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President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN

PRESIDENT U Win Myint of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar gave policy guidance to U Aung Myo Myint, appointed as Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, in his office at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

— MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to U Aung Myo Myint, Permanent Representative to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA



VP U Henry Van Thio attends National Cultural Central Committee 4th Coord Meeting

VICE PRESIDENT and Chairperson of the Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee U Henry Van Thio delivered an address at its fourth coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said: “Myanmar is a nation full of both cultural and natural her-

itages. We can see nationwide physical artefacts like arts and architectural creations that have been produced and maintained throughout the ancient Myanmar eras. Likewise, we can also see intangible cultural heritages like religions and faiths, customs and traditions, and festivals that are being maintained and carried inter-generationally among the ethnic national races of Myanmar.

“We need to be proud of these tangible and intangible cultural heritages for the State as well as for all citizens. Three ancient Pyu cities – Beikthano, Hanlin and Sri Khsetra – were promoted to the status of world heritage sites on 22 June 2014. Bagan was also regarded as a world heritage site by the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee Conference, Baku in Azerbaijan on 6 July 2019.

“The Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthotaw Pagoda stone inscription, the Bagan Myazedi (Yazakumara) inscription, and the Bayintnaung Bell inscription in Bagan Shwezigon Pagoda were also among the world records. The Ananda Sandra stone inscription in Shitthaung pagoda, MraukU was also enlisted as one of the Asia-Pacific cultural heritages in 2018. We’re going to strive for this site to be considered by

the UNESCO in 2020 as a world cultural heritage site.

“A Nomination Dossier (Draft) for the MraukU cultural heritage region was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre through the Myanmar Permanent Representative Office in Paris. Sectorwise efforts are now being carried out to submit the Nomination Dossier (Complete) to the centre.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

15th regular meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

THE 15th regular meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw began at 10 am yesterday at the meeting hall of the Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw

At the meeting, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat said the programme to discuss the articles, sub-articles included in the bills to amend the constitution projected to be conducted on 25 February 2020 will be presented to the parliament in advance. The names of the 149 lawmakers who will discuss the bills included in the attachments of the report of the committee to scrutinize bills to amend the constitution for the second time have been stated. Each representative can discuss the topic for eight minutes. The list of the names together with date-wise discussions has already been set.

According to subparas (a) and (b) of the section 436 of the Constitution the two amendment bills were drafted. But discussions will be held on them at the same time. Lawmakers will have to present their discussions within the prescribed time, and the discussions should only be on the issue.

They should not use any terms and words that may harm a political party, an individual or a national race. They should act and discuss in accord with their status and should stay away from discussing the topics that are not relevant with the issue.

I will explain some more on the constitutional amendment for the MPs and the public to have broader knowledge of it. A proposal was presented at the parliament on 29 January 2019 to establish combined committee for constitutional amendment. While the formation of the committee is in process, 143 MPs presented the 2nd constitutional amendment bill on 8 February 2019.

A variation was found under the same topic to amend the constitution. Officials including the Speaker took into the account the matter from all angles, and adopted the means that were not against the parliamentary laws and rules. The work that could be carried out during the remaining period of the parliament and the validity of the mended law in case the amendments could be made are also taken account. Appropriate means were chosen only after assessing various possibilities including the possibility



Union Minister U Han Zaw.
PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

of presenting additional constitutional amendment bills and the possibility of holding debates on the report were taken into consideration.

The establishment of the committee continued then, and ways to accept the two separately presented proposals were considered in advance. Since the beginning, it has been decided to present a comprehensive compilation even if there are different versions of bills for constitutional amendment.

If the debates and decisions including the former report are studied it can be found that the parliamentary procedures on the approval of the proposal on the committee and the latest report are in harmony and have no conflicting issues. The constitutional amendment procedures are being conducted in accord with the relevant law, rules and prescriptions. All the MPs including the groups that presented the constitutional amendment proposal are equal under the law and rules. As a parliamentary speaker, I will accomplish my task well in accord with the relevant laws and rules, taking into account every single assignment, duty and segment of power. In doing so, the decision of the Hluttaw will be the final and not the decision of the speaker.

The Hluttaw approved extension of the terms of the joint committees on ASEAN parliaments and international parliaments to 31 January 2021.

Member of the Union level bodies explained the debates of MPs including the first and second volumes on the finds of Joint Public Accounts Committee on the report of Union Auditor General during the period from April to September 2018.

As regards the Telematics services system included in the



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu.
PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

report of Union Auditor General, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said meetings were held with the relevant bodies, an announcement was issued in the dailies that cars will be permitted to drive on Yangon-Mandalay expressway only if they are installed with Telematics system, and awareness billboards were posted along the road for the safety of passengers and cars. Action will be taken against passenger cars that fail to follow the rules.

Ministry of Construction is drafting the bill on development of the construction sector. As the bill was passed by the Union Attorney General Office, the ministry will present it to the committee for ensuring security, stability, peace and the rule of law and the President's Office, and if approval is received, the bill will be presented to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Detailed provisions on the third party will be prescribed when the bill is passed into a law. Guidelines for Third Party Inspection Program, quality inspection, counseling on construction management and third party inspection are being compiled at present.

The Union Minister said most of the projects implemented at less than 50% of the capital expenditure are carried out under the loan of JICA, World Bank and ADB. As the projects need Detail Feasibility Study and Environmental Clearance Certificate in accord with the international practices and tax relief for materials imported under the Exchange of Notes, there was delay in implementing them. The ministry is making utmost efforts for the facilitation of the projects. The Union Minister thanked the MPs for their discussions of the report on the finds during the period between April and Sep-



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.
PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

tember 2018.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu said relevant reports are being sent to the headquarters of Myanmar Police Force, for a better internal supervision system. Assessment has been made on the cases in connection with misappropriation of funds in exposing the root cause. Directives are being issued and trainings given to officers to follow them.

So MPF HQ is conducting internal auditing systematically, imparting knowledge of the financial rules and regulations and duties among the relevant officers, and making supervisions through the publication of financial directives.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said he will deal with the matter raised by MP Daw Cho Cho who suggested the soonest installation of DVB T2 and FM equipments at new Mawchi retransmission station in Pasawng Township, as the old station was hit by a landslide triggered by heavy rain. In response, the Deputy Minister said land for the new station has obtained, and K 66.5 million was allotted to build the station in financial year 2019-2020. Kayah State Government invited tender and supervised the signing of an agreement with the Shwehintha Oo Company that won the tender. The station will be erected within the said fiscal year, and supervision will be made for preventing the occurrence of mechanical breakdowns.

The station would be rebuilt in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and K66.5 million has been allocated for its construction.

He said the contract for the construction of the station has been signed with the Shwe Hin-thar Oo Company, which won the tender for the project. The

construction is targeted to be completed in the current financial year, he added.

In reply to MP U Win Win of Minbu constituency who had questioned the ministry about meeting expenses in the designated fiscal year, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the ministry's Information and Public Relations Department recorded insufficient expenditure in the first and second month of the six-month mini budget (from April to September, 2018) as the department had to use fuel for transporting trainees undergoing capacity building courses and, buying books, periodicals, and newspapers for the township libraries. The IPRD could settle the expenditure only in the fourth month, and the ministry would systematically take measures to prevent the recurrence of such issues in the future.

The Deputy Minister also discussed the issue connected with state-run print media debated by MP U Than Soe, alias Than Soe (Economics).

Challenges of print-media

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the two newspapers in Myanmar language published by the ministry's News and Periodicals Enterprise made profits, but the Global New Light of Myanmar, the joint-venture daily in English language, registered losses in the fiscal year, as pointed out by the MP.

He said the GNLM had been operating as a joint venture business since the 2013-2014 financial year, earning the main income from selling paper, advertisement, and printing services.

As the GNLM is an English language newspaper, its circulation is lower than the other two state-run Myanmar-language newspapers, he said. With the advancement of digital communication technology, print media is witnessing a downward trend across the world, he said.

