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State Counsellor meets with locals in Dabayin, Shwebo townships



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local people in Dabayin, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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, held meetings with locals in Dabayin and Shwebo townships of Sagaing Region yesterday.

Her entourage included Union Ministers U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Win

Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

First, the State Counsellor held a meeting with local people at the sports ground in Dabayin Township.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said, "First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you, my dear people of Dabayin, for your warm

welcome. I am sorry I have no chance to shake hands with you. We have the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health against handshakes for the sake of the quarantining the Coronavirus. So please excuse me for not shaking hands with you for the sake of the safety of all of us. This doesn't mean I don't want to make close contact with my dear people.

In such a public gathering, I make sure that every one of you

is here out of your will, and not by force. When we want to dispatch a matter out of our own will, we are to participate and take our own responsibility. So, if we want to make progress in our country, it all starts with every individual taking individual responsibility. This is the most important step for all of us.

We all want democracy purely because we want to create our own destiny and build our own

life. For this purpose, it is very important for each of us to be a person who deserves such an opportunity. If you don't want others to keep control of you, you must start training yourself in the habit of self-control. That is why, wherever I visit, and meet my people personally, I always urge you to be disciplined, value yourself, and consider things about your own community and your society.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues voting on proposals for constitutional amendment

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW voted on amending provisions of 15 subsections and sections of the 2008 Constitution on its 20th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday.

The second day of amendment voting was participated by 635 MPs, while 19 lawmakers were on leave.

Amendment proposals for the single paragraph (c) of Section 59 were submitted by the two lawmakers MPU Sai Than Naing and U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein. Both proposals secured only 214 and 415 supporting votes, failing to pass 75 per cent that is required for the amendment process.

Moreover, proposals for amendment of paragraph (d) of Section 59 won 415 supporting votes, 393 votes for paragraph (f) of Section 59, 412 votes for paragraph (b) of Section 109, 412 votes for paragraph (b) of Sec-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes its 20th day meeting of 15th regular session yesterday. PHOTO: HTAN PHON

tion 141, 414 votes for paragraph (d) of Section 161, 213 votes for Section 201, 411 votes for adding provisions into sub-paragraph (g-1) of Section 201, 411 votes for

sub-paragraph (g-2) of Section 201, 409 votes for annulment of paragraph (k) of Section 201, 216 votes for adding provisions into paragraph (a) of Section 201, 226

votes for paragraph (c) of Section 248, 413 votes for Section 294, 408 votes for Section 410 and 410 votes for paragraph (b) for Section 411 did not cross the 75 per cent for

amendment.

The third series of amendment voting will be held today.—Aung Ye Thwin and Aye Aye Thant
(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chairman receives Canadian Ambassador



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Mr François Lafrenière in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Mr François Lafrenière in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting in UEC headquarters, they discussed

preparations for successful holding of 2020 General Election, ensuring accurate voter lists, progress of capacity building courses for electoral commissions, formation of dispute settlement and security

committees, voting rights for internally displaced persons from armed conflicts and migrant workers and prevention of hate speeches and false news on social media platforms.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Consumer rights campaign aimed to promote labeling commodities

THE Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce launched a campaign to encourage labeling requirements for the businesses at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint presided over the meeting and explained the Consumer Protection Law which was enacted on 15 March 2019, and it includes a chapter of labeling requirements for commodities. The campaign is intended to push producers for compulsory labeling their goods, to encourage the consumers be-

ing aware of labels on the commodities and to make suitable choice for the goods.

The six-week campaign will include broadcasting short films about consumer rights on state-owned media and social networks.

Complaints about consumer rights can be filed at district, states and regional offices of Consumer Information and Complaint Centres under the Department of Consumer Affairs, its website <https://www.doca.gov.mm>, mobile application DOCA Myanmar and Facebook page.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

910,273 students sit for Myanmar subject on first day of matriculation exam

A total of 910,273 students sat for Myanmar subject at 15 overseas and 1,984 local exam centres on the first day of 2020 matriculation exam yesterday.

Among these students, 45 were inpatient students at the hospitals, 30 with visual impairments, 22 with hearing impairments, 177 with other disabilities, 191 inmates and 125 in Myawady Township of Kayin State.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09-251022355

State Counsellor meets with local people in Dabayin

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Only if we have been trained in the habit of being considerate to the other members of our community can our country have a chance to make progress. If you join an organization, for example, a scout association or a political party or an organization, because you join it out of your own will, you are required to follow the policies and rules of that particular organization.

What is the main point to consider is the aim and objectives of an organization. As the citizens of a country, this may lead you to consider what road the citizens want their country to take. Each and every individual must take it seriously, and understand it very well, and strive to the best of their abilities so that we can march forward straight. I often stress that it is through the individual's efforts combined with the collective strength of the people that our country will be able to make progress.

I would recall what my father said during the post-war period, before Myanmar regained her independence. Because our country had suffered severely during the wartimes, if we want to keep abreast with the other countries, we must set ourselves running while the other countries are walking. Now we have the same situation. Our country has been included among the least developed nations in Southeast Asia. So if we want to catch up with the world, we must set ourselves running. If, however, we walk as the others do, we'd be lagging behind. For example, we want to upgrade our education so we have made great efforts. Within these four years, our universities



Local people gather outside the main meeting hall listening to the speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the LED screen in Dabayin yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

have better ranking in the world. This shows signs of progress, but if compared with the universities of ASEAN countries, our ranking goes low. This means the other ASEAN countries have set themselves running faster than we do. No wonder, their ranking goes higher, and regionally, our ranking remains lower. So I said, we must make greater efforts.

One thing I often draw your attention to is a wealthy family is not the same as a poor family. When coming back home from school, the children of a wealthy family find the dinner table already laid. On the other hand, the children of the poor family have to help their parents first. Ours is like the latter case. If we want to make progress, we must make contributions of our own. And this is a good chance for you to be proud of yourself. Never adopt a negative attitude that we have to work very hard, but the positive attitude that we were born to do something for our country, that we have the privi-

lege of contributing towards the progress of our country, that we have the citizens endowed with such special chances.

As for me, having a chance to work hard for our country is a thing of pride for us. We make our own decision, and out of our own will, we contribute towards the progress of our country, which is a great source of satisfaction and bliss for all of us. So I want the inclusiveness of all in this mission. During my visits all over the country, the local people's support and encouragement are very important, but such support shouldn't be a sort of blind support to us. That is why we hold public meeting so that our people will have a chance to get to know what the government is doing while the people will have a chance to discuss with us and make proposals. We must have a chance to hear your needs, your expectations and your worries that you express openly. That is why we always welcome your questions.

If it turns out that we have no more time left for discussion, you still have a chance to send your complaints to the section of complaints. Please feel free to mention your name, your address and the statements that you want to inform us. You must mention your name and your address so that we can respond. Another reason is that you must have a brave heart to speak out what you think is right. You don't need to hide your identity. If you are saying the right thing, you must not fail to mention your name and your address. So please mention your name and address. You can make contact with us. Mentioning your name and address means you stand bravely for what you believe is right.

During our visit to Dabayin, the local people may forward questions and proposals, but we must consider if these are local issues or the issues related to our country. The latter cases are usually the supply of drinking water, road transportation, electricity

supply, healthcare services, and the sector of education, and very often, the issues of land ownership, ownership of the cultivated lands, and transfer to the rightful ownership.

In fact, these are the issues common throughout the country, and I would like to inform our people that we are trying our best to sort them out. For example, the supply of drinking water. It is the most important case for our people. Those living in shortage of drinking water know the troubles very well. So we have given priority to fulfilling the need of the sufficient supply of drinking water throughout the country.

Another important sector is road transportation. That's what we all want, what we all need. It is very important for the regional development, as well as for the sectors of health and education. Going to school or hospital would be a problem if there is no good road transportation. The consequences could be many.

