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President U Win Myint receives Myanmar National Human Rights Commission



President U Win Myint meets the delegation led by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Hla Myint at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received a delegation of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission led by its Chairman U Hla Myint at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the President said democracy and human rights are given top priority in this age of globalization and human rights have been included in the constitutions of 1947 and

1974. However, citizens had not received much of the benefits as enforcement of those human rights was relatively lacking.

But the 2008 Constitution includes the fundamental rights of citizens and Myanmar has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said the President, adding that the MNHRC is tasked with raising public knowledge on human rights and to protect them. He said they must also in-

The MNHRC is tasked with raising public knowledge on human rights and to protect them and they must also inspect police stations, jails, prisons and correctional facilities.

spect police stations, jails, prisons and correctional facilities.

The President said human rights applies to everyone on

earth and cannot be transferred to another person. He said it does not differentiate between gender, skin colour nor race. He said it is

mutually tangible and dependent on each individual.

He said human rights is connected to the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union and forms a tripartite with democracy and rule of law. He said if one of them is violated then the rest are as well and thus, protecting and elevating human rights is the same as protecting democracy and rule of law.

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Agreements signed for Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City project



Union Minister U Han Zaw attends the signing ceremony for cooperation agreements on the Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City project in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Urban and Housing Development Department (UHDD) and Amata Asia (Myanmar) Limited signed a Joint Venture Agreement on the Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City project at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The department and Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City

Limited also signed a land lease agreement at the same signing ceremony.

A clip of the smart city project's future processes was first shown to the attendees, after which the Union Minister for Construction, U Han Zaw, delivered a speech.

The Union Minister said

the Joint Venture between the housing department and Thai-based Amata Corporation on the project highlights a good area of cooperation between the two countries.

He said that as it will attract more foreign investments, it will boost the industrial, foreign export and human resources sec-

tors of the nation, in addition to being a major source of assistance to socioeconomic development.

Next, Thai Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation Daw Nilar Kyaw, and Amata Corporation Public Co Ltd Chairman Mr Vikrom Kromadit delivered separate addresses.

Afterwards, the Managing Director of Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City Limited, Mr Yasuo Tsutsui, explained about the details of the project.

Following this, UHDD Director-General U Min Htein, Deputy Director-General Daw Mi Mi Tin and Amata Asia (Myanmar) Limited Director Mr Aukkarees Choochouy and Ms Dendao Kolmas signed the Joint Venture agreement between the UHDD and Amata Asia (Myanmar) Limited in the presence of Union Minister U Han Zaw.

Likewise, U Min Htein and Daw Mi Mi Tin signed the land

lease agreement with Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City Limited with its Managing Director Mr Yasuo Tsutsui and Amata Corporation Public Company Limited's Chief Investment Officer Ms Ng Choon Soon.

After this, officials from Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City Limited and companies signed framework agreements related to the project.

Present at the signing ceremony were Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin, Hluttaw representatives, permanent secretaries, directors-general, department officials, company representatives and officials from Amata Corporation Public Company Limited.

Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City will be built on 2,000 acres of land near Laydaunkan Village between Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (South) townships, Yangon Region, and will create up to 33,000 jobs. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Coordination meeting for second Inter-Ministries Htamane making competition held in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the coordination meeting for holding the second Inter-Ministries Htamane Making Competition in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A COORDINATION meeting on holding the second Inter-Ministries Htamane Making Competition and fun fair was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Vice Chairman 1 of the Steering Committee for holding second Inter-Ministries Htamane Making Competition and fun fair and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun discussed the first Htamane making competition held 19 February last year, and the second competition to be held in Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw like the first competition. The Deputy Minister

invited all ministries and Union organizations to take part in the competition, and urged officials attending the coord meeting to discuss holding the competition successfully.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of MOI U Myint Kyaw explained the situation of the first competition and the plans of the second competition. It was followed by discussions from officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Deputy Minister.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Japan's NHK films lifestyles along the railway line

Japan's national broadcasting Corporation NHK shot documentary film programme about views of Myanmar Railways and its stations and people's lifestyle in Mandalay Region yesterday.

Under the title of the Unexplored Train Journey, the NHK Japanese film crew shot Myanmar's scenic views by riding the No 147 up train from Thazi station to Hlunhthoe station and interviewed the station Master about the Hlunhthoe station.

Next, they filmed the scenes of people selling foods around the station. Then, the NHK team went riding on the No 141

up train from Hlunhthoe station to Sin Taung station and filmed interviews with travellers on the train.

Japanese actor Mr Otoo Takuma participated in the documentary programme to highlight the lifestyle, history, and culture of Myanmar ethnic people along the railway line and explore the Myanmar's natural scenic views in Mandalay Region and Shan State. The documentary film is planned to be shown in Japan in April by NHK BS Premium, International Broadcasting On-demand.—Myo Myint Aung (FDC)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



NHK Japanese film crew shooting the scenes at the Thazi station. **PHOTO: MYO MYINT AUNG (FDC)**

President receives Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

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Next, MNHRC Chairman U Hla Myint explained their plans to elevate human rights and members Dr Than Myint, U Kyaw Myint, Dr Tin Maung Maung Than and U Paw Lwin Sein explained processes going forward. The President responded to them and said the commission's area of implementation is wide and varied, and that they are responsible for imparting deep understanding in the minds of the people. He said they must work for successive progress in safeguarding human rights, ensuring those rights are enjoyed by all citizens, and the process is in line with current laws and regulations. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Min Thu, U Thein Swe, and Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu, MNHRC Vice Chairman Dr Nanda Hmun and members U Paw Lwin Sein, U Kyaw Soe, Dr Than Myint, Daw Nu Nu Yin, Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, Dr Myint Thu Myaing, U Tin Aung and Daw Tin Kyi Oo. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



President U Win Myint poses for a documentary photo together with a delegation led by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Hla Myint at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Authorities on alert over Wuhan coronavirus: Ministry of Health and Sports

HEALTH authorities have been placed on alert due to the outbreak in Wuhan, central China of a deadly coronavirus, beefing up Pneumonia surveillance at the Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay international airports since 5th January.

Ministry of Health and Sports held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with attendance by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, focusing on surveillance, standard operating procedures-SOPs, clinical man-

agement guidelines, laboratory facilities, health advisory for travellers, personal protective equipment and other measures to fight and response to the virus.

At the meeting, Dr Nyan Win Myint, Deputy Director of the Public Health Department, reported on tour of inspection to the international airports and installation of Thermal Scanner; holding the meeting on prevention and fighting the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) on 8th January, distribution of Standard Operating Procedures-SOPs to

quickly response to suspected patients and dissemination of latest information on the infectious disease on social media by the ministry.

Dr Zin Mar Soe, Deputy Director of the Medical Services

Department, reported on distribution of Clinical Management Guidelines, quarantine units for suspected patients at Waibargi Special Hospital, Mandalay General Hospital and Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed Hospital, drills based

warnings in Myanmar and English on LED boards.

Prof. Dr Sabe Pyu of the Tropical and Infectious Disease Department of the University of Medicine-2 reported on drills, readiness for accepting suspected patients in quarantine rooms, personal protective equipment for medical workers and equipment. After hearing the reports, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe stressed the need to reinforce the surveillance works at the international airports, adding that travellers the outbreak countries should be put under surveillance though there are no symptoms when they arrive. He also gave instructions on providing medical care to suspected patients in quarantine rooms in accordance with standard operating procedures, adding that directives and SOPs should be distributed to hospitals including private hospitals and clinics through the Myanmar Medical Association and private medical associations.

The Union Minister also stressed the importance of quick response to the disease in accordance with the directives.

