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## State Counsellor meets with locals in Myawady, Hlaingbwe townships, Kayin State

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, met with the local people in Myawady and Hlaingbwe townships in Kayin State on yesterday.

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

They left Mawlamyine for Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, by helicopters in the morning, and proceeded to Myawady Township where the State Counsellor held a public meeting at Mya Sandi Park.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said, "Wherever I go all over the country, I usually make arrangements to meet our people personally. It is the people's collaboration that makes such mass gatherings a success. Of course, in order to get the collaboration of the people, discipline is a necessity.

In fact, if we want our country to make advances, we should cultivate in each and every individual heart empathy and sympathy towards the weaker

souls. Such practice can start in such a mass gathering. We should consider not only for the sake of ourselves but also for the sake of others. Only then can we make progress.

If we want to build a qualified country, first we should qualify ourselves. Otherwise, you have not qualified yourselves but if you criticize others for lacking the qualifications, that would be a verbal act of inconsistency. So what I want our people to do everyday is think about our country, what is your contribution towards the benefits of our country, and review over what you have done, what you need to do.

Well, some people might respond that we are nothing to do with politics. But every deed, every action of every individual is related to the country we live in. If you are a student, and if you have learned and fulfilled your learning goals, then you are a dutiful citizen. If you are a shopkeeper, and if you make your business transactions at fair prices and correct practices, you are contributing towards the progress of the country. Every individual acting in such a way as would promote his or her reputation and integrity is doing good for the country.

**SEE PAGE-3**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the meeting with local people in Myawady. **PHOTO: MNA**

INSIDE TODAY

**PARLIAMENT**  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate constitution amendment bill  
**PAGE-2**

**PARLIAMENT**  
UAG U Tun Tun Oo receives ICRC Resident Representative  
**PAGE-2**

**NATIONAL**  
Defence Services donate medical equipment for coronavirus control in China  
**PAGE-2**



**LOCAL NEWS**  
YBS 101 bus line linking four universities to start from 27 Feb  
**PAGE-12**



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate constitution amendment bill

THE 15<sup>th</sup> regular session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 12<sup>th</sup> day meeting yesterday, and Hluttaw representatives debated articles and sub-articles in the second bill on amending the State Constitution.

MP U Wai Sein Aung from Rakhine State constituency 1 supported the recommendations of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing Second Bill Amending 2008 Constitution that proposed possible amendment of sub-articles (a) and (b) of Article 436 with the agreements made by two-third of elected representatives.

MP U Sai Oo Kham from Hsenwi constituency also supported the Joint Committee's recommendations for possible amendments of sub-article (a) of Article 436 with the agreement of two-third of the elected Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and with the support of more than half of voters in the nationwide referendum.

He also supported another recommendation of Joint Committee for possible amendments



MP Dr Than Win.



MP U Nay Lin Aung.



MP Colonel Aung Kyaw Moe.



MP Daw Wint Wah Tun.

of other provisions, except for sub-article (a) of Article 436, with the agreement of two-third of elected Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

Tatmadaw representative of Amyotha Hluttaw Major Htet Linn opposed the amendment of wordings in sub-article (d) of Article 6 and Article 7, and Article 14 in relation to the number of Defence Services Personnel as Hluttaw representatives.

MP U Nay Lin Aung from Mindat constituency supported the amendment of sub-article (a) of Article 436, referring to the definitions of that article and the Article 4.

MP Dr Than Win from Mandalay Region constituency 1 supported the Joint Committee's amendment of wording in sub-article (d) of Article 6, 7 and 39.

Tatmadaw representative of

Amyotha Hluttaw Colonel Aung Kyaw Moe opposed amendment of sub-article (a) and (b) of Article 172, Article 188 and Article 196 in the table of amendment bill.

MP Daw Wint Wah Tun from Shadaw constituency supported recommendations on sub-paragraph (2) of sub-article (n) in Article 262, sub-para (2) of sub-article (b) in Article 264, sub-para (4) of sub-article (a) in Article 285 and sub-article (f) of

Article 285 presented by U Tun Tun Hein and some Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives in the amendment bill.

The topic was also discussed by the other Hluttaw representatives.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its 15<sup>th</sup> regular session at 13<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 26 February.—Aung Ye Thwin and Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Defence Services donate medical equipment for coronavirus control in China

A DONATION of medical equipment was delivered by the Defence Services of Myanmar to China in order to facilitate success in their fight against the outbreak and spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein led the delegation and left for China by a military aircraft yesterday morning.

Before their departure, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo met Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Nay Pyi Taw Command

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Ambassador Chen Hai and Senior Colonel Xiong Shawai of the Military, Navy and Air Attaché of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and clarified the donation of medical equipment to China.

The medical equipment donation included 90,000 surgical masks (2 ply), 90,000 type-N 95 (SM particulate respirator masks) and 90,000 safety goggles which are worth of over US 300,000 dollars.

The Myanmar military delegation arrived in Kunming in-

ternational airport and was welcomed by political officer Major General Zhang Pingjun of Guilin Center of the Joint Logistic Support Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein handed over the donation and Major General Zhang Pingjun expressed their thanks. Then, the Myanmar military delegation left Kunming international airport and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)



Myanmar military personnel loading a transport plane with medical equipments at the airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## UAG U Tun Tun Oo receives ICRC Resident Representative



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Resident Representative Mr Stephan Sakalian of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

RESIDENT Representative Mr Stephan Sakalian of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called on Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo at the UAG Office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters in connection with the responsibilities of the UAG Office, especially its performance in signing

the international agreements by Myanmar, the measures in cooperation with international organizations, the issue of capacity building for legal officers regarding the International Humanitarian Law and the bilateral cooperation between the ICRC and the UAG Office.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

## State Counsellor meets with locals in Myawady, Hlaingbwe townships, Kayin State

### FROM PAGE-1

Our country is still a developing country. I think I do not need to convince the people living in Myawaddy about this because you are witnessing the development of the country on the other side, the gap between the conditions of our country and those of the other country. Practically speaking, some of our citizens have to go over to the other side and work for a living. That's a sad thing, you know. The family members have to stay apart. If you have built a family, that family should live under the same roof, united. Otherwise, this will more or less affect the progress of the family.

It is a harsh reality that many of our citizens have to go and stay abroad and work over there, and this, of course, affects our country. If you can stand on your own, finding a chance in a foreign country to exercise your talents and skills, that's one thing. Being forced to leave your family, leave your country and earn a living is another thing, which I wish would never happen to you. So taking measures for the development of our country aims at creating many more job opportunities for our people.

Today the word Democracy has become a household word. One advantage of democracy is providing the people with many choices. In terms of politics, the people have the rights to choose the kind of government they like and give votes and elect the representatives they want.

When democracy has been developed and the economy of the nation has been consolidated, you will have more job opportunities for earning a living. A country that remains undeveloped has no choices, no opportunities. You have to pick the job before you and your living standard will remain low. But the moment the country has become well developed, the people will have more choices, more priorities. For example, in the sector of education, in developed countries, the children have more choices of schools for their education.

That is why we have been making every effort to develop our country. We are tying our best to build a genuine democratic nation so that we can promote the people's rights and choices. To achieve this goal, it goes without saying that the most important thing is Peace. Our people living in the Kayin State know better than anyone in our country the great values of Peace, as well as the miserable realities devoid of Peace. Our people have already undergone the time and circumstances they had to bear the brunt of armed conflicts. On the other hand, you now can unfailingly witness and enjoy the change for the better when Peace has been restored in the region.

It's time we worked together for restoring Peace all over the country. In fact, Peace comes from within. Only if we really want Peace from the bottom of our hearts will Peace be there within our reach. If



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the meeting with local people in Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

you just lip service Peace without really wishing for it, but work for it out of greed, anger and delusion, our peace making process would take long. Of course, it's been a long time.