I think I don't need to exaggerate the need for electricity. We want to make sure our people get the electricity supply. One point I often point out is that electricity doesn't merely mean just switching on the light at night. More than that. Electricity must guarantee that our people have a greater right to create our own destiny and build our own life.

I don't think I need to stress the importance of health and education. But what draws my attention these days is the people forward more cases of healthcare, and the forwarded cases are not merely related to fundamental healthcare, but the needs for advanced healthcare. This, we assume, implies that our country has more or less made progress in fundamental healthcare. I remember that two or three years ago the cases forwarded by the local people were related to fundamental healthcare.

To sum up, I realize, therefore, that our public gatherings like this truly reflect the changes taking place in our country. We always welcome the matters, related to the needs of our country, that you forward to us. I would like you to come up with the questions, as well as proposals, that are not self-centred, not directed to personal interests, but regionally oriented, for the sake of local needs, for the sake of the interests of our community, for the sake of national needs.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo with children at the meeting with locals in Dabayin. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor meets with local people in Shwebo

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After the speech of State Counsellor, local people reported on upgrades of road, rural clinics, school, irrigation tunnels, electrification, school building, cancelling collection of vendor charges, compensation for confiscated lands, return of seized land plot, land disputes, complaint against court judgment, reconstruction of township market, and legal actions of Anti-Corruption Commission against local departmental officials.

The State Counsellor, the Union Ministers and local officials responded to the questions raised during the discussions and gave advice and comments to ensure coordination.

After the discussions, the State Counsellor said, “We got to know the hopes, worries and issues concerning our citizens. And we were able to see the shortcomings of our people at the same time. In developing a nation, we cannot merely view things from an optimistic perspective. We need to be aware of our shortcomings and think of ways to amend them as well.”

“I notice that residents of

as much as we do to our own.”

“I admire the fact that people in Dabayin are quite enthusiastic. But enthusiasm has the potential to be both beneficial and detrimental. Enthusiasm that is genuine and properly harnessed can be a strong driving force for national development. But using it to fulfill the sole needs of yourself or your community can have more negative consequences.”

“That is why I want to remind the enthusiastic people of Dabayin to always think about the benefit of the nation. I want everyone to think of what each of you can provide or undertake for transforming our Republic of Myanmar into a genuine democratic republic.”

“If you are capable of making reports concerning your benefits, then there is potential for you to excel in processes that benefit everyone. I urge all of you to use your skills mainly for the benefit of the nation and I wish for peace and prosperity on all of Dabayin.

Next, the State Counsellor and party proceeded to Shwebo Township by helicopters.

During the meeting with local people at the city hall, the

lar problems but different issues as well. We have to talk to the people the same things in one place, however, we have to give information differently in another place. This time I have to say the health issue as a priority. Why? The reason is that it's a critical issue for our country. You all know that the COVID-19 disease has been spreading across the world. We haven't found any confirmed cases yet in our country. Apart from just a few patients being under quarantine and treatment, I'm not sure what the results will be. We need to have a very cautious measure not to let the infectious disease spread in our country. Hands to hands are the easiest way to get infected with the disease. We all need to wash hands with hygienic gel and avoid shaking hands with each other. We need to say again the people should take good care of themselves but shouldn't stay without precaution.

“We need to understand one another. Understanding enables us comfortable with each other. I've learned it. Discipline in one place is not the same as in another one when we meet



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at the meeting with local people in Shwebo. **PHOTO: MNA**



Local people in Shwebo attend the meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dabayin are quite eloquent. This has its advantages but I urge you to also consider keeping things short and to the point. This will allow other people more opportunities as well. If you spend ten minutes for yourself, then it will end in about five people losing their two to three minutes to talk. You need to consider this.”

“We need to consider the matters of other people and issues in addition to our own as we establish a democratic nation. We cannot focus just on our own matters. We need to be considerate of other people as well. We need to value the needs of other people

State Counsellor said, “I'm very much delighted to come to Shwebo, a land of victory. I'd like to express many thanks for your warm welcome. We came here not to talk about instructions but to create 'give and take' information exchange among one another during our journey to reach out to the people. In the same way, we as a Government have an opportunity to get the people informed. Therefore, I consider this as a 'give and take' information exchange programme between the people and their government.

“We went to one place after another to find out not only simi-

with locals. Some audiences are strictly disciplined. Yet, some may have been more active than disciplined. Whatever it is, we need to realign the balance. We need to have both the discipline and activism. That's why all can participate to develop our country.

“When I meet with the people I do exercise 'give and take' exchange of views all the time – learning from them and giving information to them at the same time. We've convinced how we, as a Government, have to fulfill them whenever the people have been raising their requirements and proposals. I've noted that people

may have a lack of understanding of legal issues, especially the laws and directives on ownership of lands. We are planning an easy-to-understand programme for the people in this regard. We need to understand legal affairs to ensure a rule of law. Our people try to understand first what the laws are for.

“The main feature of the laws is for peace and stability in the community. The same basic principle we can see is in the ownership of lands. Two persons supposedly own the land. Their conflict may have turned to violence such as a fight with fists

or knives. Instead, they need to resolve their problem legally. It's more appropriate for one another. Laws are enacted in this way. Laws aren't right forever. It is the people that have invented to enact the laws. Human beings are drafting and enforcing laws.

“We should change the laws if necessary. Sometimes, we have to abrogate the laws. We have to substitute the laws where necessary. In this way, we need to get the laws live up to the circumstances. To enforce the laws is correlated to the current situations. Their existence may have ended if they aren't suitable for the necessities of the people. We have the laws of land ownership to hand over the confiscated lands to original owners as well as the virgin soil and uncultivated land to private owners.

“The laws are many and varied. It is the Hluttaw, a legislative pillar, that drafts, enacts and makes them enforced. So the Hluttaw has been taking the leading role to ensure the rule of law upon the people.

“The Government takes the administrative pillar. It has to perform day to day State affairs. It has to implement the matters of the State. In so doing, it has to

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do under the rule of law without breaching them. Here I want to quote 'Nobody is above the law'. Even however minor individuals in the country can't be above the law. Any pity and privilege can't be considered upon them. Courts may have taken into account 'sympathy' upon them. Only following the laws without any sympathy on the people may turn to extremes and toughness upon the people as a saying goes 'Sympathy can uphold the righteousness of the laws'. If we allow them forgiveness with extra-sympathy, we can't control them in order under the rule of law even leading to anarchy status. The stability and security of the people can be disrupted in an anarchic country. The Government, an administrative pillar, has to carry out the laws enacted by the Hluttaw. The administration itself shall have to abide by these laws.

"Another one is the judicial pillar. It is basically to decide what is right and what is wrong according to the laws, through the courts. The laws may have different interpretations. The courts and judges shall have to hear the cases based on those different interpretations of the laws. They have to decide which side is

right. We need to accept the fact that all the decisions made by the judges at the courts are correct and right. Judges may err since they're simply human beings. There are the appeal cases at upper courts or supreme court because the decisions of lower courts may have been wrong. The highest court or supreme court has to make final decisions. This is the rule of law.

"If we ask a question: 'Is there any corruption in the judicial pillar?' The answer is yes even around the world. We need to control it. To do this, our people take the most important role. We have attained these three pillars with people's wisdom and mindset. They need to carry on in the right way since all dignitaries of these three pillars are simply from the people.

"That's why we all are the people wherever they're with the Hluttaw, the judicial pillar, judges and legal officers, etc. They might be right. They might be wrong. All should try their best. We all do our best from the beginning. What I want to mean 'since we are young'.

"You see the children in the front row. They should have the correct mindset. With this, they dare to do the right thing. It's not enough. They shouldn't be inde-

cisive to do the right thing by giving the reasons for laziness or fear or hardship or difficulty. They need to decide what should they do in the right way. That's education.