At the meeting, experts and officials presented their suggestions and proposals to the ministry. —MNA

... travellers from the outbreak countries should be put under surveillance though there is no symptoms when they arrive.

on the experiences on previous infectious diseases and human resources and stockpiling of medicines and medical equipment.

Dr Ohmar Swe Tin, Deputy Director of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) reported on preparations laboratories in regions and states, distribution of directives to the laboratories and arrangements for linking with WHO and international laboratories if suspected patients are found.

Dr Than Naing Soe, Director of the Health Knowledge Promotion Division, reported on raising health awareness about flu in the winter season and distribution of health advisory for travellers at international airports and health



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the work coordination meeting for prevention 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Central Committee holds second coordination meeting as 73rd Union Day approaches



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the committee meeting for holding the 73rd Union Day in 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Central Committee for Convening the 73rd Union Day in 2020 held their second coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech.

In his speech, the Vice President said this is the second meeting held for the successful organizing of 2020 73rd Anniversary of Union Day. He said the Central Committee was formed with 14 members by the Office of the President, and with himself as Chairman, on 21 October 2019 to successfully observe the day in accordance with five national objectives with full political essence.

He said that a 19-member management committee led by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and 14 sub-committees to implement the directives of the central committee were also formed.

He continued that the first meeting was held on 13 December 2019 and produced 27 decisions and are being implemented by the management committee and sub-committees. He said they must also consider the 15 decisions made at the meeting to analyze the organization of the 72nd Anniversary of Union Day held on 1 April, 2019. He said this would allow the political essence

to be stronger each year.

The Vice President said our country fell into the hands of foreign colonialists for a hundred years and independence was achieved after many years of sacrifice. He said independence was achieved after Bogyoke

forever.

The Vice President said the Ministry of Information defines union spirit in the modern sense as 'The collective spirit that unites all ethnic national brothers and sisters through hard times and challenges'. In

One of the main reasons for celebrating Union Day is to remind successive generations that independence was achieved because of the unity of all ethnic people, and that it is as important as life and supports national reconciliation and peace.

Aung San and ethnic national leaders held the Panglong Conference of 12 February, 1947, and signed the Panglong Agreement in unity.

He said independence was achieved due to ethnic solidarity, which is based on union spirit. He said union spirit was given a similar definition with true nationalistic spirit, which can be defined as nurturing a firm union spirit in all areas of the nation, and union spirit is the only true nationalistic spirit all ethnic nationals must maintain

in addition, it can also be defined as 'The belief that regardless of where you live in the nation, we are all members of one family that shares the same soil and water, and overcomes hardships together'. The Union Day that depicts the unity of ethnic national brothers and sisters through the signing of the Panglong Agreement on 12 February has been held every year and this is the 73rd year.

The Vice President said one of the main reasons for celebrating Union Day is to remind suc-

cessive generations that independence was achieved because of the unity of all ethnic people, and that it is as important as life and supports national reconciliation and peace.

He added that the 73rd Union Day event will be held in two parts with the first half including the flag hoisting ceremony and reading messages in the morning and the second half involving a dinner reception and entertainment in the evening. He urged the committees to learn from past experiences and improve the Union Day programmes with each passing year.

He gave instructions for proper arrangements regarding accommodation, transportation and hospitality for the ethnic cultural troupes, ethnic affairs ministers, leaders of ethnic armed organizations that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and the chairpersons and leaders of political parties who will be attending the commemoration.

The Vice President instructed the state-owned media to properly disseminate the five national objectives of the 73rd Union Day to the public, and to highlight the Union government's efforts for ethnic solidarity, national peace and reconciliation.

He said subcommittees need to have Plan A as well as Plan B for all matters related

to holding of the 73rd Union Day. In order to successfully hold the Union Day ceremony with full political essence all are urged to work together to make this year the best based on experiences of past years.

Next, Central Committee Secretary and Director-General of the Office of the President, U Khin Maung Win, explained the central committee's implementation of the decisions made at the first meeting.

Next, Dr Myo Aung explained the preparations made for the upcoming Union Day ceremony and other subcommittee members explained the progress of their respective assigned sectors. The Vice President responded to all discussions and suggestions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myint Htwe, U Ohn Maung and Nai Thet Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo, U Khin Maung Win, U Win Maw Tun, Dr Mya Lay Sein and U Hla Maw Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naing and U Aung Myin Tun, permanent secretaries, directors-general, deputy police chief, Tatmadaw officials and department officials.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Steering Committee for Supporting Union-Level Tax Revenue-raising holds 2nd coord meeting



Union Minister U Soe Win delivers the speech at the 2nd coordination meeting of Steering Committee for Supporting the Union-Level Tax Revenue-raising in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Steering Committee for Supporting the Union-Level Tax Revenue-raising held its second coordination meeting at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win said that participation of the public is important to have effective revenue collecting processes, importance of assistance of regional governmental organizations and to have collectable revenues for the country development.

The Union Minister continued that the Internal Revenue Department of Myanmar is also making long term growth of the revenue works; faster and better online-based revenue payment system in the process of being implemented. Union Minister

urged tax collectors to levy taxes systematically and impose taxes in keeping with the revenue laws, and to have better management system of taxation and revenues in a context of changing economic environment. Union Minister invited officials to discuss difficulties on collecting taxes facing them.

Next, finance ministers from respective states and regions discussed difficulties in collecting taxes and deputy ministers and officials responded to the discussions. Union Minister coordinated on the statements. Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win, U Set Aung, Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, and permanent secretary U Tun Tun Naing and officials from the Internal Revenue Department also attended the coordination meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Gov't committee discusses protecting children in armed conflicts

THE coordination meeting of the Committee for Preventing Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflicts was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, Committee Chairman, and Union Minister, Dr Win Myat Aye said human rights is inherent from birth and exercising it or requesting it must adhere to existing laws and not negatively affect non-disintegration of the union, ethnic solidarity and sovereignty. He said the Child Law has been enacted and Section 17 on Children and Armed Conflict includes provisions to protect children from armed conflicts.

The Union Minister said ensuring there is no grave violations on children and protecting them is a protection for their

rights as well. Implementing their rights required the formation of the national committee and working committees. He said they cooperate with UN agencies and NGOs and met with the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) and the results of those meetings are evaluated and incorporated into the national committee's action plans.

The Union Minister said this meeting will discuss those action plans and since the committee's duties involve working with the UNCTFMR, the committee needs to coordinate directly when implementing the action plans. He said the committee's main objective is to bring about the best benefits for children.

Next, the committee secretary, who is also Director-Gener-

al of the Social Welfare Department, explained the opinions and recommendations of the Ministry of Defence and UNCTFMR concerning the national-level

action plan to protect children in conflict areas from injury, death and sexual abuse. Attendees then discussed further and the Union Minister gave the closing

speech at the end of the meeting, after which they all took a documentary group photo.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and attendees pose for a photo at the coordination meeting of the Committee for Preventing Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflicts in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Flights from Wuhan to Myanmar suspended due to coronavirus concerns



CHINA Eastern airline has cancelled its flights from Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China, to Yangon and Mandalay from 24 January to 29 February in response to the coronavirus outbreak that sent the Chinese city into lockdown.

According to the World Health Organization, several cases of pneumonia first surfaced in the last week of December in 2019 but the virus did not match any other known

virus.

China's Ministry of Health then confirmed on 7 January 2020 that they had identified a new virus. It belongs to the coronavirus group, a large family of viruses that include the SARS and MERS viruses that had surfaced before. This new virus is temporarily named '2019-nCoV'.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Health and Sports

have been increasing screening for the novel coronavirus on all airplanes that have flown from Wuhan and other parts of China at Yangon International Airport since 8 January 2020.

