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Pindaya, the lovely Danu's City (1)

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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 25 May 2020

## Second batch of Myanmar nationals stranded in India amidst COVID-19 returns home

**A** TOTAL of 123 Myanmar nationals stranded in Chennai, India, and its surrounding area following international flights were suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic were brought back home by relief flight yesterday.

The flight from the Myanmar National Airlines carrying second batch of returnees from India landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

At the airport, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region Government provided them with immigration, medical checks and 21-day facility quarantine.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the directives of the National-level Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Contain and Treatment on COVID-19, brought back the first batch of 95 Myanmar citizens from India on 19, May 2020, following coordination between Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and ministries concerned. A total of 218 Myanmar citizens have been brought back from India so far. As the third batch, Myanmar citizens stranded in Gaya of India and its surrounding areas would be brought back on 27 May by relief flight of MNA.—MNA ■



Myanmar returnees from India queuing for their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## No new COVID-19 case on Sunday, total cases remain at 201

Updated at 8 pm 24 May 2020

No new case  
Total: now 201

1. Result on testing of 166 samples at the Department of Medical Research and 188 samples in the first group at the National Health Laborato-

ry (Yangon), totalling 354 on 24 May afternoon showed No new cases.

2. There are a total of 201 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 24 May.
3. A total of 122 old cases were tested negative two consecutive times up to 24 May. Among them, 109 persons have been discharged from the hospital

and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.

4. The total death toll remains at 6.
5. There are a total of 45 new persons under investigation from the past 24 hour until 12 noon of 24 May 2020.

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## “People are the key”

# Ministry of Construction reviews road, bridge processes

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin and the Directors-General of the Road, Bridges and Rural Road Development Departments held a video conference to inspect the progress of rural road and bridge development in Bago Region and Mon State.

Firstly, Bago Region Road Department Director (Civil) U Toe Toe explained road and bridge construction progress in Bago Region, Yangon-Taungoo-Mandalay highway, Yangon-Pyay road, (portion of Bago Region) progress, Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado section highway process, and donations for COVID-19. They then watched a video clip on road and bridge projects in Bago Region.

Next, Bago Region Rural Road Development Director (Civil) U Aung Kyaw Lu explained ongoing rural road and bridges with a PowerPoint and video clip.

Deputy Director (Civil) of Bridge Special Group (6) U Win Lwin then explained Yedashe-Kayinchaung-Leiktho highway's Sittoung River Bridge in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, and other future processes.

Next, Deputy Director (Civil) from Special Bridge Group (9) U Kyaw Myo explained the 1680 feet section of Toungoo-Kyaukyi-Shwegyin-Wingan highway, Shwegyin Bridge, Bago River Bridge (Kawa, 600 feet) Kawa bypass road, the Bago River Bridge (MyoU Kin) on the Seinthaung road and Thamein Bayan Road.

Next, Director (Civil) U Myint Win of Special Bridge Group (10) explained the process of the 1200 feet Sittoung River Bridge (Myosoe) on the Kwyepwe-Myosoe-Zayat Gyi road in Ottwin Township, the 620 feet Sittoung River Bridge (Otpyat) on Pyu-Otpyat-Mone highway in Pyu Town-



Union Minister U Han Zaw and officials from the Ministry of Construction hold the video conference to inspect the progress of rural road and bridge development in Bago Region and Mon State. **PHOTO: MNA**

ship.

This was followed by Director (Civil) U Kyi Thwin Oo of Mon State Road Department explaining the use of 2019-2020 financial year budget in projects in Mon State, the Payargyi-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung highway under the B.O.T.

system, and other projects.

Afterwards, Director (Civil) U Hla Myo Win of Rural Road Development Department, Deputy Director (Civil) U Zaw Moe Lwin of Special Bridge Group (14), Deputy Director (Civil) U Soe Win of Special Bridge Group (13), and Director Daw Htar Htar Soe of

Mon State Urban and Housing Development Department explained their ongoing and future processes.

The Union Minister and Deputy Minister responded to the reports and gave instructions and suggestions as necessary.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## COVID-19 supplies reach IDP camps in Kachin, Rakhine states

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in cooperation with related departments and organizations, has implemented prevention, control and response actions against COVID-19 at the IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine states.