If you look into the history of Myanmar, since she has regained her independence, there wasn't a time when the flames of the civil war had been extinguished. Seventy three years since then. Our people have struggled for a survival through these hectic seventy three years. I do not want our people to go on like this. We must have the rights to make a choice of our own, we must protect and safeguard these rights, and we will carry out our duties and responsibilities as good citizens. I trust the spirit of our people because, to tell you the truth, I want my people to be the best. A mother always wants her sons and daughters to be the best, the most outstanding. Compared with the citizens of other countries, I want to see our people more talented, stronger in morale and morality, greater foresightedness. I really do.

If from the global outlook, I do not fail to see that the morale and morality of our people can compete with the world. There's no way to compete with the world in terms of development for we've been left behind. But there's a chance to remedy this situation. It is only when each and every individual has kept his or her morale intact that our values will grow with years. We all must adopt the spirit of claiming for Peace. Peace does not merely stand for the ceasefire. Not merely for the sake of Peace making among the armed forces. Peace directs our souls for the stability, love and respect stemming from the diversity of cultures, religions and languages in our Union.

Our people are not of inferior caliber. Never underestimate yourself. Never feel small, never feel dejected, adopting the mentality that we live in a poor country, that we are poor people, our education has been lagged, etc. These drawbacks can be remedied, of course. If we have

the right attitude, the right morale, we can change the situation. The moment you are determined to make a change for the betterment, there's a way for your improvement. That is why I want my people to set a big goal, and adopt the right, unflagging spirit. With the unwavering conviction that we can stand proudly in the arena of the world, we must march forward.

The architects of our independence started a revolution with the goal of building our own destiny. That was the right for a choice. Building own destiny is the right. We have the right to choose which path to take, and how we face the challenges on the way. The moment we have taken a particular path, we cannot always have a chance to choose the challenges or hardships. Instead, we have to face it bravely. How? In what way? Well, every individual has the rights for his or her own choice. Are you going to face justice with untarnished reputation? Or are you going to play mean tricks to face the things? You have a choice. So make a choice of your own. The sages always say, It's a lot harder to take a path of justice than the one with no justice.

A wrong path means the path you take just for the sake of satisfying the immediate needs, making things run smooth just for the short term. But if you have the long term goal, if you foresee the next generations of ours, and not for the individual personal needs, it is a lot harder, of course. So I often quote the words of an experienced politician: Those who make politics as the stepping-stone take only the next election into consideration; those who work for the interest for the country consider the interest of the next generations. What a truism! Please keep these words in mind always.

The election is very important under the democratic system because it is the occasion that the people reveal their desires and dreams. But it is more important to ensure the security of our next generations than winning victories in the elections. It would be a perfect country only if we are

blessed with both physical and mental security.

In such a mass gathering like this, I always welcome you to come up with questions and proposals. I usually take the opportunity to give explanations to different views because I believe that only if there is transparency among ourselves, only if we share the same views and come together will our country stand consolidated, and make advances.

In the states like this, I usually focus on the important role of the Union because ours is a country composed of a rich variety of national races. It is quite natural that priority should be given to the affairs of own state and own national tribes. You are right to adopt this kind of attitude. But please don't forget that the case of the Union stands above everything. The word, Union' itself is a beautiful word for me, a word that looks fresh in all seasons.

The Union is a country built of collective forces, our collective strengths, so what a beautiful word! Please consider how much we should value it. Just like a word like "Family".

A family does not stand for the father alone, or the mother or parents only, but it also includes the sons and daughters, and grandparents. This is family.

The Union can be likened to a family. Now we have a country called the Union. But it is only through our collective morale that our country will be a strong country, as well as a developed one. That is why I have come a long way to pay visit to the states.

I do mean the states are more important than the regions. Every individual citizen is equally important. You know, when you go politics, you must consider the interest of the majority, as well as the interest of the individual. I always think about how to adjust these two factors so that we can make practical improvements. In the mass gathering like this, the local people make proposals for the improvement of the locality. They might feel that

**SEE PAGE-4**

# Only if we really want Peace from the bottom of our hearts will Peace be there within our reach. State Counsellor

## FROM PAGE-3

all sorts of issues and problems pop up only in their little world.

That is why I take the opportunity to give explanations. Of course, issues are everywhere. You know, the issues of road transportation, electricity, health, education, cultivated lands, land ownership, the supply of drinking water everywhere. Our people need help because development still lies beyond our reach. Therefore, we must work harder so as to get developed more and more, consolidated more and more. However, alongside with the development, peace is a necessity. This is included in the long-term development plan of our government. Peace and development always go together: only if there is development, Peace can be built strongly; only if there is Peace can we maintain our developments. So we are striving for Peace with the objectives of restoring both, that is, peace and development. We must achieve both simultaneously.

So I'd like to request you all to collaborate. Especially, our brothers and sisters of the Union should value the Union, and strive towards restoring peace and consolidating the development with the attitude that we all are the sons and daughters of the Union.

As the fruits of our labour, we hope we could do our duties well for the new generations, for the future generations, and just a comment on our achievements, "You did it!" will satisfy us and make us feel worth living. Therefore, I'd request my people to work hard. Please direct your attention towards Peace, cherishing the goal of peace on the mind of each and every individual. You may profess any religion, but no religion speaks ill of loving kindness, or Metta. Share loving kindness among ourselves. Keep your love of Peace. Work hard. We all need to work harder.

In 1947, before we gained the independence, my father said: "The war has ravaged our country so much so that when other countries may walk, we must hurry up faster." These words still remain true till to the present. While the other countries take time in leisurely walk, we must speed up, work harder so that we can reach our targeted goals.

So you may start training in the running exercise: if we join hands and set out running, it saves our energy. Whatever you do, if you collaborate, this would be a lighter job for you, so join hands, grip your hands tight, support the spirit of going together. Please avoid the behaviours and ways of thinking and negative attitudes and actions that would get ourselves split up. Thank you."

After the speech of State Counsellor, local people raised issues on upgrade of hospital and healthcare services, infrastructural developments, rule of law, land confiscation and legal disputes. Union



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with local people in Hlaingbwe township, Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA

Minister Dr Myint Htwe, Kayin State Government members and officials discussed the problems to solve them with immediate actions and further investigations.

The State Counsellor also made suggestions on the threats of illegal drugs, rule of law, awareness programmes, capacity building of police forces, land confiscation cases and infrastructural developments.

The State Counsellor and party then returned to Kawkaik Township in motorcades before leading to Hlaingbwe Township by helicopters.

She held a public meeting at the town hall of Hlaingbwe.

In delivering a speech, the State Counsellor said, "Kayin State is so wide that it is difficult for us to be in every corner. I have visited almost every region of the country. However, the available time is very short for me in these places as we tried to meet people all across the country. I have no more chance to make many visits due to enormous duties of state in the area of foreign affairs and as well as internal affairs. They are not apart from each other but are actually interrelated.

Our country is not standing alone in the global community. No single country can exist in solitude. So, we are trying to maintain our dignity in relation with other countries in accordance with the globally recognized norms.

Meanwhile, it is very important to preserve the good traditions of our country because each country has its own culture and tradition. Now I must say that I appreciate such values more than ever. The reason is because when I travel I have visited developed countries as well as developing countries. The important thing is the capabilities of their citizens. This is a lesson for us. Our country is not a wealthy and powerful country. What is important is the capability of each citizen. The fact that other foreign countries understand and respect this value is a good motivation for us.

