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Union Defence Minister receives Japanese lawmakers

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Union SWRR Minister meets Japanese Counsellor

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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 267, Fullmoon of Pyatho 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 9 January 2020

## Govt, EAOs reach eight agreements at 8<sup>th</sup> JICM in Nay Pyi Taw

**T**HE 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw, with an opening speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the center's Chairperson.

The government's representatives at the meeting were Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win, NRPC's Vice Chairpersons Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win and Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Minister U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Secretary of NRPC Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Advisor to the Office of the President U Paw Lwin Sein, Director General U Zaw Htay from the Office of the Ministry of the State Counsellor, members of Peace



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In this meeting, the leaders also decided to hold the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong during the first four months of 2020,

Commission U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo.

The Ethnic Armed Organizations were represented by Acting Leader of Peace Process

Steering Team (PPST) and Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Sao Yawd Serk, Secretary Sao Sai Nguen, Patron of Pao National Libera-

tion Organization (PNLO) Khun Okka, Vice Chairperson Khun Myint Tun, Vice Chairperson of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Khaing Soe Naing Aung, Central Committee Member Daw Saw Mra Yar Zar Lin, Chairperson of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) U Than Khe, Vice Chairperson U Myo Win, Commander-in-Chief of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) Saw Mo Shay, Military Operation Unit Head Saw Sein Win, KNU/KNLA-PC General Secretary Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo, Joint Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt, KNU's General Secretary Pado Saw Tado Muh, Central Committee Member Pado Saw Eh K'lu Say,

Lahu Democratic Union's Chairperson Kyar Khun Sar, Secretary Kyar Salmon, Chin National Front Vice Chairperson Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, General Secretary Htar Lar Hay and New Mon State Party's Central Committee Member Nai Aung Ma Ngae.

NRPC's Chairperson and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech at the meeting.

**(The full speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi covered separately in page 5 and 6.)**

Next, Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win

also made a speech, saying, "The 8<sup>th</sup> JICM is the first coordination meeting in 2020 for the peace-making processes. It is also a dawn of peace, stability and development of State expected by the people. The 7<sup>th</sup> JICM was held on 28 February 2017, and that the 8<sup>th</sup> JICM could resume the stalled peace dialogues.

All the peace negotiators are also advised to make negotiations and implement the results for genuine lasting peace and stability as soon as possible.

It is also required to turn out good results from negotiations to avoid a bitter disappointment of people to peace efforts.

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## Foreign Heads of State send felicitation to President U Win Myint

**From Norodom Sihamoni  
King of Cambodia  
Mr President,**

It is with great pleasure that I convey to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar my warm congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am convinced that the long-standing and close ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will continue to expand for the benefit of our peoples.

I extend my best wishes of good health and happiness to Your Excellency as well as progress and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

With my highest consideration,

**From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah  
OF Brunei  
Your Excellency,**

I wish to take this opportunity to send my warmest congratulations to you and to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your country's 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day.

I greatly appreciate the warm and much-valued friendship enjoyed by our two countries and people, strengthened over the years by our close cooperation, particularly in health and education. I look forward to further enhancing these important ties in the years ahead.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for your continued good health and happiness.

**From Willem- Alexander R.  
King of the Netherlands**

As Myanmar celebrates its National Day, I extend to Your Excellency my congratulations and my best wishes for the well-being of the people of Myanmar.

**From H.E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO  
President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Excellency,**

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my warmest felicitations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the country's Independence.

I look forward, therefore, to working closely with Your Excellency in the coming years to deepen these ties for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being and for the peace and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Rumen Radev  
President  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the Bulgarian people and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar- the Independence Day, as well as my heartfelt wishes for the prosperity and well-being of a friendly people of Myanmar.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my confidence in the future more active development of the relations of mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest esteem.

**From Volodymyr Zelensky  
President of Ukraine  
Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the Ukrainian people and myself let me sincerely congratulate You on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I hope for further development of the mutually beneficial cooperation in the spirit of constructive partnership between Ukraine and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar both in bilateral dimension and in the framework of international organizations.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency sound health and success in your responsible state activity, as well as peace, unity and prosperity to the friendly Myanmar people.

**From Sauli Niinistö  
President of the Republic of Finland  
Mr. President,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, I would like to extend to you my sincere congratulations and best wishes for the success and prosperity of your country and the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



## Foreign Heads of State send felicitation to State Counsellor

**From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah  
OF Brunei  
Your Excellency,**

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to you and to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on your country's 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar enjoy a long-standing friendship and close cooperation across several areas of common interest. I look forward to continuing our important work bilaterally to strengthen these much-valued ties and our regional endeavours in ASEAN.

With my kindest regards and very best wishes for your continued good health and happiness.

**From Boyko Borissov  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the Bulgarian Government and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations between Bulgaria and Myanmar will continue to develop and expand in all areas of mutual interests.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



## Sustainable Livelihoods Promotion Work Committee holds Technical Meeting on Alternative Development

THE Technical Meeting on Alternative Development of the Sustainable Livelihoods Promotion Work Committee was held at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The meeting was attended by Joint Secretary of Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control Head of Drug Enforcement Division Brigadier-General Win Naing, members of Sustainable

Livelihoods Promotion Work Committee, representatives led by Country Manager of UNODC Mr Troel Vester, delegations from Germany and Finland embassies and invited guests.

At the meeting, Brig-Gen Win Naing gave an opening speech and Country Manager of UNODC Mr Troel Vester explained cooperation works on alternative de-

velopment projects. Mr German Riveros from Rural Development and Coffee Production Expert, Taunggyi, of UNODC then discussed the works completed during the year 2019 and works programmes for year 2020. After discussion by attendees, the meeting was concluded with closing speech of Mr Troels Vester.—  
MNA (Translated by TTN)



## Govt, EAOs reach eight agreements at 8<sup>th</sup> JICM in Nay Pyi Taw



The 8<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

### FROM PAGE-1

The Year 2020 is important for Myanmar in the aspects of politics and peace amidst enormous challenges which could only be overcome by collective strength. Myanmar is on the path of multi-party democracy in its own trend. In building a better Union based on democracy and federal system in line with the results from political dialogues, it is required to implement realization of people's high expectation on politics and military affairs. The earlier we could make good results, the more people would enjoy happiness in moving towards a modern State. Therefore, EAOs, the government and the military personnel need to focus on this.

To be able to reduce negotiation period, the demands should be reasonable for the government to fulfill them.

Myanmar has adopted the multi-party democracy system for nine years ago. The system has been 10 years for Myanmar in 2020. Although the time was not very long, the 2008 Constitution has ensured the country to avoid deviation from the democratic path as it guarantees equal rights for every State and Region, or every national people.

Amidst the globalization and IT age, the Constitution would need some amendments as nothing is perfect in the world. Therefore, the Commander in Chief of Defence Services has agreed to amend the charter in line with its Chapter 12.

Peacemaking efforts will be done simultaneously by politically and militarily through UPDJC and JMC. While mutual trust is crucial for this process, worries might turn out hindrances. Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing have reminded it at the second session of 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Panglong Conference on 24 May 2017. He confirmed the NCA is not a bond to push ethnic armed organizations for abandoning their weapons; the Tatmadaw will keep on moving along NCA path based on ceasefire experiences. Moreover, it is also reaffirmed that the Tatmadaw will never deviate from NCA for negotiations in JICM, JMC, or UPDJC to reach the goal of lasting peace.

Every process needs a good step or foundation.

"A republic based on the democracy and federal system desired by all citizens is to be established in line with results from political dialogue. A genuine, sustainable peace must be negotiated in the reduction period mechanism to produce good results. This is the basic foundation and as long as we assume ourselves as founders, we will begin from this day forth to bring that peace, stability and development as quickly as we can to the citizens of this nation, who are earnestly yearning for fruits of success, through honesty, genuine desire for peace, mutual trust, respect, patience and perseverance. I implore everyone to continue to do so, and conclude

my speech here."

Next, the Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Yawd Serk, who is also Acting Leader of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST), spoke on behalf of all ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

He said: "I thank the negotiating groups and leaders of both

Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong in mid 2020."

"The implementation of the NCA will only be comprehensive if all groups that are meant to be involved are included. That is why we need to think of all possible methods to have them involved. We need to consider current situations from all areas when planning future peace processes. Putting the benefits of the people

The last point agreed by the leaders is to hold UPDJC and JMC meetings within eight months after the 8<sup>th</sup> JICM

sides who have worked hard to make this meeting a reality. Because both sides have met twice in advance to discuss upon the items we will be further discussing in this meeting, I believe the process will be smoother overall."

"The JICM is the highest mechanism of the NCA and this meeting must make methods to resolve the delays that have been in place for over a year. The JICM will discuss and approve of the topics for removing the delays. The path to holding an official negotiation meeting must be opened. Processes must be in place to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the

and the nation first during the beginning of 2020, I believe this JICM meeting will bring good results that the country has been waiting for as a new year gift."

