condition, said the ministry. —MNA

19 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Time to take action to prevent violence against women

VIOLENCE against women and girls amounts to violence against all of humankind and should have no place in Myanmar or elsewhere in the world.

Myanmar's cultural and social customs, which are based on Buddhism, openly reject all acts of violence against women and girls.

However, weakness in viewing domestic abuse as a human rights violation and lack of laws that can protect women and girls from such abuse is the dark side of our commitment to addressing the causes of violence and promoting women's empowerment.

Women make up more than half of the total population of Myanmar. If we can guarantee the rights of every woman and girl to live a free and safe life, we can say that we are protecting the majority of the country's people from violence.

> We are confident that the law would adequately protect our women and girls as it has prescribed systematic punishment for those who commit violence against women.

Myanmar ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and submitted national reports to the CEDAW committee. The committee sent back its report with 56 suggestions, which include enacting a law protecting women and girls from violence and abuse and reviewing laws which discriminate against women.

Following the suggestions, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has drafted the prevention of violence against women bill. The bill is different from other laws because it is a social legislation and it would be effective only when people practice it.

When it comes to the bill, we should not neglect Myanmar's traditional customs. We are responsible towards and have a duty to support and protect women and girls.

We are confident that the law would adequately protect our women and girls as it has prescribed systematic punishment for those who commit violence against women.

MPs from different political parties must also work together on the issue so that there are no shortcomings in the bill. They must also ensure that there is no risk of the new bill being undermined before it has even been passed.

MPs also have a duty to ensure that the new bill would not lead to the disintegration of a family, but end violence against women and girls.

But, to achieve that goal requires a firm commitment not only at the institutional level, but also needs a broad involvement of INGOs and men.

We must defend the right of all women and girls to live a free and safe life. Women are the pillar of just, open, developed, and democratic societies, and nothing should deprive them of their freedom or impinge on their safety.

Now is the time for action, not words.

■■■

Prevention of deadly viruses through application of HR Management 4.0, HR Development

By Dr Tun Win

IT can be said that the year 2020 is unlucky for China because of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak started from seafood and wild animal meat market of Wuhan one of big China towns.

Preventive methods such as frequent hand washing, using surgical masks, avoiding crowded areas have already been suggested.

But this article is written not from Medical point of view.

It is giving message how Human Resource Management 4.0 and Human Resource Development process application can prevent the COVID-19 coronavirus and can reduce the incident rate.

This article is more concern with future and for long term prevention of dangerous viruses like the COVID-19 coronavirus because no one can know what kinds of new viruses will appear in future.

First I would like to explain from where the world (4.0) comes from the field of industrial change.

From 1780 to 1870 there was development of Mechanical Engineering and that was the age of industry 1.0. Industry 2.0 is the age of Electrical Engineering development and it was from 1870-1969. From 1969-2000 there was Electronic Engineering development and that age was known as Industry 4.0. Regarding with HR Management, HR 4.0 means HR activities can be done by digital technologies, for example, interview process can be done by internet video call and can reduce the infectious rate. One of many latest trends in HR field is developing remote staff. For instance a staff surgeon of a hospital is essential to go to workplace to do surgery. But Accountant is not, as he or she can do his or her accounting job at home and contact workplace by email, viber or intranet etc. There may be so many other kinds of remote staff like an Accountant. So in a workplace staff analysis should be done to find out how many percent of total staff can act as remote staff. In this way staff congestion in workplaces and buses can be reduced and minimize virus spread.

Passengers wear protective face masks as they arrive from Shenzhen to Hong Kong at Lo Wu MTR station, hours before the closing of the Lo Wu border crossing in Hong Kong, on February 3, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

This photo taken on February 13, 2020 shows a medical staff member (L) talking on her phone as she leaves for Wuhan from Nanchang, China's central Jiangxi province. The death toll from the COVID-19 coronavirus epidemic neared 1,400 on February 14. **PHOTO:AFP**

> Virus prevention methods fall into two categories -- maximizing the body's immunity and minimizing vaccine dosage.

Although so many people are afraid of the COVID-19 coronavirus it is much less dangerous than Ebola. It has been heard that death rate of Ebola is round about 90%. Death rate of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection is round about only 2.%. Even seasonal Flu has death rate 1%. Because of low death rate it can be hoped that coronavirus infection will disappear sooner or later with some numbers of deaths. So we have to think for future to prevent dangerous viruses like Ebola. There are common preventive methods for Ebola, the COVID-19 coronavirus infection and so many other viral and bacterial lung infections. Preventive methods are mostly concerned with development of personal hygiene behavior.

In this regard, behavior development technology plays an important role. As the behavior development is a part of Human Resource Development, virus infections can be prevented by strengthening of Human Resource Development process.

Development process of a human being has been started since he or she was a fetus in his or her mother's uterus.

Adequate nutrients are essentials for proper development of a fetus, for example iodine is essential for IQ development. Breast milk feeding behavior is essential for development of immunity of a child to fight virus.

For virus prevention, methods are classified into two main categories (1) maximizing the body immunity and (2) minimizing the inoculation dose of virus.

To minimize the inoculation dose of virus it is necessary to do personal hygiene behavior development.