Since our country has regained in-

dependence, the world community has frequently remarked that "this country has a lot of potentials for development", they have said further," but its people need to put necessary efforts to realize these potentials." Furthermore, they have said "they have not fulfilled their potentials. They have said repeatedly that although they have potentials they need to strive hard to fulfill these potentials. This is one of our goals.

As an elected government, we are responsible for implementing the favourable potentials of our country. In carrying out the task of implementation, we have not lost sight of the fact that people's participation is a must. If our citizens want our country to develop, if they want to see their wishes fulfilled, they need to participate. Among those persons who keep asking "when is our country going to be developed. When is it going to become prosperous?" Few of them are actively participating. The majority of these people are asking these questions but they ask without doing anything, although they are capable of participating.

I would like to suggest our people not to forget their own value, self-confidence and capacity. Efforts must be made for both self-interest and community for the well-being of the country.

Our country has experienced a lot of international pressures. Especially, we were blamed for problems in Rakhine State without understanding these problems in depth with groundless allegations. Meanwhile, our country has seen significant development last year in spite of the fact that we had to face many challenges. We have been struggling very hard without getting any assistance. We were able to make progress in spite of this situation. However, the challenges have always been there. Sometimes they crop up by surprise.

The outbreak of coronavirus has impacted on our country. We cannot avoid its consequences. However, our country could take preparatory measures in both health

and economic sectors. Myanmar is the first country that could bring back its citizens from Wuhan. We are not the wealthiest country in the world. But we could manage to bring back our citizens. We are also making plans for the possible return of illegal migrants in foreign countries.

Our government has a policy to help the undocumented Myanmar citizens who are being bullied in other countries. We have responsibility for protecting our citizens. We do not shirk from our responsibility. I have spoken frequently about duty. Actually we need to be proud of the fact that we have a duty. A person without a duty is a worthless person. Therefore, in the final analysis, duty is not some job which has been assigned for you but something which is linked with loving-kindness (metta) and good intentions (cetana). That is why duty has a very deep meaning. Our community can be a really pleasant community if we really have good intentions and loving-kindness for each other; if we really value what has been done for us, if we are truly grateful.

Why? Our people are not lacking in loving-kindness (metta) and good intentions (cetana). I think our people are adorable and valuable. The generous nature of our people is very good. However, it is important that this is done systematically. That is why our people need to understand their own strengths and weaknesses. It is good to be generous. It is good to have a willingness to share. However, the sharing should be done systematically. Only then it will be effective. When we provide assistance, it should be done systematically with discipline. Only then it will be effective. Our people need to put a little more effort into this. Our people are facing common challenges. We have common expectation and destination. We need to realize our destination that is the establishment of a genuine federal union.

Each of us must try to aim for the day when we are proud to say "I'm from

SEE PAGE-5

## State Counsellor holds meeting with Kayin, Mon States authorities at Mawlamyine Airport

### FROM PAGE-4

Each of us must try to aim for the day when we are proud to say “I’m from Myanmar”, till others praise and respect us. If each of our citizens fails to work hard, we will not achieve this status. Germany and Japan are included in the list of most disciplined countries. Their citizens keep good discipline individually. That is why after World War II, they were able to rebuild their countries from ashes to become the most developed countries in the world.

We must have high hopes. We must work with honesty and aim high. We must try to be recognized by the global community. Working with honesty means we must work honestly. It should not be for show and outward appearances only. Each of us must try to develop within ourselves qualities and capabilities that other people would truly respect and place in high regard.

I want to know the problems of people and the ways to solve them in our best as possible as we can. That is why I ask them questions. However, we cannot address all the problems as most of these problems are between people. Because they are problems between people, one may be satisfied but the other may not feel the same. It is not possible to please both sides.

This is the one of the duties of a government. If the government tried to please all sides its efforts would be doomed to failure. We have to work with a policy. A government must have a policy. Policy is not law. I want to say that policy is a belief. Based on our belief I wish to talk about procedures.

What is our belief? We believe that a country is made up of its people. The worth of its people is the worth of the country. We place high regard on our people and we value them. That is why our policy is to value our people as we nurture and develop our country. So, the reason why we support and encourage rule of law is because our people will be develop in safety only if there is rule of law.

We yearn for national reconciliation and peace. In our country we have never experienced peace since it regained independence. If there is no peace, the people have to suffer. The innocent people are the ones who suffer the most. That is why we need peace. That is why we must work to get peace. I want all of you to participate in the peace building efforts as much as you can to the best of your ability. Helping out in the peace building efforts is the same as working on development. Without peace there cannot be development.

That is why to get peace each one of us should work as a peace worker; we should stand on the side of peace. Of course there may be differences of opinions among us. We don’t need to settle our differences using means that are not peaceful. If each of us hold on to the belief that we will use peaceful means this country will soon become a peaceful country. I believe that we can achieve speedy progress as soon as



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a meeting with Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of Kayin and Mon States, at the Mawlamyine Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

we achieve peace.

There are many ethnic armed groups in our country. We are still working to convene the Panglong Conference. This work has not yet finished. Despite international pressures in Rakhine issue, we are ardently struggling for our country. Just imagine how much progress we can make if we did not have such pressures. Internal strength of our country is very important in encountering external challenges.

We will surely enjoy development. Each individual should find out what he or she can do. Is it going to be in peace efforts, maintaining discipline, or development of one’s own business for the development of the country.

If children study at schools with the objective to help and develop our country, it will also be helpful for the peace and prosperity of our country. Let’s try together. We have many challenges and weaknesses. We admit this. We will face them. We will work continuously to overcome our weaknesses. I wish to request our people to try and overcome their weaknesses and join hands and cooperate with us for the progress and development of our country.”

After the speech, the State Counsellor, Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu and Dr Myint Htwe, State Government members and officials explained on the issues of local people on upgrade of motorway, road, electrification project, compensation for land confiscation, healthcare services and national interest of Myanmar from court hearing at ICJ.

Before leaving Hlaingbwe Township, she also met with the locals who are awaiting her at the helicopter landing ground.

At the meeting she said, “A major strength in our work lies on the people’s support. No government can have its strength without the participation and support of the people. Apart from any other superficial strengths, the participation and support of the people are the only profound and significant strength. I’d like to thank you all for your patience to welcome and give me an opportunity to address you.

I do not need to elaborate on the fact

that we are more required to develop our country. However, ‘unity’ is the most important factor in the roadmap towards our development. We all need to unite. The strength of the people like understanding and empathy between one another is the only strength different from others. Our people should understand and value it.

Right after the Independence, our nation was one of the forerunners among the South-East Asian countries. Health and education were then up to high standards within South-East Asia. Yet those things and situations could have been changed. We can see our neighbouring countries have now overtaken us. This is what has happened in the past. We could not change the past. At present we need to do what we need to do.

We have to value the present moment. We have our individual right to decide how to make the best use of the present moment of ours. The future might be at hand but we can’t hold it right now. We don’t know by a hundred percent how would it be tomorrow. This is a law of nature.

What we are doing now. How we are using our present moment. We are altogether in this mass gathering. We gather in unity and it results in benefits. This is an instance of time. We have decided how to use it and we’re making better use of it now. We deserve it. We don’t know what we might do tomorrow. One may have a certain objective but tomorrow we cannot expect 100 percent of it. We have our present moment at hand. Please bear it in your mind.

All of you should be mindful of trying your best at the present moment you all are in. You should consider your country in this regard.

Each and every citizen takes his or her country into account steadily day by day and you can think of how many numbers we can add based on a population of over 50 million people. You should do to develop yourself. This is right and responsibility for all. Our government will provide as much support as we can in the improvement of each and every citizen of us. Please take

time and consider our nation little by little, a day at a time; just a little, not a lot.