"So people should learn to develop our country. They need to ask themselves how they can do to give their best to the country. They don't need to look around. When we went to some places the people asked us whether the government is doing this and that, etc. We accepted their questions and thank you all for reminding us of our benefits. It is part of our dignity. However, people shouldn't forget that they also need to involve in certain things. Their participation is also very important.

"Our people should try hard to be good citizens of our country. I also believe in you. I'm confident that people can do their best. We should hand over good legacies to the next generation.

"We have the present moment. We own it according to an intelligentsia. So we should need to decide how to use the right moment to improve and develop our country and the people."

After the speech, the local people discussed requirement of rural clinics, compensations for confiscated lands,

land permits, illegal fish breeding ponds, electrification, needs for fire engines and water bowsers, new school buildings, land disputes, renovation of a bridge and the constitution amendment process.

The State Counsellor, the Union Ministers and local government officials responded to the discussions.

She also advised the locals to learn about the global outbreak of COVID-19 on newspapers and media platforms of the Ministry of Information as the death toll from this virus has reached to hundreds even in developed countries.

She finally made a wish for peace and wellbeing of the local people.

The State Counsellor instructed the administrative officials to reply to the remaining 26 questions of the local people on health, transportation and land disputes.

She also visited Aung Myay (Victory Land) pagoda in Shwebo Township, and offered flowers, water, lights and gold leaves as robes to the Buddha image. Then, she made wishes at the Victory Land of the pagoda.

The State Counsellor and party arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—MNA (Translated by AungthuYa, Dr Zaw Tun, Aung Khin)

National Water Resources Committee gets closer to finalizing national water bill



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses NWRC first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC), addressed the committee's first coordination meeting of the year at Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He first reminded that these meetings aim to develop all sectors related or affiliated to water resources and to effectively manage them. He said these meetings have proven effective in resolving water-related issues and for coordinating with ministries and organizations involved in water resources.

In addition, the meetings have advanced preparations for

the annual floods during the monsoon season and droughts in the summer, said the Vice President. He said they were working closely with related ministries and organizations to find mid-term and long-term solutions in reducing floods and water shortages.

The Vice President said that as summer was approaching once more, concerned ministries, organizations and state/regional governments must work together to prepare for shortages of drinking and irrigation water.

He instructed annual promotion of tree-planting to preserve catchment area and the natural environment, and for

concerned authorities to properly monitor against careless disposal of waste, dirty water or contaminated liquid from factories into rivers and other natural bodies of water.

The Vice President said the committee's task force has endeavoured for the emergence of a national water law and a draft has been compiled in English with a Myanmar version in progress. He said as part of the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Project, funded with loans from the World Bank, the office of NWRC and a hydro informatic center has begun construction in December 2019.

The Vice President said that as a substantial amount of the national budget is used in developing the water sector and its related components, everyone concerned should be vigilant in ensuring the projects were beneficial for the entire population, completed in time with minimal wastage, and with a vision that encompassed all river basins.

Next, the Vice Chairman of NWRC, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, explained processes for developing the water sector, implementing the materialization of a national water law, completed and ongoing

processes related to decisions from the committee's previous meeting, preparations for the expected annual floods and droughts, conserving rivers and natural bodies of water, and preventing water pollution.

This was followed by other committee members and attendees explaining and reporting on their relevant assigned duties. The Vice President then responded to the discussions and urged everyone to continue their hard work in developing the water sector and livelihoods of all people connected to it.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Ministry of Information holds meeting for voter education

A coordination meeting on disseminating voter education, in regard to the upcoming multi-party General Elections of 2020, was organized at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, Union Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint, delivered the opening address.

This was followed by Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung explaining the television and radio broadcasting preparations for the disseminating voter education.

Next, officials from the Information and Public Relations Department, Printing and Publishing Department, and News and Periodicals Enterprise explained the respective preparations assigned to their departments.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun then pro-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting to organize voter education programme at the Ministry of Information. **PHOTO: MNA**

vided suggestions on the voter education programme.

Afterwards, the Union Minister discussed adhering to the media-related directives set by

the Union Election Commission, ensuring the songs related to the election, educational programmes and interviews interesting, and making preparations

for them to be ready as early as possible. He then delivered the closing speech and concluded the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

More buses to run for students' convenience on exam days



School children are seen in Yangon after the first day of the Matriculation Exam yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

By Nyein Nyein

MORE buses will be run during the examination period so students can reach schools conveniently, said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region

Transport Authority (YRTA).

He made the remarks at a media conference held yesterday at the YRTA office in Yangon.

"Traffic congestion has been occurring in the western and southern districts of Yangon

Region. So, buses are packed at the bottom of the bridge from the Thanlyin Township side in the Southern District. Moreover, the YRTA will also cooperate with the township traffic police to provide assistance to students," he added.

"In the Southern District, crossing the Thanlyin bridge conveniently in less time is important for students who go to school. So, our YRTA southern district team has already made a plan to ease traffic on Thanlyin bridge. We have planned what we will do when there is traffic congestion on the bridge and when a vehicle breaks down on the bridge. What we are doing is also making more vehicles operational. We have faced similar problems. If something goes wrong on the bridge, we will take

students from the other side of the bridge to their schools," said U Hla Aung.

For the convenience of students during exams, we held a meeting with vehicle owners to resolve traffic problems, keep more buses running, and supervise normal bus lines so they operate regularly, he added.

"During this time of examination, it is important for students to reach school on time. So, we are keeping back-up buses so students can take their exams without issues," said U Hla Aung.

The matriculation examination for the 2019-2020 academic year is being held from 11 to 20 March. So, back-up buses are being operated for students so they can reach the exam venue easily, according to the YRTA. (Translated by Hay Mar)

Students take first day of 2020 matric exam in Insein Prison

EIGHTY-five inmates of Insein Prison participated in the 2020 matriculation examinations which began yesterday.

The inmates included 78 students from Insein Prison's No.13 B.E.M.S. (Branch), two detainees, and five former inmates who returned to take the test at the prison's examination centre.

The examinees were closely taught by graduated inmate headmasters and teachers who have teaching experience outside, as well as by the Insein

Township Deputy Education Officer, teachers from government schools and volunteer educators.

Prison officials provided healthcare, free time for physical activities in the evening, and did not have the examinees carry out any other duties within the facility, which coordinates with the Ministry of Education to provide education to the inmates.

Insein Prison began organizing for inmates to take the matriculation examination in 2014



Students sitting for the matric exam in Insein Prison yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

for two examinees. Since then, the facility has organized examination center for 7 inmates in 2015, 11 in 2016, 9 in 2017, 19 in 2018, and 52 in 2019, with 36

outstanding graduates in total.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 10/2020

2nd Waning of Tabaung, 1381 ME
(10 March 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 7 March 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Daw Waine Khin who lives in Seinnan Village, Taze Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 4 March 2020, police searched the house of Daw Waine Khin, 48, daughter of U Lu Hein, who lives in Seinnan Village, Taze Township, and arrested her together with '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Saw Nyunt Win who lives in west Khontha Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 4 March 2020, police searched the farm hut of Saw Nyunt Win (a) Nyo Pu, 40, son of U Tun Yi, who lives in west Khontha Village, Kalay Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Myint Win who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 6 March 2020, police searched the house of Myint Win, 36, son of U Phe Ngway, who lives in west Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Anawyahta 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 streets in Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Tsp, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened five cases and arrested five men together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a motorcycle driven by Zaw Moe Lwin (a) Moe Nge, 45, son of U Kyi Aye, who lives in Padauk Shwewah Ward, on the Anawyahta Road, Aungthukha Ward on 6 March 2020. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets from him. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(pa)36/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Nay Min Thu (a) Thet Paing Soe, 32, son of U Min Din, who lives in Aungthukha Ward, together with speciosa on the Anawyahta road. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(pa)37/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Essamarbi who lives in No 2 Ward, Toungoo Township, Bago Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 March 2020, police searched the house of Essamarbi (a) Marlar Tun, 28, daughter of U Tun Tun Oo, who lives in No 2 Ward, Toungoo Township, and arrested her and other three people -- her brother Evrahim (a) Saing Zaw Tun, 19, Nay Naing Oo, 17, son of U San Pe, Bo Bo Thet Ko, 24, son of U San Lwin, who live in the same ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Toungoo) MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of U Nyo who lives in Kyauktan Sakhantaw, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 March 2020, police searched the house of U Nyo, 71, son of U Chit Maung, who lives in Kyauktan Sakhantaw, Thabeikkyin Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dagaung) MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township Mandalay Region.	Police have opened three cases and arrested four men and two women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Phoe Wai (a) Wai Min Tun, 30, son of U Kyaw Sein, who lives in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on 7 March 2020. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Dagoung) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Phyone Cho who lives in Kyatsakhan Village, Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 March 2020, police searched the house of Phyone Cho, 54, son of U Khway Pu, who lives in Kyatsakhan Village, Thazi Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Yinmabin) MaYa(pa)4/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