Next, meeting participants discussed Chapter 3 of the NCA on ceasefire related matters, Chapter 4 on maintaining and strengthening ceasefire, and Chapter 6 on tasks to be implemented during the interim period.

They also discussed on a framework agreement in implementing the NCA, peace processes on all levels in both pre-2020 and post-2020, and Part III of the

Union Accord which involves NCA implementation framework agreement as part one, future tasks and implementation on all different levels post-2020 as part two, and fundamental principles agreement as part three.

The meeting then discussed possibility of holding the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPC - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong in early 2020, terminologies and definitions in the NCA, promoting EAO inclusiveness in the peace process by continuing to base future tasks on the NCA, and organizing further UPDJC and JMC meetings.

Next, PPST Acting Leader and RCSS Chairman Yawd Serk said this day is a momentous occasion for all ethnic citizens and the peace process as this 8<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting has given the green light for holding the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Union Peace Conference. He said the responsibility and accountability of negotiating groups of both sides should be commended for working hard to produce this result.

The RCSS Chairman said this meeting has strengthened the existing trust, understanding, acknowledgment and friendly relations between the leaders. He said they will implement the peace process with action and not just in words. He said they are all not just partners of the NCA but also co-owners and thus all sides have shared responsibility to it. He said just as there will be praise for success in the NCA there must be accountability for its delays. **SEE PAGE-4**

# Govt, EAOs reach eight agreements at 8<sup>th</sup> JICM in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, peace negotiators and representatives of EAOs pose for the documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

**FROM PAGE-3**

He said this is why they should work hand in hand to complete the implementation of the NCA. He said the negotiating bodies of both sides will have another meeting for future tasks after this meeting. He urged the groups to follow the matters and processes of this meeting and to consider the benefits of everyone and make compromises where necessary.

He said there should be a balance between individual group discussions and collective discussions. He said there should be careful consideration for the results and processes to be cohesive and harmonious with each other. He said that since the decision has been made to implement inclusiveness in the peace process, there should be practical implementation in the field. He urged everyone to overcome difficulties through discussion.

Next, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win expressed his delight of the successful holding of the 8<sup>th</sup> NCA implementation JICM coordination meeting. He said there is more delight in the fact that this meeting succeeded with both sides coordinating and approving eight agreements. He said the JICM has reached its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and it is a pleasant sight to see both sides smoothly entering negotiations and discussions.

He said this is the capability of officials from all groups involved and attending this meeting, and especially the executive groups whose contributions behind the scenes can be said to have achieved the decisions in this meeting. He thanked the executive groups and secretariat groups.

Vice Senior General Soe Win then urged all secretariat groups

and discussion and implementation groups to continue to work hard in future JICM meetings so as to swiftly realize the genuine and lasting peace, stability and national development desired by all ethnic citizens, through foresight and compromise where necessary.

He said the implementation period should reduce the time period mechanism, in the manner he discussed in the opening of the meeting, and everyone should work hard together to produce fruitful results in order to successfully realize the republic based on democracy and federal system desired by everyone.

Next, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered the closing speech. She said her speech is one of delight and gratitude. She said the first fact is that this meeting was a success shows the increased understanding and trust between both sides. She said that just as Vice Senior General Soe Win and RCSS Chairman Yawd Serk have mentioned earli-

er, this JICM meeting concluded swiftly and smoothly, and everyone's capability to understand each other had increased. She said this was due to the efforts of the executive groups and office groups and thanked them.

The State Counsellor said the second point is not directly related to the meeting but is something she wanted to say. She said the support given by all citizens and groups of the country in times of national challenges is a huge source of strength, and thus she is grateful to everyone.

She said the third point is the fact that all 10 EAO signatories to the NCA have attended this meeting and organizing that was a huge effort. She said she was honoured and thankful for everyone participating in this meeting in a unified fashion.

It is a good omen that this meeting which is the first of the new year has brought the good results. We believe that this new year is an auspicious one. At the same time, we understand that we need to work hard based on these good results and we are

confident that we will see better results in the future. All are requested to put all hands on deck to achieve success.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and members, and leaders of the EAOs and representatives posed for the documentary photo.

Following the meeting, Director-General U Zaw Htay and RCSS Secretary U Sai Nguen met the press.

Speaking at the press conference, Director-General U Zaw Htay said the meeting produced good results in a short time bring a good omen for the peace.

He confirmed that eight points were agreed by both sides for implementing the Chapter 3, 4 and 6 of the NCA.

Today's JICM meeting agreed to seek framework agreement by both sides for NCA implementation, steps for peace process beyond 2020 and step by step implementation, he added.

The leaders also agreed on

the type of agreement for Part-3 of the Union Accord. In this meeting, the leaders also decided to hold the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong during the first four months of 2020, he added.

The leaders also agreed to form a working committee for defining the NCA and agreed to work for inclusiveness based on NCA, said U Zaw Htay.

The last point agreed by the leaders is to hold UPDJC and JMC meetings within eight months after the 8<sup>th</sup> JICM.

"Today's meeting achieved success in a short time. Both sides will carry on based on the decisions and agreements reached at the JICM meeting," said U Zaw Htay.

"The Union Accord is composed of three parts. The part 1 is the framework agreement for implementing the NCA. The framework agreement is aimed at strengthening the ceasefire agreement. The part 2 is the steps for implementing the peace process after 2020. The coming

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Coordination meeting on implementing the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> JICM in progress in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Opening speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, at the eighth Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Implementation

8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Acknowledging the significance and collaboration of the JICM

Today's meeting is the eighth Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting. This meeting can be regarded as an important milestone for our peace process. This meeting represents not only a pivotal event that renews official discussions for the first time during the period of over one year, but may be regarded as important advance measures being undertaken for successfully convening the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, with deep political essence.

Of course, we all have views of diversity, as well as different concepts and ways of thinking. But we all share the common goal, which is to build the Democratic Federal Union founded on the national equality and national unity. We all are well convinced that, in order to put an end to the armed conflicts that arose together with our independence, and bring forth durable peace, we all share, undeniably, the same dream of a future Union. In order to keep our country and our Union from disintegration but keep it intact "with all eggs safe and secure in the nest", so to speak, and endure for many years in strength and stability, we must all march forward under a "federal Union system", which all of us can agree and accept.

Ours is "a dream of a federal Union", which we are all dreaming together, so it is no wonder that we share the same goal with heart and soul. I am sure nobody feels skeptical about it. But, of course, we have different views as to how we should materialize this dream, namely the ways and means; how to march towards the goal we have already set. Since today's meeting will focus on finding common agreement on different concepts regarding procedural matters, and adopt these agreements, this meeting has more political significance than the "restarting" of official



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the at the 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Implementation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

meetings.

### The Union Government's peace goals for the forthcoming 21st Century Panglong Conference

When our Union government launched the implementation of the national reconciliation and peace-making process, based on the NCA treaty, our aim was to get political agreements that would pave the way for securing firm foundations for the democratic federal Union. To make a review of the past, our parents and our national leaders all agreed on building the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the Union, but, unfortunately, due to certain circumstances, our dream of building the Union was shattered. Instead, we were faced with the armed conflicts. In order to continue building the federal Union, which was the dream of our parents and our forefathers, we need important federal principles. We are convening the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong with the objective of laying down these federal principles.

From our third Union Peace Conference 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, we have agreed upon 51 points of agreements as part of the Union Accord. However, these 51 points are not yet the

sufficient fundamental principles for realizing the Union of our dream. We all must strive on so as to secure the fundamental federal principles that are more perfect, and more inclusive for shaping up our future Union.

Moreover, in the period beyond also, it is very important to lay down the priorities and action plans acceptable to all participants on how to continue the implementation of the NCA and the peace process. This we have all understood and agreed upon. I feel am delighted to see that we have all been involved in pooling our ideas in laying down such long-term action plans so as to strengthen and consolidate the path we have set out.

As you all know, the NCA belongs to all of us. It is necessary for all our stakeholders who have signed the agreement to share the responsibility and accountability. I wish to remind all of you in great seriousness that we should avoid from adopting what we like and rejecting what we don't like, from implementing what pleases us most and failing to implement what doesn't please us. If one group picks and chooses what it likes and ignores what it doesn't like, this could cause obstacles to all the other groups, resulting in a series of difficulties for the

peace process. Your signature stands for your solemn promise, your unshakeable integrity and your firm sincerity.

Frankly speaking, it was not our government which has first signed the NCA agreement. But we believe it is our duty to carry on what we have been handed over as a new government out of our sense of responsibility and accountability of a government. We accept that there still remain different approaches despite having the same goal. It is through negotiations that we can transform our differences into one common solution. It is through our mutual respect and understanding, and the foundation of our mutual trust that we can smooth out our differences. That is why I'd urge you all not to lose sight of building the mutual trust, which is so important to have among ourselves.