The way people consume news, information, and entertainment has changed a lot across the world, said the Deputy Minister, adding that in Myanmar, mobile phone density had reached over 100 per cent and smartphone user density over 80 per cent. Myanmar is considered to have the highest mobile phone density in the ASEAN nations, as per international research reports.

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VP U Henry Van Thio attends National Cultural Central Committee 4th Coord Meeting

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“We have thousands of intangible heritages in our country. We can see that there are 2,217 intangible national cultural heritages according to the certified list by the National Intangible Heritages Protection and Promotion Committee, chaired by the Union Minister of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. We need to continue the listing, recording and verifying work on the intangible cultural heritages.

“If you look into the UNESCO’s list on the world intangible heritages, you can see that there are 549 heritages represented by 127 countries. Myanmar could not put even one heritage yet in the list. “Myanmar Thanatkha Culture” can be seen nationwide and we need to exert our efforts to summit it as one of our intangible heritages and we should encourage these efforts to promote the status of our national cultural heritages to the world level.

“We need to uncover certain kinds of cultural heritages, which could be hidden, preserve and conduct research on them despite the fact that we have disclosed many cultural heritages throughout the country. The Constitution explicitly provides that all Myanmar citizens have responsibility to maintain and preserve the national cultural heritages.

“Protection and preservation work of Myanmar cultural heritages is mainly undertaken by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. In this regard, the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law has been enacted in 2015. The new Law on Protection and Preserva-



VP U Henry Van Thio addresses the Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee 4th Coordination Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

tion of Cultural Heritage Regions was also enacted on 28 February 2019. You can see that the new law protects and preserves not only ancient cultural heritages but it enhances harmonious development of local people, their livelihoods and their employment opportunities.

“In conclusion, we need to collaborate in our efforts to protect and preserve both tangible and intangible cultural heritages in Myanmar and all concerned departments should work together in the research work being carried out. All of you should put forward good advice and suggestions in this regard,” he urged.

Next, Central Committee Vice Chairman and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko explained on the work process being done by the Central Committee, the status of protection and preservation of both tangible and in-

tangible cultural heritages, and the efforts being undertaken to submit “Myanmar Thanatkha Culture” as a cultural heritage to the UNESCO.

Then, Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, U Moe Thant Kyaw from the Myanmar Artists and Sculptures Asiayone (Central), and U Ne Win from the Myanmar Thabin Asiayone (Central) discussed the matters in connection with the work done on the 14 decisions (out of 21), made by the third coordination meeting, the 7 ongoing implementation works to be recorded, their performance on protection and preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritages, and the necessary measures to be undertaken.

Next, a round of discussions was held on the matters relating to the measures to take action

against squatters on the ancient cultural heritage regions, the protection of the architectural heritages, the use of digital map in Bagan region, the participation of Myanmar Police in the protection and preservation work as well as security for foreign tourists in the cultural heritage regions, and research work on both tangible and intangible cultural heritages. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn added their explanations on the above matters.

Then, the Vice President said in his concluding remarks: “Cultural heritages of one country show its image. So we need to take responsibilities as Myanmar citizens to protect and preserve them. Foreign tourists are interested a lot in our natural sight-seeing and cultural heritages. We need to develop tourism in this regard. Incomes from foreign

tourists are very important. We can see the improvement rate (40.2 per cent) in our tourism sector according to the UN tourism report. We need to grow more Thanatkha plants in other regions. We need to promote Myanmar marionettes.”

Present on the occasion were Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, the Permanent Secretaries, the Directors-General, the rectors of the Universities of National Arts and Culture, the officials of the Myanmar Historical Commission, the Association of Myanmar Architects, the Myanmar Artists and Sculptures Asiayone (Central), the Myanmar Thabin Asiayone (Central), the Myanmar Music Association, the artistes and departmental officials among others. —MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

KOICA donates 60 school buses to Education Ministry

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) donated 60 school buses to the Ministry of Education as part of an educational assistance programme yesterday.

Firstly, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said KOICA donated 40 school buses on June 2016 for the first time, which were used for 12 schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council’s Zabuthiri and Dekkhinathiri townships.

As part of the Improvement in Access to Education through Provision of School Buses in Myanmar programme, KOICA will be providing assistance from 2019 to 2021. He said in addition to donating the school buses, they will be managing the

drivers through training and education programmes. He said KOICA will hold three training programmes for its 100 drivers from 2020 to 2021.

Next, ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa explained the purpose of the donation and KOICA Myanmar Office’s Chief Representative Ms Lee Youn Soo handed over the documents for the donation to the Basic Education Department Director-General U Ko Lay Win.

Present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Transportation and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung,



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, donors from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and students pose for a photo in front of donated school buses in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

the Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International

Relations Committee, directors-general and officials, teachers and students. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

2nd Inter-Ministries’ Htamane making competition held in Nay Pyi Taw

Inter-ministerial 2nd Htamane making competition and fun fair was held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Union Ministers, Chariman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and officials and staff from respective ministries.

Teams representing from Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of

Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Transport

and Communications, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and Ministry of Education participated in the annual cultural festival.

First, the judges of the contest inspected preparations by the teams including their personal hygiene, cleanliness of cooking utensils used in making the traditional delicacy.

The teams took part in the Htamane mixing process in which team member with giant wooden spatulas began to mix the glutinous concoction, accompanied by the folk music troupes and made the traditional

food within an hour.

The competition was started with a whistle blew by Chairman of the Judge Committee of the Htamane making competition, Director-General U Ye Naing from the Information and Public Relations Department.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Union Ministers, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Ministers and officials supported the Htamane making contestants.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein awarded the second prize winner team with K 1,000,000 and a trophy.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than awarded the first prize winners with K 1,500,000 and a trophy.

After the awarding ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Deputy Ministers posed for a group photo with the first, second and third placed winners.

At the festival, the modern music band of the MRTV, vocalists and winners of the Peace Music Festival entertained the visitors with songs.

The festival of concocting Myanmar delicacy Htamane is also quite a festive activity of Myanmar people and it is held in Tabodwe, the last month of the winter.

Htamane concoction is a communal activity in which Myanmar people of all age groups participate.

Preparation of Htamane provides a social occasion for the community. If contest is held, the winner parties will make a jubilant round of rejoice of their victories with music dance and songs in the compounds of monasteries or precincts of Pagodas.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Union Ministers encourage teams participating in the traditional Htamane-making contest in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Bower Group Asia (Myanmar) delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation led by Managing Director of the Bower Group Asia (Myanmar) Daw Tin May Thein (Judy Ko) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed to hold workshop meeting and launch

courses for Hluttaw representatives to improve their technical skills and ease of Hluttaw procedures.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Managing Director of the Bower Group Asia (Myanmar) Daw Tin May Thein (Judy Ko) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Sun Outage might interrupt TV, Radio transmission from 6 to 16 March

TV Channel and Radio programmes of the MRTV which uses Thaicom-6 can be affected by the sun outage from 6 to 16 March for two minutes to 18 min-

utes, according to the Myanmar Radio and Television.

A sun outage occurs when the apparent path of the Sun across the sky is directly behind

the line of sight between an earth station and a satellite.

All satellites can be affected by sun outages.

A sun outage is a natural

phenomenon and occurs every year. Sun outages usually occur one time in March, one time each in late September and early October. The time for sun outage

and signal interruption can vary depending on a satellite, size of TVRO receiver and location.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

UEC Chairman receives Nepalese Ambassador, media delegations of Nepal, Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission, U Hla Thein received Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Bhim K Udas, and delegations led by Chairman of the Nepalese Press Council Mr Kishor Shrestha and Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council, Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing at the meeting hall of the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cor-

dially discussed to hold the 2020 General Election under the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people, coordination processes of Myanmar Press Council and experiences on gathering news on the Nepalese election.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, Nepalese Ambassador Mr Bhim K Udas and a delegation led by Chairman of the Nepalese Press Council Mr Kishor Shrestha pose for a group photo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thanlyin-Thilawa Road Extension Project opens in Thanlyin

AN opening ceremony for the Thanlyin-Thilawa Road Extension Project was held at the nearby Thanlyin Bridge in Thanlyin Township yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun of

Yangon Region, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin of the Ministry of Construction, Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Japanese Deputy Minister Mr Yamada Kunihiro of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), JICA Resident Representative Mr

Karazawa, the Yangon Region cabinet members, the Hluttaw representatives, the departmental officials, town elders and local people among others.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein spoke on the occasion that Thanlyin is the most developed and successful economic

and industrial zone outside the Yangon metropolitan area. The infrastructure development is required to the advancement of economic zones. The road extension project was undertaken with the help of Japan JICA ODA Loan. Technical transfers were received from the Japanese contractors as they constructed the road by using high technologies. Therefore, it is necessary to take an exemplary road of international standards for the roads to be constructed in the future. Thanlyin, which has an exit to the sea, will be more developed after completion of the road. Thanlyin becomes economically strong as the transportation of goods is in 24-hour operation along the Thanlyin-Thilawa Road and thereby it can enhance the development of its neighbouring towns like Kyauktan, Khayan, and Thonegwa as well as Yangon.

both Japanese and Myanmar companies, relevant ministries, the Yangon City Development Committee and local residents.