To develop behavior of the community, entry point to community is primary schools.

So, personnel of Maternal and Child Health Sector and personnel of Education sector are kindly advised to develop nutrition programs and healthy behavior development programs.

The next important things we should consider is that air pollution will increase the mortality rate of viral pneumonia. In this regard, attitude development to improve willingness to maintain the quality of natural environment is also important. This activity can also be done at primary schools.

These advices are more important for those countries which are still put in the list of the Third World Category and also known as development countries.

■■■

National symphony orchestra performs this month

THE Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concerts 2020 will be held in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw this month.

Entry to the concerts, which will feature artistes from Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and Japan, will be free of charge.

The concert in Yangon is scheduled to be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 20 February at the Novotel Hotel. The concert in Nay Pyi Taw will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 25 February at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II).

The Japanese musicians will be led by well-known conductor and composer Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto.

For more information contact MRTV by phone at 09-5006552, 067-79086, 01-527122 Ex.308. The Japanese Embassy can be reached by phone at 01-549664-48 or by e-mail at info.cul@yn.mofa.go.jo. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

72nd Chin National Day celebration to be broadcast live

THE 72nd anniversary of Chin National Day will be celebrated on 20 February at the football ground of BEHS No.3, Thantlang, Chin State, at 9am on the day.

The celebration of the national day will be broadcast live on Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), National Races Channel (NRC), MITV, Channel-9, Up to Date, Mizzima, DVB, Myanma Radio, Myanmar State Counsellor's Office Facebook Page, MRTV Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook Page, Skynet DTH Facebook Page, starting from 8:45am of the date.— MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 18th 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 19th February, 2020: Rain will be isolated in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Ferry operators re-scheduling services due to fog

IN spite of a thick fog enveloping the Yangon River in early mornings of late, jetties and shipyards are lined with passengers from Dala Township waiting to travel to Yangon for work by ferry. Therefore, Cherry Ferry operators are trying to start operations as soon as visibility increases.

"This morning, we could not see the way clearly because there was fog everywhere. So, we could not run four routes in the early morning and kept our water buses at the jetty. But, we started operations between 8 am and 8.30 am," said an official from the Cherry Ferry.

Passengers and ferry boats seen at the Dala Jetty,Yangon. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

"Water vessels also stopped services temporarily from 5:30 am to 8.30 am at 11 jetties in Dala Township. Officials are ensuring vessels do not to leave with passengers from the jetty. If the water vessel passengers do not follow the rules and regulations, the authorities are ready to take action. Warning letters have also been posted at jetties on both Dala and Yangon sides," said U Kyaw Nyein, chairman of the township water vessels supervision team.

People from Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships face this problem every year. The fog can become quite thick, especially at the time of the matriculation exam.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YCDC plans to build K2-bln pedestrian underpass this year

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S first pedestrian underpass project, which will be implemented at a cost of more than K2 billion, will be completed this year, said U Win Myint Than, committee member-7, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), at a press conference held on 17 February at Yangon City Hall.

The underpass project will be implemented using funds from the YCDC budget and will be completed within this year. The underpass, which will connect the Yangon Institute of Education (TTC) and the Junction Square Shopping Centre, will be 10 feet high and 77 feet wide.

"The underpass project will cost nearly K2.15 billion. The project is being managed by the YCDC," said U Win Myint Than.

The underpass project will include escalators for the convenience of people living with disabilities, he added.

"The underpass will be constructed using an earthquake-proofing system. Backup generators will also be installed to ensure automatic and continuous power supply," said U Win Myint Than.

The project is currently being implemented, and one section of Pyay Road will be closed for traffic from 21 February.

The implementation of the underpass project would help reduce accidents on Pyay Road, which sees frequent road mishaps, said U Win Myint Than.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Salon population decreases in Taninthayi Region

A population of Salon people has now been dwindling comparatively with the last 40 years according to the activists for Salon people. The 1976 Census indicated that about 6,000 Salon people were residing in Myeik and Kawthoung districts in Taninthayi Region. However, only over 1,700 remained to stay there now.

A fishing boat on the Salon Island in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIT)**

They are mostly seen in 10 islands of Myeik and Kawthoung districts. They have health dispensaries and health staff only in four villages of Bokpyin, Zardatgyi island, Kawthoung, and Kyunsu townships, out of 10. Even more dispensaries and health staff are being requested for the remaining areas but Salon people are facing very difficult situation when they have emergency cases. Both land and sea routes are hard to carry patients to where they can receive medical treatment. Some died on the way, said the activists.

Salon people used to find fish, clams, squids, sea cucumbers, oysters, and shells both from underwater and among reefs, which is their major livelihoods.

With their economic interests, some business persons and companies are penetrating into their areas. So hundreds of Salon people are compelled to move to two islands of Thailand.

There are drug abuse problems among the Salon people. In the absence of health clinics and midwifery, pregnant women and patients have to cross the sea with huge waves to reach Myeit district general hospital where they can receive proper medical treatment. Some died in action.

That is why their death rate also increases whereas their birth rate decreases due to lack of knowledge, proper health care and easy access to towns and districts. "Thus, worries are mounting among us as the Salon people are now on the verge of extinction," said the activists for the Salon People. —Myint Oo (Myeit)

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Low yield, fall in price worry fermented soya bean growers

FERMENTED soya bean growers from Ngazun Township in Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, are dissatisfied with lower yields and decline in prices compared with last year, said a local grower from Hta Naung Gone Village.

