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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Central Sangha Working Committee Meeting: State Counsellor supplicates matters relating to Buddha Sasana

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays homage to Buddhist monks for their efforts on propagation and perpetuation of Buddha Sasana. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 8th State Central Sangha Working Committee continued its second meeting on the third and final day in the precinct of the Kaba Aye Pagoda, in the great cave of the sixth Buddhist synod, in Yangon yesterday.

The most senior Buddhist monks led the meeting where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi praised the efforts of Buddhist monks for propagation and perpetuation of the Buddha Sasana.

In her remarks on religious affairs, the State Counsellor said Buddhists have grown up with Buddha's teaching to develop 'tolerance', and their respect for the virtues of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha, parents and teachers. She said she was extremely pleased to observe Sanghas from All Orders attending the present meeting in unity and working in the interest of the Theravada Buddha Sasana which is based on the teachings of the Buddha contained in the Suttas of the Pali canon known as the Pariyatti Sasana.

She added by saying that all Buddhists need to abide by the teachings of the Sayadaws related to spirituality and worldly affairs for the perpetuation, purification and propagation of the Buddha Sasana, which has remained the main tasks of the State Sangha Association of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes debates on Constitutional amendments, voting to start next week

HLUTTAW representatives continued to debate proposed amendments to the Constitution during the 18th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 15th regular session yesterday.

U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency first took the floor and said that the word 'disciplined' in Articles 6-(d) and 7 should be removed as a 'multi-party democratic system' already carries the meaning in an even more comprehensive context.

Next, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency said he supported amendments to Article 8, which seeks to add 'democratic federal' in front of 'Union system'. He said as the nation is composed of diverse ethnicities, there will never be peace nor development unless a federal Union is truly established.

The 18th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 15th regular session being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN**

U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency then said while it is true that the current times and situation of the nation calls for amending the Constitution, it should not be amended to benefit or create advantageous conditions for any individual person or group.

Dr San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency then took the floor and said the requisite to recall a Hluttaw representative outlined in Article 396-(b), which stipulates that at least 1 per cent of the original voters of the constituency concerned need to submit the complaint to the Union Election Commission, should be modified to 20 per cent.

He said changing the required number of original voters to 20 per cent will prevent losses on the part of the constituents and constituency, deter misgivings among the public and political parties, prevent disintegration of ethnic solidarity, and ensure a heavy burden is not placed upon the UEC.

Nineteen Hluttaw representatives continued debating the proposed amendments.

Following this, Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the debate of 147 Hluttaw representatives on proposed amendments to the Constitution has concluded. He said voting on the 14 proposed amendments regarding the Article 436-(a) will commence on 10 March.

The 15th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 19th-day meeting will be held on 10 March.—Aung Ye Twin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Int'l law professors give talks at Yangon University

MR William Schabas, professor of international law at Middlesex University, UK, and professor of international human laws and human rights at Leiden University in the Netherlands, gave a lecture on the experiences at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and on international law at Yangon University yesterday.

Similarly in the afternoon, Dr Christopher Staker, member of the Bar of England and Wales, gave a lecture on legal matters at Yangon University.

Also attending the lectures were 160 officials, including Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Min Lwin, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, faculties from Yangon University, Yangon University of Distance Education, Dagon University, East Yangon University, West Yangon University and Yangon University of Foreign Languages, and officials from Yangon Region government, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, International Court Legal Aid Organization. In addition, 985 law students were also in attendance.

Mr William Schabas, Professor of International Law at Middlesex University gives talks on the experiences at the International Court of Justice and on international law at Yangon University yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivered the opening speech at the event and introduced Prof Schabas to the audience before the talk.

The two experts answered questions from the audience.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Members of the MRCS provide assistance to the vehcile sinking in the water. **PHOTO: MNA**

MRCS receives International Humanitarian Services Award

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) was presented with the International Humanitarian Services Award by the American Red Cross on 4 March at the ARC headquarters in Washington D.C., the United States.

On behalf of the MRCS, its Chairman Dr Maung Maung Myint accompanied by executive members Dr Tin Nyunt and Professor Dr Daw Mya Thu, and Director of Rakhine Operational Management Unit Daw Aye Aye Nyein, received the award.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society was awarded for work that exemplifies and inspires the humanitarian values of human dignity, respect, compassion, and the protection and assistance implied in the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Central Sangha Working Committee Meeting ...

FROM PAGE-1

The State Counsellor finally expressed gratitude to the Venerable Sayadaws for their efforts to promote loving-kindness vibrations not only in Myanmar but also in the world in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

The second session of the meeting concluded after decisions and approvals had been made by the Sayadaws on the issues of Sangha committees.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays obeisance to Sayadaws at the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Govt, UN task force meet for anti-grave violations against children

THE Committee for Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflict held the first coordination meeting with the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) at the office of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the chairman of committee, said Myanmar has enacted the Child Rights Law in 2019, and the committee was formed to protect the children in armed conflicts in line with the law.

He added the committee will focus on security of civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with the 10 tasks of committee, including coordinating with UNICEF, UNDP and UNCTFMR.

The anti-grave violation committee has formed a work committee and a core group, and has held meetings with them.

The Union Minister said the report of UN Secretary General has pushed Myanmar to increase cooperation with international community in this issue, and that the coordination meeting could relieve pressure on Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, officials from UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting and officials pose for a group photo at the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Ms June Kunugi, the Chair of UNCTFMR, expressed thanks for the committee's report on its work plan and her appreciations on the coordination of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement , the Ministry of Defence Services, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the relevant ministries.

She also explained the responsibilities of UNCTFMR to monitor and identify grave violence in line with the stipulations of UN Security Council, with suggestion to develop a mechanism for protecting children, preventing them from using as soldiers and taking effective legal actions.

She suggested the government is responsible for protecting the schools under the Safe School Declaration adopted by the UN, and it should be a topic for discussion during the upcoming Panglong Conference.

The Chair of UNCTFMR also recognized the reputation of Myanmar in the world for eliminating child soldiers, and said the readiness of her agency to coordinate with Myanmar Government in this issue.

Director-General of Rehabilitation Department U Win Naing Tun, the secretary of committee, reported on the works of committee, followed by the discussions of attendees on implementation of national work plans for preventing the deadly risks for children and sexual abuses in armed conflicts.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) has defined that six grave violations against children in armed conflicts are— killing and maiming of children; recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; abduction of children; denial of humanitarian access for children.

The Committee for Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflict was formed on 7 January 2019 to prevent these violations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Report on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

From (4-1-2020) to (5-3-2020)
(5-3-2020), 8:15 pm

1. Situation update worldwide
(World Health Organization's statement issued at 1:30 am (MST) on 5-3-2020))

Total affected countries - 77
Total cases - 93, 090
Total death toll - 3,198
Global death rate - 3.4%
Global cases/ death toll

Sr.	Countries	Since its beginning to so far	
		Confirmed cases	Death toll
1	Republic of Korea	5,328	32
2	Italy	2,502	80
3	Iran	2,336	77
4	Japan	284	6
5	France	212	4
	Total	10,662	199

* The WHO announced that outbreak of disease has occurred in many countries in both imported cases and local transmission.
* 31 countries, territories or areas outside China with reported cases are:

Sr.	Regions in the list of WHO	Countries
1	Western Pacific Region	Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Viet Nam
2	European Region	Italy, Germany, France, Spain, The United Kingdom, Croatia, San Marino, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Romania.
3	South-East Asia Region	Thailand, Indonesia.
4	Eastern Mediterranean Region	Iran, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon.
5	Region of the Americas	United States of America, Canada, Ecuador.
6	African Region	Algeria.

Therefore, the WHO has changed the level of its risk assessment on COVID-19 transmission to "very high" in China, regional countries, and global countries.

