BETTER PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT-RIDDEN AREAS IS PARAMOUNT PAGE-8 (OPINION)

PARLIAMENT

Amyotha Hluttaw: Yangon Region registers 188 petrol filling stations, 785,000 vehicles

PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT

Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries about women affairs, calls for preparing AFTA

PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor hails celebrations of 72nd Chin National Day in Thantlang, Chin State

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi unveils the signboard of 72nd Chin National Day in Thantlang Township in Chin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, gave a congratulatory speech at the celebrations of 72nd Chin National Day, which was held in Thantlang Township.

On arrival at the venue at 9 am, the State Counsellor and party were welcomed by the locals.

The ceremony was opened by the State Counsellor, the Union Ministers, the Chief Minister of Chin State, the Hluttaw Speaker and a town elder, followed by a blessing given by Rev. Dr Lar Oak, and saluting the National Flag, and fallen martyrs.

Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai read out the message of greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the 72nd anniversary of Chin National Day.

The State Counsellor extended her greetings to the ceremony.

(The speech delivered by the State Counsellor is separately covered on page 4)

Messages of greetings to the 72nd anniversary of Chin National Day were sent by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, CEC of the National League for Democracy, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (central), the National Unity Party (central) and Chairman of Khumee (Khami) National Party.

Dr Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung expressed thanks before the ceremony was concluded.

After the ceremony the State Counsellor and party observed the exhibition that marked the 72nd Chin National Day.

The State Counsellor and party arrived back by helicopters at Kalay Airport where they met with government officials of Sagaing Region and Chin State before taking a special flight to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.

The Chin National Day represents the struggle of Chin ethnic nationals together with other Union nationals for independence, fight against feudalism , solidarity of national ethnic races and changing from the feudal administrative system to a democratic administrative system.

Chin patriotic soldiers formed the Chin National Education Promotion Team in Pyin Oo Lwin in 1918.

Led by Chin National Leader U Van Thu Maung, the Chin Hills Unity Organization was established in 1933. After their 9 demands for socioeconomic development scheme for Chin people were turned down by the British government, they staged protests against the British rulers.

On 20 February 1948, over 5,000 Chin people attended a conference in Falam Township to call for a democratic administrative system in place of the rule of feudal Chieftains.

Then, the 20 February was designated as the Chin National Day.

Paletwa area which was under the Rakhine administrative system of the British colonial administration and Kampetlet area under the administration of Magway Region were put into Chin State in the 1947 State Constitution.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Vice President U Henry Van Thio speaks on 72nd Anniversary Chin National Day
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Union Supreme Court & judges to uphold its independent judicial entity
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Gov't officials discuss resettling IDPs, camp closures
PAGE-10

NATIONAL
Education ministry discusses quality assurance of school textbooks
PAGE-4

LOCAL NEWS
Mandalay-Myitkyina AC express train to start services in early March
PAGE-3

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries about women affairs, calls for preparing AFTA

THE Pyithu Hluttaw's 15th regular session held its 9th day meeting yesterday, with questions to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Construction.

The MPs also discussed preparing the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) in implementing the ASEAN Economic Community.

The Hluttaw also approved recommendations of Bill Committee for bylaws of Pyithu Hluttaw Election, Amyotha Hluttaw Election and State/Region Hluttaw Election.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein announced approval of Hluttaw for the substitutions of Tatmadaw MPs in the committees; Brig-Gen Win Moe for Brig-Gen Zaw Win in International Relations Committee, Brig-Gen Zaw Win for Col Soe Lwin in Citizens' Fundamental Rights Committee, Brig-Gen Thet Tun Aung for Col Khin Maung Tun in Electricity and Energy Development Committee, and Brig-Gen Aung Zaw Hlaing for Col Soe Win in Public Affairs Management Committee.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein. **PHOTO: MNA**

Women care center in Twantay Township

MP U Myint Lwin from Twantay constituency asked about upgrade of women care centre to a training school for social development of women's lives.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that the centre will be developed into a new facility for the women sex workers under the prostitute law which is being drafted by the ministry to amend the Suppression of Prostitution Act 1949.

The Deputy Minister added that the new law could help the sex workers with their livelihoods, physical and mental rehabilitation, vocational education and services in health and legal affairs.

MP Dr Daw Khin Nyo from Dedaye constituency asked about early implementation of 14.6 mile long road in her constituency.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied the remaining 11.3 mile of the road will be finalized depending on availability of proposed budget for 2020-2021 financial year.

MP U Myint Oo from Thanatpin constituency asked for getting back the surplus budgets which were not spent by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports in the 2018-2019 financial year.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the Department of Higher Education returned nearly K 5 billion for the 12 unfinished projects in the previous FY, and these budgets will be asked to finalize the projects.

He added that the Department of Basic Education also returned K15.6 billion for the 100 pending projects, and these budgets will also be requested for the 2019-2020 FY.

He also explained the Ministry of Health and Sports will apply for the additional budgets for 2019-2020 FY, and 2020-2021 FY.

MP U Aye Naing from Dagon Myothit (South) constituency asked about upgrade of No.10 Middle School to the level of high school in his constituency.

Deputy Ministry U Win Maw Tun replied upgrade of the school will be allowed in 2020-2021 academic year.

MP U Sein Myint from Myingyan constituency asked about construction of a new building for township education officer in his constituency.

The Deputy Minister also replied the requirement of land permit for constructing the new building before budget allocation for it.

MP U Sein Aung from Paletwa constituency asked about upgrade of the remaining 31 mile road section on Matupi-Paletwa motorway. Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin replied it.

MP Daw Khin Than Nu from Mindon constituency asked about the plan and legal action of Ministry of Education against the contracted company for the early damaged classrooms at the High School which was constructed in her constituency in 2016-2017 FY. Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied it.

SEE PAGE-7

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw: Yangon Region registers 188 petrol stations, 785,000 vehicles

THE 15th regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw held its 9th day meeting yesterday, and the questions of MPs were answered by the Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

MP U Soe Thein from Kayah State constituency 9 asked about the number of petrol filling stations in Yangon, licensing policy for the stations and regulations for safety measures against natural disasters.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing replied that there are 139 filling stations in Yangon municipal area and 49 stations outside the area, totaling 188 in the Yangon Region. Meanwhile, in addition to other vehicles arrived from other regions, there are also 785,000 registered vehicles according to the released data of Yangon Region Road Transport Administration Department in November 2019.

The figures have shown that each station needs to fill 4,200 vehicles in average each day, and more stations are required in Yangon Region.

The Deputy Minister also said the Yangon Region government is issuing licenses for the stations in accordance with the laws, regulations and directives of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Fire Services Department.

Regarding the safety measures, the filling stations were directed to keep the fuels in the underground tanks and to follow the instructions of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Fire Services Department.

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than from Mon State constituency 11 asked about possible use of former Sittoung Paper Factory building and its land for any industrial complex or an industrial zone.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Ye Min Paing Hein replied the land of former factory in Theinzayat Town of Kyaikto Township in Mon State will be used for an industrial complex.

MP U Hla Oo from Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked about forming a facilitation body for farmers in purchasing agricultural machines as they had some difficulties in dealing with private companies, and manufacturing such machines in the country.

Deputy Minister Dr Ye Min Paing Hein replied that plans are underway to manufacture agricultural machines and equipment in joint venture businesses between the government and the private sector. He added a supervising and inspecting team is scrutinizing agricultural machines for the farmers and solving difficulties of farmers.

MP U Kyaw Toke from Mandalay Region constituency 7 asked about the government's measures on reduction of impacts from climate change.

Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe explained the policies, strategies and projects for reduction of the impacts as a member of international conventions, in coordination with ASEAN member countries and international aid programme.

MP Dr Khun Win Thaung from Kachin State constituency 11 asked about allocations of budgets for the projects of Sports and Physical Education Department in Momauk Township of Bhamo district in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that the budgets have been applied to allocate Kachin State government in 2020-2021 FY, while the ministry has handed over K 9.47 million to the Sports and Physical Education Department of Kachin State in 2019-2020 FY. MP Daw Nwe Nwe Aung from Mon State constituency 2 asked about legal actions against a mining company in Peinegone village-tract in Kyaikmaraw township , Mon State, as its business license has expired on 31 January 2019, and the absence of mine reclamation in accordance with laws; MP U Win Aung from Sagaing Region constituency 3 asked about issuing land permits to the farmers whose lands were confiscated for Thaphanseik dam project in 1995 and 1996.

SEE PAGE-7

State Counsellor hails celebrations of 72nd Chin National Day in Thantlang, Chin State

FROM PAGE-1

The Chin Affairs Council decided to observe the Chin National Day on February 20 as a significant event for all Chin people.