"Last year, fermented soya beans yielded 20 baskets per acre. But, this year, the yield is only 15 baskets per acre. The village floods twice a year. This year, we were waiting for the water to inundate the village as usual. But, that didn't happen and we had to plant crops using machines. However, some plants dried up and died. So, the yield of fermented soya beans declined. Besides, the price of fermented soya beans has also dropped to K51,000 per bag from K60,000 per bag. Local growers are unhappy with the decline in the price of fermented soya beans," said U Aung Lwin, a grower from Hta Naung Gone village.

Local farmers are unhappy with the falling prices of fermented soya bean in Ngazun Township in Myingyan District. **PHOTO: TIN ZAR HLAING**

Fermented soya beans are mostly grown in Hta Naung Gone, Mayo Gone, Yesin, and Kanthar villages in Ngazun Township. They are primarily grown in Thadingyut. Local farmers said they grow one crop per season. Then, they sell the fermented soya beans in the Mandalay market.

At present, the price of fermented soya beans is on the decline and so, farmers said they are mixing fermented soya beans with ricinus.

"Fermented soya beans are sold only in the local market. In order to penetrate the foreign market, the quality of Myanmar fermented soya beans need to be competitive with those produced in the US and Brazil. We don't have quality guarantee certificates," said U Myo Swe, vice chairman of the Mandalay depot.

There are two types of fermented soya beans: Shan fermented soya beans and Kyun fermented soya beans. Shan fermented soya beans are currently priced at K53,000-57,000 per bag, while the price of Kyun fermented soya beans is pegged at K50,000-51,000 per bag. Bean curd and soya bean producers offer K57,000 for fermented soya beans and edible oil manufacturers pay K53,000 for fermented soya beans.
— Tin Zar Hlaing

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Seikpyu farmers enjoy decent onion price in early harvest

FARMERS in Seikpyu Township of Magway Region are selling their onions at attractive prices in early harvest.

A total of 30,000 viss of onions entered Seikpyu Wholesale Commodity Centre on 17 February, where the market price is K1,000 per viss this season although they had to sell their onions at K450 to 500 per viss last year amidst high costs for input items.

The local farmers grow onion plants near creeks and in the farms after harvesting monsoon crops.—Soe Lin Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Photo shows onion being sold in the market. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)**

11 domestic, foreign insurers invest K67 bln, $127 mln in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

ELEVEN domestic and foreign insurance companies have invested K67 billion and US$127 million in Myanmar as of January in the current financial year, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"Those businesses were issued licences by the Financial Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry on 28 November, 2019. The companies are not running the businesses under the policy, rule, and law of the Myanmar Investment Commission. However, they are investment enterprises," he said.

As of January in the 2019-2020 financial year, three joint venture general insurance businesses have invested $26.43 million and K56.7 billion; three other life insurance joint ventures have made investments of $34.7 billion and K10.6 billion; and five foreign life insurance companies have brought in $65.9 million.

In the current fiscal, insurance businesses permitted by the Financial Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry have pulled in investments of $127.044 million. Under the Myanmar Investment Law, foreign direct investment of over $2.59 billion has flowed into the country. Under the Special Economic Zone Law, FDI of $102 million has been pumped into SEZs. The total FDI reached $2.82 billion as of 13 February in the current FY, according to data from the DICA. Joint ventures — Capital Life Insurance Limited and Taiyo Life Insurance Company Limited, Citizen Business Insurance Public Limited and Thai Life Insurance Public Company Limited and Shwe Taung Group-owned Grand Guardian Life Insurance Company Limited and Nippon Life Insurance Company — are offering life insurance.

Meanwhile, Max Myanmar-owned AYA Myanmar General Insurance Company Limited and Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance, Shwe Taung group-owned Grand Guardian General Insurance Company and Tokio Marine and Nichido Fire Insurance Company and IKBZ Insurance Company and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company are providing non-life insurance or general insurance services. The five wholly foreign-owned life insurance companies are AIA Myanmar Life Insurance, Chubb Life Insurance Myanmar, Dai-ichi Life Insurance Myanmar Ltd, Manulife Myanmar Life Insurance Company Limited and Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance Limited.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI tops $2.69 bln as of 13 February

MYANMAR attracted foreign direct investment of more than US$2.69 billion between 1 October and 13 February in the 2019-2020 financial year, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The total figure includes investments of $102.64 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

According to a press statement issued by the DICA, 111 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in a capital of $1.97 billion. Those enterprises will execute electricity, manufacturing, livestock and fishery, real estate development, hotels and tourism, and other services businesses.

"As large projects were allowed in the current fiscal, investments grew," said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the DICA.

"Infrastructure projects such as industrial parks and urban development projects are bringing investments into the country," he added.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting responsible businesses to the country.

The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) was drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is in the process of being implemented. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to attract FDI of $200 billion in 20 years, said U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

In the 2018-2019FY, FDI into Myanmar totaled $4.5 billion, falling short of the $5.8-billion target by around $1.3 billion. – GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Weinstein jury to begin deliberations

NEW YORK (United States) — Jurors will begin deliberating the fate of ex-Hollywood titan Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday in his high-profile sex crimes trial that marked a watershed moment in the #MeToo movement.