2. According to the WHO-China Joint Mission Report on COVID-19 that surveyed a total of 55,924 patients from 16-2-2020 to 24-2-2020, the main signs and symptoms are:

Sr	Signs and Symptoms	Percentage
1	Fever	87.9
2	Dry Cough	67.7
3	Fatigue	38.1
4	Sputum production	33.4
5	Shortness of breath	18.6
6	Sore throat	13.9
7	Headache	13.6
8	Myalgia or Arthralgia	14.8
9	Chills	11.4
10	Nausea or Vomiting	5
11	Nasal Congestion	4.8
12	Diarrhea	3.7
13	Haemoptysis	0.9
14	Conjunctiva Congestion	0.8

Situation of signs and symptoms of COVID-19:
Mild to Moderate -80%
Severe - 13.8%
Critically ill - 6.1%

Eighty per cent of laboratory-confirmed cases outside China are from Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy.
At present, Myanmar is one of the 117 countries where no COVID-19 cases was found.

3. The differences between COVID-19 and seasonal influenza are:
- The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is severer than seasonal influenza. There is vaccine for seasonal influenza, but no vaccine and medicine was found yet for COVID-19.

4. **Situation in Myanmar (Until 4:00 pm on 5-3-2020)**

	Laboratory Test				
	Positive Result	Negative Result	Waiting for test	Under Test	Number of Patient
People under Investigation	-	52	1	2	55
Suspected cases	-	2	-		2
Total	**-**	**54**	**1**	**2**	**57**

5. There are a total of 57 people under investigation across Myanmar from 31-1-2020 to 5-3-2020: 20 in Yangon Region, 14 in Shan State, 10 in Mandalay Region and 13 in other Regions and States.
6. In preparation for COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out:
(a) monitoring persons (family members and health workers) who had close contacts with the patients and prevention and control measures against the disease at the hospitals and clinics
(b) identifying suspected cases, quarantining them and providing effective treatment
(c) giving instructions to the health workers to strictly follow preventive measures and make public awareness
(d) publishing situation reports about Myanmar and other countries in the state-owned newspapers and the Internet Website of the Ministry (www.mohs.gov.mm) and social media pages (https://www.facebook.com/ MinistryOfHealthAndSportsMyanmar) and (https://www.facebook.com/ MyanmarCDC) , with taking response to the fake news
(e) coordination with relevant government agencies to lessen socio-economic impacts resulted from COVID-19.
7. The followings are the medicines and medical equipment received from local/foreign organizations and donors until 5 March 2020;

Sr	Names of Organizations	Personal Protective Equipment	N95 Mask	Surgical Mask	Surgical Gown	Hand Gel	Protective goggles	Non-Contact Thermometer	Ventilator	Glove
1	World Health Organization	600	525	30,000	1,000	499	500			20,000
2	Myanmar Red Cross Society	2,500	-	5,100		1,857				6,000
3	Sea Lion Company	2,000								
4	Okka Thiri Company	1,000				225				
5	Zizawa Company							45		
6	Gold Lite Co., Ltd		2,000							
7	Eclion Global Group and other donors	3,300								
8	Yee Shin Company								5	
9	Valves Co., Ltd			2,000						
10	USAID	1,000	3,500	60,000		500				20,000
11	China							100		
12	INGOS			5,700		1,195	500			320
13	INGO	2,000	1,600	10,350		1,900	20			500
	Total	12,400	7,625	113,150	1,000	6,176	1,020	145	5	46,820

SEE PAGE-5

NCRPD report writing team holds sixth coordination meeting

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the sixth coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE report writing team of National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) held its sixth coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Information and Chairman of the report writing team, said this sixth meeting is for the team members are obliged to try together to produce a complete report at the end of March. He also urged the attendees to discuss requirements for compiling the report.

Afterwards, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rehabilitation Dr Tun Zaw, recounted the fifth coordination meeting's resolutions.

The attendees at the coordination meeting also discussed producing the annual report in time and ensuring its factual accuracy.

That was followed by the team's chairman U Aung Hla Tun saying that it is their first report and will also be their milestone. Therefore, he urged his team members to cooperate in compiling a complete report so that it can be referenced many years later.

Directors-generals, directors and officials from the related ministries were also present at the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Surveillance and investigation of COVID-19 Updates at 8 pm, 5 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 in China and other 77 global countries, with conducting surveillance at international gateways, at the public hospitals, community-based monitoring and private healthcare facilities.

2. In doing so, a 27-year-old woman, a native of Bhamo Township in Kachin State, was tested high fever at Muse border gate as she returned to home from Ruili city of China on 4 March. She said she began suffering fever and cough on 2 March. She was admitted to the Muse hospital and is being quarantined for medical treatments as a person under investigation. Her specimens will be taken to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for laboratory tests. She is not found with symptoms of acute respiratory diseases.

3. Until 5 March afternoon, the results from NHL have shown that—

(a) a 32-year-old women at Waibargi hospital

(b) a 9-year-old boy at Muse hospital were tested negative for COVID-19.

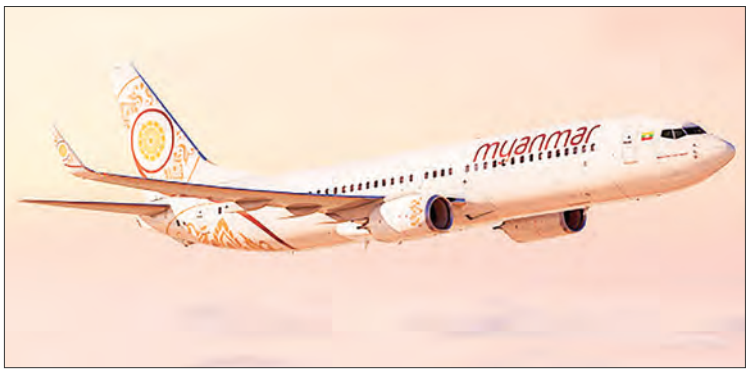
4. until 6 pm 5 March, a total of 3 patients are being given medical treatments at the respective hospitals.

5. A 26-year-old man at Kyaukpadaung People's hospital under investigation is in good health.

6. Although there is no laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 until 5 March, the ministry is conducting round-the-clock surveillance in upward momentum. As the COVID-19 is spreading in 77 countries, people are suggested to strictly follow health awareness advice of the Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention of the disease. —MOHS

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar National Airlines offers ticket purchase with MMK to locals



Myanmar citizens can now purchase flight tickets for international and domestic flights on Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)'s website in Myanmar Kyats (MMK) starting from 5 March, 2020.

MNA announced that the service is only available for Myanmar citizens and can be purchased through their website at www.flymna.com and will be available on their mobile application soon.

On their Website, the pricing for a flight can be viewed in MMK upon choosing the 'Local' option and in USD when selecting the 'Foreigner' option.

MNA is also launching a special promotion for flight tickets purchases through their Website by offering a 15% discount from 6 March to 4 April. The travel period has been designated from 6 March to 31 December 2020 and payment with MMK can be made with 123 Service and MPU Card, according to Ministry of Transport and Communications. — GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Report on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

FROM PAGE-4

9	Valves Co., Ltd			2,000						
10	USAID	1,000	3,500	60,000		500				20,000
11	China							100		
12	INGOS			5,700		1,195	500			320
13	INGO	2,000	1,600	10,350		1,900	20			500
	Total	12,400	7,625	113,150	1,000	6,176	1,020	145	5	46,820

Ministry of Health and Sports expressed gratitude to the local and foreign organizations for donating necessary medicines and medical equipment. In preparation for COVID-19 outbreak, the ministry is purchasing and distributing ventilators.

8. Although Myanmar has not found any COVID-19 patient so far,

- COVID-19 is spreading not only in China but also in Singapore, Republic of Korea, Italy, and Iran at high level.
- The chances of the travellers from the countries coming to Myanmar by flights, or through border crossings from other countries are high.
- The ministry is increasing surveillance in upward momentum at the international airports.
- The ministry is also closely monitoring the hotels, guest houses and houses where the foreign travellers will reside.
-Local transmission was found in some countries where new cases occurred despite no close contacts with COVID-19 patients or no previous visit to the countries with the outbreak of disease.
- In the crowd, people can be infected with the virus from COVID-19 patients and asymptomatic carriers.

9. It is also possible that some cases could be found immediately, the people and social organizations are suggested:

(a) to avoid crowded area and festivals as much as possible

(b) to organize only unavoidable public event

(c) to restrict the number of attendees to those events where strictly measures must be posed to prevent the audience with fever or respiratory disease while following advise of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

9. The outbreak of COVID-19 could immediately occur in Myanmar, therefore, the people and social organizations should:

(a) avoid public gatherings and festivals.

