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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds public meetings in Lashio, PyinOoLwin

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, attended the inauguration ceremony of JICA Phase II building at the 500-bedded hospital in Lashio, northern Shan State and held meetings with locals in Lashio, Shan State and in PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

During the visit, she was accompanied by Union Ministers U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr Myint Htwe, and Dr Win Myat Aye; Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

The State Counsellor and party attended inauguration of JICA Phase II building at Lashio hospital, and looked around the medical wards.

During the meeting with local people at the city hall of Lashio, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "First, I would like to thank all the people of Lashio for your warm welcome. Secondly, I would like to apologize for I haven't got a chance to shake hands with the public in Lashio as you're aware that the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued a guideline to avoid shaking hands and touching hands with one another in this critical time because of the COVID-19 epidemic not only in our country but around the world too.

"I consider it's a gifted

benefit that enables me to discuss whatever issues we are facing, with the people. Only after we all have close contact with one another can we be able to know more about the major concerns.

"It's not a possibility nor a reality that we all can meet one another in such a country of over 50 million populations. But we need to value each other as much as we can if we can have a rare opportunity like mass gatherings. I do wish to tell you this, most often.

Every individual is important. You place your value by yourself. Efforts are being made to prevent the fearful infectious disease and its impacts as well as to protect the health of every one of our people.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with local people in Lashio, Shan State, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw vote on proposals for constitutional amendment

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw voted on amending provisions of sections in the 2008 Constitution on its 19th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday.

Out of 654, a total of 633 MPs attended to vote and 21 persons were on leave.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced

that each provision could be amended with the number of 491 supporting votes to pass 75 per cent of MPs (490 representatives out of 654).

Proposals for amendment to Section 5 in relation to paragraph (a) of Section 436, paragraph (d) of Section 6, paragraph (f) of Section 6, Section 7, Section 8, Section 14; proposals



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes its 19th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**



MPs observe counting votes on amending provisions of the 2008 Constitution. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

for annulment of paragraph (c) of Section 20, paragraph (a) of Section 26, Section 39, paragraph (b) and (c) of Section 40 failed to pass 75 per cent supporting votes.

However, proposals for

amendments to paragraph (a) and (b) of Article 32 secured more than 75 per cent supporting votes.

The voting process was also monitored by Hluttaw representatives from respective po-

litical parties.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue voting on amendment proposals today.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chairman receives International IDEA Regional Director



Union Election Commission meeting with the delegation from International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein received International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Asia and Pacific Director Ms Leena Rikkila Tamang at the Union Election Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to preparation for holding the 2020 General Election in accord with the five norms, conducting

capacity building training on the elections, ensuring domestic migrant workers and IDPs can exercise their rights to vote, collaboration with relevant organizations on electoral security, prevention of hate speech and fake news for the elections, and further process of STEP II Democracy with the support of International IDEA.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Attorney-General receives MyJustice team

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Team Leader of MyJustice Mr Ross Clarke in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on the supports of the INGO legal advocacy project in 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the UAG office, the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan of Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Coordinating Body, and the cooperation of UAGO during the second term of MyJustice programme funded by EU.

They also reviewed the coordination progress and discussed the future plans of UAGO and MyJustice.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



State Counsellor opens upgraded facility of Lashio General Hospital



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi unveils the upgraded phase of Lashio General Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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“A national-level committee has been formed since we came to know about the outbreak and spread of the disease in February. The committee aimed to fight back the consequences caused by the disease and to prevent its impacts upon us. We, as a State, need to look into the issue from every perspective. To prevent and control the COVID-19, a committee has been formed led by the Union Minister for International Cooperation as chairman since its outbreak and spread has started in China, our neighbouring country in addition to a lengthy border between each other.

“The committee also includes the Union Minister for Commerce and other relevant departmental representatives because it may have caused some impacts upon economic sectors. Border crossings or checkpoints may have been closed down and it may have affected border trade. Consequently, the impacts may have caused the traders and the people relying on border areas for their livelihoods. We’ve considered this from the very beginning so that all concerned departments have been collaborating to implement the measures to control and prevent the COVID-19 and its impacts upon us.

“They have to review the work done step by step to further carry out the control and prevention measures. What I’m trying to say is that efforts are being made to secure better

health and economic benefits to the people as much as we can. Ensuring safe and secure lives for all citizens is a key prerequisite for a nation. It doesn’t mean only superficial or physical safety and security of the people but we need to feel safe and secure. Only after a nation has really improved and developed can we all the people feel safe and secure actually. We need to strive to build a nation in which all the citizens are confident that they have safe and secure lives. We do first consider how people can benefit from one another in whatever we’re doing. In this regard, people’s participation and involvement are of major importance to achieve successful implementation.

“Educational awareness measures are being carried out in regards to the COVID-19. People are instructed to follow ‘dos’ and ‘don’ts’. People should understand and abide by the guidelines so as to get beneficial effects upon them. I do want all the citizens to rely on themselves instead of relying on the State. You should do your best and will get yourself improved. I do want you to have confidence that our nation can be developed.

“We are a Union as I earlier mentioned many times. Once we’re in Lashio it is significant that we are in a Union. We’ve seen different national races along the road to Lashio. The children in the front row, you see, are wearing different kinds of traditional ethnic apparel. It’s very graceful when we see this. Our strength can be derived

from diversity. To make it happen, we all need to try hard to attain a treasure.

“Our nation isn’t one of the wealthy and prosperous countries in the world. In reality, we have been left behind in the South-East Asian countries. However, it’s not to be discouraged. We do have a lot of time to move forward and we get ourselves motivated to improve and develop our country. The main thing is that we do want all the people not only to take as granted but we need to be good

make the world and its environment be clean. We the people should take the high value of ‘discipline’. We should honour it. We’re disciplined nationals and every individual should have the spirit to take responsibility for one another.

“We’ve been through too many hardships and difficulties during the Second World War. To prevent a similar war like this, world nations have gathered to found the United Nations. The United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights

“Those who are selling narcotic drugs are requested to stop their illegal businesses. That’s a crime. It can destroy our environment.

people for the world as well.

“I’m satisfied that I’ve seen such a clean and tidy city. There are many more cities and people across our country. I really like it. I really respect it. I prefer ‘discipline’ among people to their wealth and prosperities.

I often say that I do want people to be disciplined as it is a priceless thing. Discipline can make them develop their values. If you live in discipline to make yourself clean and tidy, you can help your environment clean and tidy. You can make your country in a similar way. Thereby, you can involve in and

has been adopted afterwards. It implicitly provides that every person is born free and entitled to universal human rights such as individual rights and respect for prestige among one another.

“It entails responsibility. I’d like to remind you of this. It’s one of human ethics. You should protect your individual rights and take responsibility at the same time. It’s not ethical if we lack one of those two things. If one could not protect his or her rights but take responsibility, it’s not full of ethical dignity for her or him.

“So we the people should

conduct ourselves in discipline and take responsibility, too. We should protect our individual rights in a right way. It’s very important that we should have the spirit to move forward how and which way towards our goals.

“That’s why to develop our nation we need to walk the right path in the right way. While touching on the health of the people, I do need to mention the drug abuse so critical both for this region and for the whole country. It’s a big issue in our country. Its related crimes are also really big problems. We all need to control this menace. The general public should shun away from the danger of drug abuse. Number one is not to abuse the drugs. Number two is to encourage your environs not to abuse the drugs. Number three is to participate in the fight against drug abuse and its related crimes.

“Narcotic drugs have been seized recently in Kutkai township. You’ll be well aware that it’s a huge threat after you’ve seen the volume and different kinds of narcotic drugs seized. Those who haven’t connected with narcotic drugs before should shun away from them. Those who have already connected with them are requested to stop every wrongdoing by taking the first good step to change their habits.

