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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 8 April 2020

## Finance Commission holds 1/2020 meeting



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the 1/2020 meeting of the Finance Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

**T**HE Finance Commission, chaired by President U Win Myint, discussed approval of supplementary budgets requested by the Union government and State/Regional governments for 2019-2020 fiscal year; and the submission of 2019-2020 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The first meeting of the commission for this year held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw was also attended by Finance Commission Vice Chairmen and Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister U Soe Win, Commission members Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of States/Regions and officials.

The supplementary budget is requested for additional funds when the original budget allocated for expenditure was insufficient and it was not possible to transfer funds within the original budget allocation framework.

President U Win Myint said the supplementary budget requests should be used for projects that could be completed within the period of the current fiscal year as it was not good for the requesting departments and organizations if the proposed funds were returned without using properly.

The request of supplementary budgets for 2019-2020 are mainly due to salary, gratuity, travel allowance, pension, interest, payment for debts, tax, commercial tax, government expenditures,

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## State Counsellor urges people who finish quarantine to follow COVID-19 regulations

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has posted a message on her Facebook page today concerning the individuals who have been released from quarantine.

She said they should not forget that there was a very grave danger that they could get infected with the COVID-19 virus if they did not follow the rules, regulations, and directives announced by the Health Authorities.

We need to meet the COVID-19 challenge like a long distance runner. We need to conserve our strength to last for the long haul. We will need to transition this period on a day to day basis in the right way without losing our balance so that we would not waste our energy.

Worrying too much does not mean that a person is alert. It just means that this individual has faltered towards the extreme because he or she lacked focus.

I have noticed that there have been instances where legal action had to be taken because some individuals reacted in an unruly and rude manner in response to actions performed in the line of duty.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is planning to supply masks in sufficient quantity. How about sewing masks at home? We had to think about this also. I'm now sewing a mask on a trial basis.

Our most difficult hour is actually a time when the light of Metta (loving kindness) and good will shines brightest.

I'd like to express my thanks to all our people for their support and contributions in combatting the COVID-19 disease.

May you all be safe enveloped with Metta!

May you all succeed armed with good will!

(Translated by Aungthu Ya / Kyaw Myaing)

## No new case of COVID-19 on Tuesday, total cases remain 22

MINISTRY of Health and Sports issued a press release at 8 pm yesterday, confirming that no new case of COVID-19 infection on Tuesday after conducting 32 tests.

The updated information about COVID-19 surveillance released by the ministry at 8 pm yesterday is covered on Page-4.

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# VP U Henry Van Thio highlights quality statistics for development policies



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses 1/2020 meeting of the Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics held its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and the first discussion in 2020 at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry yesterday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, the chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting which was also attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, U Soe Win, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, U Thein Swe, Dr Than Myint, U Han Zaw, Dr Myint Htwe and Dr Win Myat Aye, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Ministers U Tin

Myint, U Maung Maung Win, U Set Aung, Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, U Win Maw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Aung Myin Tun, Vice Governor of CBM U Soe Thein, ministers of State/Region governments, permanent secretaries, directors-general, representatives of working groups and officials.

At the meeting, Vice President U Henry Van Thio pointed out the importance of accurate and high quality statistics for building a democratic society, good services of the government and economic development of the country.

The Central Statistical

Organization has taken the lead in to produce the National Indicator Framework (NIF) to monitor the progress and effectiveness in implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) which includes the development needs compatible with the country's current situation, while the global countries are moving to the Sustainable Development Goals in line with international commitments.

Myanmar is practicing the decentralized statistical system which needs coordination of relevant ministries in the process of NIF as its indexes

will track the outputs level and outcomes level, as well as strategic level and impact level of the MSDP.

The Vice President also called for cooperation and coordination of state agencies to develop a system of 'One Country, One Source and One Data'.

The CSO is working to develop a Code of Practice for statistical organizations from the both public and private sectors.

Next, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Vice Chairman of committee, explained processes for accuracy of statistics and requirements of cooper-

ation in collecting statistical data.

The central committee members also discussed implementations of resolutions in the previous meetings, statistical data on population, labour, trade, investment, infrastructure, rural development, accuracy of information, social protections, social management information system, macro business monitoring and financial statistics, index of Central Bank of Myanmar, death and birth rates and promotion of inter-ministerial cooperation at Union level and sub-national levels.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice President highlighted the need for correct data for workers who have to earn their livelihoods on a day to day basis in all areas of the country to provide basic household commodities amid the outbreak of COVID-19 and to develop recovery plans from a wide range of losses.

He finally emphasized coordination of state departments in transparent manners to ensure quality statistics which is required during emergency periods as well as during normal times.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Announcement on free motivation services for people in Community Based Facility Quarantine, other quarantine

WHEN the 14-day quarantine programme is carried out nationwide in efforts to prevent the COVID-19 disease spread, the people in the quarantine might be under stress due to the restrictions brought by the quarantine. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is performing the motivation services, and those wishing to have consolation with the ministry may contact it with confidence. The Social Welfare Department's employees from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Union Territory, regions and states who received a special consoling training will provide the services from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm every day.

With the coordination of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the programme is sponsored by telecommunication operator: MPT, Mytel, Telenor and Ooredoo in this time of COVID-19 crisis.

Information related with those who receive consolation will be confidential, and will provide them with further assistance if necessary.

Contact numbers are as follow.

| Sr  | State/ Region | MPT          | Mytel        | Telenor      | Ooredoo     |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Kachin        | 09-889900011 | 09-661015555 | 09-770771000 | 09980000101 |
| 2.  | Kayah         | 09-889900022 | 09-661025555 | 09-770772000 | 09980000102 |
| 3.  | Kayin         | 09-889900033 | 09-661035555 | 09-770773000 | 09980000103 |
| 4.  | Chin          | 09-889900044 | 09-661045555 | 09-770774000 | 09980000104 |
| 5.  | Sagaing       | 09-889900055 | 09-661055555 | 09-770775000 | 09980000105 |
| 6.  | Taninthayi    | 09-889900066 | 09-661065555 | 09-770776000 | 09980000106 |
| 7.  | Bago          | 09-889900077 | 09-661075555 | 09-770777000 | 09980000107 |
| 8.  | Magway        | 09-889900088 | 09-661085555 | 09-770778000 | 09980000108 |
| 9.  | Mandalay      | 09-889900099 | 09-661095555 | 09-770779000 | 09980000109 |
| 10. | Mon           | 09-889911177 | 09-661105555 | 09-770771001 | 09980000117 |
| 11. | Rakhine       | 09-889911188 | 09-661115555 | 09-770771100 | 09980000118 |
| 12. | Yangon        | 09-889911122 | 09-661125555 | 09-770770001 | 09980000112 |
| 13. | Shan          | 09-889911133 | 09-661135555 | 09-770770010 | 09980000113 |
| 14. | Ayeyawady     | 09-889911144 | 09-661145555 | 09-770770011 | 09980000114 |
| 15. | Nay Pyi Taw   | 09-889911155 | 09-661155555 | 09-770770099 | 09980000115 |
|     | Head Office   | 09-889911166 | 09-661005555 | 09-770770100 | 09980000116 |

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

## "People are the key"

# Finance Commission holds 1/2020 meeting

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additional funds caused by increasing electricity bills, foreign aid, expenditures from external loans, ongoing infrastructural projects and land compensation.

Supplementary budget requests by Union level departments and organizations were initially scrutinized by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, and were counter-checked by Vice President U Myint Swe. Moreover, the budget requests by states and regions were also scrutinized by the ministry and Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

The President emphasized systematic and proper use of budgets in line with financial rules and principles, and reduction of expenditures in foreign currencies.

He also pointed out possible impacts of COVID-19 on the world's economy. The slowdown in the global economy would also have an impact on Myanmar's growth rate. Since investments in the global economy and within Myanmar could decline, it was necessary to calculate in advance the fact that Myanmar's development growth rate could be impacted.

He also put emphasis on Directive No. 1/2017 of the Office of the President relating to the tender processes.



President U Win Myint attends the 1/2020 meeting of the Finance Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe, the Vice Chairman of the Commission, explained the requests of supplementary budget by the Union-level agencies for 2019-2020/FY: K2,100.476 billion for ordinary expenditure, K421.478 billion for capital expenditure, K88.858 billion for debt expenditure, and K50.175 billion for the state agencies conducting works outside of the Union budget, totaling K2,660.987 billion.

The ratio between required amount of supplementary budget and the GDP was found to be 5.53 per cent.