(b) only organize the public gatherings and festivals that cannot be postponed.

(c) arrange soaps and water, or hand sanitizers at the public gatherings and festivals.

(d) announce the information about COVID-19 for about five minutes before the events begin.

(e) strictly manage only a few people come to events and sick persons not to come to the events; strictly follow the health announcements issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MOHS *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

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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.

Kalewa-Mawlaik 66kV power line 81% complete

A project to erect a 66kV power line to supply round-the-clock electricity to Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region is 81 per cent complete, according to U Myo Min Aung, the Township Electrical Engineer. The Kalewa-Mawlaik power line is being built in Myoma Ward 2, Aung Thayar, he said.

Setting up the 33.4 miles long power line involves erecting 263 concrete pillars, 19 steel poles, and 97 tower pillars, he said.

The project is being implemented by the Hinthani Company. Work on the power line started in January last year and is now 81 per cent complete, said U Myo Min Aung.

The construction is being closely monitored to make sure it meets the deadline, he added.

Currently, a 800kVA generator is supplying electricity to 827 households in Mawlaik Town for four hours from 6 pm to 10 pm. With an eye on safety, the authorities are building a high standard power line, extending the existing line, and replacing old wires in homes, schools, and offices, in cooperation with the public, said an official from the Township Electrical Engineering office.

Upon completion, the power line will supply 24-hour electricity to wards in Mawlaik. It would support the development of the social, economic, educational, and health sectors in the town.—Mawlaik Tharlay

(Translated by Hay Mar)

The construction of the 66kV power line to supply round-the-clock electricity to Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region is 81 per cent complete. **PHOTO: MAWLAIK THARLAY**

Accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway claim 5 lives in Feb

FIVE persons were killed and 26 others injured in road mishaps on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in February, according to the highway traffic police.

"There were 27 traffic accidents on the highway. The accidents claimed the lives of five males and left 26 persons injured, including six females and 20 males. Most of the road accidents in February involved careless driving and tyre bursts," said an official of the highway traffic police.

The accidents were also attributed to over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather.

In January, a total of 25 accidents were reported on the highway. Within the first two months of this year, road mishaps have resulted in 12 deaths and left 41 persons injured.

Last year, there were 524 accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, which left 108 dead and 1,019 injured.

In 2019, the monthly average for accidents was 43. The monthly traffic-related deaths were 12, while the monthly traffic-related injuries totaled 84.

To reduce road mishaps, the traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing educational pamphlets. The traffic police have filed charges against suspected reckless drivers under Sections 279, 337, 338, and 304 (A) of the Penal Code. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal drugs seized in Nyaungshwe, Tachileik, Mongsat

POLICE officers from Drug Enforcement Division arrested a person identified as Hein Min Khant (a) Moe Di near Hmawby Village, Pont Mu village-tract, Nyaungshwe Township, on 4 March after confiscating 19 kilos of raw opium from him.

Later in the evening of the same day, police arrested a person named Ar Soe (a) Moe Zat when he was found to be in possession of 3,000 psychotropic tablets near Gaw Thazin road, Maca Hokhem Ward, Tachileik.

On 3 March, Tatmadaw officers confiscated 290,000 psychotropic tablets, worth K423 million at an abandoned hillside hut in Hwepu village, Mongtong Taungpaw village-tract, Monghsat Township.

On 4 March, Tatmadaw officers dug up a backpack near the same village and found 126,000 psychotropic tablets and 0.7 kilos of crushed tablets from its contents. Police are opening cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. —GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Confiscated drugs seen in Nyaungshwe and Tachilek. **PHOTO: MPF**

Over 100,000 tons of beans exported in Jan-Feb

MYANMAR exported more than 100,000 tons of various pulses and beans in the first two months of this year, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, peanuts, chickpeas, butter beans, and other beans and pulses.

"India's mung bean requirement has been increasing, but the traders are offering a low price. The mung beans price is currently sliding," according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Following President U Win Myint's visit to India, the March-end deadline for exporting 250,000 tons of mung beans to India has been extended until the end of April, the association stated.

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

Merchants evaluate quality of various categories of beans at the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

India had earlier set the mung beans quota at 150,000 tons and increased the quota limit by a further 250,000 tons last year, according to a trade notice issued by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

The deadline for the increased quota of 250,000 tons was earlier set at 31 March, 2020. Now, the quota period has been extended till April-end to provide more time to farmers and traders.

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

Myanmar's mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams are primarily exported to India. Although Myanmar pulses and beans have penetrated markets in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Malaysia, and Indonesia, the volume of exports to those countries is extremely low.

Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tons of different varieties of pulses, worth an estimated US$1 billion, to other countries in the 2018-2019 financial year. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trading on YSX increases in February, crossing K1.48 bln

THE value of stocks traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) last month was registered at K1.48 billion, a significant increase compared toK1.25 billion in January 2020, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

Compared with January, the volume of shares traded on the exchange showed a small drop in February. While 188,919 shares were traded on the exchange in February, 196,836 shares were traded in January. Yet, the share prices of MTSH, MCB and TMH showed a slight increase in February, according to the monthly report of the YSX

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd — are being traded on the stock exchange.

In February, the shares of FMI closed at K11,000, MTSH at K3,950, MCB at K8,200, FPB at K22,500, and TMH at K2,800 as per YSX's monthly data.

In 2016, shares of only three companies were traded on the YSX —FMI, MTSH and MCB. One more public company, FPB, was listed on the YSX in 2017. In 2018, TMH was listed on the exchange. Additionally, another one more public company the Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR) (EFR) is going to debut on the exchange on 20 March 2020.

Visitors seen at Yangon Stock Exchange in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

More than 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were traded on the YSX in 2016, and their value was estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trade value was only K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five companies, worth K11.5 billion, were traded on the exchange, according to the annual report of the YSX.

The YSX aims to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

In 2018, YSX increased the matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, YSX held a promotional event for investors in order to increase number of new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively by letting know them about the financial reviews and future prospects of YSX-listed companies.

The YSX has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and to help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. – Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Maritime rice exports cross 1 mln tons in current financial year

MYANMAR'S maritime trade accounted for 86.4 per cent of the total rice exports and generated an estimated income of US$313 million as of 14 February in the current financial year, as per data from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The volume of rice shipped via sea trade exceeded 1 million tons in the current fiscal.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, rice trade via the border has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 13.58 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the border gates have generated an estimated $44.47 million in the current financial year.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 14 February in the 2019-2020 financial year has been estimated at over 1.2 million metric tons, worth $357.6 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 59 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Madagascar and the Philippines. Guinea is the fourth-largest buyer and Malaysia the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 14.84 per cent of rice exports, while 37.55 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Indonesia, Senegal, Guinea, and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 52 foreign markets.

"At present, Myanmar's rice is highly demanded in the international market amid COVID-19. Foreign buyers are offering a higher price," said an MRF official.

The prevailing market price of rice in the country has risen by 15-30 per cent compared with during the harvest time of monsoon paddy, according to the Bayintnaung rice depot.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million metric tons, worth $691 million, in the 2018-2019FY. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

6 MARCH 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Cooperation with CTFMR a welcome step to protect children amid conflict

MYANMAR has formed a committee to protect children in conflict-ridden areas, in accordance with the new Child Rights Law enacted in 2019, to safeguard the interests of children amid continued strife.

Our country has witnessed armed conflicts for over 70 years, and still, the guns have not been silenced.

The formation of the committee reflects Myanmar's commitment to ending and preventing six grave violations against children in conflicted areas of Myanmar, which ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC).

> All warring parties in Myanmar have a duty to protect children from six violations under international law – killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, abduction, attacks against schools or hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access to children.

It is not just our moral obligation to make sure children are safe and secure, but a legal one, too.

All warring parties in Myanmar have a duty to protect children from six violations under international law — killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, abduction, attacks against schools or hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access to children.

As a legal responsibility, Chapter 17 of the new Child Rights Law is dedicated to protecting children in armed conflicts and states punishments for those who commit crimes against children. The committee implementing the law has been tasked with 10 duties.