The ceremony was also attended by Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr Shwe Hluan, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo, Chin government ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amoytha Hluttaw representatives, Chin State Hluttaw representatives, wives of Union Ministers and Deputy Ministers, district and township level departmental officers, ethnic leaders, cultural troupes, representatives of civil societies and the local people.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes traditional hand weaving of textiles at the 72nd Chin National Day celebration in Thantlang in Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Supreme Court & judges to uphold its independent judicial entity

CHIEF Justice U Htun Htun Oo of the Union Supreme Court stressed the need for the judges at different levels of court to uphold its independent judicial entity in his opening speech at the 18th coordination meeting between the Union Supreme Court and the high courts of states/regions and the districts' courts, held at the USC Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He added: "Court trials should be fair and impartial without prejudice but with rule of law. Judges should adhere to their court ethics with dignity. They should uplift their judicial and professional skills. They should also nurture and improve their knowledge, wisdom, concepts, mindsets and attitudes."

The implementation of the National Case Management Programme (NCMP) is now underway in order to dispose of the cases in an effective and timely manner. Judges should strive to improve clearance rate of the cases at the different levels of court.

The Court-led Mediation Pilot Programme is being undertaken for the civil cases and the momentum of its good results should be maintained. If court performance, accessibility to court, and accountability are improved there will be increasing numbers of people relying on the judicial sector. Timely measures should be carried out to manage and prevent, in accord with the procedures, the losses and damages of the confiscated goods and exhibits. The Supreme Court of the Union shall enhance the judicial cooperation with regional judicial institutions for cross-border civil and commercial cases under its judicial reform programme in 2020, he added.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo addresses 18th coordination meeting of Union Supreme Court and states/regions High Courts at the meeting hall of Union Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He further enumerated the lists such as civil cases, criminal cases, writ's application, juvenile cases, municipal offences, and traffic offences at different levels of court. The trial rate of the cases should reach beyond the target to reduce the remaining cases as well as to establish an effective judicial system, he concluded.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Justices of the Union Supreme Court, the Judges of the High Courts of States/Regions, the Permanent Secretary, the Director-General, the deputy directors-general, the directors, the states/regions legal officers and the districts judges. The meeting will continue till 22 February.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Mandalay-Myitkyina AC express train to start services in early March

AN air-conditioned express train will be run on the Mandalay-Myitkyina route in early March, with halts at seven stations along the route: Shwebo, Kanbalu, Kawlin, Naba, Mohnyin, Hopin, and Mogaung, according to Myanma Railways.

The AC express train that is currently operational does not stop at Kanbalu and Hopin stations. The new AC train has been scheduled after passengers requested a halt at the two stations. "The new AC train will be run to fulfill the needs of the people," said an official from Myanma Railways.

Tickets from Mandalay to Shwebo will be priced at K2,000 for ordinary class and K4,000 for upper class passengers; tickets to Kanbalu will cost K3,500 and K6,500; to Kawlin K5,000 and K9,500; Naba K6,500 and K12,500; Mohnyin K7,500 and K15,000; Hopin K8,000 and K16,000; and, Mogyaung K9,000 and K18,000. The entire trip from Mandalay to Myitkyina will cost K10,000 for ordinary class travellers and K20,000 for upper class passengers. The train will leave Mandalay for the upstream journey at 1 pm in the afternoon and arrive in Myitkyina at 7 am the next morning. On the downstream journey, it will depart from Myitkyina at 1:30 pm in the afternoon and arrive in Mandalay at 7:45 am the next morning. —Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 72nd Anniversary of Chin National Day

(20 February 2020)

MAY I extend my warm greetings to you all, esteemed guests, all Union born nationals, especially all our Chin brothers and sisters, present on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of Chin National Day. I wish you all peace of mind, well-being and happiness.

On this auspicious occasion of the Chin National Day, I extend joy, happiness and metta to all Chin nationals not only throughout our country Myanmar but also all over the world.

As you all know, today is the 72nd anniversary of the Chin National Day. A brief account of the Chin national Day has been included not only in the message of felicitations from the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar but also in the speech of the Chairperson.

I would like to add some more points here. If we go over the history of how the Chin National Day had come to be, the Chin Hills Special Division first came to exist, starting from the 20th century Panglong Conference, and according to the 1947 State Constitution.

Since the British colonialists had occupied Myanmar, the Chin nationals also took to arms, and bravely joined the anti-colonialist revolution. The well-known revolutionary leaders like Bo Kyum Bik and Bo Khai Kam stand as evidence of the historic struggle of the Chin ethnic nationals for independence. Moreover, as you all know, the Chin patriots joined the Dobama Asiayone, the Myanmar nationalist group, assumed the title Thakhin, and launched political movements together in order to regain independence from the colonialists.

The Chin nationals did not fail to attend the Conference on the unification of the hilly regions and the central plains, held in Panglong, Shan State on 12th February, 1947. Among the signatories of the Panglong Agreement were the representatives of the Chin committee, namely Pu Hlur Hmung, Pu Thawng Za Khup and Pu Kio Mang. The Chin-Bamar Friendship Conference was also held in Htilin, Magway Division from 3rd to 5th March in 1947.

After the independence, the Chin Special Division Conference was held in Falam from 19th to 22nd February 1948. Among the proposals submitted at the Conference, the voting system was practiced over the proposal, submitted on 20th February, that the Circle headman administration system be cancelled and replaced with a system of administration by the elected representatives: over 5,000 votes for the new system and 17 votes against the system. This strongly proved that the majority of the Chin nationals wanted the new system.

Today is 20th February. It is a day of great significance in that, exactly seventy two years ago, a conference was held in Falam, in which a decision was made for introducing the democratic administrative system.

It is a day that embodies great values of political and historical significance.

Obviously, this aspect of history shows that despite living in the hilly regions, so far and so inconvenient for travelling, the Chin nationals were never backward in political views, and that like the central plains, the hilly regions never lost sight of the changing political trends.

In building the Union that our ancestors had dreamed of in the 20th century Panglong Conference, we, very unfortunately, encountered only the armed conflicts in the country. However, this does not mean that the goal of building that long-desired Union has come to an end. In order to fulfill our forefathers' dream of the Union, our government has been holding the 21st Century Panglong Conference in the 21st century. This means we are marching along the road towards building the Union in the present period of ours.

I am very much elated, and very much grateful, over the fact that the Chin representatives have been participating actively in the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong Conference in the interest of the Union.

The Chin State where the majority of Chin nationals live, still remains as one of the least developed regions in relation to socio-economic development because of the unfavourable geographical conditions. We are a developing country, and I am very sorry the region still remains still one of the least developed regions in such a country. So during the period of our government's administration, we have identified the Chin State as a priority state for development, and made contributions in all sectors. We have given priorities to communications and road transportation so that there would be no difficulties for transportation because of the geographical conditions. Priorities have also been given to the sectors of education and health and electricity, which have long been left behind. We have assigned duties to our government personnel to lay down policies in which discussions are held with the leaders of the ethnic tribes and the local people while transparency and accountability are ensured, and a channel is opened for the responses from the people.

Here, in the Chin State, the weather is cool and pleasant, and the Taungzalat flowers are always blooming over the pine hills. You can enjoy the unique beauty of Nature here. The Chin State stands for the traditional cultural heritage, and the special characteristics of the State, so long preserved through generations.

I have often visited the Chin State. I often note that the Chin nationals are remarkable for their strong spirit that always helps them overcome the harsh realities, withstanding the cold climatic conditions, and defying the difficult road transportation.

The Chin nationals have different languages, or dialects, and literatures, but I strongly believe that you will try your best for the benefit of the Chin State, utilizing the dictum "diversity as a source of unity". The emblem of the Chin State, the Hornbill, represents Faithfulness and Integrity. The Faithfulness and the Integrity of the Chin nationals really serve as a strong force for us on the road towards building the Democratic Federal Union.

The Chin National Day, being a day on which the decision was made for replacing the feudal lord system with the democratic system, is highly valued by the Chin nationals, and held in terms of the political significance. It is the main responsibility of the Chin nationals living in the hilly regions, the central plains, local and abroad, to pass the heritage of the much valuable political farsightedness and the democratic spirit to the Chin youths, the new generations.

In conclusion, we warmly welcome the 72nd anniversary of the Chin National Day. May the Chin nationals and the Chin State enjoy developments in all sectors, preserve the beauty of the Chin hills, and pass the heritage of political outlook and the democratic spirit to the younger generations. I would like to urge our Chin nationals to join actively, and strive unitedly together with other nationals, the offspring of the Union, in building the Democratic Federal Union.

My dear Chin nationals, may God bless your beautiful hearts. Thank you.

(Translated by Dr Zaw Tun)

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the Education Ministry meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Education ministry discusses quality assurance of school textbooks

THE Ministry of Education held a meeting at their office yesterday to ensure the quality of school textbooks meet set standards. Firstly, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi urged the quality assurance officials from district education offices present at the meeting to actively discuss for clarification. He said the technology acquired at this meeting should be used to ensure the quality textbooks reach the hands of students in time. Next, Ms Hikari Miyahara, Project Coordinator for the JICA (CREATE) Team, explained the meeting. In the second part of the meeting, Director-General U Ko Lay Win of the Basic Education Department delivered an address.