“Those who are selling narcotic drugs are requested to stop their illegal businesses. That’s a crime. It can destroy our environment. It’s also a kind of misdeeds.

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State Counsellor inspects Lashio General Hospital, meets with local people in PyinOoLwin

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I do request for those to stop it. I need to remind you of this while we meet in such a mass gathering. Lashio is located close to border areas. The State has been eradicating drug abuse and you all are requested to get involved and participate in this implementation.

After the speech of State Counsellor, the locals discussed their requirements for upgrade of Lashio airport, infrastructural development, assignment of medical doctors and supply of medical equipment at the hospital, strong market for agricultural produce of local farmers, exports to China, irrigation and household water supplies, new school buildings, compensations for lands and crops lost in the bridge construction project, flood control measures, prevention of soil erosions, installation of a transformer, returns of confiscated lands to the owners, construction of civil servant apartments, drilling underground water and upgrade of a tarred road.

The Union Ministers, the Chief Minister and local government officials responded to the discussions. In making a speech to the locals, the State Counsellor said, I like the reports of local people for regional development. We need to know their problems so that we could solve them. Expectations of our people are quite common. They highlighted the need of household water supply.

People also requested for improvement of transport sector which is fundamental to the development of the country. A good transportation is required



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at the public meeting in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO: MNA

for smooth flow of agricultural produce to the markets, healthcare and education sector.

Demand for electricity was not a prioritized topic in Lashio. However, the locals raised land ownership disputes which were discussed at the parliament. Vice President U Henry Van Thio is leading the return of lands to the original owners. Although they are seriously doing this, the processes are very complicated and will take time in following the rules and principles. We will do our best. People are making more requests for improvement of healthcare sector, although education was a hot issue in the past. They suggested bet-

ter healthcare facilities, medics and medical specialists. Public healthcare services can be found across the country. It is seen as development.

Although there have been some progress in water supply, transportation, electricity, healthcare services and education in the country, it is certain that in these sectors the demand of people have not been met up to a satisfactory level. We will try to fulfill them as soon as possible. Public participation is also important for success. I also believe people would join with us.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor visited Thiri Mingalar Mansu Shan Monastery in Lash-

io, and paid homage to the local senior monks.

She then proceeded to PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region, where she met with the local people at the district sports ground. At the meeting, she said, I would like to draw your attention to two main points, as I mentioned when I was visiting Lashio. First of all, I'd like to express my thanks to the people of Pyin Oo Lwin for giving me a warm welcome. The second thing I'd like to draw your attention is that on this visit, nobody gives me a handshake, thanks to the instructions of the Ministry of Health. I would also urge you all not to do handshakes in the meanwhile. As you all know, according to the reports, COVID-19 virus has not yet been detected in our country, but we cannot be definitely sure about its entry. This threatening disease has already spread all over the world. The source happens to come from our neighbouring country, and we share a long border with this country, so there is a great possibility of impending danger. The moment it has infected the regions here, it would be an urgent case for quarantining the disease. For the preventive measures the Ministry of Health has already kept up all the alerts and issued instructions. And it is very important for the people to strictly follow the instructions.

PyinOoLwin always gives me pleasure on every visit of

mine. I have long known that it's a famous hill resort. I always wish the family members of our Union would always be cool and pleasant like this peaceful, beautiful hill station. I am pleased to see such a pleasant condition here. Here, in PyinOoLwin, we have a rich variety of our national races. You all love and live in unity and peace, which looks positive in every thing. Cool climatic conditions are good, but peace of mind is better. As you all know, the world today has been suffering from climate change. For the challenge of these geographical changes, we must all be prepared. Similarly, in order to overcome the changes in the world and the challenges of the changing world, it is of curcial importance that all the people of our country must cooperate and collaborate. Of course, ours is not a rich country, not listed among the developed countries. However, fortunately, we have got ourselves out of the list of the least developed countries of the world. In other words, we should be proud of that. Formerly, our country was categorized under the least developed countries. This must have angered some of our people, thinking the reputation of our country had been tarnished. But we must be realistic. The least developed countries were provided special privileges by the organizations of the world, by the developed countries.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects the Lashio General Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor holds public meetings in Lashio, PyinOoLwin

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Now, as our country's name is going to be cancelled from the list of such countries, we are going to be deprived of these privileges. So this is good if you look at it from one aspect, but from another aspect, there are minuses awaiting us. But we must willingly accept the new situation. Why? Because we have been denied some privileges on the basis of the progress we have made. Nevertheless, we all must work for more progress in the future so that we can stand independently. This is our dream.

Our dream is we are a nation standing on our own. I strongly believe that we have all the potentials for realizing this dream. Ours is a country well known for very rich natural resources. But our hopes should not rest upon these resources since there will come the time when these resources would one day run out. What we count on is the potentials of our people. I often say this: the genuine resources or treasures of a nation is the people. Our people must be well qualified, well disciplined, being equipped with morale, abilities, diligence and perseverance. Then who should we count on? What dangers should threaten our people? Of course, dangers are there in this world.

Since Coronavirus first broke out in China, we formed a team under the Union Minister for International Cooperation in the first week of February, and we launched a plan for tackling not only with the issues of health, but also for the ensuing economic issues. Our plan worked out to some extent. With the sharp drop of border trading, it made an impact on the economic conditions of our country. We can't evade from this. But we have planned in advance so that we could cushion the blow from the negative repercussions. Everyday we have been very much vigilant about the ongoing situations - the challenges of health, as well as the economic and social challenges, and the international challenges. We have kept ourselves alert twenty four hours, and have planned to overcome the challenges with our calibre, with the abilities of our people. Hence, I would like to stress that all our people play an important role for the progress of our country, for the consolidation of our strength.

Ours is the government of the people that stands on the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for group photo together with children in Lashio. PHOTO: MNA

strength of the people. Since ours is a government that comprises the people's elected representatives, we are a strong government. However, we have all and sundry duties and responsibilities. Being elected by the people, we are responsible for the interests of the people. Thanks to the strength of our people, we have the changes of conditions favourable for our performances. Finally, when we have come to the stage of interpreting the meaning of democracy, the government of the people founded by the people for the interests of the people is a concern to all the people. All the members of the people are born of the people, too. So the democratic system could be a success only if we are of oneness with the people. Concerning the case of unity, I would explain a little bit. Because our country is a union, I have often stressed the importance of unity. Our country has stood as an independent country of own sovereignty for over seventy years. But sadly, the country has not yet enjoyed a moment when the flames of all the armed conflicts have been extinguished. Because Peace is so essential, because Peace is so important, I have been repeating the word all the time. Where there is unity, there is peace. And Peace contributes to the establishment of unity. We must think it over what is Unity: unity among the diversity of religions and languages and different cultures and customs. What we should do is direct towards the unity cherished in our hearts. Our ultimate goal is to build a union strong and peaceful - this is what we all dream of. If the peaceful, prosperous, strong

democratic union has found room securely in the hearts of all of us, there's unity we want.

What we all want, with strong mature spirit, is the genuine Democratic Federal Union. We must all strive for achieving this. We may negotiate over our different views in a gentlemanly manner, as civilized people. This is the attitude we should adopt. So if we want our country to stand with great reputation throughout the history, we must nurture noble attitudes. We must strive for this. No matter how hard our government may try, without the collaboration of the people, without the trust of our people, we cannot make progress. If our country has failed to make progress, then question yourself: What have I been doing for the country? Am I a dutiful citizen playing my role? Before you point your finger to others, you have the right to question: Am I dutiful? Is he or she dutiful? Are those organizations doing their work really? Is the government performing its tasks? But the very first questions you should ask is ask yourself: Am I a dutiful citizen? Am I engaged in making my own contributions for my country?