The fourth task of the committee is to cooperate and coordinate with UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), with a commitment to carrying out the task dutifully.

With the launch of joint efforts with the CTFMR, the steps taken by the Union Government for better protecting our children deserve to be acknowledged by the United Nations.

The Union Government has committed to working with the UN agencies and CTFMR to put in place all the necessary measures to protect children from recruitment and use by warring parties in the country.

We hope that once the work of the committee gathers speed, Myanmar would be removed from the UN's list of nations with bad images.

Petrified Wood (Ingyin Kyauk): Poetry Written by the Earth

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better"

Albert Einstein,
Legendary Scientist

IN 1835, Charles Darwin discovered a petrified forest in Auga de la Zorra, Argentina. His discoveries made him question the origin of species. He later recorded his observations in "A Naturalist Voyage (1845)". Thus, the discovery of fossil forests may have been one of the driving factors for Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. The ancient forest (237-242 million years old) was interpreted to be a subtropical dry seasonal forest and is now known as the "Darwin Forest" (Dr. Telmo Pievant et al., 2009).

Fossil trees help us to have a better understanding of the past vegetation and climate of the region. Well preserved cell structure can allow scientists to identify what kind of trees they were. A single petrified tree is like a page from a giant ancient book telling the story of a petrified forest.

Petrified wood (from the Greek root petro meaning "rock" or "stone"; literally "wood turned into stone") is the name given to a special type of fossilized remains of terrestrial vegetation. It is the result of a tree or tree-like plants having completely transitioned to stone by the process of permineralization. All the organic materials have been replaced with minerals (mostly a silicate, such as quartz), while retaining the original structure of the stem tissue. Unlike other types of fossils which are typically impressions or compressions, petrified wood is a three-dimensional representation of the original organic material. The petrifaction process occurs underground, when wood becomes buried under sediment or volcanic ash and is initially preserved due to a lack of oxygen which inhibits aerobic decomposition. Mineral-laden water flowing through the covering material deposits minerals in the plant's cells; as the plant's lignin and cellulose decay, a stone mold forms in its place. The organic matter needs to become petrified before it decomposes completely.

Some people wondering how they can know whether this is petrified wood or just a rock. Petrified wood that we see nowadays was once a living tree. Although the wood was turned into stone, the wood sometimes retains both its external shape, i.e., grain, burrs, knots, branches, and its internal stricture, such as growth rings, vessels, rays, tracheids, which are different in each tree species, as it is gradually petrified.

Paleobotanists identify petrified wood by comparing the anatomical structure of the fossil wood with that of living wood and other fossil wood that has been previously identified. The scientific name given for petrified wood often uses the genus name of plants considered to be its along with the ending "Oxylon" which comes from the Greek word for "wood".

Fossil tree at Mount Popa Geopark

Does it take over 100,000 or million years?

It can, but it does not always take that long for wood to be completely turned into stone. Under some conditions, rapid natural petrification can occur, such as in Yellowstone National Park, USA, within sedimentary strata around volcanoes. The rates of silica deposition into blocks of wood were between 0.1 and 4.0 mm/year in alkaline springs.

A research experiment was done by Japanese scientists. They placed ten pieces of fresh alder wood into Tateyama Hot Spring (50-52°C and pH 2.95 – 3.0), in central Japan. The pieces of wood were separately removed in different years and the amount of silicification (SiO_2) was measured. The results indicated that the wood had been rapidly petrified in 7 to less than 36 years.

There are some examples of the rapid petrification in nature. Do you know that it can do by people too? One experiment on the rapid petrification of wood from silica gel was done in the laboratory in the USA. Only one day was required to crystallize quartz at 300°C and 3kilobars (about 3,000 atm) pressure the same degree of crystallization occurred in 7 days.

Petrified wood is "a key to the past" as it once belong to living trees. Some petrified wood takes us back to a world 400 million years ago. The study of petrified wood gives us very useful information. Let's see what values petrified wood has.

1. Biological Value: Petrified wood expands and contracts a scientist's knowledge of botany and paleobotany by providing a better understanding of biology and evolution of plants, plant taxonomy, plant environment and paleoecology.
2. Geological Value: Petrified wood enables us to tell the stratigraphic age of the enclosing sediments and supplies important evidence in support of theories of continental drift.
3. Geographical value: Petrified tells us what the ancient environment, including the paleoclimate, was like. The palaeoflora can help us to predict climate trends in the future.
4. Archaeological Value: Petrified wood from some localities provides important archaeological evidence such as in Myanmar, where the tools from the "Anyathian Culture" (Palaeolithic) were made of petrified wood. In Thailand, Stone Age tools made of petrified wood were also discovered for the first time in Sung Noen District, Nakhon Ratchasima. Archaeologists have given the name "Sung Noen Culture" to the people who made their tools. The study of artefacts has indicated that petrified wood was used as building material, tools and for game balls in ancient American cultures.
5. Tourism: Many countries have set up natural parks, national monuments, or museums to conserve petrified wood, e.g., Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark, Greece, Petrified Wood National Park, Arizona, USA, and the Petrified Forest Shenzhen Fairy Lake, China, where people can learn to appreciate its true value.
6. Esthetical value: Because of its fascinating colours and shapes, petrified wood has been used for a variety of esthetical purposes, such as for garden decoration and for making ornaments and furniture.

Wood fossil Jewelry beads (GemWoholesale)

Thai Story of Petrified Wood

In Thailand, some people believe that there is a spirit in large petrified tree trunks, so people set up a sacred shrine covering or near the petrified wood to pray for protection or for whatever they wish. Some believe that touching the petrified wood will make the person have a long life because of antiquity of the petrified wood.

"Once upon a time, a goddess tried to light a fire with numerous logs. But the wood was wet, so she could not succeed. In anger, she called down a curse upon the wood to be turned into stone. Therefore, the wood will never be able to be lighted". That's how petrified wood appeared on the earth. "These giant petrifications were spent arrow shafts and spears dispatched by the Thunder God Shinauav and his enemies during a great battle...belief of members of the Paiute tribe. "They were the bones of the great giant monster Yeitso".. belief members of the Navajo tribe.

Petrified wood is called by different names in each region of Thailand, e.g., "Hin Chauk" or "Hin Fa". Some call it a rock followed by the local name of the tree that the prettified wood looks like.

SEE PAGE-10

The petrified woods or rocks are fossilized trees and treelike terrestrial plants that are highly valued and even revered in some Asian countries.

An exhibition of art works of fossilized sal trees at the compound of Tree Jade Company in Natogyi.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 63/2020

12th Waxing of Tabaung, 1381 ME
5 March 2020

Termination of registration and dissolution of political party

1 Union Election Commission had permitted the United Nationalities Federal Democracy Party to set up as a political party with the registration No 106 prescribed in the Notification (28/2017) on 9-11-2017.

2. Regarding the abolition of the party, United Nationalities Federal Democracy Party submitted the application letter, No. 01/UNFDP(Bahaya)/2020 dated 23 January 2020, to the Union Election Commission and the UEC discussed the issue at its meeting No 6/2020 on 5 March 2020 and made a decision to terminate the registration and to dissolve the United Nationalities Federal Democracy Party in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law Article 19 (a).

3. It is hereby announced that the registration of United Nationalities Federal Democracy Party has been terminated and the party dissolved as from 5 March 2020.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The Wa National Party headquartered at No 39, Panlon Road, Panlonlan Ward, Hopan Township, Wa Self-Administered Division, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 4 March 2020. In their application, they mentioned that they will use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.

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

Union Election Commission

Flag of the Wa National Party

Emblem of the Wa National Party

Garment factories running out of raw materials due to COVID-19, facing closures

The press conference concerning the possible impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy being held in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO: NYEIN NYEIN

By Nyein Nyein

The private business firms will run out of raw materials at the end of next month and will suffer severe impacts in the following months if the global control measures failed to turn out significant results, Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, the Secretary General of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

She made the comment at the meeting of government officials, labour groups and business owners of local and international firms.

The tripartite meeting decided to hold frequent meetings for solving possible impacts of COVID-19 on the country's economy.