The Department of Civil Aviation announced on 23 January 2020 that they have found no cases of the virus, regarding their checks at the airport.—GNLM

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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French team makes documentary about 'Life of Ayarwaddy River' in Mandalay

CREW of Step by Step Production TV channel from France shot youths undergoing training at the 'Bamathway Myanmar traditional lethwei club' in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region as well as scenes of Gawein jetty yesterday.

The crew also made a documentary about the Mingon Temple, Gawein Jetty and nearby villages along the Ayeyawady River bank on 23 January. The team will go through to film the Wema elephant camp in Bhamo Township, Kachin State on 25 January; Yandabo Village in Myingyan Township and people's livelihood and customs of villagers living along the Ayeyawady River.

The documentary consisted of scenes of livelihood and customs of Myanmar people

France crew filming a documentary along the Ayeyawady River. **PHOTO: NYEIN KO (FDC)**

along the Ayeyawady River will be broadcast on the title 'Life

of Ayarwaddy River' of Step by Step Production TV Channel.—

Nyein Ko (FDC)

(Translated by TTN)

Circular railway timetable to change due to upgrade

By Nyein Nyein

THE timetable of the Yangon circular trains will change on account of renovation and upgrade work, according to region-7 of the

Myanma Railways (MR).

The MR will inform commuters about the changes to the timetable soon.

Ahead of the upgrade work between Paywetseikkon

and Pazundaung scheduled in the first week of February, officials from region-7 of MR and Shwetaung company and project engineers carried out a field inspection of the Pazundaung Railway Station, Tamway Station, and Yegu Station on 23 January.

The circular railway lines between Paywetseikkon and Pazundaung stations will also be renovated, according to region-7 of MR. Last October, the authorities had closed the road between Paywetseikkon and Yegu stations for upgrading the circular railway. That road will be opened in the first week of February.

Currently, the upgrade project is being implemented in two phases — east and west. MR has selected A-1 company to upgrade

the western side of the project area, while Shwe Taung company will handle the upgrade of the eastern side.

Upon completion of the upgrade project, MR would be able to cut down travel time by one hour and handle thrice the number of commuters, said U Zaw Lwin, Manager of the MR.

The Yangon circular railway spans 29.5 miles and it takes two hours and 50 minutes to complete one round. Circular trains carry about 80,000 commuters per day, according to official statistics of the MR. Trains have not been able to maintain arrival and departure times in the past 20 years. However, upon completion of the project, the circular trains are expected to arrive on time.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Commuters coming pouring out of a circular train at Yangon Railway Station. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Tourist arrivals up 23% in 2019

NEARLY 4.4 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar from January to December, 2019, according to data released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The number of visitors increased by 812,673, or 23 per cent, compared to the same period last year. In 2018, the number of tourists who entered the country stood at 3.55 million.

The significant increase in

tourist arrivals during the period was attributed to the influx of a large number of tourists from Asian countries, especially China. There were many visitors from South Korea, Japan, India, and Taiwan as well.

Tourist arrivals from China, Japan, and South Korea have increased significantly since the government relaxed visa requirements for travellers from those countries in October, 2018.

Currently, visas on arrival are available for more than 50 countries at the international airports in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw. The visas allow stays in Myanmar of up to 28 days. On 1 October, the government also extended visas on arrival to visitors from Germany, Russia, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and Australia, as part of efforts to attract more travellers from western countries.

In 2019, China topped the list of tourists with 452,319 visitors, followed by South Korea with 38,942, Japan with 21,330, and India with 5,119 travellers. In addition, about 184,016 European travellers entered the country during the year. Myanmar welcomed 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017, 3.55 million in 2018, and 4.36 million in 2019.—Zwe (Translated by Hay Mar)

First Makro Myanmar store to open in Yangon in March

By Nyein Nyein

THAILAND-based Makro company will open its first Makro Myanmar store in March in Yangon, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The store business, which will get 100-per cent foreign direct investment from Thailand-based Makro company, will come up in Mingala Taung Nyunt Township of Yangon Region. The company has invested US\$28.7 million on a 9.2-acre plot of land owned by the Ministry of Commerce to conduct the wholesale and retail business. Makro Company was granted permission to invest in Myanmar on 20 February 2019 by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). The company has announced that it will open the wholesale and retail business in March,” he added.

Makro will sell a variety of products to business partners and members around the world,

including retailers, restaurants, food and beverage services, government departments, educational organizations, and other businesses. The company will provide support for sale of good-quality products to help generate profits for business partners so they can improve their financial performance.

The Makro Myanmar Company extended its business in Myanmar in 2018 by establishing the ARO Commercial Company Ltd. Currently, the company is selling more than 12,000 products over 7,000 square meters in Yangon town.

Siam Makro Company was established in 1988 as a member-based wholesale center under the ‘Makro’ brand. Currently, there are more than 130 Makro stores in Thailand and more than 3 million Makro members.

In 2018, the company extended its business to Cambodia, India, Myanmar, and China.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MIC okays eight projects with over 1,500 jobs, including 350 MW power plant



Union Minister U Thaug Tun and seven MIC members holds the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (2/2020) on 24 January, 2020 in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar Investment Commission approved eight projects yesterday in the electricity, livestock and fisheries, real estate, manufacturing sectors, including generation of 350 MW LNG Turbine Power Plant at Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region.

The total investments are amounted to US\$394.095 million

and over K15 billion.

The projects will create 1587 jobs for Myanmar citizens.

The MIC granted its approval at a meeting (2/2020) held in Yangon. U Thaug Tun, the chairman of the MIC, and seven members attended the meeting.

By the end of December 2019, the countries with the

largest investment in Myanmar were Singapore, the People’s Republic of China and Thailand. The top sector is Oil & Gas sector, accounted for 27.00%, followed by the Power sector, accounted for 26.15% and the manufacturing sector, accounted for 14.07% of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA

Kaleinaung sugarcane growers reap handsome profits



A sugarcane plantation thrives in Kaleinaung township, Dawei District. PHOTO: DAW MOE MOE KHINE (KALEINAUNG IPRD)

GROWERS in Kaleinaung town, Dawei District, Tanintharyi region said they are pleased with the good profits generated from

growing sugarcane this year.

“Sugarcane is mostly grown in the rainy season. We don’t need to take care of sugarcane, like

other crops. We don’t need to use fertilizers or provide treatment. All we need to do is weed out the rough sugarcane leaves,” said a local sugarcane grower.

Last year, a bundle of ten sugarcanes was fetching K2,000-2,500. This year, it is selling for K4,500-5,000. So, local growers said they are pleased with the doubling of profits.

“Only black sugarcanes are grown in Kaleinaung. Local farmers sell sugarcanes to cold drink shops in town. Some customers come to farms to buy sugarcanes,” said a local sugarcane grower. Sugarcane is mostly grown in Yaybone, Hizae, Mayanchaung, and Michaunghlaung villages in Kaleinaung Town.

Sugarcane is one of the major industrial crops cultivated in Myanmar. It is rich in proteins, phosphorus, iron, zinc, and potassium, and vitamins A, B-complex, and C.—Daw Moe Moe Khine (Kaleinaung IPRD) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Now Available

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13th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 16-day meeting PAGE 10 (OPINION)

ROK President pays state visit to Myanmar

State Counsellor holds talks with ROK President

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses production, industrial, and agricultural cooperation

an Suu Kyi, Ambassador of Burmese

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- ကြေးမုံစာပေ**
အမှတ် ၇၇၊ ၅၂ လမ်းနှင့်မဟာဗန္ဓုလမ်းထောင့်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
- သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း စာအုပ်အရောင်းဆိုင်**
အမှတ် ၁၇၃၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း (အလယ်ဘလောက်)၊ ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
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- The Global New Light of Myanmar**
အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း (ကင်းဘဲလမ်း)၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
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Protecting children from violence key to building better future State

TODAY, with around 250 million children living in areas affected by armed conflicts, protecting children from violence poses a major challenge in international child law and its implementation.