In Kachin State, MSWRR officials provided 989 hand sanitizer bottles, 2,370 soap bars, 30 lime powder bags, 4 infrared thermometers, 10 wash basins, 16 surgical masks, 4,708 cloth masks, 3 hand speakers, 3 memory sticks with COVID-19 awareness audio files, and a vinyl for 3 IDP camps in Mo-

mank and Waingmaw townships.

In Rakhine State, the officials distributed 11,512 cloth masks, 5 hand speakers, and 5 memory sticks with COVID-19 awareness audio files to nine IDP camps in Buthidaung Township.

The ministry is not only continuously implementing control and response actions against COVID-19 but also organizing educational programmes, awareness activities and moral supports in all regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A local (centre right) receives the relief item handed over by an official from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 24 May.

**PHOTO: MNA**

## 99 migrant workers sent home in special buses after 21-day quarantine



Returnees are seen at the Taunggyi Business Center (TBC) Highway Bus Station in Taunggyi before they are transported back to their native places on 24 May. **PHOTO: LIN LIN (TGI)**

A total of 99 Myanmar nationals were transported back to their native places via the Taunggyi Business Center (TBC) Highway Bus Terminal in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday.

After they had received quarantine for 21 days, they came to Taunggyi through Mongyu-Kyainyan Bridge in Mongyaung Township in Tachilek District, Shan State (East).

Authorities in Taunggyi sent back the returnees from China and Special Region 4 back to their native places.

Yesterday's 99 returnees includes one female from Yangon Region, 8 males and 10 female from Mandalay Region, 19 males and 56 females from Magway Region, two females from Kayah State, and one male and one female from Hsipaw. So far a total of more than 3,400 returnees were transported back to their native places via Taunggyi.

Taunggyi-based express bus operators transported them free of charge. Most of the returnees are from Rakhine State, said the

township's administrator U Phyto Min Hteik.

Members of Taunggyi Township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, well-wishers, traffic police, officials, Taunggyi Township's volunteers, Red Cross members, and members of auxiliary fire brigade checked the returnees' health conditions, and distributed them lunch boxes, water bottles, soft drinks and breads for their journeys.—Soe Nyunt Shwe (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

# Manufacturing sector pulls over 120 foreign enterprises in Oct-Apr

MAJORITY of foreign enterprises primarily invest in the manufacturing sector in the seven months of the current financial year 2019-2020, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) stated.

Of 162 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by Myanmar Investment Commission and the respective investment committees between 1 October and April-end of current fiscal, 126 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector. Other service sector stood at the second by attracting 14 businesses, while power and real estate sectors got the third spot with six projects respectively.

During a-year ago period, 115 of 150 enterprises put investment into the manufacturing sector, while other service sector drew 13, and livestock and fisheries attained investments from seven businesses.

In the current fiscal year, the power sector has topped \$1.026 billion and the manufacturing sector has absorbed FDI of \$544.8 million. The livestock and fisheries sector has drawn foreign investments of \$22.36 million, and over \$254.45 million

has been pumped into the transport and communications sector, while the hotels and tourism sector has pulled in investments of \$33.6 million.

The real estate sector has also reported investments of \$895 million. Over \$205 million in FDI has been pumped into the other services sector.

The current coronavirus consequences have not affected the foreign investment sector, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin on 7 April.

The proposals submitted to MIC include CMP businesses. At present, such kind of labour-intensive enterprises is facing financial hardship, disputes between the employers and employees and the closure of factories. However, those cases in the industry did not hinder new investors.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need large labour force are prioritized. MIC is endeavouring to clear those kinds of projects so fast that they can start running in the post-coronavirus period, he continued.

Moreover, MIC showed readiness to accept the pro-



A file photo shows workers seen on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

jects regarding the production of mask, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, in responding to the activities of prevention, control and treatment of coronavirus disease.

Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.355 billion between 1 October and April-end in the

2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, DICA stated.

The total figure includes investments of \$91.85 million in the Special Economic Zones, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

According to a press statement issued recently by the

DICA, 162 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in the capital of over \$2.419 billion. Myanmar has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current fiscal. —GNLM  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Yangon region issues three hotel licences, two construction permits

YANGON regional tourism committee has granted licences to three hotels with 179 rooms, and construction permits for two hotels at the meeting held on 22 May.