At the meeting, representatives of foreign companies asked about rules and regulations of Myanmar government on the COVID-19, exchange of information, and collaboration of global countries, awareness on personal hygiene and travelling policy and publishing announcements of Ministry of Health and Sports on its Website in English.

Yangon Region Government's Min ister for Immigration and Human Resources Daw Moe Moe Su Kyi explained the government's real-time announcements on the situation of COVID-19.

Local businesspersons called for cooperation of government and labour unions in facing against the consequences of the disease which has posed economic and social problems on their businesses.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected on garment industries, SMEs, tourism sector and production of fruits and vegetables of Myanmar.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Over 120 tons of watermelons, muskmelons sold at five-day fair

A five-day Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Fair took place from 29 February to 4 March at Myaypadethakyun in Yangon.

The sale of fruits was twice the expected volume, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

The five-day fair was held from 29 February to 4 March to promote local consumption and demand. More than 120 tons of watermelons and muskmelons were sold at the fair, according to the MFVP.

"Chinese traders came to purchase watermelons and muskmelons in the border area. However, the demand could not be met like before because of the outbreak of disease. These days, around 200 truckloads are being exported to China. But, the price of watermelons and muskmelons is still on the decline," said an official from the Muse trade zone under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar earned more than US$300 million from the export of watermelons and muskmelons from the 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 financial years. In 2019, Myanmar exported more than 800,000 tons of watermelons and muskmelons to China.

Watermelons and muskmelons are grown across the country, except in Kayah and Chin states. There are 93,500 acres of watermelon and 34,150 acres of muskmelon farms in Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Producers and Exporters Association.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Petrified Wood (Ingyin Kyauk): Poetry Written by the Earth

FROM PAGE-9

"In old times, people in Thailand selected the glossy petrified wood to hit with steel to spark a fire for smoking and cooking", said an old farmer from Hin Lek Fire Village, Khu Muang District, Buri Ram Province as matches were hard to find at that time in the countryside. The name of the village "Hin Lek Fire" means "flint", referring to the petrified wood that was used. "Hin" = rock, "Chauk" is a local name in the northeast for the tree. Terminalia alata, "Fa" is from the word "Rok Fa" the common Thai name for the same tree.

Many Petrified trunks found in Suranaree subdistrict: Muang Nakhon Ratchasima, are opalized wood containing silica (Si O2) and 3-12% water (H2O) by weight. The Moh's scale hardness is 5.5-6. The opalized wood is glossy in appearance, similar to pearl and glass, and varies in colour, e.g., milky white, orange, red, green, light blue. Although the cell structures in some opalized wood are not well preserved, there are some indications of cellular arrangement. In some specimens, the cell structures are excellently preserved from when they were living trees, which is remarkable, as the fossils date back more than 800,000 years. The petrified wood enables wood anatomists to identify the palaeoflora and reconstruct the palaeoenvironment.

The Petrified Wood in Myanmar

Regarding fossil wood or Enjin Kyauk in Myanmar Miss Ruth Holden, Geological Survey of India, pointed out in her "A fossil wood from Burma" in 1916 as follows:

The extraordinary abundance of fossil wood to be found in Upper Burma has been noticed by all travellers in that region from the time of Crawfurd's visit in 1827. Some striking is its occurrence that the beds in which it appears were long known as the "Fossil Wood Group." More recently, however, a certain number of specimens have been found in the underlying Pegu series, so, to make the distinction between the two series clear, the name of the upper one has been changed to Irrawaddian. As regards age, the former is referred to the Oligocene or Miocene; the later to the Pliocene. The manner of preservation has been a subject of more or less controversy, Buckland states that part is calcified and part silicified; Theobald asserts that "none of the fossil wood is mineralized by calcification," and this observation is confirmed by Oldham. Pascoe, however, says that both types of petrifaction are to be encountered, though the former is the more common. The nature of the wood has always been a mystery. Buckland suggested that it resembles the tamarind, but presented no evidence pointing to such a conclusion. On the other hand, the natives claim to be able to recognize two varieties, one of which they identify as the modern Enjin tree (Hopea suava) and the other as the Thiya (Shorea obtuse). In order to settle the matter, Theobald in 1867 sent some specimens to the British Museum for microscopic examination, but the preservation proved to be unsatisfactory that it was only possible to ascertain that it was exogenous, not coniferous. Even in 1895, Noetling comments on the fact that though quantities have been brought to England, no scientific investigation has hitherto been made. In 1914, however, Mr. F.W. Cuffe, presented to the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, a calcified specimen from Gwedindon in the Sagaing District. This was submitted by Dr. Arber to the writer for sectioning, and although the condition of the tissues leaves much to be desired, it is believed that its microscopic structure may be made out with sufficient detail to warrant description.

Dr. H.L. Chhibber, 1934, Geological Survey of India; Head of the Department of Geology and Geography, University College, University of Rangoon described in his 'The Geology of Burma' that with the exception perhaps of precious stones like rubies the fossil wood of Burma has attracted the attention of travellers more than any other mineral substance. It was noticed as early as the end of the eighteen century, or early in the nineteenth, by travellers like Symes, Crawford, Yule and Oldham. The Burmese always refer the fossil wood to Ingyin (Pentacme suavis), which grows so commonly in those parts. Both monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous fossil wood have been recorded from the Irrawaddy Series and the former includes palms from close to the Pegu-Irrawaddian boundary. As regards the dicotyledonous wood, which forms the bulk of the material, Miss Ruth Holden has described Dipterocarpoxylon Burmese. The monocotyledonous wood represents the remains of palms which show very clearly the cordiform vascular bundles and their obliquity to the stem axis when about to enter a leaf. Theobald attributed the silicification of the wood to the agency of springs consequent upon volcanic activity. Such a theory has to be rejected not only because of the absence of siliceous sinter and cherty beds but also of the discrepancy in age between the Irrawaddy Series and the main volcanic rocks of Burma, some of which are decidedly younger than the former. Xenoliths of fossil wood are even found associated with the andesite lava of Mount Popa.

In 2017, Nareerat Boonchai from Thailand has been studied some petrified trees near Thanbo village in Mount Popa National Geopark. Fossil discovery in Myanmar has increased and thus should be preserved for research of the world history, natural heritage of public and can be developed to a learning resource and tourism places to generate revenue for the country. However, since pre-war days, the fossil could be destroyed and misused or be commercially used. The consequence is the loss of the natural heritage of the public, which has enormous value.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is the main government organization serving the country in term of research and conserve geological resources including fossils. Therefore, it is necessary to establish specific law of protection, conservation and management the fossil. As a result, the high value of the fossil wood and other vertebrate fossils shall be under protection, conservation and management as national properties for our next generation to come.

References:

1. *Khorat Fossil Museum, 2017. Nakhon Ratchsima, Thailand*
2. *Holden R. 1916. A fossil wood from Burma*
3. *H.L.Chhibber,1934. The Geology of Burma*

Coronavirus lingers in rooms and toilets but disinfectants kill it

SINGAPORE — New research from Singapore published Wednesday showed that patients with the novel coronavirus extensively contaminate their bedrooms and bathrooms, underscoring the need to routinely clean high-touch surfaces, basins and toilet bowls.

The virus was however killed by twice-a-day cleaning of surfaces and daily cleaning of floors with a commonly used disinfectant -- suggesting that current decontamination measures are sufficient as long as people adhere to them.

The research letter was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and comes after cases in China where the pathogen spread extensively through hospitals, infecting dozens of health care workers and other patients.

This led scientists to believe that, beyond catching the infection through coughing, environmental contamination was an important factor in the disease's transmission, but its extent was unclear. Researchers at Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases and DSO National Laboratories looked at the cases of three patients who were held in isolation rooms between late January and early February.

They collected samples from their rooms on five days over a two-week period.

The room of one patient was sampled before routine cleaning, while the rooms of the other two patients were sampled after disinfection measures.

The patient whose room was sampled before cleaning had the mildest symptoms of the three, only experiencing a cough. The other two had moderate symptoms: both had coughing and fever, one experienced shortness of breath and the other was coughing up mucus.

