

NATIONAL

47-member leading committee of 8th SSMNC concludes its fourth meeting



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Sunday, 1 March 2020

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho conclude visit to India

HE goodwill delegation led by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, while on a State Visit to India, visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, and gold and silver tapestry and a stone carving industry in Kalakriti yesterday.

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, accompanied by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and wife and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

President, First Lady visit Taj Mahal, Kalakriti in Agra, India ...

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Mr. Saurabh Kumar, left Gaya by Indian special flight at 10 am local standard time yesterday.

The President, the First Lady and entourage were seen



Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

off at the Gaya Airport by Agriculture Minister of Bihar State Dr. Prem Kumar, MP of Bihar State Mr. Vijay Kumar and officials of Bihar State, Myanmar Minister-Counsellor U Myint Soe and wife Daw Yee Yee Naing and officials of the consulate. The President, the First Lady and entourage arrived in Agra at 11 am local time, and were welcomed by Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari, Minister of State in the Government of Uttar Pradesh,

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47-member leading committee of 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes its fourth meeting

THE fourth meeting of the 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concluded at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the member sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and officials of the ministry. Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Ganhtavasaka Panditta Bhaddanta Dhammacara acted



Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa calls on members of the region and state Sangha Nayaka Committees to conduct multiple courses on the rules and regulations and procedures for solving the issues related with the Members of the Sangha for the perpetuation of the Sasana. **PHOTO: MNA**

as the master of the ceremonies.

In his concluding remarks, Bhamo Saydaw Dr Bhaddanta Mumarabhivamsa called on members of the region and state Sangha Nayaka Committees to conduct multiple courses on the rules and regulations and procedures for solving the issues related with the Members of the Sangha for the perpetuation of the Sasana.

He also stressed the need for the leading Sayadaws of the Sangha Nayaka Committees in regions and states to become experts for carrying out duties for the religious affairs including rules and teaching.

Deputy Minister U Kyi Min also supplicated reports on religious affairs to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the meeting was followed and members of the 8th committee discussed the measures taken during the second period of the duty taken by the

second branch of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and made resolutions.

Members of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee discussed the religious issues and the meeting came to an end in the afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Environmental assessment must be first priority in any resources extraction process: Parliamentary Deputy Speaker



Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the conference on natural resources and environmental conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

A conference on natural resources and environmental conservation was held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with the objective of extracting natural resources of the Union within the legal framework.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein said the conference is to promote the role of Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee of the Hluttaws, ensure greater awareness of lawful implementation of the ministries, assess the effectiveness of the adopted laws, systematize the natural resources production process of

the nation and enhance national growth and environmental conservation.

The Deputy Speaker pointed out the importance of natural resources for the energy sector and national development and of extracting and utilizing them in protecting the environment. As the environmental deterioration is usually followed by

severer natural disasters, the world nations are prioritizing environmental conservation. Although the extraction of natural resources can bring national development, it has ill side effects, especially for the environment. So, environmental assessment should come first before the start on extraction process, he noted.

So, discussions should focus on the legal point of view, the role of the respective parliamentary bodies and ministries, challenges of the mining and gems laws and suggestions through active participation, he pointed out.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee U Soe Thura Tun, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee U Kyaw Thiha and Director General of Mining Department U Khin Latt Gyi took part in the sector-wise discussions

Director U Win Naing Tun of Myanmar Environment Institute led the talks on the assessment of the Mining Law, and U Nay Htet Lin, a member of Pyithu Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, DG U Khin Latt Gyi, Deputy Director General Dr. Hsan Oo of Environmental Conservation Department and Director U Zaw Naing Oo of Myanmar Environment Institute joined in the discussions.

Country Manager U Maw Tun Aung of Natural Resources Governance Institute acted the lead speaker of the talks on challenges in implementing the Myanmar Gems Law. U Tun Tun Oo, a member of Amyotha Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, Acting Managing Director U Min Thu of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, Vice Chair U Kyaw Thura of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association and U Kyaw Sein, a legal expert also took part in the talks.

U Kyaw Sein and Chair of Myanmar Environmental Assessment Association U Aung Nanda held discussions from the legal point of view. MPs of upper and lower houses and region and state chambers, departmental personnel, civil society organizations, entrepreneurs and experts on gems and minerals, officials of WFD and UKaid and invited guests also attended the conference.—MNA

 $(Translated\ by\ TMT\)$

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

NATIONAL

President, First Lady visit Taj Mahal, Kalakriti in Agra, India

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Divisional Commissioner Shri Anil Kumar, staff of Myanmar Embassy in India, officials of the state of Uttar Pradesh and the performance of an Indian traditional dance troupe.

Then the President, the First Lady and entourage proceeded to Oberoi Amarvilas Hotel where they took a short rest.

In the afternoon, they visited the Taj Mahal in Agra where they heard a report on the history and cultural designs of the famous edifice.

They posed for documentary photos together with officials of the state and Taj Mahal, signed the visitor's book and exchanged gifts.

Later the President and entourage arrived at Kalakriti where they visited a marble sculpturing industry of the statues of worship, personal items, furniture, mosaics, tapestry and embroideries, jewellery, personal items and cloths and signed the visitors' book. Later gifts were exchanged.

After this they left Agra for Nay Pyi Taw by special flight, and were seen off at Agra Airbase by Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari, Minister of State in the Government of Uttar



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pradesh, Divisional Commissioner Shri Anil Kumar, staff of the Myanmar Embassy in India, officials of the state of Uttar Pradesh and an Indian traditional dance troupe.

The President, the First Lady and entourage arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm, and were welcomed by Vice President U Myint Swe, Dep-

uty Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

India to provide grant assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Myanmar.

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at the airport. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Win, Chairman of Nay

Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo

Aung and wife Daw Khin

Saw Mu, Commander of

Nay Pyi Taw Command

Maj-Gen Myint Maw, In-

dian chargé d'affaires Dr.

Sumit Seth and officials



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho observe the marble art at Kalakriti, Agra, India, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho observe carpts at the Kalakriti, Agra, India, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Two staff being resorted K3 mil by bogus secretary of Anti-Corruption Commission

U Min Thu (former extra-parliamentary anti-corruption and promotion of people's lives), who lives at No (971), Thukhita 25th Street, No (1) Ward, North Okkalapa, has impersonated himself as secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission and coerced two staff in Nyaungdon

Township to get K3 million by telling them of the complaint letters and files with their names at the Anti-Corruption Commission. The above case was informed to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, after scrutiny upon

information, has found out that U Min Thu is not with the Anti-Corruption Commission and he just impersonated himself as bogus secretary to get K3 million from the two civil service personnel. Therefore, the case will be filed at the Nyaungdon Myoma Police Station along

with the initial information No 76/2020 dated 27 February.

The public is notified to inform any possible similar cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu

Tourists are visiting Myanmar through Tachileik Border Gate

THE international tourists are continuously entering and visiting in and out of Myanmar through international gateways and cross-border gateways in order to observe Myanmar's natural beauties of landscapes, sceneries, tourist' attractions, various kinds of traditions and customs and social lifestyles.

Besides, there is now a culture-based tourism by which tourists can observe the traditions and cultures of ethnic people.

From 21 February to 27 February, there are 14,469 visitors including Thailand and the third country visitors who entered via Tachilek border gate as a day return trip. There are also 324 tourists who visited Maing Phat and Kyainge Tong and 491 tourists who visited on inbound tours.

Tourists who travelled as

a day return trip visited Tarlot market, Bayintnaung Statue, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, Wan Kaung market, Koe Myo Shin Nat Nam, Shwedagon Pagoda, national landmark garden, Chinese monastery and Kyauktan market which are famous places in Tachilek.

The tourists who conducted the overnight trips went to the famous pagodas such as Buddha Footprint Pagoda and Maha Myatmuni Pagoda at Mong Phyat town and Keng Tung town through Heho-Yangon-Mandalay-Myitkyinar-Lashio direct airline from Tachileik.

It is learnt that there were 177,675 tourists Thai citizens and mostly from Third Countries on day trips and overnight stay tour, 3,351tourists from third countries on day trips/ overnight, 2,513 tourists



Tourists pose for a photo near the Welcome Sign of Kyainge Tong. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

on Minepyat-Kengtung trip through Tachileik Border Gate as well as 7,501 tourists with visa who visited into Myanmar from 1 January to 27 February in 2020.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Five rare sea turtle species recorded in southern Rakhine

ALL the five rare sea turtle species could be recorded in southern Rakhine State, amidst the fears for their eternal disappearance, U Thant Zin Oo, Secretary of Kyeintali Inshore Fisheries Co-Management Association (KIFCA), told the media yesterday.

As the populations of the turtle species that lay eggs in Kyeintali beach in Gwa Township, at the southern tip of Rakhine State are dwindling annually, KIFCA has been conducting public awareness campaigns in cooperation with the Fisheries Department in and



A loggerhead turtle crawling on the Kyeintali Beach, Gwa Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: KIFCA**

around the area.

"We had found and recorded Green turtles near Ponnyet conservation zone 1 in the area in January and February last year, and unexpectedly captured a Hawksbill turtle in the zone. We released the turtle back into the sea after taking record photos of it," U Thant Zin Oo said.

In July 2019, we found that a Leatherback turtle laid eggs in the sand. "We could take record photos of her eggs and tracks. One of the turtle species, Olive Ridley Turtle can be frequently found in the area. Fortunately, we could document the egg laying of a Loggerhead turtle for the first time at the zone. We had not seen Loggerhead turtles in the area for a long time, and they are becoming rare on the whole Southeast Asia," the KIFCA secretary explained.

The Fisheries Department,

Rakhine Coastal Region Conservation Association (RCA), local turtle conservation committees, Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have been making ardent efforts in saving the rare species in the

Of the seven turtle species around the world, five of them — Green turtle, Hawksbill turtle, Olive Ridley turtle, Leatherback turtle and Loggerhead turtle – inhabit in Myanmar seas. In the past, all the five species could be found laying eggs on the shores of Kyeintali, but now they are at the risk of extinction resulting from various causes.

An area of 179,200 acres (280 square miles) has been demarcated as the turtle conservation zone.—Peinzalok Thein Nyunt

(Translated by TMT)

UMFCCI to coordinate with government to resolve issues affected by COVID-19

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 100 entrepreneurs, along with international organizations, have submitted information about the possible impacts of the spread of the COVID-19 virus on their businesses. Based upon this data, UMFCCI will work with the government to seek to resolve the problems businesses are confronted by, according to a UMFCCI press release dated 28 February.