Bringing in the non-ceasefire groups and the non-signatories

Today at our official meeting as we discuss the action plans that will be implemented not only during the life span of the present government but also during that of the future government, there still remains some non-ceasefire ethnic groups and non-signatories of the NCA. Our NRPC and

the Peace Commission have been making every effort to get in contact with these groups for the sake of making the ceasefire agreement and being inclusive in the NCA. You are always welcome to come under the Umbrella of the NCA for collective discussions, and if necessary, the Door is open for you to have separate discussions as a single group, as already clearly stated in the NCA.

I believe that we have learned a salutary lesson that it is through the dialogues that are the one and only practical and efficient means, that the armed conflicts stretching out for over seventy years can be put to an end. Concerning the case of having more armed conflicts, we would like to remind you of the fact that taking advantage by means of stronger armed forces or playing with the fancy of finding other new solutions will never bring solutions to the problems of our country.

Our people, our national races have suffered the brunt of the over seventy years of armed conflicts, and our innocent children have been going through the never-ending cycles of suffering. These sufferings are living proof of the bad outcomes armed conflicts. The armed conflicts have affected our innocent people, and their villages. The war victims have to live in miserable conditions in the refugee camps. These are the visible bad results. But there are also bad impacts that we cannot see. That is, the fact that the future of the local ethnic groups who happen to be living in the conflict areas has faded out and disappeared. In the short term, you will be drifted along in the armed conflicts, driven by your swollen pride, hatred and prejudices. But in the long run, what has been sacrificed behind the scene of smoke and gunfire is the lives of our national races, the regions where they had been settled. This we will not fail to witness, in the long run.

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## Opening speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, at the eighth Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Implementation

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I'd like to draw your attention that building the democratic federal Union is the exit path of this country that the seventy year old history of Myanmar has prescribed for us. This is the outcome from the political movements and armed movements have brought about through the sacrifices of dear losses over many years. Therefore, it is necessary to sit at the political roundtable discussions, speaking out your desires and needs and joining in our discussions. It is for this opportunity that the Door of Peace is open to all. I'd strongly urge

you all to come through the Door of Peace in dignity and with full confidence.

### New Year Resolution for Peace

In conclusion, in order to lay down the agreements at the JICM today, the government, the Hluttaw, the representatives of the Tatmadaw and the ethnic armed organizations have already held many official meetings freely over one year. Both sides have taken time to come to agreements through negotiations and arguments. The fruit of our discussions is today's JICM. I really appreciate all

those who have been involved in making contributions, having great values, as well as full Cetana, on the peace process. I am really grateful to you all.

Since this JICM saw the occasion of the birth of a new year, celebrated all over the world, you may take it for granted that this meeting is a very auspicious one. On the occasion of a New Year, many people assess what they did in the old year, and set out New Year resolutions and new dreams. This New Year, I hope, will see through this JICM the agreement to celebrate the Union Peace Conference 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pinglong without

fail. In today's meeting, you'll be offered the outline of the Union Accord to be signed at the coming 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Conference. Moreover, we will discuss and come to an agreement that we shall hold discussions about the priority tasks to be continued during the life span of the new government in the post 2020s.

Since important agreements for the peace-making process are going to be made at this JICM meeting on the occasion of the New Year, we may consider that it is the New Year bringing good luck to all of us. In other words, this JICM assumes the concepts

of making new resolutions for peace on the occasion of a new year. Such a good beginning with new resolutions for peace, I truly believe, will bring new strengths for all of us, and I strongly urge you all to continue to strive on so that we shall have a good ending till to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Conference.

I wish all leaders present at this meeting, and all those involved in the peace process, the best of health and peace of mind on the occasion of the New Year.

I thank you all.

(Translated by Dr. Zaw Tun)

## Govt, EAOs reach eight agreements at 8<sup>th</sup> JICM in Nay Pyi Taw

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conference would be the last one in the tenure of the current government. After the 2020 general elections, a change for administration will come. There are concerns for peace process at that time. For the concerns, all would seek an agreement for how peace process would be implemented step by step, and the agreement would be included in the part-2. The part 3 is the democracy and basic principles for federal system,' said U Zaw Htay.

So far, 51 points have been gained for the Union Accord 1 and 2, and they will be discussed. Some basic principles for federal system have also been reached between the Government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw. The consensus for the principles for a federal system can be reached through negotiations between both sides. The coming agreements would be included in the part-3, said U Zaw Htay.

He also quoted the speech delivered by the State Counsellor saying that the NRPC and the Peace Commission are working for inclusiveness.

To include the EAOs which have not signed the NCA in the peace process is the issue being discussed by the govern-



Director-General U Zaw Htay and RCSS Secretary U Sai Nguen meeting with the press. PHOTO: MNA

ment and the EAOs, he said.

The two sides are expected to meet again this month, he said, adding that especially, they opened discussed the armed conflicts with four organizations of the northern alliance. To reduce the tension, we need an agreement between both sides. We are working hard to gain that point through the official meeting and unofficial meetings.

"This JICM meeting designated a general period for organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Union Peace Conference — 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong. There are two parts between the government and EAOs — political

and military. There are aspects that concern everyone in both parts. We had previously invited EAOs to participate as well. We will invite those groups. Since we have designated the three parts of the Union Accord, we need to negotiate for an agreement for inclusion. The main thing is we will hold the conference. We designated the format of the contract to be signed at the conference. We need to discuss between ourselves for the agreements to be included in the contract. Then we will have plans to hold a conference with UPDJC."

"The conference is slated for the first four months of 2020

so we will work with the aim of holding it in either January, February, March or April. We held numerous discussions to ensure this JICM went smoothly and agreements were reached."

Similarly, RCSS Secretary Sai Nguen said: "Inclusiveness is important. Ten groups is not enough. We EAOs are working hard to include the other groups as well. Just as the government is working hard on their side, we are also submitting on our side. It is up to the other side whether they are included or not but we are trying our best."

"JICM has decided on the

matters for discussion and we have a team for discussion and negotiation as well. So does the government's side. If all goes well, then the UPDJC could be resumed."

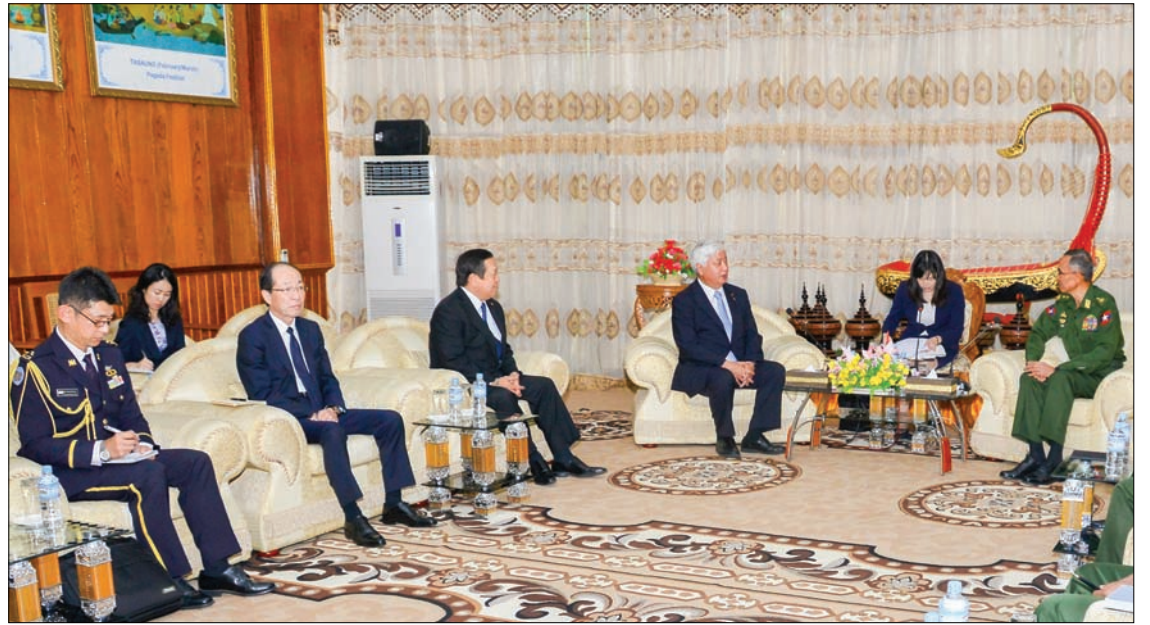
The 8<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting commenced in the afternoon and involved UPDJC member Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Rtd), Advisor of the Office of the President U Paw Lwin Sein, Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, and Peace Commission members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo.