I would like to talk to the students. My dear students, performing the duties of a student is performing your tasks for the country. But please don't adopt the attitude that you could be educated only if you get high marks in the exam. Education is a mark of calibre that could help you overcome the difficulties of life. If you could learn such abilities, then you are getting education. And this kind of learning is a never ending quest. It is a lifelong

learning process. We must keep on learning to become perfect human beings. So I would like to request you all to make contributions to building a strong union so that our developing country could be upgraded into a developed one. We often hold mass gatherings with the purpose of having our people to participate unitedly. We welcome questions and comments and views from our people. We are responsible for responding to your questions. As usual, the departments concerned will handle with your notes and questions, and some of your questions will be answered by the authorities of the union level. Then, if we have time, we shall draw lots and we will accept your questions and views.

After the meeting, the locals discussed the removal of X-ray machines near Watwun police station, the removal of landfill from Ward 9 of PyinOoLwin, land dispute cases, upgrade of rural roads and loss of water resources due to plantation of eucalyptus trees. The State Counsellor, the Union Ministers and the local government officials explained the plans for solving the problems. In her conclusion remark, the State Counsellor said, those who did not get a chance for questioning under the drawing lots system can submit their complaint letters in detail. It is not possible to allow all the 38 persons for questionings due to time limitation. Both rights and responsibilities must be considered. We could then move forward on the right path with the cooperation of the people. I am also grateful to the people for their reports. Land disputes were found to be the

most serious issue in Pyin Oo Lwin than other areas.

It is not clear whether the land ownership dispute is the only remaining problem in Pyin Oo Lwin or it is the most complicated issue for the region. We will discuss it with Mandalay Region government, and find out the reasons why land disputes are so complicated that they cannot be solved. In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the people for attending this public meeting. We would have different views and opinions. However, people must have interest in politics which is concerned with national affairs in relation to party politics and the government.

People could be regarded as mature citizens only if they have interests in national affairs, in addition to the issues of individuals, families and communities. Being a mature citizen depends on their knowledge and wisdom.

I am so pleased to see the interest of people in national affairs. Please keep on trying to understand them. The State Counsellor and party also visited the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin in the afternoon.

In the evening, the State Counsellor held a meeting at the State Guest House with the members of Mandalay Region government, and discussed land confiscation cases, water supply, climate changes due to deforestation and reforestation plans.

She also coordinated the discussions on education, health, economy, transportation, socio-economic development and other challenging issues.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya, Dr Zaw Tun, Aung Khin)

Drug Control: More cooperative efforts needed for drug education programmes

THE Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control's Public Awareness Committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the Committee, and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, said there are 11 committees under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. Out of the committees, the Public Awareness Committee tasked with 19 works consists of 12 members.

The Ministry of Information is taking a focal role for the committee that held two meetings in previous year, and most of the resolutions made at the two meetings had been implemented, he added.

The chairman continued that the meeting is to develop a plan for effective implementation of the 19 works and urged the committee's members to make suggestions for ongoing processes.

U Ye Naing, Secretary of the Public Awareness Committee



Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control's Public Awareness Committee, and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department, explained the committee's works in 2019, and future tasks to be implemented in 2020.

Attendees at the meeting also discussed conditions and ways for conducting public awareness campaigns for drug control.

In his conclusion speech, U Aung Hla Tun said that drug crimes are a threat to national security and drug education programmes cannot be organized

by an individual and a single organization.

Therefore, it is important to promote cooperation between relevant departments, local and foreign partner organizations, private organizations, State-owned media and private media, he added.

He also stressed the importance of seeking best possible ways for implementing preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug control.

The meeting was attended by officials from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, General Administration Department, Police Drug Enforcement Division, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA), Myanmar Journalists Association, Forever Group Co. Ltd. and Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd., and invited guests. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoHS holds daily meeting on preventing, controlling Coronavirus infection

MINISTRY of Health and Sports held its daily meeting on prevention and control of Coronavirus infection yesterday at its office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the meeting, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win called on the officials to coordinate with the ministries concerned to suspend seasonal festivals to reduce crowds in efforts to prevent the Coronavirus infection.

He also stressed the need to boost the preventive measures in Myanmar as the country has a potential for infection, citing the situation in Italy.

He also urged the author-

ities to speed up the surveillance at airports and to use the Personal Protective Equipment following the guidelines released by the World Health Organization.

The permanent secretary also called for raising awareness about Coronavirus infection at the examination centres for the matriculation students and providing the students with hand gel and surgical masks there.

The participants of the meeting also discussed preparations for responding to possible Coronavirus infection in Myanmar. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)



The daily meeting of the Ministry of Health and Sports is in progress at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



MNA adds one more flight between Yangon and Rakhine State

MYANMAR National Airlines announced yesterday that it will launch Wednesday flight between Yangon and Rakhine State on 18 March, having three flights every week to Rakhine State.

The MNA is currently

operating the flight on the route of Yangon-Magway-An-Sittway-An-Magway-Yangon on Mondays and Fridays.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

ECAM to serve as safe platform for e-commerce businesses

By Nyein Nyein

THE recently launched E-Commerce Association of Myanmar (ECAM) will serve as a safe space for e-commerce businesses to share technology, news, and opinions, and it will help develop the sector in Myanmar, according to U Aye Chan, Chairman of the association.

The ECAM was officially launched on 10 March at the Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road in Yangon.

The ECAM aims to serve as a platform for the representation of the views and ideas of policymakers, said U Aye Chan.

“Within the last few years, the number of online businesses has grown dramatically. ECAM is aimed at enabling people to resolve the difficulties faced by entrepreneurs within the e-commerce industry as well as by customers,” he said.

ECAM will give priority to industrialization, contribute to



Attendees pose for a group photo at the official launching ceremony of E-Commerce Association of Myanmar (ECAM) at the Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: GNLM

the development of e-commerce regulations that are acceptable to all stakeholders, and represent the industry in such a way as to promote public participation and communication between the government agencies

and the public, he added.

Although no law has been enacted or rules promulgated yet on e-commerce by the government, attempts are being made to formulate strategic policies on e-commerce, said Daw

Su Thet Hnin, assistant director of the Trade Department, under the Ministry of Commerce.

“Although there are no specific rules and regulations related to e-commerce, there are rules and regulations in place

concerning monetary transactions and payments in the area of e-commerce. However, these rules and regulations cannot be said to meet international standards. Now, to fulfill these needs, the Ministry of Commerce is formulating a strategic policy under the Myanmar service sector improvement programme,” she added.

ECAM is aimed at promoting e-businesses in Myanmar for the sake of all stakeholders in the e-business community, in cooperation with entrepreneurs, the government, and schools in such a way as to resolve customer complaints.

ECAM will also share market knowledge to develop e-commerce across the country, ensure fair market competition, set up a wide network, and seek collaboration among entrepreneurs, and filter out fraudulent acts and misleading activities which adversely affect public interest.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Growers pleased with rise in sugarcane price

SUGARCANE growers from Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, are earning a handsome profit this season because of a spike in prices, according to sugarcane farmers from Sanpya Village.

“We are cultivating 1,800 sugarcane plants per acre. Sugarcane can take eight months to harvest and we have to irrigate the fields once a week until harvest. The price of sugar is K3,500 or K4,000 per 10 sugarcanes. Last year, lower quality sugarcane was

used to make juice, which was sold for K100 per cup. One liter of sugarcane juice was sold for K500. This year, one cup of sugarcane juice is selling for K300 and one liter of juice is fetching K700. The price of sugarcane has increased this year because of the high cost of cultivation,” said U Myint Myat Thu, a sugarcane grower from Sanpya Village.