A coordination meeting was held, with the sponsorship of UMFCCI. The attendees were members of Euro Cham Myanmar, India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce, Thai Chamber of Commerce, German Chamber of Commerce, China enterprises Chamber of Commerce, Korea Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, Chinese Textile and Garment Association in

Myanmar, Korea Garment Association Myanmar (KOGA), the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industrial Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Fruit Organization, Myanmar Tourism and the officials from the industrial administration teams.

At the meeting, CMP representatives of factories in Myanmar said they need to carry out their operations based upon raw materials imported from China. Currently, raw materials imported from China have been suspended because of the outbreak of COVID-19 in China. So, CMP garments factories and other factories manufacturing products, such as slippers, bags and electronics, are expected to face shortages of raw materials within the next two weeks, or by the end of March.

In order to continue to oper-

ate CMP factories through April, workers from most of these factories have begun working eight hours per day, and factories have closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, while paying full salaries.

CMP factories have also planned to reduce labour and shut down factories, due to the expected shortage of raw materials. In this regard, it was noted during the CMP meeting that suspensions or shutdowns can create wage disputes between employers and employees.

Moreover, the Myanmar tourism sector is faced with a similar impact due to the COV-ID-19 virus causing a reduction in foreign visitors, with China providing the largest number of visitors. The decline in tourist arrivals in Myanmar has significantly decreased the incomes of hotels, restaurants, transpor-

tation businesses and resorts. Tourist arrivals via airports has declined 53 per cent, and air transport has also declined 60 per cent, according to tourism officials participating in the meeting.

In response to these issues, the UMFCCI issued a 10-point statement on Covid-19. These include, 1. to call on the government to deal with the rights of the unemployed from the shutdown or suspended factories and businesses, as described in the 2012 Social Security Law for workers from factories; 2. to calculate compensation based on minimum wage requirements when the businesses have to pay compensation; 3. to give temporary leave without pay until recovery from Covid-19; 4. to help businesses and workers using the social security fund at the low-interest rate; 5. to disburse

soft loans to businesses by local banks, to pay workers' salaries and operate businesses; 6. to postpone the announcement of the new minimum wage, set to be released between May and September; 7. to share real-time situations and information by the government, to ensure mutual understanding between employers and employees; 8. for the government to assist employees in understanding the situation and prevent protests; 9. to urge the government to issue an official statement in order to regulate the compensation problem arising from breach of contracts caused by the inability to carry out exports due to the shortage of raw materials and 10. to cooperate with the Customs Department to ensure swift customs clearance for raw materials at jetties.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Realme C3 smartphone launched in Yangon

REALME unveiled the 'Triple Camera, Game Monster' - realme C3 in Yangon, with launching of first sale yesterday.

realme C3 is an addition to realme's entry level all-rounder the C series smartphones, which has 10.2 million users across the globe and has successfully disrupted entry-level segment of smartphones, featuring AI Triple Rear Camera, 5000 mAh battery, 6.5" HD+ Mini-drop Fullscreen, and world's

first MediaTek Helio G70.

• realme C3 is available in two stylish colors – Blazing Red and Frozen Blue.

realme C3 is a superstar in 4 key areas - Performance, Battery, Display and Camera. As a first in its segment, the C3 features the world's first MediaTek Helio G70 processor which will ensure powerful and speedy performance for both mainstream users and gamers, alike. — GNLM







Fishermen catching fish at a breeding pond pool in Yangon. **PHOTO: (THAN HTAT)**

Nearly \$800 mln FDI flows in livestock and fisheries sector

MYANMAR'S livestock and fisheries sector attracted nearly US\$ 800 million in foreign direct investment, according to a recent report by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

At present, 16 countries made investment in the livestock and fisheries sector. Among them, Thailand has topped the list of investments, in 18 enterprises worth over \$384 million, followed by Singapore with 14 enterprises worth over \$129 million.

These investments were made mostly in animal feed production and livestock exports and production, according to DICA. Government policy allows FDIs to make 100 per cent investments in the livestock sector.

Currently, the livestock technology sector and meat production sector have reported the highest levels of foreign investment in Myanmar.—GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May,

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MoHS holds COVID-19 control and prevention coordination meeting in Yangon

A coordination meeting to analyze and review the preventive measures against the COVID-19 virus in Yangon Region was held at the office of the Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department yesterday.

At the meeting, Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint of the Public Health and Medical Services Department, Yangon Region, briefed on the measures in connection with information sharing and discussions with the Yangon Region government and relevant departments, formation of rapid response teams in townships of Yangon Region, arrangements of isolation wards at the hospitals in Yangon Region, health information awareness campaigns at hotels, schools, local community areas, economic zones, fresh meat and fish markets, houses and crowded pagodas, Home Surveillance activities being carried out, and field operation of Contact Tracing after scrutiny on the completed Health Declaration Cards of the visitors.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed thanks to all the personnel who are making efforts to control and prevent the COVID-19 in line with the Central-level, States/Regions-level and townships-level work directives. Yangon Region is one of the major gateways from outside world to Myanmar. So it is crucial to take measures effectively and efficiently towards success, he added.

He noted that Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department is collaborating with the Yangon Region government, relevant departments and concerned organizations to implement the control and prevention measures. He also stressed the need to share good examples and experienc-



Coordination meeting to analyze and review the preventive measures against the COVID-19 virus being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

es they gained to other states and regions. They can also see and read them on the MoHS's Internet page www.mohs.gov. mm, he said.

He also noted that all relevant departments and organizations are working together to control and prevent the COV-ID-19 virus with man power, necessary finance and medical equipment. Public awareness campaigns are also widely carried out among the people. Apart from constant surveillance, arrangements for isolation wards are made at hospitals. With the participation of the people, rumours should be removed and suspected patients found out, he added.

The union minister stressed the need to monitor the measures according to the checklist as the medical services personnel and their efficiencies are of crucial importance. Public are well informed and health awareness campaigns are being undertaken despite the fact that there are no laboratory-tested positive patients in Myanmar. However, the preventive measures being done at the international airports are more systematically monitored so that any possible suspected patient could be traced there, he noted.

He was satisfied with the fact that the ministry was also coordinating, with relevant ministries, the measures to reduce foreign visitors from the countries where there are many cases of the COVID-19 virus. If they do not complete their information such as names of the hotels they're going to stay and hotel phone numbers in the health declaration card, they are not allowed to enter into

Myanmar. Health declaration card will be revised for foreign visitors to fill in only their necessary information and data, he said.

He noted that the formation of rapid response teams is good and appropriate to fight against infectious disease like COVID-19 virus. Similar teams should be formed in other states and regions as they need to be prepared for any future occurrence like this.

In honour of all the medical services personnel, he said they all are contributing their services to the benefits of the people despite possible infections upon them. As a priority in this financial year, the Waibargi Specialist Hospital and Kandawnadi Hospital will be upgraded up to international standard, he said.

The ministry will revise its future work directives as the

experiences and difficulties the medical services personnel are facing in the ground have been raised and discussed at this meeting. The measures being undertaken at the international airports will also be reinforced with medical services personnel from Bago and Ayeyarwady regions. The four-storey ward of the South Okkalapa Women and Children Hospital is now designated as quarantine ward and necessary requirements will be added in this regard, he added.

He urged, in conclusion, all medical services personnel should continue the existing preventive measures without reducing momentum.

Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department personnel then raised their work experiences and difficulties and their necessities

Director-General Dr Soe Oo of the Public Health and Medical Services Department and Director Dr Tun Tin of the Communicable Diseases Control Division briefed on the matters relating to medical services personnel, finance, supply of medicines and medical equipment, and the WHO's updated information about COVID-19 virus.

The union minister and officials discussed the matters raised by the departmental heads and staff.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials inspected the preventive measures being carried out at the Yangon International Airport.

The union minister met with the officials concerned and discussed the control and preventive measures being done at the international airport.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

News release on prevention of COVID-19 virus at 8:00 pm on 29 February 2020

- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has been taking measures on control and prevention of coronavirus respiratory disease COVID-19, which originated and spread in China as well as to some other countries in the world, at international entry-exit checkpoints, hospitals-based, community-based, and in cooperation with private hospitals.
- 2. As of 29 February evening, a result from the 3.
- National Health Laboratory (Yangon) indicated that the 20-year old male patient, who was under quarantine at the Muse People's Hospital, had been 'tested negative'. Therefore, there are no patients to put under quarantine at the states/regions hospitals as of 29 February at 8:00 pm as all the suspected patients, a total of 45, have been already 'tested negative'.
- While the Ministry of Health and Sports has been

raising the momentum to keep controlling and preventing the COVID-19 virus despite no laboratory-tested positive patients yet, the people are notified to follow through the MoHS's announcements and its health awareness information.

—Ministry of Health and Sports

(Translated by Aungthu Ya) 1 MARCH 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

NATIONAL



Local, foreign media gather news at Thetkaebyin camp

Members of local and foreign media team visited Thetkaebyin camp opened near Sittway yesterday morning, and collected news there. They arrived back in Sittway from Maungtaw.

In the afternoon, they left

Journalists gathering news at the Thetkaebyin camp near Sittway yesterday.

PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

Sittway and arrived back in Yangon. The team comprises journalists from Myanmar Now, Eleven Media Group, VOA, CAN, European Press Agency (EPA), BBC Media Action and Aljazeera. The local and foreign media team has been visiting Maungtaw for 36 times to report local situation since December 2016.—Myint Maung and J Ti (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Report on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) From (4-1-2020) to (29-2-2020)

1. Situation update worldwide

(World Health Organization's statement issued at 1:30 am (MMT) on 29-2-2020)

Total affected countries - 52
Total cases - 83,652
Total death toll - 2,858

Though new cases and death tolls of COVID-19 fall in China, the virus is spreading faster outside China.

Affected countries outside China are:

- Nine countries from Western Pacific Region,
- -23 countries from Europe,
- Four countries from Southeast Asia ,
- -10 countries from Middle East,
- Three countries from America, and
- Two from Africa.

According to the WHO's Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report on 24-2-2020, the numbers of affected countries worldwide keep rising. Not only infection from outside countries but also infections in the countries are found. Therefore, WHO escalated risk assessment of COVID-19 to "very high" across the world — China, Regional Level and Global Level — on its Situation Report-39 on 28-2-2020.

2. Situation in Myanmar (Until 6:00 pm on 29-2-2020)

	Number of	Laboratory Test			
	patients	Positive Result	Negative Result	Under test	
People under quarantine	43	-	43	-	
Reported cases	2	-	2	-	
Total	45	_	45	-	

- 3. There are a total of 45 people under quarantine across Myanmar: 14 from Yangon Region, 12 from Shan State, eight from Mandalay Region and 11 from other Regions and States.
- 4. In preparation for preventing COVID-19 infection, the Ministry of Health and Sports, is cooperating with local/foreign organizations and donors in purchasing medicines and medical equipment and distributing them to central hospitals and region/state public hospitals. The followings are medical apparatuses received from donors and local/foreign organizations until 29-2-2020.