The disgraced movie mogul, 67, faces life in prison if the jury of seven men and five women convict him of predatory sexual assault charges in New York.

More than 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct since allegations against him ignited the #MeToo global reckoning against men abusing positions of power in October 2017.

But the jury is considering charges related to just two: ex-actress Jessica Mann and former production assistant Mimi Haleyi, with many claims too old to prosecute. Mann, 34, says Weinstein raped her in March 2013, while Haleyi alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in July 2006.

The proceedings, which began hearing testimony on January 22, threw up complicated issues surrounding consent and abuse of power for the jury.

Under cross-examination, both Mann and Haleyi acknowledged at least one consensual sexual encounter with Weinstein after the alleged assaults.

Defense lawyers presented dozens of emails and text messages in court that appeared to show both Mann and Haleyi on friendly terms with Weinstein years after the alleged attacks.

His team said the relationships were consensual and transactional, arguing that the accusers used sex with the defendant to advance their own careers.

Prosecutors said he was a career sexual predator who took advantage of his powerful position in the American film industry to prey on aspiring young actresses.

Weinstein, the producer of "Pulp Fiction" and "Sin City," is the first man accused of abuse in the #MeToo movement to face a criminal trial.

In closing arguments Thursday, lead attorney Donna Rotunno urged the 12 jurors to make themselves "unpopular" by acquitting Weinstein, insisting he had been innocent from the start.

She stressed that prosecutors had failed to present any forensic evidence or eyewitness accounts. The prosecution's case rests on whether the jury believes the six women, including actress AnnabellaSciorra of "The Sopranos," who testified that Weinstein had sexually assaulted them.— AFP ■

Harvey Weinstein faces life in prison if convicted of predatory sexual assault charges in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

HSBC axes 35,000 jobs as profits slump

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Asia-focused banking giant HSBC on Tuesday axed 35,000 jobs, far more than expected, and posted slumping annual profits, as it warned over the financial impact of the deadly coronavirus.

Pre-tax profits tumbled by a third to $13.3 billion (12.3 billion euros) in 2019 from a year earlier, largely owing to a $7.3-billion write-off related to its investment and commercial banking businesses in Europe.

The London-based lender added in a results statement that it hopes to cut its global workforce by 15 percent to 200,000 staff over the next three years. Commentators had expected 10,000 job cuts.

The radical overhaul comes as HSBC streamlines operations in the United States and Europe, although no details were given on where the axe would fall.

HSBC has been trying to lower costs as it faces a multitude of uncertainties caused by the grinding US-China trade war, Britain's departure from the European Union and now the fatal new coronavirus in China.

'Revised' growth plan

"The group's 2019 performance was resilient. However, parts of our business are not delivering acceptable returns," said interim chief executive Noel Quinn.

"We are therefore outlining a revised plan to increase returns for investors, create the capacity for future investment and build a platform for sustainable growth.

"We have already begun to implement this plan, which my management team and I are committed to executing at pace," Quinn added.

While its Asia business has done well in recent years — fuelled primarily by China — Europe and the US have disappointed.

Quinn, who took over as acting CEO after the shock ousting in August of John Flint, has been tasked with transforming the sprawling international bank, which spans more than 50 countries but makes the vast majority of its profit in Asia.

Turning to coronavirus, HSBC warned the deadly outbreak in China had impacted its outlook.

"We continue to monitor the recent coronavirus outbreak, which is causing economic disruption in Hong Kong and mainland China and may impact performance in 2020," the bank cautioned.

The restructuring plans are the biggest shake-up since 2012, when HSBC was caught up in a Mexican money laundering scandal. The bank said it was targeting $4.5 billion in cost cuts by 2022, with restructuring costs of around $6 billion.

Many of the cutbacks will be in the European and US investment banking sectors, while units in more profitable Asia and the Middle East would be bolstered. — AFP ■

HSBC has been trying to lower costs as it faces a multitude of uncertainties caused by the grinding US-China trade war, Britain's departure from the European Union and now the deadly new coronavirus in China. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS In BRIEF

Virus-hit Diamond Princess passengers to disembark from Wednesday

TOKYO – About 3,000 people on a cruise ship quarantined in the Japanese port of Yokohama due to the outbreak of a new coronavirus will start disembarking Wednesday as scheduled, health ministerKatsunobu Kato said.

Kato told a press conference on Tuesday that test samples had been collected from all the remaining passengers of the Diamond Princess, and that disembarkation is expected to be completed by Friday.

Those who tested negative will be allowed to leave without restriction, while those who have been infected with the virus will be hospitalized. The same measures will apply to the crew.