The total capital for hotels and guesthouses is estimated at K18,160 million and this endorsement will create 107 jobs.

“Yangon, the commercial hub of the country, is attracting tourists due to its cultural significance and heritage. To ensure sufficient rooms, the ministry has been issuing licences to hotels and guesthouses,” said an official of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Yangon’s most famous landmark is the Shwedagon Pagoda, and the city boasts several gilded pagodas besides British colonial buildings, heritage sites, and business complexes.

The Inya Lake and Kandawgyi Park are among other tourist destinations in the city.

Additionally, a Community-Based Tourism (CBT) site was created in Kyaikthale Village in Twantay Township, Yangon Region in February 2017.

The regional tourism committee has issued licences to hotels and guesthouses, and construction permits. Meanwhile, the committee has also issued licences to inbound tours, outbound tours, and tour guides.

Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector was regulated by the Union government. With the implementation of the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018, the sector has been decentralized and more power according to the region and state governments, said Naw Pan Thin-

zar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein takes the role of chairman of the regional tourism committee, while Naw Pan Thinzar Myo is responsible for the deputy chairperson. The committee includes officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, and civil society organizations (CSOs) as members.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Total border trade value tops \$7.13 bln

TRADE between Myanmar and its four neighbouring countries has reached US\$7.13 billion this fiscal year 2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From October 1 to May 15 of 2019-20FY, the total border trade value amounted to \$7.126 billion, up to \$446.6 million compared with the same period last year. The total border trade value included \$4.95 billion in exports and \$2.18 billion in imports.

Myanmar shares borders with Bangladesh, China, India and Thailand. Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung borders. The country carries out border trade with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, My-

eik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese borders. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sit-tway and Maungtaung, whereas the country trades directly with India via the Tamu, Reed and Kenglap borders.

Among all the points, the Muse border sees the largest volume and value of border trade, with an estimated value of more than \$3.08 billion in this FY, followed by Hteekhee with \$1.28 billion and Myawady with \$763 million.

Myanmar’s major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials. —Zwe  
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355

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

# Myanmar exports \$20 mln worth turmeric to four neighbouring countries

MYANMAR has exported over 30,000 tonnes of turmeric to its neighbouring countries in seven months of the current financial year 2019-2020, with an estimated value of US\$20 million, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the October-April period, Myanmar has sent over 28,000 tonnes to Bangladesh, over 2,000 to China, over 400 to India and over 300 to Thailand. Additionally, Myanmar shipped

them to Singapore and UAE markets. The turmeric fetches about \$1,000-1,200 per tonne.

More than 18,000 tonnes of turmeric valued over \$13 million was exported in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Myanmar shipped over 25,000 tonnes of turmeric, with an estimated value of \$14 million, to external markets in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce.

There are over 12,000 acres of turmeric plantations across

the country, with an estimated production of 100,000 tonnes per year.

Of the kitchen crops, turmeric and ginger have grasped foreign market. The exports of kitchen crops such as turmeric, ginger, tamarind, onion and garlic have increased in the current fiscal year. Myanmar sent the kitchen crops to India, Singapore, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Viet Nam and other neighbouring markets through borders as

well as maritime trade.

Next, the Ministry has called for the traders who want to export the kitchen crops to Sri Lanka.

If Myanmar can reach an agreement with foreign countries for kitchen crops exports amid the coronavirus pandemic, the market will surely improve. The Ministry is making efforts to have a legitimate trade channel in border areas.

— Ko Htet  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Strong wind destroys 600 houses in Sagaing Region in May

STRONG wind has destroyed more than 600 houses and buildings in 26 townships of Sagaing Region this month, said the head of Sagaing Region Disaster Management Department.

Strong wind wreaked havoc in Kawlin, Htigyaing, Katha, Bamauk, Wuntho, Pinlebu, Indaw, Mawleik, Kalewa, Kalay, Minkin, YeU, Kantbalu, Kyunhla, Phaungphyin, Homa-lin, Watlat, Myinmu, Kani, Dabayin, Shwebo, Sagaing, Nanyun, Tamu, Ayardaw and Kyaukmyaung townships of Sagaing Region, destroying 662 buildings including 17 religious buildings.