On the EAO side, attendees included RCSS Secretary Sai Nguen, PNLO Vice Chairman Khun Myint Tun, ALP Executive Member Saw Mra Yazar Lin, ABSDF Vice Chairman U Myo Win, DKBA Commander Saw Sein Win, KNU/KNLA-PC Joint-Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt, KNU General-Secretary Pado Saw Tado Muh and Executive Committee member Pado Saw Eh K'lu Say, LDU Secretary Kyar Salmon, CNF Vice Chairman Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and General-Secretary Salai Htarlar Hay, and NMSP Executive Committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngae.— MNA

# Union Defence Minister receives Japanese lawmakers

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win welcomed Mr Nakatani and Mr Hamada Yasukazu, the former Japanese Ministers of Defence and Members of the House of Representatives, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting at the Union Minister's office focused on bilateral relations between the two militaries and Japanese assistance to peace-making efforts in Myanmar.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Mr Nakatani and Mr Hamada Yasukazu, the former Japanese Minister of Defence and Members of the House of Representatives, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with the Japanese Embassy's Counsellor Mr Takimi Kazuyuki, Head of Economic and Development Assistance Section, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Union SWRR Minister meets Japanese Counsellor

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the Japanese Embassy's Counsellor Mr Takimi Kazuyuki, Head of Economic and Development Assistance Section, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed Japan's response to natural disasters from the national level to the local level,

early warning systems, news distribution system to the public, media and social media, early preparation and damage mitigation against floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters, and observing Japan's government departments responding to global climate change and its consequences and discovering areas for cooperation.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Union Electricity and Energy Minister meets British Amb

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received British Ambassador Mr Daniel Chugg at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the wind power project being implemented in Magway Region with UK Aid, performing feasibility studies, weather reports, transporting the turbines, linking electricity transmission lines, findings from ESIA, avoiding damaging the environment and meeting international stand-

ards during project implementation, advanced technology and designs for coherence with existing power grid, project plans moving forward, developing the renewable energy sector, UK government's support for Myanmar's green finance and opportunities, technical assistant capacity building and PPA negotiation, standards training programme, and the international climate change conference to be organized by UK in the later 2020.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with British Ambassador Mr Daniel Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Measures discussed to prevent grave violations against children in armed conflicts



GOVERNMENT organizations and UN agencies discussed preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts yesterday.

The meeting between the Committee for Preventing Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflicts (Core Group) and the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) was held at the headquarters of

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

U Win Naing Tun, the Director-General at the Department of Rehabilitation and the Head of Core Group, explained the draft of national-level work plan to prevent children from deadly attacks and sexual assaults in armed conflicts. It was discussed by the Core Group and the UNCTFMR.

The meeting was also at-

tended by the committee's members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Education and Union Attorney General's Office, together with the UNCTFMR representatives led by Dr Su Su Thar Tun (UNRC, Technical Co-chair of UNCTFMR) and Ms Cecile Marchand from UNICEF.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

# Myeik Archipelago's potential for sustainable tourism

**T**ANINTHAYI Region where the Myeik, or Margui, Archipelago is located has prospects for the development of tourism. The Myeik Archipelago, which forms a part of the Myanmar coastline, comprises more than 800 unspoiled islands with coral reefs, sea grass, mangroves, and large clay mud, and serves as a habitat for a variety of aquatic animals.

The sea-faring Salon ethnic people are also becoming popular on tourist itineraries.

Those who wish to invest in the tourism sector in the islands are required to follow the dos and don'ts set by the authorities.

The government, on its part, should preserve the traditional culture of the local communities and allow investment which guarantees sustainable development without damaging the natural environment.

All the Myeik islands lie in the Andaman Sea, off the coast of southern Myanmar. Since 2016, the natural, unspoiled islands have become increasingly popular among international tourists, most of whom enter them through neighboring Thailand.

To ensure environmental conservation and sustainable development, investment in the tourism industry needs to incorporate three things — desire, knowledge, and skill.

There are several beautiful places in the Myeik Archipelago, but we haven't taken people there yet. The new designation will create job opportunities for the local people.

Motorboat tourists from Asia, Africa, and some European countries enjoy visiting the Myeik Archipelago for its beautiful landscapes along the coast, such as coral reefs, mangroves and a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and the traditional culture, such as the life of the Salon, also known as sea gypsies, a sea-faring ethnic minority

It is very rare to find such kind of unspoiled natural environment in the world. Hence, investment in the islands should focus on sustainable development.

Existing projects should be monitored with a view on sustainable development of the destinations.

Meanwhile, governmental departments should draw a master plan for trips to the islands and for the development of the Myeik Archipelago with a commitment to sustainable tourism practices to preserve, protect, and promote the local culture, environment, and economies of the islands.

# Pyatho [January] the month of terrestrial display and activities

By , Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

**M**YANMAR month Pyatho [January] the 10th month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar of 12 months is the peak of Myanmar cold season winter [Heyman]. The north-east wind passing snowcapped regions bringing extremely cold, causing water freeze in high lands and on lofty mountains.

It is quite an appropriate time to hold such a strenuous display and games of equestrian Tourney [မြင်းခင်းတော်နှင့် အမောင်းလှေ့ ဖြိုင်ပွဲ]. Myanmar traditional Land forces composed of four regiments – Elephantry, Cavalry, Chariotry and Infantry. Yearly tournament of their regiments was held on the grounds in front of the Golden Palace, within the walled and moated Palace City.

The three main objectives of this great event were (1). to display (2). to award and (3). to recruit. Myanmar Land force was displayed not only in the month of Pyatho, but also on the occasion of the state visit of Head of State



King Theebaw in full military uniform at the Equestrian Tournament on sports ground inside Mandalay Palace City Ratanapon. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA



The painting shows the equestrian tournament in the Konbaung Period in Mandalay.

anmar land forces of the past, swords, spears, lancer, bows, arrows, muskets earners, lances throwing required extraordinary strength and skill. Long handle spear "Lunces" are called in Myanmar "Eh-Maung" [အမောင်းလှေ့]. At the tourneys, equestrian competitors at different speeds of their stallions had to throw, each his allotment of 20 lances, one by one at the target marked on the board. If the lance hit either the center or within the circles, he won the game. So this tourney is also called in Myanmar set dwin Pyit Pwe [စက်ကွင်းပစ်ပွဲ].

Next extraordinary tourney was ling special sword called သိမ်းနွဲ့, ဝေး [yein new dal]. It was made of special metal by special swords smith very thin and pliant. It was worn like a belt around the user's waist. At high speed of his stallion, the equestrian pulled out his yein new dal and cut a long line of banana tree or a long necked water pots. Which all remained still and stable. Only when they were pushed, they fall down long-necks of water pots came down. But water in the pots was untouched.

There were also chariot fightings, combats on elephant or horseback, archery, wrestling, running, jumping acrobatics all kinds of manly activities and phys-

ical shows. This display tourney could take nearly a month. On the final day their Majesties in State appeared in public in the special gold pavilion to honour the outstanding winners. The King himself was it military uniform of his rank. In addition to the award of cash, promotion, title, Land and field, Thazin or Kwa Nyo flower was given as a token of the flower of the month. These flowers were brought to their Majesties on gold stand trays by beautiful selected young court ladies.

That glorious and splendid scene was vividly recorded in writing and paintings by foreign visitors and envoys. Based upon these records one song composer of national fame, a native of Mandalay Myo Ma Nyein [မြို့မမြို့မ] composed a history Myin Khin Taw [မြင်းခင်းတော်] Display of Myanmar Land Fares and Equestrian Tourney. The following is that song in Burmese and a loose English translation by the writer.

### မြင်းခင်းတော်

၁။ ဓမ္မနှင့်ပုံရည်၊ ဝေစိစိ၊ မြောက်လေဆော်သွေး၊ အေးတုံလရာသီ၊ သမယအခါ၊ ပြောသို့၊ ဣဉ်၊ ညိုနီ၊ စိမ်းလှလန်း၊ ရွှေရောင်တော်တွင်း၊ လှဝင်း၊ မုယာပလီ၊ သူစာခေတ်၊ တော်ဝင်ပန်းသို့၊ လှမ်း မလို၊ ပြိုင်ရာပြီ၊ ရာတာဆံကလေးရအွယ်ညီ၊ ရွှေကြွင်းနံ၊ ဆွေသမန်း၊ အဆောင်ဆောင်တွင် သံပြိုင်-လာချေပြီ၊ ဖျိုတို့မောင်းလဲ၊ သူလဲပါ