9.	Information received of Tun Myint who lives in Pawlawkyun Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 2 March 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Tun Myint, 39, son of U Htain Aung, who lives in Pawlawkyun Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, near Daungzayat traffic light, Zekyo Ward, Mawlamyine Township and arrested him together with 'WY' and 'R' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Mupun) MaYa(pa)13/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Shanlay who lives in Thuwunna Gha Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 1 March 2020, police searched the house of Shanlay (a) Kyaw Myint, 38, son of U Kyaw Thein, who lives in Thuwunna Ghang Ward, Thingangyun Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Thuwunna) MaYa(pa)13/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of Thukha Soe who lives in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 2 March 2020, police arrested Thukha Soe, 19, son of U Kyaw Lin, who lives in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets at the corner of Khayay St and B-11 St of the same ward. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dagonseikkan) MaYa(pa)14/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Min Toe who lives in No 9 Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 March 2020, police arrested Aye Min Tun (a) Aye Min, 32, son of U Maung Ohn, who lives in MR staff housing, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana on the Waizayandar Road, No 8 Ward, Mayangon Township. Acting on an interrogation, Aye Min Tun bought the drugs from Min Toe, 45, son of U Hla Shin, who lives in No 9 Ward. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mayangon) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a), 22(b) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Min Toe and arrested him and Yazar Phyo Oo, 27, son of U Thein Naing Oo, who lives in the same ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mayangon) MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13.	Information received of Maung Oo and Phoe Ngao who live in Taungni Village, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 March 2020, police searched the house of Maung Oo, 44, son of U Maung Maung, who lives in Taungni Village, Taunggyi Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Shwenyaung) MaYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Phoe Ngao (a) Aung Ko Oo, 28, son of U Myo Naing, who lives in the same village, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Shwenyaung) MaYa(pa)22/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1018 cases have been opened files as of 7 March 2020. A total of 1,564 people, including 1,308 men and 256 women had been arrested with 7673.3914g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,339.02166 g of opium, 661.27 g of low-quality opium, 53252.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 507,109 stimulant tablets, 10311.67 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts:

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Urgent need to finalize National Water Law to end summer shortage

THE summer of 2020 will be arriving soon, and it promises to bring searing heat to most parts of the country. The Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has been taking preparatory measures to supply drinking water to villages that are expected to face drought in the summer.

In a welcome step, the department has announced hotline numbers as part of efforts to quickly respond to a possible crisis.

Regional authorities and related governmental departments are advised to coordinate with each other to overcome the challenges in the agricultural sector and in the provision of safe drinking water, especially in rural areas.

The problem of water shortage, which strikes rural areas every year, has alerted us of the need to prepare not only short-term, but also mid-term and long-term solutions to resolve the crisis.

The problem of water shortage, which strikes rural areas every year, has alerted us of the need to prepare not only short-term, but also mid-term and long-term solutions to resolve the crisis.

cause water scarcity and pollution.

Every citizen, whether a child or an adult, must understand the value of water and we must make efforts to raise awareness on and conserve our water resources

All citizens must stop littering bodies of water and participate in reforestation activities.

Our water problems are different from those in the Southeast Asian region though we possess 16 per cent of all water resources in Southeast Asia and 12 per cent in Asia.

We do have a dry zone in the centre of the country. That has added diversity to the climate conditions in Myanmar and added to our water problems. To put it simply, we do not get enough water, when and where we need it, due to uneven distribution of rainfall, changing pattern of hydrological conditions, and climate change.

To put an end to the water crisis in our country, we all need to step up our efforts for drafting the National Water Law, which will supersede all the laws related with water.

Yangon National Library -- Where Urban and Literary Heritage Converge

By Thi Thi Minn,
Photo By Nay Linn

ESTABLISHED since 1908 in the heart of Yangon, exactly on the Merchant Street in Pabedan Township, a hundred years old building would soon become a sophisticated urbane modern documentation venue in the name of National Library (Yangon).

Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe of the Library said, "The structure is under renovation and repair for quite some time. Currently, collections and documentations are in progress. Task is almost completed about ninety per cent. It doors for the public would open in the first week of April."

Earlier, the National Library (Yangon) is given access to the public at 85 (A) on Thiri Mingalar Lane, (Off) Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. For much easier accessibility for the general public, U Htin Kyaw, Former President had directed on 27 July 2016 to move the library to 604/608 on Merchant Street in Pabedan Township.

With speed, the building under reference is taken up for renovation and refurbishment, with the original architectural design intact, under the good eyes of professionals from the Yangon Heritage Trust; the people from architect circle; the skilled persons from construction sector; and the librarians. The work had started to roll on 1 July 2017.

"Being one hundred years old building with Yangon Heritage Trust Classification, it has not taken up lightly to change into an instant library. With the evaluation



The children's corner at the National Library (Yangon).

of professionals and skillful persons, the structure has been taken up for renovation," Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe explained.

Standing tall, the four-storied building has two beautiful entrances. Each and every floor has been maintained in national heritage style and that the walls have been embedded with mottos with regards to the library.

"Knowledge and Human Resources is inseparable"

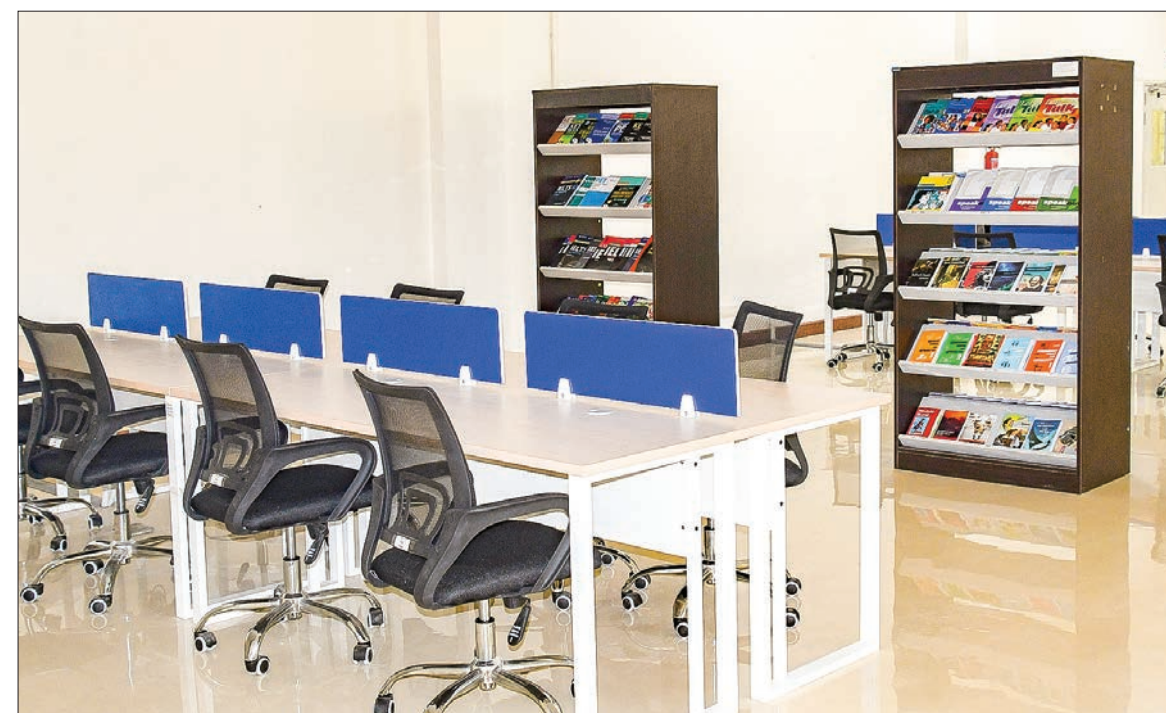
"Let us use library for extensive reading to broaden the knowledge horizons"

Valuable remarks of former United Nations Secretary General U Thant could be seen as follows.

