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State Counsellor attends 18th Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee meeting



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 18th edition of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, delivered a speech to the 18th meeting of the committee held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The side of government, Hluttaw and Defence Services was represented by the committee's Vice Chairpersons Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr Tin Myo Win; Union Ministers U Min Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr Win Myat Aye, Nai Thet Lwin; Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo; retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Maj-Gen San Myint, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win, Director General U Zaw Htay and U Hla Maung Shwe.

The side of Ethnic Armed Organization was represented by UPDJC Vice Chairman Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Sao

Sai Ngin, U Myo Win, Pado Saw Tar Doh Hmu, Saw Mra Yarzar Linn, Khun Myint Tun, Nai Aung Min, Saw Sein Win, Saw Kyaw Myint, Kyar Sal Mon, Mi Suu Pwint, Dr Sai Oo, Saw Smith Daun, Khaing Linn Khaing and Nai Aung Ma Ngae.

The political group was represented by Vice Chairman of Committee U Thu Wai, U Nang Ngan Linn, U Myint Soe, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Tar Hla Pe, U Thein Tun, Dr Aung Myat Oo, U Oo Hla Saw, Khun Tun Shwe, U Zam Zamon, U Shwe Min, Dr Tu

Jar, Nai Tala Nyi, Daw Yin Yin May and Saw Tun Aung Myint.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made an opening remark at the meeting.

(The State Counsellor speech is published on page 3)

After the speech of State Counsellor, Vice-Chairman Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong of UPDJC talked about objectives and responsibilities of his committee to supervise political dialogues at various levels for

ending the 70-year long internal armed conflict and the two major tasks of UPDJC was to achieve internal peace and to build up a Union based on democracy and federalism.

He also emphasized the necessity of coordination in security to end the conflicts.

He clarified that the UPDJC was not a government to address the problems of politics, economy and social affairs, its Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panlong Conference was not a parliament to pass the laws and its peace dialogues are not a place for public complaints.

Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong added resolutions from the meeting could pave the way for holding the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panlong Conference in the first four months of 2020 to fulfill the expectations of all nationals.

Vice Chairman U Thu Wai explained the crucial tasks of UPDJC to build up a Democratic

Federal Union as the committee could make some progress in peace-making efforts.

Attendees then discussed the process of peace-dialogue arranged by UPDJC.

Vice Chairmen of the committee U Thu Wai and Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong made their concluding remarks on the discussions and on the success of the meeting which can help future peace dialogues.

The State Counsellor finally expressed her appreciations for the success of meeting, and advised the need for firm determinations on implementing peace resolutions made at the meetings.

She also applauded the remarks of the two vice chairmen of the committee to focus on peacemaking efforts that play a crucial role to end the internal conflicts of more than 70 years. —MNA

“No negotiations could turn out to be a success if you have the mindset that you will collaborate only if you could claim for a hundred per cent fulfilment of your objectives.”

State Counsellor

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rejects amendments to 14 provisions of 2008 constitution

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW continued its 15th regular session yesterday, and voted on third category of provisions related to Section 436 (a).

On the 21st day meeting, a total of 633 MPs, out of 654, attended to vote and 21 persons were on leave.

Supporting votes for each

provision failed to pass the 75 per cent of votes required for the amendments, with 414 votes for paragraph (a) of Section 412, 414 votes for paragraph (b) of Section



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives voting on amendments to the 2008 Constitution. PHOTO: MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker voting on amendments to the 2008 Constitution. PHOTO: MNA

412, 414 votes for Section 413, 417 votes for Section 418, 417 votes for paragraph (a) of Section 418, 416 votes for paragraph (b) of Section 418, 415 votes for Section 419, 416 votes for Section 420, 410 votes for Section 421, 417 votes for paragraph (a) of Section 421, 417 votes for paragraph (b) of Section 421 respectively.

The voting process was also witnessed by Hluttaw representatives from respective political parties.

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

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chair meets Carter Centre delegation

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received a delegation from The Carter Centre, led by its Myanmar department representative Mr Sean Dunne, at the UEC's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed preparations to ensure the upcoming multi-party 2020 General Elections be conducted in line with the five norms, The Carter Centre's ex-

perience in monitoring previous elections and compiling a report, monitoring activities for the 2020 General Election and future plans.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and members pose for a group photo with the Carter Centre representative Mr Sean Dunne. PHOTO: MNA



Election observer workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop on election observer guidelines for foreign and do-

mestic observers was held at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday, collaborated by the Union Election Commis-

sion (UEC) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein first delivered a speech, where he said they are implementing the National Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 to ensure the 2020 General Election is held in line with the five norms. He said organizing elections is important as Myanmar is establishing a democratic system.

The UEC Chairman said it is important for elections to be fair, honest and trustworthy by the people, and local and international organizations will be observing eagerly. He said the process of observing elections

elevates the integrity and status of elections and assists in strengthening the democratic system.

The UEC Chairman said observers should do more than just look at the day of the election and should monitor the periods before, during and after the elections have taken place. He said the presence of observers will discourage tampering with the election and solidify trust in the election process and the UEC.

Next, Mr Manfred Bernhard of International IDEA explained the two-day workshop which is organized by STEP Democracy.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech at the Election Observer Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Speech delivered by the State Counsellor and Chairperson of UPDJC Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the eighteenth UPDJC meeting

12 March, 2020, Nay Pyi Taw

Greetings

MY warm greetings to all the members of the government, the Hluttaw representatives, the representatives of the Tatmadaw, the representatives of the armed organizations of the national races, and all the representatives of political parties present in this UPDJC meeting. It's been for some time since we last met our colleagues of UPDJC. It's been nearly two years since the UPDJC meeting was last held after the seventeenth UPDJC meeting during the third Union Peace Conference-21st Century Pinglong Conference. Today we could officially resume the meeting, and it's a great pleasure for me to meet all the members of the UPDJC once again.

As you all know, after the 21st Century Pinglong Conference, we formed groups and assigned the groups for reviews concerning the peace building process. Over these two years, we have looked at our tasks, considering our age-old expectations and apprehensions of all those involved, from various points of views so that better and more effective political discussions could proceed. We held free, open discussions and official meetings many times, and open, friendly discussions took place among ourselves. As a result, we could come back to the UPDJC Roundtable Discussions once again. I am grateful to you all, who were present in the previous meetings, especially the leader of temporary PPST and all members of PPST, for kindly conducting negotiations, dedicatedly aiming at our goals through ups and downs and all sorts of challenging circumstances.

The Role of UPDJC

Credit must go to our UPDJC for giving guidelines during the political dialogues held for the first time in our history after the 1947 Pinglong Conference. Since it has assumed the form of a political dialogue launched according to the dictates of history, its burden of responsibility is so heavy. Of course, the UPDJC meetings had made a pause for some time, but resuming this meeting proves the fact that we can achieve success if we are patient enough, and if we negotiate, cooperate and collaborate no matter we are faced with challenges and hardships. So today's meeting is one that is so important for our peace building process.

It is of crucial importance that from today's UPDJC meeting onwards, we must collaborate together and strive for achieving outcomes replete with the political essence, which would continue to be lasting till the coming Union Peace Conference-21st Century Conference. In the eighth JICM meeting, a unanimous decision was made that after pooling the agreement for implementing the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA), phase by phase post-2020 implementation, and the democracy and federal fundamental policy agreement, the Union Accord Part 3 shall be signed. These agreements are very important not only for our government but also for all armed national organizations. Our UPDJC is determined to get the Union Accord Part 3 successfully signed since it is the one agreed upon by all members of the UPDJC. We must then continue to strive for laying down the post-2020 Peace Task Programme and post-2020 democratic, federal Union building task programmes.

Reforms of the Framework for Political Dialogue

In today's UPDJC meeting, reforms shall be made on the Framework for Political Dialogue, as well as on the related ToR and SOP. Since, based on the reforms



State Counsellor and Chairperson of UPDJC Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the 18th UPDJC meeting. PHOTO: MNA

of the Framework for Political Dialogue, we are going to proceed to the national level political dialogues, we strongly hope there will come more political dialogues.

What I would like to draw your attention is that WHO has declared outbreak of COVID-19 to be regarded as a pandemic. Concerning the political dialogues, the government must lay down rules and regulations on mass gathering. I'd like to inform you that this afternoon session will deal with this item. The Framework before us

then you must exercise flexibility. To make our political dialogues a success, it is very much important that our UPDJC must build unity among ourselves, based on fairness and flexibility. So I'd like to urge you all to go forward through positive collaboration, and the kind of collaboration founded on the Union Spirit.