Afterwards, Dr Win Tun, Director-General of Educational Research, Planning and Training Department, explaining textbook compilation, a representative from the Ministry of Information explaining printing the textbooks, Mr Fumhaka Sato of JICA (CREATE) Team explaining the technology for assessing the quality and printing of the textbooks, and Ms Hikari Miyahara explaining compilation of textbooks for the new curriculum. This was followed by a question and answer session.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio speaks on 72nd Anniversary of Chin National Day

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the opening speech at the 72nd Chin National Day celebration in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech on the occasion of the 72nd Chin National Day celebration held at the Mingalabyuha Sasana Beikman in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council yesterday evening.

U Tual Ngin read out the founding history of the Chin National Day at the event.

Then, Member U Tual Cin Paul of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union read out the message of felicitations sent by Union President U Win Myint to the 72nd Anniversary Chin National Day.

Next, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said in his address: "If we look back into the past, we can see that the founding history of the Chin National Day as well as the history of Chin nationals have been initiated since the time under the colonial yoke. The historical records indicate that Chin nationals have taken whatever weapons they could get and whatever responsibilities they could choose by sacrificing their lives and properties to fight back the colonialists in the battles in Paletwa and Lushay Hills during the First Anglo-Burmese War in 1824-1826, and in the Independence Struggle under the colonial rule as well as in the battles to regain Independence.

The Chin National Day was designated after a historic decision to transform a feudal administrative system into a democratic administrative system was made on 20 February 1948. The transformation process could not be executed without difficulty but it can be accomplished with unanimous agreement among Chin nationals against tough historical backgrounds. I like to express my delight and pride as the Chin National Day means a Democracy Day for Chin ethnic national races.

As you are aware, Chin National leaders took the leading and very important role in designating the Chin National Day. I'd like to disclose some Chin National Leaders, who are respectable and historically significant throughout the history before and after our Independence. Bo Kyum Bik and Bo Khai Kam were leaders in the Independence Struggle against the British colonialists. Three Chin nationals of the Panglong signatories were U Hlur Hmung, U Thawng Za Khup and U Kio Mang. Chin National U Wam Thu Maung also took the lead submitting an independence proposal, on behalf of hilly regions, to the Naythurein Assembly held at Kandawgyi in Yangon. He also put forward the AFPFL's demand for simultaneous independence regardless of hilly regions and central plains. And Aung San Thuria Title Holder Captain Thura Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun also took his responsibilities towards the nation diligently with much of his sacrifices. All the Chin nationals put our Chin National Leaders on the record from our hearts.

Furthermore, we have many Chin ethnic nationals who have received the highest titles such as Maha Thayay Sithu, Sithu and Thiha Thura, Thura from the State as well as from the Tatmadaw. I take pride for Chin nationals in this regard. All Chin ethnic national races should strive for the emergence of good leaders like our Chin National leaders for the new generations as well as for our motherland Myanmar.

He concluded by expressing his gratitude and thanks to the State leaders for their participation and for their contribution of funds to the Chin National Day celebration as well as to the Chin Social Organizations.

Director-General U Min Aye Ko of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs then gave cash assistance to Chair U Win Soe Oo of the Chin Nationals Social Organization (Nay Pyi Taw).

The Vice President posed for a group photo with the attendees. This was followed by a performance by the Chin national cultural troupe, dancers and singers.

The attendees concluded the event by singing a song.

Present at the event were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairperson U Myo Nyunt of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung and U Ohn Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Member U Tual Cin Paul of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Deputy Ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council members, the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members and their wives, the departmental heads, the Chin Social Organizations (Nay Pyi Taw) officials, Chin ethnic national races and invited guests. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Chin dance troupe performing traditional dance on stage, during the ceremony marking the 72nd Chin National Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information receives Nepalese media delegation

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets with Nepalese media delegation led by Mr Kishor Shrestha, Chairman of the Press Council of Nepal, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met with a Nepalese media delegation led by Mr Kishor Shrestha, Chairman of the Press Council of Nepal at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

After extending greetings, the Union Minister briefed on functions of the departments and enterprise under the ministry to the delegation.

At the meeting, Nepalese Press Council's chairman Mr Kishor Shrestha also briefed on the organizational structure of the Nepalese Press Council, operations and activities related with media sector. After the talks, they exchanged gifts.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing, Vice Chairman Dr Myo Thant Tin and members of the MPC, members of the Press Council of Nepal, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information. MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Health ministry receives US disease control, prevention missions

Permanent Secretary Dr Thar Tun Kyaw holds talks with the US CDC Program Director for its Thailand office Dr Joshua Mott (Asia Regional Influenza Program) and Country Director Dr Mitesh Desai. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Health and Sports convened a meeting with officials from US CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the surveillance and containment of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) yesterday.

Permanent Secretary Dr Thar Tun Kyaw and MoHS officials met with the US CDC Program Director for its Thailand office Dr Joshua Mott (Asia Regional Influenza Program) and Country Director Dr Mitesh Desai from its Myanmar office and their teams.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary said they have been carrying out surveillance for COVID-19 since 5 January and formed committees from the national to regional/state levels for monitoring and containment. He said they have been constantly monitoring international airports, border checkpoints and the general public. He said they successfully evacuated 59 Myanmar students from Wuhan.

Next, officials from the US CDC missions explained preparations for testing for COVID-19 at MoHS' National Health Laboratory and shared their observations of disease surveillance processes at Myanmar's international airports. They praised the efforts of the ministry and gave suggestions on areas for improvement.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 56/2020

12th Waning of Tabodwe, 1381 ME
20 February, 2020

Public Announcement for abolishing of political party

1. The Union Election Commission had permitted the Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party to set up as a political party with registration no. 91 of the Notification (26/2015) on 2-7-2015.

2. Regarding the abolishing of the party, Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party submitted the application letter dated 9-1-2020, with letter No. 001/ A -2 / 2020 to the Union Election Commission. The UEC called the plenary meeting No.5/2020 on 20-2-2020 in which a decision was made to allow the Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party for going along with its submission citing the Political Parties Registration Law 19 (a) of the Union Election Commission.

3. It is hereby announced that the registration of the Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party was removed from the registered political parties list starting from the issuance of this announcement on 20 February 2020.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Public announcement for remonstration

The 88 Generation Brotherhood Party headquartered at No 101, Building 10, Shwe Hninsi Road, Shwe Linban Affordable Housing Part (1), Hlainethayar Township, Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 8-1-2020. In their application, they mention that they will use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission (UEC) about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Flag of The 88 Generation Brotherhood Party

Emblem of The 88 Generation Brotherhood Party

Union Election Commission

Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries about women affairs, calls for preparing AFTA

FROM PAGE-2

MP U Tin Maung Win from Seikkan constituency tabled a motion, suggesting the Union government for coordination of relevant ministries, to prepare for the list of 1,000 major products of Myanmar with the country's standards and specifications that will be included in the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement for the ASEAN Economic Community, while the other ASEAN countries have enlisted from 3,000 to 10,000 items of their products.

MP U Ne Phue Ba Swe from Pabedan constituency supported the motion.

The Deputy Speaker then announced unanimous support of Hluttaw to discuss the motion, and he also invited the names of MPs who want to discuss the motion.

MP U Kyaw Soe Lin, the Secretary of Bill Committee, presented recommendations of Bill Committee regarding the fifth regulations submitted by the Union Election Commission to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws. The report was discussed by the MPs and the Bill Committee, and approved by the Hluttaw with agreement of UEC.

The Deputy Speaker then announced to approve recommendations for the fifth regulations to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bylaws.

MP U Nay Myo Tun, the member of Bill Committee, submitted the recommendations of Bill Committee for the bylaws. The suggested issues were discussed by the Hluttaw MPs and Bill Committee.

The report was discussed by the MPs and the Bill Committee, and approved by the Hluttaw with agreement of UEC.

The Deputy Speaker then announced to approve recommendations for the fifth regulations to amend the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bylaws.

The Hluttaw also approved the fifth regulations to amend the State/Region Hluttaw Election Bylaws.

The 11th day of Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 24 February.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw: Yangon Region registers 188 petrol filling stations, 785,000 vehicles

FROM PAGE-2

The questions were answered by Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe.

MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency 9 asked about the ongoing status of drafting Myanmar National Sports Law, and it was answered by the Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

MP U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe from Taninthayi Region constituency 10 discussed the bill for using Red Cross Emblem.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw about receiving the bylaws of Tax Appellate Tribunal Law (TATL) sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with approved recommendations.

He also called for submitting the names of Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss it mentioning with specific paragraphs.

The 10th day meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 24 February.—Aung Ye Thwin and Soe Win Tun

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concerts 2020 staged in Yangon

THE Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra of Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, together with Japanese artistes, featured their performances at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

The event, dubbed 'Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concerts 2020', was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Yangon Region Government's Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama, heads of foreign missions in Myanmar, the invited guests and music lovers.

The concert was started with the national anthems of Myanmar and Japan.

Myanmar musicians and Japanese conductor and composer Mr Yunosuke Yamamoto entertained the audience with western music, Myanmar classical songs and western songs.

A similar event will be presented admission-free at Myanmar International Convention Center-II in Nay Pyi Taw from 6 pm to 8 pm on 25 February.—Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

The Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra and Japanese musicians perform the audiences at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO : HLA MOE**

Than Zay building in YGN Chinatown closed due to fire outbreak

EIGHTEEN people have been hospitalized after a fire broke out at Than Zay building in Yangon's Latha Township around 6 am yesterday morning.