No	Name of Or- ganiza- tion	Per- sonal Pro- tective Equip- ment	N 9 5 Mask	Sur- gical Mask		Pro- tec- tive goog- les	Non-Con- tact Ther- mometer	Ven- tila- tor	Glove
1	World Health Organ- ization	1,100	2,525	30,000	499	500	-	-	20,000
2	Myan- m a r R e d Cross Society	2,000	-	5,000	1,857		-	-	6,000

	,								
3	S e a Lion Com- pany	2,000	-	-	-		-	-	-
4	Okka Thiri Com- pany	1,000	-	1	225		1	1	1
5	Zizawa C o m - pany	-	-	-	-		45	-	-
6	Gold Lite Co., Ltd	-	2,000	-	-		-	-	1
7	Eclion Global Group a n d other donors	3,300	1	1	1		-	-	1
8	Family mem-bers of Yee Shin Com-pany	-	-	-	-		-	5	-
9	Valves Co.,Ltd	-	-	2,000	-		-	-	-
To- tal		9,400	4,525	37,000	2,581	500	45	5	26,000

- 5. The health information and data about COVID-19 can be accessed at the official website of the Ministry (www.mohs.gov.mm) and social media pages (https://www.facebook.com/MinistryOfHealthAndSportsMyanmar) and (https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarCDC) after QR Codes are scanned.
- 6. Although Myanmar has not found any COVID-19 patient so far,
- COVID-19 is spreading not only in China but also in Italy, Iran and particularly in South Korea.
- The chances of the travellers from the countries coming to Myanmar by directly, or passing through other countries are high.
- The ministry is increasing surveillance in upward momentum at the international airports
- The ministry is also closely monitoring the hotels, guest houses and houses where the foreign travellers will stay.
- In some countries, those who do not contact with COVID -19 patients, and those who did not go the regions where the virus outbreaks occurred were also infected.
- In the crowd, people can be infected the virus from COVID-19 patients and asymptomatic carriers.
- 7. Infected person could be likely seen in Myanmar thus people should avoid crowded areas and need to follow up updated health messages given by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MOHS (*Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun*)

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Ensuring safety during gale-force winds is critical in coming windy season

is always windy, with forecasts of strong winds from ▲ I mid-February to mid-May. Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago regions and Shan State are most at risk from galestrength winds.

The extreme winds cause damage to houses and buildings every year, ripping roofs off over 43,000 houses, on average, in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

After raising awareness and the need to prepare for gale force winds, beginning in 2016, buildings damaged by winds have spiralled downwards,

numbered at over 37,000

er is on its way for March

and April, we need to pre-

pare to save lives and prop-

erty among the public, as

we seek to resist and re-

spond to natural disasters.

among 171 countries world-

wide that are most at risk

of natural disasters, and

ranked 15th highest in the

world for a lack of readiness

in responding to natural

vital for natural disaster

being affected by climate

change that is caused by

worsened if governments

and people fail to invest in

Public participation is

Weather disasters are

The devastation can be

disasters.

Myanmar ranked 42nd

As the extreme weath-

last year nationwide.

To seek help when natural disasters strike, the public is also advised to call the hot-line numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at 067:3404666 and

resilient buildings.

067-3404777.

The weather bureau has recommended that people remain indoors as much as possible when gales hit. Residents are also advised to park their cars away from trees, securely lock doors and windows, and secure loose garden objects, which could be blown into windows.

We also encourage people to monitor weather forecasts, share them with others, and follow advice on remaining safe during windy weather conditions.

People are also advised to take extra care when travelling, in what was described as 'worsening conditions.

To seek help when natural disasters strike, the public is also advised to call the hot-line numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at 067:3404666 and 067-3404777.

But now there is another issue. While more and more people are energetically engaging in early disaster preparedness and emergency response programmes, we need to ensure that our surrounding natural environment does not further deteriorate.

Therefore, we implore everyone to keep their environment clean and promote eco-friendliness, in order to preserve our natural world. After all, this is also part of disaster risk

Press Release on the State Visit of U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the Republic of India

THE invitation of His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Savita Kovind, the First Ladv. His Excellency U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Spouse Daw Cho Cho paid the State Visit to India from 27 to 29 February 2020. The delegation was comprised of Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu and senior officials from the President Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The President and party left the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the morning of 26 February 2020 by special flight and arrived at the Palam Airforce Base in New Delhi at 13:50 hours local time. They were welcomed by Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shri Rameshwar Teli, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché Brig. Gen. Thein Zaw, officials from the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Myanmar diplomatic staffs and family members at the airbase.

In the morning of 27 February 2020, H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India accorded a welcoming ceremony to President U Win Myint and Spouse Daw Cho Cho at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. President and party attended the luncheon hosted by H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, at the Hyderabad House in the afternoon and the State Banquet hosted by H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in the evening. The two Presidents delivered speeches and exchanged toasts at

President U Win Myint met with H.E. Shri



President U Win Myint shakes hands with Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Presidential Palace in India on 27 February. PHOTO: MNA

development, human resource development, implementation of ongoing bilateral projects, India's commitment to continue to provide assistance for the socio-economic development Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, at the of Rakhine State, India's continued support

India will pay serious consideration to increase the importation of pigeon peas, black matpe, and mung beans up to 400, 000 metric tons from Myanmar.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, in the evening.

During the meetings, the two leaders cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing traditional bonds of friendship and intensification of mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, connectivity, energy, agriculture, infrastructure

Hyderabad House, in the afternoon, and H.E. to the efforts of Myanmar for peace, national reconciliation, democratization processes, and close collaboration on issues of mutual interest between the two countries in the contexts of regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations. India's Prime Minister pledged to make a serious consideration to the request made by the President of Myanmar to increase the importation of pigeon peas, black matpe, and mung beans up to 400, 000 metric tons

from Myanmar. India also offered Myanmar to provide with online English proficiency courses for Myanmar youth and technical assistance for holding elections in the country. Earlier in the morning, the President received Indian External Affairs Minister H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar at the Taj Palace Hotel and discussed matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

In the evening of 29 February 2020, the President and entourage left Agra for Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight and arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 19:15 hours

During the visit, the President and party visited places of historical, cultural and religious importance, including Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi and Akshardham Hindu Temple in New Delhi, the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Mahabodhi Temple, the seven sacred places of Lord Buddha, the revered Bodi Tree at Bodh Gaya, and King Mindon's Stone Inscription and the Archaeological Museum in Gaya. The also visited the Central Cottage Industries Emporium in New Delhi and Kalakriti hand embroidery and stone-inlaid workshop in Agra.

During Myanmar President's State Visit to India, ten Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements were signed. They

were MoU for Cooperation on Combating Timber Trafficking, and Conservation of Tigers and other Wildlife; Agreement between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of India regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs); Project Agreement between the Rakhine State Government and the Embassy of India for construction of incinerator in Mrauk Oo Township hospital, construction of seed

process and socio-economic development in Rakhine State and the country.

Both sides agreed to work together for the earliest commencement of the construction of the modern Integrated Check Post (Phase-I) at Tamu with the Indian Government' assistance. They also welcomed the launch of a Coordinated Bus Service between Imphal and Mandalay starting from 7 April 2020. Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in healthcare

Myanmar also highly valued India's provi-

sion of assistances for its national development through grants and bilateral projects in various fields. Both sides also made a cordial exchange of views on regional and global issues of common interest and agreed to maintain the close cooperation between Myanmar and India in regional and multilateral fora.

The State Visit of the President of Myanmar to India further consolidates the existing cordial ties and long-standing tradition of high-level interaction between the leaders of Myanmar and India. This visit also promotes mutual understanding and trust between the two countries. The ten MoUs and Agreements exchanged and signed during the visit reinforces the synergies and diversify the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples. Therefore, the State Visit of the Myanmar President to India is a significant milestone in the history of bilateral relations and serves as an impetus to accelerate the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Dated, 1 March 2020

India's continued socio-economic development assistance to Rakhine State, focusing on solar energy, education, agriculture and rural infrastructure sectors. sector. The Myanmar side thanked India for storage houses and water supply systems in offering medical radiation equipment "Bhabhatron-2" for the treatment of cancer patients.

Gwa Township under the Rakhine State Development Programme; Project Agreement between the Rakhine State Government and the Embassy of India, Yangon for distribution of electricity by solar power in five townships of Rakhine State under Rakhine State Development Programme; Project Agreement between Rakhine State Government and Embassy of India, Yangon for construction of Kyawlyaung-Ohlyphyu road, construction of Kyaung Taung-Kyau Paung road in Bhuthidaung Township under Rakhine State Development Programme; Project Agreement between Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Embassy of India, Yangon for construction of pre-schools under Rakhine State Development Programme; MoU between the Department of Medical Research of Myanmar and the Indian Council of Medical Research in the field of Health Research; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Communication; MoU in the field of Petroleum Products; and MoU between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Rescues, Recovery, Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking.

A Joint Statement was issued during the President's State Visit to India. In the statement, both sides agreed to further consolidate the existing bilateral relations, promote multi-faceted bilateral cooperation, boost bilateral trade and economic engagements, enhance collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas on matters of common interest and explore new areas of cooperation on the basis of the synergies between Myanmar's Independent, Active and Non-Aligned Foreign Policy and India's 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First Policy'. The Indian side reaffirmed its consistent of Myanmar for national reconciliation, peace



support to the efforts taken by the Government President U Win Myint shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi India on 27 February. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Activist investor wants to oust Twitter chief Dorsey: media

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — An activist investor known as a major Republican political supporter wants to wrest control of Twitter from co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey, US media reported Friday.

Elliott Management, founded by billionaire Paul Singer, has acquired a stake in the social media firm and wants to remove Dorsey, CNBC said, citing an unnamed source.

The firm pushed for the change stating that Dorsey's attention is divided between running Twitter and his financial transactions startup Square, and that Dorsey intends to live part of each year in Africa.

Twitter early this month reported that it added millions of new users and boosted ad revenue in the fourth quarter, sparking optimism over its growth prospects.

Dorsey said during an earnings call that the results capped "a great year for Twitter" and that Twitter has been able to boost users by making the service "more instantly relevant."



Elliott Management has acquired a stake in Twitter and wants to remove chief Jack Dorsey, pictured in August 2013. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This is an incredibly strong foundation to build upon," he told analysts.

The latest report suggested Twitter is making headway as it seeks to keep pace with bigger social networks like Facebook and Instagram while it works to filter out abuse and manipulation.