Children also enjoy certain rights since birth. To draft a strategy and tasks to provide protection to children from physical and mental violence and from armed conflicts, we need to carry out a survey and research the on-ground situation regarding child rights abuses, by region and age.

Only with a strategy and tasks decided on the basis of the results of the survey can we take a pragmatic approach in drawing region-wise child protection measures.

Now is the time for the ministries concerned to cooperate in educating people about child rights to ensure that violations are not tolerated. We are confident that we can achieve success in this drive with the participation of the people.

In implementing our new Child Rights Law, the role of parents, family members, and neighbors would be crucial.

At present, Myanmar is implementing the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) programme to monitor and provide care to children, depending on their age. To be

able to carry out the tasks effectively, we need to find ways to incorporate health, education, justice, legal affairs, and local authorities, which play a major role in the program, and adopt the best practices from other countries.

We have five tasks to perform in relation with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are: enacting a suitable law in accordance with the convention, designing a national mechanism to implement the tenets of the convention, ensuring cooperation between the relevant ministries and domestic and foreign NGOs and CSOs, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of child rights, and submitting reports.

Meanwhile, the country needs cooperation from international organizations and countries in rehabilitating children found breaking the law and using drugs.

Myanmar is endeavoring to provide equal rights of all children and ensuring no one is left behind. There are about 17 million children across the nation who will be leading the future one day.

Only by protecting our children from grave violations during this current period of democratic transition can we ensure a bright future for our country.

Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee illustrates duties to the people

By Shin Min
Photo: Kay Kay

“We cannot provide a hundred percent assistance yet though. I believe it’s because we are still in a transition period, and making reforms, and thus the ministries and states/regions are overwhelmed with multiple duties that prevent them from swiftly responding to the complaint letters.”

U Win Kyaing, Secretary of the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee

(Continued from yesterday’s article)

U Win Kyaing, Secretary, Amyotha Hluttaw representative for Bago Region constituency 10

“The topic people send complaints to us the most is about confiscation of farmlands and other lands. There are reports of losses incurred due to mismanagement of farmlands. Reports and complaints concerning farmland are sent the most.”

“Other complaint letters include individuals reporting on other individuals due to private losses or damages, and those concerning judicial matters. There are also complaints against ministries.”

“But there are complaint letters that the committee can’t



The Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee meets with UNSC’s Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener.

view them and send them directly to the concerned Union-level organizations and state/regional

response and action are slow and not at the rate we would like it to be yet.”

Letter

“There are 11 rules to follow when sending complaint letters. There are 11 types of letters the committee doesn’t take action against. The first kind are letters addressed to the President and the copy sent to us. We can’t take action on that. And secondly, letters addressed to both the President and a ministry simultaneously are invalid.”

“Thirdly, we can’t take on matters that are facing ongoing trial in a court of law. Fourthly, if the matter requires the complainant to file a case themselves then we advise them to do so. Fifth, if the letter doesn’t explain what the issue is, or if it’s too general, or neither clearly states what are the causes for losses incurred, then we can’t take them on. Letters also stating assumptions or just with the intent to notify us are invalid as well.”

“We cannot take action if the letter doesn’t have the com-

plaint’s signature, name or NRC number or for suggestion letters. In addition, our committee can’t directly handle cases of confiscated farmlands. That is handled by the Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, as well as the state/regional-level committees

chaired by its respective chief minister.”

“For this reason, our committee can’t directly address complaint letters concerning confiscated farmlands and other lands. The final type of invalid letters are those other people write on behalf of someone else, akin to a broker, or if it doesn’t have valid documents showing transfer of power.”

“The committee carefully scrutinizes complaint letters that contain all the necessary details and ensure they are handled without incurring losses. We carefully file the letters we receive each day into our inbox and catalog them appropriately as well. Each of our members are assigned different duties. They scrutinize the letters and write down their findings. Then we send the letters to the concerned organization with our suggestions attached.”

Conducting analyses on the ground

“We remind the concerned ministries and state/regional government on the complaint

letters we forward them according to their importance. We may also raise these questions at Hluttaw sessions. We also conduct field trips to analyze the situation.”

“We also conduct hearings on the complaint letters and we have held five hearing since the formation of our committee. If the citizens are evidently incurring losses then we coordinate and assist them while adhering to the law.”

“We cannot guarantee hundred-per-cent assistance yet though. I believe it’s because we are still in a transition period and implementing reforms, and so, the ministries and states and regions are overwhelmed with multiple duties that prevent them from swiftly responding to complaint letters.”

“I think when the time comes where they can respond to the letters quickly and effectively, then our committee can address those matters more accurately and quickly as well.”

(Translated by Pen Dali)



Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee members making a field trip to Inndaung Forest Reserve in Htigyayng Township.

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to preserve and protect for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of National Unity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty.
2. To work on the peace process till success is achieved based on Union spirit.
3. To strive with the collective strength of all ethnic nationals for rule of law, a fair justice system and the security and safety of all citizens.
4. To prevent/protect all people from the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty and thereby uplift their standard of living.
5. Emergence of a Constitution which will be in alignment with a genuine Democratic Federal Union.

Equal share for equal rights,
Peace and stability in our Union,
Responsibility in equal share,
security and stability in our Union.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 24th January, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th January, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Ayeyawady Region, Kayin and Mon states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (4-6) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthy Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon regions and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th January, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and partly cloudy in Yangon Region.



South Korea Unification Minister Cho Myung-Gyun (l) shakes hands with North Korean chief delegate Ri Son-Gwon (r) during their meeting at the border truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, on 9 January, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

N Korea confirms ex-military official tapped as new foreign minister

BEIJING — North Korea's state-run media reported Friday that Ri Son Gwon, a former military officer and head of the government's Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, has become foreign minister, replacing Ri Yong Ho.

The Korean Central News Agency said Ri Son Gwon made a speech at a reception for the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang on Thursday, addressing him as the "Foreign Minister" in the report.

The new minister has served as a representative to inter-Korean military talks since the

mid-2000s. He is seen close to former military officer Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and a hard-liner on United States policy matters.

Ri Son Gwon said in his speech, "The Korean people have turned out in the general offensive to break through head-on the barriers to the advance of socialist construction by dint of self-reliance," echoing language that leader Kim Jong Un has emphasized.

The reception was held to mark the Lunar New Year's Day,

which falls on Saturday.

Late last week, North Korea informed embassies in Pyongyang that it would replace its foreign minister, according to diplomatic sources. Ri Yong Ho, Ri Son Gwon's predecessor and a career diplomat, had been foreign minister since 2016.

Meanwhile, Kim Jong Gwan — who has supervised the country's construction projects under Kim Jong Un — has been promoted to defense minister, as denuclearization negotiations with the United States remain stalled.—Kyodo News ■

China shuts down 13 cities as virus toll climbs

BEIJING — Chinese authorities rapidly expanded a mammoth quarantine effort aimed at containing a deadly contagion on Friday to 13 cities and a staggering 41 million people, as nervous residents were checked for fevers and the death toll climbed to 26.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) held off on declaring a global emergency despite confirmed cases in half a dozen other countries, China expanded its lockdown to cover an area with a total population greater than

Canada's.