"Reading makes the people developed, and that the developed people go on reading".

At the extraordinary reading room for the differently-abled, books on general knowledge, inspirational literature, an assortment of writings in Braille, and several voice files have been provided to users.

Flowers and festivals round the year Myanmar composed and written by ancient scholar Pho Thu Daw U Minn could be enjoyed as they are depicted on the wall in English and in Myanmar.



The National Library is renowned as the place of comprehensive collections of printed materials published in the country, manuscripts and rare publications.

are arranged for easy sitting and reading. The floor is filled with newspapers, journals, magazines printed and circulated within one year along with assortment of publications and books in English and in Myanmar presented in neat and systematic display in self browsing open-access shelves system.

"Shelf browsing is the act of finding books in a library by looking through the books on the shelves without consulting the catalogue first and without looking for any book in particular. One may just make a quick glance over the contents of the book", explained Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe.

What is more, the reference reading room on the second floor is furnished with varieties of books and documents on the topic Myanmar being written in Myanmar language as well as in the English language.

Publications undertaken by the government departments, books for learners in different ethnic languages, printed items released in different ethnic languages, the publications from the United Nations, books written about the nations of ASEAN, and printed materials written in different foreign languages.

Readers have the opportunity to enjoy the books at their own pace and liberty. However, the books and documents from the reference room are not permitted to take outside.

Moving ahead from the second floor, one can find the treasure of words presented in a most advanced, systematic and comprehensive manner.

Motley assortments of books and documents are there such as rare materials being preserved and maintained through successive eras published before 1948 ; the books and journals published before 1962; collections of Kinwun Min Gyi's literary works; collection of authoritative scholar Bagan Superintendent U Tin ; collections of Bernard Free Library; collections of Palm-leaf manuscripts; Para Beik collections; handwritten literatures; the first ever newspaper in Myanmar called Maulmain Chronicle; the Yadanabon Nay Pyi Taw newspapers printed during King Mindon era; copies of newspapers being circulated during successive eras; rare books; and journals.

The books upkeep at the National Library is accessible to the users as they have been systematically categorized and catalogued through modern techniques.

the library.

First floor presentation of the library

Equipped with modern facilities, the meeting and conference room for local event as well as foreign gathering with the capacity of 250 guests is being staged on the first floor.

Moreover, the Multi-Media Room with modern method of information gatherings is installed. The Multimedia Information System (MMIS) is a digital library system solely beneficial for the library users in getting international publications on wide-ranging subjects, various magazines, and research documents. Online data and information could be accessible along with self study for different languages.

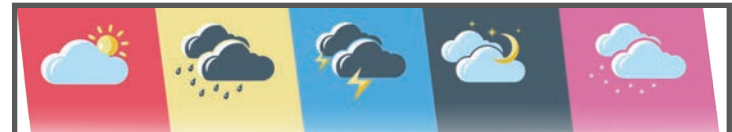
At the digital library, users are accessible to an online data base in addition to the collection of data and information collected from the National Library.

For those who wish to search data and information may have the opportunity at the digital library through online application. The room could accommodate (100) users.

The books upkeep at the National Library is accessible to the users as they have been systematically categorized and catalogued through modern techniques.

Arrangements at the second floor of the library

Welcoming the library users at the second floor is the general reading room, where cozy seats



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 11th March, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 12th March, 2020: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Northern Shan and Chin 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, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/ University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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SEE PAGE-10

Four state pillars discuss public access to information, media freedom

THE Ministry of Information hosted a meeting of representatives from four pillars of democracy at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presided over the meeting and made an opening remark.

The Union Minister explained objectives of the meeting to promote public access to information, to hold discussions between media personnel and the officials from administrative, the legislative and the judiciary sectors, to recognize the natures of different professions in promoting good governance and to review the results of previous meeting.

He also put emphasis on the

rights of media pillar to criticize individuals and organizations of the three pillars in line with the law, and expressed his expectation that the meeting could help media personnel in dealing with the remaining pillars.

Representatives from the Supreme Court of the Union, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Tatmadaw True News Information Team and the Ministry of Information discussed their works on release of information.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials made recommendations on the discussions.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made a closing remark on the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting with representatives from the four pillars of democracy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Quality local films to hit theatres next month

FOUR Myanmar films – ‘Acht Hnint Hti Yin Kwyay’, ‘Hnin Si Pan Thu’, ‘A Hlae’ and ‘Lu Kaung Lay Yae Nat Thamee’ - have been selected for screening at cinemas across Myanmar from 2 April to 14 May, 2020.

The selection was made at the meeting of the Myanmar Film Screening Coordination Committee held once every six weeks. The committee is organized by Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. In addition, the films ‘Gan-

gaw Ni’, ‘Lu Htae Ga Lu’, ‘Hnin Si See Chin’ and ‘Tha Ywee’ will be shown at cinemas of Mingalar Cinemas Group. Meanwhile, ‘A Soe Ma Ya Anouta’, ‘Leik Pyar Htaung Chauk’, ‘Kyar Hnint Sin’ and ‘Yin What Akhayar’ will be

playing at JCGV cinemas and Mega Ace cinemas.

The twelve films contain movies that passed the censor board between 2017 to 2020 and were selected based on a combination of the quality of the film

and movies that remained unselected from previous years.

There are currently 211 movie screens across the nation and Myanmar’s film industry is steadily improving.—Ni Ni Cho (FDC)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

National Library (Yangon): Where Urban Heritage and Literary Heritage blended

FROM PAGE-9

The original and substantive documents highly valuable for the researchers are systematically kept layer by layer in the room.

Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe continued, “The books are not permitted to take away from the room. They are to be read right here. Mostly, the information is converted into digital format could be available. In case if the researcher is in dire need to see the original documents, then the request could be complied.”

As precautionary measure, all the books and documents are recorded and registered through Radio Frequency Identification for security reason. They are not supposed to take away from the premises of the library.

Children friendly third floor

One of the attractions at the National Library (Yangon) is the children-friendly library room, being equipped with the intention for children friendly atmosphere and to nurture the kids with the reading habits since childhood.

The third floor is loaded with the books featuring cartoons, fairy tales, colorful paintings added up with colored sofa seating, displays of traditional dolls and toys. Moreover, the children story-

telling room is provided for the attraction of the kids, as welcoming gestures to the young.

With enthusiasm, Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe explained, “In making the kids happy and joyful and to make them friendly with the library, in addition to reading habits, we provided the kids with materials to play. We wanted them to have the feeling of regular visiting venue. The main aim is to make them friendly with the library and sowing the seed of reading habits.”

Reading room for persons with disabilities

It is indeed a rare setting to see a reading room for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at a library. After due consultation with the associations in the circle of disabilities, most valuable advice is being sought. Next, it is equipped with a reading room at the library for disabled persons with vision and hearing impaired.

At the extraordinary reading room for the disabled, the knowledge books, inspirational literature, assortments of writings featured in the format of Braille presentation, including various voice files, have been provided to the users. Surely, that particular reading room would fill the satisfaction of heart and soul to the disabled who loved to read.