The cruise ship was carrying around 3,700 passengers and crew from more than 50 countries and regions. The number of infections among them rose by 88 on Tuesday, bringing the total to 542. — Kyodo News ■

Malaysia believed MH370 was murder-suicide plot: former Australian PM

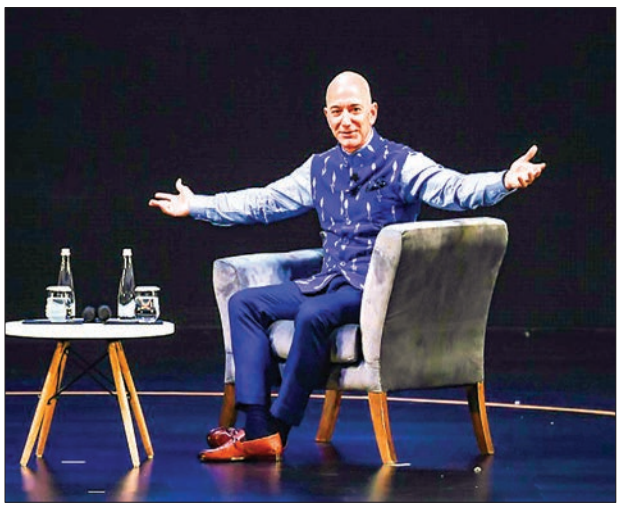
DARWIN (Australia) – A former Australian prime minister said he was told "very early on" in the investigation of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 that the Malaysian government believed the pilot deliberately crashed the plane as part of a murder-suicide plot, local media reported Tuesday.

Tony Abbott, who was in office at the time of the plane's 2014 disappearance, made the comments as part of a documentary to be aired later this week by Sky News.

"My very clear understanding, from the very top levels of the Malaysian government, is that from very, very early on here they thought it was murder-suicide by the pilot," he said in a preview of the documentary released by Sky News.

The Boeing 777 flight, carrying 239 people on board, vanished from radar less than 40 minutes after taking off from Kuala Lumpur on 8 March, 2014.— Kyodo News ■

Bezos launches $10 bn fund to combat climate change



Amazon boss Jeff Bezos has announced he is committing $10 billion to a new fund to fight climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States) — His company is often criticized for its environmental record, but Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon and the world's richest man, said Monday that he was committing $10 billion to a new fund to tackle climate change.

In a post to his 1.4 million followers on Instagram, the e-commerce tycoon said the Bezos Earth Fund would "fund scientists, activists, NGOs — any effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world."

"Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet," said Bezos, whose net worth is estimated to be around $130 billion.

Hundreds of Amazon employees last month signed a blog criticizing the online retail giant's climate policies and demanding it do more to tackle climate change.

Amazon has been accused of creating vast amounts of waste from the packaging it uses for doorstep deliveries, as well as for the greenhouse gas emissions from huge fleets of vehicles.

The company, which in December said its workforce had hit 750,000, has also been denounced over its carbon footprint because of the high energy consumption of its server farms for its lucrative cloud computing activities.

"I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet we all share," Bezos said in his announcement on Monday.

Amazon's carbon targets

Bezos, who maintained his status as the world's richest person despite an expensive divorce last year, said his new foundation would begin issuing grants later this year.

Last September, he said Amazon would pledge to become carbon neutral by 2040 and vowed that the company would order 100,000 electric delivery trucks.

Rather than make investments that the business guru might profit from, the fund would allocate grant money to projects, The New York Times said, quoting unnamed sources familiar with the initiative. Bezos divulged few details on his social media post, which attracted overwhelmingly positive responses from his followers.

Bezos has often clashed with US President Donald Trump, who regularly attacks climate change activists, recently calling them "perennial prophets of doom."

The fund was described as Bezos's biggest philanthropic commitment. Fellow billionaire Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, now devotes much of his time to his charity foundation and a venture fund that makes investments aimed at helping curb emissions and reverse climate change.

The New York Times said that even if Bezos spent the full $10 billion immediately, he would still be the world's richest person.

Last week, he reportedly agreed to buy a Beverly Hills mansion built in the 1930s by Hollywood movie mogul Jack Warner for $165 million, a record price for a California home. —AFP ■

Singapore Airlines cuts flights due to poor demand amid virus

SINGAPORE — Singapore Airlines said Tuesday it will cut the number of flights operated by the company and its subsidiary airline as the new coronavirus epidemic dampens demand for air travel.

"Singapore Airlines and SilkAir will temporarily reduce services across our network due to weak demand as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak," it said in a statement on its website. "We will continue to monitor the situation and make further adjustments as necessary."

It provided a list of the affected flights on its website and said customers will be notified and re-accommodated onto other flights.

Singapore Airlines Airbus A380, specifically A380-841 aircraft as seen on final approach landing at New York JFK, John F. Kennedy International Airport on 14 November 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The affected routes include those between Singapore and some cities in the United States, Europe, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

The announcement comes soon after its recent decision to reduce flights to mainland China due to a significant decline in demand. It has also reduced flights to Hong Kong.

"As the national carrier, we will continue to maintain minimum connectivity to the key cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing for now despite the reduced demand," it said in that earlier statement.

Singapore has one of the highest number of infections from the COVID-19 outbreak outside of China, with 81 people having been infected so far, of whom four are in critical condition.