Sugarcane is being sent to Myingyan, Kyaukse, Myittha, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Kyaukpadaung, Natmauk, Yenangyoung,

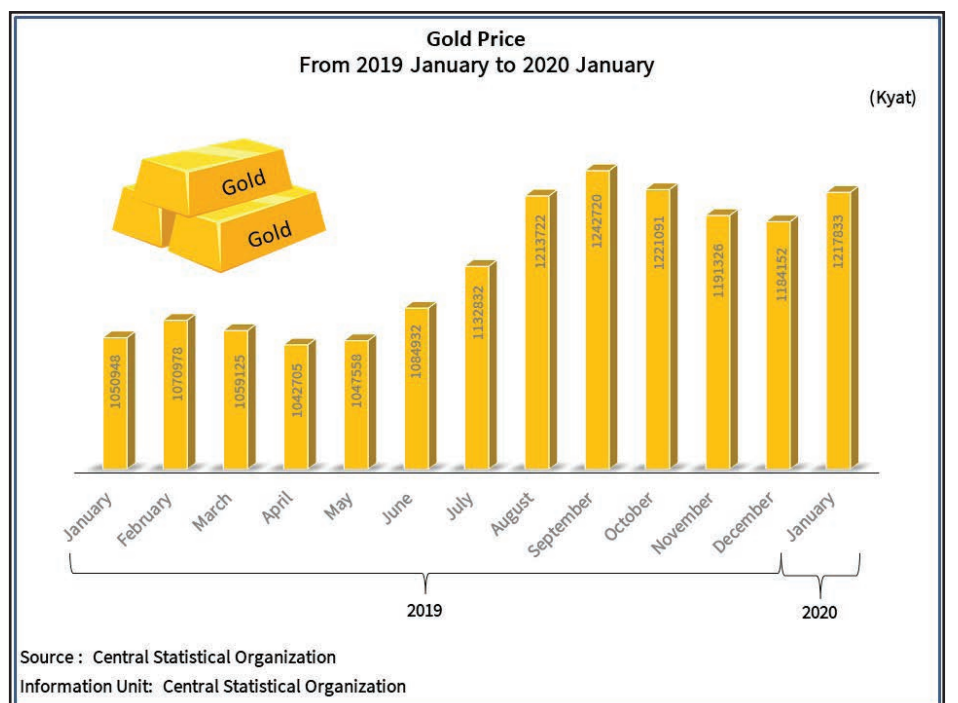
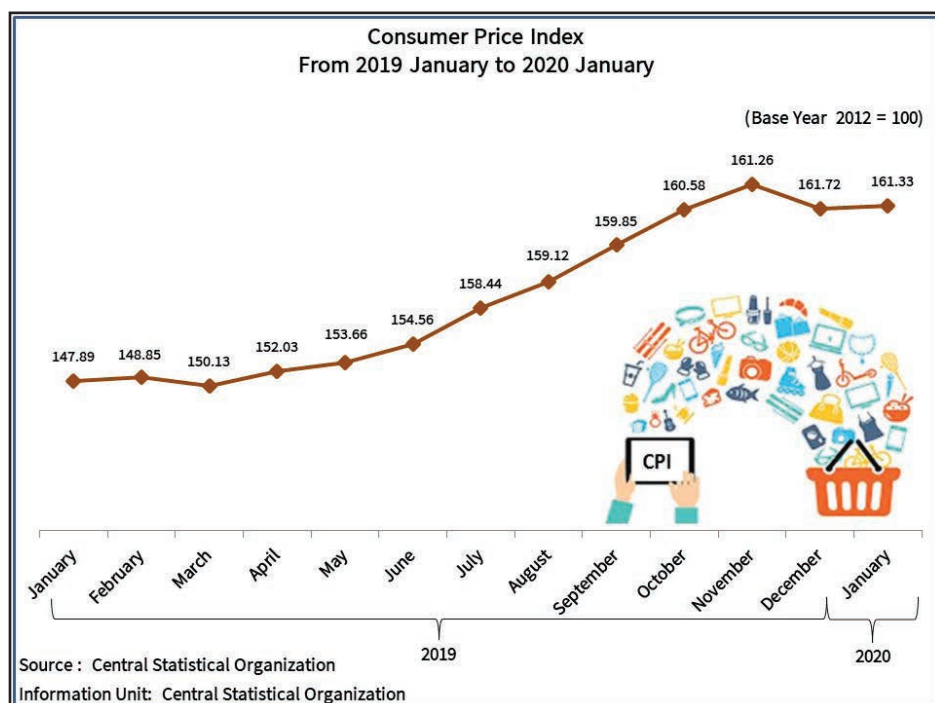
Chauk, Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, Pyu, Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon, he said.

Sugarcane is one of the major industrial crops cultivated in Myanmar. It is grown in more than half the world, including Asia and America, because of its health benefits. Sugarcane contains proteins, phosphorus, iron, zinc, and potassium, and vitamins A, B-complex, and C. — Ko Kyaw Swar (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



A farmer harvesting sugarcane in Myingyan Township. PHOTO: KO KYAW SWAR (IPRD)



Finding common ground would lessen risks

SOME CMP (cut-make-pack) garment factories have reduced working hours and some have shut down due to shortage of raw materials from China after the coronavirus outbreak, leaving more than 5,000 workers out of jobs in weeks.

Since the outbreak began in China, the authorities have been keeping a watch on factories abroad affected by COVID-19, including the supply chain disruptions in China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak.

Meanwhile, the labour authorities have made the necessary preparations to tackle the potential challenges that may befall employers and employees of the labour-intensive garment industry.

The livelihood of factory workers in these countries may be at risk if the factories employing them aren't able to resume normal business soon.

The workers in the CMP and SME sectors understand that this a global crisis, a national situation, and we all have to be prepared for the worst.

The workers have expressed concerns that factories may shut down, not in conformity with the law, by citing the raw material shortage. The workers have demanded the factories provide the compensation they deserve under law, even if the factories close down, and to reinstate them once they resume operation.

In such a scenario, the labour authorities must check whether factories have closed due to COVID-19, or merely to move to another place and open again under a new name.

Moreover, factories closing due to shortfall of raw materials need to be transparent in their actions

and they ought to be responsible and accountable.

It is the responsibility of the labour authorities to deal with the situation, in conformity with the law.

In efforts to lessen the risks, employers and employees are urged to fully cooperate with the authorities at every step.

We believe that CMP and SME employers do not want to lose experienced workers (and their market), and employees do not want to lose their jobs.

The government also does not want to see a nation-wide collapse, while international investors are looking for those who can survive this crisis.

The issue we anticipated since the coronavirus outbreak in China has finally posed a national-level challenge for our country.

We are confident that we can overcome this challenge through the united efforts of employers, workers, and the government.

Redressing land confiscation issues in Myanmar

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

President Message

In the message of greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the Peasants Day Celebrations on 02 March 2020, he pointed out in general that all the peasants who are working in the agricultural and livestock sector; play a vital role in the nation's economy as they are contributing to the daily food requirements of the people as well as income derived from exports.

President U Win Myint continued that we have also undertaken the following tasks: - - such as that of working for peasants to get back their confiscated farmlands; for farmlands that could not be returned to make sure that compensation is given; allowing farmers on small plots and local ethnic people to work on vacant, fallow and virgin land after review; amending the farmland law; ensuring that peasants are given permission to work on farmlands officially; working to uplift the socio-economic life of peasants by rural development; creating other means of generating incomes apart from agricultural work for peasants and their families.

The writer of this article, based on the President's message as well as various coordination meetings chaired by the Vice President, would like to review and discuss in details on positive aspects of redressing land confiscation issues in Myanmar.

Local farmland committees formed to handle land disputes

In a bid to deal with the massive and still mounting backlog of land grab claims, local-level committees are being formed across Myanmar in order to analyze and resolve the land disputes.

The then President U Htin Kyaw established the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in May 2016, (Vide Union of Myanmar President Office order letter number 14/2016 issued on 5th May 2016.), and appointed Vice President Henry Van Thio as chairman.