With strong conviction, Daw Yee Yee

Htwe told, “In the initial stage, the associations working for the disabilities would lend hands in the reading campaign. For the visually impaired persons, the collections in Braille format included many inspirational books, the most popular book entitled Tway “Blood Bond” by Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay, tales and many other literature are collected and rendered as much as possible in the library.”

On this particular floor, spaces are designated for the postgraduate library diploma; the short term training courses; the private group-wise discussion special room.

As reading and coffee, goes hand in hand, a coffee shop is on the agenda at the rooftop with the panoramic bird’s eye view of Yangon and it’s surrounding.

Grand opening is on the agenda at the National Library (Yangon), and that the library is accessible independently to all citizens by showing Identification Card at the Information Desk.

Associate guest citizens and foreigners may require producing the Passports or the Identity Cards. Kids under the age of (12) are eligible to the library accompanied by a guardian.

The National Library (Yangon) is ready to serve with the best quality of offering to the readers with the collections of books, magazines, journals, palm-leaves

literature, Para Beiks, handwritten manuscripts, and rare collections at the library.

Moreover, a lot of books would be available to take away for home reading. Furthermore, the library would render best services to the researchers within the bind of existing library rules and regulations.

Endeavoring the best for 2020 April first week opening

Preparations and renovation for the opening of new National Library (Yangon) are almost completed. It is earmarked for the opening in the first week of April 2020.

In the historical and prestigious building that is listed in the Yangon National Cultural Heritage, with the time passage of over 100 years in the vicinity, a reader could be able to have access and relax in the most comfortable zone equipped with fully airconditioned rooms. One may enjoy good feeling in reading the literature, the culture, the historical heritages, and wide-ranging knowledge.

In conclusion, Director Daw Yee Yee Htwe of National Library (Yangon) winded up by saying, “The National Library represents the nation. There is no discrimination to the readers irrespective of age and educational qualification. All the readers are warmly welcomed to the Library”.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Jewellery traders facing cooling market due to COVID-19



The Jade Trading Centre in Mandalay packed with traders. **PHOTO: HTET HTAR NAING (IPRD)**

JEWELLERY traders from the Gems Trading Centre in Mahaungmye Township in Mandalay are concerned over cooling trade on account of COVID-19, according to the Gems Trading Executive Committee.

“The market was expected to recover after the Chinese New Year. However, in my opinion, the market has been operational only 25 per cent even after the Chinese New Year, and in the midst of this situation, COVID-19 broke out around the world, starting from China, and this outbreak has aggravated the general situation. This being so, our local

jewellery market has not been spared by this highly infectious disease. Usually, we sell jade to China. Now, Chinese traders are not coming to Myanmar to buy jade,” said U Than Win, chairman of the Mandalay Mahaungmye Gems Trading Centre.

“Jade sourced for the Mandalay Mahaungmye Gems Trading Centre is coming mostly from the Phakant area, where local people are carrying out gemstone quarrying, and raw jade and jade stone mining. They are making jade sheets, jade bracelets, and jade rosary beads,” he said.

“The jewellery market has cooled on account of COVID-19. The number of jewellery traders reaching the market has also declined by half. We are seeing only 30 per cent sales in the jewelry market,” said U Myo Myint Naing, a jade trader.

Shops have been opened at the one-storey steel building outside the Mandalay Mahaungmye Gems Trading Centre. Nearly 200,000 people come to the Mandalay Mahaungmye Gems Trading Centre every season. —Htet Htar Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Import of 11,000 tons of refined sugar permitted per month: Commerce Ministry

TO offset production of low-quality sugar by local mills, regulate high prices due to high production costs, and support local beverage businesses, 11 enterprises have been allowed to import of 11,575 tons of refined sugar per month, starting from March, 2019, according to a notice released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry had allowed Myanmar merchants to re-export sugar in the 2015-2016 financial year with the aim of earning hard currency, improve trade, and create jobs. In late 2017, the ministry temporarily banned sugar re-exports to prevent weakening of the Kyat and thereby, regulate the forex market. Re-export permits were temporarily granted again in 2018. Between 1 June, 2018 and 16 August, 2018, the ministry issued 568 import licenses to 401 companies to import 921,099 tons of sugar under the re-export system. The stockpiles of sugar meant for re-export have been cleared, and the ministry is no longer issuing permits to traders, except 11 import-substitution businesses engaged in beverage production.

Moreover, government departments are combating the illicit inflow of sugar from foreign countries through the border areas, in line with the export-import law, as it can hurt the interests of local sugar mill-

ers and sugarcane growers.

To protect local sugarcane growers, re-exports needed to be banned, according to the Myanmar Sugarcane and Sugar Related Products Manufacturers Association.

Myanmar produced about 450,000 tons of sugar on 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, over 390,000 tons on 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016FY, over 370,000 tons on 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017FY, over 500,000 tons on 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018FY, and 500,000 tons on nearly 500,000 acres in the 2018-2019FY.

Myanmar merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India, and also from Brazil, Qatar, and the UAE, and then it is re-exported to China through the Sino-Myanmar checkpoints, as Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar that meets the export criteria due to lack of advanced refining machinery.

More than 700,000 tons of sugar, worth \$394 million, was exported in the 2015-2016FY. Meanwhile, in the 2016-2017FY, 2 million tons of sugar, worth \$1.12 billion, was exported. Sugar re-exports were suspended from 22 September, 2017. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports cross \$1 bln in Oct-Feb

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have shown a marked increase this fiscal, touching US\$1 billion between 1 October and 28 February, an increase of \$597.9 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In October-February in the previous financial year, mineral exports were pegged at just \$406.98 million.

Both private and public sector mineral exports have recorded an increase in the current fiscal, with private sector exports valued at \$550.05 million and public sector exports estimated at \$454.87 million.

So far, excavation of a total of 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable,

small, medium, and large scale, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry.

Within two years of the implementation of the Myanmar Mines Law, the Mines Department has approved 144 out of 3,000 proposed mining blocks.

At present, evaluation teams in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, and Kay-

in states and Sagaing, Taninthayi, and Magway regions are screening mining applications, based on the opinions of the respective departments and the region and state governments.

The Myanmar Mines Law was enacted on 24 December, 2015, but the law came into force when the rules were issued on 13 February, 2018.

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

Of the seven export groups, exports of agricultural goods, minerals, fishery, and finished

industrial goods has shown an increase, while exports of livestock, forest products, and other goods

have declined in the current FY. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Mineral exports show an increase of over US\$1 billion compared with the same period last year. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Education Minister visits matriculation exam centre in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials observe students sitting for the examination in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi visited the matriculation exam centre at No.6 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township on the first day of the exam for Myanmar subject yesterday. Together with Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun and Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Tin Tun made necessary instructions on successfully organizing of the exam.

A total of 971,407 students registered at 1984 local exam centres and 15 foreign countries for matriculation exam of 2020 academic year. Some 910,273 students sat for the exam on the first day, including 26,218 in Nay Pyi Taw out of 27,934 registered students. There were 191 students at the exam centres of Correction Department in Insein, Mandalay, Katha, Taunggalay, Toungoo,

Kyaukphe, Nyaung Shwe, Kengtong and Loikaw, as well as 125 students in Myawady Township of Kayah State. Exam centres at Yangon General Hospital and North Okkalapa Hospital had five students each. There are 30 students of visual impairment in Kachin, Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing; 22 students with hearing impairment in Yangon, Mandalay and

Nay Pyi Taw, and a total of 177 students with disabilities in Kachin, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Bago (east), Bago (west), Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Mon, Rakhine, Yangon, Shan (south), Shan (north) and Ayeyawady. There are also 11 students for Optional Myanmar subject in Kachin, Mandalay, Rakhine and Yangon.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Union Ministers hold talks with anti-money laundering group



Union Minister U Soe Win, Union Minister U Thaung Tun and officials hold talks with the delegation of Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering led by Director Mr David Shannon in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen

Aung Thu and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Set Aung held a meeting with the delegation of Asia/Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering, led by its Director Mr David Shannon, at Myat Taw Win Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

morning.