The government has al-

located K59.518 billion under the account of supplementary budget for socioeconomic development projects which can directly benefit the public in States/Regions for 2019-2020 / FY, and K2,660.987 billion for the state agencies out of their requested K2,997.656 billion.

Vice President U Myint Swe remarked that the GDP to deficit ratio of 5.53 per cent as the value of GDP was K118,935.106 billion, compared to the net deficit of K6,577.855 billion.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, who was also the Vice Chairman of the Commis-

sion, presented the net deficit of budget K2,114.386 billion of State/Region governments in 2019-2020/FY. However, this deficit has been allowed by the Union government.

The request of State/Region governments for supplementary budgets in 2019-2020/FY was allowed only 3 per cent increase in maximum based on the budget allocations, revenue and estimated amount.

After scrutinizing, the supplementary budget allocation for States/Regions was cut to K304.104 billion in 2019-2020/FY. Commission's Secretary

Union Minister U Soe Win presented the allocated supplementary budget of the Union, the revised estimated amount and the Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill, followed by the discussions of the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and State/Region Chief Ministers.

President U Win Myint concluded that the budgets and the bill will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and called for systematic use of budgets at the relevant departments and organizations for the development of country and people. -MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Ministry of Health & Sports discusses COVID-19 with nationwide medical professionals

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended a video conference with state/regional public health and medical services departments and various medical professionals yesterday.

The Union Minister first gave a speech where he said the donations of money, medical supplies and equipment by the public tremendously help the doctors, nurses and staff of medical services, public health and laboratory departments.

The Union Minister said there are five important tasks to implement in this period: (a) proper management of quarantine sites, (b) raising health awareness with loudspeakers in townships, wards



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends a video conference with state/regional public health and medical services departments and various medical professionals yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

and villages, (c) cooperating with the General Administration Department and civil society organizations to discover people who have been

in close proximity to people infected with the virus, (d) testing those who have been in close contact or suspected of infection for COVID-19, and

(e) having the central/state/regional hospitals reassess their daily processes for weaknesses and resolving them as soon as possible.

The Union Minister said they will increase testing for COVID-19 and have instructed for the use of rapid diagnostic test kits and transportation arrangements for the lab specimens to relevant ministries and states and regions. He said relevant directors-general are responsible for ensuring COVID-19 processes do not hinder other ongoing health plans.

The meeting then commenced with discussions on difficulties faced in implementing quarantines, accomplishments, requirements, training courses for ventilators, and treatment monitored by the clinical management team. -MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# First COVID-19 loans to be disbursed before Thingyan holidays, remaining applications to be given due consideration: MIFER



Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the third meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE third meeting of the Working Committee to address the Impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee and representatives of the Ministries concerned took part in the meeting.

The Chairman of the Work-

ing Committee pointed out that the following two meetings of the committee, the COVID-19 Fund has been established and that applications for loans have been screened systematically. It is expected that the first disbursements will be made before Thingyan.

The remaining applications for loans will also be given due consideration, it is learnt.

The meeting discussed matters relating to disbursement of funds to the affected firms expeditiously. —MNA

# National COVID-19 committee receives public donations

THE National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is receiving the donations of cash and hospital equipment presented by business companies, organizations and individuals.

The donation ceremony yesterday was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw, and the Director-General of Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training under the Ministry of Education and a responsible person from the Unilever Co.,Ltd. explained their donations.

The contributions of cash and medical supplies at the ceremony were K3.7 million from the Ministry of Education, K1.9 million from the Union Auditor-General and staff members, K110

million from U Maung Kyu (OK Wheat Factory) and Daw Than Htay and close relatives, K50 million from U Win Myint Maung family and their friends, K10 million from Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), K10 million from the Commerce Graduates' Association (Myanmar), K20 million from U Aung Lin and Daw San San Myint with sons U Myo Thant, Dr Zeya Lin from Min Htin soya-bean sauce business, K220 million worth of sanitary items from Unilever Co.,Ltd., K10 million worth of medical supplies from RVK Co.,Ltd, K 5 million worth of 15,000 units of face masks from Nebular Co.,Ltd, K1.5 million worth of 40 PPE sets and hand sanitizers from Sawbwa Lay Bo Bo Maung, K0.7 million worth of 2,000 face

masks from U Aung Zaw Win and family, K6.6 million worth of 600 hand speakers from Access Spectrum, K1 million from Mr Fahmid Bhulya (PGMF), K1.5 million from the Director-General and staff members of Financial Regulatory Department, K1.275 million worth of surgical masks and N95 masks from the Miniso Co.,Ltd., US\$1,050 from the MT Golden Denise-on board Myanmar Seafarers & Friends, K1 million from U Tun Win Aung and close family members of the Light House, K1.5 million from the geological graduates of Yangon University (1982), K12.7 million worth of oxygen concentrators from AA Medical, and K15 million from Han Sein Thant Company.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives the donations of cash and hospital equipment to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Updated information about COVID-19 surveillance at 8:00 pm, 7 April 2020

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring and conducting surveillance on the COVID-19, medical tests and effective treatments, identifying closed persons with positive patients for quarantines, hospital admission if necessary, getting information about the returnees from foreign countries by contacting with local authorities and relevant departments, releasing news about the disease for the public.
2. There were 19 new cases under investigation between 6 pm on 6 April and 6 pm on 7 April.
3. Laboratory results of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on specimens from a total of 32 persons under investigation and the persons under the quarantines of homes or hospitals on 7 April 2020 have shown negative.
4. Out of 21 positive cases, 1 is at Tiddim hospital in Chin State, 21 at Waibargi hospital, 1 at Kandawnadi hospital in Mandalay, 1 at Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital, 1 at Lashio People's Hospital, and 3 at Pyay Hospital referred from Paukaung Township of Bago Region. Health conditions of 19 positive patients are good. One patient at Waibargi hospital and one patient at Pyay People's Hospital are being isolated for intensive care.
5. Myanmar has found a total of 22 cases of COVID-19 from 23 March to 7 April. People are advised to strictly follow the awareness of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent transmission of disease to the family members and communities.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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## 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 offences up to 4 April 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 Ka Yin who lives in No 3 Ward, Shinbwayyan Town, Kachin State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.                     | On 30 March 2020, police searched the house of Ka Yin (a) Khin Maung Htay, 65, son of U Sein Maung, who lives in No 3 Ward, Shinbwayyan Town, and arrested him together with stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Shinbwayyan)MaYa(pa)4/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.  |
| 2  | Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Laeyinte Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region.                   | On 31 March 2020, police arrested Soe Win, 47, son of U Yin Maung, who lives in Laeyinte Village, Kawlin Township together with opium in the field, north of Laeyinte Village, Kawlin Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin)MaYa(pa)50/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.  |
| 3  | Information received of San San Myint who lives in Minelone Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 4 April 2020, police searched the house of San San Myint (a) Phu Maine, 40, daughter of U Ai Yi, who lives in Minelone Village, PyinOoLwin Township, and arrested her together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Peikchinmyaung)MaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.  |
| 4  | Information received of Kyaw Tezar Htet who lives in Yanmyoang Ward, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.              | On 1 April 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Tezar Htet (a) Htet Htet, 36, son of U Tun Kyi, who lives in Yanmyoang Ward, Kyaikmaraw Township, and arrested him and his wife Hayman Hnin Nwe, 26, daughter of U Kyaw San together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kyaikmaraw)MaYa(pa)13/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.  |
| 5  | Information received of Kaung Zaw who lives in No 5 Ward, Kayan Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.                          | On 30 March 2020, police arrested Kaung Zaw (a) Kaung Thiha Zaw, 28, son of U Zaw Khin, who lives in No 5 Ward, Kayan Township together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on the Bago-Thanyin Road, near No 12 Ward, Kayan Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kayan)MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.   |
| 6  | Information received of Aung Naing Oo who lives in Nartarli Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.        | Acting on an interrogation of a related drugs case on 24 March 2020, police arrested Aung Naing Oo, 41, son of U Tin Chit, who lives in Nartarli Village, at Hnetpyawaw Village, Tachilek Township on 30 March 2020. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Kyapha, 30, son of U Paw Lu, who lives in Chithtoo(Ywarthit) Village, but police did not find any narcotic drugs. Acting on an interrogation on Kyapha, police searched the house of Mawna and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and opium. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Tachilek)MaYa(pa)53/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 7 | Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Phayaphu Ward of Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State. | Police have opened 12 cases and arrested 21 men and one woman together with heroin, stimulant tablets and opium in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Sai Myo Thihan, 39, son of U Sai Tin Maung Kyi, who lives in Phayaphu Ward, Taunggyi Township, and found him and other six people – Zin Min Wai (a) Tharnge, 31, son of U Myint Wai; Kyaw Kyar, 21, son of U Soe Naing and Arkarshein, 23, son of U Sein Maung, who live in the same ward; Thet Paine Soe Moe Aung (a) Thet Paing Soe, 19, son of U Kyaw Shwe, who lives in Yayayekhwin Ward; Sai Yi (a) Arsu, 20, son of U Lawtwan and Phyo Kyaw, 31, son of U Kyi Hla, who lives in No 10 area, Ayetharya Town. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets and opium block from them. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. |
| 8 | Information received of Soe Maung who lives in Lweco Village, Yaksawk Township, Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.    | On 2 April 2020, police searched the farm hut of Tun Naing, 34, son of U Maung, who lives in Naungphan Village, Yaksawk Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. Acting on an interrogation, he bought the drugs Soe Maung, 50, son of U Htoo, who lives in Lweco Village. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Yaksawk)MaYa(pa)16/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police continued search the farm hut of Soe Maung and arrested him 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yaksawk)MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.  |