ဝင်သည်၊ လာချေပြီ၊ မှန်မှန်မည်းမည်း၊ လှသုမည် တကွ၊ နှစ်ခဲပြောစေရီမင်းညီမင်းသား၊ မှုမုတ်သားများ၊ ယောက်ျားအာစာအုတ်၊ နှလုံးရည်၊ လက်ရုံးရည်၊ မြင်းကလဲ၊ မြင်းခရာ မနိစိ၊ ခါးပတ်တော်ရွှေရည်ခွေရည်၊ မောက်တို၊ မောက်ရည်၊ ဓာလီခေတ်နူး၊ အမောင်းလှေ့ပြိုင်ကြသည်၊ မြန်မာတို့စွန့်ထုချေပြီ၊ ဣသံချင်းယက်၊ ခေါက်ဝက်၊ ခေါက်ဝက်၊ ဘယ်ညာသံပြိုင်ချို၊  
၂။ မရိုးစည်မောင်း၊ မှိုနီနှိုနှိုသောင်း၊ ကောင်းကင်တိုင်းဟိ၊ တံပိုးသံ၊ ခရာသံညီစည်၊ ဝဲလက်ယာမင်းခန်းတော်နုညီ၊ တော်ကြီးကုရာ၊ နှစ်ပါးထွက်ကာ ခံပယ်တော်မူလေပြီ၊ မြင်းခင်းသဘင်ဆင်ယင်တော်မူလေပြီ၊ မြေပွယ်ကံ၊ ဝဲလက်လှည့်ချို၊ သိကြားတန်ဆောင်တိုင်း၊ အမောင်းတော်စွန့်မြိုင်မြိုင်ဝေစေစိ၊ သံပြိုင်-လာချေပြီ -----  
----- ဘယ်ညာမြိုင်မြိုင်ချို  
၃။ မနိုးခွာညို၊ မနိုးခွာညို၊ ညာခိုစိမ်းလှလှ နွဲ့၊ မုယာပလီ၊ နှုန်းကွင်းသူစာခေတ်၊ မနိုးတရီနဲ့၊ ကပိုတရီဆင်ကတည် လှတ်လား၊ နတ်တက္ကအညို၊ ထင်ယောင်၊ မြင်ယောင်သည်၊ မြင်းခင်းသဘင်ဆင်တော်မူလေပြီ

သံပြိုင်-လာချေပြီ----- ဘယ်ညာမြိုင်မြိုင်ချို

### Loose translation by the writer

**Stanza 1.** Silvery snow screen spreads the northerly breeze brings cold season it is the month of Pyatho Green fresh Khwa Nyo [clematis crabiana] flower of the Pyatho month In the Golden Palace are

Dainty beautiful young court ladies with the uniform coiffeurs of hair style "Byabazin" beautiful like Thuzar devi about to get hold of royal flowers. So busy in all buildings of the Golden Palace. **Chorus:** They're coming, Our sweet heart beaus are among them. They're coming in the dim light of the snow misty morning princes, junior and Senior Ministers, Soldiers, all male members of the country. They all are strong in brain and brawn.

Their steeds are brown and strong With short and long helmets, and balikway gold and silver Covers on their shoulders They contest in lance-throwing competitions They are setting Myanmar standard flag.

Listen! The galloping sounds of their horses gok-gat, gok-gat. Left right: left right uniformly. **Stanza 2**

The sounds Mayoe drums and gongs reach high above the sky. Trumpets and horns blowing to gather The entire royal displays on both left and right sides are complete. Their majesties make public appearance Now begins the Equestrian Tourney.

One technique of lance throwing called "Sunday set" with both left and right hands create the scene of the lance flying in the air. Flags, standards, etc, are moving in the breeze in tune with the martial music of the royal band.

**Chorus:** **Stanza 3** The flower Khwa Nyo, green fresh The young court ladies beautiful like Thuzar devi Daintily, modestly and gracefully adorn Khwa Nyo flowers on their hair knots. Are they humans or are they angles? So, the Equestion Display and Tourney are held.

**Chorus:** This song was sung by Gita Kyi Aye and recorded on disk.

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Heads of service organizations appointed

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

Name	Appointment
(1) U Myint Zaw General Manager (Production) Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications	Managing Director Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications
(2) U Aung Myint Oo Deputy Director-General (Admin) Department of Highways Ministry of Construction	Director-General Department of Highways Ministry of Construction

### President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release 1/2020 on 7 January, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 4 January.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 4 January.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 10 January issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

### One more political party applies for registration

For the time being, new political parties are scrutinized and allowed to register in accordance with the law, a new party under the name of the 88 Generation Brotherhood Party submitted its registration to the Union Election Commission (UEC) on 8 January 2020.—MNA

ရုပ်ရှင်မြည့်နှယ်အနီရတနာအိမ်အားဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်းနှင့်မြည့်နှယ်အိမ်အလင်းတို့ပါဝင်သော အခြေခံပညာဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် မြို့နယ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာနတို့မှ ပူးပေါင်းကူညီပေးသော

**mcလှ:စာပေပွဲတော်**

စာ ဘုရိ စာ ပြု ပွဲ နှင့် စာ ဘုရိ ဈေး ငှက် ပွဲ

( တောင်ကုတ်မြို့ )

၂၀၂၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ(၁၀၊ ၁၁)ရက် (သောကြာ၊ ဧရာ)နေ့ နံနက် ၉ နာရီ မှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီ အထိ မည်သူမဆို ဝါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။ ဘက်စုံသုံးသန့်:မ၊ တောင်ကုတ်ဒီဂရီကောလိပ်၊ တောင်ကုတ်မြို့။



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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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# Over 8,000 YBS drivers issued smart cards

By Nyein Nyein  
MORE THAN 8,000 drivers employed by YBS bus lines have been issued smart cards, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

Smart cards have been issued to 8,043 drivers, including nine women, who applied for them, he added.

"With the issuing of smart cards to YBS drivers, the YRTA disciplinary team conducted a surprise check on 1 November to see whether drivers are keeping the smart cards with them or not," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

"We have already informed YBS companies that YBS driv-



Joint-Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority U Hla Aung talks to the media. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ers have to carry the smart cards with them. We are also conducting surprise checks in this respect," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

Moreover, if passengers find

an undisciplined YBS bus, they can inform the disciplinary team on Viber on the following numbers: 09-448147149, 09-448147153, 09-448147154. They can support

their complaints with video clips or photos, according to the YRTA.

"The YRTA will have the personal information of every single driver so that it will be easier for the authorities to deal with the complaints or take action against undisciplined bus drivers. The YRTA will maintain a centralized database detailing the job history and work experience of the YBS drivers. This will make it easy to trace the drivers in no time," he added.

At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,500 buses on about 135 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle and city transit. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Tattoo artists in Bagan make handsome profits

TEMPORARY tattoo shops near famous pagodas in the Bagan-NyaungU region have reported good earning during the holiday and pilgrimage seasons. Temporary tattoo artists said they have earned around K100,000 per day in season.

Local pilgrims and tourists are interested in temporary tattoos which they find quite attractive, said tattoo artists. The artists said they are inking floral motifs from the Bagan period, depicted on the walls of pagodas, on people's arms, palms, fingers, and necks, and earning a good income. Skin tattoos last at least two to four days unless washed, according to local artists.

"The price for a piece of



A tattoo artist paints a temporary tattoo on the hand of a customer in Bagan. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

tattoo art is in the range of K1,000-3,000, depending on the design. Local and foreign travellers visit Bagan during the holiday sea-

son. We earn K100,000 if we draw for 50 travellers. And, we earn around half or more than half during normal times," said U Win

Myint Aung, a local villager from Myinkapar village.

Most of the temporary tattoo artists are from Myinkapar village. There are around 100 temporary tattoo artists in the village. The artists are also engaged in lacquerware businesses.

"When the tourists come and buy lacquerware at the shops, they bring their children along. At that time, we make the art on their hands free of charge. They love it and ask us to tattoo their hands, too. Tattoo art has become popular through social media and we can now conduct this as a business. We have been making temporary tattoos professionally for three years," said U Win Myint Aung.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# 18-year-old wild elephant found dead in Taikkyi

AN 18-year-old wild elephant was found dead at 8 am on 8 January in Myauk Hlaing Yoma No.21, located in the southern part of Kunteemyaung Village, Palonbudar Village-tract, Taikkyi Township.

Following a tip, Palonbudar village administrator U San Tun Aung, three other 100 household supervisors, officers from the Taikkyi Myoma police station, seven officials from the forest department, veterinary doctor U Phyo Thu Aung, and other members on the administrator's team rushed to the spot to identify the carcass of the elephant.

The male elephant measured 7 feet in height, had a 6-foot-long spine, and its trunk was 4 feet long with a circumference of 9 feet. The elephant is believed to have been electrocuted, said officials, who are currently making arrangements to incinerate the carcass.

"Private sugarcane farms have installed electric fencing without permission to protect their farms from elephants. The Elephants Emergency Response Unit (EERU) has been removing illegal electric fences erected in paddy fields. The dead elephant was found near a sugarcane farm. We cannot say anything yet about the cause of death, because we are still conducting an investigation," said the village administrator.

"I have visited the spot. We found electric fencing in the area. They have no permissions. Our team hasn't erected electric fencing in this place. Wherever we have set up electric fencing in paddy fields, we have done so with the permission of the administrator and farmers. We are hiring experts to protect elephants and humans from conflict. We found some worms inside the elephant's trunk. The



Authorities inspect an elephant carcass in Taikkyi Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

case is under investigation," said U Khin Maung Gyi, the person in-charge of EERU, which has been removing unauthorized electric fencing.