Twitter will have growth opportunities this year from the 2020 US elections and Olympic Games.

The platform has been seeking to expand its user base beyond celebrities, journalists

and politicians.

Dorsey has stressed that a priority for Twitter is to "increase healthy public conversation" by rooting out inappropriate content and misinformation.

Despite his plans to spend part of the year living in Africa, Dorsey said he won't be hampered by his travel.

"We do need to figure out how to build a company that is distributed, that is not burdened by time zones but advantaged by them," he said.

— AFP ■

Biden counting on primary win in South Carolina to revive hopes

COLUMBIA (United States)
— Voters headed to the polls in
South Carolina on Saturday for
the fourth contest in the Dem-

ocratic presidential nomination race, with Joe Biden looking to salvage his flagging White House hopes with a big win.

The former vice president is the firm favorite in the first state with a substantial African-American Democratic electorate to weigh in -- but trails far behind frontrunner Bernie Sanders in nationwide polls.

Both candidates will have a better picture of their overall prospects next week, when 14 states cast ballots on "Super Tuesday" -- and a third of the delegates who formally choose the Democratic candidate to face President Donald Trump in November are up for grabs.

Biden -- the onetime race leader who failed to notch a win in Iowa, New Hampshire or Nevada -- said he hopes South Carolina will propel him into national contention.

Voters have until 7:00 pm (2300 GMT) to make their choice.

"I've worked hard to earn these votes, and I think I'll do well," the 77-year-old told CNN on Friday.

"It's been the launching pad for Barack and I believe for me," Biden added, referring to the nation's first black president and his boss for eight years, Barack Obama. Biden leads in state polling, a dozen points ahead of Sanders and 20 points up on billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who is gunning for a third-place finish.

Steyer has spent an extraordinary \$23.6 million on ads in South Carolina, nearly 10 times the number two spender, former Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg, according to Advertising Analytics.

At one polling place in a suburb of the state capital Columbia, about 20 people were lined up at 7:00 am when the doors opened. In the first hour of voting, a steady stream of voters waited.

For 67-year-old retiree Samantha Rogers, who is black, Biden is the right candidate to take on Trump.

"He's more experienced. He's for all people, not just African Americans. He's for everyone," she told AFP.

But for 21-year-old student Andrea Green, "Bernie is telling the truth. He's authentic." —AFP■

Luxembourg becomes first country with free public transport

LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg)

— Luxembourg on Saturday became the first country in the world to offer free public transport, as the small and wealthy EU country tries to help less-well-off workers and reduce road traffic.

Some cities elsewhere have already taken similar, partial measures. But the transport ministry said it was the first time such a decision covered an entire country.

The free transport, flagged as "an important social measure", affects approximately 40 percent of households and is estimated to save each one around 100 euros (\$110) per year.

Not all passengers were

aware of the change, which was brought forward one day ahead of schedule.

"It's free? I didn't know," said a woman in her 50s who gave her first name as Dominique as she waited at Luxembourg's main train station.

Transport workers were concerned about what impact the measure would have on their job security.

"We don't yet know" what will happen to their positions, said one ticket seller at the station who declined to give his name.

"All the public transport workers are worried. It's not yet clear." — AFP ■

Walkouts as Roman Polanski wins best director at French Oscars

PARIS (France) — Roman Polanski won best director for "An Officer and a Spy" at a fractious ceremony for the French Oscars, the Cesars, that ended in walkouts and recrimination in Paris early Saturday.

The entire French academy had been forced to resign earlier this month amid fury that the veteran -- wanted in the US for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl in 1977 -- had topped the list of nominations.

Protesters chanting "Lock up Polanski!" tried to storm the theatre where the ceremony was being held before being pushed back by police firing tear gas.

And France's Culture Minister Franck Riester had warned that giving the maker of "Rosemary's Baby" a Cesar would be "symbolically bad given the stance we must take against sexual and sexist violence".

But Polanski won two awards, best adapted screenplay and best director -- with the latter prompting Adele Haenel, who was nominated for best actress for "Portrait of a Lady on Fire", to storm out, crying "Shame!" Haenel has become a hero of the #MeToo movement in France after accusing the director of her first film, Christophe Ruggia, of sexually harassing her when she was only 12.

Polanski's film also picked up best costume design.
—AFP■



Adele Haenel (R), who has become a hero of the #MeToo movement in France, stormed out when Roman Polanski won best director at the French Oscars. **PHOTO: AFP**



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US, Taliban to sign historic deal on Afghanistan's future

DOHA (Qatar) — The United States is to sign a landmark deal with the Taliban on Saturday, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months as it seeks an exit from its longest-ever war.

President Donald Trump urged the Afghan people to embrace the chance for a new future, saying the deal held out the possibility of ending the 18-year conflict.

"If the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan live up to these commitments, we will have a powerful path forward to end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops home," he said on the eve of the event in Doha.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in the Qatari capital to witness the signing of the accord, while Defence Secretary Mark Esper was in Kabul for a separate joint declaration with the Afghan government.

The agreement is expected to lead to a dialogue between the Kabul government and

the Taliban that, if successful, could ultimately see the Afghan war wind down.

But the position of the Afghan government, which has been excluded from direct US-Taliban talks, remains unclear and the country is gripped by a fresh political crisis amid contested election results.

The United States and its allies will withdraw all their forces from Afghanistan within 14 months if the Taliban abide by the Doha agreement, Washington and Kabul said in a joint statement.

After an initial reduction of troops to 8,600 within 135 days of Saturday's signing, the US and its partners "will complete the withdrawal of their remaining forces from Afghanistan within 14 months... and will withdraw all their forces from remaining bases", the declaration stated.

The Doha accord was drafted over a tempestuous year of dialogue marked by the abrupt cancellation of the effort by Trump in September.

The signing comes after a



Members of the Taliban delegation gather ahead of the signing ceremony with the United States in the Qatari capital Doha. **PHOTO: AFP**

week-long, partial truce that has mostly held across Afghanistan, aimed at building confidence between the warring parties and showing the Taliban can control their forces.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg heralded the agreement as a "first step to lasting peace".

"The way to peace is long and hard. We have to be prepared for setbacks, spoilers, there is no easy way to peace but this is an important first step," the Norwegian former prime minister told reporters in Kabul. — AFP ■

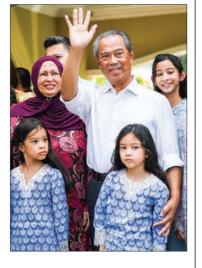
Malaysia's King appoints Muhyiddin Yassin as new PM

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah has agreed with the appointment of former Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin as the country's new prime minister, the national palace said Saturday.

In a statement, Comptroller of the Royal Household for the National Palace Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin said the palace had received the nominations of candidates from major political parties and independent members of the parliament.

Following deliberations with heads of political parties, Sultan Abdullah felt Muhyiddin might command the majority in lower house of parliament, hence agreeing to appoint him as the prime minister in accordance with the constitution, the statement said, adding Muhyiddin is scheduled to be sworn in on Sunday.

The statement quoted the king as saying that it could not be delayed any longer, as the country needs a government to look after the well-being of



Malaysia's former interior minister Muhyiddin Yassin (2nd, R), waves next to his wife Noraini Abdul Rahman (L) and children before talking to the press outside their home in Kuala Lumpur on 29 February 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

the people and the country.

"His majesty said that this is the best decision for all and he hoped that the current political stalemate will end." the statement said.

This follows a week of political stalemate in Malaysia after Mahathir Mohamad resigned earlier this week as Malaysia's prime minister. —

South Korea virus cases surge as WHO sounds maximum alert

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korea reported its biggest surge in new coronavirus cases on Saturday as concerns grew of a possible epidemic in the United States and the World Health Organization raised its risk alert to its highest level.

The virus has rapidly spread across the world in the past week, causing stock markets to sink to their lowest levels since the 2008 global financial crisis over fears that the disease could wreak havoc on the world economy.

More than 2,900 people have died and over 85,000 have been infected worldwide since it was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

The vast majority of infections have been in China but more daily cases are now logged outside the country, with South Korea, Italy and Iran emerging as major hotspots.

South Korea has the most cases outside China, with 3,150 infections as 813 more patients were reported on Saturday the country's biggest increase to date

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned top party officials of the "serious consequences" of failing to prevent an outbreak on their side of the border.

The impoverished nation, with a weak and ill-equipped healthcare system, has closed its borders to prevent the spread of the disease into its territory.

The virus has also spread to new zones in recent days, reaching nine new countries including Azerbaijan, Mexico and New Zealand, as well as reaching sub-Saharan Africa with Nigeria reporting its first case. "We have now increased our assessment of the risk of spread and the risk of impact of COVID-19 to very high at global level," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters on Friday.

European nations are scrambling to contain the outbreak as new infections mounted in several countries — many linked to virus hotspot northern Italy — including in France where a surge of new cases was confirmed Friday.

President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday chaired a ministers' meeting on curbing the outbreak, after officials warned the epidemic had reached a "new stage". "The virus is circulating in our territory and we must curb its spread," French Health Minister Olivier Veran said Friday.

Meanwhile in the US, health officials reported three more cases of the new coronavirus transmitted to people who did not travel overseas or come in contact with anyone known to be ill, indicating the disease was spreading in the country.

There are now four such cases in the United States, all on the Pacific seaboard, in addition to some 60 other infections in the country. "The virus is here, present at some level, but we still don't know to what degree," said Sara Cody, director of public health for California's Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley where tech giants like Apple and Google are based. — AFP

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Turkey raises migrant pressure on EU over Syria conflict

PAZARKULE (Turkey) — Turkey on Saturday threatened to allow tens of thousands of refugees to leave for Europe and warned Damascus will "pay a price" as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stepped up pressure after dozens of Turkish troops were killed inside Syria.

At the Turkish border, Greek police clashed with several thousand migrants who were already gathered at the entrance into EU territory.

Young migrants lobbed rocks at Greek riot police as tear gas wafted through the trees on the frontier.

Turkey and Russia, which back opposing forces in the Syria conflict, held talks to try to defuse tensions triggered after the Turkish troops were killed, sparking fears of a broader war and a new migration crisis for Europe.

But Erdogan raised the stakes on Saturday and vowed to allow refugees to travel to Europe from Turkey which he said can not handle new waves of people fleeing Syria. It already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees.

The comments were his first after 34 Turkish troops were killed since Thursday in the northern Syria province of Idlib where Moscow-backed Syrian regime forces are battling to retake the last rebel enclave.