National Land Use Policy (NLUP) Forum

Speech of Vice President U Henry Van Thio at the National Land Use Policy Forum held on 6 October 2018 gave a detailed depiction of how the nation handles its land resources. In order to hear and decide land disputes



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

through the use of impartial land dispute resolution mechanisms across the whole country, the following are carried out.

Land Dispute Resolution and Appeal

Part (VI) of the National Land Use Policy, which was enacted only in January 2016, dealt with the Land Dispute Resolution and Appeal through article (41) to (46).

Article 41. In order to hear and decide land disputes through the use of impartial land dispute resolution mechanisms across the whole country, the following shall be defined:

- (a) Allowing representatives from local farmer organizations to participate at every level in order to protect and develop farmers' benefits;
- (b) Allowing local farmers organizations to resolve land disputes arising between their members, using local customary dispute resolution mechanisms, if they choose to do so;
- (c) Allowing the rights to make a complaint, defend oneself or with representation, and appeal for land disputes;
- (d) Allowing civil society to provide legal aid and acquire necessary information for use in land disputes;
- (e) Resolving land disputes in public and use appropriate local language and translation as necessary;
- (f) Resolving land disputes transparently, fairly and free from corruption.

Article 42. The following shall

be carried out when resolving land disputes:

- (a) Arranging the establishment of special courts that will hear special cases related to land law with specially trained judges and law officers if necessary;
- (b) Establishing independent monitoring bodies with participation of all stakeholders and appointing monitors that have

courts and other dispute resolution mechanisms by farmers and other land users in accordance with existing laws.

Article 43. In conducting appeals related to land, assistance from individuals and civil society with ability to support systematically shall be allowed.

Central Committee for Con-

... the nation's leaders never ever neglected the issues of land matters in the country at the relevant meetings and as well as during their tours to the states and regions.

no direct interest, to observe settlement of land disputes;

- (c) Determining the processes to settle land disputes between businessmen and farmers, or between farmers, through independent arbitration;
- (d) Establishing an independent tripartite arbitration process to settle land disputes, comprised of Government departments, organizations, farmers and private sector;
- (e) Establishing accurate and clear procedural processes in relevant departments and organizations to improve easy access to, and use of, independent arbitration tribunals,

Confiscated Farmlands holds meeting

On 30 August 2017, the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands held a meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Vice President said the Central Committee and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw met on 31 July 2017 and discussed the policies and framework of the Central Committee. The central committee said they need to place importance on direct complaints signed by victims of confiscated lands and review complaints sent by representatives of the victims.

Central Committee conducted meetings with state and regional Hluttaw representatives and ministry officials to solve complaints of the confiscated lands. So far the Central Committee has solved cases from Mandalay and Bago regions, Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states.

5th Coordination Meeting

On 4 April 2018, the fifth coordination meeting (1/2018) of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands was held in the assembly hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the committee delivered an address. Of these, the central committee found that only 669 cases were resolved and more emphasis needs to be placed on resolving the remaining 5,651 cases.

President's directive

Farmers should have their farmland returned to them or given proper compensation for land that cannot be given back to them, President U Win Myint said on 27 June 2018 in his speech at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The President said confiscated land must be swiftly returned to their rightful owners and squatters must be dealt with in accordance with the law. Participants also gave presentations about confiscated farmland returned and compensation given, response to appeals for compensation, and other field procedures.

This was followed by the central committee's joint secretary and the state and region chief ministers explaining their processes, operations, and progress regarding confiscated land in their administrative areas.

Next, union ministers and the Union Attorney General, who are all members of the central committee, presented and discussed their respective ministry's available support and the issues they were facing.

The Vice President then replied to the presentations and explanations, gave guidance and instructions where necessary, and then concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

7th Coordination Meeting

Chairman of the Central Committee addressed the 7th coordination meeting 1/2019 of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw 27 February 2019 afternoon.

The Vice President said the meeting was the central committee's seventh coordination meeting. The Chairman then gave comments and advice to ensure coordination tasks which were based on the explanations and discussions.

Vice President urges vigilance when returning confiscated lands.

In fact, Myanmar has re-established the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands vide order number 21/2019 of the President Office on 5 February 2019, to address complaints about land confiscation and proper transfer of lands to the original owners.

The Central Committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July 2019.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee, made an opening speech.

In his speech, the Vice President said the members of central committee have met eight times and adopted 52 policies up to the ground level to be able to reward the confiscated farmlands and other lands in line with the existing laws.

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

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release No 10/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 7 March.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 7 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 5 March issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presents his Letter of Credence to the Director-General of the OPCW

U SOE LYNN HAN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium, presented his Letter of Credence, as Permanent Representative of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), to Mr Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, on 5 March 2020 at the Credentials Room of the OPCW in The Hague, Netherlands.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 10th March, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11th March, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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Capacity-building course conducted for IPRD officers



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the ceremony to open capacity-building course of IPRD in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of capacity-building training course (3/2020) conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his opening remark, the Deputy Minister explained the three-week training course on news writing, mobile journalism, financial rules and accounting, official letter writing, media and information literacy, media laws and library knowledge.

He also highlighted importance of media and information literacy, threats of fake news, false news and rumours spreading online to instigate public fears, mistrust and hates among the public, and abstaining from sharing unethical posts and writing comments on them.

The Deputy Minister also advised the trainees to disseminate knowledge from the course to the colleagues at the respective offices.

A total of 35 deputy staff officer trainees from Regions and State are attending the course which will end on 3 April.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Redressing land confiscation issues in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-9

The Central Committee was expanded with the forming of its branches for Nay Pyi Taw and other Regions/States on 26 April 2019. In doing so, each Pyithu Hluttaw MP and Amyotha Hluttaw MP took part in the respective district and township committees.

The Vice President also advised all the committees to address the complaints on land seizures, while the government ministries are releasing the confiscated lands to the original owners and the transfer of these lands to other ministries for reserved land.

He also suggested the return of lands to the original owners without delay, and the members of Central Committee are to re-

view the settlement mechanisms for land disputes to avoid the losses of owners.

He also offered to submit special reports on informing the requirement of urgent settlements to the relevant committees, and to follow instructions and guidelines from the Union government to the committees.

The Vice President then called for opening committee offices at the local levels with enough human resource capacity and organizing workshops and training programs.

Then, the members of Central Committee explained their reviewing on the cases of land confiscation. The meeting was concluded with the coordination of Vice President U Henry Van Thio in the discussions.

Conclusion

Before making the conclusion, we need to look the world perspectives as well as regional standpoints. Why does land grabbing happen?

Generally, the “Land Grabbing” occurs when local communities and individuals lose access to land that they previously used, resulted with the threatening of their livelihoods. These lands are being acquired such as those by outside private investors, companies, governments, and national elites.

Looking into the current situation of land grabbing issues in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, we are redressing through the Central Committee for Scrutinizing and Confiscated

Farmlands and Other Lands, as well as the relevant State/Region Committees. The “Modus Operandi”, a particular way or method of doing something, procedure and approach has covered nearly all common actions mentioned in the Asian regional perspectives.

As always, starting from the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the nation’s leaders never ever neglected the issues of land matters in the country at the relevant meetings and as well as during their tours to the states and regions.

Therefore, the writer of this article strongly and steadfastly believes that the “Redressing land confiscation issues in Myanmar” would surely succeed progressively in the years ahead.