Its tourism sector has been badly affected by the outbreak, especially after it banned people who have visited China within 14 days of their arrival or holding Chinese passports from entering the city-state or transiting through it.— Kyodo News ■

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below herbicide, registered by **Bayer AG**, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from **Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)** to **Zagro Myanmar Ltd.** Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
Whip S 7.5EW	Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl 7.5% EW	Full	F2017-371

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)- PH : 01-8382710 (Ext. 40600)

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Drip Bottles (4-Items), Consumables for Nuclear Medicine Group, Consumables for Dental Group in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (21.2.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (20-3-2020), 12:00 noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KEN RYU

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KEN RYU VOY. NO. (35) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (886N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (886N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
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Rakhine State offers business opportunities for local and foreign investors

By Kyaw Htike Soe

Workers prepare prawns in a cold storage facility in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: GNLM**

SITUATED on the western coast of Myanmar, Rakhine State with its population of around 3.2 million is crucial for Myanmar's economy and has plenty of potential for fast economic growth. Rakhine State can easily be accessible by land, waterways and air routes. Rakhine State serves as a gateway to the Indian Ocean because it is strategically and geographically located between China and India, the fastest growing economies in Asia and Myanmar's neighbouring countries. Rakhine State has several investment opportunities for local and foreign investors in various sectors.

Special economic zone projects to be established in Rakhine State are expected to become a major resource that can boost economic growth, create job opportunities and bring new hopes for local people. It will also encourage an investment chain for small and medium-sized enterprises in Rakhine State. Real estate, infrastructure, education, healthcare services, electricity generation and distribution, garment and textile industry, fishery, forestry, livestock breeding and agriculture sectors are among the promising businesses for investors at home and abroad who want to inject their money into development projects in Rakhine State. Entrepreneurs and developers have been invited to invest in construction of roads, airports, industrial zones, new towns, and beach resort projects as well hotels and tourism industry in Rakhine State. Rakhine State has many investment opportunities and is an area rich in natural resources such as oil and gas reserves and many others as well.

Due to potential market and economic growth coupled with unspoiled sea beaches, abundant natural resources, and ancient cultural heritage zones, Rakhine State draws the interest of international and local investors for setting up new markets, economic zones and industrial parks. Exploration and production of oil and gas in Rakhine State is one of profitable and promising sectors. If the local government effectively manages to produce natural gas from on-shore and off-shore gas fields on a commercial scale in Rakhine State, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will be able to generate and distribute power to local people adequately. Some local entrepreneurs are engaged in producing agricultural and marine products in order to export the value-added products to foreign countries. With vast natural resources, young workforce and plentiful land plots would help local and foreign companies wishing to pump investments into Rakhine State seek ways to reduce production cost in manufacturing businesses.

Development of infrastructure projects will also provide economic growth and job prospects for residents and help stabilize the situation in Rakhine State. Some foreign companies showed interests in building urban development projects and constructing roads, bridges and deep seaports in Rakhine State. The local government jointly organized an investment promotion event headlined, "Rakhine State Investment Fair 2019" in cooperation with the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) at Jasmine Ngapali Resort Hotel in Thandwe Township from 21 to 23 February 2019. The intention of the event was to boost investment opportunities in Rakhine State and connect local entrepreneurs with investors at home and abroad. A total of 30 agreements worth US$ 5.249 billion were inked during the Rakhine State Investment Fair 2019, with the hotels and tourism sector topping the list of both local and foreign investors. Local and foreign investors have submitted proposals to inject investments into Rakhine State.

Thirty agreements were signed at the fair. Of them, 27 are Expressions of Interest, two are project proposals, and one is a B-to-B MoU. The energy sector saw the huge foreign investments in Rakhine State while the hotels and tourism sector topped the list of Myanmar citizen investments. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) recently held a meeting in Yangon and approved six projects in the power sector, other sector, manufacturing sector and hotel sector including power generation from a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant, Sup-

Sittway Port is part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: KHAING SOE**

A fish pond is being dug with the use of heavy machinery in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

ply and Sales of Electricity on IPP (BOT) in Gone Chain Village-tract, Kyaukphu Township in Rakhine State. The projects which were valued at nearly US$ 258 million and K60,228.30 million and would create up to over 1,300 job opportunities for local people have been approved during the meeting.

A gas-fired power plant would be built in Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State, and it would purchase natural gas from the Shwe Natural Gas Project to generate electricity. The commercial production of natural gas from the off-shore natural gas reserves is expected to begin in the years to come. Once completed, the power plant is expected to generate 135 megawatts of electricity and distribute the power to the National Grid. Fishing or aquaculture is an important source of livelihood and business for local people in Rakhine State. Investors from Thailand are very keen to invest in Rakhine State's fishery industry. Rakhine State sees an increasing number of local and foreign investors who are investing in some development projects. Foreign investors have so far pumped around US$ 9 billion into hotels and tourism, livestock, fishery, oil and gas sector in Rakhine State, according to the official data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The local government formed the chief minister-led private-government coordination committee to create an investor-friendly environment suitable for investment for development in Rakhine State, said U Kyaw Aye Thein, Rakhine State Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Economy at the 25th annual general meeting of the Rakhine State Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held at U Ottama Hall in Sittway on 26 December last year. Currently, majority of foreign investment in Rakhine State came from China and India. Investors from South Korea, Japan and Thailand have also been invited to inject their money into the development projects in Rakhine State. The local government also needs to improve the quality of agricultural and marine products to be able to boost economic growth of Rakhine State.