The Peace Building Process and Challenges

Our Peace Building Process has been going to three directions simultaneously. The first direction is building the concrete foundation for the ceasefire. This is undertaken by the armed forces and the JMC. The second direction is the political dialogue. This is undertaken by our UPDJC. And the third direction is bringing the flowers of Peace on earth. This is being undertaken by our NRPC, PC, the region government and the armed national races through collaborations. The path of building Peace never runs smooth. Hardships and challenges will come over and over again. Since negotiations have to be made among the armed forces, it is no wonder that armed conflicts come out once again when things go wrong. But I would like to remind you all that we must not let our goals, and our visions vanish. UPDJC has stood in low profile for nearly two years, and during these years, there broke out a few armed conflicts and land mine explosions.

Both sides must come together and hold talks over these misunderstandings and find solutions. Since NCA has been signed, pledges have been made by both sides that solutions shall be sought for, not through military clashes but through political dialogues. You all are well convinced that NCA has officially declared that no impact shall fall on the political dialogues even if there arise blockages on the way of consolidating the ceasefire agreement. Some issues might turn up, and you pick up your guns and kill each other - if you should lapse back to your old habits, then I must say you still cling onto the 20th century, outdated way of thinking. Issues will stay, of course. But when there break out an issue, go and see each other, personally, ASAP, and find solutions. You know, storms over the roundtable is much, much better than clashes on the battlefield. But, despite the existence of these tensions, I acknowledge the efforts of all those involved for getting every member to this UPDJC meeting for the sake of the future of the whole Union.

... our government is determined that in the post-2020, the peace building process must continue to thrive.

State Counsellor

is flexible enough so amendments have been made again and again. When the next Conference is over, we have to continue negotiating and discussing for the outcome of more practical, more effective political framework.

If you look at the peace building process all over the world, challenges and hardships do exist in some form or other; depending on the impact of the different backgrounds. But despite different challenges, if the common goal is the success of the peace building process, it is undeniable that patience, broadmindedness, innovative approaches, problem solving abilities and sincerity of the political motives of all those organizations involved, all these matter most. One group might disrupt or cause delay to the peace building process, but if the success of this process is the goal for all, then all must cooperate and collaborate. But I would highlight the fact that each and every group may not arrive at a hundred percent fulfilment of its own aspirations. No negotiations could turn out to be a success if you have the mindset that you will collaborate only if you could claim for a hundred percent fulfilment of your objectives. You must have a brave heart for exercising flexibility. Then you are an eligible member for the political dialogue. If you are already in,

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Ministries contemplate preparations, responses to COVID-19

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended an emergency meeting on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

In her address to the meeting, the State Counsellor reiterated that this meeting was to discuss processes and action plans to ease the long-term repercussions of COVID-19 on the citizens of Myanmar.

She said the central committee was formed on 30 January and held its first meeting on 3 February and its second one on 3 March, with relevant ministries and organizations implementing the decisions made at both meetings.

The State Counsellor said WHO has declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March and this calls for Myanmar to strengthen and speed up its plans to respond to the virus, which include reducing long-term negative consequences as a result of the virus, increasing effectiveness health regulations to prevent its spread, reducing negative effects on the national economy, other sectors and potential losses, and disseminating health precautions and guidelines to the general public.

Next, the representatives at the meeting discussed their respective tasks in containing and monitoring COVID-19, plans



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the emergency meeting on COVID-19 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

to respond to announcements from WHO in a timely manner, and collaboration between the ministries moving forward.

The meeting also discussed speeding up administration of prevention and response to spread of COVID-19 to a certain time period, elevating the status of the central committee to better facilitate cooperation between ministries, reassessing government-led public meetings and ceremonies in light of the fact that COVID-19 is spread easily through mass public gatherings, having visitors to certain pagodas be screened

for high temperatures, effectively quarantining and monitoring travellers from foreign nations where the virus has a high outbreak upon arriving in Myanmar, ensuring state/regional governments are able to preemptively highlight areas requiring quarantine measures, increasing public participation in health protection processes through the collaboration of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Health and Sports, having relevant departments monitor for rumours aiming to misinform and agitate the public and countering with authentic

news promptly, alleviating repercussions caused by the virus on trade and the national economy, swiftly finding solutions for the State to assist and minimize losses incurred by employers and employees of factories and workshops that have to close down, ensuring Myanmar missions in China are well equipped to aid Myanmar workers in China facing difficulties due to factories closing down, and issuing directives and requests to the public from the Union Government concerning COVID-19.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Of-

fice of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun, the Chairman of the Central Committee for Prevention, Containment and Treatment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Joint-Chairman and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, and central committee members.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Speech delivered by the State Counsellor and Chairperson of UPDJC Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the eighteenth UPDJC meeting

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The challenges and hardships of the peace building process exist in some form or other. Some hardships have existed since long, long time ago, while others turned up only in the present. Of course, not all issues related to national reconciliation and peace building can be sorted out simultaneously. Common agreements among ourselves must be sought for as the priorities, and these agreements must find way to establishing the agreements. How could we smooth out the differences and discrepancies? We must make the right approaches to the problem solving, and be engaged in making negotiations. Holding peace dialogues doesn't mean holding a debate. What we should do is find a solution that all would agree upon.

If we could turn our similar concepts into agreements, we will be able to build stronger trust among ourselves. Then the prospect for better negotiations over the discrepancies will get stronger. Today, we have agreed that only if we could build a democratic, federal union, the political issues could be solved. We have to continue discussing what kind of federal system or what kind of democracy we want to establish in our union. Are we going to build the democratic, federal union phase by phase or in one stroke? Well, we shall continue conducting detailed discussions in our next political dialogues.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the three main

aspects related to our national reconciliation, building peace, and a democratic federal system. The first aspect is to consider peace in relation with other conditions. You may not fail to perceive that the peace building process does receive the repercussion from the democratic transition, development, international relations, 21st Century technological breakthroughs, dangers of climate change, and very recently, transnational global holocausts. Instead of adopting the stereotype way of thinking that I must get this, if you have the broad view, considering the situations from various perspectives, that everything is interrelated, and interdependent, this will contribute towards the successful outcomes through negotiations in good timing with the other circumstances.

Secondly, though it is a fact that the peace building process cannot be isolated from the political trend, the political leaders may choose what kind of political trend it should be related to. You may not get it related to the narrow-minded, egocentric politics only for the sake of your own group or race, or the type of politics that is limited by the span of your power and position. Instead, you may consider the type of politics related to the welfare of the next generations and the type of politics dedicated to the interests of the Union. That is why our government is determined that in the post-2020, the peace building process must continue to thrive, and that we must double

up our efforts for the sake of the unity of all the members of the Union.

Thirdly, peace building and making pledges for the federal Union mean having no discrimination among all the citizens living in the Union and states, ensuring equality and organizing the cardinal virtues, namely, the strength of will, strength of morale, strength of diligence, and intellectual strength. This concept is referred to in political science as Nation Building. If we are lacking the common strength called organizing power, we will encounter many difficulties when overcoming the challenges we are now faced with. In this 21st century, the power of threat would loom up in times of crisis, and we cannot put it off for another day, but we must try to solve it immediately. If the causes of how you deal with it are not in agreement, the outcome would be uncertainties, so only if all the members of the Union establish mutual trust and friendship, give a helping hand to each other, and organize our common strengths will we be able to face the challenges, withstand strongly, and achieve success.

Therefore, I would conclude my talk by saying that we should cherish the Pinglong Spirit that our parents and grandparents were determined to build, and march forward together on the Journey of Peace, and the Journey of building the Union.

(Translated by Dr Zaw Tun)