A total of 3,315 local people from 680 households were hit hard by the strong wind, leaving 10 injured and one dead.

The regional disaster management department handed



A building destroyed by a strong wind is seen in Kawlin, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: HMWE KYU ZIN

out K300,000 as a compensation to the families of the deceased, K50,000 for those who have been injured, K100,000 each for a col-

lapsed building and K10,000-75,000 each for a partially destroyed building. Moreover, the department provided K2,100 per per-

son and 10 emergency items for a week, totalling over K34 million, the official said. —Hmwe Kyu Zin  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## No new COVID-19 case on Sunday, total cases remain at 201

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**COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Report at 8 pm, 24 May 2020**

Samples tested in first group at National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on 24 May	188
Samples tested at Department of Medical Research (DMR) on 24 May	166
<b>COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)</b>	<b>0</b>

**COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm 24 May 2020**

	New	Total
Confirmed Cases	0	201
Recovered Cases	2	122
Death	0	6

Ministry of Health and Sports  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

# Report to the people on the progress of the Implementation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State between September and December 2019

## CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No.	Month/Township	Description	Food (metric tons)	Beneficiary	Value (MMK)
	-(Kyauk Taw, Minbya, Myaypon, Pauk Taw, Sittwe)		-	3,500	-
3	November				
	- Northern Rakhine State	- Emergency food aids	-	830	-
	-(Buthidaung, Maungdaw)	- Food aids for IDPs from 187 Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu villages; - Food aids for people fleeing conflict	-	107,600	-
	-(Kyauk Taw, Minbya, Myaypon, Pauk Taw, Sittwe)		-	4,500	-

### Media Access

Media coverage of the stability and development in Rakhine State:

Coverage	Times	Coverage	Times
MRTV news broadcasts	73	Press release	1
Radio news broadcasts	1,548	Reports	2
Education programs	280	Photos on website	101
Public Service Announcements	304	News reports on coordination meetings in daily newspapers	106
Videos	4	Photos of coordination meetings	117
Speeches	2	News reports	262
Announcements	4	News photos	239

During this reporting period, no media trip to Rakhine was arranged as there were no local and foreign journalists requesting to make media visits.

### Education

In Rakhine State, the following schools can be opened including some upgraded ones.

Sr.	Schools	Number
1	High schools	398
2	Middle schools	1,230
3	Primary schools	1657

The activities under Learning Together Programme are:

Township	Activities
Rathaedaung, Mrauk U, Minbya, Myaypon, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Kyauk Phyu, Ramree, Ann, Thandwe, and Taungup	- Provision of books through mobile libraries; - Provision of sports equipment and construction of sports facilities; support for WASH facilities; - Provision of support to help out-of-school children to return to school; - Implementation of activities in 163 basic education schools to promote social cohesion among communities;

Salaries are being paid to 497 volunteer teachers from IDP camps and in this reporting period, 97 more teachers can be included. Therefore, salaries are paid to a total of 594 teachers.

Both local and international staff members from Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided 24 types of training as well as humanitarian assistance in 5 project townships, spending the funding USD 625,517 in total.

Under the scholarship program for the students in Rakhine, the Governments of Norway and Denmark will contribute to 100 scholarships and Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH) will use their overhead costs to contribute to 6 scholarships, totaling 106 scholarships. They will provide USD 200 (MMK 300,000) for each student who wins scholarship every month.

### Construction and Renovation of Universities/Colleges

Sr.	Description	Completion Status (%)
1	Construction of 3 storey teaching building at Sittwe University	90%
2	Construction of a football pitch with drainage system and 400 meter track at Sittwe University	100%
3	Construction of 3 storey teaching building at Technological University (Sittwe)	100%
4	Construction of 3 storey teaching building at Taungup Degree College	100%
5	Construction of 4-unit-4 storey staff housing for faculty members at Taungup Degree College	100%
6	Construction of 7-unit building for restaurants at Taungup Degree College	100%

## Health

### Appointment of Health Staff

In Rakhine State, there are 129 rural health centers, 582 sub rural health centers and 1 border clinic and 831 midwives are assigned in the village tracts.