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,051 cases have been opened files as of 4 April 2020. A total of 1,618 people, including 1,354 men and 264 women had been arrested with 8,571.7014 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 41,414.33886 g of opium, 665.27 g of low-quality opium, 53,252.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 530,727 stimulant tablets, 10,311.67 g of marijuana, 0.1 liter of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

### Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200  
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233  
Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

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**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**

Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR EDITOR**

Aungthu Ya

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**

Zaw Htet Oo  
Aung Khin

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**

Ye Htut Tin,  
Aung Htein,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**TRANSLATORS**

Hay Mar Tin Win,  
Ei Myat Mon,  
Kyaw Zin Lin,  
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTER**

Nyein Nyein Ei,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar  
Kyaw Zeya

**COMPUTER TEAM**

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,  
Nyi Lin Thu

**EDITORIAL SECTION**

(+95) (01)8604529,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
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**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

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Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
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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.

**Thingyan talk-show continues with another thematic film**

THE Thingyan talk-show programme was continued filming at MRTV studio in Yangon yesterday, this time focusing on the film 'Thingyan Way Way'.

As the usual pandals and entertainment for the Thingyan holidays will be closed, the Ministry of Information is working together with Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association, movie producers, owners and the Film Development Centre to record this talk-show for broadcast on TV and Internet.

Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik will be leading discussions while U Win Kyi of Sein Htay film production that pro-



Thingyan talk is being shot at the MRTV, Yangon. PHOTO: NINI MYO (FDC)

duced 'Thingyan Way Way', director Academy Nyunt Myanmar Nyi Nyi Aung, Academy Khant

Sithu and Academy Nwe Nwe San will discuss the film.

The Thingyan talk-show will be broadcast on MRTV during Thingyan.—Ni Ni Myo (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

**COVID-19 hinders mangoes market near Myanmar -China border**

"WE have begun to export mangoes to China again but the Chinese government announced people will not be allowed entering their country. So, we could not sell mangoes in Muse. We are forced to sell

the mangoes only in Shweli. And only two people are allowed to be onboard a cargo truck and we have to give the Muse identity cards of those persons. This announcement will be valid until the end of

April. We face some difficulties arising from the local farmers and the owners of the mangoes not being able to enter together with the cargo trucks. So, only the drivers and the traders are on board the trucks," said Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association's General Secretary U Kyaw Soe Naing.

"The price of mangoes has declined this year. All mango trees are blossoming but they do not bear the fruits because of the erratic weather condition. The local farmers are also really scared of the strong wind. Usually, the strong wind blows near the water festival. However, the mangoes are selling well," he added.



Mangoes market seen in Myanmar-China border. PHOTO: HTIK HTAR NAING(IPRD)

Although Myanmar resumes mango export to China starting from 6 April, the mangoes have to be sold only in Shweli (Ruili) because of an announcement of the Chinese government, according to the MMTDA.

There are more than 30,000 acres of mango plantations in Mandalay region this year. Japan Company purchased 1,200 tonnes of mangoes this year to make mango paste and the Myanmar GP Company did the same.

The production of the mangoes has declined by one third this year when compared to the yield of last year. Currently, Myanmar is exporting mangoes to China at the price ranging from K18,000 to K27,000 per basket containing 15 kilos of mangoes.

Myanmar's mangoes are exported mostly to China, Singapore and Thailand. Among other varieties, Seintalone, Myakyauk and Machitsu are the most popular.—Htik Htar Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

**Fire breaks out in Ye-U Township**

TWO houses were destroyed when a fire broke out on 6 April in Shan Seik village, Ye-U Township, Shwebo district, Sagaing region.

As soon as the fire services department received the information by the public, it rushed to the accident to put out the fire in collaboration with the locals. The fire was brought under control at 6 pm and extinguished at about 6:20 pm.

The fire started from U

Aung Myint Tun's kitchen and fire sprinkle went out to the cattle herd and destroyed U Kyaw Naing Tun's house and the cowshed. The fire burned down two houses and other items such as New Tribo125 motorbike, cowshed, gold, causing a loss of K6 million. No one was injured in the accident.

The authorities filed charges against U Aung Myint Tun with negligence.—Than Htaik (Ye-U) (Translated by Hay Mar)



Firefighters seen extinguishing the fire. PHOTO: THAN HTAIK (YE-U)

## Manufacturing exports exceed \$5 bln as of 27 March

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods have touched a high of US\$5.09 billion between 1 October and 27 March in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, an increase of \$452 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per the figures provided by the ministry, exports of finished industrial goods totalled \$4.64 billion during the same period in the 2018-2019FY.

Additionally, the manufacturing sector has attracted the foreign investments of \$432.74 million in the 2019-2020FY, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the COVID-19 negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. Even worse, some foreign en-



Textile workers sewing on production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

trepreneurs are also running away from their businesses. Those factories without official notification of closure will be inspected by inspection teams. And, the factory operators can face legal actions under the Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) if they fail to comply with notification requirements for the closure of factories, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin

Lwin. The labour-intensive enterprises are badly hit by the COVID-19, he added.

To deal with the shortage of raw materials for the CMP garment factories in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the China Enterprise Chamber of

Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) have been jointly importing raw materials through border trade channels and airlines.

However, CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling with the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries. It can harm the ex-

port sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out.

The CMP industry has emerged as very promising in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY. During the last fiscal year, incomes from garment exports were over \$1 billion higher than the previous fiscal year, according to the ministry's data.

Since an outbreak of COVID-19 might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our own sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

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

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar. — GNLM  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## MoC allows online export/import licences for 34 more items from 9 April

STARTING from 9 April, 34 more export, import items will be available for online licencing system with a total of 455 HS codes, stated the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

The items include animal feed supplement, vegetable cooking oil, coffee, cement, bird's nest, diesel oil, lubricant, medicines, herbal medicines, vet medicines, fertilizers, fancy accessories, electric motor and generator, motorcycle, bicycle, medical equipment, milk powder, human hair, tyre, fire extinguishers, printed books, spray guns and others.

More than 160 export and import items got online licences starting from 1 April. H.S codes for 91 import items and 73 export items have been issued for the fully online system during the emergency period of Covid-19.

Between 1 and 6 April 2020, about US\$100 million worth 298 export and import licences applications have been approved

through the online system, according to the news released by the Ministry of Commerce.

As per the fully online licencing system, only items registered under H.S code line are available. The applicants need to fill out the online application and invoice, and approval from the related departments are required to be attached in PDF format.

Necessary guidelines for the online systems have been shown on the website. They can see their application status online.

The ministry has launched the online licencing system for export and import businesses starting from 1 April, with a view to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Under the new service, the licence application process, fee payment and receiving licences can be done online.

The trade department offers an online system for a

total of 164 items including CMP garment and necessary import items such as pharmaceuticals and related items, hospital equipment, foodstuffs, fertilizers, palm oil and oil products, milk and dairy products, electronic devices, fuel oil, lubricants, motorbikes and bicycles, agricultural products, lead, sugar, natural gas and other products.

Licence applications can be processed on [www.myanmartradenet.com.mm](http://www.myanmartradenet.com.mm).

The companies need to sign up membership, and application fee can be paid with the MCB eCommerce Pay of the Myanmar Citizens Bank at present. Later, the MPU eCommerce pay will be available soon.