Despite this disparity, the patient whose room was sampled before cleaning contaminated 13 of 15 room sites tested, including a chair, the bed rail, a glass window, the floor, and light switches.

Three of the five toilet sites were also contaminated, including the sink, door handle and toilet bowl — more evidence that stool can be a route of transmission. Air samples tested negative, but swabs taken from air exhaust outlets were positive — which suggests that virus-laden droplets may be carried by air flows and deposited on vents.—AFP ■

Larry Bowles, an equipment service worker for King County Metro, sprays Virex II 256, a disinfectant, throughout a metro bus at the King County Metro Atlantic/Central operating base in Seattle, Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

GM unveils long-range battery in fresh electric car push

DETROIT — General Motors on Wednesday unveiled a new long-range battery to power an expanded lineup of electric cars as part of an effort to catch sector leader Tesla.

GM said its Ultium batteries would have a range of up to 400 miles (645 kilometers) between charges, designed for fast charging and adaptable for a variety of vehicles.

The biggest US carmaker said it is ramping up its move into electric vehicles with several new electric models starting this year including a new version of the Bolt EV, launching in late 2020.

"Our team accepted the challenge to transform product development at GM and position our company for an all-electric future," said GM chairman and chief executive Mary Barra.

"What we have done is build a multi-brand, multi-segment EV strategy with economies of scale that rival our full-size truck business with much less complexity and even more flexibility."

The GM strategy is based on a "modular propulsion system" and the new pouch-style battery cells which can be stacked vertically or horizontally depending on the layout of the vehicle.

"Thousands of GM scientists, engineers and designers are working to execute an historic reinvention of the company," said GM president Mark Reuss.

"They are on the cusp of delivering a profitable EV business that can satisfy millions of customers." While GM was among the first to make an electric car, Tesla has been growing quickly and gaining value as it adds new models.

GM is planning electric vehicles under the Cadillac brand and an electric GMC Hummer. It is also producing autonomous electric vehicles through its Cruise unit based in California.—AFP ■

GM is stepping up its efforts to produce electric-powered vehicles with a new long-range battery and an updated version of its Bolt electric car. **PHOTO: AFP**

Destruction caused by a landslide in the Morro do Macaco Molhado favela in Guaruja, in Brazil's Sao Paulo state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chaotic climate, chaotic cities fuel Brazil flood toll

RIO DE JANEIRO — Violent rain has killed scores of people and forced thousands from their homes this year in Brazil's most populous states, a disaster experts blame on climate upheaval but also rampant urbanization.

Flash floods, landslides and other havoc wrought by torrential rain have killed at least 29 people in recent days in the states of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Another 25 are missing.

That comes after more than 50 people were killed by heavy rain that devastated the state of Minas Gerais in January.

The same scenes of destruction have played out in all three southeastern states, together home to more than 83 million people: poor neighborhoods wiped out by tidal waves of brown mud; houses and cars swept away by flash floods; residents evacuated by boat and helicopter as their streets turn to gushing rivers.

More than three million people live in high-risk zones in Brazil's southeast, which has been hit by record rain this year -- in some places, a month's worth in a matter of hours.

As dozens of rescue workers dug through the debris of wrecked houses for his missing mother, stepfather and sister-in-law, one of those affected, 24-year-old Yago de Sousa Nunes, voiced frustration that the authorities did not do more to protect the at-risk population. —AFP ■

Panic buying follows coronavirus across the globe

HONG KONG — Shelves are being stripped bare of toilet rolls, hand sanitiser and surgical masks everywhere from Japan to France to the United States as panic buying criss-crosses the globe with the coronavirus, defying repeated calls for calm and disrupting supply chains.

Obsessively documented on social media, scrambles to the shops and empty shelves are adding panic and confusion to the fight against an epidemic that has killed thousands, placed millions under quarantine and battered global markets. Australia's biggest supermarket this week began rationing sales of toilet paper after police had to be called to a shop in Sydney when a knife was drawn in a scuffle over the scarce commodity.

On Saturday Japan's prime minister took to Twitter to calm fears of a national shortage, while social media photos from the US show toilet paper shelves lying bare. Psychologists say a mix of herd mentality and over-exposure to coverage of the virus is to blame.—AFP

Panic-buying is criss-crossing the globe with the coronavirus, defying repeated calls for calm and disrupting supply chains. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cathay Pacific fined by UK watchdog over massive data breach

HONG KONG — Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific has been fined HK$5 million by Britain's privacy watchdog over a huge data leak of more than nine million customers including passport numbers and credit card details.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said in a statement on Wednesday it has ordered the airline to pay 500,000 pounds (US$644,000) for "failing to protect the security of its customers' personal data".

Between October 2014 and May 2018, a lack of security measures on the carrier's computer systems led to a data breach involving more than 9.4 million customers around the world, according to the ICO.

"People rightly expect when they provide their personal details to a company, that those details will be kept secure to ensure they are protected from any potential harm or fraud," Steve Eckersley, ICO Director of Investigations said. "That simply was not the case here." — AFP ■

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ဒါရိုက်တာအဖွဲ့
Global New Light of Myanmar Co., Ltd

Vacancy Announcement

The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw announces the vacancy for the following post for The Peace Support Secretariat:

Executive Director

Skills and Experience:

- Experienced professional background with proven track record
- Knowledge of the Myanmar Peace Process
- At least 15 years of experience in a higher management role
- Excellent organizational, diplomatic and interpersonal skills
- Proven experience in leadership positions
- Strong analytical and reporting skills
- Advance degree required
- Fluency in English language, both written and spoken

Duration of Work:

- One Year, with a possibility of extension thereafter (full–time)

Place of Work:

- Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Salary:

- Expected Salary

Other Requirements:

- Only citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- May be required to travel at short notice

Application Process:

- An application, comprising a CV/resume and a covering letter outlining relevant experience and qualifications must be submitted to **Email: nrpcnpt1@gmail.com** with the position title. Application much includes a minimum of three referees and their contact details. (Download the application form: **http://www.nrpc.gov.mm**)

For details of the Terms of Reference and Job Descriptions, Skills and Experience and Other necessary documents, please visit our website: **http://www.nrpc.gov.mm**. Application should be received no later than 28th March, 2020.

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NOTIFICATION

1. Yangon City Development Committee is upgrading its Building Construction Permit System to the online submission system (Automation System). The Pilot Phase of Yangon Building Permit System for Low and Medium Risk Buildings has been launched since 9–8–2019.

2. It has been more than 7 months since the pilot launch, during which the system has been gradually improved with the participation of the professionals.

3. This is to notify that online submission of all construction permit applications, not only for Low Risk and Medium Risk Buildings but also High Risk Buildings, will be accepted online from 15th March, 2020 onwards.

4. This is also to notify in advance that starting from 27th April, 2020, after allowing some time for familiarization and improvement of the system, the submission of building construction applications will be accepted online only.

Yangon City Development Committee

circulation order is in easier way.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (008S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (008S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2020 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

Los Angeles port, country's biggest, hit hard by coronavirus

Shipping containers from China and other Asian countries are unloaded at the Port of Los Angeles on 14 September, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES — The Port of Los Angeles, the biggest in the United States, has been significantly impacted by the new coronavirus outbreak and is forecasting a 15 to 17 per cent drop in activity in the first quarter of the year, officials said Wednesday.

Eugene Seroka, the executive director of the port which mainly handles cargo to and from China, told the Los Angeles City Council that the facility experienced 20 to 25 per cent less business in February compared to the same period last year. He said some 40 vessels that had been scheduled to arrive at the port through April had been cancelled due to the outbreak of the virus.