"What did we do yesterday? We opened the doors," Erdogan said in Istanbul. "We will not close those doors ...Why? Because the European Union



Greek police clashed on Saturday with thousands of migrants who were already gathering on the border to try to enter Europe. **PHOTO: AFP**

should keep its promises."

He was referring to a 2016 deal with the European Union to stop refugee flows in exchange for billions of euros in aid. In Athens, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis held an emergency meeting to discuss the border.

Erdogan said 18,000 migrants have amassed on the

Turkish borders with Europe since Friday, adding that the number could reach as many as 30,000 on Saturday.

Thousands of migrants stuck on the Turkish-Greek border at Pazarkule were in skirmishes with Greek police on Saturday who fired tear gas to push them back, according to AFP photographer in the western province of Edirne.

Ahmad Barhoum, a Syrian refugee, said he was trapped at the border since Friday.

"If they do no open we will try to cross by illegal means. It's out of the question for us to go back to Istanbul," he told AFP.

"I hope that they will end up letting us in so that we can start a new life in Europe worthy of human beings," said one Egyptian refugee. — AFP

Opposition urges 'Russia without Putin' in rally for slain liberal

MOSCOW (Russia) — Thousands rallied in central Moscow on Saturday to call on President Vladimir Putin not to stay in power indefinitely, in the first major protest by the Russian opposition since the Kremlin chief announced controversial plans to change the constitution.

The rally marked five years since the assassination of opposition politician Boris Nemtsov but its organisers also want the event to send a message to Putin after he proposed major constitutional changes. Organisers, including the country's most prominent opposition leader Alexei Navalny, called for a mass turnout to show Putin that he must not consider staying in power by any means when his current mandate ends in 2024.

The rally was given permission by the Moscow authorities - after a succession of demonstrations urging fair elections last summer were roughly dispersed — and steady numbers were already going through metal detectors set up by police to ensure security, an AFP correspondent said. "The Putin regime is a threat to humankind," said the slogan on one placard next to a portrait of Nemtsov. "Putin's policies are based on total lies," said another, quoting the liberal politician who was on assassinated on February 27, 2015 in central Moscow.



Opposition supporters attend a march in memory of murdered Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov in downtown Moscow. It is the first such rally since Russia's Vladimir Putin announced controversial changes to the constitution in January. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Russia without Putin!" the crowds chanted repeatedly as they began marching. The White Counter monitor which counts attendance at protests said even in the early stages 3,700 people were taking part.

'Stay in power by any means'

Putin, who has dominated Russia for two decades, in January unleashed a political storm, proposing an overhaul of the constitution, the first changes to the basic law since 1993.

Analysts see the plan as beginning preparations for succession when Putin's fourth presidential term ends in 2024, while the opposition says the Kremlin strongman wants to remain leader for life. "I think that this is a crime, that it is mocking the constitution," said Semyon Pevzner, a pensioner aged 75. "The only aim is to stay in power by any means possible." Putin first came to power as prime minister in 1999 under Boris Yeltsin before becoming president in 2000. He served the maximum two consecutive terms between 2000 and 2008 before a four-year stint as prime minister.

He returned to the Kremlin in 2012 for a newly-expanded six year mandate and was re-elected in 2018. But opponents fear he could remain Russia's number one even if the job of president nominally goes to someone else in 2024.— AFP ■

New president, new era as Uruguay shifts to center

MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) — Luis Lacalle Pou will be sworn in as Uruguay president on Sunday to herald a new era in the South American country following 15 years of left-wing rule that brought important social reforms but left a stagnated economy and soaring crime.

The 46-year-old leader of the center-right Partido Nacional was elected in November after winning a run-off against the incumbent Broad Front's candidate Daniel Martinez by just 37,000 votes in the country of 3.4 million people.

But in order to defeat the Broad Front, Lacalle Pou had to rely on a "multi-colored coalition" of five political parties from the center to the far right.

For many, it's a fragile partnership fraught with potential

conflicts, not least due to the presence of the radical Cabildo Abierto led by former army commander Guido Manini Rios, who only took up politics last year but still garnered 11 percent in the first round of October's presidential vote. This party is the most "unpredictable" in the ruling coalition that includes the Partido Nacional's traditional political rivals, the liberal Partido Colorado, says political scientist Daniel Chasquetti from the Republic University. "The entire political system will have to take stock because we had 15 years with a party that had a large majority" in parliament, said Chasquetti.

The Partido Nacional has not been in power since the new president's father, Luis Alberto Lacalle (1990-1995) governed.— AFP ■



Luis Lacalle Pou is the first president from the Partido Nacional since his father, Luis Alberto Lacalle 25 years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

Global economy wavers as world comes to standstill amid epidemic

WASHINGTON (United States) — The world is coming to a standstill as the new coronavirus spreads: schools have closed in Japan, rallies are banned in Switzerland and flights are canceled worldwide.

That is putting the global economy at the greatest risk of recession since the 2008 financial crisis.

"With the partial exception of the Black Death in 14th century Europe, every major pandemic has been followed by an economic recession," said Professor Robert Dingwall, researcher at the University of Nottingham Trent in England.

"I don't think there is any good reason to think it would be different this time."

Long before the outbreak, the International Monetary Fund cautioned that the global economy was "fragile" and beset by risks, and even the expected slow growth could falter if one of the risks materialized.

Economists warn the coronavirus could provide just such a shock, especially since despite the emergency measures to try to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, it has been expanding daily, moving outwards from central China where it erupted in December.

As of January, production plants had been shut down in China and entire cities confined. Saudi Arabia has stopped pilgrims from traveling to Mecca, and on Friday, the iconic Baselworld watch fair was canceled, as was the Geneva auto show.

Football matches are played without spectators and behind closed doors in Italy, while uncertainty hangs over the Olympic Games set to open in Tokyo in July.

Over 84,000 people have been infected with the virus worldwide, and



Deserted streets in Wuhan, China reflect an economy at a standstill. **PHOTO: AFP**

2,800 have died, according to data from official sources compiled by AFP.

Fatal blow

All eyes are now on the United States. Though largely unscathed so far, health officials say an outbreak is inevitable.

If excess caution takes hold in the world's largest

economy, especially among American consumers, it could be a fatal blow to growth.

As President Donald Trump blamed the media for exaggerating the danger, others worried about the real impacts.

If there is an outbreak, "the reaction is likely to be extreme," said Gregory

Daco, chief economist of Oxford Economics.

"It would have a very, very negative impact. The economy would fall into recession immediately," he told AFP.

And in this crisis, the financial markets "accelerate the feeling of panic." Wall Street ended the week with losses not seen since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Beyond shuttering production, closings schools or forcing employees to telework, consumption, which accounts for two-thirds of the US economy, would come to a screeching halt.

While officials have confirmed only 15 cases in the United States -- just three of which are not related to travel -- anxiety about the illness is apparent: in Washington, people are reluctant to shake hands during conferences, subway users eye their coughing neighbors, and Americans are postponing their travel. And if the US economy sneezes, the world will catch a cold.

The IMF already lowered its global growth forecast for 2020, taking into account the impact on China, the world's second-largest economy, but that was before the contagion spread to the rest of the world. — AFP

China's non-manufacturing PMI drops in February amid epidemic

BEIJING — The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's non-manufacturing sector came in at 29.6 in February, down from 54.1 in January, the National Bureau of Statistics said Saturday.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below it reflects contraction.

The sharp decline resulted from the impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak, said NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe.

In breakdown, 19 of the surveyed 21 industries of the non-manufacturing sector stayed in the contraction zone while the sub-index for business activities in the financial sector came in at 50.1, maintaining in the expansion zone and playing a key role in the epidemic

prevention and the development of the economy, said Zhao.

The service sector has experienced a decline.

The sub-index for business activities in the service sector stood at 30.1 this month, lower than the reading of 53.1 in January.

While decline was recorded in telecommunications and Internet and software industries, their sub-readings were above the overall level of the service sector thanks to the development of cloud office, online education and remote diagnosis, said Zhao.

The sub-indexes for business activities and new orders in the construction sector came in at 26.6 and 23.8 in February, respectively, both of which decreased from last month.—Xinhua

Toyota to invest 130 bil. yen to build EV plant in China

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. will invest about 130 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) to build a plant in the northeastern Chinese city of Tianjing to produce electric vehicles, aiming to boost sales in the world's largest auto market, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The Japanese automaker plans to complete

the new plant in the next few years, they said.

The factory will have a capacity to make around 200,000 units annually of EVs and plugin hybrid vehicles, the sources said.

Toyota has said it will raise its global production of EVs and hybrid vehicles to over 5.5 million units by 2025. — Kyodo News ■



Logo of Toyota Motor. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1116 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1116 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-3-2020 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 SEASHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (082 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (082 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-3-2020 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



nergy sector plays a major role in Myanmar nowadays. Power demand has doubled increase despite a boost in power generation. This is because factories, industries and modern buildings are on the increase and people have been using more and more electrical appliances. Only one fourth of the total population of Myanmar has gained access to electric power, but the remaining three fourths of the total population are still distant to get access to power.

National Electrification Project

The government managed to strive for a boost in power generation to ensure that a 50 % of the State's population would have got access to power at the end of 2019 alongside socioeconomic progress of the people. There are 10.7 million households in Myanmar at present. 3.7 of 10.7 million households got access to electric power in 2015-2016 FY and 4.9 million of them in June in 2017. There is a big gap between power generation and consumption. The government is making plans to provide assistance for the implementation of electrification in the rural areas and the national electrification project is one of the implementations.

Collaborative efforts to meet the needs

The national electrification project has been implemented through joint effort by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program-ESMAP since 2016-2017 FY. The project is funded with

State budget, loans of World Bank. Solar system for one house use was carried out in 2017-2018 FY. According to the requirement of the people, the size of the task was specified for 2018-2019 FY. Electrification will be carried out in the villages which are more than ten miles far away from the national grid by ways of small-scale power line system, hydropower and biomass. The national electrification project is that all parts of the country would be fully electrified in 2030. Moreover, electrification would be undertaken in 90,000 houses in Ayeyawady, Taninthayi, Sagaing, Magway, Bago Regions

and Mon and Kayin States ac-



Officials inspect a solar power farm at Minbu solar plant in Minbu, Mangway Region . **PHOTO: MNA**



Light going to come through darkness in rural areas before long

By Kyay Let Maung

Encouraging electrification project

cording to the national electrifi-

cation project.

Rural Electrification Programme II on Grid Electrification Project of KfW of Germany will be implemented by spending 23.883 million euro of loans and 6.535 million euro of financial assistance totaling 30.418 million euro in southern Shan State in order to enjoy more power and help with the national electrification project.