To my satisfaction, the majority of this audience is familiar with Thailand. We should not stop at satisfaction. We should set firm determination to do more than the conditions in there. We do want to develop our country.

Experts may say that it is important we should compete ourselves rather than with others. We can be winners both for our own competition and for competition with others. You should work hard to the best of your ability. No doubt. I’m sure this is the way towards our development.

I’d like to take this opportune time and talk to our people. Please do not underestimate yourselves. Don’t be discouraged by yourselves. Don’t feel unhappy about ourselves comparing with others. We need to build our country where we all can enjoy and live happy safe and secure lives. With this firm determination mindset, we can walk hand in hand together and achieve success in our future journey.

That’s why, we should consider as friends for one another. We should keep walking together hand in hand towards our future destiny. I wish you all good health and peace of mind throughout this journey. Thank you all.”

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and party arrived back to Mawlamyine in the afternoon. She held a meeting with Union Ministers, Deputy Minister, Chief Ministers of Kayin and Mon States, cabinet members at the Mawlamyine Airport.

During the meeting, she made instructions to take priority on the problems of local people during public meetings, to implement the national project transparently with public participations, to fight against narcotic drugs by the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with students, teachers and parents, and to address squatter issue. She also coordinated the discussions of state governments. The State Counsellor and party returned from Mawlamyine to Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight in the afternoon.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin/AungThura/Dr Zaw Tun)

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

**Myanmar Parliamentary Union holds Meeting (1/2020)**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) Meeting 1/2020 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Parliamentary Union-MPU held its first meeting in 2020 at the meeting hall of Hluttaw's Zabuthiri Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, MPU Chairman, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, said respective Hluttaws are believed to be implementing the tasks that should be completed in this term.

He added that the MPU became an institution with better

coordination among the Region/State Hluttaws and between Union level Hluttaws and Region/State Hluttaws after the Myanmar Parliamentary Union Law was ratified.

Afterwards, Deputy Chairman of MPU, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, said the purpose of the establishment of the MPU was to strengthen parliaments and solve the parliamentary issues together. He also stressed the

importance of parliaments that needs to be strong in the country's democratic reform process.

That was followed by Secretary of MPU, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, explaining the decisions made at MPU Meeting 1/2019 and the condition of parliamentary processes.

Chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of Region/State Hluttaws reported their parlia-

mentary matters and the difficulties of each parliaments.

Director-General of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office and head of the office of the MPU, also reported the affairs of offices and staff of the Region/State Hluttaws.

The meeting came into conclusion after the Chairman of the MPU made a remark.

— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

**Ministries hold 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for prevention of COVID-19**A meeting on prevention for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) held on 25 February 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Health and Sports hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> inter-ministerial meeting for preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) yesterday.

Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, in

his capacity as the chairman of inter-ministerial coordination committee, explained the spread of COVID-19 to South Korea, Japan and other countries, while the South Korea is in the ascending phase of transmission.

He also discussed constant

screening and surveillance of foreign visitors and the top prioritized emergency issue of Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent and control the possible infection cases.

The MoHS has invited participation of relevant agencies in

conducting surveillance at international gateways and hospitals, and awareness campaigns.

Dr Thet Khaing Win also held talks on preparatory measures for the religious titles conferring ceremony to the renowned monks in Nay Pyi Taw, coordination with the departments of immigration and foreign affairs, postponement of ASEAN-level Health Cluster meeting and preparations for possible return of exchange students from the foreign countries with outbreak of COVID-19.

He also discussed measures related to alleviate possible impact of the disease on hotel and tourism, trade, social and economic sector. Officials from relevant departments of ministries presented their ongoing activities and future plans for prevention of COVID-19.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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# National Symphony Orchestra Concert staged in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, together with Japanese artistes, featured their performances at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event, dubbed 'Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concert 2020', was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Deputy Ministers and their wives, Consul of Japanese Embassy and diplomats, staff families, invited guests and music lovers.

The concert started with the national anthems of Myanmar and Japan.

Myanmar musicians and Japanese conductor and composer Mr Yunosuke Yamamoto



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, wife Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Ministers and musicians pose for a group photo at the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concert 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

entertained the audience with western classical songs – Emperor; From the New World, Trumpeter's Lullaby, Fiddle-Fiddle, and Pomp and Circumstance Home Sweet Home, and Myanmar classical songs — Lu Chun Lu Kaung, Bal Pann Chi Yae Lo Ma Mhi and Man Taung Yeik Kho.

After the performances, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw presented a flower bouquet to the Japanese conductor and composer.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presented a flower bouquet to the wife of the Japanese conductor and compos-

er, Pianist Mrs Kyoko Yamamoto.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin presented flower baskets to Japanese artists and Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and wife posed for a group photo together with the musicians.

A similar event in Yangon was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 20 February. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Deputy Director-General of ILO

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received the Deputy Director-General of International Labour Organization (ILO) Mr Greg Vines at 11:30 am on 25 February 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister and the Deputy Director-General of ILO exchanged views on the cooperation between Myanmar and International Labour Organi-

zation as well as on the assistance of ILO in the Labour Law Reforms Process of Myanmar and in the implementation of Myanmar Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP).—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Deputy Director-General of International Labour Organization (ILO) Mr. Greg Vines in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Surveillance and investigation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Updates at 8 pm 25 February 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. A 23-year old man, a native of Kutkai Township in northern Shan State, worked at an automobile workshop in Ruili, China, since 15 days ago before he returned to Muse on 24 February 2020. While passing through Muse-Mann Wein border gate, the township health officials tested his fever at 100 degree Fahrenheit and he was taken to the Muse hospital as a person under investigation. His specimens have been sent to the National Health Laboratory (NHL) in Yangon for diagnosis. He has not tested
  3. Only one patient was under surveillance at a hospital till 8 pm on 25 February 2020, and he was in good health conditions. Results from his diagnosis will be released in real-time report.
  4. The Ministry of Health and Sports is increasing its momentum of surveillance on influenza like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and laboratory tests for COVID-19 is being conducted at the NHL.
  5. The three pneumonia patients in their ages of 18, 43 and 46 who received medical treatments at the Insein Teaching and General Hospital from 13 February 24 February were tested, although they have
  6. no histories of overseas visit and close contact with COVID-19 confirmed patients. After laboratory tests on their specimens at the NHL on 25 February 2020, they were not diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Although there is no laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 until 25 February, the ministry is conducting round-the-clock surveillance in upward momentum. As the COVID-19 is spreading in 30 countries, including China and some of its neighbouring countries, people are suggested to follow health awareness instructions of the Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention of the disease. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Firm commitment key to protect victims, vulnerable migrants in IDPs

**D**ESPITE efforts being taken to fight human trafficking, in accordance with the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Law, trafficking-in-persons cases have not declined significantly year by year.

Trafficking is occurring in different forms — from exploitation of internal migrants and migrants crossing the border, and from sexual exploitation to forced marriage in neighboring countries.

We are confident that implementing the project for vulnerable migrants would help speed up current efforts for closing down IDP camps and helping the internally displaced return home.

Now is the time for the country, which is grappling with internal armed conflict and natural disasters, to strengthen the protection of victims (VOTs) and vulnerable migrants (VMs) in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

It is our national duty to support and protect victims by creating a safe environment for them, expose the crimes committed against them, and assist legal institutions, including police, which are playing an essential role in fighting and protecting people from crimes against humanity.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement plans to launch a project to protect and support vulnerable migrants in

Kachin, Shan, and Rakhine states.

It would be a further step forward to achieving our commitment of addressing the root causes of trafficking-in-persons in Myanmar.

The main reasons for human trafficking in Myanmar include poor socio-economic conditions, natural disasters, and internal armed conflicts. Legal and illegal migrants to foreign countries can also fall victim to trafficking.