Investors at home and abroad see Rakhine State as an investment opportunity as some State-level infrastructure development projects such as Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, Kyaukphyu deep-sea port project, Ponnagyun Industrial Park, and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project are being implemented in Rakhine State. Kanyinchaung Economic Zone under construction in Maungtaw Township will also be an entry to Bangladesh to expand trade and investment between the two countries. Being a part of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, Rakhine State offers massive business opportunities for local and foreign investors.

■■■

In memoriam
Family shares merits gained
Maha Thayay Sithu
Lt-Gen Tin Oo

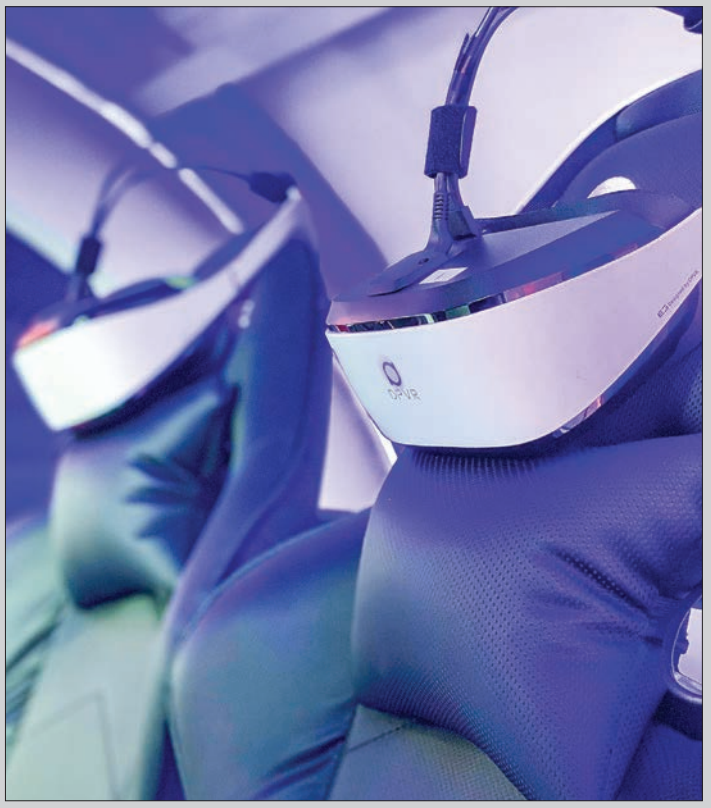
In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo, who suddenly left us 19 years ago, we, his family, have made donations in his memory since he left us, and have offered "soon" and provisions to the members of the Sangha today (19.2.2020). We, his family, share with him the merits gained so that he can step on the path to achieve Nibbana.

Wife	**- Daw Khin Than Nwe**
Sons and daughters	**- U Maung Maung Kyaw + Daw Cho Leh Oo**
	- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
	- Dr Myat Noe + Yin Mar Oo
	- Zaw Tun Oo + Khin Thida
	- Nay Tun Oo
Grandchildren	**- Hein Htet,**
	- Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw
	- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

1st Virtual Reality (VR) Gaming Centre in Myanmar now opens at The Central Boulevard; bringing the most advanced gaming experience for game enthusiasts

WITH the aim to create the bridge way of more advanced gaming system and experience, The Central Boulevard is bringing the 1st Virtual Reality (VR) Zone, the most advanced gaming system of its kind in the country. Bringing innovative technology and design, the VR Zone provides almost life-like gaming experiences and a full 360 experience that is easy to use and creates a high-end immersive reality for all.

Located at The Central Boulevard; Yangon's first retail walking street, this newest gaming centre will provide four types of game zones for people to enjoy, with headsets that have a resolution of 1080 AMOLED with 2160x 1200 pixels combined, giving a realistic sensory panoramic view.



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

"Creating a sensation that is not the same as playing a similar game at home, players are able to place themselves in the skin of a character and feel as if they are in that locations or situations but without having to leave a room. With the intention to craft The Central project as one of the finest mixed use properties not only in Myanmar but also in the region, we will keep striving to bring the most innovative and enjoyable ideas to offer the most relaxing public space to the people," said an official.

The benefits of having a location based activities centre such as the VR Zone at The Central Boulevard, allows for people of all ages, to enjoy how Myanmar is creating a bridge between more advanced gaming systems and user experiences.

At the VR Zone, players can enjoy a variety of games, with either single player or multi-player games. Currently, this advanced gaming system comes with different VR devices, including: VR Rider, VR Shooting (2 rooms) & The Evil: Haunted Table. And potentially, more games will be added.

For VR Rider zone, the players can enjoy up to 22 interactive games, ranging from Rider, Horror, Trip and Kids games with stunning visuals, and motion chairs. This dual player simulator is great fun for the whole family, taking them to new worlds and new countries to explore. The VR Shooter, on the other hand, has a total of 3 games with up to 2 users playing at the same time, providing a 180 degree of movement and with emplacement guns that not only feel real, players are able to advance to the next level with game-play rankings of fully immersive virtual reality. Finally the Evil Haunted Table, gives players a multisensory horror experience where to win the game, each person needs to help one another to escape from the hostage of a demonic spirit and gives users a 360 view.