A range of Lunar New Year festivities have been cancelled, while temporary closures of Beijing's Forbidden City, Shanghai's Disneyland and a section of the Great Wall were announced to prevent the disease from spreading further.

The previously unknown virus has caused alarm because of its similarity to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed hundreds across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.—AFP ■



A woman wears a protective mask at Tiananmen Gate in Beijing. China is halting public transport and closing highway toll stations in two more cities in Hubei province, the epicentre of a deadly virus outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

Sales of printed books, magazines in Japan drop for 15th straight year in 2019

TOKYO — Sales of printed books and magazines in Japan fell in 2019, marking the 15th successive year of decline, the Research Institute for Publications in Tokyo said in a report Friday.

According to the institute, sales in the recording period dropped for a 15th straight year in 2019 to around 1.24 trillion yen (11.31 billion US dollars).

This compares to 2.66 trillion yen (24.26 billion US dollars) in total revenue, when printed book and magazine sales here peaked in 1996, the institute said.

It added, however, that in the recording period, sales of e-books rocketed by 23.9 per cent to 307.2 billion yen (2.80 billion U.S. dollars), while sales of books related to business and revenue from comics topped those of the previous year.

Combined sales of e-books and printed books and magazines, meanwhile, rose by 3.2

billion yen (29.19 million US dollars) from a year earlier to total 1.54 trillion yen (14.05 billion US

dollars) in 2019, the Research Institute for Publications in Tokyo also said.—Xinhua ■



Japan is home to some of the most stunning bookstores in the world. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Viet Nam confirms 1st cases of Wuhan coronavirus: report

HANOI — The state-owned Vietnam News Agency reported Thursday that two cases of pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus were confirmed in the country. The report marks the first confirmation of the virus in the country.

The two cases have been reported in the country's southern Ho Chi Minh City.

Chinese authorities reported late Wednesday that 17 people have died from infections with Wuhan corona virus, all in Hubei Province, of which Wuhan is the capital.—Kyodo News ■

Astronauts bake first cookies in space

WASHINGTON — Astronauts on the International Space Station have baked the first cookies in space, but they took far longer than on Earth.

The space station's Italian commander Luca Parmitano acted as baker aided by NASA astronaut Christina Koch for the chocolate-chip cookie experiment.

Cookies take around 15-20 minutes to bake on Earth but the astronauts discovered that their most successful efforts required at least two hours in the oven in space.

The first and second cook-

ies were in the oven for 25 minutes and 75 minutes but were still under-baked.

The best results came from 120 and 130 minutes in the oven.

"We made space cookies and milk for Santa this year," Koch tweeted.

The prototype oven which can be used in microgravity was designed and built by Nanoracks and Zero G Kitchen while the Double Tree by Hilton hotel chain supplied the raw cookie dough.

"The ISS smelled like fresh chocolate chip cookies when @astro_luca opened the oven

door! Just like home!" Nanoracks tweeted.

"While we have initial visual and scent feedback from the crew aboard the ISS, we're excited to dive into fully understanding the baking results — including breaking down why the bake time and temperature in space varies from what we are used to seeing on Earth," Mary Murphy, a Nanoracks payloads manager, said in a statement from Hilton.

While the astronauts said they looked and smelled like cookies, no one has tasted them.



Three of the baked cookies returned to Earth on the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft and will undergo testing by food scientists to determine if they are edible. **PHOTO: AFP**

Three of the cookies returned to Earth on the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on 7 January and will undergo testing by food scientists to determine if they are edible. — AFP ■



"We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds — not hours, or even minutes," said Rachel Bronson, president of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in announcing the change. **PHOTO:AFP**

'Doomsday Clock' closer to midnight than ever

WASHINGTON — The Doomsday Clock on Thursday ticked down to 100 seconds to midnight, symbolizing the greatest level of peril to humanity since its creation in 1947 as the threat posed by climate change and a growing nuclear race loomed large.

The danger level was compounded by information warfare and disruptive technologies ranging from deepfake video and audio to the militarization of space and the development of hypersonic weapons.

"We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds — not hours, or even minutes," said Rachel Bronson, president of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scien-

tists, in announcing the change. The decision on the clock is taken by panels of experts, including 13 Nobel laureates. It was originally set at seven minutes to midnight, and the previous worst — two minutes to midnight — held from 2018 to 2019 as well as 1953. The furthest it has ever been is 17 minutes, following the end of the Cold War in 1991.

Scrapped treaty

On the nuclear front, the arms control boundaries that helped prevent catastrophe over the last half century are being dismantled and may be gone by next year, said subject expert Sharon Squassoni. — AFP ■

Ladakh's nomads and the future of pashmina wool

KORZOK — For centuries the Changpa have tended the shaggy goats that provide silky-soft, super-expensive pashmina wool. But now many are rethinking their way of life, in part because of climate change.

Winters have become harsher and summers drier for the semi-nomadic people living 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) up in the Changtang region straddling northern India and Tibet.

This and other factors have pushed many on the inhospitable plateau to abandon their traditions and migrate to villages and cities in the Ladakh region in search of alternative sources

of income.

Pashmina, a highly coveted cashmere wool, comes from the fine undercoat of a breed of Himalayan goat found in India, Nepal, Tibet and Central Asia.

But the pashmina from Changtang is seen by purists as the best. For this exceptionally warm, light and fine fibre, the animals need the particular climatic conditions of the Changpa's homeland.

"During the period June to September we live in the camp inside tents but during the winter we have to shift to Korzok village because the weather gets too cold," said Sonam Yangzom, 55.

"We will have to build a house in the camp because living in the tents is getting too cold," she told AFP, her face weather-beaten after a lifetime in Changtang.

Shopkeeper Irfan Goruu, 31, said there were sometimes shortages of pashmina because of the changing weather.

"If the nomads of Ladakh do not produce it then nobody will... so this industry will finish," he told AFP.

ActionAid International activist Harjeet Singh said northern India is at the forefront of the ravages of climate change, suffering more droughts, floods and cyclones.— AFP ■



Pashmina, a highly coveted cashmere wool, comes from the fine undercoat of a breed of Himalayan goat. **PHOTO: AFP**

Palestinian, Russian presidents meet on Israeli-Palestinian situation

BETHLEHEM — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday evening in the southern West Bank city of Bethlehem, briefing him on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian situation.

The two leaders discussed the “Deal of the Century” proposed by the United States, Israel’s current confiscation of Palestinian land, and Palestine’s efforts to hold its legislative and presidential elections, according to the official Palestinian news agency WAFA. Abbas welcomed Putin’s visit to Palestine, describing the Russian president as his “personal friend and the friend of the Palestinian people.”

“I welcome my dear friend, President Vladimir Putin ... who never misses an opportunity to talk about or support the Palestinian cause, and this is what we are accustomed to,” said Abbas. For his part, the Russian president praised the historical relations between the two sides, expressing his readiness to cooperate with and support Palestine in all fields. This is Putin’s third visit to Palestine. His first visit was in 2005 and the second was in 2012.—Xinhua ■



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (r) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, on 23 January, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

French unions face moment of truth in fight over pensions

PARIS — French protesters prepared to hit the streets on Friday for a fresh day of demonstrations against the government’s pension reform, which will be officially unveiled after weeks of strikes by unions warning that millions of people will have to work longer.

Union leaders themselves

acknowledge it is a now-or-never moment before the draft law heads to parliament, where President Emmanuel Macron’s party holds a majority and is widely expected to push through the overhaul by summer.