We are confident that implementing the project for vulnerable migrants would help speed up current efforts for closing down IDP camps and helping the internally displaced return home.

The five major causes of human trafficking in Myanmar are forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced labour, trafficking in children, and debt bondage. Of the total human trafficking cases in 2018, 75.24 per cent involved forced marriages, 13.59 per cent forced prostitution, 8.74 per cent forced labour, 1.94 per cent surrogacy, and 0.49 per cent illegal adoption. By countries of destination, 79.61 per cent cases were related to China, 1.46 per cent to Thailand, and 18.93 per cent were from within Myanmar.

Ending trafficking in persons requires a firm commitment, and not just at the institutional level. It also requires a broad involvement of international civil society organizations which are working tirelessly with governmental organizations at large. And, most of all — we need the involvement of men.

## Foreign Assistance to Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Myanmar

By Lokethar

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her meetings with the people all over the country, has been urging young people to take up vocational training to learn a trade or occupation which will better enable them to get employment and a means of livelihood for themselves and their families. She has also pointed out the important role of TVET and the need to further develop TVET in her “Foreword” to the National Education Strategic Plan – which covers all areas of Education including Vocational and Technical Education. In line with the NESP, the Ministry of Education has been exerting efforts to upgrade the TVET system to deliver quality Technical Vocational Education and Training for producing capable and competent Technicians and Skilled workers needed in all sectors of the Economy. The International community is also contributing in no small way, assistance related to enhancing Human Resources Development of Myanmar, including assistance to upgrade its TVET system.

The TVET Sector in Myanmar, according to the National Education Law, spans both “Formal”



Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training—2017 held in Nay Pyi Taw.

and the “Non-formal” education systems comprising of the TVET Institutions under the MOE, all Vocational and Skills Development programs and Institutions under other concerned Ministries as well as in the Private Sector. Hence, contribution or aid by any foreign country could perhaps also be provided to the Ministries implementing TVET Programs as well as private sector TVET Centres according to priority needs.

Such aid and assistance should be aligned to the Goals of the TVET in the NESP. One of the

Strategies in the NESP relating to the area of TVET, is to expand access to TVET for various target groups including disadvantaged populations and people with disabilities. The Program Components of the Strategy is to undertake competency based modular short courses to increase access to TVET.

As mentioned above, the Strategy and Program Component, regarding the conducting of Short Modular Courses for skilled occupations training for disadvantaged populations has been prior-

itized in the NESP. There are a vast number of young school dropouts of low educational attainment, especially in the rural areas who are unskilled and underemployed. Providing opportunities for them to attend Short Modular Courses, as described in the TVET Strategy, will help such young people to progressively acquire the skills of their chosen occupation.

For that matter the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has been developing Occupational Skills Standards at four levels targeted at conducting the whole course from less skilled worker through

skilled and advanced skilled worker to Supervisor cum Technician in the form of short courses linked vertically to each other; with work experience interspersed between each level. Such skills training contributes to the practical acquisition of occupational skills. The Occupational Competency Standards developed are based on ASEAN and international standards and hence are also conducive to the mobility throughout ASEAN, of the skilled workers trained on the basis of these Standards.

It would contribute much to the quality assurance of the Short TVET courses if the OCS were to be used by all the TVET Facilities whether in the “Formal” or “Non-formal” TVET system, both by Public and Private Sector, throughout Myanmar.

Perhaps the contributions of the donor countries to the development of TVET in Myanmar, would better serve our purpose if directed towards our TVET Strategy and program as outlined in our National Education Strategic Plan and tied to Occupational Competency Standards developed by NSSA formed under the 2013 Employment and Skills Development Law.

Providing opportunities for them to attend Short Modular Courses, as described in the TVET Strategy, will help such young people to progressively acquire the skills of their chosen occupation.

## China achieves notable results in blocking COVID-19 human-to-human transmission: China-WHO expert team

**BEIJING**—China's unprecedented public health responses to the COVID-19 outbreak have yielded notable results in blocking human-to-human transmission of the virus, preventing or at least delaying hundreds of thousands of cases, said a joint expert team consisting of experts from China and the World Health Organization.

The assessment was given at a press conference on Monday in Beijing after the 25-member team conducted a nine-day field study trip in China's Beijing, Guangdong, Sichuan and Hubei.

China has also played a critical role in protecting the international community, buying precious time for countries to adopt active prevention and control measures and providing them with worthwhile experience, the team said.

China is taking prudent, phased and orderly steps to gradually restore order in social, economic, education and healthcare sectors, it said, adding that other countries should swiftly reassess the measures taken toward China.

Noting that the novel coronavirus is a new pathogen, the team said more information is needed to better understand the transmission dynamics and the severity of the disease, adding that global prevention and control work still faces severe challenges.

The team advised countries to take active monitoring measures, strive for early detection, diagnosis, quarantine and treatment, and closely trace and quarantine close contacts.

Countries with imported cases or seeing a surge of cases are advised to immediately activate national emergency plans to ensure governments at every level take necessary intervention measures to block the spread.

Countries should be prepared and make emergency response plans and adopt stricter measures if necessary, the team said.

It also called on countries to strengthen exchange of information on the outbreak and stay united to jointly deal with the challenges brought by the COVID-19.—Xinhua



A press conference of the China-WHO joint expert team is held in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 February 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Objectives of the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 Gazette

## Appointment of Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed U Hla Htay, Director-General of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, as Permanent Secretary of the same office.



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, isolated in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

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Office of the President  
Press Release 8/2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Tabaung, 1381 ME  
(24 February 2020)

## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 22 February 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Khin Maung Win who lives in Tatkon Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 February 2020, police searched the house of Khin Maung Win, 49, son of U Pwar Aung, who lives in Tatkon Village, Mawlaik Township, and arrested him together with '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik)MaYa(pa)8/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Tun Tun who lives in Tatkon Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 February 2020, police searched the house of Tun Tun, 45, son of U Aung Thaug, who lives in Tatkon Village, Mawlaik Township, and arrested him together with '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik)MaYa(pa)9/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Gadon who lives in Naungpat Village, Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 February 2020, police searched the house of Gadon (a) Kyaw Kyaw Aung, 24, son of U Than Tun, who lives in Naungpat Village, Bamauk Township, and arrested him and Kan Htoo (a) Kan Maung, 31, son of U Aung Sein, who lives in the same village, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mansigyi)MaYa(pa)8/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Soe Myint who lives in Thayaung Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 February 2020, police searched the house of Soe Myint, 41, son of U Aung Thein, who lives in Thayaung Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Myint Ko who lives in Tema Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21 February 2020, police searched the house of Myint Ko, 45, son of U Aung Than, who lives in Tema Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Daw Nyo Nyo Win who lives in Pankauk Village, Mingin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 20 February 2020, police searched the house of Daw Nyo Nyo Win, 32, daughter of U Ba Tin, who lives in Pankauk Village, Mingin Township and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Maukkataw)MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

7.	Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Anawyahta 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 streets in Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Tsp, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened three cases and arrested three men together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks.  Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Nyein Chan Min, 17, son of U Zaw Min Lat, who lives in Hninsi 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, on the Anawyahta 1 street, Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on 21 February 2020, A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police arrested Aung Ko Lat (a) Angelay, 23, son of Win Shwe, who lives in Shwewahtun 2 Street, on the Anawyahta 1 street, Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. Acting on a tip-off, he bought the drugs from Nyein Chan Min. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kawthoung)MaYa(pa)26/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Kyaw Min Tun who lives in Kantawlay Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 February 2020, police arrested Kyaw Min Tun (a) Reedwarn, 20, son of U Myo Min Tun (a) Bala, who lives in Kantawlay Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets at the corner of Mahabandula Road and 32 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Pabedan Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Pabedan)MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 990 cases have been opened files as of 22 February 2020. A total of 1,525 people, including 1,273 men and 252 women had been arrested with 7,650.8814g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,339.02166 g of opium, 661.27 g of low-quality opium, 53,242.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 503,639 stimulant tablets, 10,311.42 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 24 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

#### Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

## Early harvested durian fetches good price in Thuwunnawadi in Mon State, low yield expected



THIS year, durians in Thuwunnawadi, Mon State have been harvested early and are fetching a good price. However, the yield is expected to be low this season as durian farms in villages near the town have declined.