Next, Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin of the Ministry of Construction and Japanese MLIT Deputy Minister Mr Yamada Kunihiro gave their remarks. Then, a local resident gave a congratulatory speech and four town elders and 5 outstanding students cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the road.

The Yangon Region Chief Minister, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, the Japanese Ambassador, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Construction, the Japanese MLIT Deputy Minister, the JICA Myanmar Office Resident Representative, and the Yangon Region Industry, Electricity and Transportation Minister pressed the button and spread the scented water on the stone monumental plaque.

—MNA ■



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama formally open the ceremony of Thanlyin-Thilawa Road Extension Project in Thanlyin Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Helicopter on humanitarian mission machine-gunned by AA

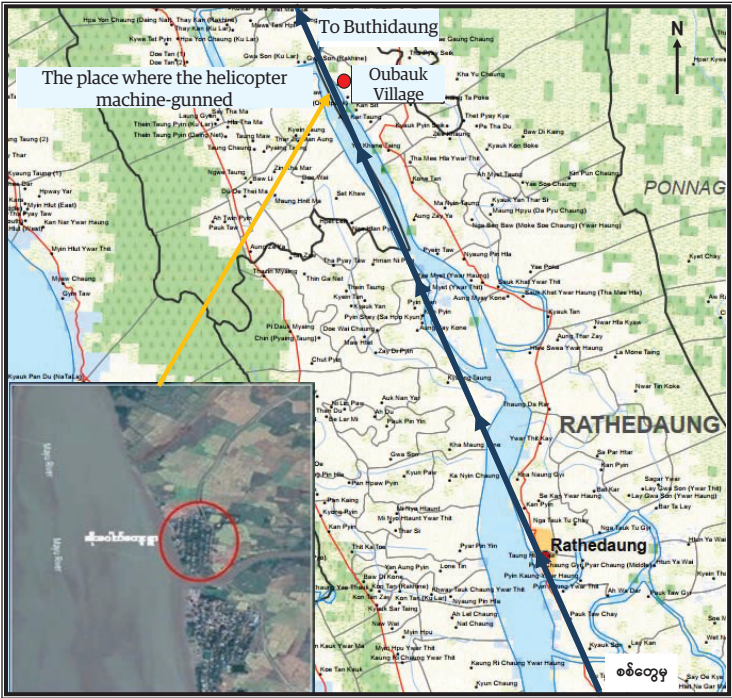
THE helicopter carrying Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Win Myat Aye, who was on a humanitarian mission, was machine-gunned by AA on 19 February. Dr Win Myat Aye was together with Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, and they were on their way to Kha Mway Chaung Village of Buthidaung Township, where shelling by AA on February 13 had injured seventeen young students,

Immediately after the incident, officials from the So-

cial Welfare Department and the District Commissioner of Maungdaw went to Kha Mway Chaung Village and provided necessary humanitarian and medical assistance. Dr Win Myat Aye was making a follow-up mission when his helicopter was shot at. Because of the adverse weather, the helicopter was flying low, and although it was hit by machine-gun fire, it managed to land in Kha Mway Chaung Village.

Dr Win Myat Aye and party

met with the fifteen young students, who were the victims of the shelling, as well as their parents, and provided the necessary humanitarian assistance. Dr Win Myat Aye and party were able to bring back to Yangon one of the students, Ma Khin May Oo who was undergoing treatment in Sittway hospital. The attack on humanitarian mission is the latest incident in a series of indiscriminate attacks by AA, which had killed and wounded innocent civilians.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), 5th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Special Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Council

MYANMAR delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Co-operation attended the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), 5th Mekong-Lancang Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and Special Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Council held on 20 February in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Union Minister was accompanied by Professor Dr Thet Khine Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the officials concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the meetings.

Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was co-chaired by Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Mr. Wang Yi, the State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, and attended by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Secretary General of ASEAN. The Ministers exchanged views on their national experiences and information on the fight against the virus-outbreak. Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefed the meeting on the measures taken by the Myanmar Government to prevent and control of COVID-19 and its possible impact on public health, trade and tourism sectors. He also informed the meeting that



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin along with Foreign Ministers from other ASEAN countries and the people's Republic of China pose for documentary photo at the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease in Vientiane, Laos, on 20 February 2020. PHOTO: MNA

even though there has been no confirmed case yet in Myanmar, a total of 40 patients (2 suspects and 38 under-watch) are placed under investigation and 36 of them including 2 suspects have already been found negative results. Only the remaining 4 patients are waiting for lab test result. He also commended the strong and comprehensive measures taken by the Chinese government to address the challenges of the virus. He also stressed the need to show solidarity with the people of China and to enhance collective efforts to prevent and control of rapid-spreading COVID-19 through existing ASEAN mechanisms as the epidemic poses a threat to well-being of the people and to the economy of the countries of the region.

The meeting adopted the Joint Press Communiqué containing joint work plan of ASEAN and China to fight against virus-outbreak. The ASEAN member states and China agreed to carry out sharing information including exchanging epidemiological information and technical guidelines, strengthen cooperation within ASEAN-led mechanisms and with external partners, to inform the peoples with timely and accurate information, to effectively utilize ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting (ACHMM) and other mechanisms, to enhance cooperation between the Centers for Disease Control of ASEAN member states and China, to mitigate supply chain disruptions of medical goods and promote research, and to maintain people-to-people

exchanges, trade and investment activities in order to reduce the impact of the epidemic on the socioeconomic development the peoples.

5th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

In the afternoon, Myanmar delegation also participated in the 5th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, the Foreign Minister of Laos and Mr Wang Yi, the State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, and attended by the Foreign Ministers of Mekong countries.

During the meeting, the Ministers reviewed the implementation status of the directives of the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Lead-

ers' Meeting and the progress of Special Fund projects, and exchanged view on the future work of Mekong-Lancang cooperation. The Ministers also reaffirmed to step up cooperation based on the friendship, good neighbourliness and equality to achieve regional sustainable development. The meeting approved a list of projects to be implemented by the "Mekong-Lancang Special Fund 2020" which includes (22) projects for Myanmar. Myanmar will receive approximately over US\$ (7) million from Mekong-Lancang Special Fund to implement those 22 projects covering various areas including culture, agriculture, research, investment promotion, education, law enforcement and capacity building in Myanmar. The meeting adopted the Joint Press Communiqué on enhancing Mekong-Lancang cooperation.

Special Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Council

Myanmar Delegation has also attended the Special Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Council held in the morning of 20 February. During the meeting, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers deliberated their national efforts to fight against COVID-19 virus-outbreak. A Chair's Statement was issued by the meeting. Among ASEAN 10 member States, 4 countries (Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Indonesia) have so far no reported confirmed case of Covid-19.—MNA ■

Seventh Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Seventh Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 21 February 2020. U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Osamu Yamanaka, Deputy Assistant Minister and Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, co-chaired the dialogue.

During the dialogue, the two sides cordially exchanged views on a wide range of human

rights related issues, including matters pertaining to the government efforts on addressing the situation in Rakhine State comprising repatriation process, cooperation with the UNDP, UN-HCR and ASEAN, peace process, enhancement of technical cooperation in the fields of promotion and protection of human rights and cooperation in the United Nations and international fora.