In 2019, no elephant deaths were reported in Taikkyi Township.—Tun Tun

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Fishery exports exceeds \$250 mln in 2019-2020FY

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 27 December in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US\$252.9 million, an increase of \$34.7 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union. However, Myanmar's fishery export volume is much lower compared to neighbouring countries.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.



Labourers processing fish for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

The MFF plans to establish fish lakes, aqua feedstuff processing factories, cold storages, and packaging factories, in cooperation with foreign experts.

There are over 247,000 acres of fish farms and 240,000 prawn breeding farms across the country.

Myanmar exported 340,000

tons of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tons worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tons worth \$500 million in the 2015-

2016FY, 430,000 tons worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tons worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tons in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

An MFF official said the federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for export. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict that kind of mixed farming. Fish farming must be conducted as a large-scale project to gain access to Project Bank loans, according to the federation. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Manufacturing exports soar to \$2.49 bln as of 27 Dec

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods touched a high of US\$2.49 billion between 1 October and 27 December in the current financial year, reflecting an increase of \$718.5 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totaled \$1.77 billion during the same period in the 2018-2019FY.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in

garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 financial year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September.

In the first month of the current financial year, exports of clothes produced under the CMP system topped \$320 million.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar employ more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labour countries like Myanmar. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Higher exports help cut trade deficit to \$9 mln

HIGHER exports have helped narrow Myanmar's trade deficit to US\$9 million in the three months since October in the current financial year, a significant drop from a trade gap of \$980.7 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 27 December, Myanmar's external trade increased to over \$9 billion from \$7.7 billion recorded in the year-ago period. While exports were estimated at \$4.56 billion, imports were valued at \$4.57 billion. Compared to the

previous fiscal, exports showed an increase of \$1.19 billion, while imports climbed up by \$225.6 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

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

resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, \$1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## CNG price likely to stay unchanged despite US-Iran tensions pushing up oil prices: official

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH the US-Iran crisis has led to a rise in oil prices, the price of CNG in Myanmar is not likely to increase at present, said U Hla Win Htay, General Manager of the Natural Gas Vehicle Division (CNG), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

"We still cannot revise the CNG price as that can have a drastic impact on the public. Therefore, the ministry will not change the price for now," said U Hla Win Htay.

Currently, the price has been set at K1,000 per 3.66 kilogram of CNG (approximately equal to 1 gallon of gasoline). The government is subsidizing the sector, and incurring a loss on it, he added.

"The CNG price has changed five times. The last time was in September, 2017. It was set at K1,000 per CNG unit, which is equal to one gallon of diesel or gasoline. The Ministry is making a loss on this. The prevailing

price of diesel and gasoline is K3,500 per gallon," said U Hla Win Htay.

The daily consumption of CNG is estimated at over 24 million cubic feet in Myanmar. And, YBS buses, which provide transportation services to 1.8 million Yangon residents, account for more than 13 million cubic feet of the total consumption. Taxis use about 8 million cubic feet, and other vehicles consume about 2 million cubic feet, according to the Natural Gas Vehicle Division under the MOGE.

The MOGE extended the exploration of CNG projects in 2014 to facilitate transportation in Yangon. There are 41 CNG filling stations in the city.

An emergency maintenance service team and a regular service team has been formed to ensure that the machines at CNG filling stations remain efficient. The crew from the two teams have received technical know-how from foreign experts as well. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

### Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports and border gates

Sr	Month	2018-2019 financial year			2019-2020 financial year		
		Tourist	Business	Total	Tourist	Business	Total
1	October	52647	21005	73652	91836	27590	119426
2	November	77498	21482	98980	115898	27488	143386
3	December	84474	19538	104012	127950	24967	152917
Total		214619	62025	276644	335684	80045	415729

### Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports and border gates

Sr	International airports and border gates	December 2018		December 2019		Remark
		Tourist	Business	Tourist	business	
1.	Yangon Airport/ Sea Port	60643	14613	74741	15598	
2.	Mandalay Airport	13710	3669	42046	3688	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	427	323	1155	288	
4.	Myeik Airport	0	0	0	0	
5.	Tachilek	4668	83	4132	91	
6.	Myawady	3606	729	2320	5156	
7.	Kawthoung	874	80	3033	61	
8.	Hteekhee	102	28	77	33	
9.	Tamu	440	13	443	52	
10.	Reedhorda	4	0	3	0	
Total		84474	19538	127950	24967	

### Lawyer nixes prosecutors' seizure of PC used by Ghosn

TOKYO — Tokyo prosecutors' attempts to seize a computer used by former Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Carlos Ghosn at his lawyer's Tokyo office, apparently in connection with his escape from Japan, were blocked Wednesday, Ghosn's defense team said.

Investigators of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office visited the office of Junichiro Hironaka, a member of Ghosn's

defense team, following his refusal to voluntarily submit the personal computer that Ghosn used there. But the lawyer did not allow them to enter the office.

"In terms of lawyers' confidentiality, we used the right to refuse seizure based on criminal procedure law, and asked (the investigators) to leave," the defense team said in a statement.

Meanwhile, sources familiar with the matter said public

prosecutors had asked the Tokyo District Court to require Ghosn to post bail of at least several billion yen given his vast financial resources, a figure substantially higher than the amount eventually set by the court in March last year. Prosecutors had demanded the hefty bail based on a calculation that Ghosn's assets exceeded 10 billion yen (\$92 million). But the former tycoon's defense team disputed that calculation, and the Tokyo court decided to set Ghosn's bail at 1 billion yen, the sources said.

After his release on March 6 last year, Ghosn was returned to detention on April 4 over a fresh charge before being released again on April 25 after paying a further 500 million yen in bail. Since Ghosn's escape to Lebanon in late December required various maneuvers to evade security and the use of a private jet to leave Japan, prosecutors and police are investigating how he secured the funds to successfully carry out the operation, the sources added.—Kyodo News ■



Former Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Carlos Ghosn (front L) and his lawyer Junichiro Hironaka (front R) arrive at the Tokyo District Court on 23 May, 2019, for the first pretrial procedures in his financial misconduct case. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

### Thai Kasikorn Bank sends investment proposal to A Bank

THAILAND-based Kasikorn Bank (K Bank) conferred an investment proposal to Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank (A Bank) at Zabuthiri Hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday morning.

Present at the ceremony were CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, deputy governors and directors-general, Thai Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Assistant Governor Mrs Nawaron Dejusuvan from Thailand's Central

Bank, and officials from A Bank and K Bank.

During the ceremony, they discussed opportunities for cooperation between the banking sectors of both countries in developing Myanmar's economy, current processes between A Bank and K Bank to implement equity participation from K Bank into A Bank, and then the investment proposals were submitted to CBM.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Officials of the K Bank and A Bank present their investment proposals to the Governor of CBM. PHOTO: MNA

### China to push restructurings of central SOEs in 2020

BEIJING — China's state asset regulator will continue to push mergers and restructurings among centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in 2020 to improve their efficiency and competitiveness, Economic Information Daily reported.

Consolidations will focus on areas with overlapping investments and homogeneous competition, the report said, citing information from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) of the State Council.

Equipment manufacturing,

chemicals, marine engineering equipment and overseas gas and oil assets are among the sectors that will see accelerated restructurings, according to the report.

The regulator will also study the integration of oil refining businesses. On 5 January, China National Chemical Corp. (ChemChina) and Sinochem Group announced the consolidation of their agricultural assets into a newly formed entity called Syngenta Group in the latest step to optimize resource allocations.—Xinhua ■



Employees from a subsidiary of China Shipbuilding Industry Corp install clean-energy equipment in Nantong, Jiangsu province. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Vietnam most promising Asian investment destination in 2020: survey

TOKYO — Vietnam has been tapped by Japanese firms as the most promising place in Asia to invest in 2020, with India and Southeast Asian countries dominating other top spots, a survey showed Wednesday.

In the survey, conducted online from November to December 2019 by NNA Japan Co., a Kyodo News group company,

Vietnam received 42.1 per cent of the 820 valid responses, based on factors such as its potential as a growing market and large supply of skilled, low-cost labor.

Other respondents of the survey, targeting expatriates working for Japanese firms in Asia, attributed their choice to the country's proximity to China.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc at his office in Tokyo on July 1, 2019. (Kyodo)

India was second at 12.2 per cent, with expectations for its growing market and its potential as a doorway to the Middle East and Africa among the reasons cited.

Myanmar jumped three spots from the previous year to third place at 11.6 per cent, while Indonesia was fourth at 6.6 percent.

China, which appears

to have lost its appeal somewhat as an investment location due to concerns about its trade war with the United States and rising labor costs, ranked fifth at 5.1 per cent.

NNA is a news agency providing economic and business reports for Japanese companies operating in Asia. — Kyodo News ■

## Oil spikes after Iran strikes US targets in Iraq

LONDON — World oil prices briefly surged 4.5 percent on Wednesday after Iran launched missile attacks on US targets in Iraq.