In Paris, protesters will march through the city to a square a stone’s throw from the

Elysee Palace, where ministers will meet to officially unveil the reform. “We’re going to show that faced with this acceleration, this stubbornness by the government, ours is just as strong,” Yves Veyrier of the hard-line Force Ouvriere (FO) union told France Info radio on Thursday.

— AFP ■

Germany’s only black MP reveals death threats

BERLIN — Germany’s only black MP said this week he had received death threats from right-wing extremists days after finding holes probably made by a pellet gun in his constituency office window.

Karamba Diaby, a lawmaker for the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD), told German media that he had received the anonymous threat by email, which was reportedly signed with the words “Sieg Heil” and “Heil Hitler”.

“I am taking the threat very seriously and have informed the police immediately,” Diaby told the DPA news agency on Thursday.

“Investigations have been started without delay and measures have been taken to protect me.”

The threat comes just days after Diaby tweeted a picture of three holes in his office window, which investigators believe were made by plastic pellets shot from an “airsoft” gun.

Regional newspaper Mitteldeutsche Zeitung said they had also received a copy of the threatening e-mail.

The newspaper reported that it was signed by a group calling themselves the “coup d’etat orchestra”, and made reference to the recent killing of conservative politician Walter Luebcke.

Luebcke, an advocate of a



Karamba Diaby tweeted a picture of three holes in his office window, which investigators believe were made by plastic pellets shot from an “airsoft” gun. PHOTO: AFP

liberal refugee policy, was shot at his home last June.

The primary suspect in the murder is a neo-Nazi named Stephan Ernst.

Diaby, 58, was born in Senegal but moved to the former communist East Germany in the late 1980s to study chemistry.

In a 2017 interview with AFP, he recalled experiencing racism both before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification in 1989-90, suffering a beating from neo-Nazis in 1991.

Elected in 2013, he represents a constituency in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, a region where the far-right AfD party enjoys widespread support.

The threats against him come amid a growing wave of aggression towards politicians in Germany.— AFP ■

Thousands protest in Iraq to demand ouster of US troops



Thousands of Iraqi men, women and children of all ages massed in Baghdad to demand US troops leave the country. PHOTO: AFP

BAGHDAD — Thousands of supporters of populist Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr gathered in Baghdad on Friday for a rally to demand the ouster of US troops, putting the protest-hit capital on edge.

The march rattled the separate, months-old protest movement that has gripped the capital and the Shiite-majority south since October, demanding a government overhaul, early elections and more accountability.

In the early hours of Friday, thousands of men, women and children of all ages massed under grey skies in the Jadiriya district of east Baghdad.

“Get out, get out, occupier!” some shouted, while

others chanted, “Yes to sovereignty!”

A representative of Sadr took to the stage at the protest site and read out a statement by the influential Shiite cleric and populist politician.

It called for all foreign forces to leave Iraq, the cancellation of Iraq’s security agreements with the US, the closure of Iraqi airspace to American military and surveillance aircraft and for US President Donald Trump not to be “arrogant” when addressing Iraqi officials.

“If all this is implemented, we will deal with it as a non-occupying country — otherwise it will be considered a country hostile to Iraq,” the statement said.— AFP ■



Facebook has repeatedly said it does not sell users' data. PHOTO:AFP

Italy threatens Facebook with new fine for selling users' data

ROME — Italy's competition authority has warned Facebook it faces a further fine of five million euros (\$5.5 million) for persisting in selling users' data without informing them.

The non-compliance procedure by Italy's AGCM consumer and market watchdog follows five million euro fine against the social media giant in November 2018 for failing to tell users "how the data they will provide will be harvested for commercial purposes."

Facebook has also failed to publish a "corrective statement" about its commercial practices

on its homepage and app, the authority said in a statement on Friday. The company has removed the claim that "it is free and will be forever" but users "continue not to be informed by the company, clearly and immediately, as to the collection and use of their data for remunerative purposes."

Facebook has repeatedly said it does not sell users' data.

The company has faced a barrage of criticism recently for the misuse of users' data to influence elections amid increasing calls for the company run by Mark Zuckerberg to be regulated.— AFP ■

Japan retail, tourism industries on alert to prevent virus infection

TOKYO — The Japanese retail and tourism industries were on full alert Friday after a second infection with a new deadly coronavirus was confirmed in the country at the start of the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays.

"In Japan, it has not yet spread widely but I am worried about how it will develop," said a manager at a hotel in Tokyo's Arakawa Ward where most guests are from other Asian areas, with 40 percent coming from China. The virus has been rapidly spreading from the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

The manager said the hotel is asking guests whether they have a fever or cough during check-in and calling on them to visit a hospital if they do not feel well. All of its employees are wearing masks and taking other precautionary measures.

A culture and tourism center in Asakusa, a spot popular with foreign tourists in Tokyo, has put out a leaflet on the new coronavirus and also decided to seek information from tourists who seek medical help about where their journey to Japan originated.

Meanwhile, All Nippon Airways Co. said it will cancel all flights between Wuhan and Narita near Tokyo through 1 February.

The cancellation will affect around 2,400 people, the unit of ANA Holdings Inc. said.—Kyodo News ■



A man uses disinfectant placed near an entrance gate at Kobe's Chinatown in western Japan, on 24 January, 2020. Chinatown will host events celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year, amid fears over the spread of a new deadly coronavirus circulating in China. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (147 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (147 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1115 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1115 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC MARYLAND

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BBC MARYLAND VOY. NO. (1025042) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG DE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HONG DE VOY. NO. (1912) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT
SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SPRING HUMMER

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SPRING HUMMER VOY. NO. (EL 2001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.T-1 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 A.N.T IMPEX PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Ambulance (Total - 70 Nos) for Hospital in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (27.1.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (26.2.2020), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411634, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports

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DESPITE having lesser historical and archaeological evidences, nine pagodas under titles of Shin where people from various regions of the nation make pilgrimage tours have been famous due to successive preservations.

Nine pagodas under titles of Shin, 391 miles from Yangon along the motor road, are accessible via Dawei where travellers can pay visits by car, by ship, by train and by air. Dawei, 18.6 miles from Mottama Bay, is located on the northern bank of Dawei River.