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Surveillance and investigation of COVID-19

Updates at 8 pm 10 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring and conducting surveillance at international gateways, at the public hospitals, community-based monitoring and private healthcare facilities.
2. In doing so,
 - (a) a 27-year old pregnant woman living in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, returned from Thailand on 9 March. She was tested fever at the border gate in Shadaw Township. She was also diagnosed with cough and sneeze, and admitted to the Loikaw hospital. She was quarantined for medical treatments as a person under investigation, and her specimens will be taken to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for laboratory tests.
 - (b) a 34-year old man living in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady Region, returned from Thailand on 10 March. He began suffering fever and stomach ache on 1 March. He came to Yangon General Hospital for diagnosis on 10 March. He was quarantined for medical treatments as a person under investigation, and his specimens will be taken to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for laboratory tests. He is not found with symptoms of acute respiratory diseases.
 - (c) a 26-year old woman living in Taikkyi Township, Yangon, began suffering high fever, head ache, epileptic seizure and hard breathing on 7 March. She was admitted to the Insein General hospital on 8 March. Although she had no history of visiting COVID-19 confirmed areas, she was found with the symptoms of acute respiratory diseases, and that she was quarantined for medical treatments as a person under investigation, and that her specimens will be taken to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for laboratory tests.
 - (d) a 17-year old girl living in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon, began suffering high fever and cough on 1 March. She was admitted to Insein General Hospital on 7 March. Although she had no history of visiting COVID-19 confirmed areas, she was found with the signs of acute respiratory diseases on the chest CT scan. She was quarantined for medical treatments as a person under investigation, and that her specimens will be taken to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for laboratory tests.
3. According to the report of NHL on 10 March afternoon, the following three patients were not tested positive of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - (a) a one year and 2 months old baby boy at the Magway hospital in Myothit Township of Magway Region
 - (b) a 32-year old woman, living in Aungmyaethazan Township, Mandalay Region, at Kandawnadi hospital as a persons under investigation
 - (c) a 34-year old pregnant woman, living in Bago Township, at Wailbargi Special hospital
4. A total of 15 Myanmar citizens who had the history of visiting Daegu city of the South Korea on 8 and 9 March are under quarantine for 14 days. They have been tested negative for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
5. Seven patients are being quarantined for medical treatments until 6 pm on 10 March.
6. Although there is no laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 until 10 March, the ministry is conducting round-the-clock surveillance in upward momentum. As the COVID-19 is spreading in 105 countries, people are suggested to strictly follow health awareness of the Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention of the disease.
7. The MoHS has strongly advised to those who had contacts with COVID-19 confirmed patients, who returned from the virus affected areas and who had suspected symptoms to report to the nearby health centres. Public are also encouraged to inform about the persons who are found with suspected symptoms. —MOHS

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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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.

UPDJC secretaries prepare report for 12 March meeting

THE 18th edition of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meeting will be held on 12 March, and its secretaries from the government side and the ethnic armed organizations held their 25th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Major General Soe Naing Oo, Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win, U Hla Maung Shwe from the government side; Pado Saw Tardo Mu, U Myo Win, Saw Mra Yarzar Lin and Khun Myint Tun from EAOs; U Naing Ngan Lin, U Myint Soe, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Tar Hla Pe and U Thein Tun.

They discussed matters related to substitutions of members and secretaries of UPDJC, resolutions of 8th JICM meeting, political dia-



Secretaries of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) hold 25th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

logue framework, guidelines of UPDJC, principles for UPDJC secretaries, guidelines for work committees for political dialogues, and procedures for

national-level political dialogues. Secretary U Hla Maung Shwe, the government's peace negotiator, said, "We discussed to prepare reports for UPDJC

meeting on 12 March, and the Peace Conference is scheduled to hold in April."—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Chubb Life Myanmar introduces combined insurance plan

CHUBB Life Myanmar yesterday announced that it is ready to serve the people of Myanmar with Chubb Life Shield, an education life insurance plan combined with life protection and savings features.

When the unexpected happens, loved ones are left to deal with the emotional consequences, as well as the financial struggles. One of the best ways to protect your family is to plan and have the right insurance protection in place.

Chubb Life Shield is aimed at encouraging customers to develop good saving habits and make financial arrangements to protect

their future, family and children's education, said the announcement.

Offering different price options and policy terms based on customers' needs, the plan provides financial support towards their future, family and children's education in the unfortunate event of total permanent disability or death.

Chubb Life Shield customers can choose between the two options: Basic Benefit Plan and Double Benefit Plan. Both plans provide premium waiver and education benefit.

In the unfortunate event of a total permanent disability or death, premium will be

waived and education benefit, which provides the policyholder, or their beneficiaries, with payments of 20% of the total sum insured, will be paid equally over the five consecutive years after the end of the premium payment period.

Additionally, the Double Benefit Plan provides total permanent disability benefit and death benefit. This offers a lump-sum payment equivalent to the sum insured on top of the above benefits to the policyholder, or their beneficiaries, in the event of the insured person suffering a permanent disability or death.—GNLM

Farmers make plum mango jam as fruit price falls

FARMERS from Thuwanawady town of Mon State have reaped a good harvest of plum mango, a seasonal fruit, also known as gandaria or marian, this year. But, with prices falling due to abundant supply, they have turned to producing plum mango jam to earn a profit.

"This year, plum mango yield has been rather high, allowing plum mango jam-makers to purchase a large volume of the fruits. There are two kinds of fruit used to make plum mango jam, which have different prices. The estimated price of plum mango is K5,000 per basket. We sell them to plum mango traders and they sell them back to jam-makers. The price of plum mango jam is K10,000 per viss in the market. So, local growers are making plum mango jam whenever they have free time. To make



A woman cooks halved marian in the pan to make jam. PHOTO: KHON WINPA

jam, fresh marian is cut in half and deseeded. Then, the fruit is kept in burnt lime for a night. After that, the fruit is cleaned with cold water many times. Next, a four hundred-fruit pot is put on the stove and one and

a half or two visses of sugar and some salt are added to it. The pot needs to be stirred for an hour to make tasty plum mango jam. We get over one viss of plum mango jam from each pot. Marian jam is selling for K7,000-8,000 per viss

in the village. The jam is made for sale and gifting. It is easy to make marian jam. We only need a pot made of copper," said Naw Mi Nge, a marian jam-maker from Win Pa village.

Seasonal fruits such as durian, pomelo, lime, lemon, and marian are grown in the township. Local residents are making jam from seasonal fruits on a manageable scale to earn extra income.

The Mon State Cottage Industries Department is offering fruit jam-making courses, in addition to providing the necessary advice and technology.

Myanmar still needs to make efforts to expand production of value-added products from fruits and fresh fast-foods with attractive packaging. —Khon Winpa

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Italy locks down as China signals major progress in virus fight

ROME (Italy) — Italy imposed unprecedented nationwide restrictions on its 60 million people on Tuesday to control the deadly coronavirus, as China signalled major progress in its battle against the global epidemic.

The outbreak, combined with a crash in oil prices, caused carnage on financial markets on Monday, sparking the biggest losses in more than a decade — although Asian markets recovered slightly on Tuesday and European stocks opened strongly.

The World Health Organization warned there was a “very real” threat of a pandemic but its chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the planet was “not at the mercy” of the illness, which has so far killed more than 4,000 people.



China reported the lowest daily number of new cases since reporting began in late January. PHOTO: AFP

China was keen to underscore its progress in tackling the virus — President Xi Jinping paid his first visit to the epicentre of the crisis, the city of Wuhan in Hubei province.

Officials later announced that containment

measures in Hubei, whose 56 million people have been under lockdown since January, would be eased.

The provincial government said residents would be given coloured health codes on a mobile app — those with a green

code in medium and low-risk areas would be allowed to travel in the province. However, there is no indication people can leave Hubei, and the measures did not appear to loosen restrictions in Wuhan. — AFP ■

‘A Day Without Us’: Mexican women stage protest by absence

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Women mostly stayed off Mexico City’s streets Monday as part of a protest against the country’s soaring rate of gender violence.

The “Day Without Us” strike was staged to highlight the more than 1,000 women and children murdered in Mexico last year.