For the Customs clearance process, the electronic data must be sent to the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) of Customs Department. GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Onion price dragged down from external purchase halt

THE purchase halt from foreign markets pushed the onion price down to below K500 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg), forcing the growers to stockpile the onions, said an onion trader from Mandalay market.

"Earlier, onions were highly demanded from Bangladesh and China. Now, the trade is nearly halted. Having said that, the price plummets," he added.

The prevailing prices of onions range between 300-550 per viss in the domestic market depending on the size and quality. The price is expected to rise in April-end and May. The current price cannot even cover the input cost of the plantation, said a grower.

The growers who harvested onions in January received some profit as onions fetched K900-1,400 per viss then.

Last year, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions

coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

Although traders said stocking onions might lead to losses, the price of domestic onions crossed K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

Onion prices may change depending on the weather conditions and market supply, said traders.

The onion growers, as well as traders, are experiencing market fallouts due to the current Covid-19 outbreaks. As a result of this, workers engaged in onion depots are suffering financial hardship, said a worker at the depot.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Strong community response critical to relieve pain caused by COVID-19

COUNTRIES, including Myanmar, that are already struggling – with poverty, conflict, and natural disasters – are now being struck by COVID-19.

Governments, medics, and aid groups are scrambling to prepare, but face daunting challenges.

Those industries and businesses which most of our workers rely upon, including daily-wage workers, are being impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. The economic consequences of this crisis are colossal and immensely painful, bringing job losses and disruptions at a time that requires government intervention.

During the coming New Year holidays, low-income families living in cities will definitely struggle to feed their families.

As the government elected by the people, the Union Government announced a new programme yesterday to provide basic food to low-income families, free of charge, in an effort to feed people who must work every day to bring food to the table.

Also, under the same programme, people will enjoy 150 units of free electricity this month.

The programme for distributing the five basic foods: rice, cooking oil, salt, beans and onions, will be launched on 10 April, the first day of the New Year holidays.

To make this programme a success, all people are advised to cooperate with the regional authorities and volunteers to ensure that there would be no waste, no unnecessary delays or corruption in the programme. When many people need our help, nobody should be acting exclusively based upon their own interests, not only in this programme, but also during the entire period of this crisis.

In this time of crisis, we are heartened by evidence of national and local solidarity with people helping each other, working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to provide food and facilities to those people who

have been quarantined. We respect our people, as they are sharing the burden and risks when the country needs them.

Whenever a challenge happens, it depends upon us to determine how to turn challenges into opportunities. Today is the time for us to show our compassion, loving-kindness and unity. For our unity is our strength.

We would also like to call upon business persons and private donors to contribute to the Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 Disease, because a strong community response is critical to reduce the impact of this crisis.

It is crucial to support each other and the most vulnerable. This is how we will survive today and thrive tomorrow.

## Fourth-year performance of Union Auditor-General Office

### Union Auditor-General Office: Ensuring efficiency, management of public finances



Union Auditor-General U Maw Than.

By Thura Zaw PHOTO: AYE THAN

THE Union Auditor-General Office operates under the motto, 'Developing and administering public finance management' and constantly works hard to make its processes more efficient, increase transparency, accountability and responsibility, ensure public finances are used for the benefit of the citizens, their values and the nation, and provide highly-skilled staff to assist the Union Government.

The Union Auditor-General Office has been performing financial audits, compliance audits, performance audits and comprehensive audits for successive generations in Myanmar. It also reviews the financial statements of organizations and checks whether they comply with existing laws.

In this time of crisis, we are heartened by evidence of national and local solidarity with people helping each other, working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to provide food and facilities to those people who

Similarly, the UAG Office implements the 3E Audit perspective of Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness towards the department's financial accounts at the same time and compiles them into the Financial Audit Report.

The current Union Auditor-General is U Maw Than and the UAG Office has inspected reports sent to the President and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw since 2012-2013 financial year. These include checking implementation of estimated Union budget and adherence of ministries and organizations on existing laws, regulations and directives. Based on the findings, the UAG Office notified of budget to be returned to the State, action to be taken and other aspects of work processes.

The UAG Office sends reports to relevant departments and organizations to ensure they comply with existing financial rules. Reports from state/regional auditor-general offices are incorporated into the Union Auditor-General's report and submitted to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in accordance with Section 11-(a) and (o) of the Union Auditor-General Law.

State/regional auditors-general also submit reports concerning their state/regional budgets and funds to the local Hluttaw, in accord with Section 25-(a) and (d) of the Union Auditor-General Law.



Union Auditor-General delivers an address at the Myanmar Public Sector Accounting Conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 August 2019.

Important findings are taken action in line with Section 11-(s) of the Union Auditor-General Law with a Management Letter sent to the respective head of the organization concerned or personnel from Union-level or state/regional organizations. Their replies are reviewed and submitted to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the UAG's report.

The UAG Office assisted Union-level ministries and institutions in the fourth year of the

civilian government regarding their budget and inventory proposals, requests to remove losses incurred from the account, transferring tangible assets between organizations, signing MoUs and business agreements, outsourcing audits and maintaining finances. In that regard, the UAG Office has sent 257 suggestion letters to ministries and organizations, giving advice where necessary.

The UAG Office designed the UAG Office Strategic Action

Plan (2018-2022) to better serve the nation and its citizens and set 7 Strategic Goals as well.

The first strategic goal is to compile a guidebook based on the International Standards of Supreme Audit, Institutions (ISSAI). A workshop on ISSAI Based Financial Audit Performance Audit and Compliance Audit was conducted and the Financial Audit Practical Guidelines was published. Future manuals and practical guidelines and tools will

be published as well.

The second strategic goal is to enact the International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) and the UAG Office is working with the World Bank and EU to design transition plans and roadmaps for IPSAS and IFRS while also collaborating with the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry for implementation. IPSAS is also taught as a separate subject in departmental training courses.

Strategic Goal-3 involves making auditing processes more efficient and for that matter, a quality assurance review guidebook has been published. The Union Auditor-General Bylaw is underway and the Internal Audit Division is being strengthened.

Strategic Goal-4 concerns improving organizational integrity, human resource management and enhancing staff capabilities. In that sense, the HR Plan for 2019-2020 was designed together with HR Policy, HR Strategy and Competency Framework.

The fifth strategic goal concerns implementing the e-Government system and an IT strategy is in development. The Mini Data Center will be used to share IT news and conduct video conferencing between the headquarters and data centres.

SEE PAGE-10



Union Auditor-General meeting with the delegates from ACCA, MICPA, and IFCA.



The opening ceremony of refresher course (1/2019) for heads of the staff in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

### U Myo Thant Pe concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Mongolia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Thant Pe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Mongolia.—MNA



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

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8th April, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th April, 2020:** Partly cloudy.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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



## Fourth-year performance of Union Auditor-General Office



The opening ceremony of No.1/2019 Refresher Course for Assistant Directors in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

**FROM PAGE-9**

Strategic Plan-6 is to enhance public finance management and a relevant strategic plan for 2014-2021 was developed.

The seventh strategic plan focuses on participating in activities of (ASEANSAD), (ASOSAD) and (INTOSAD), regular workshops with ASEANSAD, ASOSAD, INTOSAD, and ensuring long-term cooperative audits with member nations.

Union Auditor-General U Maw Than said their Strategic Work Programme (2018-2022) is already 60 per cent complete. He said the UAG Office cooperated with EU in the current government's fourth year of administration in ISSAI based auditing, practical implementation of Rollout Plan of Financial Audit Practical Guide, and cooperating with Joint Public Accounts Committee and the Norwegian Auditor-General Office to con-

duct a workshop for legal aspects and legislation of Independence Mandate.

The Union Auditor-General said the cooperation with their Norwegian counterpart for publishing guidelines for reviewing work processes and legal compliance went well. He said GIZ provided technical support to conduct a survey on how much private banks understood IFRS. He said the survey results were used to decide which banks to interview and select those who could transition to IFRS and conducting related workshops.

The UAG Office also collaborated with World Bank and EU to organize the Myanmar Public Sector Accounting Conference, design a transition plan for IPSAS, forming an IPSAS Implementation Preparatory Committee, and arranging IPSAS Basic and Advanced courses and IFRS courses with technical support from the European Union.

Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC) provides certified public accountant courses and diploma accountant courses every year. Certified public accountant courses used to be eligible for only B.Com graduates from the University of Economics but is now available for B.Com, B.Act and BBA graduates from the University of Economics, MAC graduates with ACCA Fundamental Skills Level, and those with CIMA Diploma in Management Accounting since Batch No.43 in 2017-2018 academic year.

Furthermore, B.Bsc (Accounting and Finance) graduates from the Co-operative University can also attend the certified public accountant course as of Batch No.45 in 2019-2020 academic year. U Maw Than said they have removed the need for taking entrance exams so that people can now attend the courses directly.

Since its inception in 1972, there have been 3,820 graduates of the first part of certified public accountant courses, 2,628 graduates of the second part, 8,743 graduates of the first part of diploma accountant courses and 4,607 graduates of the second part.

The Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants – MICPA was established in 2014 in accordance with Myanmar Accountancy Council Law and cooperates with MAC in accountancy processes in addition to providing suggestions to the council regarding curriculum, guideline, standard and regulation amendments.

The UAG Office began operating its Mini Date Centre in August 2018 and is now capable of sharing documents within its departments and with MAC, with Yangon, Mandalay and Bago region auditor-general offices, with the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and Myanmar Economic Bank.

The UAG Office purchased the financial audit assistance tool Data Analytic Tools (IDEA) and formed two Pilot Audit Team, with possible extension in future years based on performances. The office is planning to use Audit Flow in their Performance Audit to maintain their documents better.

MAC is chaired by the Union Auditor-General and the UAG Office handles MAC processes as well, in accordance with the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law. U Maw Than said people had to apply individually for permits to practice accountancy in the private sector. He said that since the enactment of the Myan-

mar Accountancy Council Law (2015), applications can be made in groups or companies.

MAC signed an agreement with IFRS Foundation Corporation and issued the IFRS (Up to Date Version) with a notification in July 2018 for all relevant organizations and companies wishing to follow the standards.

The UAG Office will cooperate in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Programme (MSDP) in Strategy 1.4 Enhance good governance, institutional performance and improve the efficiency of administrative decision making at all levels, 1.4.2 enhancing parliamentary oversight as part of standard budget, planning and Audit Process.

Twelve task teams were formed for implementing the National Indicator Framework to monitor the MSDP implementation process. The UAG office is participating in the Rules of Law Team and Monetary and Investment Team for Strategy 2.5 Enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of State-owned Economic Enterprises (SEEs) through Indicator 2.5.3 Number of percentage of SEEs having undergone a full or partial performance audit.

The Union Auditor-General Office and Data Auditor Office will continue to work for the benefit of the nation and the people. The UAG Office submits their report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw every financial year and assists in preventing and uncovering corruption and bribery. They will continue to prevent losses to public finances and protect taxpayers' contribution to the nation.

*(Translated by Pen Dali)*



Experts from Norway conducting a training.



The closing ceremony of Diploma in Accountancy in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 March 2019.

## Customs services to be performed overtime on 10, 13, 16 April

CUSTOMS Department of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will work its services at the airports, ports, border checkpoints on 10, 13 and 16 April during the Myanmar New Year holidays.

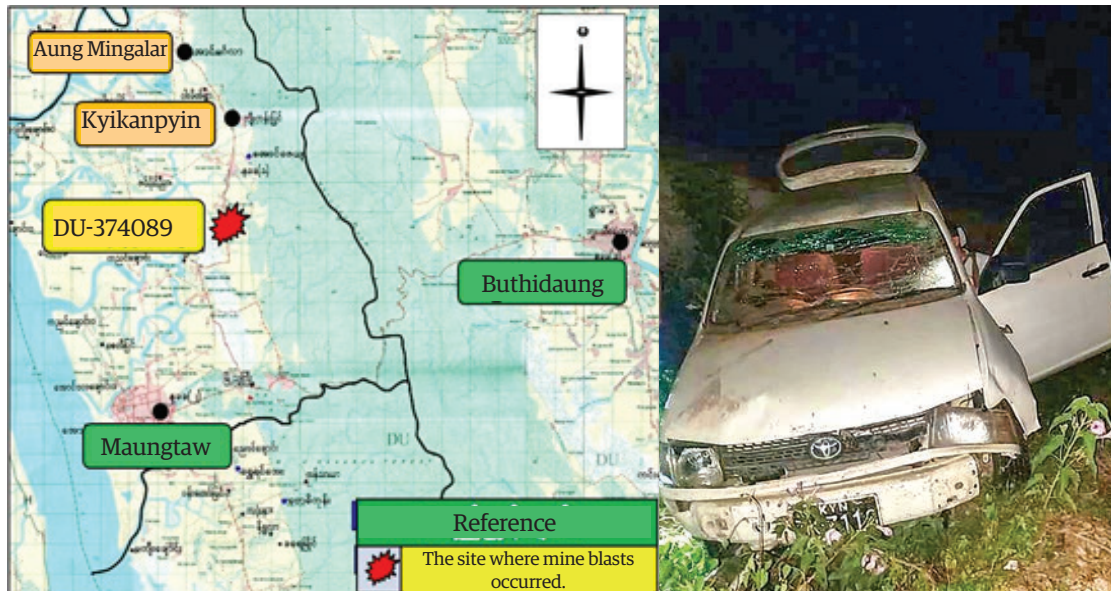
On 10 April, Customs services will be performed overtime at ports, and on 13 and 16 April, Customs services at ports and at office will be conducted from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. As the overtime work will be performed with the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS), costs including deposit money need to be put into the system on opening days for banks.

For export services by cargo plane, contact should be made to an in-charge official (Export/Import)/ (Defence) of the Customs Department of the Mingalardon Cargo Cargo Services (MCS) one day ahead of the arrival of the cargo arrival day. When the cargo plane lands, workers will carry out the work overtime.

For import services at the airport, permission should be sought from the Director (Export/Import Supervisory Unity) with Airport Direct Delivery (APDD), and an official on duty will release the permitted goods with the Under Taking application.

In the statement, the Customs Department has urged those who wish to get the overtime services to contact the Director (Export/Import Supervisory Unit) of the Customs Department not later than 2 pm, 9<sup>th</sup> April. —MNA

## AA attacks civilian vehicle in Maungtaw Tsp



The AA group attacked a civilian vehicle with an explosive mine and small firearms in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, on 5 April.

An aquatic product merchant from Aung Mingalar village, Maungtaw Township, transported a cargo of crabs towards Sittway and was on his way back when an explosive

device exploded near Kyeekanyin (South) village bridge around 8 pm. The vehicle he was on tumbled into a nearby creek.

The merchant was said to have jumped out of the vehicle and ran towards the nearby village when 4 armed AA members opened fire on the vehicle. The merchant arrived at the

nearest border police force and a task force was sent to investigate.

Myanmar Police Force reported that in addition to the damaged vehicle they discovered a 8x4 feet trench, a 10-foot wire nearby and a bullet casing. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# Coronavirus: latest global developments

**PARIS (France)** — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis on 7 April:

### British PM in intensive care

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is fighting the virus in intensive care after being diagnosed late last month.

The 55-year-old was admitted to intensive care on Monday evening and given oxygen support but was not put on a ventilator, a minister said.

“The prime minister has been stable overnight and remains in good spirits,” his official spokesman tells reporters.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab is deputising.

### New rebound in Spain

Spain sees its daily death toll shoot up to 743 after falling for four straight days, but the health ministry emphasises the rise is due to weekend deaths being tallied and that the overall “downward trend” is continuing.

### China milestone: no deaths in 24 hours

China reports no new coronavirus deaths for the first time since it started publishing figures in January.

On Wednesday the government will lift travel curbs on the



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2<sup>nd</sup> r) speaks as he declares a state of emergency during a meeting of a task force against the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on 7 April, 2020. Abe declared a month-long state of emergency in Tokyo and six other parts of the country over a spike in coronavirus cases. **PHOTO: AFP**

contagion's original epicentre of Wuhan, a city of 11 million people placed under strict quarantine on 23 January.

### Japan: state of emergency

Japan declares a month-long state of emergency but stops short of strict lockdown.

The move allows governors in seven affected regions including Tokyo to ask people to stay indoors and request that businesses close, but there are no

enforcement mechanisms and no penalties for those who fail to comply.

### More than 75,500 dead

At least 75,542 people have died around the world, nearly three-quarters of them in Europe, since the virus emerged in China in December, according to an AFP tally based on official sources. The pandemic has killed more than 53,928 people in Europe, including 16,523 in Italy,

13,798 in Spain, 8,911 in France and 5,373 in Britain.