"We have advised the marketplace that we expect quarter one container volume to be down 15 to 17 percent," he added. Seroka warned that the drop in business would impact workers and the wider community.—AFP ■

Virus hit to aviation may top $100 bn: industry group

SINGAPORE — Airlines could lose up to $113 billion in revenues this year due to the coronavirus, equivalent to the damage experienced by the industry during the financial crisis, a trade body warned Thursday. The dire prediction came as Flybe collapsed into bankruptcy with the virus, which has killed over 3,200 people worldwide, dealing a fatal blow to the ailing British regional carrier. With the disease now rapidly spreading outside China, demand for air travel is nosediving globally, spelling serious trouble for many already struggling carriers. In a new assessment of the impact, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimated revenue losses to airlines' passenger business of between $63 billion and $113 billion in 2020. The higher figure is for a scenario where the virus spreads more widely, and would be equivalent to the hit to the industry during the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, the group warned.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2006S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2006S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2020 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (205N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (205N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (009W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2020 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 VINALINES UNITY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VINALINES UNITY VOY. NO. (2004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Invitation for Bids

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

Date: 6th March 2020

Contract Title: Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Ayeyarwady, Mon and Bago (West)

Reference No: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W7/2020 and MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W8/2020

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W7/2020 for Ayeyarwady and Mon & MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W8/2020 for Ayeyarwady and Bago (West).**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W7/2020 for Ayeyarwady and Mon & MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W8/2020 for Ayeyarwady and Bago (West).**

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W7/2020 for Ayeyarwady and Mon is:**

Lot 1: Ayeyarwady – 63 Villages
Lot 2: Ayeyarwady – 59 Villages
Lot 3: Ayeyarwady – 83 Villages
Lot 4: Ayeyarwady – 65 Villages
Lot 5: Ayeyarwady and Mon – 60 Villages
Lot 6: Ayeyarwady – 46 Villages
Lot 7: Ayeyarwady – 65 Villages
Lot 8: Ayeyarwady – 33 Villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W8/2020 process for Ayeyarwady and Bago (West) is:**

Lot 1: Ayeyarwady – 51 Villages
Lot 2: Ayeyarwady – 103 Villages
Lot 3: Ayeyarwady – 69 Villages
Lot 4: Ayeyarwady – 73 Villages
Lot 5: Ayeyarwady – 72 Villages
Lot 6: Ayeyarwady – 62 Villages
Lot 7: Bago (West) – 66 Villages

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

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoee@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [10:00 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below:

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

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

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

Attention: **Project Manager**
Meeting Room No.2, Ground Floor,
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: **Nay Pyi Taw**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Zip Code: **15011**
Telephone: **+95 67 3431176**
Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**
Electronic mail address: **nep.pmomoee@gmail.com**

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

Afghan war crimes probe must go ahead says ICC judges

THE HAGUE — International war crimes judges ruled Thursday that a probe into wartime abuses in Afghanistan must go ahead, including looking into possible atrocities committed by US forces, as they overturned a previous court ruling.

Pre-trial judges at the Hague-based International Criminal Court last year rejected a demand by its chief prosecutor to open a full-blown probe into crimes committed in the war-torn nation — an investigation also bitterly opposed by Washington.

Prosecutors appealed the move, saying that the judges made an error when they slapped down Fatou Bensouda's request by saying although it met all the right criteria and a reasonable basis, it was "not in the interest of justice."

The appeals judges agreed with the prosecution.

"The prosecutor is authorised to commence an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Afghanistan since 1 May, 2003," ICC judge Piotr Hofmanski said.

"It is for the prosecutor to determine whether there is a reasonable basis to initiate an investigation," under the court's statutes, Judge Hofmanski said.

Pre-trial judges are only called upon to see if there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation not to "review the Prosecutor's analysis," he said.

In 2006, the ICC's prosecutors opened a preliminary probe into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in the central Asian nation since 2003.

In 2017 Bensouda asked judges to allow a full-blown inquiry, not only into Taliban and Afghan government personnel but also international forces, US troops and members of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But pre-trial judges then said it "would not serve the interests of justice" and that the court should focus on cases with a better chance of success. —AFP ■

A US soldier investigates the scene of a suicide attack at the Afghan-Pakistan border crossing in Torkham, Nangarhar province in 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**

Broadband services restored in Kashmir

SRINAGAR — Broadband services have been restored in Kashmir after seven months. Earlier this facility had only been restored for government offices and other essential services in the Valley.

Mobile internet services were earlier restored in Kashmir. The Central government had suspended the internet in the region following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5 last year.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration Wednesday lifted the official ban on blacklisted websites, which included all social media platforms, after a gap of over seven months.

The government also lifted curbs put in place on fixed-line internet services.

They had remained blocked since 5 August as part of the communications blackout enforced by authorities ahead of Modi government's decision to abrogate Article 370.

The administration had restored telephone and mobile phone services across J&K in a phase-wise manner.

The internet was restored in January when the UT government announced a list of over 300 websites that could be accessed at 2G speeds.

Since January, however, the administration also white-listed or made accessible around 1,600 websites.

Wednesday's order issued by the Home Department of the J&K administration, however, stated that internet speed will continue to be restricted to 2G. — ANI

More than a third of India's internet bans in the last six years were imposed in Kashmir. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sri Lankan authorities believe the Indian Ocean island is being used as a trafficking transit point for drugs. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sri Lanka seizes record drugs haul at sea

COLOMBO — Two foreign trawlers packed with over $33 million worth of heroin and crystal methamphetamine were seized in Sri Lanka's biggest-ever drugs bust at sea, a navy spokesman said Thursday.

Troops found 400 kilogrammes (about 880 pounds) of heroin and 100 kilogrammes (about 220 pounds) of the drug "ice" on board the two vessels, spokesman Isuru Sooriyabandara said.

The street value of the seized narcotics was estimated by officials to be 6,000 million rupees ($33.5 million).

The vessels, as well as a Sri Lankan fishing boat, were Thursday escorted to a harbour near the capital Colombo.

Sixteen foreign crew and five Sri Lankan crewmen were detained for questioning, Sooriyabandara added. The nationalities of the foreigners were not disclosed by authorities.

"The two foreign vessels were trying to offload the drugs onto a Sri Lankan fishing boat," Sooriyabandara told AFP.

The foreign vessels, which carried no registration, were intercepted in international waters some 1,100 kilometres (687 miles) from Sri Lanka's coast.

Sooriyabandara said investigators were checking GPS data on board the vessels to establish the route and the point of origin.

Authorities said initial investigations suggested the Iran-Pakistan coast was the point of origin.

In 2016, the navy arrested 10 Iranians, two Pakistanis and one each from India and Singapore for allegedly trying to smuggle 110 kilogrammes of heroin into the island nation via a trawler. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Japan says state visit by China's Xi postponed over virus

TOKYO — A state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping has been postponed as preventing the outbreak of the new coronavirus is "the biggest challenge" facing both countries, Japan's top government spokesman said Thursday.

"It is necessary to give first priority to this," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters in Tokyo. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe formally invited Xi to visit during last year's G20 summit in Osaka. The last state visit by a Chinese president to Japan was in 2008, and Xi's trip was being cast as a sign of warming bilateral ties. The coronavirus outbreak, however, has delayed the visit. "China and Japan are both currently fully fighting the NCP (novel coronavirus pneumonia) epidemic," Zhao Lijian, foreign ministry spokesman, told a news conference in Beijing. "Both sides agreed on the necessity of ensuring that Chairman Xi Jinping's state visit to Japan takes place at the most appropriate timing, environment and atmosphere, and achieves full success."—AFP ■

N Korea to delay flight for diplomats wishing to return home

BEIJING — Air Koryo, North Korea's state-run carrier, is likely to delay to next week or later providing a special flight from Pyongyang to Russia for diplomats and others who want to return home, a diplomatic source said in Beijing on Thursday. The special flight from North Korea's capital to Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok was slated to be operated on Friday, the source said, as the country has stepped up efforts to prevent an outbreak of the new pneumonia-causing coronavirus raging in China. According to North Korea-focused news site NK News, the planned flight was not approved by Russian authorities. It is expected to be provided as early as next Monday, but the schedule has not been determined.—Kyodo News ■

Putin, Erdogan look to defuse Syria crisis at Moscow talks

MOSCOW — The leaders of Russia and Turkey meet in Moscow on Thursday after a surge in fighting in Syria raised fears of their armies clashing and launched a new migrant crisis.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would be looking for Russia's Vladimir Putin to agree to a rapid ceasefire in Idlib, the northwestern province of Syria where Ankara is battling Moscow-backed regime forces.