Originating in South Korea, the VR Zone is the newest advanced technology completely different from other gaming venues. Welcoming guests starting from mid-February, the VR Zone can be the perfect date night experience or a fun night out with friends. No matter what, users will be sure to walk out feeling like a whole new world has just opened up for them.—GNLM

General Aung San Shield 2020: MFF, amateur teams to hold meeting

OFFICIALS from the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and representatives of teams in the amateur leagues will hold a meeting to discuss their participation in the General Aung San Shield 2020.

The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on 20 February at the meeting hall of the Myanmar National League Office at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, according to the federation.

To acknowledge the amateur leagues that are trying to improve Myanmar's football community and as a preliminary introduction to participation in the Myanmar National League, the MFF and the MNL have allowed five football teams from the amateur leagues to participate in the General Aung San Shield this year.

At the coordination meeting, the two sides will discuss matters related to registration, rules, and regulations for the General Aung San Shield. — Kyaw Khin

MNL 2020 rescheduled as national team readies for World Cup Qualifiers

Officials from Myanmar Football Ferderation, Myanmar National League (MNL), the clubs from the MNL and MySports pose for a group photo at the meeting in Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

SOME matches from Week-10 and Week-11 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 would be rescheduled to help the Myanmar national football team prepare for the 2020 World Cup Qualifiers in March.The matches will be held a few days late, according to the league.A coordination meeting on the rescheduling of MNL matches was held yesterday at the meeting hall of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

MFF general secretary U Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon Ko Ko Thein, MNL CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw, MNL Chief Operating Officer U Sue Aung, head coach of Myanmar national football team Antoine Hey, officials from MNL and Myanmar National League clubs, and MySports officials attended the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein explained the purpose for holding the meeting and expressed thanks for cooperation from the clubs.

Head coach Antoine Hey said some matches would be rescheduled to help the national football team prepare for the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers in March. The Myanmar national team will compete against Japan on 26 March at the Toyota Stadium in Japan and Kyrgyzstan on 31 March at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. Afterwards, MNL CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw made remarks on the rescheduling of matches. The new match schedule will be released soon, according to the Myanmar National League. — Kyaw Khin

Spurs holding on for dear life after Son's injury: Mourinho

LONDON (United Kingdom) _ Tottenham Hotspur's hopes of obtaining something from the season have been equated to someone hanging on for dear life from a balcony in a typically colourful analogy by their manager Jose Mourinho.

The 57-year-old Portuguese made the comparison after he said he believed Korean star Son Heung-min's season could well be over due to a fractured right arm.

Mourinho is already without star striker Harry Kane -- side-lined since January with a torn hamstring -- as the club enters a crucial period. Midfielder Moussa Sissoko is another long-term casualty.Spurs host German side RB Leipzig in a Champions League Last 16 first leg match on Wednesday and play Chelsea in a match that could prove pivotal in the dog-fight for the fourth and final Champions League spot. "You know I like analogies," said Mourinho, who took over after Mauricio Pochettino was sacked in late November last year. "Sometimes I do good ones and sometimes silly ones. This time I do this.—AFP

The file photo taken on 22 December 2019 shows Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min walks past Tottenham Hotspur's Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. **PHOTO: AFP**

MNL U-19 2020: ISPE F.C. leads standing table after Week-6

ISPE F.C. is leading the standing table of the Myanmar National League (U-19) 2020 after the conclusion of Week-6, according to the league's website. With 16 points from five wins and one draw, ISPE F.C. is leading the standing table, followed by Yangon United F.C. in the second place with 15 points from five wins and one loss, and Ayeyawady F.C. in the third place with 14 points from four wins and two draws.

Shan United F.C., Yadanarbon F.C., and University F.C. are next with 13 points each. Southern Myanmar F.C. is in the seventh place with 12 points, followed by Hantharwady United F.C. and Sagaing United F.C. (10 points each), and Myawady F.C. with 9 points. During Week-6, Yadanarbon F.C. beat Hantharwady F.C. by 2-0, Ayeyawady F.C. secured a 4-0 win over Rakhine United, ISPE beat MFF Youth 2-1, Shan United drubbed Kachin United by 9-0, while Southern Myanmar F.C. beat Zwekapin F.C. by 5-2.

Meanwhile, Yangon United F.C. beat Magway 2-1, Chin United F.C. defeated Silver Stars 4-2, Myawaddy F.C. beat Yaw Myay F.C. 4-0, Sagaing United triumphed over Chinland 1-0, and University F.C. beat Mawyawadi F.C. by 2-1. The Week-7 matches of the league will be held on 24, 25, and 26 February. On 24 February, MFF Youth will meet University F.C., Rakhine United will take on Yadanarbon F.C., and Hantharwady F.C. will compete against ISPE F.C.

On 25 February, Zwekapin F.C. will compete against Yangon United F.C., Silvers Stars will take on Shan United, Magway F.C. will compete against Chinland F.C., and Southern Myanmar F.C. will play against Ayeyawady F.C.

On 26 February, Sagaing United will compete against Myawaddy F.C., Yaw Myay will play against Chin United F.C., and Mawyawadi F.C. will meet Kachin United F.C. — Kyaw Khin