The fire also destroyed 42 stalls on the second floor of the 11-storey building before firefighters put it out at 9:10 am.

Firefighters putting out fires at Than Zay building in Yangon's Latha Township. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

The building is a combination of a market area from the ground floor to the sixth floor, and residential apartments for the remaining floor. Firefighters, Tatmadaw and police officers and other personnel were able to evacuate the 85 residents of the building with no casualties reported.

U Htay Win, Assistant Director of Yangon Western District Fire Services Department, said as the emergency exit was locked, the residents had to be evacuated with platform crane lifts.

Ko Mawsi, a resident from the 10th floor, said he heard there was a fire on the lower floors but when he went to investigate there was a lot of smoke and he returned to his room. He said rescue operations were difficult as there were elderly and physically handicapped people in the building.

U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Yangon Region Social Rescue Organization, said there were no deaths or major casualties and most of the people were sent to Yangon General Hospital for asphyxiation and other minor injuries.

While an initial report says the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit, officials are looking for other causes and the extent of the damage. The building has been temporarily closed and undergoing inspection for structural integrity.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

21 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Better protection of children in conflict-ridden areas is paramount

THE February 13 incident when a village school in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State was hit by shelling reflects how armed conflict is making life miserable for locals.

Every child has the right to protection, health, education, and fair treatment. For children killed or injured in conflict, these rights are far beyond reach.

We are deeply troubled over the 17 children who were injured in the February 13 incident. We believe that the local authorities have made the best arrangements for the children, who have been admitted to the hospital, and also for their education once they are discharged.

> Actions that damage children's health, education, and psychological well-being will imperil the future of the country. Armed conflicts can delay a country or a state's recovery.

Rakhine State has seen development and the socio-economic life of people has improved in areas where peace prevails, but instability has delayed progress in conflict-ridden areas.

We all need to cooperate and make efforts to ensure peace and stability in all parts of Rakhine State.

As they are the future of our country, our children need to enjoy their rights, including security, development, and protections guaranteed by the Child Rights Law.

The Union Government is focusing on ethnic affairs and internal peace, giving priority to states mostly inhabited by ethnic minorities.

Rakhine is one of the states prioritized by the Union Government for the development of children. However, it would be difficult to bring about the development of children if there is no peace in the areas where they live.

The most important factors for development are peace and rule of law. Hence, the incumbent government is working hard to end armed conflict not only in Rakhine State but also in other parts of the country.

Our country is a Union, and all ethnic people living in the regions and states need to inculcate the Union spirit because we, the people of Myanmar, are the brethren of the Union.

All citizens must foster the spirit of loving peace, and each of their thoughts and physical and verbal actions must lead to peace.

Actions that damage children's health, education, and psychological well-being will imperil the future of the country. Armed conflicts can delay a country or a state's recovery. Without decisive action, violence will make lasting casualties of a generation of children in every conflict-ridden area. Better protection of children is paramount now.

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Grandfather telling stories to the children.

The Art of Storytelling

By Maung Hlaing

THE Global New Light of Myanmar of 18-2-2020 carried a news item entitled "Third Story Project organizes storytelling workshop in YGN". Such a news story is rare one we hardly see in the dailies or other reading materials.

According to the news, Third Story Project, in cooperation with the Asia Foundation, organized a storytelling workshop called 'Let's Read' at the News and Periodicals Enterprise building on Theinbyu Road on 17 February. And according to the lady organizer, I come to know that Myanmar Storytellers and Youth Volunteers (Yangon), both philanthropic organizations, have been collaborating for children's education since 2012. I say "Sadhu, or well done" three times.

The storytelling indeed is a source of children's literature. Some time about four decades ago, I came across two books on storytelling written by famous scholars at that time. I got them from a famous Cartoonist (U) Than Nwe, Younger brother of Cartoonist (U) Than Kywe. Although I returned the books to them, some quotable quotes are still in my note book.

One book I have read was "How to Tell Stories to Children" written by Miss Bryant. In this charming book, the writer says, " Perhaps never, sinee the really old days, has story-telling so nearly reached a recognized level of dignity as a legitimate and general art of entertainment as now."

According to "The Book of stories for the storyteller," by fanny E.Coe, Mr. Herbert L.Willett of the University of Chicago has said, " It is not through formal instruction that a child receives his impulses toward virtue, honour and courtesy. It is rather from such appeal to the emotions as can be made most effectually through the telling of a story. The inculcation of a duty leaves him passionless and unmoved. The narrative of an experience in which that same virtue finds concrete embodiment fires him with the desire to try the same conduct for himself. Few children fail to make the immediate connection between the hero or heroine of the story and themselves."

As for ordinary readers, they may not easily appreciate the remarks made by the scholars. However, as for those who have knowledge of children's literature, they may easily detect the essence of storytelling which is the source of childern's literature.

To be frank, during the 1970s and 1980s, We could see so many storytelling contests at schools conducted by authorities concerned of education field. Sadly, we seldom hear the news on storytelling contests nowadays.

The ability to tell a story well, indeed, plays an important part of parents and teachers of little children.

When we were toddlers, before we had even learned to read, we loved to listen to the tales or stories our Grandpa or Grandma told us. Hundreds of times we were transported to the Benares and saw King Bramahdat who is well acquainted with children. Although we had not read the Zinat-hta-pakar-thani, we were quite familiar with life stories of the would-be-Buddha. It was simply because our grandparents instilled happiness of listening to stories or tales in their children.

Together with the brave prince, we broke the spell the witch had cast over Sleeping Beauty. And we were all ear to the story of "Mae Htway Lay and the Serpent", an original Myanmar folktale. We had pity on Mae Htway Lay who was simple and honest. At the same time, we had an antipathy on her cruel elders.

However, although we grew older, we did not lose contact with the fearless characters from our favourite tales. We still met them in books, on the stage and the screen.

No one can deny that storytelling has great influence over the children and it has become the source of children's literature. In the guise of entertainment, the story is often the vehicle conveying the wholesome moral lessons or the habit of desirable knowledge to the child.

Very often, the tellers are at a loss for fresh materials. In such a circumstance, they are compelled to make up a story, with poor satisfaction to themselves or their children. However, these made-up stories are what we call creative stories. The quality of the creative ones solely depends on the tellers.

However, no nations or societies are out of tales. Every nation has its own fairy tales. While the tales of different nations resemble each other, they are at the same time widely different. It is not difficult to distinguish between Myanmar, Chinese, English, French, German, Indian, Japanese and Russian tales because each describes the life and natural surrounding of the land to which it belongs and where it has been handed down from generation to generation.

Almost all the tales were first told, long long ago. As they were retold, the tellers added new details and changed the old ones according to individual views and tastes. The older the stories grew, the more interesting and artistic they became. The reason was that people polished and perfected them in the course of the centuries.

Most of the scholars in this field consider that fairy tales are a poetic invention, but at the same time, they reflect the real environment. Such tales tell of the people's hopes and aspirations, their desire to improve life and lighten their mood. They also make the people believe in their own strength and rely on themselves.

One of the most interesting things is the life-story of some great men or women.

Children love to listen to a story with a hero who accomplishes something in the face of difficulties. Whether it be Napoleon of Florence Nightingale, Tabin-shwe-htee or Bayint Naung of Myanmar history, Jawaharlal Nehru of India of Bogyoke Aung San of Myanmar, the biography is inspiring.

There are also countless tales about animals that attract almost every child. We can call them bedtime stories that we frequently listened to when we were toddlers.

Whenever we were told, we usually saw the characters of a sly fox, stupid wolf, clumsy bear and so on. Animal tales, like fables, have symbolic significance exposing human vices and shortcomings, such as greed, cunning and stupidity.

Children also like wonder-tales which mostly are poetic and amusing. Such tales usually transport them to the world of fantasy. Because these tales are based on imagination and invention, most of the characters in the tales never end in tragedy.

They are always fearless, courageous and noble heroes who become the apple of the children's eyes. As a matter of fact, not only the children but also the grown-ups enjoy the tales.

It is quite impossible to resist the charm of their heroes, the beauty of their language, and the force of their message. They give us the valuable lessons on love of one's coutry, faith in the strength of the simple folk, confidence in a better future and triumph of good over evil. They all become the high ideals of the children.

Today, these stories and tales are transformed into picture books, pictorials, comic journals, modern short stories, fables and creative stories, drama scripts, humour and translation of literary works. When we were young, we were never fed up with listening to the tales or stories even they were made up of hackneyed themes.

Likewise, when we grow older and find them in book form, we never turn a blind eye to them. They, indeed, have a beneficial influence on the literary world.

In our country today, the government itself, is dedicated to achieving headway in children's literature. Thus, magazines, journals and other periodicals designed and illustrated for children are gaining momentum. At the same time, private publishers are now taking a role in the publishing arena. However, we find that some of the books they publish are far from children's comprehension. We still need books of tales for children.