Present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry



of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

and Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and officials concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japanese Embassy in Yangon.

Following the meeting, the

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a working lunch in honour of the visiting Japanese delegation at the Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA ■

15th regular meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

FROM PAGE-2

For gaining access to information, the majority of the people turn to only media platforms through their mobile phones and this indicates that the living standard of the people has improved, said U Aung Hla Tun.

However, the outlook is bleak when it comes to traditional media, such as print media, radio, and TV as most advertisers are choosing online media platforms, said the deputy minister.

“As a result, income for the print media has seen a downturn, said the deputy minister, adding that the print media industry across the world had met a similar fate, and fate has struck another blow to the Global New Light of Myanmar, which is already affected by lower circulation,” he said.

“Another problem is that the income from its JV business printing service has also spiraled down. In the early days, the GNLM Company Limited made profits from printing assignments and received three more newspapers,” he added.

However, with the decline



Union Auditor General U Maw Than. **PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

in print media, the JV company could print only one newspaper since the previous financial year and thus, its income has decreased, the deputy minister said.

“Besides, the price for paper rolls, the main raw material for the newspaper printing service, has increased over US\$100 for one metric ton, with the rise in foreign exchange rate. That led to higher production costs and caused losses for the company,” he added.

The GNLM, which was considered different from other



Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung. **PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

businesses, was on special duty for the country, he said.

He said the Global New Light of Myanmar is serving the country as the government’s only mouthpiece in English language.

Myanmar, which is facing challenges in its democratic transition, needs one English newspaper which reflects the opinion of the government, said the deputy minister.

As the GNLM is doing that duty in the midst of difficulties, it should not be evaluated from the economic point of view like

other businesses, he said.

To improve the quality of the Global New Light of Myanmar and to make it a success economically, ways would be sought with private share partners to find proper printing jobs, in accordance with the existing laws, he added.

Afterwards, Auditor-General U Maw Than discussed about the findings and auditing processes of auditing teams of the Union Auditor-General Office, regional and state auditing offices.

He said the auditing teams had looked into the spending of budgets by institutions in accordance with the existing financial rules and directives of the Union Government Office and the Presidential Office.

As the governmental departments are keeping their statistics manually, the teams had carried out the auditing manually, he said.

The same issue was discussed by Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minis-

ter for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, member of the Union Service Board U Saw Valentine, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win and Deputy Chairman of the Joint Public Account Committee U Aung Min.

Following the discussion, the first and second volumes of the findings and remarks of the Joint Public Accounts Committee were approved by the Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also put the findings and report for six months from April to September 2008 on record. — *Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Than*

Gov’t spokesperson answers on pressing national issues

DIRECTOR-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor held a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, where he covered the President’s planned trip to India and other topics occurring across the nation.

Firstly, U Zaw Htay said the President will be visiting India upon the invitation of the Indian President from 26 to 29 February. He said the President will depart on 26 February and meet with embassy family members in New Dehli and meet with the Prime Minister on 27 February. He said he will meet with the Indian President in the evening of the same day and visit Gaya on 28 and the Taj Mahal on 29.

U Zaw Htay said 6 MoUs have been planned to be signed in addition to other MoUs. He said the MoUs concern tiger conservation, grants for Quick Impact Project, assistance for development in MraukU and Gwa townships of Rakhine State, providing solar power to five towns in Rakhine State, and India-Myanmar cooperation for road pavement and medical research in Buthidaung.



Director-General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor, gives a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Zaw Htay said the government held a meeting with the 10 ethnic armed organization signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) from 16 to 18 February at the NRPC. He said they discussed sections 3, 4 and 6 of the NCA with the Tatmadaw and matter related to Part III of the Union Accord on the political dialogue.

He said the JMC meeting will be held on either 10, 11 or

12 of March but a definitive answer will be provided during the PPST meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 2-3 March. He said there were 8 agreements to the NCA implementation framework on 17-18 February meeting.

He said both sides have agreed on a framework for implementing the peace process and successive actions. He said they will discuss the contents of the framework in detail and the

next meeting will be held on 5, 6 and 7 March. He said the UPDJC secretariat meeting will be held on 10 March and the UPDJC meeting on 12 March.

U Zaw Htay said an extraordinary event recently was the attack on the helicopter carrying Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu in Rakhine State. He said this incident was where the AA used heavy artillery on the pri-

mary school of Kamwechaung Village, Buthidaung Township, on 14 February. He said it injured 17 students.

He said the Union Minister was on his way to the scene when his helicopter was attacked on 19 February after flying low from bad weather. No one was injured although the helicopter had to enter repairs for three hours. He said the original intent of the visit was fulfilled, although the government condemns the attack on humanitarian assistance.

U Zaw Htay said the father of the toddler in the Victoria case has asked the President for assistance via letter on 22 December. He said the President has instructed the Union Supreme Court, Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Attorney-General to exercise increased efforts on the matter.

He said the President has instructed for appropriate action to be taken on those who have failed to perform their assigned duties in this instance.

Director-General U Zaw Htay then answered questions from the media.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

National health insurance plan needed to reduce burden on people

NON-COMMUNICABLE diseases (NCDs) pose a major health challenge for Myanmar.

We have managed to reduce cases of communicable diseases by a certain extent, but non-communicable diseases are hindering Myanmar's economic growth and plans for sustainable development.

The four major groups of NCDs — cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes — account for over 80 per cent of all NCD-related deaths and share the same four major risk factors: tobacco use, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity.

... people are spending 80 per cent of their income on health, while hospitals and clinics do not have sufficient medicines for patients.

Despite growing global interest in NCDs, progress has been insufficient as countries with limited resources struggle with weak health systems and poor national capacities, including technical expertise, research capacity, and surveillance and program evaluation data.

The number of cancer patients has been rising in our country. Hence, the Ministry of Health and Sports is doing research on reducing non-communicable diseases.

Meanwhile, it has been found that the budget allocation for health and sports for the 2019-2020 fiscal year

is just 3.6 per cent of the total budget of the Union. There are seven departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports. The Medical Services Department used about 58.7 per cent of the ministry's budget, while the sports department got just 2 per cent.

This shows that we are spending much of the ministry's budget on medical services and there is weakness in our healthcare system when it comes to disease prevention through physical activity and fitness. At the same time, people are spending 80 per cent of their income on health, while hospitals and clinics do not have sufficient medicines for patients.

Hospitals in townships are facing a shortage of vaccines, such as anti-venom and rabies vaccines, and human resource, which is putting a burden on the people and leading to misunderstanding among the people.

This comes from the weakness of our healthcare system. The situation demands a national health insurance system to reduce the burden on the country and the people.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Health and Sports is working on drafting a national health insurance bill.

The Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee is collaborating with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) on cancer research. The results from the research would be helpful for our healthcare system.

We are confident that a national health insurance system would relieve the healthcare burden on the people and provide them with access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines for NCDs.



Emergence of the new wholesale market in Yangon

By Swe Oo Wai

ASTHIS is the time for multi-purpose development of the commercial city of Yangon, high-rise buildings of international standards and hotels, economic centers and shopping malls have emerged in every corner of Yangon. Some are under construction; some have completed their constructions. Now the biggest trading center in Myanmar by the name of wholesale Seamanea Yangon has started its construction and is expected to open soon.

The wholesale market of international standards is located on land areas of 167 between Bago new river and at the corner of New Dagon township and at the corner of Yadana Street. The project is being carried out under mutual cooperation between Singapore-based Samanea Group and Myanmar's Ei Co, Ltd.

In order to carry out this project, a high-standard wholesale market and Myanmar's biggest trading center are being constructed in order to put various kinds of items in a place. Yangon, emerging as a commercial city of Myanmar; industrial zones, special industrial zones, international investment, economic enterprises which have to come to our coun-



Samanea Yangon Commodities Market will supply products to people. PHOTO: AFP

try needs emergence of wholesale market of international standard.

In order to meet the demands, primary importance of Yangon needs construction of economic zones of international standards. When carrying out this project, the first phase needs an area of 100,00 square meters for 700 stalls.