13 specialist doctors and 10 assistant surgeons have been deployed in Rakhine State.

42 newly trained nurses are appointed and a total of 15 staff nurses (7 from other states/regions and 8 from Rakhine State) were promoted to head nurses and are now assigned in Rakhine State.



### Birth Registration for Newborn Babies

As a special program to issue birth registration to the children under 10 who had not had birth registration certificates in Rakhine State, the Birth Registration Issuing Team being comprised of 5 members started field operations on 09/12/2019. The team has been issuing birth registration certificates to such children who meet the requirements and as of 31/12/2019, the certificates have been issued to 2,549 children.

No.	Description	Number of birth registration certificate		
		Males	Females	Total
1	Muslims	1277	1166	2443
2	Kaman	36	44	80
3	Others	11	15	26
Total				2549

### Health Care Service (Provision of Medical Treatment)



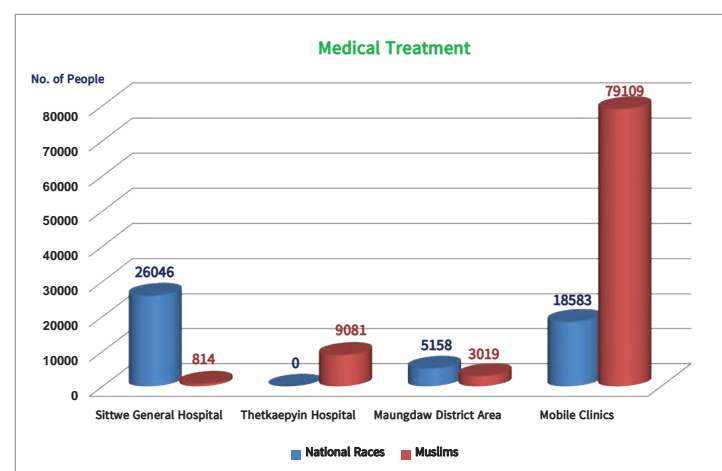
#### Mobile Clinics



Through Myanmar-Thailand Mobile Health Care Program, medical treatment was provided to a total of 1,712 patients from the villages and IDP camps in Sittwe Township on the second round and third round.



During the reporting period, medical treatment has been provided to a total of 141,810 patients in Rakhine State



### Capacity Development of Health Staff

No.	Health Training	National races	Muslim	Total
1	Auxiliary mid-wife (fresher) training	18	-	18
2	Auxiliary mid-wife (refresher) training	114	-	114
3	Volunteer public health working training	74	18	92
4	Volunteer public health working (refresher) training	124	62	186
Total		330	80	410

# Report to the people on the progress of the Implementation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State between September and December 2019

Township level Community Infant and Young Child Feeding Counseling Training was provided.

No.	Township	Times	Month	Trainees
1	Taungup	1 time	September	116
2	MraukU	2 times	November	102
3	Munaung	2 times	December	104
4	Buthidaung	2 times	December	89
5	Ponnagyun	2 times	December	76

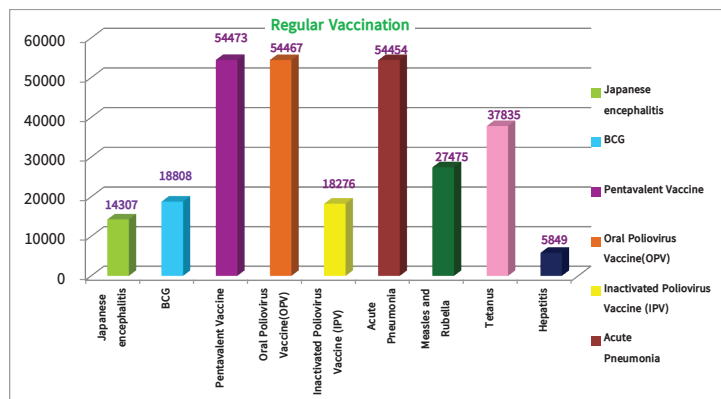
## Routine Immunization



Immunization campaign from 25 to 29 October 2019



Under the routine immunization program, 100% coverage was achieved with cooperation of UN agencies and local and international organizations. In this reporting period, 57,257 under 1 children and 28,481 pregnant mothers were vaccinated.