“This is what a society without women would look like,” said Jorge Luna, 21, an employee at a chain of cafes where only male customers and staff were present on Monday.

Few women could be seen walking or driving through the center of the capital, waitresses abandoned cafes and restaurants to their male counterparts and female teachers and office workers for the most part stayed at home. “Parents, be informed

that female personnel are joining this national strike by women,” read a sign posted outside one school in Mexico City. Many schools remained shut as a result, while female students boycotted university lectures. Elsewhere, women who had chosen to work wore a purple ribbon or garment, in solidarity with the nationwide campaign against gender violence.

In Mexico City center, a woman cleaned the glass windows of a cafe bearing the sign in support of the strike that read: “We stand with those who make us giants.” The country’s biggest daily newspapers featured purple-colored pages. Spaces normally allotted to pieces by women columnists were empty or filled with the phrase: “A day without them.” — AFP ■

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M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (178 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (178 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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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.

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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
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AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (889N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (889N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

NEWS
In BRIEF

S Korea reports cluster infection case in Seoul, total tops 7,500

SEOUL — South Korean health authorities reported a cluster infection case that broke out at a call center in Seoul with 50 people testing positive for the new coronavirus, in what local media called the largest known case of its kind in the country's capital.

Forty-six of them are workers at the call center in southeastern Seoul and the remaining four are family members, while 207 other people who work on the same floor are being tested, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. The ministry added that it will also check whether the latest cluster infection case has any relation with a religious group, Shincheonji Church of Jesus, to which most of the cases from the southeastern city of Deagu were linked. — Kyodo News ■

Thailand reports 3 new COVID-19 cases, 53 in total

BANGKOK — Thailand's Ministry of Public Health reported three more COVID-19 cases, all Thai nationals, on Tuesday, raising the total confirmed cases in the country to 53.

The first case was a 41-year-old woman, who came into close contact with a patient and a couple, who have recently returned from Italy.

The woman was the 51st patient in Thailand who reportedly has no travel history to other countries but the health ministry said she came into close contact with the 45th patient, who was receiving treatment at a Thai hospital in Chon Buri Province at the eastern Gulf of Thailand coast.

She developed a fever on 7 March and sought medical treatment and is currently being treated in a hospital in Bangkok, according to the ministry. —Xinhua ■

Rights groups condemn 10-year jail term for Vietnam blogger

HANOI (Viet Nam) — The jailing of a Vietnamese blogger for 10 years was condemned by rights-groups Tuesday as “unacceptable” and an attack on free speech.

Truong DuyNhat, a regular contributor to Radio Free Asia, was found guilty in a brief trial Monday of defrauding the public of \$560,000 when he worked for a state-owned newspaper in the central city of Danang in 2004, state media said.

Describing the sentence as “harsh and totally unacceptable”, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called for the “immediate release” of Nhat who had posted articles critical of the government on his blog.

RSF ranked Vietnam 176th on its 2019 World



Vietnamese blogger Truong DuyNhat was a regular contributor to Radio Free Asia and a critic of the government. PHOTO: AFP

Press Freedom Index as one of the world's biggest jailers of journalists and bloggers.

“Officially convicted

of abusing his professional position, he is in fact paying dearly for his professionalism,” said Daniel Bastard, RSF’s Asia-Pa-

cific director.

Radio Free Asia also condemned the conviction as “unjust” and “a blow against free speech and

free expression.”

All media in Vietnam is state-run and independent journalism and bloggers are banned.

Since its hardline leadership took power in 2016, the country's single-party state has tightened its grip on criticism and different viewpoints.

This is Nhat's second prison stint. He was jailed for two years in 2014 for “abusing democratic freedoms” for critical blog postings.

He was discovered in a Vietnamese prison in March last year after fleeing to Thailand seeking refugee status with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The circumstances of Nhat's return to Vietnam were never clarified by Hanoi.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (083 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (083 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-3-2020 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC PLATA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BBC PLATA VOY. NO. (1029048) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Kabushiki Kaisha PFU (PFU LIMITED), a company incorporated under the laws of Japan, which is located at 98-2, Nu, Unoke, Kahoku-shi, ISHIKAWA, Japan, is the owner of the following trademarks:

ScanSnap

Reg. Nos. 31018/2019

In respect of Class 9: Scanners; Computer software for scanning images; Blank CD-ROMs; Blank CD-Rs; Blank DVD-ROMs; Blank DVD-Rs; Blank removable flash memories; Computers.

fi

Reg. Nos. 31019/2019

In respect of Class 9: Scanners [data processing equipment]; Photocopying machines and computer printers.

SP

Reg. Nos. 31020/2019

In respect of Class 9: Scanners [data processing equipment]; computer; computer software for scanners [data processing equipment]; photocopying apparatus; printers for use with computers; image scanners; computer programs (downloadable software).

In respect of Class 42: Design, development and maintenance of programs for computers; technological advice relating to computers; automobiles and industrial machines; computer rental; providing computer programs; computer programming; rental of computer software.

Kabushiki Kaisha PFU (PFU LIMITED) claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. Kabushiki Kaisha PFU (PFU LIMITED) reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)

For Kabushiki Kaisha PFU (PFU LIMITED)

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 11th March, 2020



TOYOTA plant under construction in Thilawa Special Economic Zone - B. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

By Kyaw Htike Soe

FDI worth US\$ 1.92 billion injected into Thilawa SEZ

1 15 foreign companies from 19 countries have pumped US\$ 1.92 billion into Thilawa Special Economic Zone as of early February this year, according to the Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Working Body. A total of 81 factories have started commercial operations in Thilawa SEZ with an investment amount of US\$ 1.92 billion, said an official from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign

Economic Relations.

“The investment proposals were approved and permitted in accordance with the Special Economic Zone Law,” he added. A total of 115 foreign enterprises have been permitted to operate their businesses in Thilawa SEZ, with around 40 businesses came from Japan

and 27 firms from Singapore. Most of the investment came to industrial, transport, real estate and hotels and tourism sectors. As part of efforts to expand Thilawa SEZ, approximately 200 hectares of land are being reclaimed, said an official from Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Ltd. Sales of land

plots in Zone A and Zone B of Thilawa SEZ are expected to be finalized by 2021. So far 99 % of land plots in Zone A and about 50 % in Zone B have already been sold out, according to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Japan’s auto giant Toyota Motor Corp has set up an

automotive assembly plant on 21 hectares of land in Thilawa SEZ in the suburbs of Yangon and the new factory is expected to produce 2,500 Hilux pick-up trucks per year starting from 2021. More than half of the foreign companies operating in Thilawa SEZ came from Japan. Japan topped the list of foreign investors in Thilawa SEZ, accounting for around 37 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. Majority of foreign firms in Thilawa SEZ are from South Korea, Hong Kong, UK, Australia, Malaysia, and China. A new four-lane tarred road from Thanlyan to Thilawa SEZ was built with Ks. 50 billion and the upgrade works of the tarred road has been completed 100 per cent.

The Thanlyan-Thilawa SEZ tarred road is 5 miles and 4 furlongs long, 46 ft wide and has drainage system on each side of the road. The Bago River crossing bridge (Thanlyan Bridge No-3) is under construction with the Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans from Japan. The new bridge measuring 1,982 meters in length is being built in three phases by spending some US\$ 300 million



Myarnak Company Limited at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone - A. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co Ltd plant at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone- A on the outskirts of Yangon. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**



SCI Metall Tech Myanmar Co., Ltd. at the Thilawa Special Economic (SEZ). **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**



The No. 1 entrance gate of Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ). **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**

of Japanese ODA loans. Once completed, the new facility will facilitate better flows of goods to Thilawa SEZ. In addition, commodities produced in Thilawa SEZ can be transported to different townships in Yangon Region in a rapid manner. Given its strategic location, Thilawa SEZ offers great opportunities

for foreign investors and is regarded as the most successful economic zone in Myanmar.