Also included in 700 stalls are wholesale markets, banks, food stalls and supermarkets.

In addition, a warehouse of high standard, wide rooms and systematic parking for cars are also included. In the second phase of this project includes an area of 300,000 square meters for wholesale market, booths for products, exhibitions for wide rooms and hotels are being built. In this connection, multi-purposes are being carried out to solve the problems of both international businessmen,

domestic and foreign businesses.

To carry out this project, the construction is divided into three parts: (1) Efforts are being made to open during coming April; (2) Construction will continue after April; (3) this part contains housing estate, shopping malls and hotels. This construction of wholesale market of international standard is meant for production, sales and distributions. They should be car-

ried out in a place in a short time. Opening after the construction of part-1, owners of small enterprises in Myanmar should rent stalls in order to carry out their businesses. Businesses of various sizes should implement in a place for local and foreign businesses with their owners putting up in relatively luxurious places.

In Yangon, it is easily accessible to Thilawa Special econom-

ic zone of international standard and international port. In addition, Yadana Hnin Housing Estate and Ayeyarchantha Housing Project and Emerald Bay can be reached in a short time in order to pay the way for smooth transportation.

In Yangon, the Danyingon wholesale market of international standards has already opened after constructions. In the market, fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, dairy products are on display and sale. In Insein township, Yangon Division, as many as 500 stalls have been built in Danyingon Ward.

This wholesale market of international standards will display various textiles, electric appliances, cosmetics, digital products, information technology products, consumer goods, construction materials, luxurious goods, household utensils and electronic products, etc. In Yangon the emergence of new wholesale market of international standard and economic environment will not only create good opportunities for owners of businesses and investors but also for the economic developments of Yangon.

Translated By Arakan Sein

Therapeutic trial results against COVID-19 expected in 3 weeks: WHO chief

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday that preliminary results from clinical trials of therapeutics against COVID-19 are expected in three weeks.

"We're also looking forward to re-

sults from two clinical trials of therapeutics prioritized by the WHO R&D Blueprint," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a daily briefing.

One of the trials he referred to is

the combination of two drugs for HIV, lopinavir and ritonavir, while the other is testing an antiviral called remdesivir. "We expect preliminary results in three weeks," he added.

Remdesivir is a drug developed by U.S. pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences. It has shown good antiviral activity against SARS and MERS coronavirus in previous cell and animal experiments.

It has also shown fairly good antiviral activity against the COVID-19 at the cellular level. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of remdesivir started on Feb. 6 in several hospitals in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, and the trial will last until the end of April.

A study published in 2004 showed the anti-HIV drug combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir has "substantial clinical benefit" when given to patients who had SARS. The Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, where the first 41 known patients were treated, has already launched a randomized, controlled trial of the anti-HIV drug

combination, according to a report by Chinese researchers in the Lancet medical journal late last month.

The third version of COVID-19 treatment guidelines published by China's National Health Commission suggested that taking two Lopinavir/Ritonavir pills and inhaling a dose of nebulized alpha-interferon twice a day could benefit patients.

A matter of striking a balance

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) suggested on Thursday to strike a balance of investment in simple public health interventions and in vaccine development, to fight COVID-19.

"It's a matter of striking a balance," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a daily press briefing on COVID-19 in Geneva.

Tedros underlined the necessity to invest in "simple public solutions to contain the outbreak, because our objective still is containment and we believe, as WHO, that there is a chance

to contain this outbreak, if we use the window of opportunity that we have."

However, "we have to be also prepared for any eventualities for the worst scenario", "so we have investment in vaccines too", he added.

Coronavirus vaccine trials

China could start clinical trials for a potential vaccine for the novel coronavirus around late April, an official said Friday.

Public and private researchers around the world have been working to develop treatments and vaccines to combat the COVID-19 virus that first emerged in central China in December.

"Several research teams were trying different techniques to develop a potential vaccine, and the earliest vaccine is expected to be submitted for clinical trials around late April," Xu Nanping, vice science and technology minister, told a press briefing.

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Office of the President's
Order 8/2020

13th Waning of Tabodwe, 1381 ME
21 February, 2020

Appointment of Judge for Yangon
Region High Court

In accordance with the provisions stated in the Article 308, sub section (b), sub-sub section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; sub-section (d) under Article 82 of Union Government Law, Article 45 of Union Judiciary Law and Article 18, sub-section (D) of Region or State Government Law, Daw Cho Marlar has been appointed as Judge for Yangon Region High Court.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organizations transferred and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Thida Oo Director-General Legal Advice Department Union Attorney General's Office	Director-General Administration Department Union Attorney General's Office
(2) Daw Phyu Mar Wai Director-General Administration Department Union Attorney General's Office	Director-General Prosecution Department Union Attorney General's Office

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Thi Thi Myint, Deputy Director-General (Deputy Permanent Secretary), the Union Attorney General's Office as Director-General of the Legal Advice Department on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

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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.

MNHRC inspects prison, custodies in Pyay District

A DELEGATION of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) led by its members U Kyaw Myint and U Kyaw Soe inspected Pyay Prison and Paungde Prison of Bago Region Correction Department on 19 and 20 February.

During the inspection tour, they also inspected lock-ups of Pyay District Court, 500-bed Hospital, Pyay Township police station, No 1 and No 3 police stations in Pyay Township, Paungde Township Court, Myoma Police station and Hmattaing police station in Paungde Township. The delegation inspected whether prisons and detention facilities were obeying the prescribed rules of the commission. They also met with individual inmates and asked them if their rights were violated or not and



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission members inspect a prison in Pyay yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

their fundamental human rights are acquired. They recorded the investigations. Their suggestions on the investigations will be reported to the related departments in order to take necessary actions, according to the MNHRC.— MNA
(Translated by TTN)

2nd Yangon-Cocogyun trip to be launched on 4 March

By Nyein Nyein

THE second Yangon-Cocogyun marine trip will start on 4 March, said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

A report on the launch of the service has been submitted to the Yangon Region government and an announcement has been made in Yangon South District and Cocogyun Township, he said.

“We are targeting to launch the 2nd Yangon-Cocogyun trip on 4 March. We will get to know detailed information on passengers and goods at the end of this month,” he added.

The YRTA is starting the service for the convenience of residents and government staff working in the area. The cost of running a round trip is estimated at K20 million. “The fare earned from operating the trip will go to

the YRTA fund. The fund will be used not for profit, but for the convenience of residents and local staff,” said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region and the patron of YRTA.

The YRTA has signed a contract with Thuriya Sandar Win, a private company, for hiring water vessels to operate the Yangon-Cocogyun trip.

The Yangon-Cocogyun round trip will take 80 hours (6

days). The ship can carry about 60 passengers, including 20 crew members, and 300 tons of goods.

A similar trip was conducted on 21 January, 2020. The Yangon-Cocogyun round trip will be conducted in the first week of every month. About 38 passengers and 280 items of goods were carried on board the motor vessel during the first trip.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Survey finds over 75 Ayeyawady dolphins

A SURVEY conducted this month has recorded more than 75 Ayeyawady dolphins in the Ayeyawady River between Mandalay and Bhamo, according to the Mandalay Region Fisheries Department. The number of dolphins recorded is higher this year compared with last year.

The survey was conducted by the Fisheries Department, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), from 10 to 20 February. Awareness training was also provided on battery-shock fishing and Ayeyawady dolphin conservation during the survey.

Last year, a total of 72 Ayeyawady dolphins were recorded between Mandalay and Bhamo town along the Ayeyawady River, and three dolphins were found dead after the survey.

“The Ayeyawady dolphin population has increased com-



Ayeyawady Dolphins seen leaping out of the water. **PHOTO: WCS**

pared to the previous year. There should be 76 or 77 dolphins at present. Several one- to two-month old calves were also spotted. Battery-shock fishing has declined, but we are still finding some fishermen practicing it,” said an official from the

Regional Fisheries Department.

The survey recorded 28 dolphins between Mandalay and Kyauk Myaung and 48 dolphins between Kyauk Myaung and Bhamo. The dolphin survey is conducted every February.