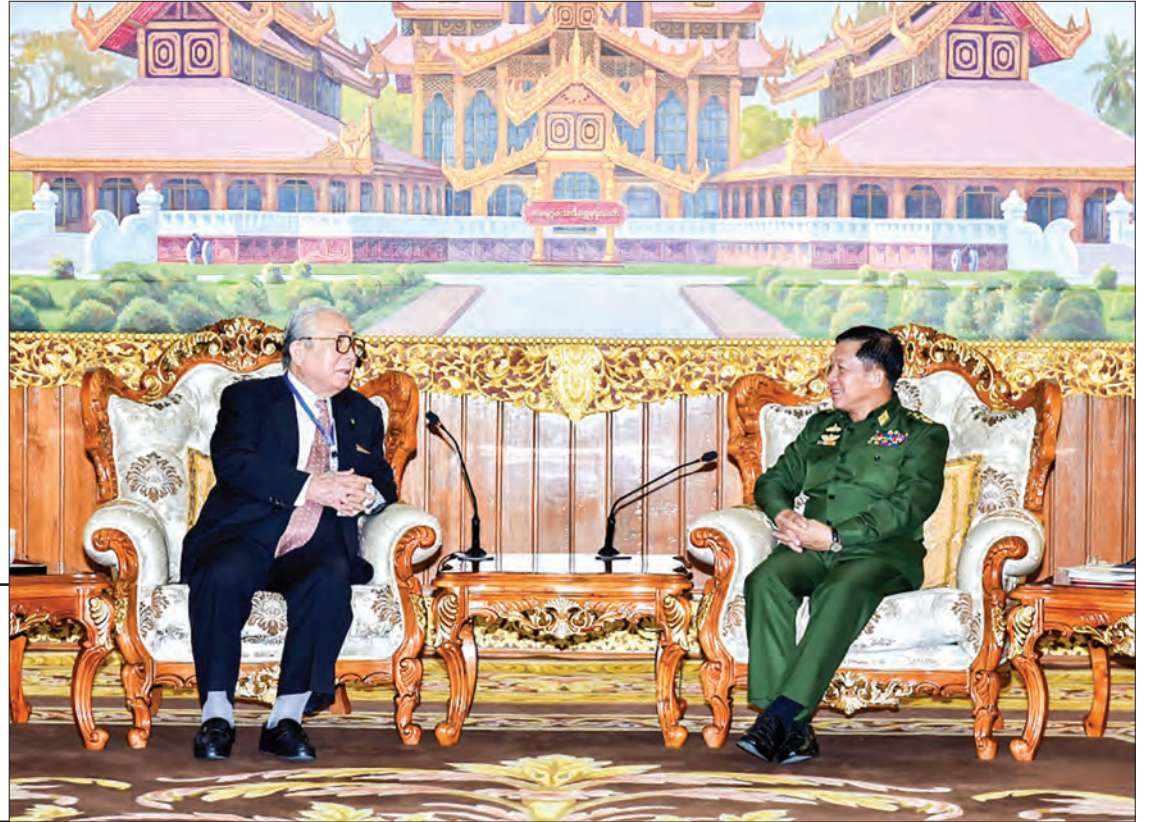
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chair

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the delegation led by Mr Hideo Watanabe, chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters on further promotion of friendship between Japan and Myanmar, Japan's assistance to the internal peace and regional development tasks

in Myanmar and current situation in Myanmar, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Hideo Watanabe, chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Education Minister visits matriculation exam centres in Mon State

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi visited the matriculation exam centres at No 11 Basic Education High School in Mawlamyine Township, Basic Education High School (Kamawat) in Mudon and Basic Education High School of Thanbyuzayat Township on the second day of the exam for English subject yesterday.

The Union Minister gave instructions to the exam supervisors, assistant supervisors and other relevant officials to ensure students have a quiet and worry-free environment to

take the matriculation exams. If students sitting the exam suddenly get ill, they will help those students systematically, he added. He also instructed them to adhere to their duties and responsibilities so that the matric exams are completed successfully.

A total of 909539 students out of 971,407 students registered at 1984 local exam centres and 15 foreign centres for matriculation exam sat for the exam on the second day.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi observes students sitting for the matriculation examination at a matriculation exam centre in Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



The 26th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Secretariat being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UPDJC Secretariat holds 26th meeting

THE 26th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) yesterday.

The meeting discussed future plans for implementing the decisions of the 18th UPDJC meeting, and plans to hold the next secretariat meeting.

Present at the meeting were members of the UPDJC Secretariat, including those from the government side, retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Maj-

Gen Soe Naing Oo, Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win, Director-General U Zaw Htay and U Hla Maung Shwe, NCA Framework Negotiation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Negotiation Team Leader Sao Sai Ngin, Pado Saw Tar Do Moo, U Myo Win, Saw Mya Yazar Lin and Khin Myint Tun from the ethnic armed organizations, and U Nai Ngan Lin, U Myint Soe, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Tar Hla Pe and U Thein Tun from the political parties.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoHS strives to maintain 'zero case' of COVID-19 in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held its 33/2020 coordination meeting yesterday afternoon on prevention of COVID-19 with the target of zero case and no death.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe explained that the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 as a pandemic, and made the six recommendations to public to prevent virus transmission, to activate emergency response, to organize public participation in disease control measures, to identify the cases and quarantine confirmed patients, to conduct laboratory tests in the suspected cases and to follow personal hygiene.

The Union Minister added his office is taking serious measures to prevent COVID-19 outbreak and death from this disease, while supplying medical equipment to the health workers who are providing medical treatments to the patients.

He also called for public participation in preventive meas-

ures in accordance with awareness programmes and strategic plan of the ministry.

In the last two weeks, the number of cases outside China has increased by 13 times, and countries and territories with the confirmed cases rose by 3 times in the world.

The Union Minister instructed the health authorities to strictly follow the preventive measures from the aspects of public health, epidemiology, social, economy, travel and trade.

He continued saying about medicines and medical equipment for the front line health staff who are in close contacts with the patients.

The MoHS has planned to organize a workshop to exchange views on the existing preventive measures with the participations of relevant ministries, organizations and media.

At the meeting, officials discussed control measures at regions and states, preparations at the hospitals, and surveillance



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the coordination meeting on prevention of COVID-19 with the target of zero case and no death yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

on the disease at the border gates.

They held talks on WHO's announcement on the disease as an pandemic, increasing new cases in some countries, health

conditions of patients under investigations at the referral hospitals, laboratory tests, 14-day quarantine period for the inbound Myanmar citizens, health awareness programmes, video

conferencing between national level and sub-national level health officials and accumulation of medicines and medical equipment.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Deputy Minister for Commerce attends 26th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat Meeting

U AUNG HTOO, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce and delegates attended the 26th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat Meeting which was held in Danang, Viet Nam on 9-11 March 2020.

At the meeting, the Ministers endorsed Viet Nam's priority economic deliverables

for its Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2020, discussed on the priorities of the sectoral bodies under AEM's purview for 2020, gave guidance for signing of RCEP agreement in 2020 and discussed on the future activities of ASEAN external economic relations as well as the priorities and initiatives in

2020 raised by ASEAN Business Advisory Council.

In addition, the Ministers agreed to take a collective course of action to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 on the ASEAN region, particularly supply chains, trade, financial market and tourism.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo attends the 26th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat Meeting in Danang, Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MNA**

News release on COVID-19

(8:00 p.m., 12-3-2020)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is continuously conducting surveillance on COVID-19 acute respiratory disease at international entry/exit gates, in hospital-based and community-based processes, and in collaboration with private hospitals.

2. There are 14 quarantined patients under surveillance in respective hospitals between 6 p.m., 11-3-2020, to 6 p.m., 12-3-2020. Their lab samples have been sent to the National Health Laboratory (Yangon).

3. The lab results of 4 of the aforementioned patients have showed they do not have COVID-19.

4. The lab results of 8 Myanmar nationals quarantined at South Okkalapa Maternal and Child Hospital and a patient at Shwepantaw community hospital, Aunglan Township, Magway Region, show they do not have COVID-19.

5. Sixteen quarantined patients are currently under surveillance as of 6 p.m., 12-3-2020.

6. As of 12-3-2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar, but nonetheless, surveillance activities are actively in progress. COVID-19 is currently spread across neighboring China and 114 countries around the world. WHO recently declared the virus a pandemic and the general public is advised to closely follow the healthcare guidelines published by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—Ministry of Health and Sports

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Trade Mark Ads

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Transporting cargo on third Yangon-Cocokyun trip will attract fee: YRTA

By Nyein Nyein

CARGO will be transported for a fee on the third Yangon-Cocokyun ferry trip, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) at a press conference held on 11 March.

“On the first and second trips of the Yangon-Cocokyun ferry, cargo loads were transported for free. This time, the

loads will be charged at a reasonable rate,” he said.

“Collection of fees for cargo loads is part of our job. The charges will be levied depending on the type of industry and will be adapted according to the rates levied for other transport modes,” said U Hla Aung.

“Earlier, a private enterprise — the Myanmar Five Star Line Company — had been allowed to provide ferry services

to the Cocokyun Township and it charged K20,000 per ton of load. However, as some goods are local products meant to be sold in other markets, the rate will be set at a reasonable price,” he said.

The YRTA is offering the Yangon-Cocokyun ferry service at a cost of K20 million to provide transport to locals and assigned government staff.

“The YRTA is operating

the free ferry service between Yangon and Cocokyun, with an allocation of K20 million from its funds, to benefit locals and assigned government personnel,” said Yangon Region Chief Minister and YRTA chairman U Phyo Min Thein.

The YRTA has signed the Thuriya Sandar Win Company for operating the Yangon-Cocokyun round trip, which takes six days (80 hours) to complete.

The ferry can accommodate 60 people on board, including 20 crew, and has sleeping accommodation for about 24 people. The ship’s load capacity is estimated at 300 tons.

The Yangon-Cocokyun ferry service is being operated once a month. The ferry ran the first time on 21 January and the second time on 7 March.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

COVID-19: India-Myanmar border trade plunges due to border closure

THE value of border trade between India and Myanmar declined by US\$11.37 million in the October-February period of the current fiscal year owing to the closure of border crossing by India in wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

India has closed the border crossing in Mizoram and Manipur on account of COVID-19, and traders are reeling under the negative impact of the outbreak.