Located on outskirts of Yangon, Thilawa SEZ is Myanmar's first special economic zone and had become fully operational since September 2015. The governments of Myanmar and Japan have agreed

to jointly create the special economic zone covering an area of approximately 2400 hectares of land. Investment businesses in Thilawa SEZ include producing textile, construction materials, cement, foodstuff, fertilizers, agricultural equipment and vehicles.



Wave Money launches seamless payment gateway with 2C2P

WAVE Money, the leading mobile financial service (MFS) in Myanmar on 21 February, 2020 announced its partnership with global payments platform 2C2P to deliver seamless and convenient online payments services for WavePay users nationwide. The two parties signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

With the 2C2P partnership, Wave Money strengthens the WavePay platform as a safe, seamless and systematic mobile payment application. At the same time, it marks the Myanmar MFS leader's expansion into the merchants across airline, hotels and other retail community.

"The fintech boom has made it easier than ever for people around the world to make digital payments. Our tie-up with 2C2P means that millions of WavePay users will benefit from greater access to seamless, safe and convenient digital financial services," said Brad Jones, CEO of Wave Money. 2C2P is a global payments platform helping businesses securely accept payments across online, mobile and in-store channels. The company has dual headquarters in Bangkok and Singapore and operates

across Southeast Asia, North Asia, Europe and the US. It is the preferred payments platform provider of regional airlines, travel companies and global retailers.

"WavePay customers will be connected to 2C2P's merchants, from airlines to major retailers. Together with Wave Money, we are delighted to fast track the adoption of digital payments in the region," said Aung Kyaw Moe, Founder & Group CEO of 2C2P.

WavePay customers can now make direct purchase for goods and services conveniently with their WavePay app.

"WavePay today stands out as a convenient and secure electronic payment service in Myanmar. Through the 2C2P network and their partnered merchants, we are taking an important step into making our Myanmar customers digital payment journey better than ever," added Brad.

Wave Money is a pioneer in driving digital financial inclusion in Myanmar and continuing its expansion to support consumers and businesses. To date, there are over 17 million people in Myanmar using Wave Money's secure and reliable platform for remittances, utility payments, airtime purchase or top-ups, and various digital payments. —GNLM



Officials pose for documentary photo after signing ceremony. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

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Shan United beaten by Tampines Rovers 1-2 in away match

MYANMAR National League football club Shan United suffered a 1-2 loss against Singaporean club Tampines Rovers in the group stage match of the AFC Cup 2020 yesterday at the Jurong West Stadium in Singapore.

The goals for the Singaporean team were scored by Kopitovic at the 55th minute and Web at the 71st minute. The lone goal for Shan United was scored by Hein Phyo Win at the 90+1st minute.

This was the third Group F match for both teams. In the last two matches, Shan United was defeated by Kaya-Iloilo 0-2 and PSM Makassar 1-3, while Tampines Rovers beat PSM Makassar 2-1 and managed a scoreless draw against Kaya-Iloilo.

In another match of Group H yesterday, Indonesian club PSM Makassar tied with Filipino club Kaya-Iloilo 1-1 at the Gelora Bung Karno Madya Stadium in Jakarta.

So far, Tampines Rovers are leading the standing table of Group H with seven points, followed by Kaya-Iloilo with five points, PSM Makassar with four points, and Shan United with no points.

The next matches for Shan United in Group H will be against Tampines Rovers on 15 April at the Thuwunna Stadium, Kaya-Iloilo on 28 April at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, Manila, and PSM Makassar on 12 May at the Thuwunna Stadium. — Kyaw Khin



Players of Shan United (red) and Tampines Rovers (black) vie for the ball near the goal of Tampines Rovers club at the Jurong West Stadium in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNL**



Players of Yangon United FC and Singaporean club Hougang United vie for the ball at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 10 March. **PHOTO: MNL**

Yangon United beat Hougang United 1-0 on home ground

MYANMAR National League football club Yangon United beat Singaporean club Hougang United by 1-0 in the group stage match of the AFC Cup 2020 yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The goal for Yangon United F.C. was scored by Than Paing at the 81st minute.

This was the third Group F match for both teams. In the last two matches, Yangon United tied

with Ho Chi Minh City 2-2 and beat Lao Toyota 3-2, while Hougang United beat Lao Toyota 3-1 and was defeated by Ho Chi Minh City 2-3.

The next matches for Yangon United in Group F will be against Hougang United F.C. at the Jurong West Stadium in Singapore on 15 April, Ho Chi Minh City at the Thong Nhat Stadium, Ho Chi Minh City on 29 April, and Lao Toyota at the New Laos National

Stadium in Vientiane on 13 May.

In another match of Group F yesterday, Ho Chi Minh City beat Lao Toyota 2-0 at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane.

So far Ho Chi Minh City is leading the standing table of Group F with seven points from two wins, one draw, and three goal difference, followed by Yangon United with the same points and two goal difference. — Kyaw Khin

Myanmar head coaches select players for international games

THE Myanmar men's national football team head coach Antoine Hey and U-22 men's football team coach Velizar Popov have released the preliminary player lists for their teams for international tournaments, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. Head coach Antoine Hey has selected a total of 23 footballers, and the training sessions for the players will be conducted from 12 to 21 March at the City Star Hotel in Yangon. Though the national team was scheduled to participate in the FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup qualification, the matches have been postponed due to COVID-19, in accordance with instructions from FIFA and AFC.

The 23 players selected on the men's national football team are: goalkeepers Kyaw Zin Htet (Yangon United), Kyaw Zin Phyo (Ayeyawady United), and Pyae Hlyan Aung (Yadanarbon F.C.), defenders Hein Thiha Zaw (Shan United), Zaw Ye Tun (Yadanarbon F.C.), David Htan (Shan

United), Thein Than Win (Yangon United), Kyaw Zin Lwin (Ayeyawady United), Nanda Kyaw (Shan United), Ye Yint Aung (Yadanarbon F.C.), Htike Htike Aung (Yangon United) and Nyein Chan (Shan United), midfielders Zin Phyo Aung (Zwekapin United), Maung Maung Lwin (Yangon United), Lwin Moe Aung (Yangon United), Hline Bo Bo (Yadanarbon F.C.), Yan Naing Oo (Shan United), Htet Phyo Wai (Shan United), Myo Ko Tun (Yadanarbon F.C.) and Maung Maung Win (Yangon United), and forwards Aung Thu (Yadanarbon F.C.), Than Paing (Yangon United), and Pyae Moe (Magway F.C.).

Meanwhile, head coach Velizar Popov has selected 25 players on the squad for the 2021 SEA Games and international tournaments. They will be trained from 11 to 20 March at the YTC Stadium in Yangon. The list of players has been made available on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Football Federation. — Kyaw Khin

Football in Spain, France goes behind closed doors as virus spreads

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Football matches in the top two divisions in Spain and France will be played behind closed doors for at least the next two weeks, officials announced Tuesday, following the decision by Italy's government to suspend top-flight games until April 3 due to the coronavirus epidemic.

German football also felt the effects of the deadly virus, which has killed more than 4,000 people worldwide, with fans barred from two Bundesliga games as well as the national team's March 31 friendly at home to Italy.

La Liga said fixtures in Spain's top two tiers will go ahead in front of empty stands for the next fortnight following a decision that sporting events in the country at state and international level should be played without fans to limit the spread of the virus.



Barcelona and Real Madrid will play their next two games in La Liga behind closed doors. **PHOTO: AFP**

"According to information from the High Sports Council (CSD), La Liga Santander and La Liga Smart-Bank matches will be played behind closed doors from today and for at least the next two weeks," a La Liga statement read. — AFP ■