## Health Infrastructure



Construction of 4-storey building in Sittwe General Hospital complete

In Sittwe General Hospital, construction of a new 4 storey building as an extension of patient wards and 8-unit-4 storey staff housing has been 100% completed.



Construction of 4-storey staff housing in Sittwe General Hospital complete



Opening of 4 storey building in Sittwe General Hospital

That 4 storey building in the Sittwe General Hospital was opened on 25/11/2019.



Opening of 4 storey building in Sittwe General Hospital



Hand over of Myaung Bwe Station Hospital, Myauk U

Myaung Bwe Station Hospital was constructed with the support of Indonesia Government and the documents of the hospital were handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports at Office Number (4), Ministry of Health and Sport, Nay Pyi Taw on 10th December 2019.



Myaung Bwe Station Hospital building funded by the Government of Indonesia



Construction of new 16-bedded Thetkaepyin Station Hospital 100% complete



Construction of 16-bedded Thetkaepyin Station Hospital in Sittwe	100% complete; provision of medical supplies and equipment is ongoing
Sittwe General Hospital	Plans to construct 3 storey maternal and child health care building, staff housing for doctors and nurses and to renovate the mortuary
Maungdaw mini blood bank	It will be able to operate after installation of a transformer.



Support necessary equipment for the mini blood bank



## Drugs

During the reporting period-

- 560 drug awareness talks were organized and reached 42,326 students and community members.
- 86 drug-related crimes were investigated and 113 people (91 males and 22 females) were prosecuted. Narcotics drugs worth MMK over (143,44) million were seized.

## Communal Participation and Representation



Kyauk Phyu Youth Skill Training Center was opened in Kyauk Phyu on 09/09/2019 and basic English language course and basic electrical course were provided.

## Inter-communal Cohesion



On 02/09/2019, a reading skill competition under the title of "Youth and Development" was held in the Kyauk Phyu District Community Center by Information and Public Relations Department.

## The Security Sector

During the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:



- 10 courses of In-service Skill Development Training were provided to Myanmar Police Force personnel and 11 police officers, 1,240 policeman and 402 police women (dependents) were trained.
- 4 CCTV cameras were installed at Paepadone Check-point on 17/08/2019, and at Kan Myint Kan Checkpoint on 24/08/2019 respectively and a total of 173 CCTV cameras have been installed to date.

## Cooperation between Security Forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh

The security forces from the two countries conducted 22 coordinated naval patrols.

## Access to Justice

Myanmar National Human Right Commission received 16 complaint letters from Rakhine State, 10 by the Headquarters and 6 by the Sittwe Office. Out of those, 6 complaints were dealt with pursuant to the Commission Law and 10 complaints were kept as records. In Sittwe, the Commission opens a temporary office at State General Administration Department and assigns three staff members led by a staff officer to receive and handle complaints submitted to the Commission.

## Cultural Development

The following efforts were made for listing Mrauk U of Rakhine State as a UNESCO's World Heritage site.



Coordination Meeting on Revising Draft Nomination Dossier (from 07/09/2019 to 08/09/2019)



Meeting with the expert team from Italian Agency for International Cooperation (AICS) on 25/10/2019



Meeting with the expert team from Italian Agency for International Cooperation (AICS) on 19/11/2019

Cultural Heritage Education Subcommittee



5 awareness raising sessions

Preservation Working Group



Repair and preservation work at Sakkyamunaung Pagoda, Ashae Mya Tasaung Pagoda and Pan Phae Chung Monastery

# Report to the people on the progress of the Implementation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State between September and December 2019

Archeological Excavation Working Group	➔	Drawing of the archeological materials excavated from Mrauk U Royal Palace Hill; removal, piling and transportation of stone rubbles from excavation; 5 wells were renovated and roofs were built.
Subcommittee on Documentation of Ancient Heritage Artifacts	➔	Reporting of field visit findings; documentation of ancient heritage artifacts; displays at Mahamuni Museum.
Subcommittee on Documentation of Ancient Buildings	➔	Drawing ancient buildings from the inventory; putting up stone pillars with numbers
Coordination meetings	➔	9 times
Draft Nomination Dossier	➔	Submitted to UNESCO office on 27/09/2019