The cross-border trade between Myanmar and India has stopped, and the reopening of the checkpoints would depend on the spread of the virus.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighboring India through Tamu, Reed, and Htantalan crossing.

Between 1 October and 28 February in the current fiscal year, trade values were registered at \$33 million at Tamu and \$32.36 million at Reed. There was no trade recorded at the Htantalan crossing.

In the five months since October, the India-Myanmar trade plunged to \$65 million from \$76.8 million recorded in the year-ago period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.



Namphalong Market in India-Myanmar border near Moreh in the Tengnoupal district of the Indian State of Manipur. The legalized border trade with Myanmar came to a grinding halt from Tuesday as the Manipur government closed both the international gates I and II at Moreh. PHOTO: CHINDWINTHAR

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, fish-

ery products, fruits, and vegetables to India, while it imports pharmaceuticals, oil cakes, electronic appliances, motorbikes,

steel and other construction materials from the neighboring country. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local gold price breaches K1.2 mln again as dollar recovers

By Nyein Nyein

DUE to a slight gain in the US dollar exchange rate in the local forex market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market has rebounded, cross-

ing K1.2 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) after a four-day fall, said U Ohn Myaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

Starting 7 March, the price

of gold in the domestic market fell below K1.2 million per tical, while the dollar exchange rate was pegged at K1,350. On 10 March, the Central Bank of Myanmar purchased 9 million dollars from private banks, help-

ing the dollar exchange rate to climb above K1,400 on 12 March.

“Under the CBM’s governance, the exchange rate has become stable. And, the local gold price has climbed again,” said U Ohn Myaing.

The domestic gold price is positively related to global gold prices.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at US\$1,550 per ounce in the global market, as per market data.

On 12 March, global gold price stood at \$1,635 per ounce, while domestic gold prices crossed K1,210,000 per tical, according to the local gold market.

The internal gold market sees regular trading in open season, according to the MGEA.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price

hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.

According to gold traders, in the month of November in the current fiscal, the local gold price moved in the range of 1,219,400 (2 November) and K1,173,000 (28 November). In December, it reached the lowest level of K1,170,800 (3 December) and the highest level of K1,197,800 (28 December). In January, the lowest price was K1,191,600 (2 January) and the highest was K1,232,700 (8 January). Last month, the gold price touched the lowest level of K1,214,100 on 5 February and the highest level of K1,234,200 on 28 February, according to gold traders.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Gold jewellery displayed at a shop in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Promoting animal health awareness would help livestock farmers

NOWADAYS, there are a host of animal diseases that can be classified as emerging, endemic, zoonotic, re-emerging, and pandemic diseases. Some can have a huge impact on livestock production and productivity; some can harm human health; while some can pose a problem for companion animals.

When it comes to the issue of outbreaks, we need to focus on their economic and trade impact; epidemic or pandemic potential in the region; zoonotic potential and public health impact; prevention, control, and mitigation; and, social, ecological, and environmental impact, in this order of priority.

While making efforts for boosting trade, it is crucial that the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department focuses not only on prevention and control of livestock diseases, but also their socio-economic impact on both national and regional interests, ...

part of efforts to conserve our livestock resources.

While making efforts for boosting trade, it is crucial that the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department focuses not only on prevention and control of livestock diseases, but also their socio-economic impact on both national and regional interests, with the relevant resource expertise and a logical approach.

It is necessary to expand research projects focusing on animal health, prevention, and treatment of diseases, conduct training, and produce quality breeds of animals.

We would like to urge animal health authorities to promote awareness among stakeholders in the livestock industry on trans-boundary animal diseases, and increase collaboration and knowledge-sharing among farmers.

We have seen the effect of animal disease on farmers when the deadly African Swine Fever (ASF) was reported in northern Shan State, in February this year, and in Mongla in eastern Shan State last year.

The ASF outbreak is of particular concern for small-scale farmers, who account for a significant proportion of pork production, as they may lack the expertise and funds necessary to protect their herds from the disease in a timely manner.

To curb the spread of the virus, the health authorities must enforce rules to ensure small-scale farmers put measures in place to adequately protect their herds from infection.

Myanmar has earned more than US\$500 million from cattle exports to neighboring countries. To boost cattle exports to China, the two countries have agreed to work together on improving the health of animals exported to China. Meanwhile, Myanmar is implementing a cattle registration system as

Coronavirus is a 'controllable pandemic': WHO

The global outbreak of the new coronavirus could now be considered a pandemic — a disease actively spreading globally.

THE new coronavirus outbreak "is a controllable pandemic" if countries step up measures to tackle it, the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Thursday (March 12).

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowledged on Wednesday that the global outbreak of the new coronavirus could now be considered a pandemic — a disease actively spreading globally.

But he told diplomats in Geneva that describing the outbreak as a pandemic should not mean that countries give up the fight to stop it spreading further.

"This is a controllable pandemic," he said, according to a statement of his remarks.

"We are deeply concerned that some countries are not approaching this threat with the level of political commitment needed to control it.

"The idea that countries should shift from containment to mitigation is wrong and dangerous," he stressed.

More than 4,500 people have died, according to an AFP tally, while the WHO said some 125,000 cases had been reported from 118 countries and territories.

"To save lives, we must reduce transmission," Dr Tedros insisted.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

China to battle against economic fallout

After securing an upper hand in its all-out confrontation with the novel coronavirus on home turf, China is warily repositioning itself

to fight the economic fallout of the outbreak already declared as a pandemic.

In stark contrast to the rapid spread elsewhere in the world, the virus spread has been basically contained in China, with new risks largely coming from imported cases. The National Health Commission said it received reports of 15 new confirmed cases on the mainland on Wednesday, among which six were imported cases.

Ireland closes schools

Ireland on Thursday announced the closure of all schools and colleges, and recommended the cancellation of mass gatherings as part of measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said "schools, colleges and childcare facilities will close from tomorrow (Friday)", as would state-run cultural institutions.

Indoor events of more than 100 people and those outdoor involving over 500 "should be cancelled", Varadkar said in a statement in Washington, where he was on an official visit.

UK school closure

British PM Boris Johnson is chairing a COBRA crisis meeting Thursday afternoon, in which it is expected that a decision to close schools will be made.

This is according to information in the British press. According to Express, it is expected that schools in the UK will be closed from 20 March, lasting a full four weeks.

Teachers have been in-

formed that they must prepare "home-learning packs", and classes are expected to be delivered online. This article will be updated as information comes in following the COBRA meeting.

Spain virus toll soars

Coronavirus infections in Spain soared to nearly 3,000 on Thursday as the number of deaths almost doubled, rising to 84, the health ministry said.

As of 1200 GMT, there were 2,968 cases in Spain, up from 2,140 at 1700 GMT on Wednesday, a ministry statement said, with deaths leaping to 84 from 48 within the same time frame.

Real Madrid in quarantine

Real Madrid went into quarantine on Thursday as La Liga announced Spain's top two divisions will be suspended for at least two weeks over the coronavirus.

La Liga authorities made the decision after Real Madrid confirmed its senior football team is in quarantine after one of the club's basketball players tested positive for the virus.

Real Madrid's football and basketball players share facilities at Ciudad Real Madrid, the club's training ground in Valdebebas.

Duterte takes 'precautionary' virus test

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was tested for the new coronavirus on Thursday, officials said, as key government buildings were being disinfected over an exposure scare.

The Philippines has seen a



New York City postpones St. Patrick's Day Parade for the first time in its 258-year history. PHOTO: © AFP/FILE

jump this week in cases, including people who recently attended events with Senate lawmakers and government officials, potentially exposing them.

In response, the Senate building and Philippine central bank were undergoing cleaning, and several officials announced they would isolate themselves as a precaution.

Duterte, who at 74 is in a vulnerable age group for the virus, underwent testing because he has been in regular contact with some of those officials.

Manila under "community quarantine"

President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday that Metro Manila will be put under "community quarantine," implementing restrictions and travel suspensions to and from the metropolis to contain infections of the new coronavirus.

Duterte announced the measures, effective from March 15 until April 14, during a televised national address.

Tom Hanks in hospital isolation

Hollywood megastar Tom Hanks and his singer-songwriter wife tested positive for the new coronavirus in Australia Thursday, forcing them into hospital isolation and leaving authorities to trace hundreds of contacts at their concerts and film sets.

Hanks and Rita Wilson, both 63, are being monitored at the Gold Coast University Hospital where they were "in a stable condition,"

according to Queensland state health officials.

Hanks revealed the shock diagnoses in a message that informed fans they had felt slightly ill and wanted to get tested to "play things right."