“Durian is not abundant like before. Some plants have died. Moreover, some farmers in the towns have substituted

durian with rubber. Due to low yield, the fruit is fetching a high price”, said a farmer who has shifted from cultivating durian to rubber.

“Some durians are ready for harvesting. Some durians are still too small to be picked. A normal-sized durian is priced over K5,000 at the farm. Fruit vendors can make a profit from durian sales, depending

on their quality and size,” said a fruit vendor from Theinseik Ward in Thuwunnawadi Town.

In previous years, Theinseik durian was well-known for its taste. Now, the yield has declined on account of weather conditions and a drop in the number of farms. —Khun (Winpa)

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Local gold price breaches K1.26 mln amid global rally

By Nyein Nyein

WITH gold prices increasing in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market has crossed K1.26 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms), said U Ohn Myaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

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.

“At present, the Kyat is gaining against the US dollar in the local forex market. Though global gold prices have peaked at \$1,680 per ounce, domestic gold prices have climbed to just K1,260,000 per tical,” U Ohn Myaing said.

“At present, global gold prices have soared to a record high. But, the domestic gold

price has not reached a fresh peak above K1.3 million per tical as the local currency is strengthening against the US dollar. Currently, the price is pegged at K1,261,000 per tical,” he said.

The domestic gold price is positively related to global gold prices. However, at present, trade is cool in the market, according to the MGEA.

“The domestic market has been cooling. The domestic price has not kept up with the rise in the global market,” said U Ohn Myaing.

The global gold prices reached a peak of \$1,588 on 18 February and jumped to K1,680 per ounce on 25 February, an increase of almost \$100 within a week.

Despite the high global gold prices, the dollar exchange rate plunged to below K1,500 on 25 December and extended its drop to reach K1,447 on 25 February, according to money exchangers.

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 2019, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August 2019), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September 2019), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

According to gold traders, in the first month of the current 2019-2020 financial year, the gold price touched the lowest level of K1,211,500 on 1 October and the highest level of K1,229,000 on 10 October. In November, the price moved in the range of 1,219,400 (2 November) and K1,173,000 (28 November), and in December, it reached the lowest level of K1,170,800 (3 December) and the highest level of K1,197,800 (28 December). Last month, the lowest price was K1,191,600 (2 January) and the highest was K1,232,700 (8 January), according to gold traders.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Foreigners can start trading on YSX in March: SECM

THE Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) will allow foreigners to invest in the local equity market from next month.

“Regarding foreign participation on the YSX, they will be allowed to start trading shares on the YSX by March, and the details on foreign trades on the exchange will be announced next month,” said an official from the YSX.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, issued a notice on 12 July, 2019, announcing that foreigners would be allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX.

Securities companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners, in keeping with the rules and regulations, so that they do not exceed the limit set for each listed company.

In addition, the SECM is striving to promote listing of companies on the YSX and proceed with foreign participation on the exchange, the official added.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd — are being traded on the stock exchange.

The YSX held a seminar on ‘Foreign Participation in Myanmar Stock Market’ on 14 December, 2019 at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

At the seminar, U Than Aung, founder and CEO of Maximax Solution Corporate Advisory and Executive Learning Institute, presented investors’ perspective on foreign participation in the Myanmar stock market. U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of the Yangon Stock Exchange, discussed the advantages of foreign

participation in the stock market, offering insights into experiences of other developing countries. He also highlighted how foreign participation would entail better capital inflows, long term and sustainable investment, encourage good corporate governance, and support market orientation, and then discussed YSX trends.

In accordance with Section 42 (a) of the Securities and Exchange Law and Section 4 of the Trading Participant Business Regulations, the YSX has granted trading qualifications to the following securities companies — Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co. Ltd. (MSEC), KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co. Ltd. (KBZSC), CB Securities Limited (CBSC), AYA Trust Securities Co. Ltd. (AYATSC), KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co. Ltd. (KTZRH), and UAB Securities Limited (UABSC).

Investors have to send their buy or sell orders to the YSX through the securities companies who have been issued a license by the SECM as well as a trading qualification by the YSX, according to the stock exchange.

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 Ei Myat Mon)*



People look at the electronic board showing the stock exchange rate in Yangon Stock Exchange. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

# YBS 101 bus line linking four universities to start on 27 Feb

By Nyein Nyein

THE Omni Focus Company will start operating a new YBS (Yangon Bus Service) route linking four universities on 27 February.

The company will operate 27 buses on the route linking the Yangon Technological University (Hlinethaya), the University of Medicine (2), the Dagon University, and the University of Economics (Ywathagyi).

Buses will start from the Yangon Technological University (Hlinethaya) and pass Dagon Ayar Highway terminal, Anaw-

rahta Road, Shwepyitha Bridge, Danyingon junction, No.3 Road- Aungmingala Highway, Thudhamar Road, Kanthaya, Khaymathi, University of Medicine (2), North Okkala roundabout, Bohmubahtoo Road, Dagon University, Kyansitha Road, and terminate at the University of Economics (Ywathagyi). There will be a total of 82 stops on the route. The return trip to Yangon Technological University (Hlinethaya) will follow the same route with 85 halts.

The route has been divided into two parts:



Commuters board the airport shuttle bus at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

with each trip between the Yangon Technological University (Hlainethaya) and the University of

Medicine (2), or between the University of Medicine (2) and University of Economics (Ywathagyi)

costing K200. A ticket for the entire route will cost K300.

The Omni Focus Company has asked the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) to offer shuttle bus services from the Yangon airport to the highway bus terminals with 20 buses, according to the YRTA.

“The bus lines can help ensure the security of commuters. The YRTA is striving to provide better transportation services,” said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the transport authority.

At present, the Omni Focus Company is run-

ning YBS No 20, 83, 98, 99, 56, and the airport shuttle bus services from Yangon airport to Yangon Central Railway Station.

The Yangon Bus Service was launched on 16 January, 2017, during the incumbent government’s term, to improve transport facilities in Yangon. At present, more than 101 bus lines are operating 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the airport shuttle and city transit. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Over 70 elephants ferrying pilgrims to Alaungdaw Kathapa cave



Pilgrims take elephant ride to Alaungdaw Kathapa cave at the Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park. PHOTO: THAN HTAY AUNG (KANI)

SEVENTY-SEVEN elephants are helping carry pilgrims to the Alaungdaw Kathapa sacred cave at the Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park in Kani Township of Sagaing Region, said U Aung Maung, a park official.

To allow smooth transportation for pilgrims, elephant rides have been organized at the national park. Each trip from the bus terminal to the cave shrine on elephants is priced at K8,000 per howdah. An elephant trek to the pagoda, located two miles from the shrine, costs another K16,000. The elephant rides are available between 6 am and 10:30 am in the morn-

ing and 3 pm to 6:30 pm in the evening. Of the total pilgrims to the Alaungdaw Kathapa sacred cave, 35 are owned by the park and 42 by Myanma Timber Enterprise.