The meeting discussed remaining 8 measures for Myanmar in the next 15 months to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, out of 99 recommendations in the APG's Mutual Evaluation Report 2018.

They also held talks on promoting public awareness and participation of private sector in money laundering and terrorist financing, law enforcement, fostering Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit (MFIU), collaboration of state-owned banks and private financial institutions, technical cooperation, and cooperation of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry with the Central Bank of Myanmar in detecting of suspicious activities of money laundering.

The delegation of APG has made a visit to Myanmar from 9 to 12 March to explain the works of International Cooperation Review Group under the Financial Action Task Force in relation to the Strategic Implementation Planning for fighting against money laundering and terrorist

financing.

They held meetings in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon with public and private sectors for more participation of public in implementing its works for Myanmar.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Chinese President Xi Jinping, centre, wearing a protective face mask, talks to a medical staff member during his visit to the Academy of Military Medical Sciences in Beijing. As the rest of the world grapples with a burgeoning virus outbreak, China's ruling Communist Party has turned to its propaganda playbook to portray its leader as firmly in charge, leading an army of health workers in a "people's war" against the disease. **PHOTO: PTI**

Beijing says all international arrivals must quarantine for 14 days

BEIJING — Concerned over the imported cases of novel coronavirus, Beijing on Wednesday has issued directions for all international arrivals in the city, asking people to undergo self-quarantine for 14 days or face severe punishment.

The new order was issued after Beijing Municipal Health

Commission confirmed six new imported cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Tuesday, five of the confirmed cases are from Italy, and one is from the United States, Xinhua reported.

Further tightening up quarantine checks at airports and employing epidemic prevention

measures in foreign communities, Chen Bei, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing Municipal Government, said that the Beijing Capital International Airport will designate Zone D of Terminal 3 as a special zone for inbound flights from countries with serious coronavirus situations.— ANI ■

Cardinal Pell lawyers say child sex conviction 'wrong'

CANBERRA — Lawyers for disgraced Cardinal George Pell claimed Wednesday he remains behind bars for child sex abuse based on "wrong" and "egregious" legal decisions, as they concluded a last-ditch appeal in Australia's top court.

The 78-year-old former Vatican treasurer is trying to overturn a six-year sentence for sexually assaulting two choirboys in the 1990s.

Pell, who once helped elect popes, is the highest-ranking Catholic Church official to be convicted of child sex crimes.

He was not present for the two-day hearing at the High Court in Canberra, but supporters and protesters gathered outside, waving Australian flags and carrying rival signs that read "keep the faith Cardinal Pell" and "Burn in hell Pell".

The court's seven judges

could decide to reject the appeal — leaving Pell to serve the remainder of his sentence — or allow it, giving him the prospect of walking free. They could also send the case back to a lower court to reconsider.

A jury found him guilty in December 2018 on five counts of abusing the 13-year-old choirboys at a Melbourne cathedral when he was archbishop of the city.

That verdict was upheld in August 2019 by a three-judge panel in a 2-1 decision.

Pell's barrister Bret Walker told the High Court Wednesday there were "compounding improbabilities" in the case that had pitted the powerful clergyman against a former choirboy victim now in his 30s. Walker said the "shocking allegations" of sexual abuse were said to have taken place in a crowded cathedral and another public space, which he argued was "quite different" from typical sexual offending that tended to occur in "covert" settings.—AFP ■



Australian Cardinal George Pell leaving court during an earlier hearing. He was not present for the latest appeal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lithuania seeks to heal Soviet trauma after 30 years of freedom

VILNIUS — Seeking justice for victims of the Soviet regime to heal historical trauma has become a top priority for Lithuania as it marks 30 years since it became the first republic to break away from the USSR.

Take Auksute Ramanauskaite Skokauskienė, who is one of Lithuania's most prominent victims of historical trauma.

She spent her childhood living under an assumed identity to avoid Soviet authorities tracing her father who led Lithuania's armed resistance against Soviet rule in the Baltic state after World War II. Captured in 1956 and executed the following year, Adolfas Ramanauskas was only given a full state funeral some six decades later in 2018, after archaeologists identified his body in a mass grave.

"I always felt very disturbed that the Soviets slandered my

dad and other freedom fighters," Ramanauskaite Skokauskienė, a former MP and retired engineer, told AFP. "For me, it was very important that now I have a grave where I can come."

A big advocate of helping others like her to heal, Ramanauskaite Skokauskienė threw her support behind an unprecedented conference on trauma that featured prominent government officials. But the jury is still out on how much historic trauma hurts the country until this day. Lithuania left the USSR 11 on March, 1990 and has since enjoyed impressive economic growth — notably after joining the European Union and NATO in 2004.

But the Baltic nation of 2.8 million people struggles with some of Europe's highest rates of suicide, alcoholism and emigration.—AFP ■



Lithuania is still looking to heal the trauma of the Soviet years which culminated in the killing of 14 civilians by the Soviet military in January 1991. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK health minister tests positive for coronavirus

LONDON — British MP Nadine Dorries, a minister in the health department, has tested positive for coronavirus, she said in a statement on Tuesday, raising concerns about whether senior government figures have been infected.

"I can confirm I have tested positive for coronavirus... and have been self-isolating at home," said the Conservative MP.

Health officials are now trying to trace where she contracted the virus and who she has been in contact with, she added. Six people have died in Brit-

ain from the virus, with more than 370 confirmed cases.

Dorries, who helped craft the legislation to fight the bug, is the first British politician to be diagnosed with COVID-19.

The Times reported that she had been in touch with hundreds of people, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

She fell unwell on Friday while signing the document that declared coronavirus a notifiable disease, meaning companies could obtain insurance cover, said the paper, adding she was now believed to be on the road to recovery.—AFP ■

Biden says fighting for US 'soul' after big primary wins

PHILADELPHIA — Joe Biden moved a giant step closer to a November showdown with Donald Trump after notching up big primary wins Tuesday over Bernie Sanders, his sole remaining challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Biden, 77, the centrist former vice president, scored a resounding win in Michigan, where Sanders, 78, the leftist senator from Vermont, had hoped to make a stand.

He also cruised to victory in Missouri, Idaho and Mississippi, three of the other five states to vote on Tuesday.

Addressing supporters in Philadelphia as his victory took shape, Biden struck a presidential tone as he declared on national television that he would lead "a comeback for the soul of

this nation."

"Tonight we're a step closer to restoring decency, dignity and honor to the White House," he said.

Biden reached out to his sometimes bitter rival Sanders and his supporters, telling them "we share a common goal."

"Together we'll defeat Donald Trump," he said.

Biden's huge victory in Mississippi, where he won around 80 percent of the vote, reflected his popularity among strategically vital African-American voters. He defeated Sanders by 25 points in Missouri.

His win in Michigan, the Midwestern industrial state which could be a key battleground in November, was a major setback for Sanders, who narrowly beat Hillary Clinton there four years



Supporters of Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. PHOTO: AFP

ago. Sanders led the count by less than 2,000 votes in Washington state, the other major prize of Tuesday's primaries, with around 70 percent of the vote counted on Wednesday morning. He was also leading by six points in North

Dakota.

Barring surprises, Biden now has a clear path to becoming the Democratic standard bearer in a potentially bruising and deeply divisive matchup with Trump.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

North Italy leader demands total shutdown over virus

ROME — The head of the Lombardy region around Milan urged the Italian government Wednesday to shut down all non-essential businesses and transport for 15 days in the industrial north to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The appeal from Attilio Fontana came as Italy's death toll from the new disease shot up to 631 and infections surpassed 10,000, the worst numbers after China. The Italian fashion and financial capital Milan has already seen waves of government restrictions that led globally famous boutiques such as Armani to close their shops.