The electrification project is being implemented to provide power for an estimated 32,674 households from 416 villages in Taunggyi, Loilem, and Langkho districts from 2018 to 2022.

The Ministry of Electric Power and Energy has plans to supply power to the villages by using partial of annual budget, annual budget allocation from region and state governments and international loans. For that reason, the electrification project for rural people is very encouraging.

Measures to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas

Power is supplied to 506 villages in Kayah State-357 villages through national grid, 11 villages through small-scale hydropower, 89 villages through solar and 2 villages through diesel engine. Power is supplied to the villages with the use of national grid, small-scale hydropower, solar and diesel engine. There are 474 villages in 91 village tracts in Hpa-an, Kayin State. Having made plans, the governmental departments took measures to supply power to the villages. Extensive measures were taken to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas during 2017-2018 FY. The Department of Rural Development is responsible to supply power to 64 villages, the Department for Development for Border Areas and National Races, 44 villages, the Electric Power Distribution Department, 194 villages and the private diesel engine, 2 villages, bringing the total number of villages to 304.



A village in Butalin, Sagaing Region is electrified via solar system. Eight villages between Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers in Yasagyo Township get access to solar power last year. **PHOTO: THAN LWIN (MAGWAY)**

more distribution of electricity for socioeconomic development of people. Out of 1,031 villages in the south district of the Yangon Region, electricity from the national grid has reached to 598 villages amounting 58 per cent of the total villages in 2018-2019 fiscal year, increasing from 475 villages of 46 per cent in 2018. For the entire area of the Yangon Region, 64 per cent of the villages have access to electricity in 2018-2019 FY, and is expected to increase to 87 per cent in 2019-2020 FY. The Ministry has also targeted 100 percent power supply to the whole region by December 2020. On 20 January, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing made an inspection tour to a 151 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region and it will be operational at the end of May in 2020.

In conclusion, the rural electrification plan plays a lead-



Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation opened its 33/11 kv-5 MVA Khathtiya sub-power station in Twantay Township on 9 February, attended by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Hluttaw representative and local people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Power was supplied to 130 houses on Yaybawthaung island and 213 houses on Pharnwe island in Hpa-an during 2014-2015 FY. Power was supplied to a monastery, a primary school and 43 houses on Tayokehla island and land-posts in the rural road were electrified during 2016-2017 FY.

The objective of the National Electrification Project is to enable the whole country to have access to full electricity in 2030. The Department of Rural Development is making strenuous efforts in order to reach the successful destination. Concerning departmental functions, the department has achieved success not only in the country but also

in ASEAN community. The 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019. ASEAN Energy Forum organized by the Ministry Electricity and Energy was held from 3 to 5 September during which the Department of Rural Development received ASEAN Energy Award-Winner related to ASEAN renewable energy project with the title of "On-Grid-Local Grid".

Measures through various ways

The Department of Rural Development is implementing the projects through Off-Grid programme of the National Electrification Project. It deservedly won the award when it participated in the contest through the title of solar small-scale power system of Khantekyun village in Palaw in Taninthayi Region. The **National Electrification Project** has begun in 2016-2017 FY. According to outside plan of the national grid in 2018-2019 FY, power is being supplied to more than 100,000 houses in 2,489 villages through solar system and 10,025 houses in 38 villages through small-scale power system. From 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, about 137 megawatt of installed capacity could be generated through renewable energy and solar energy systems. About 810.9 tons of carbon dioxide gas emission could be reduced at the same time.

Yangon tries to enjoy 100 per cent power by 2020-2021 FY

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation opened its 33/11 kv-5 MVA Khathtiya sub-power station in Twantay Township on 9 February, attended by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Hluttaw representative and local people. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister U Win Khaing said the importance of public collaboration while the ministry is working for

ing role. Occasionally, rural people had to spend years of dark nights and were difficult to see electric power in the past. Laying down different projects, the government is now making strenuous efforts through various ways and means so as to meet the power consumption of the people and extend its power distribution into all parts of the country. For that reason, the endeavors of the country is encouraging enough for the rural people to enjoy the fruit of electrification plan in the future

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

SPORT

Myanmar wins third place in Jenesys Japan-Asean U-19 Football tourney

MYANMAR U-19 national football team won third place in the Jenesys Japan-Asean U-19 Football Tournament, which was held in Kagoshima, Japan from 26 to 29 February.

In the third place match, Myanmar U-19 team played against the Laos U-19 team, and the match was played to a draw of 1-1. In overtime, both teams played for the penalty shoot out to choose the third place winner.

Myanmar won by 3-2 in the penalty shoot. Penalty shots for team Myanmar were kicked in by Yan Naing Lin, Lwin Zaw Maung and Thet Hein Soe and Nyi Nyi.

Team Myanmar missed the opportunity to advance to the final match when Myanmar U-19 lost to Cambodia U-19 0-3 in their semifinal match played on 28 Feb-

Team Myanmar made a great showing in the group match of the tourney with a big victory over the Japanese Junior Football

During the group match played on 27 February, team Myanmar beat Timor Leste by a 3-2 result during the penalty shootout and team Myanmar also trounced Japanese Kagoshima U-18 FC 7-1 on 26 February.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar U-19 Football squad seen at an international football match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar National League: Yangon United | Ayeyawady United break to play Rakhine United today

IN the Week-8 match of the Myanmar National League, Yangon United will take on Rakhine United today at 3.30 pm in Waitharli Stadium in Sittway.

Yangon United will likely use some of their key players, since Rakhine United is a strong team in the Myanmar National League.

Yangon United player Barfo from Ghana, discussing today's match, said, "We are working hard for the upcoming match against Rakhine United. We lost some points in past matches. The opponent is a tough team at their home, and we won't underestimate them. We will play our best in this match".

Barfo scored his first goal in their previous match against Shan United, noting



Players from Yangon United train at Waitharli Stadium in Sittway. PHOTO: YUFC

at the time, "I'm very excited to earn my first goal in the match against Shan United. I have more confidence, and I will keep going with this performance."

"I keep working hard for the team. We will work together to earn points in the upcoming match against Rakhine United", Barfo added.

The match will be broadcast live on Fortune TV, and also streamed live on MySport's Facebook Page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Zidane says Clasico will not decide title, Setien puts pressure on Madrid

MADRID (Spain) — Zinedine Zidane said the Clasico on Sunday will not decide the title race even if Real Madrid lose to Barcelona and fall five points behind them in La Liga.

Yet opposite number Quique Setien believes Barca's twopoint cushion at the top makes the match at the Santiago Bern-

abeu "much more important for Madrid" than his team.

Victory for the Catalans would effectively give them a six-point advantage over Madrid, given what would be a superior head-to-head, with 12 games left

But Zidane insists there would be still be a way back. "I don't think anyone will lose anything this weekend," he said in a press conference on Saturday. "There are still 12 games left, we'll still be in the title race regardless of the result. But we're going to try to win, 100 per cent."

Setien, also speaking Saturday, said the pressure was all on Real.—AFP■

consecutive win record of Hantharwady

WITH a single goal by Ayeyawady United's Yar Zar Aung, Ayeyawady United broke the seven consecutive win record held by Hantharwady United during their Week-8 match of the Myanmar National League, which was played yesterday at the Kyauk Taing Stadium in

Yesterday's match proved to be exciting, as each player from both teams received red cards and were suspended from the match.

The winning goal for Ayeyawady United was scored at 46 minutes by Yar Zar Aung, who first participated for his team in this match. The goal caused Hantharwady to hurry in the second half, but Ayeyawady United changed their tactic to strengthen their defense, causing difficulties for

Hantarwady. Ayeyawady United defended their lead until the final whistle for a 1-0 victory, which broke the seven consecutive win record of Hantharwady United. As for the win, Ayeyawady United landed in second place, while Hantharwady United still leads in first place.

Another Week-8 match by Southern Myanmar FC and Yadanarbon FC came to an end with a 1-1 draw, while the match played between Sagaing United and Magwe FC finished with a 4-0 victory celebrated by Sagaing United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Hantharwady United player Emeka (blue) vies for the ball with players from Magwe FC (red) during the Week-8 match of the Myanmar National League at Kyauk Taing Stadium in Pathein yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

1 MARCH 2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Unavoidableth

traffic accident of a motorcyclist in Hlinethaya on leap day shocked me. It was first that I witnessed a person's fatal accident. His brains are scattered over the road; the skull was fractured; and it was horrific.

With attention to an unfortunate incident, a thought arrives at the conclusion that "death is unavoidable."

Also, death is unpredictable. Three years ago, I was an assistant English teacher at a private English Language school in Yangon. Being a young teacher, the founder of the school loves youths. Most of his employees are young persons; and almost everyone is under 30.

One day, I was told a receptionist, 20s, from third branch of the school, was hospitalized, for he got a stomach problem. All of the staff at our branch knew him very well. He is always active. But, we all were busy; only his siblings and his friends working at the same branch took care of in the hospital.

One late evening of a heavy raining day after three days he was hospitalized, I received a phone call. It was my senior co-worker. He said, "Nyi Nyi has died of stomach problem." It shocked me as he was only 28 years old. At his funeral service, we just mourned him; nothing can help him restore his life.

In commemoration of him, we gave the title of our school's weekly conservation club "death is inevitable" for this week. Students actively discussed the tile. Some presented their personal stories. Out of their discussion, a sentence, which gave me a motivation, was: "It is not a death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live." It is true almost everybody is afraid of death, but most of them are forgetting to live meaningfully.

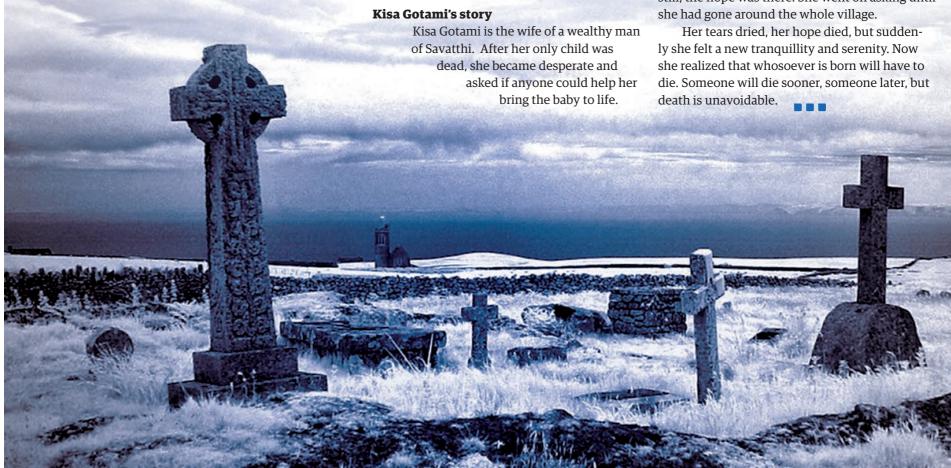
Relating to the issue of "unavoidable death," I listened to a story of Buddha's time many times. It was about a young woman who asked the Buddha to bring her dead baby to life.