The United States' death toll tops 10,993 with at least 368,449 confirmed infections, the highest caseload in the world.

More than 1.35 million cases have been officially recorded around the world, a toll that represents only a fraction of the actual number of infections.

### France's long road

The French government

warns confinement rules that came into force 17 March will remain in place as long as necessary as the country has not reached the peak of the epidemic.

It reports 833 more deaths in 24 hours, the highest daily death toll so far. From Wednesday, Parisians will be banned from jogging and other solo outdoor sports between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

### Hydroxychloroquine exports

India announces a partial lifting of a fresh export ban on hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug that has shown early promise against COVID-19 in small-scale studies.

US President Donald Trump had hinted at “retaliation” after India banned exports of the drug on Saturday, citing domestic needs.

### Israel intercity travel ban

Israel will ban intercity travel from Tuesday to Friday this week during the Passover holidays.

### Portugal cancels pilgrimage

Portugal cancels an annual pilgrimage to Fatima, a Catholic site that attracts up to 300,000 people annually on 13 May.—AFP

## British PM Johnson fights coronavirus in intensive care

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was battling the coronavirus in intensive care on Tuesday, raising serious concerns about his health and the government's response to the still-escalating outbreak.

"The prime minister has been stable overnight and remains in good spirits," his official spokesman told reporters at a daily briefing.

He added the 55-year-old Conservative premier was receiving "standard oxygen treatment and breathing without any other assistance" and had not required a ventilator.

Johnson is the most high-profile leader to become infected and messages of support flooded in from across Britain and the world.

He was admitted to intensive care on Monday evening and asked Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to deputise for him "where necessary", effectively putting him in charge.

Johnson had already spent Sunday night at a London hospital after being taken in for tests following concerns he still had a cough and high temperature, 10 days after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

His transfer to intensive care is unprecedented for a prime minister during a national emergency.

For many people it brought home the seriousness of the disease that has so far killed 5,373 people in Britain.

"It's pretty shocking, and also it just shows that it can affect anyone," said Mark Gillis, a Londoner who works for a media agency.

### 'Work goes on'

In a round of broadcast interviews, senior minister Michael Gove insisted the "work



Boris Johnson has been in intensive care since Monday. PHOTO: AFP

of government goes on". He later said he was now staying at home after a family member displayed mild coronavirus symptoms.

"I have not displayed any symptoms and am continuing to work as normal," Gove added on Twitter.

Raab chaired the daily coronavirus meeting in the prime minister's place on Tuesday, and is now officially in charge.

"The focus of the discussion was coordination of the government's coronavirus effort," the prime minister's spokesman said.

"There is a clear plan... the government and the cabinet are working together to implement that plan," he said when asked if there was a power vacuum in Britain.

The country does not have a formal constitutional role of deputy prime minister, and experts said Raab would need the support of the rest of the cabinet to make any big decisions.

The most pressing issue is a review expected next week on whether to continue the nationwide lockdown introduced on 23 March to try to stem the spread of COVID-19.

London stocks jumped three per cent at the opening on Tuesday despite Johnson's condition as investors anticipated an easing in the lockdown. — AFP ■

## Taliban to end 'fruitless' meetings over prisoner swap

KABUL (Afghanistan) — The Taliban will no longer participate in "fruitless" discussions with the Afghan government over a prisoner swap that had formed a key part of a deal with the US, the insurgents said.

In a tweet first sent in Pashto around midnight Tuesday Afghanistan time (1930 GMT Monday), the Taliban's political spokesman Suhail Shaheen blamed the administration of President Ashraf Ghani for delaying the prisoner release "under one pretext or another".

"Therefore, our technical team will not participate in fruitless meetings with relevant sides



The Taliban's political spokesman has blamed the administration of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for delaying the prisoner release. PHOTO: AFP

starting from tomorrow," Shaheen, who is based in Doha, said in a subsequent tweet in English.

The two foes have been holding talks in Kabul since last week to try to finalise the prisoner swap that was originally supposed to have happened by 10 March.

MatinBek, a member of the government's negotiating team, said the release had been delayed because the Taliban are demanding the release of 15 "top commanders".

"We cannot release the killers of our people," Bek told reporters on Monday.

"We don't want them to go back to the battlefield and capture

a whole province."

Bek added that the government was ready to release up to 400 low-threat Taliban prisoners as a goodwill gesture in return for a "considerable" reduction in violence, but the Taliban rejected that offer.

Washington signed a deal with the Taliban in late February that required the Afghan government — which was not a signatory to the accord — to free 5,000 Taliban prisoners, and for the insurgents to release 1,000 pro-government captives in return.

The imbalance is one of many aspects of the agreement that observers say give the Taliban a better deal.

In the accord, Washington promised the withdrawal of US and foreign troops from Afghanistan by July next year, provided the Taliban start talks with Kabul and adhere to other guarantees.

On Sunday, the Taliban released a statement accusing the Afghan government of violating the "peace agreement" between the US and the insurgents, even though the Taliban have killed scores of security forces since the deal was signed. — AFP ■

## Cardinal Pell to walk free from Australian jail after winning appeal

BRISBANE (Australia) — Cardinal George Pell's historic child sex abuse convictions were quashed by Australia's High Court on Tuesday, paving the way for the senior Catholic cleric's release from prison.

The 78-year-old was acquitted on all five counts of sexually abusing two 13-year-old choirboys in the 1990s, when the court overturned earlier decisions of a jury and lower appeals court.

Pell had steadfastly maintained his innocence throughout

a high-profile and lengthy court process. A jury had convicted Pell of the offences in December 2018 before that decision was upheld by a three-judge panel in Victoria state's Court of Appeal last August, in a split 2-1 verdict.

But Australia's High Court found there was "a significant possibility that an innocent person has been convicted because the evidence did not establish guilt to the requisite standard of proof". The seven justices unanimously found the lower court had

"failed to engage with the question of whether there remained a reasonable possibility that the offending had not taken place, such that there ought to have been a reasonable doubt as to the applicant's guilt".

The prosecution's case had relied almost entirely on the testimony of Pell's surviving victim, who testified in a closed-door hearing that he had sexually assaulted them in a Melbourne cathedral while he was archbishop of the city. — AFP ■

### Announcement of changing manufacturing company name

We are pleased to announce that FUJIAN PUCHENG GREENSHELL BIOLOGICAL PESTICIDE CO., LTD. who is the manufacture and supplier of bio-insecticide under trade name, BIO-V (Registration no. P2019-4788-Provisional, distributor: VANIDA MYANMAR CO., LTD), has changed its name to FUJIAN GREEN SHELL BIO-PESTICIDE CO., LTD.

VANIDA MYANMAR CO., LTD.  
Ph.09-774539646, 09-789261955

### Transferring Distributorship for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Sundat (s) Pte Ltd, are transferring from Golden Key Co.,Ltd to Sundat Myanmar Co.,Ltd. So, any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to this address: Co-Secretary,Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein. for the following Pesticides within (14) days from this announcement

| No. | Trade Name      | Active Ingredients         | Registration Type | Registration Number |
|-----|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1   | Sunmerin 10% EC | Cypermethrin 10%EC         | Full              | F2011-126           |
| 2   | Suntap 50 SP    | Cartap Hydrochloride 50%SP | Full              | F2009-267           |
| 3   | Sunfan 20% EC   | Carbosulfan 20% EC         | Full              | F2011-754           |

GOLDEN KEY CO., LTD  
No (258/262), 11th Floor, Strand Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar  
Telephone: +95-1-8551471 / 8551472

SUNDAT MYANMAR CO., LTD  
#10-1 Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.  
Telephone: +95-9789505363 / +95-1-4413410

# Asia markets extend gains on glimmers of hope in virus fight

HONG KONG (China) — Equities rallied again Tuesday as investors seized on signs of a slowdown in the spread of the coronavirus in key hotspots and some governments began making plans to ease restrictions aimed at containing the disease.

Crude prices were also lifted by hopes major producers will agree to cut output this week, while the pound clawed back some of its losses that came in response to news Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in intensive care.

Asia extended Monday's rally following a surge on Wall Street, with much-needed optimism on news that fresh cases were slowing in Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

And in the US epicentre New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo said that for the first time the growth rate there was flat, while on Tuesday, China — where



Markets responded favourably to news of a slowdown in some countries of new coronavirus cases. PHOTO: AFP

the disease first emerged late last year — reported no new deaths for the first time since January.

Meanwhile, Denmark and Austria have started making plans to lift restrictions slowly as they see light at the end of the tunnel.