The strikes, launched in retaliation for President Donald Trump ordering the assassination of the Islamic republic's top general last Friday, sent Brent and New York crude to multi-month peaks.

Oil later trimmed gains as Iran said it had "concluded" for now its missile attacks, launched in response to the US drone assassination of Qasem Soleimani last Friday. The unrest has yet to impact oil supplies, analysts said.

"Although the market was duly warned about upcoming Iranian retaliation attacks on US installations and armed forces the (Brent) oil price still spiked up to almost \$72 per barrel following the Iranian attacks on two US Iraqi bases last night," said SEB analyst Bjarne Schieldrop.

"Again, not a single drop of oil supply has been lost due to the recent incidents and this is why the oil price has fallen back down again so quickly. What the market fears is that the situation spirals out of control, with an uncontrollable escalation leading to outright war."

Global stock markets however slid on investor concern of a broader conflict.—AFP ■

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF PLANNING, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY NO.3 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER TENDER NO-4/2019-2020

- Open tenders are invited for third party valuation service of building, machinery and rent rate in accordance with the market price of finishing department at No (1) Textile Factory (Shwedaung) under No.3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.
- Tender information is as follow:
  - Start date of selling tender form – 14.1.2020
  - Tender Form Selling Place  
Nay Pyi Taw – Planning Department,  
No.3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise,  
Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw  
Yangon – Yangon Branch,  
No.1, Thukhawati Street, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Quarter, Yankin Township  
Phone-01-554177, 01-544121
  - Tender Closing Date and Time  
- 14.2.2020 (16:00) hours
  - Tender Submission Place  
- No.3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise,  
Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw
- For more details, it can make a contact to Phone-067-408185, 408338, 408156, No.3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY.NO. (078N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO. (078N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Call  
Thin Thin May,

■ 09251022355  
■ 09974424848



Embassy of India, Yangon

### Invitation: Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations

9th January is celebrated every year as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD). It was chosen to mark the return journey of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. The Embassy of India, Yangon is celebrating PBD and all Indians and People of Indian Origin are cordially invited.

Venue - Embassy Auditorium

Date - 9 January 2020

Time - 06:00 – 07:30 PM

### Transferring Distributor Registered Pesticide

Distributor of the pesticide, Palit 10% SC (Chlorfenapyr 10% SC) with its registration number F2016-520, registered by BASF Myanmar Limited, is transferring from Aventine Limited, No. 126 (A), Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon to Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd., No.242, Kanaung Minthargyi Road, Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.  
BASF Myanmar Limited  
Phone – 01 544041

### CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below herbicide, registered by Bayer AG, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from JJ-PUN Trading Co., Ltd. to Myanma Golden Farm Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg.Type	Reg. Number
Provado 70 WG	Imidacloprid 70% WG	Insecticide	F2013-852
Curbix 100 SC	Ethiprole 100g/L SC	Insecticide	F2017-1269

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

### CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

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

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg.Type	Reg. Number
Trivia 72.7 WP	Fluopicolide 6%+ Propineb 66.7% WP	Fungicide	P2017-2342
Folicur 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430g/L	Fungicide	P2017-3429
Moon Sensation	Fluopyram 250g/L + Trifloxystrobin 250g/L	Fungicide	P2018-2344
Movento 240 SC	Spirotetramat 240g/L	Insecticide	P2019-2349

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

# N Korea may shy away from major provocations amid US-Iran tensions

TAIPEI — As North Korea leader Kim Jong Un marked his birthday on Wednesday, some analysts believe the latest escalation in tensions between the United States and Iran may dissuade him from major military provocations for the time being.

At a key ruling party meeting held late last year, Kim pledged to unveil a “new strategic weapon” to be possessed by his country “in the near future,” while effectively retracting his promise to refrain from intercontinental ballistic missile or nuclear tests.

But a source familiar with North Korean affairs said last week’s US strike that killed a top Iranian general has “definitely scared” Kim, who earlier sought security guarantees from Washington to ensure the continuation of the monolithic political system led by him.

Given the US strategy on Iran, Kim is expected to be forced to take a wait-and-see attitude “in order to avoid suffering the same



North Korean citizens gather at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on 5 January, 2020, to pledge to carry out tasks set forth at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

fate as Iran,” the source added.

Since the start of the year, meanwhile, Kim has stressed that North Korea will make a “frontal breakthrough,” as he has committed to rebuilding the domestic

economy “by dint of self-reliance” without giving in to sanctions imposed by its “enemies.” As the United States remains reluctant to ease the economic sanctions aimed at preventing North Ko-

rea from developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, Kim is likely to shift his focus to shoring up the nation’s stagnant economy, the source said. —Kyodo News ■

# Abe may cancel Mideast trip after Iran strikes

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may cancel his trip to the Middle East amid

rising tensions there, a government source said Wednesday, as Tokyo ramped up calls to dees-

calate the situation through diplomacy after Iran’s attacks on US troops in Iraq.

Abe was initially planning to visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman from Saturday ahead of Japan’s envisaged dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East on an information-gathering mission designed to help secure the safe passage of commercial ships.

The decision comes as Iran launched more than a dozen missiles targeting Iraqi bases hosting US troops and coalition personnel, in response to the US killing last week of Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a top Iranian general. “I will make all possible

diplomatic efforts to prevent the situation from worsening,” Abe told reporters at his office.

Abe has sought to take on a mediator role between Iran and the United States.

The longtime foes remain locked in a standoff following the US withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal and subsequent re-imposition of sanctions that have hurt the Iranian economy.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Japan’s top government spokesman, stressed the need to exercise restraint as he urged all parties involved to exhaust diplomatic efforts following the missile strikes. —Kyodo News ■



Some Iranians are calling for a revenge following the killing of Qasem Soleimani. PHOTO: AFP

# Philippines sending planes, ship to evacuate workers from Iraq

MANILA — The Philippines will dispatch cargo planes and a ship to help evacuate Filipino migrant workers from Iraq after ordering its citizens to leave following an Iranian missile strike targeting US troops, officials said Wednesday.

Manila issued the mandatory evacuation order for its nationals after the Islamic re-

public carried out its first act of promised revenge for the US killing last week of a top Iranian general.

About 1,600 Filipino workers are in Iraq — among some two million of their countrymen across the Middle East — as part of a vast diaspora that is a key pillar of the economy.

Iran fired missiles at Iraqi

bases housing the US military, and Iranian state television said it was in response to Friday’s killing of general Qasem Soleimani, one of the most important figures in the country’s government.

Philippine defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters the government will send at least three military cargo

planes and a newly built coast-guard ship to get Filipinos out of harm’s way.

The coastguard vessel, which left a French shipyard in December, will likely shuttle workers to Qatar, Lorenzana said. “Once we gather them, we can maybe charter a plane or charter our ships to bring them home,” he added. —AFP ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### All Singapore Airlines flights to avoid Iranian airspace amid tensions in region

SINGAPORE — All Singapore Airlines flights flying to and from Europe will not be flying over the Iranian airspace as tensions soared in the Middle East following Iran’s missile attacks on two US military bases in Iraq.

“In view of the latest developments in the region, all SIA flights in and out of Europe will not be flying over the Iranian airspace.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely,” the airlines said in a statement. Meanwhile, India’s Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday held meetings with the concerned airlines and sensitised them to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions.

The development came after Iran targeted the Al Assad airbase and another one in Erbil in Iraq that house American troops.

The missile attacks also came hours after the funeral of Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani, whose killing in a US drone strike has intensified tensions in the region. — ANI ■

### Social-cultural community essential to promote connectivity in ASEAN

HANOI — As the ASEAN’s chair in 2020, Vietnam sees the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) as a decisive factor in the development of the bloc and a solid foundation to promote regional connectivity, the Vietnam News newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, taking over the coordinating role in the ASCC in 2020, will engage in 33 activities within ASEAN 2020, including 10 of ASCC, 15 in the labor sector, five in social welfare, two on women and one with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. —Xinhua ■

## Iraq says Iran informed it of imminent missile attack on US forces

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister's office said Wednesday it had received "an official verbal message" from Iran informing it that a missile attack on US forces stationed on Iraqi soil was imminent.

Iran launched 22 missiles at Iraqi bases housing US and other coalition troops early Wednesday in response to the killing of senior Revolution Guards commander Qasem Soleimani in a US drone strike in Baghdad last week.

In its first statement hours later, premier Adel Abdel Mahdi's office said it had been warned.

"We received an official verbal message from the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Iranian response to the assassination of Qasem Soleimani had begun or would begin shortly, and that the

strike would be limited to where the US military was located in Iraq without specifying the locations," it said.

The prime minister's office said it was simultaneously contacted by the US, as the missiles slammed into the Ain al-Asad base in western Iraq and Harir further north. "We immediately warned Iraqi military commanders to take the necessary precautions," it said, adding that no Iraqi forces had been hurt in the attack.