Intense fighting has killed dozens of Turkish soldiers in Idlib in recent weeks, as Ankara for the first time launched a direct offensive against President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

The onslaught has forced close to a million civilians in Idlib to flee their homes and prompted Erdogan to open Turkey's border with Greece to refugees and migrants. Turkey has demanded the European Union's support for its actions in Syria and some in the bloc have accused Erdogan of using migrants as "blackmail".

On the eve of the talks with Putin, Erdogan said he hoped "there will be a ceasefire swiftly established" in Idlib.

Ankara wants Assad's forces to cease an assault on the province, the last rebel stronghold in Syria, and pull back behind lines agreed under a 2018 deal with Russia brokered in Sochi.

Russian President Vladimir Putin (l) and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (r) will try to ease tensions that have threatened to bring their two countries into direct contact. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkey has long backed certain rebel groups against Assad but its priority now is to stop another influx of refugees across its border. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the two leaders would discuss the causes and effects of the crisis and "joint measures" they could agree to defuse it. But Moscow — which launched an air campaign in support of Assad in 2015 — will be keen to send a message that Turkey cannot stand in the way of Syria eventually retaking full control of its territory.

"There might be a ceasefire announced after the talks between Putin and Erdogan but it'll be for show," a Western diplomat told AFP. "I believe Putin will tell Erdogan that's it for his actions in Syria."

Trading accusations

The Kremlin sees Russia's campaign in Syria as a key victory of Putin's foreign policy, with clout and military bases in the country that establish Moscow as a major player in the Middle East.

Experts say Putin is not looking for a full confrontation with NATO member Turkey but also will not back down.—AFP ■

French TGV train derails on Strasbourg-Paris line, 21 hurt

INGENHEIM (France) — A French high-speed TGV train travelling from the eastern city of Strasbourg to Paris derailed on Thursday after an embankment collapsed into the tracks, seriously injuring the driver and hurting 20 others.

The driver, whose injury was not specified, was evacuated by helicopter following the accident near Ingenheim, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of Strasbourg.

The train was still intact but the locomotive was leaning on its side and four other wagons were also off the tracks, according to the state rail operator SNCF and AFP journalists at the scene.

"Despite going off the tracks, the TGV remained upright," the operator said in a Twitter post that included a picture of what it called "a major landslide."

The crew chief on the train also suffered a back injury and one passenger was hurt in the face, the SNCF said. A total of 21 people were injured, according to local authorities.

"The necessary security mechanisms to ensure the safety of the 300 passengers onboard functioned perfectly," it added. Local authorities for their part put the total number of passengers at 348.

Nearly 100 rescue workers and dozens of fire trucks were at the scene of the accident, which occurred around 20 minutes after the train left Strasbourg at 7:19 am (0619 GMT).—AFP ■

A civil security rescue helicopter near the site of the accident, which seriously injured the train's driver. **PHOTO: AFP**

Jill is 'my Secret Service' Biden jokes after wife tackles protestors

LOS ANGELES — Joe Biden joked that wife Jill was his Secret Service protection after she fought off vegan protestors who stormed the stage as the former vice president was giving a victory speech to supporters.

"I'm probably the only candidate running for president whose wife is my Secret Service," the Democratic frontrunner said at a California fundraiser in Bel Air Wednesday night, a day after the incident in Los Angeles. "Whoa, you don't screw around with a Philly girl, I'll tell you what," he said.

"I thought I heard on the news on the way over that that the committee in charge of Secret Service decided they have to start providing Secret Service for us. "I think that"s because they're afraid Jill's going to hurt someone. I tell you what man, I married way above my station," Biden joked.

As Biden was giving a speech in Los Angeles following his Super Tuesday wins, a female vegan protestor shouting "Let dairy die" rushed the stage and Jill grabbed her husband's hand and put herself between him and the woman. Seconds later another vegan protestor rushed the stage and the former second lady grabbed her with both hands and pushed her back.

The protestor was escorted from the stage to boos from Biden supporters.

Jill Biden (in green) fended off vegan protestors who rushed the stage at Joe Biden's victory speech. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We're OK," said Jill.

Democrats in the House have urged the acting Homeland Security secretary and congressional leaders to provide protection for Biden and his rival, Bernie Sanders.—AFP ■

Trump speaks over phone with Qatar's Emir on US-Taliban deal

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday spoke over the phone with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and discussed the recent agreement signed between the US and Taliban as well as other regional issues, the White House said.

Discussing the US-Taliban agreement that was signed in the Qatari capital of Doha over the weekend, the two sides agreed on the need for the Taliban to continue to reduce violence in the war-torn country, Xinhua news agency reported. The two leaders then also discussed bilateral and regional issues, including the need for all parties to take steps to resolve the dispute in the Gulf region following an escalation of tension between the US and Iran earlier this year, the White House noted.—ANI ■

Aung La N Sang to defend middleweight title against Vitaly Bigdash

Aung La N Sang (left) and Vitaly Bigdash during 'ONE: Light of a Nation' event on 30 June, 2017 in Yangon. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

ONE Championship middleweight and light heavyweight champion Aung La N Sang will defend his middleweight title against former middleweight champion Vitaly Bigdash at the ONE Championship 'Infinity 1' event, which is scheduled to take place on 10 April at Istora Senayan in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Burmese Python Aung La N Sang faced Russia's Bigdash twice in 2017. While he lost one bout, he won another bout against Bigdash.

In their first meeting in the 'Quest for Power' event in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14 January, 2017, Aung La N Sang lost to Bigdash in a unanimous decision. But, in their second meeting at the 'Light of a Nation' event on 30 June, 2017 in Yangon, Aung La landed a unanimous win over Bigdash to claim his middleweight championship title.

Aung La is currently on a seven-bout winning streak after securing a second-round TKO against Philippines fighter Brandon Vera in the light heavyweight title defense in October, 2019.

Bigdash has secured ten wins and two losses in his fighting history.

Speaking about the upcoming fight to the international media, Aung La N Sang said he will put Vitaly Bigdash out.

"I will go for broke," Aung La said. "If I touch him, I'm gonna put him out. I just have to touch him.

Just have to make sure I'm on point with everything, my preparations."

"I'm definitely a different fighter than when I first fought him. I'm training full time now, that's a lot different, and the calibre of my training partners is a lot better," he added.
— Lynn Thit (Tgi)■

MNL Week-9 matches to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE Week-9 matches of the Myanmar National League 2020 will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar National League.

Magwe FC will take on defending champions Shan United at 4 pm on 6 March at the Thuwunna Stadium. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Ayeyawady United will play against Yangon United at 3.30 pm on 7 March at the Pathein Stadium. The match will be shown live on Fortune TV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Meanwhile, at the same time, Yadanarbon FC will face Chin United at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium.

The match will be broadcast live on Channel K and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

The Sagaing United vs Rakhine United match at the Waitharli Stadium is also scheduled to take place at the same time, and it will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

The same day at 4 pm, Zwekapin United will meet Southern Myanmar FC.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Hantharwady United will take on ISPE FC at 3.30 pm on 8 March at the Bago Stadium. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.
—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Shan United's Nanda Kyaw (red) prepares for a kick during an earlier Myanmar National League match against Yangon United. **PHOTO: SUFC**

Fixtures released for U-21 Myanmar National League

The match fixtures for the U-21 Myanmar National League 2020 were announced yesterday by the Myanmar National League. There are interesting matches lined up this week.

At 4 pm on 6 March, Southern Myanmar U-21 FC will face the University team at the University Stadium.

Next, Yangon United U-21 will play ISPE U-21 FC at the South Dagon Stadium, and Silver Stars FC will take on Yadanarbon U-21 FC at the Yangon United Sports Complex at the same time on the same day.

At 4 pm on 7 March, Kachin United will clash with Zwekapin United U-21 FC at the Padonmar Stadium.

At the same time on the same day, Rakhine United U-21 FC will take on Shan United U-21 at the Salin Stadium and Mawyawadi will face Chinland FC at the South Dagon Stadium.

At 4 pm on 8 March, Chin United will take on Magwe U-21 FC at the South Dagon Stadium.

At the same time on the same day, Yaw Myay FC will take on the current forerunner Ayeyawady United U-21 at the Padonmar Stadium and Myawady FC will take on Sagaing United at the Salin Stadium. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)■

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