“An elephant trek accommodates four people per round. Some elephant rides take three people. An elephant ride costs K8,000 for the mile-long trip from the bus terminal to the shrine. This year, the number of pilgrims has decreased. Therefore, there are no queues for the transportation service, unlike earlier. Pilgrims opting for elephant treks can experience the scenic beauty of the national park along the route,” said U Aung Maung.

Pilgrims thronged the Alaungdaw Kathapa cave shrine after the road to the shrine was opened on 24 December, 2019.

Every year, the Tabodwe full moon is the high season of pilgrimage to Alaungdaw Kathapa.

Hundreds of pilgrims could be seen at the pagoda on 7 February, the day before the full moon of Tabodwe, and on the night of the full moon on 8 February.

Alaungdaw Kathapa, an enlightened monk, passed away on the Tabodwe full moon day. So, to mark this day, local visitors flock to the cave where the remains of Alaungdaw Kathapa have been preserved.

The Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park is an ASEAN heritage site and aims to preserve the natural forest, ecosystem, and archaeological remains. It is home to elephants, tigers, leopards, gaurs, barking deer, jungle goats, mountain goats, bears, wild boars, jungle cats, and many species of birds. However, it is more well-known as a religious site. —Than Htay Aung (Kani)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Agro Power Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Agro Power Co., Ltd. (Add: No. 570, Thumana Street, Ward (16/4), Thingangyun Township, Yangon, Myanmar.)

# Kuwait Embassy celebrates 59<sup>th</sup> National Day, 29<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day



Union Minister U Han Zaw and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, their wives and diplomats pose for the photo at the celebration to commemorate the State of Kuwait's 59<sup>th</sup> National Day and 29<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day in Yangon on 25 February 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Embassy of Kuwait in Yangon celebrated the 59<sup>th</sup> National Day and the 29<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait at the Melia Yangon Hotel yesterday. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife attended the celebration. The event had begun after the nation-

al anthems of Myanmar and Kuwait were played. Afterwards, Union Minister U Han Zaw and charge d'affaires a.i. of Embassy of Kuwait Mr Adel Al Adgham sliced a cake to commemorate the State of Kuwait's 59<sup>th</sup> National Day and 29<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day. The Union

Minister and the charge d'affaires a.i. of Embassy of Kuwait posed for a documentary photo together with attendees, followed by a dinner session hosted by the embassy. Also present at the event were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife,

Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, ambassadors and charges d'affaires a.i. from the foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of the UN agencies and invited guests. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

# Malaysia king to decide on next PM after Mahathir's shock resignation

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's king began meeting with parliamentarians on Tuesday as he decides on the next prime minister following the shock resignation of Mahathir Mohamad on Monday.

So far bets are on 94-year old Mahathir making another comeback as the world's oldest prime minister again as he is seen to have majority support in the lower house of Parliament to continue ruling.

Comptroller of the Royal Household Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin told reporters at the palace that King Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin is personally interviewing each of the 222 lawmakers in the House of Representatives individually to gauge their choice of prime minister. The meeting will continue until Wednesday.

Under the Constitution, Ahmad Fadil said, the king will appoint a prime minister "whom in His Majesty's judgement is likely to command the confidence of the majority of the House, so it has to be done by himself, not by anyone else."

Malaysia is plunged into a political turmoil as the four-party ruling coalition, the Alliance of Hope, collapsed and Mahathir quit in what is seen as a protest against developments in his own party, Bersatu, that took the decision on Sunday to break away from the Alliance and join forces with the opposition United Malays National Organization, or UMNO.

Mahathir had also announced on Monday that he has stepped down as Bersatu chairman. — Kyodo News ■

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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2020 (Peasant's Day), 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 (Full Moon Day of Taboung) and 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 (Alternative Holiday of Full Moon Day of Taboung) and 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 (Armed Forces Day) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Trade Mark Ad's Call Thin Thin May. 09251022355, 09974424848

**Announcement**

Yatanarpon Teleport Public Company Limited (YTP), in order to make settlement of the accounts of payables and receivables with related persons and companies, hereby invites all personnel and body corporates to contact the following office address not later than 4:00 p.m. on 26 March 2020, together with the complete sets of documents and evidences for settlement of the said accounts.

**Yatanarpon Teleport Public Company Limited**  
No-25, Universities' Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Township, 11051, Yangon Region, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (142N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (142N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V DIGNITY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DIGNITY VOY. NO. (2/2020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 CE DAR MARINE SERVICES  
S.A.L.**  
Phone No: 2301928

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (059N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2020 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 INTER ASIA LINES**  
Phone No: 2301185

# Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020 is crucial step to catch up ASEAN market

By Ko Maung / Photos: Ye Htut Tin (NLM)

**M**YANMAR retailers are making strenuous efforts to keep abreast with a booming retail sector of ASEAN countries as the country is still lacking a vibrant retail landscape.

The Myanmar Retailers' Association is on the move to promote the country's retail market, with holding the Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020 at the Myanmar Expo Hall of Fortune Plaza in Thakayta Township, Yangon, on 7 and 8 February.

The event was aimed for a better retailing environment with more market accesses for business development in Myanmar. The summit was held with over

150 booths, exhibiting and selling mobile and IT, home appliance, cosmetics, retail support, fashion, food, beverage, education service and other items at discount rates for the visitors.

Under the theme of Expo "Unleashing the Retail Potential", about 20 experts shared their theoretical and practical-knowledge relating to the retail industry in analytical approach.

In his welcoming speech, Vice President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Thein Han extended greetings, with his remarks on the changing trend of sale, food safety and consumer markets.



U Thurein Nyein, president of the Myanmar Retailers' Association, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020 in progress. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Visitors look at the booth of REMAX. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

The speakers answered the questions raised by the attendees, with sharing their experiences, findings and researches on domestic and regional retail markets.

From home shops to franchise outlets, Myanmar retail sector still need to promote services and quality of products. These vendors must follow the rules, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), to protect consumers from unsafe general consumer goods.

Otherwise, they need to sustain regional or national standards for the goods that do not have the applicable international safety norms.

Authorities are also re-

sponsible for conducting active post-market surveillance to reduce the impact of unsafe general consumer goods. If the consumer goods were found not meeting applicable safety stands, officials should stop the sale of these goods in the market.

Suppliers consumer goods, including manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers and other traders, should promote the retail sector of Myanmar with selling only safe goods because selling unsafe goods may lost reputation of commodity brands and consumer confidence, incur the costs for after-sale problems and face legal disputes in some cases.

Expansion of retail market in ASEAN region is largely re-



People visit the booths during the Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

lated with young and fast-growing population, emerging middle-class consumers and strong GDP growth of respective member countries. Other factors to develop retail sector include employment growth and urbanization in respective countries.

The four ASEAN biggest retail market nations in the region are Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. These countries are at significantly different stages of development and are offering unique opportunities for retail investment.

Although Myanmar is a fledgling market for retail sector, the stakeholders are seriously working to develop the market. Learning lessons from developing countries and holding retail sector events could help

improvement of the country's retail market. However, it needs to take the detailed considerations in organizing the events to meet regional quality at least, in displaying the booths, services for visitors, stage designs, lighting and sound systems, as well as inviting good speakers to gain good impressions of local and foreign audience on the events.

The Myanmar Retailer Association's President U Thurein Nyein said the Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020 is an initial step towards holding larger events with the participations of retailers from regional countries in next five or six years, and during this period the association is expected to get experiences enough for holding regional level summits and expos. ■



SKYWORTH displays its products at the Myanmar Retail Summit and Expo 2020. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



## KBZ Bank and London Business School Collaborate to Bring Real-time, Real-life Case Studies to MBA students



PHOTO: KBZ

**I**N its quest to bring real life business problems into its curriculum, London Business School MBA Class of 2019 partnered with KBZ Bank in Myanmar to bring an exceptional financial inclusion product to the market with dramatic results. The results were used to shape KBZ Bank mobile payment app, KBZPay.