Fontana said he and 12 regional mayors decided more was needed to halt the spiralling spread of COVID-19.—AFP ■

Fighter jet crashes in Pakistan capital during parade rehearsal

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani F-16 fighter jet crashed in Islamabad on Wednesday in an apparent accident during a rehearsal for an upcoming military parade in the capital, officials said.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the pilot or co-pilot, or details on the area the plane crashed.

Footage on social media showed a large plume of smoke billowing into the sky after the plane plummeted to the ground having apparently attempted a loop. "Pakistan Air Force reports with regret that a PAF F-16 aircraft crashed near Shakarparian, Islamabad during the rehearsals of 23rd March parade. Rescue teams have been dispatched towards the site of the crash," the air force said in a statement. A second security official speaking on condition of anonymity also confirmed the crash. The rehearsals were taking place before the annual military parade that is set to be held in Islamabad this month to celebrate Pakistan Day. F-16 jets are among the most valuable defence hardware in the Pakistani military's arsenal. The country has a fleet of about 50 F-16s, each worth at least \$40 million.— AFP ■

Netanyahu rival set for official protection after threats

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's challenger Benny Gantz is to receive state protection following online threats, the Shin Bet domestic security agency has announced.

"The prime minister has approved the Shin Bet's recommendation for close protection of Mr Gantz," a statement from the agency said late Tuesday.

The decision still requires ratification from a security committee. In Israel, seven people automatically receive protection from the Shin Bet, including the leader of the opposition.

But Gantz does not officially have that title as the country



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's challenger Benny Gantz had previously received no protection from Israel's Shin Beth security agency. PHOTO: AFP

has been stuck without a fully functioning government for more than a year, with three

elections unable to produce a decisive result. Since the most recent election on 2 March,

Gantz, who heads the centrist Blue and White party, has been trying to form a government. To do so he has sought the backing of the predominantly Arab Joint List, prompting attacks on social media from Jewish rightwingers.

Former armed forces chief Gantz took to Twitter on Saturday to call on Netanyahu to "stop this incitement to violence, do not say that you did not know."

He posted a message from social media saying "Gantz has to be killed as Rabin was."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by a rightwing extremist opposed to his peace deal with the Palestinians.—AFP ■

Convicted rapist Weinstein to learn prison term

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein faces up to 29 years in prison when he is sentenced by a New

York judge Wednesday, two weeks after he was convicted of rape and sexual assault.



Harvey Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault by a New York jury. PHOTO: AFP

The ex-Hollywood titan will be taken from the notorious Rikers Island jail to the Manhattan criminal court to learn his fate at a hearing starting at 9:30 am (1330 GMT). Weinstein was found guilty of a criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree on 24 February, in a verdict hailed by the #MeToo movement.

Seven men and five women convicted him of raping ex-actress Jessica Mann in 2013 and of forcibly performing oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley in 2006.

Mann, 34, and Haley, 42, are due to deliver impact statements

in court. Weinstein was cleared of the most serious charges of predatory sexual assault, as well as rape in the first degree, but will receive between five and 29 years behind bars.

Prosecutors called on Judge James Burke to issue a lengthy jail term, saying Weinstein engaged in a "lifetime of abuse" and had shown "a total lack of remorse" for his actions.

In a pre-sentencing letter, the prosecution asked Burke to consider 36 other sexual abuse and harassment allegations against Weinstein dating back to the 1970s that were not part of the trial.— AFP ■

MFF to launch new version of Futsal Open Cup in May

THE Myanmar Football Federation will hold a new version of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2020, which will have more futsal teams, in May, according to a statement issued by the MFF. The tourney will be divided into two zones: Yangon and Mandalay. It will start in the second week of May. The tourney organizers are planning to broadcast and stream the matches live on TV channels and Facebook.

Nearly 80 teams will participate in the tourney from the two zones, and the fixtures will be updated this year, according to the organizers. The two previous finalists of the two zones will get a chance to directly enter the semifinal stages, and the final match will be held in Mandalay, according to the organizers.

In the 2019 Futsal Open Cup, the Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club won the championship in the Yangon Zone and GV Athletic had claimed the champions title in the Mandalay Zone. But, this year, the tourney will likely have one champion with one final match in Mandalay, according to an official statement. The detailed fixtures for the tourney will be released soon by the Myanmar Football Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Futsal players compete in the 2019 Futsal Open Cup in Mandalay.
PHOTO: MFF

German footballer contracts COVID-19

BERLIN—A second division footballer was on Wednesday (Mar 11) the first player to test positive for coronavirus in Germany as RB Leipzig became the last Bundesliga side to announce that they would hold their weekend match behind closed doors. Hanover 96 revealed that defender Timo Huebers had tested positive for COVID-19, saying in a statement that they insisted that no further infections were expected, as Huebers had avoided contact with his colleagues. Their full squad and training staff were however being tested as a precaution. “As soon as he found out that someone with whom he had been at an event was tested positive, Timo went straight to the doctor and put himself into isolation,” said Hanover’s sporting director Gerhard Zuber. — AFP ■

Spurs forced back to drawing board after Champions League collapse

LONDON—Tottenham’s 4-0 aggregate thrashing by Leipzig added the misery of an early Champions League exit to a season in which the 2019 finalists have been brought crashing back down to earth.

A never-say-die spirit carried Spurs to the club’s first-ever final in Europe’s top club competition last year after memorable fightbacks at Barcelona, Manchester City and Ajax.

Faced with the same mountain to climb, there was nothing left in the Tottenham tank during a 3-0 defeat in Leipzig on Tuesday.

The comeback against Ajax in the semi-finals was arguably the high point of Mauricio Pochettino’s five-and-a-half-year spell in charge that turned his team from Europa League regulars into Champions League contenders.

Less than six months after Tottenham’s 2-0 defeat to Liverpool in the Madrid final, Pochettino was replaced by Jose Mourinho, and it appears even the Portuguese does not believe their run as a Champions League club will continue next season.

“With the squad we have at the moment it’s going to be very, very difficult,” said Mourinho, whose side sit eighth in the Premier League, seven points adrift of the top four.

“These problems are not going to disappear from today to tomorrow.” A run of six games without a win is the worst of Mourinho’s long managerial career. However, there are mitigating circumstances.

The loss of Harry Kane and Son Heung-min to long-term injuries has robbed him of Tottenham’s two main goal threats.

January signing Steven Bergwijn is also set to miss the rest of the season, while Moussa Sissoko has been a big miss in midfield.

“I think every team in the world would struggle with five or six of their most important players missing, it is as simple as that,” said Mourinho. — AFP ■

U-21 Myanmar National League: Yangon drub Sagaing United 5-0



A player from the Yangon United U-21 team tries to score a goal against the Sagaing United U-21 team yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNL**

YANGON United trounced Sagaing United by five goals in the U-21 Myanmar National League 2020 yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium in Yangon.

Yangon United players were active from the start, launching attacks and creating frequent scoring opportunities.

Min Hein Htet scored an early opening goal for Yangon United at 2 minutes.

The second goal for Yangon was netted by Chit Min Paing at

10 minutes.

At the end of the first half, Yangon was leading by two goals.

Yangon youth players did not reduce their tempo in the second half, with Hein Min Htet scoring the third goal at 47 minutes.

Next, Hlwam Moe Oo scored the fourth goal at 61 minutes by taking advantage of an error by the opposing team.

After the score reached 4-0, Sagaing United redoubled their efforts to score a goal, but they

were unable to breach the strong defense put up by Yangon United defenders and keeper.

At 89 minutes, Aung Ko Oo scored the final goal for Yangon United, handing the team a big 5-0 win.

The Yangon United U-21 team is currently sixth in the standing table with four wins, three draws, and two losses, while the Sagaing United U-21 is 13th with two wins and six losses. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)