Hanks is the first major Hollywood star to publicly state that he has the virus that has sickened more than 125,000 people worldwide and killed more than 4,600.

Latin America steps up measures

Latin American countries stepped up measures to slow the advance of the coronavirus Wednesday, announcing a slew of restrictions on travelers from the worst-affected countries and shutting down major sports events.

Argentina, Colombia and Peru said travelers from China, Italy, Spain and France would be isolated on arrival.

El Salvador went further, with President Nayib Bukele announcing late Wednesday the Central American country would ban entry to all foreigners for a period of 21 days.

The move would affect "any foreigner who is not a resident or diplomat" posted in the country, Bukele said, adding that Salvadorans arriving from countries hit by the virus would face a 30-day quarantine.

Iran's coronavirus cases top 10,000

Iran reported Thursday that its coronavirus infection cases have topped 10,000, with the death

toll rising 75 to 429.

The worst-hit country in the Middle East and the third in the world after China and Italy added 1,075 cases from the previous day, taking the total number of infections to 10,075, according to a Health Ministry spokesman.

Iranian authorities have asked the public to stay home and refrain from making nonessential travels. But Health Minister Saeed Namaki, speaking to local media on Thursday, sought cooperation from the public for anti-infection efforts on grounds that it has not been sufficient.

New York postpones St Patrick's Day parade

New York City has postponed its annual St Patrick's Day parade over the global coronavirus pandemic, officials said late Wednesday, days after other events in US cities were canceled.

State governor Andrew Cuomo said the decision was taken after a meeting with parade organizers.

"One of the most effective ways to contain the spread of the virus is to limit large gatherings and close contacts, and I applaud the parade's leadership for working cooperatively with us," said New York state governor Andrew Cuomo in a statement.

New York's St. Patrick's Day parade is the largest in the United States and typically attracts two million spectators.

REFERENCES
WHO; Xinhua, AFP; Kyodo News Updates



Korean soldiers spray disinfectant as a precaution against the coronavirus on a shopping street in Seoul, South Korea, last week. PHOTO: KYODO

CBM directive to reduce interest rates

THE Central Bank of Myanmar Directive No. (1/2020) on amending its interests was released on 12 March, 2020, and contains the following:

In an attempt to stimulate national economic development, the Central Bank of Myanmar has reduced its interest rates from 10 per cent per year to 9.5 per cent, and has amended bank deposit rates and lending rates as below:

(a) The minimum bank deposit rate has been lowered by 2 per cent from 9.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

(b) Collateralized loans of the nature mentioned below will have the maximum lending rate lowered by 3 per cent, from 9.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent:

-Land and real estate, gold and gold products, diamonds and precious gems, savings, bonds, fixed deposits, loan agreements capable of being collateralized, pledges, credit guarantees, and other collateral designated by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

(c) Loans acquired with collateral not mentioned in section (b) or non-collateralized loans have their maximum lowered by 6 per cent, from 9.5 per cent to 15.5 per cent.

The new interest rates are effective as of 1 April, 2020

Central Bank of Myanmar
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs. Hilde Solbakken as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Ms. Tone Tinnes.

Mrs. Hilde Solbakken was born in July 1971. She earned BSc (Econ) in International Relations in 1995 and MSc (Econ) in Development Studies in 1996 from London School of Economics and Political Science.

She joined the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1997. From 1999 to 2019, she served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Missions in Amman, Washington, D.C; Nairobi and Jakarta as well as at the Office of the Prime Minister. Since January 2020, she has been serving as senior advisor at Ocean Team/ Section for business relations and private sector development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She is married and has a child. —MNA

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UMFCCI to request setting up of national committee to reduce COVID-19 impact

By Nyein Nyein

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will submit a letter, requesting the government to set up a national-level committee comprising private sector representatives to deal with the economic and social fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an official announcement released by the UMFCCI on 12 March.

Through collaboration between the government, employees, and employers on finding ways to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, the economic and social crises created by COVID-19 can be overcome, according to the announcement.

The World Health Organiza-

tion (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, raising the outbreak beyond a global health emergency. As a consequence, the impact of the disease on the economic sector is highly likely to be negative, according to the UMFCCI.

The UMFCCI stated it is representing the private sector in responding to the economic crisis, in cooperation with the government, related ministries, organizations, trade unions, and other representative organizations.

The UMFCCI stated it is analyzing the condition, and is certain the economic condition of workers must have been adversely affected since the outbreak.

On 28 February, about 150 entrepreneurs from interna-

tional organizations released information about the possible impact of the quick spread of the COVID-19 disease on their businesses. Based upon their data, the UMFCCI will work with the government to seek ways to resolve the problems the businesses are confronted with.

The solutions will include calling on the government to ensure the rights of those left unemployed by the shutdown or suspension of factories and businesses, in keeping with the 2012 Social Security Law for factory workers; calculate the compensation businesses need to pay based on the minimum wage; grant temporary leave without pay until recovery from COVID-19; help businesses and workers using the social security fund at a low-interest rate;

disburse soft loans to businesses through local banks to pay workers' salaries and operate businesses; postpone the announcement of the new minimum wage, which was set to be released between May and September; share real-time information by the government, and ensure mutual understanding between employers and employees; help employees understand the situation and prevent protests; issue an official statement to regulate the problem of compensation arising out of breach of contracts caused by inability to conduct exports because of the shortage of raw materials; and, cooperate with the Customs Department to ensure swift customs clearance for raw materials at jetties.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 900,000 sit for matriculation exam on second day

THERE are a total of 909,539 students sitting for the English subject at exam centres locally and abroad on the second day of the matriculation exam for 2020.

The number of exam centres totaled 1,999 with 15 locations overseas and 1,984 nationwide.

Out of 909,539 students sitting for their exams on the second day, 105 are taking their exam at hospitals. Meanwhile, 30 visually impaired persons, 22 hearing impaired persons, 170 physical disabilities persons, 189 prisoners, and 125 students from Myawady, Kayin State took their exam.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Students seen in Yangon after the second day of the matriculation exam yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**



India shuts all entry points for a month

By Nyein Nyein

THE Indian government has shut down all entry points, including air, sea, and border checkpoints, with Myanmar for a month to prevent the coronavirus from spreading, according to the Bodh Gaya Pilgrimages Working Committee (BPWC).

Currently, Bodh Gaya pilgrims entering Nepal through the Sunauli border crossing between India and Nepal are not being allowed to enter the country. Also, pilgrims who are already in Nepal have been asked to return to India by 12 March.

"The BPWC will coordinate

with the Bodh Gaya aircraft agencies in Myanmar to bring back Myanmar citizens making a pilgrimage to India. The BPWC will announce its plan to bring them back," said U Maung Maung Myint, chairman of the BPWC.

"More than 1,000 pilgrims are currently on a visit to India. So, we've asked the consulate and the embassy of India in Myanmar for information, and they said that there is no information on Wuhan virus in Myanmar. So, we have two scheduled flights with Air India and Indigo. These flights are from India and they will operate regularly because no COVID-19 case has been

reported in Myanmar. So, they have promised that they won't suspend flights from these airlines. We have invited these two airlines and we will coordinate with them. There are also two flight operators in Myanmar — Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) and Myanmar Airways International (MAI). Also, there are three companies hiring out aircrafts. These companies are involved in our committee. We are also holding discussions with them. There is only one way to pick up pilgrims from Myanmar. We will have to send empty flights to India to bring back thousands of passengers from Myanmar. We can bring

back Myanmar citizens within a week or ten days," said U Maung Maung Myint.

Therefore, Myanmar pilgrims in India have been asked to contact airline agencies and the BPWC and provide information on their group's name, passenger list, and departure flight dates along with the name of the airlines, according to the BPWC.

The Indian government announced on 11 March that all India visa holders from around the country would not be allowed to enter India for a month — from 13 March to 15 April — in order to check the spread of COVID-19.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Magway govt orders a halt to Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda festival



Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda packed with visitors yesterday. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE WIN**

MAGWAY Region government issued an order for closure of ongoing Mann Shwe Settaw pagoda festival to alleviate concerns about the coronavirus in the country.

The deadly virus is now spreading in more than 120 countries and ter-

ritories, with over 118,000 confirmed cases and nearly 4,300 deaths, according to WHO's Situation Report 51 on 11 March.

Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo confirmed that his government had to decide to stop the pagoda festival due to advice of

medical experts and common people. The closure of festival will take effect on 13 March.

The pagoda festival in central Myanmar is annually held from the mid-February to mid-April.—Kyaw Soe Win (Minbu)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

ACC to host workshop for Corruption Prevention Units in May

THE Anti-Corruption Commission met to organize a workshop for the Corruption Prevention Units in May.

The workshop is aimed to share knowledge on combating corruption in human resources management and good management practices for the Corruption Prevention Units.