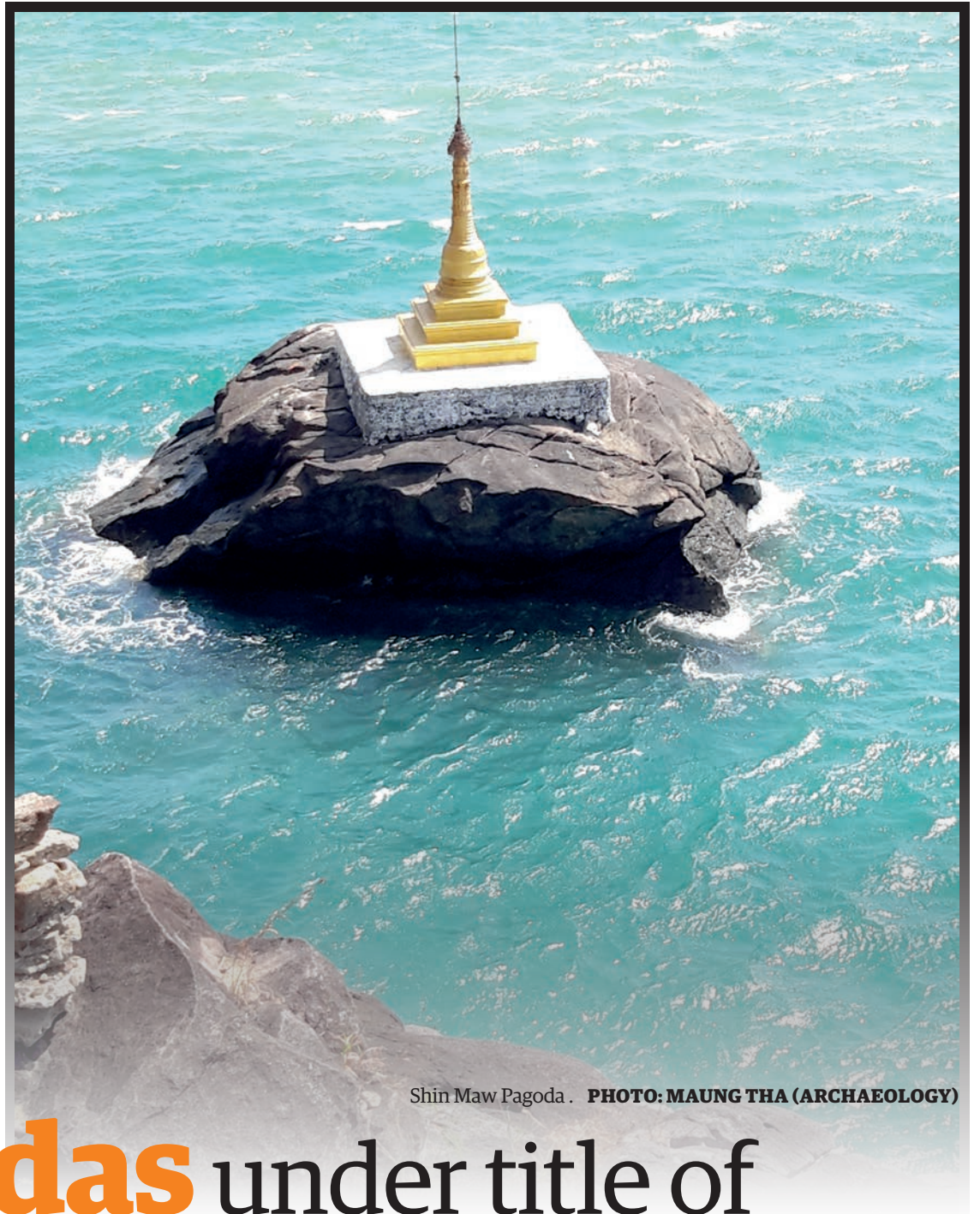
Nine pagodas under titles of Shin

The list of nine pagodas comprises Shin Tauk Htein and Shin Mokhtee as Buddha images and remaining sevens as pagodas. Shin Pin Khayu, Shin Mokhtee, Shin Okaw and Shin Datwe are situated in Dawei Township, Shin Hmyaw Taung, Shin Tauk Htein and Shin Zalun in Launglon Township, Shin Taunt Pon in Thayetchaung Township and Shin Hsandaw in Yebyu Township.

Depending on the locations, people mark nine pagodas under titles of Shin on three hills, in three jungles and three towns. The pagodas on three hills are Shin Hsandaw, Shin Hmyaw Taung and Shin Taunt Pon, in three jungles Shin Datwe, Shin Zalun and Shin Tauk Htein, and in three towns Shin Pin Khayu, Shin Okaw and Shin Mokhtee. They all can be noted as “three jungles, mountains and towns each, note down as nine Shins”.

Shin Pin Khayu Pagoda

It was assumed that Shin Pin Khayu Pagoda located on Arzani Road in South Kayinpyin Ward of Dawei was built 300 years ago. Historian Saya Maung Than Swe (Dawei) reviewed that as Shin indicates the Lord Buddha, Shin Pin Khayu should be assumed as the pagoda built on the conch between two star-flower plants.



Shin Maw Pagoda . PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Nine pagodas under title of Shin in jungles, on hills and at towns

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



A fire broke out almost the whole South Kayinpyin Ward of Dawei on 26 March 1996 but the pagoda remained safely. Hence, the pagoda became more famous.

Shin Mokhtee Pagoda

It was assumed that Shinmokhtee Village, six miles from Dawei, derived from Mottathunakhagara City. The pagoda in Shinmokhtee Village, located on right side of Dawei-Myeik motor road, was enshrined with Shin Mokhtee Buddha image.

Shin Mokhtee Buddha image was one of four Buddha images set adrift by Arhat Ashin Maha Araham from Ceylon Island into the sea. A saying mentioned remaining three images were Shin Mokhtaw Pagoda in Pathein, Kyaikpaw-

law Hmeshin Pagoda in Thaton and Kyaikkhami mid-stream Pagoda. The place where Shin Mokhtee image was salvaged was near the bank, west of the current pagoda. Hence, a statue of nun who salvaged the image was kept at the site.

Taninthayi Division Commissioner Mr. H.M. Stevenson received 300 earthen votive tablets near Shin Mokhtee Pagoda in 1924. Back of some tablets bore inscriptions in ancient Mon language. Among them, Samim Sritri Bovana-ditya means Thiri Tri Buva-naditya Dhammaraja in Myanmar-Pali language, and it was the title of King Kyansittha from Bagan city state.

Dawei was written as Htawar and Dawar in Bagan era. Governor of Dawei Dhammaraz Thamban Anandazeya

(Thanbyin Anandazeya) was the loyal servant to King Kyansittha. In 955 Myanmar Era, governor of Dawei Thuriyakomma and wife donated a bronze bell weighing 100 viss to Shin Mokhtee Pagoda.

Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda

Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda built on more than 2,000 feet high hill, 18 miles from Dawei, in Thayetchaung Township. Taunt Pon means quiver or a pile of quivers. Hunter Maung Nwar abandoned his hunting livelihood and set fire to hunting equipment on the hill of Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda. Then, he himself was initiated into hermit with the title of Shin Govinda who built Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda. Although some said Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda was of work in Pyu era or early Bagan era, not firm evidence has been found yet.

Shin Hmyaw Taung Pagoda

It is a hilly pagoda in Launglon Township, located in Kyethlut Village, 52 miles from Dawei. According to the history of pagodas, Shin Hmyaw Taung Pagoda was built on the full moon day of Tabaung, 238 ME; and Bagan kings Alaungsithu and Narapatisithu performed meritorious deeds there.

At the time of rising tide, the water surface near the rock on which the small pagoda was built becomes the shape of sauce pan which does not cover the pagoda.

Some said that a small pond at North Oksin Camp, downstream of Shin Hmyaw Taung, is flown by tidal water but it remains unchanged as fresh water lake whenever tide subsides. The historical books of the pagoda mentioned six wonderful points of Shin Hmyaw Taung Pagoda.

Shin Tauk Htein Pagoda

Although some said Shin Tauk Htein Pagoda located in Kamyawkin Village of Launglon Township in Dawei District was one of nine Shin pagodas, the original Shin Tauk Htein Pagoda was the Buddha image kept in the ordination hall, east of the pagoda. People called Shin Tauk Htein Pagoda as a relic pagoda where the gala rice offering ceremony takes place on every full moon day of Thadingyut.

Shin Okaw Pagoda

Shin Okaw Pagoda, located in the precinct of Shwek-



PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

yaunggyi Monastery in Peinnetaw Ward of Dawei was built with significant architectural works including 11 circular decorative bands. King of Shwetaungsar Min Shin Zaw built Shwekyaunggyi Monastery in Peinnetaw Ward in 1122 ME and then came onto the throne. He built Shin Okaw Pagoda as NanU Pagoda in the same year. King Min Shin Zaw built Shwe Taung Sar Pagoda two years after construction of Shin Okaw Pagoda.