“You can't say that we've definitely turned

the corner for certain but it does appear as though that is a good sign,” Mark Heppenstall, at Penn Mutual Asset Management, said.

Tokyo and Shanghai stocks were both around two per cent higher, while Hong Kong added 1.7 per cent, and Seoul and Taipei each jumped 1.8 per cent.

Mumbai soared six per cent, while Singapore piled on more than three percent and Bangkok more than five per cent.

Manila and Wellington also gained, though Sydney and Jakarta slipped.

In early trade, London jumped three per cent, while Paris and Frankfurt were up a little more than three per cent.

“Falling infection and death rates from COVID-19 in the worst of the European and US epicentres has inspired markets that the worst of the outbreak is peaking,” said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley.

“Whether that is, in fact, the case or not... a world hungry for any good news has leapt on board the recovery trade with equities, in particular, outperforming.”

Adding to the positive vibe were further measures to support economies around the world, including

a trillion-dollar package in Japan and central bank moves in China.

And with the ink barely dry on a \$2 trillion rescue plan passed by Congress last month, Donald Trump said he favoured another massive spending programme — again rough-

ly \$2 trillion — this time targeting infrastructure projects.

EU leaders are also closing in on a rescue for nations worst hit in the region, according to sources, though not at the level called for by Italy and Spain.—AFP ■

## Samsung Electronics expects profit rise on coronavirus demand

SEOUL (South Korea) — Samsung Electronics expects higher first-quarter profits, it said Tuesday, as millions of people working from home in coronavirus lockdowns turn to cloud data services, pushing up demand for its chips.

The pandemic is wreaking havoc across the global economy — Samsung itself had operations sus-

pending at 11 overseas assembly lines as of Tuesday — and is widely expected to cause a recession.

Looking forward, analysts expect the firm's smartphone and consumer electronics businesses will be buffeted by the resulting falls in consumer demand.

But initially, changing behaviour patterns among the vast numbers of peo-

ple forced to stay at home around the world have generated a silver lining for the world's biggest smartphone and memory chip maker. In the first three months, operating profits inched up 2.7 per cent from 2019 to around 6.4 trillion won (\$5.2 billion), Samsung Electronics forecast in an earnings estimate.

The figure was ahead

of expectations, and was based on sales of 55 trillion won, up five per cent year-on-year. “There has been high demand for memory chips for data servers as an increasing number of people are now working from home due to the outbreak,” said Tom Kang, an analyst at Hong Kong-based market researcher Counterpoint.—AFP ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TLC 01 VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TLC 01 VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301178

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (148N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (148N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-4-2020 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/SSAMUDERASHIPPING LINE  
Phone No: 2301185

### Invitation for Bids

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
National Electrification Project  
Credit No 5727-MM

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Contract Title: Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Mandalay

Reference No: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W4/2020

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Mandalay**.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Mandalay in the following locations**.

The number and identification of lots comprising this bidding process is:

- Lot 1: Mandalay – 43 Villages
- Lot 2: Mandalay – 57 Villages
- Lot 3: Mandalay – 41 Villages
- Lot 4: Mandalay – 56 Villages
- Lot 5: Mandalay – 53 Villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and [nep.pmooee@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmooee@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [10:00 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below:

Attention: **Project Manager**  
**Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)**  
**Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy**

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**  
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
Zip Code: **15011**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431176**  
Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address: [nep.pmooee@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmooee@gmail.com)  
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m, **22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below:

Attention: **Project Manager**  
**Meeting Room No.2, Ground Floor,**  
**Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy**

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**  
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
Zip Code: **15011**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431176**  
Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address: [nep.pmooee@gmail.com](mailto:nep.pmooee@gmail.com)  
7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”



The Yangon Region Investment Committees meeting 5/2020, chaired by the Chairman of the Yangon Region Investment Committee U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister for the Yangon Region Government, held at 8:30 am on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Yangon Region Investment Committee, Yangon and was attended, by Members of the Yangon Region Investment Committee. At the meeting, Yangon Region Investment Committee had already approved 10 Foreign Investment Businesses with the total capital amount of US\$ 21.98 million from six countries in the manufacturing sector. Those approved 10 businesses are expected to create 7,334 local job opportunities. **PHOTO: DICA**

# US\$ 465 million of FDI channeled into Yangon Region in current FY

**T**HE Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the nod to 10 foreign investment projects at its monthly meeting held in Yangon City in March. With the total capital amount of US\$ 21.98 million from six countries in the manufacturing sector, the approved projects are expected to create up to 7,334 job opportunities for Myanmar citizens. Nearly half of foreign investment projects into Yangon Region this fiscal year came from Asian countries, Chairman U Phyo Min Thein of the Yangon Region Investment Committee tasked with reviewing and evaluating foreign investment proposals into the region told the reporters.

“Some foreign companies want to pump investment into garment sector which can employ many people. At the same time, we are trying our best to create an attractive and investor-friendly

business environment in the region,” Chief Minister of Yangon Region told the reporters.

The chief minister once told the reporters that he wants to make Yangon into an environmentally friendly and livable city. In addition he also pledged to draw up a plan to promote foreign investment in the region.

Most of the foreign investment flowed to manufacturing, transport and communications, livestock and fishery, industrial estate, hotels and tourism, oil and gas, agriculture, power generation and mining sectors. According to the new investment regulations, the Yangon Region Investment Committee is entitled to permit foreign investment proposals worth US\$ 5 million.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is required to grant foreign investment proposals worth above \$5

million. The New Myanmar Companies Law which came into effect on 1 August 2018 allows foreign investors to take up 35 per cent stake in local businesses. The MIC said that Yangon Region is expected to lure more FDI in the years to come. In addition, Yangon Region has also long been touted by local authorities as a promising investment destination for foreign investors and domestic entrepreneurs. The local government assures that the foreign direct investment is a key drive for economic growth and is committed to an open, fair, competitive and clean investment policy for local and foreign investors. The local government has taken a number of significant steps to ensure that it will be much easier for foreign investors to do business in Yangon Region.

Special economic zone projects to be established in Yangon Region are

expected to become a major resource that can boost economic growth, create job prospects and bring new hopes for local people.

The local government also invited local entrepreneurs and foreign developers to inject investment into road construction, airport upgrade, industrial zones, new towns, and beach resort projects as well hotels and tourism industry in Yangon Region. Due to potential market and economic growth coupled with abundant young workforce and better infrastructure, Yangon Region draws the interest of international and local investors for setting up economic zones, port terminals and industrial parks. Development of infrastructure projects in the region will also increase economic growth and provide job prospects for residents.

There are around 30 industrial zones



By Kyaw Htike Soe

including the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon Region that represents more than 50 per cent of the total industrial zones in the Southeast Asian country. Thilawa SEZ, Myanmar's first special economic zone is located on outskirts of Yangon City and had become fully operational since September 2015. The governments of Myanmar and Japan have agreed to jointly set up the special economic zone covering an area of approximately 2,400 hectares of land. A total of 81 factories in which around 40 businesses from Japan and 27 firms from Singapore have started commercial operations in Thilawa SEZ with an investment amount of US\$ 1.92 billion. Japan topped the list of foreign investors in Thilawa SEZ, accounting for around 37 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand.

Myanmar's Ministry of Construction and the Korea Land and Housing Corporation from the Republic of Korea inked a deal to jointly establish an industrial complex in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region on 7 August last year. Under the agreement, an industrial zone named "The Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex" will be set up on nearly 600 acres of land in Nyaung Hna Bin Village, Hlegu Township at an estimated cost of about US\$ 110 million. The industrial complex is designed to include SMEs, heavy industry and a vocational training school and will support the development of industrial, export and human

resource sectors in Yangon Region. Around 200 Korean firms are expected to pour investments into the industrial complex which will create 50,000 to 100,000 job opportunities for local people and generate US\$ 10 million in taxes annually.

The local government also signed an agreement with a consortium from Hong Kong and Taiwan to build a US\$ 500-million industrial zone on 2,200 acres of land in Htantabin Township, Yangon Region. Yangon Region accounts for 23 per cent of the gross domestic product of the country, with annual GDP growth at an average of 9.2 per cent. China topped the list of foreign investors in Yangon Region. Yangon Region attracted a total of US\$ 20.2 billion between 2011-2012 FY and 2018-2019 FY in foreign investment from 845 enterprises since the fiscal year 1988-89. About 60 per cent of foreign direct investment came to Yangon Region and around 30 per cent of total FDI flowed to Mandalay Region while the remaining regions and states received a small share of total capital inflows.