In 2018, the survey noted 76

dolphins and six dolphin deaths — the highest number of dolphin deaths on record.

The Ayeyawady dolphins give birth to only one calf every three years.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Second Yangon International Motor Show kicks off

THE 2nd Yangon International Motor Show featuring several international car brands, including BMW, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Suzuki, Toyota, and Volvo, began yesterday at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC).

The three-day show was formally opened by Yangon Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, chairman of the Automotive Association U Aung Win, COO of GPI Myanmar Co Ltd, Mr. Anothai Eamlumnow, Thai Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Engineering Association, Council and Societies, TBAM, and MTCCI.

The main goal of the event themed 'Future Driving Society' is to promote the development of the Myanmar automotive market, recognize the new policy formulated by the Ministry of Industry, which aims to support

auto-related businesses and local transportation, and promote road safety through the use of left-hand driving vehicles.

The show features a number of international automotive brands such as BMW, Brilliance, DFSK, Ford, Mitsubishi Fuso, GAC, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Scania, Suzuki, Toyota, and Volvo.

CB Bank, one of Myanmar's leading banks which has been operational for over 25 years and YIMS' banking partner, will offer 10-per-cent down payment for customers buying a car by availing a loan from the bank. This would allow customers to purchase a new vehicle with ease at the show, which is aimed at supporting the growth of the Myanmar automotive industry.

The 2nd Yangon International Motor show is being organized by GPI Myanmar and the Automotive Association of Myanmar (AAM).

The show features latest car



2nd Yangon International Motor Show opening ceremony takes place in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

models, cutting-edge technology, and innovations.

Visitors to the show can test drive cars, participate in a modified street car contest,

and browse the accessories area, which features trusted brands such as TRK Auto Seat, Lamina Film, and Aung Thein Than (Caltex).

Visitors who complete the questionnaire at the registration counter will get a chance to win the latest smartphones through a lucky draw. —GNLM

Traditional clay pottery survives

TRADITIONAL Myanmar pottery has been maintained in Yesagy Townshio, Pakokku District, for generations. Clay pots for storing drinking water have been sold for K2,500 per piece and for a wholesale price of K1,800 per piece. Although annual clay pot purchases have not dropped, the decline of palm tree harvesters have reduced the sale

of palm pots, according to clay potter Ma Ri Win from Thet Village. The fuel for firing natural clay is usually used from the spadix of male toddy-palm, palm fruits, dried paddy, hay and cattle manure.—Ko Zaw (Chemistry)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



A woman adds wood to a fire in which pottery is baked. PHOTO: KO ZAW (CHEMISTRY)

Investors plough K26 bln, \$38.865 mln into hotels, guest house businesses in 2020

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTORS have pumped in more than K26 billion and US\$38.865 million into permitted hotels and guest houses this year, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs and the vice chairperson of the regional Tourism Committee.

She made the remarks at the Yangon Region Tourism Committee medical conference held on 21 February in Hall 4 of the regional government's office.

The regional Tourism Committee held its first meeting (1/2020) on 18 February in the regional government's office. At the meeting, the committee granted eight hotel licenses with 750 rooms, seven hotel construction permits, one guest house construction permit, and 117 travel service licenses (inbound and outbound).

The permitted hotel and guest house businesses pulled in \$11.665 million in foreign

investment and \$5.5 million in joint venture investment, while local investment amounted to K26,128.5 million and \$21.7 million. The businesses created 801 jobs, according to the Yangon Region Tourism Committee.

In 2019, the regional Tourism Committee held six meetings (between 1/2019 and 6/2019). During the meetings, the committee issued 42 hotel licenses and 14 guest house licenses with 2,639 rooms. In addition, the committee permitted the construction of 20 hotels and three guest houses.

The committee has issued 356 inbound and outbound travel service licenses, 121 outbound travel service licenses, and 218 tour guide licenses. The businesses have raked in investments of K152,030 million and \$238.29 million so far and created 3,232 jobs, according to the committee.

Although hotels and tourism companies are directed by a Union-level ministry, authority has been delegated to

regions and states after the enactment of the Tourism Law in December, 2018, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Minister for Karen Ethnic Affairs as well as the vice chairperson of the regional Tourism Committee.

The Yangon Region Tourism Committee is chaired by Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. Karen Ethnic Affairs Minister Naw Pan Thinzar Myo acts as the vice chairperson of the committee. Officials from related departments, such as the ministries of Home Affairs, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Labour, Immigration and Population, and the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Environmental Conservation Department, and the Yangon City Development Committee are also members of the committee.

The committee includes representatives from civil society organizations, in addition to experts from the industry.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads Call

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Meeting of 2019 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award group holds meeting

MEETING (1/2020) of the 2019 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award group was held at the Printing and Publishing Department building on Theinbyu Road, Yangon, yesterday.

U Ohn Myint (Maung Yint Mar-Kyaung Gone), Chairman of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Selection Committee, delivered the opening speech.

Next, members of the selection committee discussed relieving policies in the selection process, category review, selection system and necessary amendments to the prize amount.

U Ohn Myint said they aim to elevate the significance of the award, as the Union Minister for Information has also agreed on. He said this year's award amount will be K1.5 million.

The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award selects short and long novels, poems, general knowledge, literature, culture, children's literature, youth literature, political, drama, English, and translation genres and publish them as public issues.—Moon U Nadi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Huawei says awarded 91 commercial 5G contracts

LONDON — Chinese tech giant Huawei announced here on Thursday that it has so far been awarded 91 commercial 5G contracts and shipped over 600,000 5G Massive MIMO Active Antenna Units (AAUs).

Ryan Ding, Executive Director of the Board and President of Huawei's Carrier BG (business group), released Huawei's new 5G products and solutions and launched the 5G Partner Innovation Program at the company's product and solution launch event in London.

5G has developed beyond imagination in terms of deployment, ecosystem, and experience, said Ding.

As a leading global 5G supplier, Huawei is committed to developing the best end-to-end 5G solutions, which will include the industry's highest-performance 5G base station that supports all scenarios and

the Blade AAU with the industry's highest level of integration, according to Huawei.

In the 4G era, virtually all operators provided the same network experience, but when it comes to 5G, operators can provide differentiated experiences and charge users based on more metrics, including data volume, latency, bandwidth, and number of devices connected, said Ding. This makes it possible to monetize 5G, and it is critical that operators redefine their 5G business models now, added Ding.

In addition to products, Huawei plans to invest 20 million US dollars into innovative 5G applications over the next five years through the 5G Partner Innovation Program, with the aim of contributing to a thriving 5G ecosystem and accelerating the commercial success of 5G.—Xinhua

News release on surveillance activities of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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. There have been no new patients for surveillance of the COVID-19 disease as of 8 p.m. from 20-2-2020 to 8 p.m. of 21-2-2020.
 3. An existing patient under surveillance has reported to be improving health at the state/regional hospital as of 8 p.m. 21-2-2020. The results of the patient's lab test will be disseminated in real time.
- MoHS
- (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

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Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Railways
Invitation for Bids

Date: 21st, 22nd February 2020
Loan Agreement No: MY-P26 dated 29th March 2018

(i) The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase II. The Bids are invited by Myanma Railways as follows:

No.	Invitation for Bid No:	Description of Works: (Design, manufacture, supply, installation, delivery, testing and commissioning of each contract package)	Issuing Date	Closing Date & Time	Non- refundable Document Fee
1	IFB No:IFB-MR/BD/2101	Civil and Track Works, and Signalling and Telecommunication Works between Taungoo and Ywadow	24 th February 2020	24 th April 2020 At 1:00 pm	USD 1,000
2	IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2102	Nay Pyi Taw Depot, Civil and Track Works, and Signalling and Telecommunication Works between Ywadow and Ingyinkan	24 th February 2020	22 nd May 2020 At 1:00 pm	USD 1,000
3	IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2103	Civil and Track Works, and Signalling and Telecommunication Works between Ingyinkan and Kume Road	24 th February 2020	22 nd May 2020 At 2:00 pm	USD 1,000
4	IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2104	Myohaung Depot, Civil and Track Works, and Signalling and Telecommunication Works between Kume Road and Mandalay	24 th February 2020	22 nd May 2020 At 3:00 pm	USD 1,000

(ii) Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loan, and are open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

(1) The Eligible Nationality of the Contractor(s) shall be Japan in case of the prime Contractor.