"Iraq rejects any violation of its sovereignty and attacks on its territory," the premier's office added, without specifically condemning the missile strikes.

It said Abdel Mahdi was in talks with domestic and foreign partners to prevent an "open war." Secretary of State



The office of Iraqi prime minister Adel Abdel Mahdi says it was warned by Tehran of its imminent missile strikes on bases housing US troops without the specific locations. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mike Pompeo earlier said he had spoken to Masrour Barzani, the prime minister of the autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq. But it remained unclear if there was any contact between Pompeo or any other top US official and Abdel Mahdi. — AFP ■

## Iran fires missiles at US troop bases in Iraq

TEHRAN — Iran fired missiles Wednesday at Iraqi bases housing the US military, officials in Washington and Tehran said, in the first act of the Islamic republic's promised revenge for the US killing of a top Iranian general.

Launched from Iranian territory and by Iranian forces not a proxy, the attack marked a new

turn in the intensifying confrontation between the United States and Iran and sent world oil prices soaring.

There was no immediate suggestion of any link to the missile strikes but a Ukrainian airliner crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran early Wednesday with the loss of at least 170 people

on board. The Pentagon said it was still "working on initial battle damage assessments" after "Iran launched more than a dozen ballistic missiles against US military and coalition forces in Iraq". "It is clear that these missiles were launched from Iran and targeted at least two Iraqi military bases hosting US military and coalition personnel" at Ain al-Asad and Arbil, the Pentagon said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. The Pentagon said the facilities had been on "high alert" after days of steadily mounting tension and exchanges of threats of war. The Iraqi military said it sustained no casualties in 22 missile strikes on bases housing US troops. "Between 1:45 am and 2:15 am (2245 GMT and 2315 GMT) Iraq was hit by 22 missiles, 17 on the Ain al-Asad air base and ... five on the city of Arbil," the Iraqi military command said. "There were no victims among the Iraqi forces." — AFP ■



Iraqi soldiers are pictured in 2014 at Al-Asad air base, which was attacked in the first act of the Islamic republic's promised revenge for the US killing of a top Iranian general. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Ukraine passenger jet crashes in Iran, killing at least 170

TEHRAN — A Ukrainian airliner carrying at least 170 people crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran on Wednesday, killing all on board, Iran state media reported.

The Boeing 737 had left Tehran's international airport bound for Kiev, semi-official news agency ISNA said.

"Obviously it is impossible that passengers" on flight PS-752 are alive, Red Crescent head Morteza Salimi told semi-official news agency ISNA, adding that 170 passengers and crew had boarded the plane.

State news agency IRNA said 167 passengers and nine crew members had boarded the aircraft, which was operated by Ukraine International Airlines.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed all those on board the plane were killed. "According to preliminary data, all passengers and crew members are dead," he wrote on Facebook of the Ukraine International Airlines plane, which was bound for Kiev. The Red Crescent said teams were assisted by soldiers and firefighters in the effort to recover bodies.

"After six o'clock (0230 GMT)

this morning we were informed that a passenger plane crashed in the vicinity of Shahriar," said Shahin Fathi, the head of its search and rescue unit. "All operational teams were dispatched to the area," he told state television. "Unfortunately... we haven't found anyone alive."

### Bodies scattered

"Everyone is helping so that we can gather all the bodies that have been scattered in a wide area," said Fathi.

Press TV, state television's English-language news broadcaster, said the plane went down in the vicinity of Parand, a city in Tehran province. The crash was likely to have been caused by "technical difficulties", it reported, citing Ali Khashani, spokesman for Imam Khomeini International Airport.

"The plane caught fire after crashing," said Press TV. A video aired by the state media broadcaster appeared to show the plane already on fire, falling from the sky. American airline manufacturer Boeing tweeted: "We are aware of the media reports out of Iran and we are gathering more information." — AFP ■



The Boeing 737 had left Tehran's international airport bound for Kiev, semi-official news agency ISNA said. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Authorities recover black boxes of crashed plane near Tehran airport

TEHRAN — Iranian authorities said on Wednesday that they recovered the flight recorders of Ukraine's Boeing 737 aircraft that crashed near Tehran international airport earlier in the day, according to the state media.

According to Iran's Press TV, all 176 people on board the flight to the Ukrainian capital

of Kiev were killed when the plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran's international airport.

The Boeing 737 jet, operated by Ukraine International Airlines, took off early Wednesday morning with 167 passengers and nine crew on board, the media reported, citing Ali

Khashani, a senior public relations official at Imam Khomeini Airport. Earlier reports from the Iranian state media had said that 180 people were on board Flight PS752.

Eighty-two Iranians, 63 Canadians, and 11 Ukrainians died in the crash, according to a tweet from Ukrainian foreign minister

Vadym Prystaiko.

There were also 10 Swedes, four Afghans, three Germans and three British nationals among the victims, he said.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Tehran replaced its previous statement saying terrorism or rocket attacks had been ruled out as causes of the plane crash.

"Information on the causes of the plane crash is being clarified by the commission," it said.

Iran's semi-official news agency ISNA previously reported the crash was due to technical troubles. Iran's Civil Aviation Authority said it had launched an investigation. —ANI ■



A woman participating in the women's singles event in yesterday's Region and State Cycling competitions in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Region, state cycling competitions continue in Nay Pyi Taw

The 2020 edition of the Region and State Cycling competitions continued yesterday near the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yesterday's competitions included the women's 3,000-m singles event, men's 3,000-m singles event, women's 9-km event, and men's 15-km event.

In the women's 3,000-m singles event, Khin Hnin Wai representing Magway Region won the first prize, while Thin

Kalyar Soe representing Mandalay Region won the second prize, and Soe Sandar Win representing Taninthayi Region won the third prize.

In the men's 3,000-m singles event, Shine Htet Aung (Mandalay Region) came first, Nyi Nyi Aung (Yangon Region) finished second, and Thura Naing (Magway Region) came third.

In the women's 9-km event, Khin Hnin Wai (Magway

Region) finished in the first place, Shwe Zin Palae (Magway Region) was second, and Soe Sandar Win (Taninthayi Region) came third.

In the men's 15-km event, Kaung Si Thu (Bago Region) came first, Yan Naing Htet (Taninthayi Region) was second, and San Thein Htet (Taninthayi Region) finished third.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

## ISPE FC to face Shan United in MNL opening match

NEW comer Institute of Sports and Physical Education Football Club will meet the defending champions of the Myanmar National League, Shan United, in the first match of the Myanmar National League, which is scheduled for 10 January at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The ISPE FC will use the Mandalay Thiri Stadium as their home stadium, according to the Myanmar National League.

The ISPE FC is a former League-2 team and the head

coach of the team, U Aung Nay Win, said his players would do their best in the League-1 tourney.

“Please see our team's ability and comment on our team. We want to do our best to prove we can play on equal footing with the League-1 team in the Myanmar National League,” he said.

The ISPE FC was formed with local players from League-2, and the team has not recruited foreign players yet, according to officials. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## MNL defending champions draw final player list

SHAN United, the defending champions of the Myanmar National League, have finalized their player list for the upcoming 2020 season of the MNL, according to an official statement issued yesterday by the football club.

There are a total of 30 players and four goalkeepers — Thiha Si Thu, Phone Thitsar Min, Myo Min Latt, and Aung Myint Myat — on the team.

Ten defenders have been selected on the team— David Htan, Nyein Chan, Ye Min Thu, Hein Thiha Zaw, Nanda Kyaw, Zwe Khant Min, Thuan Hup Thang, Tagoel Daniel, Hein Phyo Min, and Zaw Htet Min.

Nine midfielders chosen on the team are Maximin, Set Phyo Wai, Zwe Thet Paing, Pyae Sone Aung, Ye Yint Tun, Thiha Tun Kyaw, Zar Nay Ya Thu, Yan Naing Oo, and Abubakar.

The team has seven forward players — Nat Keith, Zin Min Tun, Sa Aung Pyae Ko, Ye Yint Tun, Htet Phyo Wai, Dway Ko Ko Chit, and Shwe Ko.

Head coach U Aung Naing will lead the Shan United FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Road to Japan football programme for youths starts in Yangon

WITH the aim of arising new youth footballers in Myanmar, the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League jointly began a football programme starting from yesterday on the artificial turf of Myanmar National Football Academy in Yangon yesterday morning.

The programme includes selecting new youth players from 75 footballers who have been preliminarily selected from MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 and MFF 100Plus Cup States and Regions U-14 (Boy's) Football Tournament and they will be grouped into five teams – Teams A, B, C, D and E.

The youth player selection will be ongoing till 10 January and twenty-five best players will be selected from the football programme and they will be sent to Japan on a football tour, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The youth football tour to Japan will include joint training programmes, friendly matches, and watching Japanese League football matches, according to the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Youths participating in the “Road to Japan” football event in Yangon with their hope of Japan tour. PHOTO: MFF