Leading the effort to achieve 100% financial inclusion in Myanmar, KBZ Bank has leveraged new technology and brought banking beyond the branch through KBZPay. Over the past year, KBZPay has continued its momentum as the fastest growing mobile wallet in Myanmar, bringing on-board more than 4.5 million customers and 280,000 Merchants and Agents.

One of the tasks for London Business School MBA students, as part of their Performance-Driven Strategy Execution course, was to guide the leadership team at KBZ Bank through specific challenges. One of these challenges was how to utilize its 18,000 strong work-force, mostly branch staff, to execute the biggest digital product launch ever attempted in the region. Another was how to build and manage a network of agents and merchants in a country with a population of 55

million people across 63 Districts, more than 300 cities and towns and 65,000 villages.

Mike DeNoma, CEO of KBZ Bank said, "Working with the best and the brightest always bears fruit. Many of their innovative recommendations are embedded in our business plans."

One year on, KBZPay customers across Myanmar can now access the most essential financial services all day and night in the palm of their hands. Significantly, one in three KBZPay customers are from areas other than Yangon Region, Mandalay Region and Shan State, reflecting the progress to reach people with little or no access to banking or other formal financial services.

"As we transform our bank to world-class standards, it is a delight to be able to work with one of the best business schools in the world. Myanmar is growing rapidly on every measure and working with LBS enables us to be at the front of business and management thinking, quickly implementing learnings into real-life business scenarios," said Nang Lang Kham, Deputy CEO, KBZ Bank.

To date, KBZPay has facilitated more than USD 3.3 billion in transactions. The highest rate of transactions facilitated

by KBZPay thus far was 240 transactions per second. In addition, more than 50 per cent of businesses that use KBZPay for transactions are owned by women.

Ahmed Tahoun, the Professor at London Business School who designed and taught the course said, "To be involved in such a huge success, record breaking on many different levels, is a testament to the MBA class of 2019. Being able to be involved in real-time, live case studies added a new dimension to the curriculum and to our MBA programme."

Looking forward, KBZPay will strive towards achieving its goal of reaching 30 million KBZPay customers by 2028, to connect families and friends and embed them in a modern, mobile-first financial ecosystem that supports their digital lifestyles.

London Business School will be looking for further opportunities to collaborate real-time with organisations facing strategic business transformation. Both KBZ Bank and London Business School will be launching new collaborations in the coming months — ensuring the highest level of business education is embedded in real-life, real-time impactful experiences.— GNLM ■

## AFC Cup 2020: Yangon United beats Lao Toyota 3-2 on home ground

MYANMAR'S Yangon United FC. beat Lao Toyota FC by 3-2 in the group stage match of the AFC Cup 2020 yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, according to the Myanmar National League's website.

The goals for Yangon United were scored by Aung Kyaw Naing at the 18<sup>th</sup> minute and the 84<sup>th</sup> minute and Mg Mg Lwin at the 30<sup>th</sup> minute.

The goals for Lao Toyota FC were scored by Norihiro Kawakami at the 58<sup>th</sup> minute and Laercio Gomes Costa at the 90+1<sup>st</sup> minute.

After two group matches,

Yangon United has secured four points from one draw and one win. The match between Yangon United and Ho Chi Minh City on 11 February ended with a 2-2 draw. The third match for Yangon United is scheduled against Singapore's Hougang United on 10 March at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

### Group H of the AFC Cup 2020

Shan United is representing Myanmar in Group H of the AFC Cup 2020. Shan United will play against PSM Makassar today (26 February) at the Gelora Bung Karno Mady Stadium in Jakarta.



Players of Yangon United FC celebrates after they scored a goal during the match against Lao Toyota FC in the group stage match of the AFC Cup 2020 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNL**

This would be the second match for Shan United, which was defeated by Kaya-Iloilo 0-2 in their first match in Group H. Shan United

will go up against Tampines Rovers on 10 March at the Jurong West Stadium in Singapore. — Kyaw Khin ■

## Greece, UEFA vow to clean up Greek football

ATHENS (Greece) — The Greek government on Tuesday signed an accord with UEFA to clean up Greek football, seeking ways to tackle the threat posed by corruption, match-fixing and other problems.

"We've taken a political decision to clean up Greek football for good and we are very much looking to your assistance in proceeding down that path," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin.

The declaration of intent signed by the two men watched by FIFA vice president Greg Clarke "demonstrates our commitment to make significant improvements and upgrading Greek football..." said Mitsotakis.

UEFA intends to produce a report within three months on ways to improve the administration of Greek football.

Challenges include finding ways to fight the threat of match-fixing, corruption and doping as well as refereeing issues.

Match officials went on strike in 2018 and threatened a strike in January after attacks on referees and their homes and an attempt by Olympiakos to sue five referees.

The meeting between the Greek government and world and European football administrators came two days after the league match between the country's top clubs, PAOK Thessaloniki and Olympiakos Piraeus.

The rivalry between the two sides exemplifies the challenges faced by the game in Greece.

The enmity has spilled over the playing field into the courts and the political sphere after PAOK chief Ivan Savvidis was accused by Olympiakos of acquiring an illegal stake in Xanthi, another top tier club, through a family member, a claim he denies. — AFP ■

## AFC-MFF coaching certificate course concludes

A ceremony was held to mark the conclusion of the AFC-MFF 'B' Coaching Certificate Course

(Part-2) yesterday at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon.

At the event, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein made the opening remarks.

Then, Mr. Eric Abrams, a trainer, and Mr. Jens Eiberger, a sports scientist with the MFF, explained matters related to the course.

Afterwards, students who took the course presented gifts to trainers and received certificates.

The event concluded with a group photo session.

The nine-day coaching certificate course was conducted from 17 to 25 February and attended by 23 male trainees and three female trainees.

Also present at yesterday's ceremony were MFF counsellor U Bunny Tin Aung, executive member U Tin Myint Aung, officials, and invited guests. — Kyaw Khin ■



Trainers and trainees of the AFC-MFF 'B' Coaching Certificate Course (Part-2) pose for a group photo at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

## MPT MNL (U-21) 2020: ISPE leads standing table after Week-6

AT the conclusion of Week-6 of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-21) 2020, ISPE is leading the standing table with 15 points from five wins and one loss, according to the league's website.

ISPE is followed by Myawady

FC. with 15 points from five wins. Ayeyawady United is in the third place with 13 points from four wins and one draw and Yadanarbon FC is fourth with 13 points from four wins, one draw, and one loss. Shan United FC is next with 12 points from four wins and

two losses.

In Week-6, Shan United beat Silver Stars by 6-0, ISPE trounced Yaw Myay by 6-0, Yadanarbon FC defeated Magwe 1-0, University secured a 3-0 win over Kachin United, and Chinland FC tied with Southern Myanmar FC

at 2-2. Meanwhile, Chin United defeated Mawyawadi 3-2, Hantawady United and Rakhine United conceded a 2-2 draw, Ayeyawady United beat Sagaing United by 2-0, and Yangon United won against Zwegapin United by 2-0. — Kyaw Khin ■

## Man Utd confident in long-term project despite rising debt

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward is adamant the club are heading in the right direction as the

latest financial results underlined their need for a return to Champions League football next season.

Back-to-back Premier

League wins have propelled Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side up to fifth in the table, which could be enough to qualify for Europe's top club competition if Man-

chester City's appeal against a two-season European ban is unsuccessful. United's revenue for the three months to December 31 fell nearly 20 per cent due to

a £39 million drop in broadcasting income. They are playing in the Europa League this season rather than the more lucrative Champions League. — AFP ■