(2) In case where the prime Contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

(iii) The Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for design, manufacture, supply, installation, delivery, testing and commissioning of works as described above ("the Works"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage (Two Envelopes) Bidding Procedure.

(iv) A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased and inspected by interested eligible Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below during office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m on Monday to Friday (except public holidays of Myanmar).

(v) Bids must be submitted to the address below on or before date & time described in above table and must be accompanied by a Bid security as mentioned in Bidding Documents for each Package.

Managing Director,
Myanma Railways
Head Office of Myanma Railways.
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Telephone: +95-67 77024, Facsimile number: +95-67 677164
Email address: dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com (not for submission but for clarification)

Hopes dim for EU budget deal

BRUSSELS — Feuding EU leaders kicked off a second day of haggling over the bloc’s trillion-euro budget on Friday, with hopes of a deal fading as “frugals” and big-spenders refused to give ground. After a night of tough talks, leaders and diplomats poured doubt on the chances of reaching an agreement at this summit for the EU’s seven-year post-Brexit budget. The tussle over money is a Brussels ritual, made more intense this time by the departure of Britain from the bloc, which has left a 75-billion-euro (\$81-billion) “Brexit gap” over the 2021-27 period. “Are you asking if we’re going to resolve the whole budget discussion this weekend? No, I don’t think so,” Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said as she arrived. Denmark is one of the self-

styled frugal four nations — along with the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria — who have set themselves against a proposal by summit host Charles Michel, the EU Council president. They insist Michel’s 1.09-trillion-euro budget

plan is excessive and must be trimmed, while also calling for the budget to be modernised. - Budget ‘made in 1980s’ - Leaders are at odds over how much to increase the long-term budget -- called the multi-annual financial framework (MFF).

They also disagree over how spending should be shifted between priorities and how much each member should pay as a percentage of its gross domestic product (GDP). The last MFF came in at 1.08 trillion euros (in 2018 prices).—AFP ■



After a night of tough talks, leaders and diplomats poured doubt on the chances of reaching an agreement at this summit for the EU’s seven-year post-Brexit budget / © POOL/AFP/File



Mark Carney (r), Governor of the Bank of England, and Alex Farquharson, Director of Tate Britain, pose for photographs with the new 20 pound notes in front of the self-portrait of Joseph Mallord William Turner at Tate Britain in London, Britain, on 20 February, 2020.

Bank of England releases new 20 pound note

LONDON — Deemed as “the most secure ever” note issued by the Bank of England, the latest 20 pound note has gone into circulation Thursday. The new polymer note features the famous English watercolor artist Joseph Mallord William Turner, joining the Winston Churchill 5 pound note and the Jane Austen 10 pound note, among others, al-

ready in circulation. A new polymer 50 pound featuring code breaker Alan Turing will be issued next year. Launched at Tate Britain, which houses a large number of paintings and drawings under The Turner Bequest, the new 20 pound note includes two see-through windows and a two-color foil, making it very difficult to counterfeit.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SATSUKI VOY. NO. (016W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SATSUKI VOY. NO. (016W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KHUNA BHUM VOY. NO. (024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KHUNA BHUM VOY. NO. (024N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2020 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (063 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (063 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (007W/008E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (007W/008E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2004S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2004S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848



Buddha Image made of thin strips of bamboo in Thaton, Mon State. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA**

Buddha Images made of **bamboo** strips across Myanmar

images were made in the 1st century AD. After Alexander, the king of Greece had occupied Gandhara region of northern India, a Buddhist fine art of Greek flourished in India. At that time, Gandhara stone sculptors carved Buddha images in Greece and Roman styles.

Buddha Images in Myanmar

Local people did not have any traditions of carving Buddha images for obeisance in India from BC 72 to BC 25 during the Andhra dynasty. However, experts assumed Buddha images were created in Mahtura region on the bank of Jamuna River in India between 40 AD and 320 AD during the Kushan era.

From then onward, carving Buddha images started around Amaravati city near Krishna River in southeast of India in Amaravati era in the 2nd century AD. As the Buddha images in Amaravati era style were excavated in Pyu regions of Myanmar such as Sri

Kestra, Beikthanoe and Mongmaw cities, some assumptions indicated that Buddha images might be conveyed from Amaravati city to Sri Kestra through maritime route.

Works of stone sculpturing, bronze casting and baking earthen votive tablets were produced in Pala era from 750 AD to 1174 AD. Some Buddha images made in Bagan era were under influence of styles from the works in Pala era.

As the relations between Myanmar and India were established long time ago, faith in Buddhism had arrived in Myanmar since Pyu era. A Buddha image with five centimetres in height was excavated in ancient Pyu city state Beikthanoe in 1996 and another image in 14 centimetres in height in 2003.

A Buddha image with a broken head was unearthed together with its throne in ancient Pyu city state Sri Kestra in 1928 and votive tablets from Pyokhingyi mound at the same city. A stone relief assumed as a Bodhisatta image exca-

BUDDHIST people have been keeping Buddha images at their homes as well as religious monuments such as stupas, temples and monasteries for obeisance since yore. These Buddha images were made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, brick and concrete. Nowadays, bronze casting, sculpturing and stone sculpturing industries are being operated to making Buddha images in various sizes.

Currently, not only Buddha images made of gold, silver, bronze, marble, jade, emerald and amber but also the images made of bamboo strips are created for public obeisance.

Background history of carving Buddha Images

In general, Buddha images were made and cast in four body postures—reclining, sitting, standing and walking. Most of the images are made

in sitting posture for obeisance at houses, stupas and temples and monasteries. Standing Buddha images can be seen at some temples including Ananda Temple in Bagan. Reclining Buddha images can be paid obeisance at Shwethalyaing, Seinthalayung and Myathalyaung Buddha images in Bago in addition to some significant pagodas. The Buddha images in walking posture can be seen in some pagodas.

There was no evidence on carving Buddha images for obeisance till BC 308 when the Third Buddhist Synod was convened after the Lord Buddha had attained Parinirvana on 13 May BC 544. Experts assumed carving Buddha images started for paying homage in 75 AD.

Buddha images were not kept in the earliest stupas built in Birhuk, Sanchi and Amaravati of India but symbols of the Buddha such as lotus flower, footprints and stupas were inserted into the stupa in Sanchi.

Although some Buddhism treatises mentioned there were some images in the time of the Lord Buddha, firm evidences showed that Buddha



Maha Mu Ni Bamboo Strips Buddha Image in Kalaw. **PHOTO: GREEN HAVEN HOTEL.**

the Buddha image carved in Danyawady, Wethali, Laymyo and MraukU eras in Rakhine State.

Buddha Images made of bamboo strips across the country

It was assumed that the first ever Buddha image made of bamboo strips was created around 700 years ago. Such kind of Buddha image is kept for public obeisance in Monghnon Village, seven miles northwest of Mongkhat in eastern Shan State. The Hsutaungpyae

can be seen in various parts of the nation including PyinOoLwin, Kalaw, Salay, Kawthoung and Indawgyi.

Among these images, Maha Muni Hnee Buddha image coated by lacquer in Kalaw was found without shelter in Pinmagon Village of Kalaw Township 500 years ago. Although the bamboo strip Buddha image was seen together with many wooden images, there remains only one bamboo strip image at present. The image was conveyed from the village to Kalaw and then of-

titled Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Pagoda.

The 19 elbows high Hsutaungpyae lacquered Buddha image called Hnee Buddha image in Salay of Chauk Township, Magway Region, is the highest bamboo strip Buddha image in Myanmar. Insam bamboo strip Buddha image from Thakyamuni Pagoda in Zunlikyopan in Pangong of southern Shan State is 12 feet high and another one at Taungpauk Monastery on Kyaikthallan mountain range of Mawlamyine, 17 feet and 109 inches high. A bamboo strip Buddha image built at Shan monastery in 9th-mile of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region is 18 feet and 10 inches high.