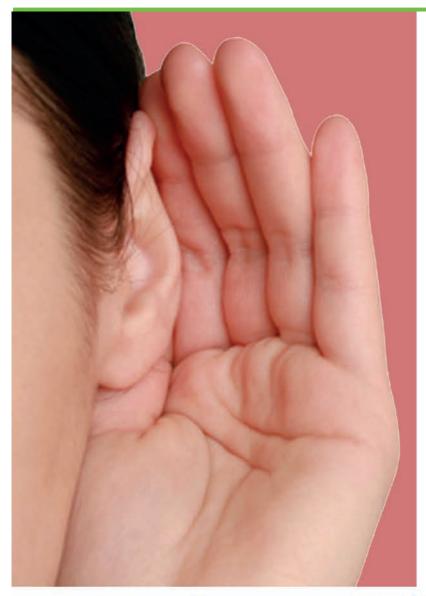
Finally, she, weeping and crying and screaming, reached before the Buddha.

When she had arrived, the Buddha looked at the dead child, saying to her, "Don't weep, just do one thing and your child will be alive again. Go to every house in the village and ask every family if someone has ever died in their family, in their house. And if you can find a house where no one has ever died, then beg something to be eaten some bread, some rice, or anything - but from the house where no one has ever died. And that bread or that rice will revive the child immediately."

She became happy and ran to the village. She moved from one family to another, asking. But every family said, "This is impossible. There is not a single house - not only in this village but all over the earth - there is not a single house where no one has ever died, where people have not suffered death and the misery and the pain and the anguish that comes out of it."

By and by the woman realized that Buddha had been playing a trick. This was impossible. But still, the hope was there. She went on asking until





words in memory. When the time on which the words are going to have to be used again comes, the detail facts and orders will be easily recognized again. What is more, being able to listen to the other's words is also the meaning of establishing a mutual understanding between the listener and the teller. It also leads to mutual belief and a better relationship for those two people. A better relationship also leads to the key to success.

Listening carefully to what the other says can be assumed that the listener trusts the teller and believes what he says although the listener does not reveal it verbally. If one carefully listens to what the experienced person says, one will surely get many lessons and much knowledge that can solve certain problems. Although one has got the attitude to be able to listen to what the other says, if there is no teller, it will be unbeneficial at all. Therefore, if one happens to meet the experienced person who will tell something, one should have to curiously and carefully listen to him. In addition, one must note the words and he or she must apply them when the time is due again.

When the habit of keen listening gets mature and mature, one can contemplate the words the other says whether they are natural or unnatural and reasonable or unreasonable. In human society, among the words, we hear every day: the words of the Lord Buddha, the words of Dharma, the words of the wise, the words of the ward, the words of the public, the words of the media, etc., we must extract the essence of such words and apply them beneficially.

All in all, we normally think being able to listen to is somewhat unimportant but a good habit of listening to the other in daily life can improve one's status of life, who have already practiced it very well. Therefore, I would like to urge the youngsters who are, one day, going to shoulder the heavy responsibilities of the nation to practice active listening habit since young.

Being able to listen to what the other says



By S. Shwe Lin Yaung B.Sc, Pathein University

eing able to listen to what the other says is associated with one's ears and other's voices. By using the sensation of hearing, one has to listen to the voice of the other and get understood it. In other words, being able to listen to what the other says is the ability of acceptance.

General Aung San, our national leader, has said that Man is the permanent student of the University called 'Life'. To search for wisdom in such University, man must follow the following eight principles: Listening, Thinking, Asking, Telling, Observing, Writing, Practicing and Learning by heart. They should follow them every day. Those eight principles have been described by Ashin Mahar Rathasara, the great royal poet and composer, since the Innwa era.

Out of them, as Listening is described first and foremost, it is the most fundamental and important one in searching the ways for wisdom.

A man talks a lot all his life as well as they listen to what the others talk a lot. However, they tend to talk more than they tend to listen to what others say. They forget they possess only one mouth to talk but they have two ears to listen to meaning listening is more important than speaking. Although being able to listen to means to concert endeavor to hear, it is not complete as the listeners must try to remember what they have heard and apply usefully it. What they have heard and noted must also be attempted to use where they are necessary. Then, the listeners will be beneficial.

In eiffective listening to the others, it is essential the listeners must concentrate upon whatever the teller is saying. Therefore, they can absorb almost all the tellers'



hin Myint Oo and I were best friends since our childhood and so were Than Than Sint and Hla Thinzar. We four met at university and became a gang for we were taking the same classes and also sharing the same room at the hostel. In all four of us, Hla Thinzar and Khin Myint Oo actually, for the record, got along because they did have the same thing in common like boyfriend stuff and something like that. But Than Than Sint and I, on the contrary, were the most boring people, I could guess. We two had nothing but to attend these full of classes all the time or stay at the hostel and we rarely went to movies.

As far as I could remember, Hla Thinzar had a really beautiful face just like her name, that every man would fall for. And Khin Myint Oo was taller. In fact, she was the tallest one which made her so obvious in the group. Than Than Sint grew up in the countryside and she had most superstitious beliefs and her kind of looked like a bit awkward to fit in. Not only she was an introvert also she always stuck her face into big book. I must say that Hla Thinzar was from a pretty rich family because everyone in our hostel were fond of her clothes, make-up and things like that. There was a one particular place to see here at the university and it was canteen. She was almost always there, waiting for someone even when there were some important classes. I, sometimes asked if she was not afraid of failing the exam and her only answer was to console me and telling m not to worry about her and she even added this laughing, "Don't you

worry about me, Myint. You will never know what I am doing. Besides, I will marry someone and he will take care of me." That is how she called me, Myint.

I must confess that I was so fond of her lifestyle. She was care-free, light - hearted and popular amongst men in our university. To me, she was a seraphic flower blooming wonderfully that every bee wants to take rest and take her sweet nectar. In hostel, we had to stay four people in a room and they provided us two two-storey beds

Than Sint took one and the rest was Khin Mint Oo's and mine. Though Than Than Sint did not take much spaces for her personal stuff, except her boring books about religions and lectures, the dirty clothes, cosmetics and other girl-ly stuff of Hla's were always hung around their bed or scattered on the floor most of the time. But I could always find her wearing cologne and ready to go out while I was wearing Tha Na Kha (Myanmar Traditional Make-up).

As a matter of fact, I was born and raised in a rural area from Pyay and I was taught to be a good, obedient girl by my mother. In my community, I was the only girl who had a chance to go to school. I vividly remembered that all of my relatives suggested me marry someone when I passed the matriculation exam. That was what they do and they were taught to as a tradition which was not quite fair for women. They had nothing to do but to marry someone and bear children. But somehow I got to go to Yangon University. Khin Myint Oo had some relatives in town but she chose to stay with us at the hostel. She was a bit rich all four of us and she was the one to buy the stuff for us. And I guessed, that was the reason why she and Hla were so close because Hla was always in need of money, especially at the end of the months. Though I saw her boyfriends bought things for her, she was always in need of cash to some extent. But, still, all we had to go to was Canteen to find her.

I heard some news that Hla and Ko Maung Maung from Psychology Major were dating these days. Shortly after I had heard of the news, she told us that

> she was dating someone. Well, it was so typical that she always loved to brag about her relationships. "You know that handsome man from Psychology! He's always goofing around with me, you know. I'm not interested at all but I should reckon that he deserves the award of diligence." After a week, we already knew, she would definitely go like this, like she was a Freethinker and open-minded for everything, " Oh! I dump him because I don't like his way of thinking. We are



The ugly truth

of a flower

It's all about mushrooms:

How a 74 year-old-farmer

is using social media

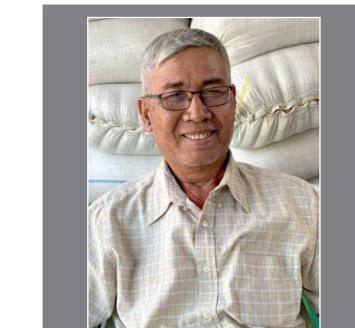
to share skills

hether you love them or hate them, some chefs will tell you that mushrooms add depth to soups, sauces and dumplings - giving them an earthy flavour unlike any other and it turns out Myanmar, with its diverse microclimate, is a particularly good place to grow

Nobody knows this better than 74-year-old U Tun Paw. Mushrooms have been his passion for more than 40 years. With his bright smile and spectacles, U Tun Paw talks animatedly about how he has dedicated most of his life to the world of mushrooms, starting from when he was a young boy at a monastic school.

From his small farm in Shwe Pyi Thar Township, northwest of Yangon, U Tun Paw has turned his passion into an opportunity by using social media to connect to mushroom farmers, and aspiring farmers, from across the country. Through his 'Mtt Mushroom' Page, he disseminates information about how to grow mushrooms, attracting loyal fans.

"People find out about me on Facebook and they come to find me. Recently I received a student from Thailand. He







By Hla Myat Mon



looked me up on Facebook," U Tun Paw said.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF M

"I also give tips or send photos about growing techniques through Facebook Messenger," he added.

As he walks through his mushroom farm with shelves heaving with jars and white sacks filled with raw materials, U Tun Paw shows off his succulent Oyster mushrooms.

"I sell 13 kilos a day," he says proudly, adding that he also sells pre-packaged mushroom bags for 400 Kyats each.

He has also been experimenting with innovative ways to grow mushrooms.

"My most recent and successful experiment was growing mushroom seeds from the tissue."

1.000 STORIES'

But it's not all about busi-

ness. U Tun Paw said he wants to give back to the community and is generous with his time and his knowledge.

It all began when he bought one of his sons a smart-

"My son created a Facebook account for me, and started the Page. Since the beginning, we received a lot of messages about mushrooms. My son helped to respond to the messages, and taught me to use Facebook. Now I own and run the Page."

U Tun Paw said his page has brought him in contact with people from all over the country. Some trek across borders to meet the mushroom farmer in person and learn from him. In other instances, he travels to conduct training - be it for adults interested to learn, or even students.

"My next training session is for Grade 8 and Grade 9 students. I will be visiting the Tharrawaddy Township in Bago Region with my family to conduct training for over 70

When asked about his experiences interacting with people from the community, U Tun Paw said he had more than 1,000 stories to share.