Yangon Region received over US\$ 2.21 billion of foreign direct investment in 2015-2016 FY, more than US\$ 3.94 billion of FDI in 2016-2017, nearly US\$ 3.3 billion of FDI in 2017-2018 FY, almost US\$ 2.6 billion in 2018-2019, and US\$ 465 million in the current fiscal year.

Ref: *Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC)*



## COVID-19 HAS EXPOSED THE FRAGILITY OF OUR ECONOMIES

By Guy Ryder

THE human dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic reach far beyond the critical health response. All aspects of our future will be affected-economic, social and developmental. Our response must be urgent, coordinated and on a global scale, and should immediately deliver help to those most in need. From workplaces, to enterprises, to national and global economies, getting this right is predicated on social dialogue between governments and those on the front line—the employers and workers. So that the 2020s don't become a re-run of the 1930s. ILO estimates are that as many as 25 million people could become unemployed, with a loss of workers' income of as much as USD 3.4 trillion. However, it is already becoming clear that these numbers may underestimate the magnitude of the impact. This pandemic has mercilessly exposed the deep fault lines in our labour markets. Enterprises of all sizes have already stopped operations, cut working hours and laid off staff. Many are teetering on the brink of collapse as shops and restaurants close, flights and hotel bookings are cancelled, and businesses shift to remote working. Often the first to lose their jobs are those who see employment was already precarious—sales clerks, waiters, kitchen staff, baggage handlers and cleaners. In a world where only one in five people are eligible for unemployment benefits, layoffs spell catastrophe for millions of families. Because paid sick leave is not available to many carers and delivery workers—those we all now rely on—they are often under pressure to continue working even if they are ill. In the developing world, piece-rate workers, day labourers and informal traders may be similarly pressured by the need to put food on the table. We will all suffer because of this. It will not only increase the spread of the virus but in the longer-term dramatically amplify cycles of poverty and in equality. We have a chance to save millions of jobs and enterprises, if governments act decisively to ensure business continuity, prevent layoffs and protect vulnerable workers. We should have no doubt that the decisions they take today will determine the health of our societies and economies for years to come. Unprecedented, expansionary fiscal and monetary policies are essential to prevent the current headlong downturn from becoming a prolonged recession. We must make sure that people have enough money in their pockets to make it to the end of the week—and the next. This means ensuring that enterprises—the source of income for millions of workers—can remain afloat during the



sharp downturn and so are positioned to restart as soon as conditions allow. In particular, tailored measures will be needed for the most vulnerable workers, including the self-employed, part-time workers and those in temporary employment, who may not qualify for unemployment or health insurance and who are harder to reach.

As governments try to flatten the upward curve of infection, we need special measures to protect the millions of health and care workers (most of them women) who risk their own health for us every day. Truckers and seafarers, who deliver medical equipment and other essentials, must be adequately protected. Teleworking offers new opportunities for workers to keep working, and employers to continue their businesses through the crisis. However, workers must be able to negotiate these arrangements so that they retain balance with other responsibilities, such as caring for children, the sick or the elderly, and of course themselves. Many countries have already introduced unprecedented stimulus packages to protect their societies and economies and keep cash flowing to workers and businesses. To maximise the effectiveness of those measures it is essential for governments to work with employers' organizations and trade unions to come up with practical solutions, which keep people safe and to protect jobs. These measures include income support, wage subsidies and temporary layoff grants for those in more formal jobs, tax credits for the self-employed, and financial support for businesses. But as well as strong domestic measures, decisive multilateral action must be a key stone of a global response to a global enemy. The G20's virtual Extraordinary Summit on the Covid-19 response on 26 March is an opportunity to get this coordinated response going. In these most difficult of times, I recall a principle set out in the ILO's Constitution: Poverty anywhere remains a threat to prosperity everywhere. It reminds us that, in years to come, the effectiveness of our response to this existential threat may be judged not just by the scale and speed of the cash injections, or whether the recovery curve is flat or steep, but by what we did for the most vulnerable among us.

Author:

Guy Ryder is a Director-General, International Labour Organization

## Transfer window for MNL clubs postponed to June

THE transfer window period for Myanmar National League clubs will be postponed from 6 April-5 May to 1-30 June due to the Covid-19, according to the league's social media page.

A report on the postponement was submitted to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the postponement news was also already delivered to the clubs.

Although the postponement date was set, it will take effect when the Covid-19 pandemic ends, and the government allows organizing festivals, and sports activities. — *Kyaw Khin*

## New bribe details on 2018, 2022 World Cup votes as execs charged

NEW YORK (United States)—Two former executives with US media giant Fox were charged with corruption, bank fraud and money-laundering on Monday as US federal prosecutors shed fresh light on the scandal-tainted bidding war for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Former 21st Century Fox employees Hernan Lopez, 49, and Carlos Martinez, 41, face charges along with 65-year-old Gerard Romy, who worked for Spanish media conglomerate Imagina.

The three men are accused of paying millions in bribes to officials from CONMEBOL and CONCACAF, the governing bodies for football in South America and North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

The charges allege the bribes were paid in exchange for lucrative television rights contracts for regional competitions, the Copa America and qualifying games for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

The case forms part of the wide-ranging 2015 corruption scandal that left world governing body FIFA in turmoil and led to the downfall of president Sepp Blatter. An unsealed superseding indictment released on Monday also detailed corruption surrounding the 2010 vote in Zurich which saw FIFA award the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

The indictment said former Brazilian FIFA

member Ricardo Teixeira and late Paraguayan official Nicolas Leoz, both members of the FIFA committee which voted on the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, received payment of bribes in exchange for voting for Qatar's bid.

In addition, Trinidad's long-serving FIFA official Jack Warner "was promised and received" bribe payments totalling \$5 million to vote for Russia while Guatemala's Rafael Salguero was promised a \$1 million bribe to vote for Russia.

Salguero pleaded guilty to multiple corruption charges in 2016 and was banned from FIFA while Warner, who faces charges in the United States, is currently battling extradition to the US from his native Trinidad.

"The profiteering and bribery in international soccer have been deep-seated and commonly known practices for decades," William F. Sweeney Jr, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office, said in a statement on Monday which announced the charges against Lopez, Martinez and Romy.

"Over a period of many years, the defendants and their co-conspirators corrupted the governance and business of international soccer with bribes and kickbacks, and engaged in criminal fraudulent schemes that caused significant harm to the sport of soccer.—AFP ■



An indictment unsealed in New York on Monday detailed corruption allegations around the 2010 vote for 2018 and 2022 World Cups. PHOTO: AFP

## Silver says no NBA decisions likely until May

LOS ANGELES (United States)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver says he thinks it will be at least May before any decision can be made about resumption of the 2019-20 season that was shut down amid the coronavirus pandemic. "Essentially, what I've told my folks over the last week is that we just should just accept that, at least for the month of April, we won't be in a position to make any decisions," Silver said in an interview that was live streamed on the NBA's Twitter account. "And I don't think that necessarily means on May 1 we will be," he added.

The NBA was the first major US pro sports league to halt games, shutting down the season on the night of March 11 after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert became the first NBA player to test positive for the virus. The NBA regular season was set to end on April 15, with the playoffs due to start on April 18 heading toward the June NBA Finals. With continuing uncertainty over how the virus will continue to spread and when it might be contained Silver said no decision had been made as to whether to try to complete the regular season or possibly go straight to the playoffs.—AFP ■



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver says he believes it will be at least May before the league can make any decision on resuming the 2019-20 season halted by the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

## Halep says foot injury improving as tennis remains on hold

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep had good news for her Twitter followers on Monday, saying she can run without pain on her injured right foot. The Romanian star had barely wrapped up a victory at the WTA tournament in Dubai in February when she pulled out of the following tournament in Doha with the injury, which an MRI showed to be tendinitis and inflammation. She later pulled out of the hard court tournament scheduled for Indian Wells, California, in March -- which eventually be-

came the first tennis casualty of the coronavirus pandemic. With tennis on indefinite hold -- and Wimbledon, where Halep won in 2019, cancelled this year -- Halep told fans that she was longing to get back to action.

"I miss my team. I miss the players," she said. "I miss everyone from the tour.

"I know it's a bit tough for everybody, this period," Halep added. "But if we stay home, if we stay strong and positive ... everything is going to be all right. "I can't wait to travel again. I can't wait to play tennis again." —AFP ■