The biggest bamboo strip Buddha image of Myanmar is located at the foot of Myathabeik Hill in Thaton. The Buddha Pujaniya festival of the image is held on the full moon day of Tabodwe yearly.

Buddha Images made of bamboo strips and lacquer

The Hnee Buddha images are made of bamboo strips. Lacquered Buddha images are firstly made of bamboo strips wrapped by pieces of textile or robes coated by lacquer.

Veteran historian Dr. Than Tun reviewed that lacquered Buddha images are made with the purpose of easily conveying them due to light weights. Similar Buddha images were made in China and Japan as well as villages around Shwebo and YeU townships in Myanmar.

In the past, lacquered Buddha images made in villages around YeU Township were sold to Shan State. As such, makers created about 18 inches high lacquered Buddha images. Dates and names of well-wishers in Myanmar language were described on the images.

In changing eras, Buddha images were made of metals, alloy called Pancaloha, ashes from flowers, ashes from damaged palm-leaves and ashes of bones.

Both kinds of Buddha images made of bamboo strips and lacquer have advantages such as lack of decaying by insect, resilience of climatic conditions and durability in offering gold foils. As such, the bamboo strip Buddha image has been lasting for 700 years in Monghnon Village of Mongkhat Townships.

Significantly, a Buddha

image made of bamboo strips which was not gilt but coated with polishing oils can be seen in Indawgyi region of Mohnyin Township.

Veteran historian Dr. Than Tun noted that creation of lacquered Buddha images flourished in Myanmar from 1750 to 1929. Thazimay Village, northeast of YeU Township in Sagaing Region, was a focal point of producing the lacquered Buddha images, having a large order of works from Shan State. In 1929, small Buddha images made of marble, paper pictures of Buddha image and glass Buddha images penetrated the market. Consequently, the industries of making lacquered Buddha images faced losses in businesses. Finally, these industries faded out.

The lacquered Buddha images to be sold to Shan State were made in four sizes as 18 inches, 14 inches, nine inches and six inches high ones. These Buddha images bear sitting position and hand postures of Bhumi Phassa Mudra or Jhanasana Mudra. Moreover, some lacquered Buddha images were made in significant sizes and styles under the instructions of offers.

Although there was no expert to make lacquered Buddha images after 1929, the art of making bamboo strip Buddha images are flourishing till today. Only when the experts of making bamboo strip Buddha images including expert Lon Oum Sai of Shan State who created 12 Buddha images made of bamboo strips some of which are positioned in Yangon, Mawlamyine, PyinOoLwin and Panglong hand down the art of making such kind of Buddha images to new generations, will the people across the nation have chances to pay homage to the bamboo strip Buddha images of Myanmar traditional art in successive eras.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

*Reference:
Mobile history (Dr. Than Tun)
Records on bamboo strip Buddha images (U Aung Myint, Thuwunnabhumi)
Studies on Uddissa Buddha images (Maung Maung Thiri)
Caption: The Bamboo strip Buddha image near Nantmeelaung Village in Indawgyi Region.*



Buddha Image made of interwoven bamboo strips. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

vated from Kyaukбилu toddy palm plantation ancient Hanlin city state in 1929-1930 is put on display at Hanlin stone plaque chamber for public observation.

Works of Buddha images were identified as eras of Pyu, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Nyaungyan, Konbaung and Yadana-bon in Myanmar. Likewise, people can observe works of

bamboo strip Buddha image under the title of Phra Innsam in Shan language was built by Khuwalonphaw Maha Guru Nanda. The image under title of Zakyaukinsam in Gon Shan language which means the king of celestial beings made a nine elbows high Buddha image.

Currently, similar Buddha images made of bamboo strips

fered gold foils.

A bamboo strip Buddha image of PyinOoLwin was made in the precinct of Hsingaunggyi Monastery on 22 May 2005. The 14 feet high image was made of bamboo strips from more than 84,000 pieces of bamboo. The image conveyed to the Gandakuti chamber of Icchasara Pagoda on Padamya Hill in Phaungdaw Village was

FIFA ranking: Myanmar men's football squad is fourth in ASEAN

THE Myanmar men's national football team is currently standing fourth in the ASEAN region and ranked 136th in the world with 1,081 points, according to FIFA rankings released in February.

Team Viet Nam is first in ASEAN with world ranking of 94 and 1,258 points earned.

Meanwhile, Thailand's national football team is placed second in ASEAN with FIFA ranking of 113 and 1,178 points.

The Philippines squad is third with world ranking of 124 and 1,136 points.

Team Malaysia is fifth in ASEAN and 154th in world ranking with 1,040 points earned.

Singapore is next with FIFA world ranking of 157 and 1,020 points.

Indonesia and Cambodia are tied in the seventh place in ASEAN with FIFA ranking of 173 and 964 points.

Laos is next with FIFA world ranking of 188, while Brunei and Timor Leste are in the ninth and tenth place with FIFA ranking of 191 and 196. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar star striker Aung Thu (No. 9) carries the ball during an international friendly match against Singapore on 11 June, 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

Yangon United to take on MNL defending champions today

YANGON United will clash with defending champions Shan United today in the Week-7 match of the Myanmar National League at the Yangon United Sports Complex, their home stadium.

Speaking about the match, Yangon United midfielder Aung Kyaw Naing said: "We have been preparing for the meeting with Shan United after our match with Southern Myanmar."

"We will do our best to get a good result, though we will be facing a tough team," he added.

Yangon United had lost to Shan United by 1-2 in the Charity Cup 2020, held earlier this year.

"May the better team win. We will have to make an effort in the match. Shan United is trailing the leading team on the scoring table by a wide margin and the team will try to reduce the gap. We need to get a win to pave our way to the championship trophy," said Aung Kyaw

Naing.

At present, Yangon United is second on the standing table with 16 points from 5 wins and 1 draw, while Shan United is fourth with 12 points from 4 wins and 2 losses.



Shan United striker Zin Min Tun (red) vies for the ball with Yangon United's Soe Min Naing (green) at their previous meeting on 5 January in the Charity Cup 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

The match between the two Myanmar National League giants will start at 3:30 pm today. It will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook Page. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

North Korea cancels marathon over virus

SEOUL — North Korea has cancelled the Pyongyang Marathon - its biggest tourist money-spinner of the year - because of the novel coronavirus outbreak, a leading tour company said Friday.

Beijing-based Young Pioneer Tours, which specialises in budget trips to the isolated country, said on its website it had "received confirmation from our travel partners" that the April event had been can-

celled.

The move was "due to the current borders of the DPRK (North Korea) being closed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus", it added. —AFP ■

Rudiger demands German fans, FA and league do more to combat racism

LONDON — Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger says fans must report racist abuse they hear in Germany's football stadiums or be "guilty by association" following two incidents in the country this month.

"People must stand up and report such things," the Germany defender told AFP subsidiary SID in an interview in London.

"You can't just turn a blind eye. Guilty by association — that's how I see it. "If someone next to you is saying things like that, you are an accomplice if you keep quiet."

"Some people seem to be able to live with it, if that is the case, then we have lost."

The 26-year-old called on the German Football League (DFL) and German Football Association (DFB) to take a hard-line

approach to any racism.

"Action must come, anything else won't help," Rudiger added.

Rudiger says he was "speechless" when monkey chants were aimed at Torunarigha in a cup game at Schalke on February 4, then at Wuerzburg Kickers defender Kdadwo in a third division game in Munster 10 days later. "Those poor boys, I feel so sorry for them," he said.

"I was in contact with both of them when it happened and it just makes me so sad." Fans in Munster identified the culprit of the racist chants, who was arrested and escorted out to shouts of "Nazis Out!".

After Torunarigha was the victim of similar abuse, police in Gelsenkirchen, as well as the DFB, launched an investigation. —AFP ■



Chelsea's German defender Antonio Rudiger says more must be done to combat racism at football grounds in Germany after two incidents in February. **PHOTO: AFP**