ACC's members U Zaw Win and Daw Myat Myat Soe, UNDP's Leap Project Manager Ms Valentina Bianchini, and the project's expert Professor Mr Federico Ceschel



Anti-Corruption Commission holding the meeting on organizing workshop for the Corruption Prevention Units in May. **PHOTO: MNA**

explained the progress of CPUs in fighting against corruption.

The members of CPUs from 22 Union

Ministries held talks on reviewing law, rules and directives which could lead to corruptions.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Paradiso Cinemas open new theatres in Mandalay, Kyaukse

PARADISO Cinemas Co.,Ltd. launched its new theatres in Kyaukse and Mandalay township yesterday morning.

The opening ceremonies were attended by

Mandalay Region government officials, members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and celebrities.

The company is now operating 11 digital cine-

mas and 21 ordinary ones in Mandalay Region.

There are a total of 211 digital cinemas across the country.—Ni Ni Win, Khin Thuzar Min (FDC)
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Officials opening the new theatres of Paradiso Cinemas Co.,Ltd in Kyaukse yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Invitation for Bidding

KMIC Development Co., Ltd. intends to invite eligible Consultants for "Consulting Services for Development Plan and Detailed Design of KMIC".

- Name of Consulting Service :** Development Plan and Detailed Design of KMIC
* Location of KMIC: Nyaung Hnit-Pin, Yangon Region
- Spatial Work Scope :** 555.81 acres (2,249,288 square meters)
- 1st phase (Zone A): 314.69 acres (1,273,514 m²)
- 2nd phase (Zone B): 241.12 acres (975,774 m²)
- Duration of the Service:** 30 months from the commencement date
- 1st phase Service: Detailed Design Service: 7 months, Post-Design Support Service: 11 months
- 2nd phase Service: Detailed Design Service: 4 months, Post-Design Support Service: 8 months
- Bidding Method:** Competitive Bidding, Lump-Sum Contract
* Selection Method : QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection)
- Estimated price (exclusive of taxes):** US\$ 1,650,760
- Work Scope:** Development plan and detailed design: earthwork, road and pavement, storm drainage, waste water collection, water supply, structures, landscape architecture, lightings and cable communication duct, etc.
- Eligibility for bidding**
- Officially registered consulting service provider in Korea or Myanmar as civil engineering design service consultant in accordance with related laws or regulation of its country.
- Experience record of more than 2,300,000 m² in civil engineering design of land development for the last ten (10) years
- Associated Consortium (Joint Venture)**
- Number of consultant members for associated consortium: maximum 3 members are allowed in total including nominated sub-contractors.
* Representative consultant of the associated consortium should be designated one that has the biggest share portion.
- Time Schedule**
- Tender announcement (13th March)
- Pre-registration and Submission of bidding Guarantee (18th March)
- Official questioning (18th March ~ 20th March) and Clarification (23rd March)
- Proposal Submission (Announcement Date ~ 26th March)
- Opening and Evaluation of proposals (27th March)
- Negotiations, Awarding, and Contracting (28th March ~ 3rd April)
* The above schedule can be changed depending on the situation.
* Please refer to KMIC website: www.mykmic.com for more details.

FE FOODS & BEVERAGES MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED

Members Voluntary Winding up

According to the special resolution made in the members general meeting on 10 March 2020, "FE Foods and Beverages Myanmar Company Limited" was resolved to be wound-up with effect from 10 March 2020. U Win Swe (Advocate) is appointed as liquidator for the winding up.

It is announced so that all receivables from and payables to the company may be claimed and made to the liquidator no later than 10 April 2020.

U Kaung Myat
Director
FE Foods and Beverages Myanmar
Company Limited

U Win Swe
Liquidator, Advocate (No.11054)
No. 59, U Ba Han Street,
Thamine, Mayankone Township,
Yangon. Tel: (959) 451360389

NHK TV takes documentary film in Yangon



The crew members of NHK Television channel taking a documentary film at Yangon Film School. **PHOTO: WIN HTEIN (FDC)**

JAPANESE state-owned NHK television channel is taking documentary film in Yangon for its World Channel.

Crew members filmed the basic shooting course

being conducted at the Yangon Film School in Yankin Township yesterday morning.

They will also take records at Myanmar Motion Picture Museum, environ-

ment of Thamada Cinema and daily activities and art works of Cartoonist U Win Pe (Aphyauk) until 25 March.—Win Htein (FDC)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Asia stocks sink after US bans Europe travel on virus

TOKYO — Stock markets tumbled Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced a 30-day ban on travel to the United States from Europe over the coronavirus.

Asian markets were already a sea of red at the open, with traders taking their lead from a global rout as the World Health Organization declared the spread of the new virus was officially a pandemic.

But Trump's announcement of the 30-day ban, which excludes Britain, caused further

selling, despite a series of measures intended to ease the financial pain of the outbreak, which has paralysed travel and hit businesses around the world. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei was down 5.42 per cent or 1,051.88 points to 18,364.18, while the broader Topix was down 5.06 percent or 70.15 points to 1,314.97 in the hour after Trump's address. Australia's ASX was down 5.4 per cent, while Hong Kong tumbled three per cent at the open. The news also sent the yen higher, with the safe haven

currency gaining as uncertainty continues. The dollar fetched 103.63 yen by 0130 GMT, from 104.57 yen in early Asian trade. "Trump travel ban: sell, sell, sell is being heard across dealing rooms in Asia," wrote Stephen Innes, global chief markets strategist at AxiCorp. "Travel restrictions equal slower global economic activity, so if you need any more coaxing to sell... after a massively negative signal from overnight trading in US markets, it just fell in your lap," he added.— AFP ■

Low oil prices heighten global oil and gas companies' financial risks: Moody's

NEW YORK — Despite the recent plunge in oil prices, Moody's Investors Service expects that oil and gas companies will actively manage their liquidity in 2020, reducing capital

spending and potentially reducing or suspending distributions to shareholders amid lower operating cash flow and limited access to capital markets.

The recent plunge in

oil prices is driven by an acute demand dislocation and the lack of an OPEC+ agreement around production cuts. The current price declines are lower in severity than the commodity price

drop of 2015-16. Moody's said it does not view these as a structural shift at this stage. But the OPEC+ impasse makes investors shift away from riskier assets and increases the risk

that speculative grade oil and gas issuers could lose market access. While this risk may result in rating consequences for some issuers with particularly challenged liquidity profiles and

refinancing needs over the next few months, a wave of rating actions based on tightening market access is unlikely at this time, said Moody's in its latest credit outlook.— ANI ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ASIATIC KING VOY. NO. (045N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ASIATIC KING VOY. NO. (045N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 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 LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (009S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (009S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V A RACER

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V A RACER VOY. NO. (28) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS

SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAMILA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAMILA VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V STAMINA SW

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V STAMINA SW VOY. NO. (200573) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PEACE 8

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PEACE 8 VOY. NO. (2001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Europe furious over Trump's unilateral travel ban



European Commission and European Council presidents Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel discussed with other senior officials the continent's response to the coronavirus in a conference call, urging cooperation to combat a global crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRUSSELS — European officials reacted with surprise and anger Thursday after US President Donald Trump imposed a trans-Atlantic travel ban they fear will wound economies already reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump closed US arrivals to travellers from the Schengen border-free zone — which does not include Britain and Ireland — in what he said was an “aggressive” effort to contain the spread of the often deadly disease.

But European leaders argue that their scientific advice suggests travel restrictions are ineffective when the virus is already present almost worldwide, and lamented that they had not

been consulted.

“The coronavirus is a global crisis, not limited to any continent, and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action,” EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel said.

“The European Union disapproves of the fact that the US decision to impose a travel ban was taken unilaterally and without consultation,” the presidents of the European Commission and European Council said.

“The European Union is taking strong action to limit the spread of the virus,” they insisted.

Earlier, Michel had made it clear that what Brussels fears most is the economic hit from the ban, and he promised that

EU experts would meet quickly. “Economic disruption must be avoided,” he said.

The Schengen zone includes most EU member states along with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland — but not Britain, Ireland, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria or Cyprus.

Trump said the ban on travellers from the zone would come into effect at midnight Friday, and would not affect US citizens returning from Europe.

Trump briefly caused alarm as he announced that a “tremendous amount of trade and cargo” would also be banned, forcing officials to clarify the measures would apply only to humans, not goods.—AFP ■

Bank of Japan to downgrade economic view at policy meeting: sources

TOKYO — The Bank of Japan is considering downgrading its assessment of the country's economy at its upcoming policy meeting next week in view of the deepening economic impact of the globally spreading new coronavirus, sources close to the matter said Thursday.