"I have a story about a student from Kachin. He only passed the second grade. He came from very far away and stayed for a month at my farm. I taught him the basics of cultivating mushrooms, including making mushroom compost, packaging mushroom nursery bags and incubating mushrooms."

"Now, he grows mushrooms in Kachin, and grows them even better than me," U Tun Paw said, smiling.





















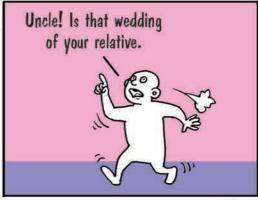






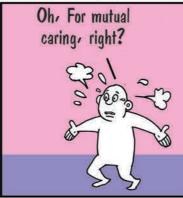








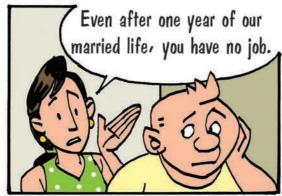






















Never Say Never



By Htar Sandi Naing 3rd Year Honours, English Specialization, University of Yangon

Never say never to the world. Cuz you are precious to us all. Never say die. Be sure to clear your mind.

Never say never! Nothing lasts forever! Time keeps ticking. Everything is running.

Never say never! Always be clever! Life is full of tricks. And also filled with risks.

Never say never! Cuz we are all in this together! Never forget us! As we are riding on the same bus!



FROM PAGE-S-3 I wondered how Hla could say something like this but I found her words very intriguing. Sometimes, her speeches were like she was a bird ready to fly in the sky with full of energy but she was, sometimes, in doldrums for a long time and all she said was like advice for life. She was, in fact, a mystery girl because she tried to avoid talking about her life and we never knew what her life was like before coming here. But one day, Than Than Sint and I talked about lectures and surprisingly ended up talking about her. It was really surprising for me for she only talked once in a while and I learnt some tragic truth about Hla.

Hla Thinzar was born in a common family who served themselves just enough to make both ends meet. Unfortunately, she and her family had a hard time. As there was a saying," Misfortune didn't come alone", her father, U Min Aung became a alcoholic and it took his life. So, she became her mother's only hope to be rich. Her mother, Daw Khin Sein, only taught her to marry rich man and she sent her to university just to find a rich man. And this was how she ended up going to university. Apparently, Daw Khin Sein must have thought that her daughter would see some rich man to

marry and get rich if she was in this society. According to Than Than Sint's words, her mother was down in the debt because she had to support her daughter and she borrowed some money and sent them to her, hoping she would give her back someday when she was rich. Than Than Sint heard all these things when she took a summer vacation to home last

Hearing that miserable story of Hla made me sick and also remember my mother who only thought of me and wanted to see me as an educated person. My mother, Daw Than Myint, supported me as Hla's mother did but my mother did not hope to get them back from me but to make me feel good. I wondered if she was alright. I could totally tell that she was the only one who had faith in me when everyone was suggesting to me to marry a man and settle down. I had to fill my mother's dream.

Time flew so fast. I was in the final year hoping to do well in my final exam. But our group had already broken. Than Than Sint went back to her home last summer and never came back. As the latest news, she was set up with a man by her parents and settled down with him. Though I felt sorry for her life, I kind of had a feeling of delight for her because

everyone thought she would never be married. But I really wanted her to get a degree. Khin Myint Oo failed the exam and she was taking the course back. She said that she wouldn't stay at the hostel anymore because she felt ashamed to see me as her senior. But what about Hla...? It was a miracle to know Hla also passed the exam. But she seemed so depressed to look at and when I asked her, she only said that her mother was sick. And she still preached me not to have a boyfriend." You know, Myint, men are not that good as they seem. Don't ever try it, sweety." was her only word for me for the whole year. I could see that Ko Maung Maung from Psychology did not come anymore to her and also Ko Swe Aung from Botany and Ko Oo from Myanmar too. Hla started to seem like a bit stressed and all I could do is to watch because she was not that person to share

Finally I graduated from University with the degree of B.Sc(Maths). I did cry at the graduation party for seeing my relatives from village and my mother, more importantly, I didn't see any of my friends was there. But my mother was wearing the most cleanest and brightest clothes she ever had in her life and I could feel ecstasy from her tears. By

the way, my uncle who once, asked me to marry someone was also crying and patting my back with full of delight at the party.

Well, I might think that I was a superwoman but I did not see that coming for sure. A few years later, I married a man called Ko Tin Htay and now I am a mother of two children and I am spending my time doing house chores and taking care of children which once, I hated to do. Now, my dream is to raise my children to be educated as I am and I rarely think of my old time with my friends. But I did hear some news of my friends from last year reunion. I heard Than Than Sint raising three children at her home town, Khin Myint Oo being an old rich maid in Yangon and Hla....! I heard Hla was dead with AIDS two years ago and also I found out that she did come to the graduation party but had to go back to hospital for emergency. I was so sorry to hear her news. She was the flower I wanted to be and now she is gone. Life is so unfair to her. She used her life just to find a man and ended up finding death as a reward.

" Aww, even a flower comes to wither but still she was a Flower...."



This is to certify it is time to adopt the We-attitude that represents the whole federal multitude instead of getting stuck dead in the concept of the We-Them discrimination. Certainly, there exist the definitions of diversity like You 1, You 2, You, etc., and Me. It is recommended, however, instead of fighting for the Egoistic We, to come and join for constructing the Magnificent We; instead of sacrificing those poor, young lives, taking to arms, to let their Souls live for Love, for Hope, for the rosy Future, since hatred begets hatred, and war begets war.

By Zaw Tun



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> **KUNMING TO YANGON** FLIGHT DEP ARV

> > 9:55

14:45

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY FLIGHT DEP ARV PG713 17:00 18:25

DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY FLIGHT DEP ARV DATE

KUNMING TO MANDALAY FLIGHT DEP ARV

14:20

9:10

13:45

FD244 11:10 12:25

13:50

MU9747 20:05 20:20

MU2029

DATE

2.4.6

2,4,6

1,3,7

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily			
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily			
UB019	7:25	9:20	Daily			
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily			
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7			
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily			
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily			
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily			
UB017	17:35	19:30	Daily			
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily			
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily			

YANGON TO DON MUEANG						
DEP	ARV	DATE				
8:05	9:50	Daily				
8:45	10:30	Daily				
8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7				
17:40	19:25	Daily				
21:40	23:30	Daily				
19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7				
21:00	22:45	Daily				
	DEP 8:05 8:45 8:30 17:40 21:40 19:35	DEP ARV 8:05 9:50 8:45 10:30 8:30 10:20 17:40 19:25 21:40 23:30 19:35 21:25				

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7			
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6			
CZ3056	17:30	22:00	1,5			

YANGON TO SINGAPORE						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily			
8M231	8:20	12:40	Daily			
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily			
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7			
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily			
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7			
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6			
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7			

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
KE472	23:30	7:25	Daily		

YANGON TO TAIPEI					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
CI7916	10:45	16:20	Daily		

BAN	GKOK	TO YA	NGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily			
PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7			
TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily			
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily			
UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily			
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily			
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily			
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily			
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily			
PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily			
UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily			

DON MUEANG TO YANGON						
DEP	ARV	DATE				
6:20	7:05	Daily				
7:30	8:15	Daily				
6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7				
16:25	17:05	Daily				
20:30	21:10	Daily				
18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7				
19:30	20:15	Daily				
	DEP 6:20 7:30 6:45 16:25 20:30 18:55	DEP ARV 6:20 7:05 7:30 8:15 6:45 7:35 16:25 17:05 20:30 21:10 18:55 19:45				

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6			
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7			
CZ3055	14:40	16:30	1,5			

SINGAPORE TO YANGON					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily		
3K581	9:10	10:35	1,2,3,5,6,7		
UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily		
8M232	13:45	15:15	Daily		
MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,4,6,7		
MI520	14:10	17:35	3,4,5,6		
3K583	17:30	18:45	1,4,5,7		
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily		

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily	

TAIPEI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CI7915	7:00	9:50	Daily	

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily		
MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily		
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7		
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7		
AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily		
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6		

YANGON TO HONG KONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,3,4,6,7	
UB8027	7:05	11:45	3,5,7	
KA275	17:05	21:50	1,3,5,7	

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6		
YANGON TO DUBAI					
FLICHT	DED	A DV/	DATE		

ANGON TO DHAKA

YANGON TO BEIJING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,4,5,7	
YANGON TO HANIO				

FLIGHT DEP ARV DATE

			,
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily
YANG	ON TO	HO C	HI MINH
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7
YA	NGON	то то	KYO
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily

YANGON TO DOHA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR919	1:05	4:55	1,3,4,6,7	

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,5,7	

			YANGON	
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily	
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily	
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7	
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7	
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily	
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6	
HON	G KON	G TO Y	ANGON	

DHAKA TO YANGON						
KA254	14:20	16:10	1,3,5,7			
KA250	21:50	23:35	1,2,3,5,6,7			
UB8028	12:45	14:30	3,5,7			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			

LIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
G060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6		
DUBAI TO YANGON					
LIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
Z1585	10:30	16:15	Daily		

BEIJING TO YANGON

CA905	19:00	22:55	1,3,4,5,7
H	ANOI T	O YAN	GON
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON							
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE				
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7				
TOKYO TO YANGON							

FLIGHT DEP ARV

NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily			
DOHA TO YANGON						
FLICUIT	DED	4 D) /	DATE			

CHIA	NG MA	AI TO Y	ANGON
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7

YANGON TO KUNMING						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
MU2580	10:55	14:35	2,4,6			
MU2012	13:40	20:50	3			
MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6			
MU9758	15:55	19:35	1,3,5,7			

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily			
PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily			

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily	

MANDALAY TO KUNMING						
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
MU2568	9:25	12:25	Daily			
MU2040	15:20	18:25	1,3,7			
MU9742	15:20	18:25	2,4,6			
MU9748	21:20	00:25	2,4			

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK					
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		
PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7		

,	YI TAW	/ TO B/	ANGKOK	BANG	кок
	DEP	ARV	DATE	FLIGHT	DEP
	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7	PG721	17:25

ОК		BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW						
TE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE			
4,5,7		PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7			
R LINES CODES								

AIR LINES CODES				
3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines			
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air			
AI = Air India	MU = China Easten Airlines			
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways			
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways			
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways			
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air			
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways			
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways			
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines			
KA = Dragonair	UB = Myanmar National Airlines			
KE = Korea Airlines	VN = Vietnam Airlines			

DATE	4 = Thursday		Subjected to change by repesctive airlines. Hotline - (951) 229245
1 = Monday	5 = Friday		
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday		
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday		