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Monday, 2 March 2020

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the Peasants Day Celebrations

2 March 2020

Dear esteemed peasants, our benefactors,

On this auspicious Peasants Day, full of significance, I send this message of greetings and good wishes for the good health and well-being of all peasants and for their agricultural productions tasks to be successful by leaps and bounds.

For the development of our nation, export promotion and industrial development are important. So also is food security. Therefore, we have laid down a policy and have been working from all sectors in accordance with the 12 point - Myanmar Economic Policy which stated

that efforts will be made to develop a balanced economic system which promotes harmonious development of the agricultural sector, livestock sector and industrial sector for integrated development, food security, and export promotion.

All the peasants who are working in the agricultural and livestock sector, play a vital role in the nation's economy as they are contribute to the daily food requirements of the people as well as income derived from exports. Therefore, since the socio-economic development of peasants, protection of their rights, and sustainable

development of agricultural production are important for national development, we have been strenuously working for protection of peasants' rights by using the laws and bylaws relating to the agricultural sector.

Since the people of the world including the Myanmar people of today are more well-informed and knowledgeable, they have been consuming healthy food products and therefore it is necessary that agricultural produce sold within the country as well as abroad are of high quality, high standard and free from harmful elements.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends centenary of law department at Yangon University

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than joined the 100th anniversary celebration of law department at the Yangon University yesterday.

The event was held at the Recreation Centre in the campus of university, and it was also attended by Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Pro-Rector of Yangon University Dr Omar Kyaw, Professor/Dean of Department of Law Dr Daw Khin Chit Chit, Retired Professor U Hla Aung, Retired Rector Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Tin Aung Aye, Retired Professor Daw Than Nwe, and Chairman of the 100th anniversary organizing committee U Soe Myint.

At the celebration, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker extended greetings as an alumnus of law student from 1970 to 1975 academic year.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and officials open the 100th anniversary celebration of law department at the Yangon University yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor arrives back after attending the High-Level Segment of the 43rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

THE Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor arrived back to Yangon on 1 March after attending the High-Level Segment of the 43rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council held in Geneva, from 24 to 26 February 2020.

At the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council, the Union Minister delivered a Statement on 26 February 2020, stressing that cooperation with the United Nations is a cornerstone of the Foreign Policy of Myanmar while recalling the duties of the member states mentioned in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the main purpose of the creation of Human Rights Council. He also apprised the Council of



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe delivers the speech at the High-Level Segment of the 43rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. **PHOTO:MNA**

the Government's effort for peace and national reconciliation, resolving the issues in Rakhine State and ensuring the accountability by domestic judicial procedures.

On the sidelines of the Meeting, Union Minister met with H.E. Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamen-

tary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan on 25 February 2020 and exchanged views on matters related to strengthening the existing bilateral relations, increasing the cooperation between Myanmar and Japan at the multilateral fora as well as

possible area of support by Japan in Myanmar's endeavours in achieving the sustainable solution on the issue of Rakhine State. Subsequently, the Union Minister also held bilateral discussion with Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC on the same day and discussed



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with Ms. Omi Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. **PHOTO:MNA**

on the matters pertaining to the cooperation between Myanmar and ICRC, capacity building programme and humanitarian assistance.

Union Minister received Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar

at the Permanent Mission of Myanmar on 26 February 2020.

While in Geneva, the Union Minister met with Permanent Representative U Kyaw Moe Tun and staff of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar and their family members on 26 February 2020. —MNA

Health authorities hold coordination meeting for COVID-19 prevention

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presided over a coordination meeting of health authorities for prevention of COVID-19 at his office in Yangon yesterday.

At the 27/2020 meeting, the Union Minister discussed the World Health Organization's Situation report 39 and 40 which were released on 28 and 29 February.

The reports said a total of 53 countries are experiencing the outbreak of COVID-19, with the increasing death rates in South Korea, Italy and Iran. The WHO also increased the assessment

of the risk of spread and risk of impact of COVID-19 to very high at the global level.

The Union Minister added that Myanmar is following the recommendations of WHO for the countries which have not encountered the disease.

The Basic Health Staff members from Bago and Ayeyawady regions and veteran experts of Myanmar Health Assistance Association have joined the health worker team for screening inbound travelers at the Yangon International Airport.

The MoHS has suggested denying permit for landing of a cruise ship to Myanmar ports as it was scheduled to arrive in the country on 4 March with over 800 passengers and crew members, and the vessel was supposed to visit the countries where COVID-19 was found.

The ministry has also supplied necessary medicines and equipment to the intensive care units of hospitals in States and Regions, and instructed for disinfection at the outpatient wards

and emergency units of the hospitals.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe also advised to promote public awareness programmes and conducting surveys on their knowledge about the disease, to make ready for medical treatments at the new healthcare facilities in States and Regions and to coordinate with relevant ministries and social organizations in disease control measures.

A total of 7 students, who arrived back from Daegu city of South Korea to Myanmar, are now quarantined at the Waibargi hospital in Yangon.

The Union Minister, together with his Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, attended the meeting at the office of Public Health and Medical Services of Yangon Region on the effective use of a water bus donated by the Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies for mobile health care services in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the coordination meeting of health authorities for prevention of COVID-19 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the Peasants Day Celebrations

2 March 2020

FROM PAGE-1

In order to build good basic foundations, our Union Government has been working to increase the productivity rate of agricultural and livestock produce as well as to ensure the food security of our citizens and to promote the competitiveness of agricultural products in the international market. To make this happen we have issued relevant guidelines to provide education for production of agricultural and livestock produce in line with good agricultural practices, good practices for raising livestock, and good practices for farming of aquatic animals; we have also taken action to ensure the quality of vegetables, fruits, and farm vegetables, ensure the quality of fish and meat, to make sure that there are no chemical residues, and techniques to reduce post-harvest loss.

For sustainable production of agricultural and livestock produce and for the people to be able to consume nutritious and safe agricultural and livestock produce free from harmful chemicals, in safety and with full confidence, we have issued a statement, the Myanmar organic standards, based on ASEAN organic standards in order to promote the systematic development of organic agriculture in the agricultural sector; and also to make sure that organic standards are strictly adhered to. By giving due regard and abiding by these organic standards, our peasants can penetrate new markets, gain better profits and also gain good merits.

Dear esteemed peasants, our benefactors,

At the present time, due to climate change we are witnessing natural disasters such as drought, floods, hail storms, forest fires, storms and landslides which are affecting the socio-economic life of peasants.

In the MSDP – Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018 – 2030), Pillar Three “People and Planet”, we have designated Goal Five as “resources and environment for the nation’s future generations”. We are working in full coordination with various sectors and performing the tasks of conserving the environment, and reduce the effects of climate change.

In accordance with the changing climate, we are working to ensure that we can use water beneficially and effectively. We are undertaking the following tasks and giving demonstrations and educational talks: - planting fast yielding crops that need little water, changing the crop varieties based on the region and situation, in paddy cultivation to use irrigation and drainage methods, and using modern irrigation machinery to save water. In the dry zone, we are undertaking the following tasks: - digging wells, making water collection and water storage facilities and drawing up plans for planting other crops in place of summer paddy based on availability of water. Furthermore, we have undertaken the following tasks: - performed maintenance of embankments, irrigation structures, and irrigation works; conducted public education campaigns to

ensure that in using river water, the irrigated water is used more beneficially and effectively.

The Union Government in collaboration with the private sector have been undertaking the following tasks to be able to overcome the danger of inadequate food stocks in times of natural disasters due to climate change and to strengthen the capacity to respond: - reserve storage of seeds, making advance plans, assisting in rehabilitation efforts in areas that have suffered crop damage.

We have been undertaking rehabilitation works for areas which have suffered crop damage due to natural disasters; we have distributed paddy seeds and also gave cash assistance for damaged crops. From financial year 2016 – 2017 to 2018 – 2019, we have distributed more than Kyats (19.345) billion from the emergency fund.

To enable the planting and production of marketable crops, we have been collaborating with the peasants and private sector to produce good high quality seeds using various methods. Furthermore, we have published and distributed guidelines to practice mutually beneficial partnerships to assist peasants in getting market access.

Dear esteemed peasants, our benefactors,

We have also enacted the Rural Development Law on 27 December 2019. As stipulated in the said law, we all need to cooperate and collaborate for the success of the following tasks:- development of rural areas where the majority of the peasants live, and advancement of their socio-economic situation; narrow the economic development gap between cities and rural areas; use human and financial resources beneficially and effectively; develop the capacity of rural people; and to create and develop communities which can protect and respond in times of disasters.

As the Union Government has already given permission to the peasants to plant crops that would be most beneficial and suitable for their regions, we have been continuously monitoring closely the needs of peasants, so as to assist and support them, to enable them to plant crops that

are economically profitable and marketable. To enable peasants to produce their own seed reserves, we have undertaken the following tasks: training courses for producing seeds; establishing seed production associations; establishment of village seed banks; professionals from related disciplines helping out in areas such as soil, seeds and plant protection; establishment of model villages using integrated advanced techniques.

To enable the planting and production of marketable crops, we have been collaborating with the peasants and private sector to produce good high quality seeds using various methods. Furthermore, we have published and distributed guidelines to practice mutually beneficial partnerships to assist peasants in getting market access.

From the “Farmers channel”, we have been broadcasting modern agricultural techniques, weather news and market prices and news so that the peasants can utilize this information on real-time basis. We are also broadcasting news about the agriculture sector, and educative and entertainment programmes, journals, educative newsletters, and news about the rural economy for the general knowledge of peasants. To enable the peasants to get agricultural techniques easily, a mobile application has been created to make available weather news, agriculture and market news, and agricultural techniques. Thus they can now know and learn in real time.

Dear esteemed peasants, our benefactors,

We are also encouraging and developing the process of converting raw agricultural and livestock produce into value-added finished products and selling them at the international markets in competition with others, so that the peasants will get more incomes and their socio-economic life would be up-lifted.

Furthermore, our Union Government has fixed the minimum price of at Kyats (5) lakhs for (100) baskets, to ensure the stability of paddy price and mitigate the loss suffered by peasants. We have also undertaken the following tasks: - working for peasants to get back their confiscated farmlands; for farmlands that could not be returned to make sure that compensation is given; allowing farmers on small plots and local ethnic people to work on vacant, fallow and virgin land after review; amending the farmland law; ensuring that peasants are given permission to work on farmlands officially; working to uplift the socio-economic life of peasants by rural development; creating other means of generating incomes apart from agricultural work for peasants and their families.

As the Union Government has been working seriously to uplift the socio-economic life of peasants and their families, I solemnly urge all of you as I send this Message of Greetings, to join hands and cooperate with the Union Government in the long term interests of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to overcome all challenges, obstacles and difficulties.

* * * * *

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends centenary of law department at YU

FROM PAGE-1

He also emphasized the crucial role of law students for rule of law and development of the country. The chairman of ceremony organizing committee presented a gold award to an outstanding female student in the fifth year exam.

On behalf of Commander in Chief of Defence Service Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Judge Advocate-General Major General Thaung Naing presented K 3 million, 100 packs of instant coffee and 100 packs of instant tea for the department.

The centenary was also celebrated with paper reading session and dinner party in the university campus.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)



The centenary of law department of Yangon University being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Construction Minister inspects Pathein Bridge construction project

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw inspected Pathein Bridge (2) construction project before he looked into upgrade of Yangon-Pathein motorway on 29 February.

The road is being paved with concrete between the mileposts 33/0 and 33/1 in Ayeyawady Region, and a 180-ft bridge on inter-village road that links Pantanaw Township to Yangon-Pathein road.

The Union Minister and party then visited the construction site of Pathein Bridge (2), and instructed timely completion of the bridge and safety measures at the project.

After finishing construction, the bridge will link Pathein city and Seingone residential ward on the west bank of Ngawon River. The bridge is 2,380-ft long



Union Minister U Han Zaw inspects the Pathein Bridge (2) construction project on 29 February. **PHOTO: MNA**

with 28-ft wide traffic route and 5-ft wide pedestrian lanes on each side. The width of pillars and height for waterway will be 416-ft and 60-ft respectively. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Pilgrims visiting the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in Magway Region. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE WIN (MINBU)**

Tourist attractions in Minbu crowded with visitors in three holidays

PAGODAS and tourist attractions in Minbu Township, Magway Region, were packed with visitors, who were spending their three-day holidays, from 29 February to 2 March.

The places of most people visited in the region are: the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda, the Shin Pin Set Kein Te Pagoda, and the Naga Bwet Taung (Mud Volcano).

“More than 1,500 pilgrims visited the Shin Pin Set Kein Te Pagoda each day during the three holidays. We arranged for overnight visitors free accommodations, and for viewing the grand Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway).” said a member of the pagoda’s board of trustees. —Kyaw Soe Win (Minbu)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Onion farmers, traders suffer as prices weaken



Women selecting onions at a warehouse in Kyaukse. PHOTO: HTEIK HTAR NAING (IPRD)

WITH demand from China and Bangladesh trickling to a stop, the prices of Myanmar onions have slumped, leading to losses for growers and traders.

“The prices dropped after Bangladesh stopped purchases. We cannot export onions to China either due to COVID-19. Also, when supply exceeds demand, the prices plunge. Summer onions have been freshly harvested in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions,” said U

Win Myint from Shwemanhla onion depot.

Kyaukse, Myittha, and Singaing are the main suppliers of onion to the Mandalay market. About 3,000-4,000 viss of onions (a viss equals 1.6 kg) are produced per acre and so, most growers are choosing to cultivate onions.

“With Bangladesh suspending onion imports, Myanmar’s onion growers and traders are facing a hard time.

Earlier, traders made advanced purchases of onions at K1,200-1,500 per viss. Now, the price has plunged to K500-600 per viss. Therefore, some traders have cancelled the contract and lost their deposit. Both growers and traders have been battered by low prices,” he said.

At present, onions prices are ranging between K500 and 900, depending on the variety. — Hteik Htar Naing (IPRD)
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Manufacturing exports reach \$3.95 bln in current FY

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods touched a high of US\$3.95 billion between 1 October and 21 February in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, reflecting an increase of \$521.65 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totaled \$3.43 billion during the same period in the 2018-2019FY.

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country’s GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The

value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 financial year, but it tripled within two years to touch \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September.

In the first four months of the current financial year, exports of clothing produced under the CMP system crossed \$1.6 billion, an increase of \$170 million from the same period in the 2018-2019FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar employ

more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar.

According to an official from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, more than 1,000 workers are out of jobs at present owing to COVID-19 as factories struggling with shortage of raw materials have laid off workers.

“Some CMP enterprises from Myanmar mainly rely on China for raw materials, and they are now facing a shortage of raw materials. They may find themselves battling against other importer countries for CMP raw materials. Some businesses may grind to a halt due to the lack of raw materials. There have already been layoffs in factories,” said the official. — GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

EFR Public Company to debut on YSX on 20 March

THE Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR) has been given the green light to list on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) on 20 March, in accordance with Section 41 (c) of the Securities Exchange Law and Section 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations.

EFR would be the sixth public company to list on the exchange. The base price of EFR will be announced on the website on 19 March, one business day prior to the listing date, as per a notice from the YSX.

As per the company’s profile, EFR is a fully integrated logistics service provider. There are seven subsidiaries, one affiliate, and two project companies operating under the management of the EFR Group of Companies.

In 2016, shares of only three companies were traded on the YSX — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB). One more public company, First Private Bank (FPB), was listed on the YSX in 2017. In 2018, TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd debuted on the exchange.

More than 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were traded on the YSX in 2016, and their value was estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading

volume to 2.6 million shares, the trade value was only K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five companies, worth K11.5 billion, were traded on the exchange. A total of 2.4 million shares worth K13.39 billion were traded on the YSX in 2019, a significant increase compared to the previous year, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

In January this year, 196,836 shares worth K1.25 billion were traded on the exchange, YSX’s monthly data showed.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

To boost trading, the YSX has doubled its stock trade matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, it has held promotional events to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The stock exchange has also sought the government’s support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. — Ko Htet

(Translated by EMM)

External trade crosses \$15 bln as of 21 Feb

MYANMAR’S external trade between 1 October and 21 February in the 2019-2020 financial year was registered at US\$15.3 billion, an increase of \$2.27 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$13.05 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

Myanmar’s foreign trade has shown a 10-per-cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government, said an official from the ministry.

In the current fiscal, both maritime and border trade recorded an increase compared with the year-ago period, with exports estimated at over \$7 billion and imports valued at \$8 billion.

Myanmar exports agricul-

tural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from CMP (cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. According to the Commerce Ministry, higher exports have helped trim the trade gap in the current fiscal. — GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Agricultural exhibition opens in Kangyidaung to mark Peasants Day

AN exhibition to mark 2020 Peasants Day, which falls on 2 March, was opened at the Wardu Village in Kangyidaung Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Kyaw Swar Hlaing, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Tin Aung Win, Region Chief Judge U Than Tun, and Region Hluttaw Speaker U San Htay opened the exhibition by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The exhibition includes the booths from the Agriculture Department of Ayeyawady Region, Patheingyi project villages, SMU Project in Kangyidaung, Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Breeding Veterinary, Department of Rural Development, Cooperative Department, and Myanmar Fisheries Federation. In addition, a home garden was showcased.

U Tin Aung Win, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said, "The event is

organized for farmers. Not only agriculture but also livestock breeding, fisheries, forestry, and machinery can be studied."

U Myo Zaw, Director of Ayeyawady Region's Agriculture Department, said, "The crops and vegetables produced in Ayeyawady Region were displayed here. A home garden, which was prepared two months in advance, was also displayed with an aim of farmers getting motivation."

"Our Ayeyawady Region mainly grows rice, and our Agriculture Department set up a booth," he added.

U Phone Maw from the Fisheries Department's booth said, "Our booth displayed fishing gears, and boats used in freshwater fishing, conserved rare sea turtles, fish species, and crabs. Sea turtles are threatened with extinction. Out of seven turtle species worldwide, five of them are found in Myanmar."

Ko Kyaw Win Htaik from the Capital Automotive's booth said, "We exhibit our products here to introduce farmers quality agricultural machinery. We sell them in two types of instalments – one



Officials led by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung observe the plantation at the Agricultural Exhibition in Kangyidaung yesterday to mark Peasants Day. PHOTO: MNA

is 20 per cent down payment with three-year instalments at six-month interval; and another is the instalment paid linking with Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. We also teach the methods of maintaining our machinery."

U Thein Soe, a farmer from Kangyidaung Township, said, "The 'home garden' displayed today here should be implemented by every farmer. New income can be earned if they make it at their home's compound. I like very much the insurance plan

introduced at the booth."

Afterwards, Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung and attendees observed the booths displayed at the event.

—Thi Thi Min, Min Thit
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar donates 200 tonnes of rice to China's Wuhan



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo hands over rice bags, and documents including certificates of laboratory tests for pest, aflatoxins, and chemicals to Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai. PHOTO: HLA MOE

MYANMAR government donated 4,000 bags of rice to China's Wuhan as humanitarian aid in the battle against the COVID-19 outbreak.

A ceremony to hand over the rice bags was held at the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-4 in Yangon Region yesterday.

The 4,000 bags of rice weighing 200 tonnes is valued at K 86 million; they were packed in 120g PP bags; and the Ministry of Commerce will

transport them with six lorries to the China-Myanmar border.

U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Commerce, handed over the rice bags, and documents including certificates of testing rice for pest, aflatoxins, and chemicals; and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai accepted them, and returned certificates of honour.

Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs U Zaw Tun Oo explained the purpose of donating rice to China.

Since December 2019 when the COVID-19 outbreak occurred in China, its Hubei Province's Wuhan region was imposed a lockdown.

The donation is aimed at fulfilling the food requirement of the people in Wuhan.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Surveillance and investigation of COVID-19 Updates at 8 pm on 1 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19, with conducting surveillance at international gateways and at the public hospitals and private healthcare facilities.

2. No new case for investigation was found from 6 pm 29 February to 6 pm 1 March. There are only 45 persons for investigation and suspect cases, and were not tested positive until now. Among them 3 persons at Waibargi hospital and 1 person at the hospital in Muse Township are under the medical treatments despite improving health conditions.

3. Although there is no laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 until now, the ministry is conducting round-the-clock surveillance in upward momentum, and people are suggested to follow health awareness of the Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention of the disease.— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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State Sangha body holds second day meeting

THE 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held its second day meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall in the precinct of Kaba Aye pagoda in Yangon yesterday. At the meeting, the leading members of Sangha discussed and decided monastic discipline rulings, other religious affairs and education issues during the

second term of sub-committee of the 8th Sangha Supreme Committee.

After the senior monks explained the reports on activities and the recommendations during the second term of sub-committee, the committee took record them before concluding the second day meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Second day meeting of the 47-member of leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee being convened at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall in the precinct of Kaba Aye pagoda in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Police seizes narcotic drugs in Ywagan, Mongpan tsps

POLICE confiscated 24 kg of raw opium and a mobile phone from Phoe Aung, who was driving a motorcycle, on the Ywagan-Kyaukse road near Yone Taung Village in Ywagan Township on 29 February.

Similarly, a combined team including anti-narcotic police seized K 603 million worth 24.12 kg of heroin, K 200,000 in cash, and a mobile phone from a Dyna light truck left by driver Sai Win Tit at the diverse road to Wan Salar Village in Mongpan Township.

Sai Win Tit left the vehicle there after the vehicle, Aik Yi, and Sai Ming on board, was being checked at the Tar San Bridge inspection gate in Tar San Village in Mongpan Township where he drove away it, and escaped from the police.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Kyaw Zin Tun



Suspects named Aik Yi and Sai Ming seen with their illegal drugs. PHOTO:MPF

Myanmar-India border trade declines this FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India, as of 21 February in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, reached US\$ 60.44 million, a decrease in value by \$12.101 million over the same period last year, according to a report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was made up of Myanmar's exports of \$58.49 million and

imports of \$1.95 million. During the same period last year, India-Myanmar bilateral trade was \$72.541 million.

The two countries carry out border trade mainly through the Tamu, Reed Thantlang and Kenglap cross-border trade camps, while a major portion of bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetables, fish-

ery and forestry products, while importing from India medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's border trade with four neighboring countries, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, totalled \$ 4.198 billion, shared by \$2.72 billion in exports and \$1.5 billion in imports.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

UK's Johnson to wed, expecting baby with girlfriend Carrie Symonds

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his girlfriend Carrie Symonds announced on Saturday that they are expecting a baby and have got engaged.

"The Prime Minister and Miss Symonds are very pleased to announce their engagement and that they are expecting a baby in the early summer," a spokesperson for the couple told British media.

A Downing Street spokeswoman confirmed the news to AFP without providing further comment.

Symonds also shared the announcement — alongside an intimate photo of her and Johnson — on her Instagram account, which is set to private, according to Britain's Daily Mail.

"Many of you already know but for my friends that still don't, we got engaged at the end of last year... and we've got a baby hatching early summer," it said she posted. Twice-married



The British leader, who took office last summer and then swept to an emphatic victory in the country's December general election, will be the first UK prime minister to wed while in office for 250 years. PHOTO: AFP

Johnson, 55 — who split from his wife of 26 years in 2018 — has been publicly dating 31-year-old Symonds since early last year.

The British leader, who took office last summer and then swept to an emphatic victory in the country's December general election, will be the first UK prime minister to wed while in office for 250 years. He and

Symonds have already made history as the first unmarried couple to occupy the prime minister's official residence. Sajid Javid, who quit as finance minister earlier this month following a falling out with Johnson over staffing, was among the first to congratulate the couple on Twitter, calling it "wonderful news".—AFP

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To prevent COVID-19, constant vigilance is vital

WHILE novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infections are on the decline in China, the World Health Organization has escalated the risk assessment of COVID-19 to "very high at global level".

This can be attributed to the fact that the number of coronavirus cases and deaths are on the rise in South Korea, Italy, and Iran.

As more infections have been found in other countries, the health authorities in Myanmar have tightened surveillance at the Yangon International Airport, which serves as the main entry point to Myanmar for international travelers, to identify suspected patients. They have also taken the necessary measures to establish an information network with hotels and guest houses where travelers stay.

After a survey in China, the WHO has issued five guidelines for countries that have not reported any COVID-19 cases yet. The Myanmar health authorities are implementing the same measures.

As we step up efforts for preventing COVID-19 infections, we need to consider banning the entry of a cruise ship carrying 800 people on board to the country as, prior to its planned visit to Myanmar, the ship has traveled to countries that have reported coronavirus infections.

As we step up efforts for preventing COVID-19 infections, we need to consider banning the entry of a cruise ship carrying 800 people on board to the country as, prior to its planned visit to Myanmar, the ship has traveled to countries that have reported coronavirus infections.

Besides, the authorities have advised people against holding public gatherings and avoiding crowds, unless strictly necessary. Although no COVID-19 cases have been reported so far in Myanmar, we need to be prepared for any possible outbreak. Therefore, the relevant departments, social organizations, private hospitals and clinics, and the Public Health Department must coordinate and continue their prevention and control measures.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has been holding a central-level meeting on disease prevention and control daily, issuing guidelines, and distributing information continuously. Regional health authorities and workers are advised to go on field tours while implementing township-wise preventive measures, under the leadership of the respective township offices of the Public Health Department, while the state and region offices of the PHDs serve as the chief coordinators for the project.

The public must keep constant track of the ministry's prevention and control undertakings, guidelines for the undertakings, standard procedures, and public health knowledge through the website (www.moh.gov.mm) and social networking pages of the ministry.

According to the disease control centre of China, of every 100 COVID-19 patients, 80 per cent suffer from mild infection, while 15 per cent of the cases are severe, and 5 per cent are at the acute stage.

In case an infection is reported in the country, it may follow the same pattern. The staff at the ministry must strive to save the country from COVID-19, and curb the infection and fatality rate should it occur in the country, by making a commitment to serve the public interest.



Hailing 58th Anniversary of Peasants Day

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt



Farmers harvesting rice in their paddy field in Kangyidaunk, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

THERE are five mass classes, namely 1. Buddhist Sangha 2. Peasants 3. Workers 4. Students 5. Army. They are recruited from Myanmar ethnic nationalities. Each of them has its own Day. Sangha Day is many such as Abedama Day, Damahsetjar Day, Mettasuta Day etc.

Peasants Day which was chosen on March 2nd, Workers' Day on May 1st which is International Workers' Day (May Day). Students' Day chosen on 10th Waning Moon of Tazaungmoung, Amyotha Aung Pwe Day (National Victory Day) and Army Tatmadaw Day celebrated on March 27th.

General Ne Win had coup d'etat on March 2nd 1962. He did not want to mark a day for his coup d'etat. So he marked it as Peasants Day which we had not yet have.

Peasants' revolution in Myanmar was interaction of home and foreign politics. It was the result of economic depression, recession and reaction abroad.

Myanmar was well known as the rice bowl of Asia. In addition to staple paddy other agricultural crops such as wheat, corn, millet etc. produce enormous production. Big surplus were sold out especially to India, Europe and America. When the Suez Canal was opened, Myanmar Agricultural export boomed. But Myanmar

Peasants never got their rightful share in the profit. Because there were foreign capitalist companies such as Steel Brothers and other three similar companies formed Bullinger Pool. Sold out Myanmar agricultural products making an enormous profit for themselves without any consideration for the welfare of the Myanmar Peasants. In addition, there were Chettiars money lenders from India who lend money to the Myanmar Peasants at high interest. There were also local Chinese retail shops from where Myanmar Peasants bought their daily needs on credit. Therefore, Myanmar Peasants were head

over heel in debt. The Peasants revolts were chain effect of economic depression in 1920. Wall Street in America became bankrupt due to crash of stock and share. That is called economic depression. There was a complete recession of trade in agricultural products. This produced reactions across the world. It hit hard Myanmar Peasants. Companies refused to buy their agricultural products. So they had no money to pay the debt to Chettiar, money lender Chettiar and Chinese retail shops. These Chettiars confiscated their agricultural products as well as their agricultural animals and tools. In some cases, young

daughters of the Peasants were taken away. They were driven out of their villages. Where did they have to go? Myanmar was their land, the villages were their habitat. No food to eat. No place to go out.

That was the time many uprisings broke out especially in Thayarwaddy District.

By now, the new generation of Myanmar Patriots appeared and formed political organization GCBA (General Council of Burmese Association) on the model of YMCA. Sayar San was a member of GCBA. He was sent out to Thayarwaddy District to find out the real situation there. Sayar San

discovered evidence of Peasants revolts and when he returned he made a report to the GCBA suggesting that unless immediate action was taken, the situation would get worse but GCBA was very slow in taken action. So Sayar San led a Peasants Revolution.

Alchemy precursor of Chemistry was very popular across Myanmar. Practiced by monks and laymen, four types of creations 1. Turning base metal into gold by means of philosopher stone (mercury ball). 2. The power of immunity from any arms including guns and bullets. 3. The power of making invisible. 4. The power of longevity of life.

Sayar San being an Alchemist, assumed Supanaka Garuda Raja. Garuda is the very big powerful bird which can carry elephant. It eats all snakes and negars. Myanmar regarded British descendants from snakes and Nagars. So Garuda will catch snakes and Nagars to eat.

There is a belief that King Thibaw was not the last King in Konbaung Dynasty. His successor will appear at opportune moment and therefore Sayar San could be successor to King Thibaw. People in Thayarwaddy District followed Sayar San and formed Galon Army with any arms available. And he held a coronation ceremony on the hill range in Thayarwaddy. When this matter was reported to the British Government, the British Government thought it was a storm in the tea cup. But when their Police Outposts were attacked in the day

and Sayar San army escaped in the midst of gun bullets. It is said that Sayar San wore amulet on his neck.

In Mandalay, he was worshipping Mahar Muni Pagoda and it was reported to the English Police. When they came to the spot, they could not find Sayar San. That proved invisibility of Sayar San. Then Sayar San went to Shan State to form more Galon armies. The British sent out the warrant to anyone to catch Sayar San alive or death with the handsome money rewards. Then one of Sayar San followers betrayed when Sayar San was asleep, he stole amulet from his neck so Sayar San was caught alive. Sayar San never said he revolted against the British Colony Government. He was law-abiding citizen. He only worked for the Peasants.

News of the Sayar San rebellion spread across the world. Many media men and historians came to Myanmar to see Sayar San when Sayar San was sentenced to death by hanging. Sayar San yelled out "I am not a rebel. I am the liberator of the Peasants from heavy debt. In my next existences I shall do the same noble duty. So he was hung.

Does history repeat? It does. Because history repeats itself. Because there are historical similarities.

History does not repeat because there are no historical identities. Time, place and circumstances always change. The law of change does not change.



Recovery rate of COVID-19 patients in China rises to 52.1%: Health official

THE proportion of Chinese patients who recovered from the novel coronavirus and were discharged from hospitals continued to rise in the past week to reach 52.1 percent, a Chinese health official said on Sunday.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients in Hubei and Wuhan have also increased in the past week, indicating that the overall situation of epidemic prevention and control continues to improve and the effect of medical treatment is obvious, said

Mi Feng, a spokesperson for the National Health Commission, at a press conference. Mi said China is now facing risks brought about by the resumption of work and production and the rise of confirmed cases abroad.

Latest Developments Thailand's 1st coronavirus death

Thailand's health authorities on Sunday said that a Thai man infected with the new coronavirus has died, becoming the country's first confirmed fatality from the disease.

The Public Health Ministry

said the 35-year-old man, who worked in the retail sector, had suffered dengue fever before contracting the virus.

There are now 42 confirmed infections in the Southeast Asian country, a ministry spokesman said.

Australia's 1st fatality

An Australian man who contracted the coronavirus on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship has died, becoming the country's first fatality from the disease, local media reported Sunday.

The 78-year-old man, who

was repatriated from Japan last month, died at a hospital in the western city of Perth, local media reported Sunday.

His 79-year-old wife, who has also tested positive for the coronavirus, is in stable condition in hospital, according to the Australian Broadcast Corp.

The Australian government on Saturday announced a travel ban on foreigners coming to Australia from Iran due to the outbreak of the virus.

S. Korea new virus cases South Korean health au-

thorities on Sunday reported 586 additional cases of the new coronavirus, taking the national tally to 3,736.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement that 469 of the new cases were in the city of Daegu, the epicenter of the nation's outbreak of COVID-19.

The death toll from the virus rose by one from the previous day to 18, it said.

Sunday is a public holiday commemorating the March 1 Independence Movement against Japanese colonial rule.

Fabricators of fake news

Cambodia's Ministry of Information on Sunday called on authorities to take urgent action against fabricators of fake news over COVID-19, saying that those ill-intentioned individuals are trying to cause chaos and misunderstanding.

In its press statement, the ministry named seven Facebook account and page holders for posting false statements about the COVID-19 with false claims that foreigners infected and died of the virus in the country.



Objectives of the 75th anniversary of the Armed Forces Day

- (1) Uphold our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty as a national duty, to serve the country at the risk of our lives
- (2) Participate in the peace-making process with the State Government under the six-point peace policy of the Tatmadaw as part of efforts to gain eternal peace
- (3) Guard peace and stability and protect the interests of the people; build a modern, strong, and capable army
- (4) Safeguard the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw which has been dutiful in discharging State and national political duties



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 1st March, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2nd March, 2020: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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S.Korea's export rebound in 15 months on more business days

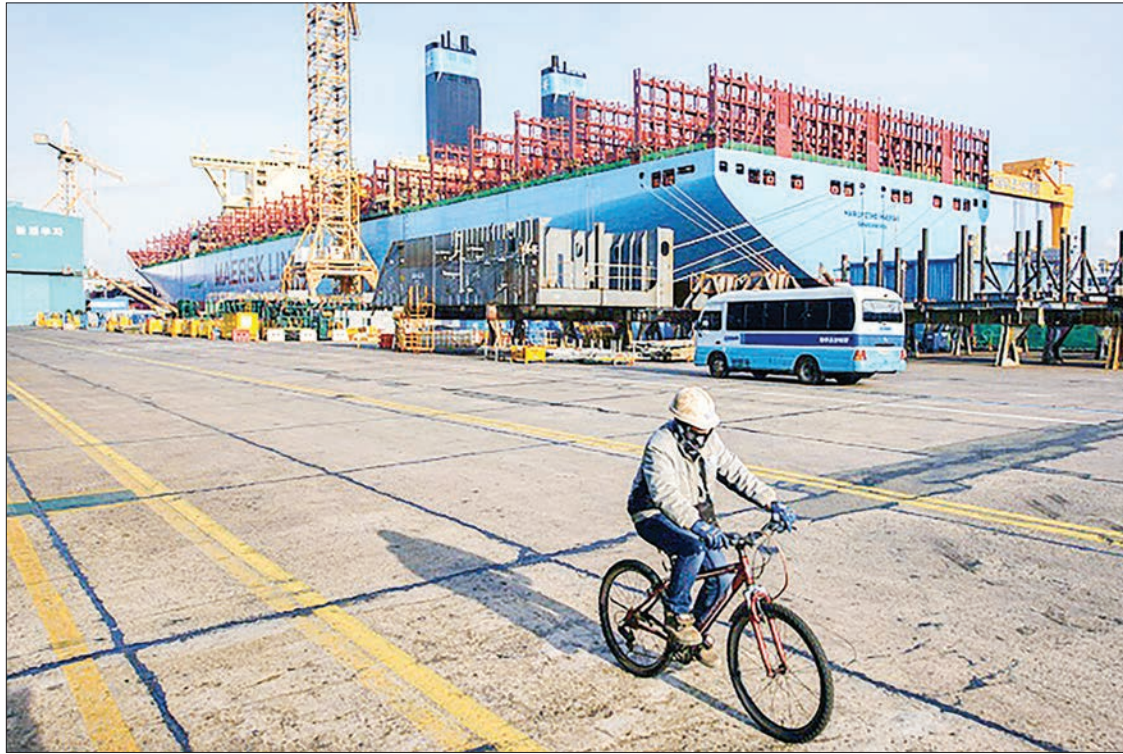
SEOUL— South Korea's export posted the first rebound in 15 months in February due mainly to the higher number of business days, a government report showed Sunday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the South Korean economy, reached 41.26 billion U.S. dollars in February, up 4.5 percent from the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It was the first turnaround since November 2018 owing to the higher number of business days, caused by the Lunar New Year holiday that moved to January this year from February last year.

The daily export averaged 1.83 billion U.S. dollars in February, down 11.7 percent from a year earlier. The daily shipment expanded 4.6 percent in January.

Import added 1.4 percent over the year to 37.15 billion U.S. dollars in February, sending the trade surplus to 4.11 billion



The daily export averaged 1.83 billion U.S. dollars in February, down 11.7 percent from a year earlier. **PHOTO: AFP**

U.S. dollars. The trade balance stayed in the black for 97 straight months.

Semiconductor export increased 9.4 percent in Febru-

ary from a year earlier, marking the first rebound in 15 months thanks to higher price for DRAM chips and strong demand for chips used for datacenter serv-

ers.

General machinery shipment advanced 10.6 percent on solid U.S. demand, and ship export gained for two straight

months on robust demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers and very large crude carrier (VLCC).

Computer export soared 89.2 percent, keeping an upward momentum for the fifth consecutive month, and shipment for telecommunication devices grew 8.0 percent thanks to higher demand for mobile phone components.

Auto parts shipment rebounded in two months, and textiles export marked the first turnaround in 16 months due to higher demand from the Middle East.

Consumer electronics shipment turned around in two months, but automobile export tumbled 16.6 percent due to the supply disruption of auto parts from China.

Petrochemicals export declined amid lower product price and weaker demand, and display panel shipment retreated 21.8 percent on the global supply glut.—XINHUA

Israeli airline eyes mass job cuts over coronavirus



Passengers walk past check-in counters while wearing protective masks at Ben Gurion International Airport, near Tel Aviv. **PHOTO: AFP**

JERUSALEM — Israeli airline El Al said Sunday it was considering firing 1,000 staff out of its total workforce of around 6,000 due to losses linked to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

A company spokesman confirmed the plan to AFP but would not give further details.

Israel has cancelled direct flights to and from areas of high contamination and has barred foreign nationals from entering the country if they have travelled from such areas.

Last week, El Al was ordered to cancel its service to Italy following health ministry warnings, Tel Aviv business daily

Globes reported.

In a report last week to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, before the reported Italy route closure, El Al estimated its losses from the COVID-19 virus for the first quarter of 2020 at between \$50-70 million.

At a protest by El Al workers Sunday at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport, the head of the Histadrut trade unions federation said the carrier and others in the industry were "facing collapse".

"We are in an emergency," a Histadrut statement quoted chairman Arnon Ben-David as saying. "El Al... is facing collapse and nobody cares.—AFP

One worker at a time, virus-hit China's factories sputter back online

BEIJING — The Xuda Shoes Company is usually bustling at this time of year, with workers having long returned from a Lunar New Year holiday in their hometowns to kick-start production of tens of thousands of shoes daily.

But China's coronavirus epidemic has changed all that.

Only about one-third of the roughly 1,000-strong workforce at Xuda's factory in the eastern export hub of Wenzhou are around, the rest blocked by virus-induced travel disruptions and safety measures.

Getting back to full annual capacity of seven million pairs of shoes could take several more weeks, company officials said.

Slow progress

The situation in Wenzhou, a trade entrepot for centuries and now a major producer of much of the world's shoes, eyeglasses and clothing, reflects the slow progress in fully reviving China's economy, the world's second-largest and an indispensable lynchpin of global growth.

China's economy remains rooted in manufacturing, much

of that for export, and heavily reliant on countless labourers from the vast interior who had returned home in January for the most important Chinese holiday before the epidemic hit, killing more than 2,800 people and infecting around 80,000.

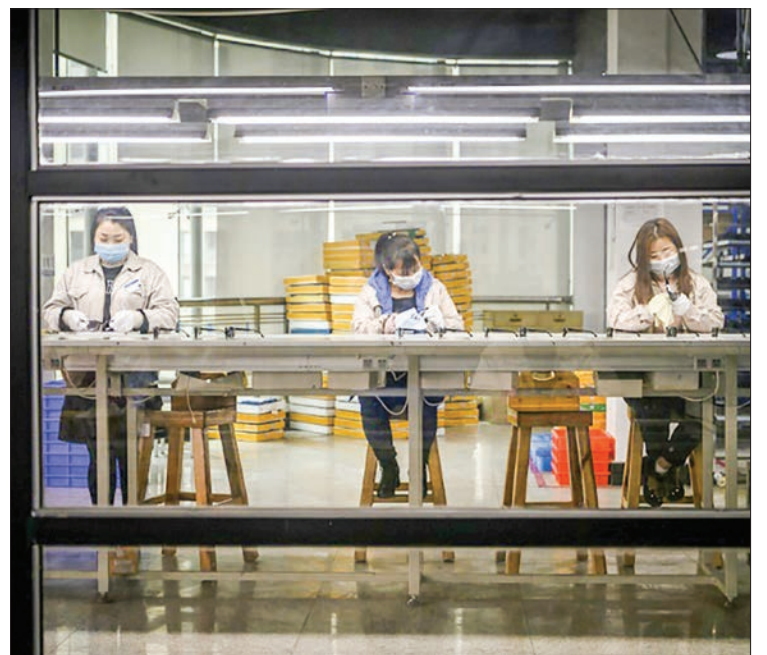
"Factories that want to restart are short of labour. Wenzhou's economy will definitely be impacted," Yang Wenjiang, a top manager with Xuda Shoes, told AFP during an interview at

the factory.

"If you don't have workers, you can't produce. If you can't restart, you can't fill orders."

The virus shut down provinces responsible for most Chinese economic output, including Zhejiang where Wenzhou is located.

With concern rising over the impact on global growth, the world is watching how quickly Chinese factories can be brought back online—AFP



Recent official data indicated Chinese manufacturing activity in February was the lowest on record. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gulf bourses dive as coronavirus hits oil price

RIYADH — Stock markets in the oil-rich Gulf states plunged Sunday over fears about the impact of the coronavirus which also battered global bourses last week.

The crisis threatens to undercut Gulf economies, which are already battling a downturn and struggling to wean themselves from their decades-old addiction to energy revenues.

The Saudi bourse, the region's largest and one of the world's top 10 equity markets, closed down 3.7 percent to its lowest level in 18 months.

Energy giant Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest listed firm, dropped 2.1 percent to 32.65 riyals (\$8.70), its worst performance since listing to much fanfare on December 11 in a

record-breaking IPO.

The other five markets operating Sunday in the region, which were closed the previous two days for the Muslim weekend, were also hit badly as oil prices sagged below \$50 a barrel.

The region's slide was led by the Kuwait Bourse, where the All-Share Index fell 10 percent, triggering its automatic closure. Kuwait's bourse was closed for most of last week for national holidays.

The Dubai Financial Market dipped 4.5 percent, while its sister market in Abu Dhabi was down 3.6 percent at the close of trading, both one-year lows.

Bahrain's bourse ended 3.4 percent down and the Muscat Securities Market in Oman finished down 1.2 percent, in a dis-



The Saudi bourse, Tadawul, is the region's largest and one of the world's top 10 share markets. PHOTO: AFP

mal day for the Gulf Cooperation Council bloc.

"GCC equities witnessed a downfall as panic over corona-

virus spread across the region," M.R. Raghu, head of research at Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz), told AFP.

"Initial expectations that the outbreak would be contained within China have proved elusive," he said.—AFP

China's factory activity falls to record low amid new virus spread



Face masks are manufactured at a factory in Shanghai on Jan. 31, 2020, amid the spread of a deadly new coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. PHOTO: KYODO

BEIJING — China's factory activity in February plunged to a record low since comparable data became available in January 2005, government data showed Saturday, underscoring the impact of the new coronavirus on the world's second-largest economy.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell to 35.7 this month, sharply down by 14.3 points from the previous month, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

A reading below 50 indicates a contraction in manufac-

turing activity. The latest figure was below the 38.8 marked in November 2008 during the global financial crisis.

But Chinese President Xi Jinping said during a telephone conversation Friday with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel that the situation surrounding the new virus has started to turn a corner and that the impact of the outbreak on the country's economy would be "limited," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Chinese economy has already slowed due largely to a nearly two-year-long tit-for-

tat trade war with the United States, making it more difficult for the nation's smaller companies to raise capital, analysts say.

The economy grew at its slowest pace in 29 years in 2019, expanding 6.1 percent from a year earlier, official data showed last month.

The number of newly reported coronavirus infections in mainland China, meanwhile, increased by 427 to a total of 79,251 on Friday, with the death toll rising by 47 to 2,835, health authorities said.—Kyodo

Dollars under the mattress: Argentines' preferred savings

BUENOS AIRES — No sooner does she receive her paycheck in Argentine pesos than 43-year-old lawyer Eugenia exchanges them for dollars and takes them home to hide away.

The fear of losing everything in a burglary pales in comparison with the mistrust she has for banks and her own country's currency.

"I don't trust the peso; it's not just now, it's always been that way," she said. Bludgeoned by an eighth major financial crisis since 1950, many Argentines prefer to seek refuge in the US dollar as a form of savings they can hide "under the mattress."

Eugenia actually hides hers in the bathroom.

"I'd rather be robbed by a thief than a bank," she said.

There's nothing new about

this mistrust.

"Historically, things didn't go well for those who tried to save in pesos," said Matias Rajnerman, chief economist at consultants Ecolatina. "Those who did so in dollars, did well. It's the consequence of a broken financial system."

For 18 months Argentina has been in a recession provoked by a currency collapse.

The poverty rate in the country of 44 million is over 40 percent, inflation is around 55 percent and unemployment has risen over 10 percent. The economy shrunk by 3.1 percent in 2019, and Argentine debt is more than 90 percent of GDP. One of the country's major problems is its citizens' mistrust of the peso, which has deprived the government of much-needed dollars.—AFP



Argentines are keeping \$300 billion outside the country, according to the country's central bank, money the government wants to bring back. PHOTO: AFP

New Malaysia PM sworn in as Mahathir fights on

KUALA LUMPUR— A staunch Muslim nationalist backed by a scandal-mired party was sworn in as Malaysia's premier Sunday after a reformist government's collapse, but ex-leader Mahathir Mohamad, 94, slammed the move as illegal.

The Southeast Asian nation was plunged into turmoil after Mahathir's "Pact of Hope" alliance, which stormed to a historic victory in 2018, collapsed amid bitter infighting.

Mahathir, who was the world's oldest leader, initially quit as premier but then sought to return.

He lost in a power struggle however to little-known Muhyiddin Yassin, who heads a coalition dominated by the multi-ethnic country's Muslim majority and has faced criticism for controversial remarks about race.

The king's decision Saturday to pick Muhyiddin as premier was greeted with shock as Mahathir's allies claimed to have enough support, and it sparked widespread anger that the dem-



Muhyiddin Yassin has taken the oath as prime minister of crisis-hit Malaysia. PHOTO: AFP

ocratically elected government had been ejected.

Muhyiddin's coalition includes the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the party of disgraced ex-leader Najib Razak, as well as a hard-line group that wants tougher Islamic laws.

UMNO was the corruption-riddled lynchpin of a coalition thrown out at the 2018 elections as allegations swirled that Najib and his cronies looted

billions of dollars from state fund 1MDB. Najib is now on trial for corruption.

Just before Muhyiddin's inauguration, Mahathir accused him of betrayal and said he would seek a parliament vote challenging the new premier's support — signalling the political crisis is far from over.

"This is a very strange thing ... losers will form the government, the winners will be in the opposition," he said.—AFP

Amid coronavirus outbreak, Nepal suspends Visit Nepal Year 2020 promotional campaign in foreign countries

KATHMANDU — Nepal has temporarily suspended all the promotional activities related to 'Visit Nepal Year 2020' in foreign countries in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Yogesh Bhattarai addressing a programme in Taplejung announced that the government has decided to put on hold VNY 2020 campaign for

an indefinite period. "The ministry has already decided that no campaigns relating to Visit Nepal Year 2020 would be held in foreign nations for the time being. When conditions become favorable, it (the virus) is contained, the fear is overcome then we will again advertise Nepal in the international market with great pomp," Bhattarai said.

Coronavirus has spread to

more than 45 countries including the UK, Singapore, Italy, France, Russia, Spain, and India.

The World Health Organisation has declared the outbreak an international health emergency and said the global risk level remains high.

The US today confirmed the first death from coronavirus in the country. The US stock market fell for the seventh straight day amid fears of global economic damage from the escalating outbreak, and the Federal Reserve took the unusual step of issuing a statement to reassure the Americans.

In China - the epicenter of the deadly disease - the National Health Commission reported on Saturday at least 47 new coronavirus deaths, raising the death toll to 2,835 nationwide.

Nepal had launched the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign in January this year aiming to host about two million tourists from all around the globe by the end of the decade.—ANI



Cycle riders participate in Ultimate heritage cycle rally organized in promotion of tourism under the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign in Kathmandu, Nepal, Nov. 16, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

Afghanistan's partial truce will continue, 'with goal' for full ceasefire: Ghani

KABUL — Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said Sunday that a seven-day partial truce would continue, but he rejected a key component of a new US-Taliban deal that calls for the release of thousands of insurgent prisoners.

The so-called "reduction in violence" period ran for the week preceding the signing of a historic accord between the US and the Taliban in Doha on Saturday.

The agreement spells out a withdrawal timeline of 14 months for all foreign forces, provided the Taliban honour several pledges and enter talks with Kabul for a more comprehensive peace deal.

"The reduction in violence will continue with a goal to reach a full ceasefire," Ghani told a press conference.

"General (Scott) Miller has told Taliban to do so. It is expected (to continue)," he added, referring to the US commander in charge of foreign forces in Afghanistan.

But, in a sign of a bumpy road ahead, Ghani pushed back against a clause in the deal that

calls for the Taliban to release up to 1,000 prisoners and for the Afghan government to release up to 5,000 prisoners.

"There is no commitment to releasing 5,000 prisoners," Ghani said.

"This is the right and the self-will of the people of Afghanistan. It could be included in the agenda of the intra-Afghan talks, but cannot be a prerequisite for talks."

He added that any prisoner release was "not in the authority of the US, it is in the authority of the Afghan government."

The president, who is mired in a political crisis following fraud allegations in his re-election, was referring to upcoming talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government that were agreed to as part of the deal.

The Taliban had until now refused to negotiate with Ghani's administration, which they considered a US puppet regime, but the withdrawal agreement hinges on Kabul and the insurgents reaching a separate peace deal through "intra-Afghan" negotiations.—AFP



Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani speaks during a press conference in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, March 1, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

China, Cambodia to hold joint military training

BEIJING — The Chinese and Cambodian armies will hold a joint military training in Cambodia from March 2 to April 10, a Chinese military spokesperson has said.

Code-named "Golden Dragon-2020," this year's event will focus on joint counter-terrorism combats, said Wu Qian, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense.

The joint training, the fourth of its kind, is expected to strengthen strategic mutual trust, cooperation and exchanges between the two armed forces, and enhance their capability in jointly tackling international security threats.

China will dispatch 265 military personnel for the joint training, according to Wu.—XINHUA

Netanyahu, Gantz neck and neck as campaign reaches climax

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and rival Benny Gantz were wrapping up another bitter election campaign on Saturday, before voters cast their ballots for the third time in 12 months.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, has been charged on several counts of corruption but is battling fiercely to maintain his grip on power.

After inconclusive elections in April and September, latest opinion polls put the two opponents neck and neck in a grueling political triathlon.

According to the projections, Netanyahu's right-wing Likud and Gantz's centrist Blue and White alliance would each win 33 seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Monday's polls.

That result would be almost identical to the previous round, after which each leader tried and failed to form a government.

In previously unannounced television interviews aired separately Saturday evening, Gantz and Netanyahu ripped into each



Netanyahu visits a medical centre during a campaign overshadowed by the COVID-19 virus outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

another.

Netanyahu told private Channel 12 that his opponent, a decorated former head of Israel's armed forces, was "not fit to be prime minister" of Israel.

"He is weak, he's not a leader," the incumbent said.

The same interviewer earlier asked Gantz if he would join a coalition under Netanyahu if the third round also failed to produce a clear winner.

"There is no situation in which I will sit under Netanya-

hu as prime minister when he has three charges against him," Gantz replied.

The opinion polls show that even with their respective allies — the right and Jewish Orthodox parties for Netanyahu and the centre-left for Gantz — neither side could gather the 61 seats necessary to form a viable coalition.

Later Saturday, the leaders were to speak at final pre-election rallies, both in the Tel Aviv area.—AFP

Greece blocks migrant swell at Turkey border

ATHENS — Greece said Sunday it has blocked nearly 10,000 migrants at its border with Turkey, which opened its gates to Europe as tensions mount over its deepening conflict in Syria.

Migrant numbers have swelled along the rugged frontier after Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan said it "opened the doors" to Europe in a bid to

pressure EU governments over the conflict.

Tensions have soared between Russia and Turkey — who back opposing forces in the Syrian war — after an airstrike killed dozens of Turkish soldiers in Idlib last week.

Some 13,000 migrants have amassed at the Turkey-Greece border, including families with

young children who spent the night in the cold, the International Organization for Migration said.

An estimated additional 2,000 migrants arrived at the Pazarkule border gate Sunday, including Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis, according to an AFP reporter.

But as the crowds rushed to enter Europe, Greek police and soldiers blocked 9,972 "illegal entrances" from entering the north-eastern Evros region in the past 24 hours, a Greek government source said.

Greek's deputy defence minister said the country would not stand down. "We are protecting the borders of Greece and Europe with a firm hand", Alkiviadis Stefanis said in an interview in Skai TV on Sunday.

Migrants pressed on with efforts to enter Greece. Some attempted to swim across rivers or duck under fences, while others dragged suitcases as they marched toward the border where large crowds of migrants waited, some wrapped in blankets or sleeping on dirt mounds.—AFP



Several boats full of migrants arrived on the Greek island of Lesbos early Sunday, AFP journalists said. HOTO: AFP

Opposition sidelined as Tajikistan votes in parliamentary polls

DUSHANBE — Voting was underway in Tajikistan Sunday in parliamentary polls that President Emomali Rakhmon's ruling party is expected to sweep, with only one genuinely critical party taking part and the former main opposition banned.

The elections are the first in the country's post-Soviet history without the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, a moderate faith-based party which was once the main opposition but was outlawed in 2015 and the target of a harsh crackdown ever since.

The country's Central Election Commission said just over 75 percent of the electorate had cast votes as of 1000 GMT, comfortably beyond the 50 per cent threshold required for the commission to validate an election. Rakhmon voted for "a worthy candidate" at a polling station in the capital Dushanbe on Sunday morning, the state agency Khovar reported.

While Rakhmon's People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan is

set for a big win, other competing parties from the outgoing legislature — including the Agrarian Party, the Party of Economic Reform and the Socialist Party — are all widely seen as proxies that endorse his nearly three-decade rule. Only one identifiable opposition party is competing in Sunday's ballot — the Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan, which has never entered parliament.

The People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan currently dominates the chamber, holding 51 seats out of 63.

Polling stations close at 1500 GMT and preliminary results are expected on Monday.

As voting began Sunday, Mukhabbat Rakhimova, a teacher in the capital Dushanbe, said it was symbolic that she was casting her vote in a school that had been converted into a polling station.

"I want the lawmakers we elect to make their own big contributions to education," Rakhimova told AFP.—AFP



Election officials say just over 75 per cent of the electorate had cast votes as of 1000 GMT. PHOTO: AFP

Biden wins Democratic primary in South Carolina, crucial Super Tuesday awaits candidates

WASHINGTON — U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden declared victory in the party's primary in the state of South Carolina on Saturday, as incoming results consistently indicated his overwhelming lead.

With 93 per cent of the precincts having reported results, Biden, the former vice president, gained 49 per cent of the votes as of press time, trailed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, with 19.8 per cent.

"This campaign is taking off,"

Biden told a cheering crowd as he declared victory.

Having finished previous nominating contests in three states disappointingly, Biden is counting on a projected win in South Carolina, where he has an appeal especially for African American voters, to shore up momentum.

"We need you, we want you, there's a place for you in this campaign," Biden said. "If Democrats nominate me, I believe we can beat Donald Trump."—XINHUA



Local visitors are seen in the National Landmarks Garden in PyinOoLwin. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Pyin Oo Lwin or stunning mountain resort in **Mandalay Region**

By Kyaw Htike Soe

PYIN Oo Lwin is a popular mountain resort and a scenic hill town in Mandalay Region and has long been a hot-season getaway for local travellers. PyinOoLwin was originally called Maymyo and was a summer retreat during British rule. It is located 3,538 feet above sea level upon the cusp of the Shan plateau and is far 42 miles from Mandalay, ancient cultural capital or the second largest city in central Myanmar. It takes over an hour to get there by car or motorbike from Mandalay.

The temperature in daytime, it is not hot, around 28 degrees, but sunshine is so strong. PyinOoLwin is home to breathtaking waterfalls, beautiful gardens and glittering pago-



The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism said 27,405 tourists visited PyinOoLwin Township in 2019. **PHOTO: MDN**



das, as well as many eye-catching scenes that have made it an attractive destination for both local and foreign visitors. PyinOoLwin's colonial-era architecture still holds the key to the town's charm and the surrounding area offers plenty to explore, including a number of wonderful waterfalls, farms and gardens. PyinOoLwin has become famous for its fresh fruits, jams and wines made from grape, dragon fruits, strawberry, lychee and pineapples. PyinOoLwin is well known for its cool weather and an abundance of seasonal flowers. PyinOoLwin is famed for strawberry fields and a number of gardening as well as is the dream of every traveler.

PyinOoLwin is renowned as one of the most beautiful hilly towns in Myanmar for its colonial style houses with large compound, pine trees, unique horse carriages. Knitted sweaters, wines, strawberry jams, and different fresh fruits are popular products in PyinOoLwin Township. The train ride from Mandalay to Hsipaw along the Mandala-Lashio Railway Road is thought to be one of the most exciting routes for the tourists. The main highlight of it is Gokteik Viaduct. The bridge was built in 1901 and is an absolute masterpiece of engineering. The facility is 97 meters high and 690 meters long. PyinOoLwin hot air balloon festival is held in November yearly but it is smaller in scale to the festival in Tauunggyi, which takes place at the same time on a grand scale. Tourists who want to take home a little taste of the region should visit the PyinOoLwin market, situated at the center of the town where they can buy locally-made food and a variety

"I was given an opportunity to enjoy natural sceneries in PyinOoLwin. I also saw some unspoiled European-style buildings dating back more than 100 years. I was very happy with riding pony cart around Pyin Oo Lwin.

of traditional clothes.

Most of globetrotters visit significant tourist attraction spots in PyinOoLwin such as Kandawgyi National Landmarks Garden, Pwe Kauk Waterfall, Dat Taw Gyaint Waterfall and Peik Chin Myaung Cave. Tourists also come to PyinOoLwin to see colonial era ancient buildings, explore the living style of local people from nearby villages and observe agriculture and traditional handicraft industry. A total of 27,405 foreign travellers visited PyinOoLwin in 2019, said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. The number of registered hotels, motels, and guesthouses in PyinOoLwin Township has reached 60 with a capacity of 1,542 rooms so far, according

to the DHT. In addition, there are many guesthouses that are registered at the township development committee.

"I was given an opportunity to enjoy natural sceneries in PyinOoLwin. I also saw some unspoiled European-style buildings dating back more than 100 years. I was very happy with riding pony cart around PyinOoLwin. The happiest movement for me was when I observed plantations and met vendors in nearby villages," a French woman tourist expressed her feelings. Tourists come to PyinOoLwin via Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, NyaungU, Taunggyi, Inle Lake, and Sagaing and proceeded to the Goteik Viaduct and Hsipaw, Lashio and Kyaukme Townships in Northern Shan State by train. With the prevalence of peace and stability coupled with a variety of scenic beauties, ancient cultural heritages, temples, pagodas, icy mountains, and natural beaches, tourist arrivals to Myanmar have increased significantly when compared to previous years.

With its mix of culture, history, and undamaged natural beauty, Myanmar has quickly become one of the Asia's top emerging tourist destinations. Myanmar has emerged in recent years as a top tourist destination in the Southeast Asian Region known for its tourism attractions. Since the country has opened its doors through reform processes in 2011, many tourists have been attracted to its diverse landscapes, rich culture and heritages. Tourism industry continues to grow in Myanmar, with the skyrocketing number of visitor arrivals to the country on the rise.



Tourists pose for a photo with residents in a village in PyinOoLwin Township. PHOTO: INSPIROCK.COM

Useful Information

- JAPANESE CUISINE** 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- AJISHIN**
No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)
- ANAIMO**
No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)
- BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT**
No. 16, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)
- BUSHIDO**
No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)
- CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR**
Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)
- DINNING FUKUROU**
No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
- EDOZUSHI**
A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)
- (3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA**
A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020, 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)
- FUJINOBO**
(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)
- FURUSATO**
No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
- GEKKO**
535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)
- HIMARI MYANMAR**
Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
- HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT**
No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)
- HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant**
No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.
- Hot Pot City 8 Miles**
No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
- 101 Hot Pot & Sushi**
No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.
- Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar**
14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00
- HOTEL**
- BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE**
No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.
- CHATRIUM**
No. 40, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.
- CHERRY HILLS HOTEL**
No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.
- HOTLE 51**
No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.
- HOTEL KAN KAW**
No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.
- HOTLE SIDNEY**
No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.
- INYA LAKE HOTEL**
No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.
- LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON**
No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.
- MERCURE HOTEL**
No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.
- NOVOTEL YANGON MAX**
No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.
- PAN PACIFIC YANGON**
No. Corner of Bogyo Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.
- PARK ROYAL**
No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.
- PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT**
No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.
- ROSE GARDEN HOTEL**
No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.
- SAVOY HOTEL**
No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.
- SEDONA HOTEL**
No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.
- SULE SHANGRI-LA**
No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.
- SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL**
No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.
- SUPER HOTEL**
No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Thet Htar Thuzar crashes out of Kenya International Series 2020

MYANMAR badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar was knocked out of the Kenya International Series 2020 at the quarterfinal stage of the tournament, which is being held at the Shree Swaminarayan Academy, Mombasa, Kenya.

In the quarterfinal match yesterday, Thet Htar Thuzar suffered a 2-1 loss against Indian badminton player Aakarshi Kashyap, ending her dream of winning the Kenya International Series for the second time.

Thet Htar Thuzar had won the 2019 edition of the Kenya International Series with a 2-0 win over Jordan badminton player Domo Amro in the final.

On 29 February, in the Round 2 match of the Kenya International Series 2020, Thet Htar Thuzar had secured a decisive 2-0 win over Kenya's Kivisi Andia. In the Round 1 match on 28 February, Thet Htar Thuzar had upset Pakistan's Palawasha Bashir by a decisive 2-0 result.

Thet Htar Thuzar, whose current world ranking is 61, is preparing to compete in the women's singles competition in the Tokyo Olympics 2020. She has been participating in international badminton tournaments to collect points for ensuring a place in the Olympics. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar seen at the Kenya International 2020 Badminton tournament. **PHOTO:THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

State and Region Vovinam Tournament 2020 to be held in May



Athletes competing in a men's attacking event at the State and Region Vovinam Tournament 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO:MVA**

THE State and Region Vovinam Tournament 2020 will be held in May, under the supervision of the Myanmar Vovinam Association, according to a statement issued by the association.

The tourney will be held from 17 to 19 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two main events of the tourney — Vovinam attacking event and Vovinam display event — will feature competitions in the men's and women's categories.

The men's and women's events will feature a variety of weight classes.

The men's Vovinam attacking event will have five weight classes: 51-54 kg, 54-57 kg, 57-60

kg, 60-64 kg, and 64-68 kg.

The women's Vovinam attacking event will have 51-54 kg, 51-54 kg, 54-57 kg, and 57-60 kg weight classes.

Meanwhile, the Vovinam display event will comprise men's and women's singles events (without weapons), men's and women's singles events (with weapons), and men's and women's mixed events. There will be 11 male athletes, ten female athletes, two administrators, two coaches, and one referee per team, according to the Vovinam association.

Vovinam is a Vietnamese martial art and it was founded in 1936.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Late goals help defending champions claim 3-1 win over Chin United

TWO late goals scored by Nanda Kyaw and Zin Min Tun helped Shan United beat Chin United by 3-1 in their Week-8 match of the Myanmar National League, held yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

With the win for Shan United, the pressure is on for the top three teams: Hantharwady United, Yangon United, and Ayeyarwady United.

Yesterday's match was an exciting one with Shan United lining up with youth players Sa Pyae Aung Ko, Ye Yint Tun, Pyae Sone Aung, and Ye Min Thu, while Chin United used main players Arkar Po, Samuel,

Kyaw Min Than, and keeper Tun Aung Kyaw.

Both teams lost goal chances in the first half. It was Shan United youth player Ye Yint Tun who scored the opening goal with a long, low kick from 18 yards, and the first half ended with a score of 1-0 in favor of Shan United.

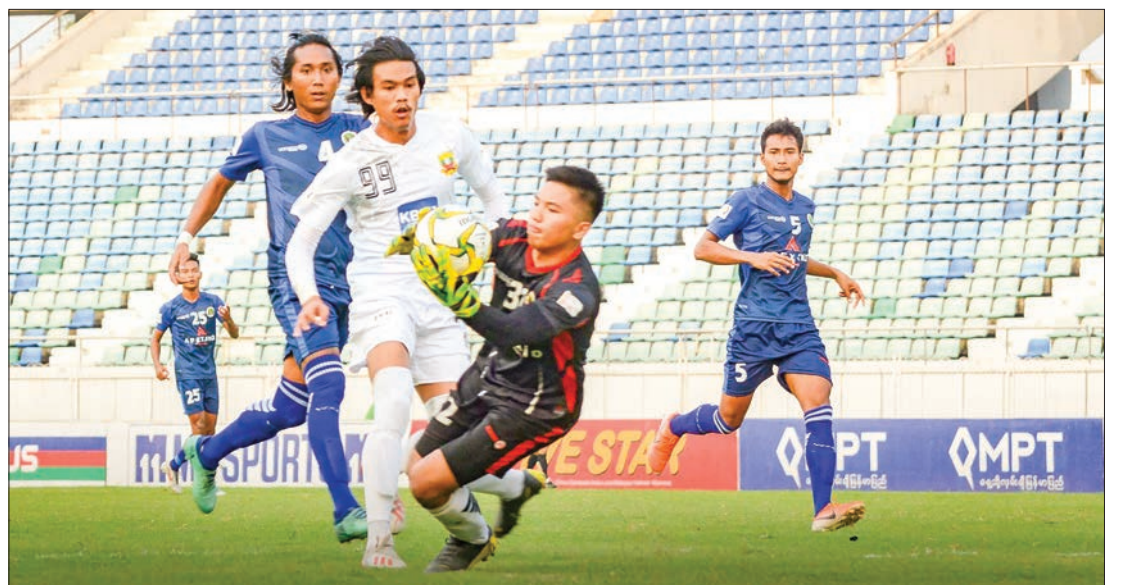
Chin United made a strong effort in the second half to equalize the goal, while Shan United relied on defensive play.

At 55 minutes, Chin United striker Samuel managed to get the ball past several Shan United defenders to score the equalizer.

With the score reaching 1-1, Shan United changed tactics and brought in Nanda Kyaw and Shwe Ko.

The new tactics by Shan United head coach Aung Naing bore fruit, with Nanda Kyaw scoring the second goal for the team at 85 minutes. Zin Min Tun netted another goal during injury time, just before the final whistle, to bring the score to 3-1.

With the win, the defending champions are still in the fourth place on the standing table, with a 5-point difference with Hantharwady, the top team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Chin United keeper Tun Aung Kyaw (black) grabs the ball kicked by Shan United's Shwe Ko (white) during their MNL Week-8 match yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO:MNL**