The BOJ is expected to revise its view that the Japanese economy is on a moderate expanding trend, an expression it has been using since March 2017, in a statement to be issued after the two-day policy-setting meeting starting Wednesday after assessing such recent developments as a sharp fall in the number of inbound tourists and declined exports to China, the sources said. The central bank is now expected to say the recovery

has slowed, the sources said. The BOJ said in a statement released after the January policy meeting that the country's economy “is likely to continue on an expanding trend” through fiscal 2021, supported by government stimulus.

However, the spread of the epidemic took a heavy toll on consumer spending recently, as many businesses such as department stores, already hit by a consumption tax hike to 10 per cent from 8 per cent on 1 October, suffered a steep sales fall for the fourth consecutive month through February. Japan's recent ban on entry of South Korean and Chinese travelers is likely to deal an even more severe blow to tourism and retail industries among others through March. —Kyodo News ■



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda attends a parliament committee session in Tokyo on 10 March, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Sincere Thanks

A grand event in commemorative of 20th Anniversary **Tamil Traditional Pongal Festival @ Harvest Festival**, to honor the Farmers and Peasants celebrated successfully on 2nd March, 2020 (Monday) evening at Thuwannabumi Event Park, Yangon, organized by **All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)**. On behalf of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), we would like to express our post-event sincere thanks to honorable Union Minister of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, **HE. Dr. Win Myat Aye**, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government **HE. U Phyo Min Thein**, Deputy Union Minister of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture **HE. U Kyi Min** for delivering preface speech, honorable the Ambassador of the Republic of India **HE. Mr. Saurabh Kumar**, honorable the Ambassador of Russian Federation **HE. Mr. Nikolay A. Listopadov**, honorable the Ambassador of Republic of Singapore **HE. Ms. Vanessa Chan**, honorable the Ambassador of Nepal **HE. Mr. Bhim K. Udas**, honorable the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Religious and Culture **U Zar Ni Win**, Deputy Director General **U Htun Nyunt** and **Directors**, Yangon Region Religious Department – Regional Religious Affairs Officer **U Sein Maw** and responsible persons, Yangon Region - National League for Democracy, Secretary **U Htun Myint**, honorable special invited departmental & civil organization personnel for attending the event, and honorable **Patrons and Advisors** from All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (**HQ**), **President and members** of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation **branch offices** (Bago/ Thaton/ Mawlamyine/ Mandalay, Yangon Region Affairs Committee, Hpa-an, Tanintharyi, & Pyay), honorable **members** of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, honorable members of Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association (**MLCA**), Businessmen from Myanmar-India- China Association, honorable persons from Public Limited Companies, honorable **Religious Leaders** from multi-religious groups, Representatives of Hindu multi-racial communities, special thanks to **U Zin Min Aung** (owner of **PT Power, BOC, Yangon Petrol**) for donating **(22,000 packs)** of Chicken Biryani and **(2000 packs)** of Vegetarian Biryani meal, special thanks to U Kyaw Win and responsible officials from **Shwethanlwin Company Ltd** for let us utilize the Thuwannabumi Event Park space **free-of-charge** for the event, special thanks to **Ms. Shri Sham Kali Devi & Super Family** for the donation of purified Drinking Water, special thanks to **U Htay Aung** (Owner of **Orchid House**) for let stay the artists group from India at the Orchid House **free-of-charge**, those who acted as **Master of Ceremony** in multilingual (**Tamil / Myanmar / English**), those who contributed with generous donation for the grand event, those who provided voluntary services, and also special thanks to (**Shwe Sin Event Creation**) **Company and staff** for the best decoration of the stage pretty good with special concession rate, Artists from India and famous Singer **Ms. Yadana Oo** of Myanmar who entertained with best performances, technicians who made documentary video filming & still pictures of the event, all respective sub-committee members of this event assigned by AMTHF (HQ), special thanks to Voluntary social services association & organization members and youth members who assisted with high-volition in receiving and set up the audience as per seat plan, systematic meal packs distribution, security arrangement, emergency medical services, and special thanks to those who helped this event both physical and high-spirit, and to whoever for thanks-worthy.

U Thein Lwin
(President)

U Aung Sann
Honorable Patron
&

U Chit Win
(Secretary)

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) Central Executive Committee and Members

Scrapping Japan cherry blossom 'like taking hugs away from Italians': Tokyo gov

TOKYO — Preventing Japanese from gathering to enjoy cherry blossom season because of coronavirus would be like “taking hugs away from Italians,” the governor of Tokyo said on Thursday.

Yuriko Koike however urged people to refrain from traditional “hanami” parties where friends and family gather under cherry blossom trees for copious quantities of food and drink.

After a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Koike said: “We discussed what to do with hanami. It is open-air. The metropolitan government wants people to admire the flowers.”

“I think taking hanami away from the Japanese is like taking away hugs from Italians,” she said.



It is a Japanese tradition to eat and drink under the cherry trees. PHOTO: AFP

“But we would like to ask people to refrain from, for example, spreading blue tarps and enjoying fun parties at Ueno Park like every year,” she added, referring to a large central Tokyo park

popular with revellers.

Meteorologists expect cherry blossoms to begin blooming around 17 March in Tokyo.

Koike has previously said that indoor events hosted by

her organisation or involving food would be postponed or cancelled between 22 February and 15 March.

The Tokyo marathon earlier this month was restricted to elite athletes only but Koike and other top officials have insisted that preparations for the Olympic Games — scheduled to open on 24 July — are going ahead as planned.

Italy is the worst-hit country in Europe and the country has been placed on effective lockdown to prevent the spread of the virus that has killed more than 800 people in just over two weeks. Italians have been told to keep at least a metre (three feet) from each other and handshakes — and hugs — are frowned upon. —AFP ■

China shuts down Everest over coronavirus

BEIJING — China has cancelled permits for Mount Everest because of the coronavirus, expedition organisers said Thursday, ahead of the spring climbing season on the world’s highest peak.

Last year’s traffic-clogged spring window saw a record 885 people summit Everest, 644 of them from Nepal and 241 from the northern flank in Tibet.

The Nepal side remains open for now although some expedition operators have seen cancellations and climbers have been asked to submit a 14-day travel history and medical reports.

The Chinese authorities “have informed us that the mountain will close from the north side,” Lukas Furtenbach of Austria-based Furtenbach Adventures told AFP.



This handout photo taken on 22 May, 2019 and released by climber Nirmal Purja’s Project Possible expedition shows heavy traffic of mountain climbers lining up to stand at the summit of Mount Everest. PHOTO: AFP

Furtenbach said that he will be shifting his 11 clients to Nepal. Tourist areas in Tibet have

been closed since January, according to the local tourism office. The China Tibet Mountain-

eering Association, which issues permits for Everest, declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

Another company, Alpenglow Expeditions, has cancelled its Everest plans.

“I am in agreement with China’s decision. It is responsible... Climbing a mountain is not currently worth the transmission risk in the Base Camps, nor upon returning home,” Adrian Ballinger of Alpenglow Expeditions said in a statement Wednesday.

Some companies in Nepal have also seen cancellations.

“We had bookings from 23 climbers, but two groups have already cancelled. We might have just 8 to 10 climbers this year,” said Pasang Tenje Sherpa of Pioneer Adventure.—AFP ■

Hong Kong, China dismiss US human rights report



Thousands of protesters rally in Hong Kong in January 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

HONG KONG — Hong Kong and China on Thursday dismissed an annual human rights report by the US State Department that highlighted police brutality and arbitrary arrests during months-long anti-government demonstrations in the former British colony.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that “many” of some 1,400 public demonstrations and processions since last June ended in serious violence and therefore warranted police

use of necessary force to restore law and order.

“Foreign governments should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs” of Hong Kong, it said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry’s commissioner in Hong Kong also issued a statement expressing “strong disapproval and firm opposition” to the report, alleging it “distorted the truth by glorifying extremist vandalism and violence.” —Kyodo News ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Afghan police defuse 13 bombs in 3 provinces

KABUL — The Afghan National Police (ANP) operation teams found and defused 13 roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices within a day, the country’s Interior Ministry said Thursday.

“The ANP discovered and defused 13 roadside bombs after several hours of efforts and point to point search operations in eastern Khost, northern Sari Pul and western Herat provinces,” the ministry said in a statement.

“The terrorists had planted the bombs to target the innocent civilians. The ANP is committed to protect people.”

Militants in Afghanistan have been using home-made IEDs to make roadside bombs and landmines for targeting security forces, but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians. On 2 March, three civilians were killed and 11 others wounded in an IED explosion outside a playground in Khost province.—Xinhua

Law and order situation in Delhi is normal, closely monitoring all PCR calls: Delhi Police PRO MS Randhawa

NEW DELHI — Delhi Police on Thursday asserted that the normalcy has returned in the north-east Delhi and said it has registered 712 FIRs and arrested over 200 accused in connection with last month’s violence in the national capital.