Children love to listen to tales or stories told by their parents. When they grow up, they surely will tell their children the tales they themselves heard from their parents.

In this way, children of generation by generation will take part in this relay of storytelling practice. According to the Third Story Project, we know that the project not only helps children receive storybooks, they also aim to instil good manners in young minds.

As long as we nurture the stroy telling practice for children, we will see the brighter the future of Myanmar. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing storytelling contests at schools of Myanmar in future.

I take my hat off to those who conducted such a storytelling workshop.

Let's make the storytelling practice alive!

Ref. The Guardian Magazine, August, 1985.

Storytelling workshop organized by Third Story Project held in downtown Yangon on 17 February. **PHOTO: OMMAR THANT**

Statement on the ICOE's Report

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team released an announcement pertaining to ICOE's report yesterday.

The final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE was released on 21 January, 2020. Tatmataw received the entire report and its (30) annexes. The report is being reviewed by Tatmataw in great detail. Among the incidents mentioned in the report, the incident of Gutarpyin village is still on trial and the incident of Inn din village was already adjudicated.

The statement on the trial of Gutarpyin Court-Martial will be released in the near future.

Among the remaining incidents mentioned in the report, the incidents of Maung Nu village and Chut Pyin village have been reviewed by Tatmataw. The Court of Inquiry will investigate such incidents and the trial of Court-Martial will be followed in accordance with the law and in line with the processes of Military Justice.

According to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, the remaining incidents mentioned in the report are still being reviewed.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 20th February, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21st February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy 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 Shan and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st February, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st 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.

Gov't officials discuss resettling IDPs, camp closures

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a coordination meeting to draft a guideline for developing action plans to close IDP camps in line with the National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Attending the meeting were Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, representatives from relevant ministries, state/regional governments and UEHRD, and Prof Walter Kaelin, International Consultant from Switzerland.

The Union Minister first gave a speech, where he said the IDP camps were set up in response to conflicts in Myanmar and there are 128 camps in Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine states. He said the camps are temporary and it is the government's duty to resettle the camp inhabitants. He said this is why the national strategy for that purpose was published in November 2019 and the contents explained to states with IDP camps. The Union Minister said there should be action plans and guidelines to assist in selection of priority IDP camps for resettlement and to address the educational, healthcare and employment needs of the people living there.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting to draft a guideline for developing action plan on National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and closure of IDP camps. **PHOTO: MNA**

Next, Prof Walter Kaelin, who was involved in the creation of the national strategy, talked about the visit to IDP camps in Shan State to assess the implementation phase. The Deputy Minister also explained various processes. Afterwards, the Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs and government representatives from Rakhine, Shan and Kachin states explained the action plans for resettling IDPs in their regions and ministry and UEHRD officials provided suggestions and asked questions.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Bago Chief Minister stresses on development of ecotourism at meeting

ECOTOURISM will be sought and needs to be developed in future, said Chief Minister U Win Thein at a coordination meeting on hotels and tourism development, held on 19 February at the Taw Win Hintha hall of the Bago regional government office.

The meeting started with a speech by Chief Minister U Win Thein, the regional tourism committee chairman, in which he noted that ecotourism, focusing on the country's forests, mountains, waterways and land, will increase in the future. "We need to give more attention to tourism based on cultural traditions, religious edifices, regional products, and natural resources. Also, we need to notify regional tour guides that tourists are not allowed to go to some restricted areas and that more tours need to be arranged for tourists so they can observe the traditions and cultures of Shan and Kayah villages near Pathi dam," he said.

Bago Chief Minister U Win Thein addresses the coordination meeting on hotels and tourism development at the Bago regional government office on 19 February. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

Afterwards, regional tourism committee secretary, U Hauk Kyin Mohn, also explained the evaluations and further actions being undertaken in keeping with the resolutions taken at an earlier meeting (3/2019) on the tourism sector. Then, other officials gave their remarks. Between January and December, 2019, Bago Region earned K2.3 billion from 222,091 domestic tourists and 93,930 foreign tourists. The region also opened 82 hotels with 2,097 rooms.

The meeting on Wednesday was also attended by Planning and Finance Minister U Nyunt Shwe, regional government secretary U Khin Maung San, and other regional officials. —Tin Soe (Bago)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Action taken in over 1,700 cases involving violations of YBS rules since Jan: YRTA

ACTION has been taken in more than 1,700 cases pertaining to violations of Yangon Bus Service rules and regulations in the last one and a half months, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"Traffic regulatory teams are checking and taking action against YBS bus lines found breaking rules and regulations. From 1 January to 15 February, the teams took action against 1,471 buses, while 248 letters of complaints were received from passengers, and three cases of buses crossing to other areas were reported," he added.

"We receive more than 30 YBS complaints every day. The YBS, the main provider of public transport for Yangon's inner-city commuters, has now completed over three years. However, some YBS drivers are still breaking the rules: they do not stop at bus stops and are collecting bus fares instead of letting passengers put the fare in the slot machines," according to officials from the YRTA.

Therefore, the transport authority has issued smart cards to YBS drivers so that it will have the personal information of every driver. The YRTA hopes that this will make it easier for the authorities to deal with complaints or take action against undisciplined bus drivers. Currently, smart cards have been issued to more than 8,000 drivers. To reduce traffic accidents and ensure compliance with traffic rules and regulations, a YBS special driver's training course was opened in July, 2017 by the YRTA and the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD). As of now, 2,088 drivers have undergone such training courses. Most of them are currently employed with the YBS bus lines, according to the YRTA.

Earlier, the YBS special driver's training courses could be attended by those holding a five-year (E) (Nga) driving license. Now, those who have a three-year driving license can apply for the courses.

The Yangon Bus Service was launched on 16 January, 2017 during the incumbent government's term to improve transportation services in Yangon. At present, more than 100 bus lines are running 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the airport shuttle and the city transit. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bronze statue businesses thriving in Shan Kalay Kyun Sanpya village

BRONZE statue businesses are operating successfully in Shan Kalay Kyun Sanpya village in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, enabling the local people to earn extra income, according to local bronze statue business owners.

Mandalay, which is among the transport and economic hubs in the country, has no dearth of handicraft enterprises.

"I mostly make bronze statues of the Buddha. The raw materials for this business are bronze, red clay, and wax. First, the wax is applied around the clay core. Finer details are cut or etched into the wax surface, while pieces of wax in various designs may be added at this stage to create surface relief. After the wax image is coated with fine red clay and powdered paddy husk, care is taken to make sure that each crevice is completely filled. The outer mould is then created with a heavier mixture of clay, sand, and paddy husk. To hold it in place, some thin iron rods are inserted into the wax to the clay core. They later act as an outlet for the wax when it is replaced by molten bronze. The images are then left to dry. With one stove we can make 65 Buddha images, and this takes about a month. We send the images mostly to Tampawady. The raw materials are brought in from Tampawady and cost K9,800-10,000 per viss. The red clay costs K50,000 and can be used for around 3 months," said U Aung Naing Win, a bronze statue business owner.

It takes around 70 tical (1 tical =16.3293 grams) of bronze to make one 7-inch tall Buddha image, while 1 viss of bronze is needed to produce a 8-inch tall Buddha image, and 6 viss of bronze is used to make an 18-inch tall Buddha image, said bronze business owners.

While a Buddha image measuring 1 foot is priced at K55,000, a 15-inch image sells for K90,000, and an 18-inch image fetches K150,000, they added.

"The labour charges per image stand at K5,000. This business needs more skilled labour, and it can generate extra income for workers," said U Aung Naing Win.

A man making bronze Buddha statue in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.
PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN (INDAW)

There are eight locals engaged in the bronze statue businesses in Shan Kalay Kyun Sanpya village. The bronze Buddha images are mostly purchased in Mandalay region. —Maung Chit Lin (Indaw)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Exports see sharp rise; up $1 bln as of 7 Feb

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 7 February in the 2019-2020 financial year shot up to US$6.5 billion from $5.46 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects an increase of $1.03 billion compared with the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, finished industrial goods, and minerals showed an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products, and other goods declined.

Export values were registered at $1.3 billion for agro products, $50.4 million for livestock, $359.2 million for fishery products, $924.59 million for minerals, $61.98 million for forest products, $3.67 billion for manufactured goods, and $127.5 million for other goods.

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

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Chinese investors slower to discuss investments in Myanmar amid COVID-19

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of Chinese investors coming to Myanmar to discuss investment opportunities has declined amidst the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"The country expected to attract more investments from China post the Chinese New Year. But, COVID-19 has affected investment," he said.

"Fewer Chinese investors have discussed investments in Myanmar. Moreover, the arrival of tourists has also dropped," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"The coronavirus outbreak has disrupted the Chinese economy. Furthermore, it can negatively affect China's neighbours, including Myanmar," he added.

In addition, the Yangon Region Investment Forum 2020, which was earlier scheduled to be held in February-end for investment promotion in the region, has been postponed, according to the DICA.

China is the second largest investor in Myanmar, with 430 projects bringing in capital of US$20.9 billion since 1988.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Thailand-Myanmar border trade climbs to $1.3 bln in current fiscal

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand was registered at US$1.314 billion as of 7 February in the current financial year compared with $1.28 billion in the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October, 2019 and 7 February, 2020, Myanmar's exports to Thailand were pegged at $906.16 million, while imports were estimated at $408.229 million.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, Myeik and Hteekhee gates witnessed a decline in trade in the 2019-2020 financial year.

Last year, the Hteekhee gate saw the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. This year, trade at the gate dropped by over $100 million.

The value of trade stood at $44.879 million at Tachilek, $390 million at Myawady, $131.8 million at Kawthoung, $68 million at Myeik, $668.64 million at Hteekhee, $9.27 million at Mawtaung, and $1.64 million at Maese.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products such as crab, fish, and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products from the neighboring country. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Issuance of the Union Supreme Court: the Key Performance in 2019 and Priority Actions for 2020

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 February 2020

THE Supreme Court of the Union today issues the key performance in 2019 and priority actions for 2020.

The Key Performance in 2019

- Improving clearance rate of cases at the different levels of court up to 99.57%
- Expanding the implementation of National Case Management program (NCMP) in 5 district courts and 43 township courts to be fair and efficient trial and improving the performance of clearance rate, disposing of the cases within time standard and trial date certainty
- Supporting the formation and reorganization of legal aid bodies in Regions, States and Townships and their offices
- Publishing the "Case Study Book on International Transaction " for improving judicial and professional skills of judges and conducting the Launching Seminar with the concerned ministries, academies and private sector
- Drafting the curriculum and court procedures for judges on intellecual property rights
- Issuing the directive for use of the special interview rooms and witness interpreters in courts for the children and witnesses who need the protection
- Issuing the notification to be followed by the lawyers and notaries for anti-money laundering
- Uploading the clearance rate and average time to disposition for civil cases of the township courts in Yangon Region and judgments of commercial cases decided in 2018 by the Supreme Court of the Union and different levels of court, in the website of the Union Supreme Court
- Distributing the brochures of court information in local languages: Kachin, Kayah, Poe Kayin, Sakaw Kayin, Mon, Shan , Pa-O
- Engaging with the Media about 210 times and providing the information of public interest litigations in timely manner
- Implementing the Court-led Mediation Pilot Program in 2 District Courts and 2 Township Courts

Priority Actions for 2020

- Improve clearance rate of cases at the different levels of court to reach the target
- Expand the implementation of National Case Management program in 25 district courts and 109 township courts and improve the performance of clearance rate, disposing of the cases within time standard and trial date certainty
- Expand the Pilot Program of the Court-led Mediation in 6 Township Courts
- Expand coverage of special interview rooms and video conferencing facilities in courts
- Draft the new legal framework: small claim procedures and insolvency rules
- Make work plan for establishment of Commercial Court
- Make roll-out plan of the Court-led Mediation Syatem
- Establish the IT platform for judgment publication
- Enhance the judicial and professional skills of the judges and judicial officers
- Enhance the judicial cooperation with regional judicial institutions for cross-border civil and commercial cases

The Performance of the Supreme Court of the Union in 2019 is available in the 2019 Annual Report and Actions for 2020 are available in Year 3 Action Plan (2020) of Judicial Strategic Plan.

Supreme Court of the Union
Nay Pyi Taw

YCDC holds 2nd Workshop for Multiple Risks Management in Extreme Events in YGN, Fast Growing (Mega) Cities in Myanmar Applied Research Project (2nd Phase)

2nd Workshop for Multiple Risks Management in Extreme Events held in Yangon.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Yangon City Development Committee is cooperating with the Cologne University-Germany to make Multiple Risks Management in extreme events in Yangon and fast growing Mega Cities in Myanmar Applied research project (2nd phase) said U Soe Lwin, Deputy Mayor of YCDC.

He made opening remarks at the workshop held on 14 February at City Hall of YCDC.

"We are making efforts to be safe from increased risks of rapid and slow onset natural disasters and live in sustainable, inclusive, low carbon, climate resilient towns." We are also cooperating with technical experts and students from Cologne University, Germany," said U Soe Lwin.

"Unlike other projects, this project is very different from other projects for including not only implementation stage but also research and knowledge sharing scholarship programme. We are also achieve not only research papers, maps and data from this project but also valuable experience of survey works and knowledge of data analysis process. These will be very useful and helpful for our mega cities of multiple risks management in extreme events, he added.

"The Myanmar Climate Change Master Plan clearly defines a series of high-priority activities, their respective strategic indication and the responsibilities of involved stakeholders, Deputy Mayor said. Moreover, in Myanmar climate change strategy also defines across six specific sectors, COC has to lead these actions to be successful, Deputy Mayor said.

As a national cross sectoral framework, strongly urges to incorporate all ministries and sub-national government and to invest from private and public organization their plans and targets. Besides private sector and development partners should support to capacity development in terms of technology, finance and human resources, said U Soe Lwin.

The project will cover other four mega cities, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Mandalay and Mawlamyine. Moreover YCDC, Yangon University, other related departments, development committees and government of the other mega cities will cooperate as well.—GNLM

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **AKA YAZAR CO.,LTD**, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **UNION-AGROCHEM CROP PROTECTION Co.,Ltd** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributer **NET WORK MARKETING LIMITED.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

AKA YAZAR CO.,LTD. Ph-0455557863, 09455557864

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	UNI-CYPERFOS 55 EC	Cypermethrin 5%+Chlorpyrifos 50% EC	2015-2615	Provisional

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **MARGA MIN CO.,LTD**, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **UNION-AGROCHEM CROP PROTECTION Co.,Ltd** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributer **NET WORK MARKETING LIMITED** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

MARGA MIN CO.,LTD. Ph-0455557863, 09455557864

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	UNI-CART 50 SP	Cartap Hydrochloride 50 % SP	2014-2122	Provisional

News release on surveillance activities of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has been conducting surveillance activities on the COVID-19 acute respiratory disease, which has spread throughout China and some countries around the world, at international entry-exit checkpoints, hospital-based, community-based and in cooperation with private hospitals.

2. A male Chinese citizen from Chongqing, aged 26, arrived in Myanmar on 11-2-2020, developed a high fever on 19-2-2020 and sought medical attention at an external clinic where he was referred to Waibargi Specialist Hospital. The patient is currently under surveillance and a laboratory specimen has been sent to the National Health Laboratory (NHL). The patient has not exhibited symptoms of acute respiratory infection.

3. Surveillance on 4 hospital patients is continuing as of 12 p.m. on 20-2-2020.

4. Laboratory specimens from these patients have been sent to NHL on 20-2-2020 and the results as of 6 p.m. of the following 3 patients:

(a) A 40-year old male patient at Waibargi Specialist Hospital
(b) A 26-year old female patient at Mandalay General Hospital (had close contact with a patient in Singapore approved with lab tests)
(c) A 26-year old male patient at Waibargi Specialist Hospital showed no indication of the presence of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019).

5. A patient receiving medical attention at a state/regional hospital as of 6 p.m. on 20-2-2020 is showing signs of improvement. The results of their lab results will be made public in real-time.

6. The Ministry of Health and Sports is conducting surveillance activities on the COVID-19 in line with international health regulations and with the National Focal Point for International Health Regulations of World Health Organization, neighboring countries and other nations.

The Chinese consulate in Mandalay reported on 19-2-2020 that from among the 119 passengers who departed from TadaU International Airport, Mandalay Region, for Hubei Province, China, on 25-1-2020, 2 of the passengers had contracted COVID-19 disease on 7-2-2020 and 11-2-2020 separately.

According to the report, both of the 2 travelers had been residing in Mandalay from 20-1-2020 to 24-1-2020 and departed for China on 25-1-2020. After they had landed in China, they both contracted COVID-19 on 7-2-2020 and 11-2-2020 separately.

7. As soon as the news was received, the Mandalay Region Public Health Department conducted medical examinations on the people who had close contact with the 2 travelers, including their tour guides, hotel and restaurant staff, drivers and their family members. All of them are currently in good health conditions and have been instructed to immediately contact the health department for signs of symptoms. They have been instructed on disease prevention techniques and the department will continue surveillance activities on them.—MoHS

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Legal Translation Commission holds 6th meeting

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the sixth meeting of Legal Translation Commission at the office of the Union Attorney-General. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Legal Translation Commission held their sixth meeting at the office of the Union Attorney-General on 19 February.

Commission Chairman and Union Attorney-General, U Tun Tun Oo, said the fifth meeting discussed the translation of four laws which will be included in volume 7 of translated laws.

He said they have published 20 laws up to volume 6 and this three-day meeting will discuss translation of the Penal Code, the Negotiable Instruments Act, and the Public Property Protection Act.

The UAG said their working groups are currently translating 16 laws and 38 laws are slated for translation. Commission members and invited guests were present at the meeting.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Extension in Date
Expression of Interest sought for Private Sector Participation in Myingyan Steel Mill
No.(1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise,
Ministry of Planning, Finance & Industry

With reference to Expression of Interest published in the Global New Light of Myanmar on 15.01.2020 and 16.01.2020 for "Private Sector Participation in Myingyan Steel Mill". The date of submission of EoI has been extended as per following detail, the **Extension Selling for the EoI form is [24 Feb to 6 March 2020]**.

Submission : Last date for submission of EoI documents on 10.03.2020 at 15:00 PM.
Address : Managing Director,
Office No.30, No.(1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise,
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry,
Zeya Htani Road, Naypyitaw.
Phone : 067-3405158, 067-3405159, 067-3405322
Email : hie1.steel@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SERENA VOY. NO. (007N/008S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS SERENA VOY. NO. (007N/008S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TRUST STAR

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRUST STAR VOY. NO. (26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Cancer Drugs, NCD Drugs, Top-20 items(Oral-10, Injection-10 items) 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 (25.2.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (24-3-2020),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

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

Japan, China postpone another prep meeting for Xi's state visit

BEIJING/TOKYO — Japan and China have decided to put off another preparatory meeting later this month of high-ranking officials amid the spread of a new strain of coronavirus, diplomatic sources said Wednesday, boosting the likelihood that President Xi Jinping's state visit this spring may be delayed.

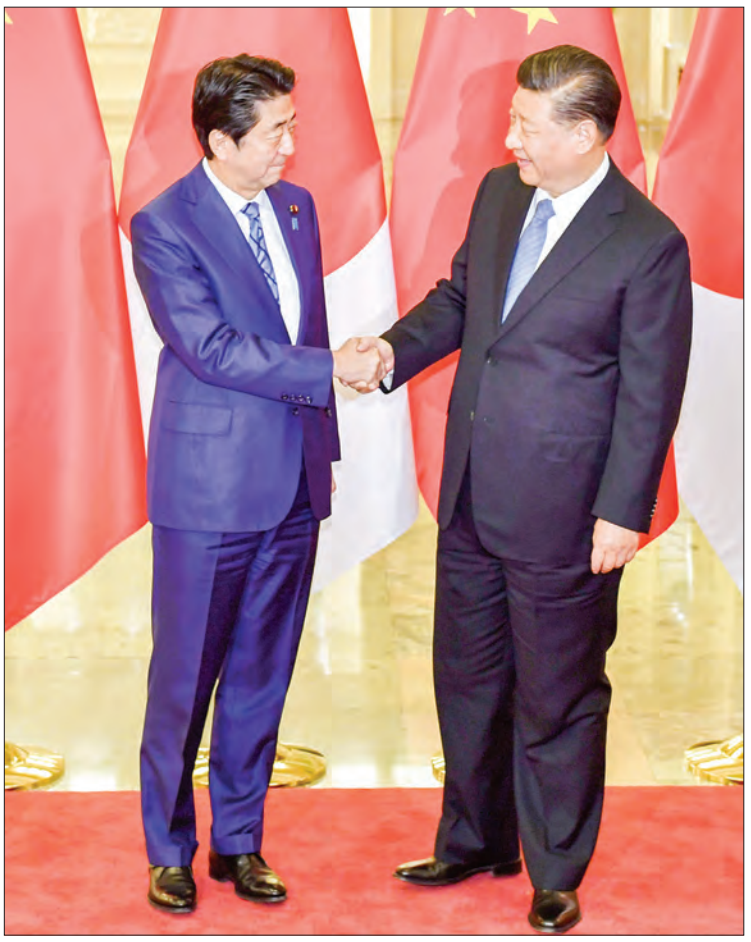
The vice ministerial-level meeting on economic partnership was an opportunity to discuss specific outcomes that Japan and China will aim to produce during Xi's visit, which has been arranged for early April.

The new pneumonia-causing virus has spread from the central Chinese city of Wuhan to Japan and more than 20 other countries, prompting a rethink of bilateral working-level meetings as Beijing has struggled to contain the disease, named COVID-19.

China's leadership has admitted "shortcomings and deficiencies" in responding to the outbreak. In mainland China alone, the virus has killed over 2,000 and infected more than 74,000.

One of the diplomatic sources said the meeting at the vice minister level was "very important" among a series of preparatory discussions.

China is expected to make a decision on whether to go ahead with the state visit as planned after taking into account the outbreak situation in the coming weeks and Japanese public sentiment, the sources said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (r) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands ahead of their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 23 December, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Xi's first visit to Japan since he came to power in 2013 would signify a further improvement in bilateral ties that had been chilled over wartime history and territory. If realized, he will meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and have an audience with Emperor Naruhito and a banquet at the Imperial Palace.

Some conservative ruling party lawmakers in Japan have said it would be an inappropriate time for the two countries to go ahead with Xi's state visit. —Kyodo News ■

Kashmir journalist wins AFP's Kate Webb Prize

NEW DELHI — Freelance reporter Ahmer Khan was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize on Thursday for his coverage on the ground in India-controlled Kashmir during Delhi's lockdown of the region.

The award, named after one of AFP's finest correspondents, recognises journalism by locally hired reporters in Asia operating in risky or difficult conditions.

Khan, 27, was honoured for a series of video and written reports that vividly illustrated the impact on locals in the Muslim-majority area following India's decision to strip Kashmir of its semi-autonomous status in August. The country's Hindu-nationalist government imposed restrictions on movement and a communications blackout, virtually cutting the Himalayan region off from the outside world. India insisted the move was aimed at bringing prosperity and peace to a region where tens of thousands of people have died in a decades-old separatist rebellion that India blames on arch rival Pakistan. Despite curfews and a heavy security presence, Khan took to the streets with his camera to document the tensions, concerns and frustrations among the residents of Srinagar and other cities in Kashmir.—AFP ■

Ahmer Khan, 27, was honoured for a series of video and written reports that vividly illustrated the impact on locals in Kashmir following India's decision to strip the region of its semi-autonomous status in August. **PHOTO: AFP**

Southern Philippine grenade blast kills 2 children

MANILA — A rifle grenade exploded inside a house in Dipolog City in the southern Philippines on Thursday, killing two boys aged eight and five, a military general said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Mindanao Command Lieutenant General Cirilito Sobejana said the children were playing inside the room of their house when the explosion occurred around 9:30 am local time on Thursday.

The victims were taken to a hospital where they were pronounced dead, he added. Sobejana said an investigation is underway to look into the explosion.—Xinhua ■

China says media blatantly insulting country must pay price

BEIJING — China on Thursday said that media organizations that blatantly insult China and spread racial discrimination must pay the price, after the country expelled three reporters of The Wall Street Journal a day earlier.

"Does freedom of speech entail publishing a racist, discriminatory and insulting article?" Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang asked at a regular press briefing, defending its decision to revoke the correspondents' press credentials after the US newspaper published an op-ed China deemed racist and slanderous.

The article, titled "China is the Real Sick Man of Asia" by Bard College professor Walter Russel Mead, has triggered "huge indignation and condemnation from China and the larger international community," Geng said.

The US newspaper is doing "nothing but fudging the issue and dodging its responsibility," Geng said, adding that China has the right to take further measures.

In recent years, China has effectively expelled foreign journalists on a number of occasions by not renewing their visas.

Wall Street Journal publisher William Lewis expressed disappointment in China's decision, saying the paper regrets having "caused upset and concern amongst the Chinese people," in a statement on Wednesday.

The three expelled journalists — Josh Chin and reporter Chao Deng, both US nationals, as well as reporter Philip Wen, an Australian national — had no involvement in the article, the statement stressed.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the expulsion, saying "mature, responsible countries understand that a free press reports facts and expresses opinions." —Kyodo News ■

The News Corporation building on 6th Avenue, New York, home to Fox News, the New York Post and The Wall Street Journal. China on 19 February, ordered three reporters from The Wall Street Journal to leave the country. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former Mexico leader Pena Nieto investigated for graft: WSJ

MEXICO CITY — Former Mexican president Enrique Pena Nieto is being investigated over a graft scandal at the country's massive state oil company Pemex, the Wall Street Journal has reported.

The probe relates to the conduct of the firm's former chief executive Emilio Lozoya, who was arrested in Spain last week and faces extradition over claims he accepted millions of dollars in bribes.

An unnamed senior judicial official told the Journal that Lozoya's corruption "reached the highest level" and implicated Pena Nieto, who left office in late 2018.

The ex-leader could be charged as the investigation continued, according to the official quoted in the newspaper's Wednesday report.

Enrique Pena Nieto is being investigated over graft allegations at Mexican oil firm Pemex. **Photo: AFP**

Lozoya is wanted in Mexico for involvement in a vast corruption scandal involving Odebrecht, a Brazilian construction firm accused of paying almost a billion dollars to politicians across Latin America to win lucrative contracts. He allegedly began taking payments from the company in 2012, when he was chief international strategist for Pena Nieto who at the time was running for president. Part of the money was allegedly used to finance Pena Nieto's campaign. Lozoya denies the accusations against him.

Pemex is Mexico's largest firm but has been beleaguered by more than $100 billion in debt, making it one of the world's most indebted companies.—AFP ■

ORBITUARY

Lt-Col Aye Kyin (Retd)

BC-6746, OTS 10th Intake
Director-General (Retd) of Industry-1
Ambassador (Retd)
Aged 92

Lt-Col Aye Kyin (Retd), BC-6746, 10th Intake of the Officer Training School, Director-General (Retd) of the Ministry of Industry-1, Ambassador (Retd) passed away at 5 am on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at the age of 92.

He was born to parents U Ba Thein and Daw Hla Sein and lived at No. 22, Thityarpin Lane-2, Thingangyun Township,Yangon Region. He is the Son-in-Law of Mr and Mrs Toledo, the husband of Daw Aye Aye (a) Peggy, and Brother-in-Law of Mr and Mrs Antony Toledo, Mr and Mrs Gearld Toledo, Mr and Mrs C Johns, Mr and Mrs Ronnie Toledo, Mr and Mrs Albert Boudville, and Mr and Mrs Adems.

The cremation will take place on Friday, 21 February, 2020 at 2 pm at the Yeway Cemetery.

Bereaved brothers and sisters

Nine dead in 'xenophobic' Germany bar shootings

BERLIN — A shooter with suspected far-right beliefs killed nine people at a shisha bar and a cafe in the German city of Hanau, police said Thursday, before apparently killing himself and his mother.

Federal counter-terror prosecutors announced they were investigating the case, which showed "signs of a xenophobic motive", a spokesman told AFP.

Among the dead were "several victims of Kurdish origin", the Kon-Med association of Kurds in Germany said in a statement, adding that it was "furious" that authorities were not doing more to combat rightwing extremism.

Alarm has been growing about an increasingly emboldened far-right movement in Germany, following a deadly anti-Semitic attack in Halle and the murder of a pro-migrant politician last year.—AFP ■

Realizing Syrians' dream for peace still has long way to go: UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS — Geir Pedersen, UN special envoy for Syria, said Wednesday that realizing the dream of the Syrian people for peace has a long way to go, while once again calling on all warring parties to cease fire immediately in the country.

"Since my briefing two weeks ago, I cannot report any progress in ending the current violence in the northwest or in reconvening the political process," Pedersen started his briefing at the Security Council on a pessimistic note.

"As the secretary-general has stressed, we are alarmed by the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in northwest Syria and the tragic suffering of civilians.

The ongoing offensive has displaced almost 900,000 civilians since 1 December, 2019, often multiple times. Hundreds have been killed during the same period," said the envoy.

Hostilities are now "approaching densely populated areas." People are on the move "in freezing temperatures" in search of safety. More than four of every five of the newly displaced civilians are "women and children." Young children are "dying from the cold."

The potential for further mass displacement and even more catastrophic human suffering "is apparent," as an increasing number of people are hemmed into an ever-shrinking space, said the envoy while elaborating on the deteriorating situation in the country.—Xinhua ■

The attacks occurred at two bars in Hanau, near Frankfurt, where police quickly fanned out and police helicopters roamed the sky in the search for those responsible for the bloodshed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ugandan activist freed as court quashes charge of 'harassing' president

KAMPALA — Ugandan activist and writer Stella Nyanzi walked free from court amid chaotic scenes Thursday after a judge overturned her conviction for "cyber-harassment" of President Yoweri Museveni.

Stella Nyanzi, a university researcher and rights activist known for using vulgar language to attack the president — including calling him "a pair of buttocks" — was convicted last August and sentenced to 18 months in jail.

High Court Justice Henry Peter Adonyo quashed Nyanzi's conviction by a magistrate court and ruled against an appeal from the prosecution to overturn the decision of the lower court to acquit Nyanzi of "offensive communication."

Nyanzi — who had been in jail since November 2018 — addressed dozens of supporters outside court asking them: "Why was I in prison? Why was I in court for all these months?"

"Persecution," her supporters replied.

"Museveni must go! Museveni, you are on notice," Nyanzi shouted before police and prison officers moved in to disperse her supporters from the court grounds. In the resulting crush, Nyanzi appeared to faint and her supporters carried her away while prison officials insisted she had to re-enter the court in order for her to be offically discharged.

Nyanzi, pictured in April 2017 at her trial for cyber-harassment. **PHOTO: AFP**

In the street outside, prison officers attempted to wrestle Nyanzi from her supporters and fired rifles at least six times -- although no one appeared to have been injured — before supporters bundled her into a car and drove off.—AFP ■

AIA Myanmar announces lucky draw, winner to get Premier League ticket

AIA MYANMAR, the local arm of one of the world's largest life insurance providers, has announced a lucky draw for customers. The winner of the lucky draw will get an all-expense paid trip to London and a ticket to the Premier League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City, according to a source at the AIA.

The lucky draw will be launched on Facebook Live, and AIA Myanmar will select one winner from among eligible customers.

Customers who buy any AIA product and have their policies issued by AIA before 23 March will be eligible for the lucky draw.

The winner will get a chance to visit Tottenham Hotspur's training ground and meet football superstars such as Harry Kane and Son Heung Min, along with Coach Jose Mourinho.

"We wish to give something back as a means of appreciating our customers in Myanmar.

The trip to London for the lucky winner is a small gesture of gratitude for having faith in our products at this early stage here, and we will organize many more activities in the near future committed to telling Myanmar that we're here and we care," said CEO Nhon Luc Ly.

The lucky winner will also get a chance to visit well-known places in London, according to a statement issued by the AIA. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Tun Lin Aung to meet Higashi in Kizuna Lethwei event in Japan

MYANMAR lethwei fighter Tun Lin Aung will take on Japanese fighter Higashi in the 63.5-kg event of the Myanmar traditional lethwei competition entitled 'Lethwei in Japan 15 (Kizuna)', which will be held on 22 February in Osaka, Japan.

There will be five special lethwei bouts pitting Myanma lethwei fighters against Japanese and Thai martial artists.

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

In the 60-kg fight, Makoto Basta of Japan will fight Myanmar lethwei fighter Saw Shwe Lay. Next, in the 62-kg event, Tono of Japan will face Myanmar's ByatGha.

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

In the 73-kg event, Myanmar lethwei fighter Auk Chin Thway will clash with Japanese fighter Nagashima.

This will be the 15th such lethwei event in Japan and is aimed at promoting Myanmar traditional lethwei in the country, according to the International Lethwei Federation of Japan. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

A Silver Stars FC player (yellow) tries to block the ball during a Myanmar National League II match against Yaw Myay FC, held yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myanmar National League II: Silver Stars beat Yaw Myay FC by 4-3

SILVER Stars FC secured a 4-3 victory against Yaw Myay FC in their Myanmar National League II match yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium in Yangon.

Silver Stars started the match with some backseat players, while Yaw Myay FC lined up with main players. Silver Stars landed their opening goal at 11 minutes. The goal was scored by Chit Hla Aung.

Yaw Myay got a penalty at 42 minutes, and the penalty was successfully kicked by Tin Htoo-Aung, equalizing the score.

At 45 minutes, Yaw Myay player Saw Al Tar Taw scored another goal for the team, taking the score to 2-1, and the first half ended with Yaw Myay leading by one goal.

Silver Stars changed their tactics in the second half, with Ye Thiha scoring a goal for the team at 52 minutes.

Silver Stars soon netted their third goal at 61 minutes. The goal was scored by Okkar-Soe.

But, at 76 minutes, Yaw Myay equalled the score once again. The goal for the team was secured by Aung Ko Ko Tun.

With the score reaching 3-3, both teams stepped up efforts to take the lead.

At 85 minutes, Okkar Soe scored the winning goal for Silver Stars, and the match ended with the team winning by one goal. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Euro ban will fire up Man City, says Rodgers

LONDON — Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers believes Manchester City will use their shock European ban to inspire them to a successful end to the season.

Pep Guardiola's side were hit with a two-year suspension from the Champions League and Europa League and fined 30 million euros by UEFA on Friday for alleged breaches of Financial Fair Play regulations.

Leicester face City at the King Power Stadium on Saturday in the Premier League champions' second game since the ban.

Second placed City, who plan to appeal against the suspension, beat West Ham 2-0 on Wednesday to four points clear of third placed Leicester in the Premier League table. While Guardiola's men are 22 points behind leaders Liverpool, Rodgers doesn't expect any slip in City's standards following the ban, with this season's Champions League, the FA Cup and League Cup all available as potential trophies to ease their pain.

"It will galvanise them as a squad, these types of situations where there's questions around the club," Rodgers told reporters on Thursday.

"The players will become stronger for it, they will show that spirit, I'm pretty much sure of that. "They'll want to show no matter what the issues are, they're still very talented players.

"It's an ongoing process, of course, but I think for Pep and his players they'll be very determined to finish the season as strong as they can, in every competition they are in."

Meanwhile, Rodgers denied Leicester have made any approach to sign Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana.

Lallana, 31, is out of contract at the end of the season and it has been reported Leicester have spoken to his representatives.

But Rodgers, in charge at Liverpool when they signed Lallana from Southampton in 2014, insisted no contact had been made.

"I've seen a lot of stuff around Adam and that we've approached Liverpool and what not, which obviously isn't the case," he said.

"But Adam is a wonderful player and not only that he's got a great attitude.—AFP