In 1165 ME, the bell in Konbaung era donated by governor of Dawei Razathingyan and wife to Shin Okaw Pagoda mentioned 13 lines of bell inscriptions. Razathingyan was the loyal servant of King Badon who firstly established the First Amarapura City. The eighth line of the inscription mentioned Dawei was named Thayawady. That was why Dawei was called Thayawady in Konbaung era.

Shin Zalun Pagoda

Emblems of Srivaccha were expressed on concrete floral works created around

the upper part of bell at Shin Zalun Pagoda, located in old Thagara city in Launglon Township. Hence, some assumed Shin Zalun Pagoda was built in contemporary of Pyu era. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum is taking responsibilities for preservation of the old Thagara city, inner and outer walls, moat and Pyu graveyard (urn mound).

Hermit Shin Govinda (hunter Maung Nwar) who built Shin Taunt Pon Pagoda adopted two children found on the road. He named Shin Zaw for the baby girl and Shin Zan for the baby boy. An Arhat who arrived there gave a sacred relic of the Lord Buddha to Shin Zan and a duplicated one to Shin Zaw.

Shin Zaw enshrined the duplicated relic into Shin Zalun Pagoda in 170 era while Shin Zan built Shin Datwe Pagoda with enshrinement of a genuine relic. Some assumed that only when women participate in hoisting the umbrella atop the pagoda built by Shin Zalun, will the process have achieve-

ment because Shin Zalun Pagoda was built by a woman.

Shin Hsandaw Pagoda

Shin Hsandaw Pagoda, famous as Hsandawshin Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Kalein Hill, was built on Kalein-aung Hill in Yebyu Township. The hill is 47 miles north of Dawei.

Three pieces of relic hair of Kakusanda, Konagamana and Gotama Buddhas who had enlightened in Badda World were enshrined in the rocky reliquary which is 30 by 30 elbows each in length and width and 40 elbows in depth. A 15 elbows high Shin Hsandaw Pagoda was built on the reliquary. The Buddha Pujaniya festival of the pagoda takes place on the full moon day of Tabaung yearly.

Nine pagodas under titles of Shin, which are famous across Myanmar, do not have firmly historical evidences but they are crowded with Buddhist travellers.

Translated by Than Tun Aung
Reference: Nine pagodas un-



der titles of Shin (Maung Than Swe, Dawei)

Shin Datwe Pagoda

Shin Datwe Pagoda built by Shin Zan is located in Maungmeishaug Village, seven miles from Dawei-Yebyu

Selected ancient bell inscriptions (U Sein Maung Oo)
History of nine pagodas under titles of Shin (U Aung Naing)



Myanmar Martial Arts Tournament on in Nay Pyi Taw

A state and region Myanmar Martial Arts Tournament is currently being held at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Sports and Physical Education Department, and Myanmar Thaing (martial arts) Federation.

The tournament features men's and women's events.

In the women's 49-53 kg Bando attack competition yesterday, Khin Yati Ko (Yangon Region) came first, Thazin Wai (Thaninthayi Region) second, and Lahtaw Mary Sai (Kachin State) and Khin San (Shan State) tied for the third place.

In the women's 53-57 kg Bando attack competition, Htet Htet Win (Taninthayi Region) secured the first place, while Nann San Law (Shan State) came second, and Ei Shwezun (Sagaing Region) and Thuzar (Mon State) tied for the third place.

In the women's (one-knife) attack event, Zin Mho Mho Htwe (Magwe Region) emerged as the winner, Phyo Ei Ei Kyaw (Mandalay Region) came second, and Kary Hlaing (Shan State) and Zin Mar Pyae (Mon State) tied for the third place.

In the men's above 69-kg Bando competition, Ye Htut Win (Mandalay Region) won the first place, Pyae Phyo Aung (Shan State) finished in the second place, and Lin Ko Ko Oo (Magway Region) and Kaung Khant Zin (Bago Region) tied for the third place.

In the men's and women's mixed event, the Magwe Region team came first, the Sagaing Region team was second, and the Shan State team finished third.

The martial arts tourney will continue today at the same venue. Entry to the competition is free for fans, said officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Two athletes compete in the attacking event of the men's fight at the Myanmar Martial Arts Tournament, held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: SPED**

Thai player Nattawat joins MIU Futsal Club



Thai futsal player Nattawat Luksanato seen at his former club Samutsakhon F.C. **PHOTO: AFC**

THE current champions of the Myanmar Futsal League, the Myanmar Imperial College (MIU) Futsal Club recently signed Thai player Nattawat Luksanato ahead of the second round of the 2019-2020 Myanmar Futsal League season, according to a statement released by the club.

The Thai player arrived at Yangon International Airport on 16 January to join MIU.

Nattawat Luksanato previously played for Samutsakhon Futsal Club, and the player has experience with the futsal clubs of Thailand, Indonesia, and Hol-

land, according to the MIU FC.

Nattawat was signed following the departure of Brazilian player Renato from MIU, according to officials.

"Renato left the club upon the completion of his contract, and we did not extend his contract. We have replaced him with Nattawat," said MIU Futsal Club head coach U Aung Aung.

Nattawat is a Thai national futsal team player and bagged the top scorer prizes in the 2011 and 2012 editions of the Thailand Futsal League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Arsenal boss Arteta urges Ceballos to prove his worth

LONDON — Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has urged Dani Ceballos to prove he is worth keeping after the on-loan Real Madrid midfielder was linked with a return to Spain.

Ceballos joined Arsenal in August on a season-long loan, but he has struggled to make an impact and is reportedly keen to leave. The 23-year-old played in Spain's most recent internationals but is said to be concerned about his chances of making the national squad for Euro 2020.

Ceballos, who has scored just once in 17 appearances for Arsenal, was sidelined by a hamstring injury in November and is yet to feature since Arteta took charge. Speaking ahead of Monday's FA Cup fourth round tie at Bournemouth, Arteta made it clear Ceballos will have to show his quality and desire on a consistent basis to get back in the team.

"I had a conversation with Dani. When I joined the club he wasn't here. He was in Madrid because he was doing his rehab for over a month with the team that owns him," Arteta told re-

porters on Friday.

"I haven't seen much of him because he only trained with us for a week or 10 days. "It's very early to assess what I can or cannot do with him. I heard about all those things but I have nothing to comment.

"He needs to get back to fitness and fight for his place like any other player. After that we will make a selection that is fair with what I see on the pitch."

Ceballos wasn't the only Arsenal player linked with a move this week after Barcelona were connected with a potential bid for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to cover for the injured Luis Suarez. But Arteta rejected those rumours and pointed out the programme notes of the Gabon forward earlier this month which stated his happiness at the club. "A week ago after a game at home we were discussing that he said he was so happy, that he didn't agree with the things being written in the media and has his future here. I'm so happy with that. That's where I stand at the moment," he said.—AFP ■

MNL Week-3 matches to be shown live on free-to-air channels

THE Week-3 matches of the Myanmar National League, scheduled to be held on 25 and 26 January, will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to the league. The match between Chin United and Hantharwady United will take place on 25 January at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. It will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

The clash between Sagaing United and Shan United, sched-

uled the same day at the Monywa stadium, will be streamed live on MySports Facebook page and shown live on Fortune TV.

Another match the same day between Southern Myanmar F.C. and Magwe F.C., which will be held at the Mawlamyine Stadium, will be streamed live on MySports Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the match between Ayeyawady United and Zwegapin United on 26 January at Patheingyi Stadium will be

broadcast live on Channel K and streamed live on MySports.

The most thrilling match of the week — Yangon United vs Yadanarbon FC. — at the YUSC Stadium the same day will be shown live on MRTV and streamed live on MySports. Another match the same day between Rakhine United and Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) F.C. at the Waitheingyi Stadium will be streamed live on MySports. — Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■