“The situation is completely normal in northeast Delhi. All deployment is there and all PCR calls are being monitored personally. Senior officers are continuously monitoring the situation,” Delhi Police PRO MS Randhawa said while addressing the media on north-east Delhi violence. He emphasized, “All PCR calls are being monitored closely by the cops.”

The official also said that so far 712 First Information Report (FIR) have been registered and more than “200 accused have been arrested.”

“We have received a lot of videos that will help us in the investigation,” he added.—ANI

Iraq fears escalation after deadly rocket attack, air strike

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and United Nations officials scrambled Thursday to contain the fallout from an unprecedented rocket attack that killed three US-led coalition members and threatened yet another escalation of Iran-US tensions.

Within hours of the attack on the Taji air base north of Baghdad — the deadliest in years on a base used by US forces in Iraq — an air strike killed more than two dozen Iran-aligned fighters in neighbouring Syria.

It marked a dramatic uptick in violence less than three months after rockets killed a

US contractor in northern Iraq, unleashing a round of tit-for-tat attacks between Washington and Tehran on Iraqi soil.

Fearing an even bloodier flare-up this time, Iraqi officials and the United Nations were quick to condemn the deaths.

Iraq's military command said it was "a serious security challenge" and pledged to open an investigation.

President Barham Saleh and parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbussi condemned a "terrorist attack" which targeted "Iraq and its security."

The UN mission in Iraq



US troops supervise a training session at the Taji camp, north of Baghdad — the site of the Wednesday night rocket attack. PHOTO: AFP

called for "maximum restraint on all sides". "These ongoing attacks are a clear and substantial threat to the country, and the risk of rogue action by armed groups remains a constant concern," it said. "The last thing Iraq needs is to serve as an arena for vendettas and external battles."

Briton, Americans killed

Wednesday's attack was the 22nd on US interests in Iraq since late October. It saw a volley of 18 rockets slam into the Taji air base, one of about a dozen facilities across Iraq where coalition forces are based.—AFP ■

Violence as Chile marks Pinera's two years in power

SANTIAGO — Students clashed with riot police in Chile's capital Santiago during protests that marked the second anniversary of conservative President Sebastian Pinera taking office on Wednesday.

The protests coincided with the 30th anniversary of Chile's

return to democracy after Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 dictatorship.

During a ceremony in Santiago, Pinera said that 30 years of democratic rule in Chile had been a "fertile" period that dragged eight million Chileans out of poverty.

But he also recognized shortcomings and inequalities that hurt "the soul of our nation."

"We have not sufficiently taken into account the fears and shortcomings of our middle class. We have not progressed strongly enough towards full

equality between men and women. We have not fought with sufficient will against the abuses and the privileges of others," said Pinera.

Fueled by outrage at Pinera and the Chilean elite that controls most of the country's wealth, the South American nation has seen since October its worst social unrest since the transition to democracy in 1990.

Thirty people have been killed in the protests, many as a result of a heavy-handed police response condemned as repressive by UN investigators. Thousands have been wounded.

The main aim of the continuing protests is to pressure Pinera to expand social reforms he has already proposed.

The most serious of Wednesday's disturbances occurred outside the landmark National Institute school in the center of Santiago, just a few blocks from the presidential palace, where police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse stone-throwing students.—AFP



The protests coincided with the 30th anniversary of Chile's return to democracy after Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 dictatorship. PHOTO: AFP

Syria war enters 10th year with no hope in sight

DAMASCUS — As it enters its tenth year, the war in Syria is anything but abating, as foreign powers scrap over a ravaged country where human suffering keeps reaching new levels.

When protesters in March 2011 demanded their rights and regime change, they likely never imagined it would trigger a reaction that has led to the 21st century's biggest war.

Nine years on, President Bashar al-Assad is still in power and there to stay, more than 380,000 people have died, dozens of towns and cities razed to the ground and half of the country's entire population displaced.

Nearly a year after the Islamic State group's "caliphate" was dismantled, the West's attention towards Syria was only pricked again last month when Turkey threatened to open the floodgates for migrants seeking to flee to Europe.

While the number of fronts has been reduced by Damascus' reconquest in recent years, the nature of the war is changing and violence is still raging in the northwest.

Some other regions have long been pacified, but people there have yet to feel the dividends of peace as Syria plays host to a complex international showdown involving Russia, the United States, Turkey, Israel and Iran.

"It's certainly not a simple international conflict," said Syria researcher Fabrice Balanche.—AFP ■

Emir's fall shows limits for Nigerian traditional rulers

LAGOS — An outspoken ruler mired in conflicts is ousted without warning from his palace and banished under armed guard into an uncertain exile beyond the borders of his realm.

This is not the plot of a Shakespearean tragedy, but the real-life drama that has played out in northern Nigeria's influential Islamic emirate of Kano as traditional leader Muhammadu

Sanusi II was unceremoniously deposed by the local governor.

The sudden fall of one of the country's most revered hereditary rulers on Monday rattled the 1,000-year-old kingdom — and has shown the difficult balancing act facing the ancient monarchies of modern-day Nigeria.

Sanusi, also known by his birth name Lamido, had been a mould-breaker since ascending

to the throne of the emirate of millions in 2014 after the death of his great-uncle.

The 58-year-old former central bank governor was already known for his outspokenness when he claimed the title and carved out a reputation as a moderniser willing to criticise practices like having multiple wives and children without being able to support them.

He was also not afraid of taking on the powerful politicians running northern Nigeria — lambasting them for leadership failures.

"It's no secret that many of our political leaders are inept and not well educated," the emir wrote back in 2017.

"Nigerians have learnt from experience not to expect much from them."—AFP ■

Amateur teams to be included in General Aung San Shield 2020

AMATEUR football teams will participate in the General Aung San Shield 2020, according to the drawing ceremony for the tourney held yesterday at the headquarters of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon.

Five amateur teams will compete in this year's tourney, taking the total number of teams to 25.

The five amateur teams are Paung Laung FC, the champions of the We Are One Cup 2019, Happy Friendship FC, the Yangon League champions, and Ten Mon FC, the first runners up in the Yangon League, and unknown teams from the Yangon Premier League and the play-offs stage.

Twelve teams from the Myanmar National League clubs and eight teams from Myanmar National League II will partici-

pate in the tourney, like the previous year.

The General Aung San Shield 2020 Football Tournament will start on 8 April and conclude on 30 September.

Matches will be played at the Thuwunna Stadium, Padonmar Stadium, and Salin Stadium.

Myawady FC, University FC, Silver Stars FC, Kachin United, Mawyawady FC, Yaw Myay FC, and Junior Lions FC will represent League II.

Defending champions of the Myanmar National League, Shan United, 1st runners up Ayeyawady United, and defending champions of the General Aung San Shield, Yangon United, will participate in the tourney from the quarterfinal stage, according to the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



The drawing ceremony for the General Aung San Shield 2020 was held yesterday in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF



MFF Class-2 Men Referees and Assistant Referees Workshop for the 2020 Football Season was held yesterday in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF

MFF conducts referee workshop for 2020 football season

WITH the aim of improving the capability of Myanmar referees and assistant referees, the MFF Class-2 Men Referees and Assistant Referees Workshop for 2020 Football Season was held yesterday in the press conference hall of the Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon.

The workshop was organized through a collaboration between the Myanmar Football

Federation and the referee committee of the MFF

The opening ceremony for the workshop was attended by MFF counsellor U Bunny Tin Aung, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein, referee committee in-charge U Hla Min, and officials from the football federation and referee committee.

MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein gave the opening

speech at the workshop. It was followed by a speech by the supervisor of the MFF referee committee, U Hla Tin.

Four referee supervisors, and 35 referees and assistant referees attended the workshop and discussed future plans and their role in improving the standard of football in Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar golfer wins River Landing Classic tourney in US

GOLFER Phue Pwint Yati Khaing represented Myanmar at the 2020 edition of the River Landing Classic Golf competition, held on 9 and 10 March at Wallace, North Carolina, United States, and won the women's event of the tourney.

Sixty-eight players participated in the tourney. Phue Pwint Yati Khaing won with a total of 216 shots: 72-78 shots on 9 March and 68 shots on 10 March.

Thao My Nguyen came second place with 221 shots and Mal-

lory Fobes third with 221 shots.

Rachael Mast placed fourth with 227 shots and Keri Kenkel fifth with 240 shots.

Phue Pwint Yati Khaing is studying at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and has competed in American golf competitions, according to the Myanmar Golf Federation.

She finished ninth at the Sergio Garcia Foundation tournament last year, and came 12th in the Golf Week Junior Tour.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar golf player Phue Pwint Yati Khaing seen with the River Landing Classic Cup. PHOTO: MGF