## Border Issues and Bilateral Relationship with Bangladesh

### Meetings and Discussions

- From 18 to 19 December, 2019, a 9-member high level Myanmar delegation, accompanied by the ASEAN-ERAT Team comprised of 6 officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, visited Extension Camp No. (4) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The delegation met displaced persons and explained the efforts made by the Government for repatriation of IDPs including the application process of NVC and citizenship, Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) implemented by UNDP/UNHCR, provision of education and health services, plans for IDP camp closure.
- One Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Guard Force Battalion regiment-level meeting was held on Bangladesh side on 04/09/2019.
- One Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Guard Force Battalion commander-level meeting was held on Bangladesh side on 14/10/2019.

### Trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh

	Previous year	Current Year
<b>Sittwe Trade Center</b>	USD 207.948 million from 10/08/18 to 13/12/2018	USD 8.044 million from 10/08/2019 to 13/12/2019
<b>Maungdaw Trade Center</b>	USD 2.829 million from 10/08/18 to 13/12/2018	USD 4.538 million from 10/08/2019 to 13/12/2019

## Regional Relations

The State Counsellor received the following visiting foreign government leaders and updated the Myanmar government efforts, recent developments and plans for IDP camp closure in Rakhine State -



State Counsellor receives the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Moon Jae-in; State Counsellor receives Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China; State Counsellor receives ASEAN General Secretary

- The delegation led by the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Moon Jae-in on 03/09/2019;
- Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on 13/09/2019 and 07/11/2019;
- ASEAN General Secretary, Mr. Dato Lim Jock Hoi on 04/10/2019;
- Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc on 17/12/2019; and
- the delegation led by the Japanese Upper House MP and the Chief Representative of Komeito Party, Mr. Yamaguchi Natsuo on 23/12/2019 respectively.

In the following overseas trips of the State Counsellor -



While attending 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held at Impact Exhibition and Convention Center in Bangkok, the State Counsellor met the following leaders and officials separately and discussed and explained the Myanmar government efforts, recent developments and plans for IDP camp closure in Rakhine State - Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, the Managing Director of IMF and Mr. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of Indian 03/11/2019, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, the Prime Minister of Russia and Mr. Robert C.O' Brien, National Security Advisor of the United States of America on 04/11/2019.



Interview by The Mainichi's correspondent; Interview by The Nikkei Asian Review's correspondent; Attending ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations

During the visit to Tokyo, Japan to attend enthronement ceremony of Japanese Emperor Naruhito, the State Counsellor gave an interview with The Nikkei Asian Review on 23/10/2019 upon the request by Chief Editor Mr. Tetsuya Lguchi and answered the questions about Rakhine State.

While attending the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and 1st Mekong-ROK Summit in Busan, Korean from 25 to 27 November 2019, the State Counsellor discussed the opening of the solar power plant in Munaung Island of Rakhine State.

During this reporting period, the Union Ministers and senior officials discussed, explained and updated the Myanmar government efforts, recent developments and plans for IDP camp closure in Rakhine State when they received foreign government representatives and the officials from international organizations as well as while they were attending international meetings and events.

### Visits to Rakhine State

The team led by UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener went to Sintatmaw IDP Camp in Pauktaw Township by speed boat on 19/11/2019. She met with the people living in the IDP Camp and asked about the current situations of foods, shelters, health, education and assistance as well as any difficulties they were currently facing.

## Implementation of the Commission's Recommendations

Regarding the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, the following were undertaken in this reporting period:



The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State holds 20<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting on 18/11/2019

- A coordination meeting on the field surveys conducted by the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was held on 09/10/2019.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was held on 18/11/2019.
- The status of progress in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations for the period from September 2017 when the Commission was first established up to September 2019 in 5 reports to people and this is the 6<sup>th</sup> report for 4 month period from September to December 2019.

# Show respect each other by following COVID-19 guidelines

WITH gradually reopening of businesses, including restaurants and markets with the health guidelines in the midst of the COVID-19, police officers and health workers are making safety checks on roads in towns in efforts to enforce the COVID-19 health guidelines.

We have no choice but to smartly reopen the businesses. The economic carnage from two months of closures are hurting the people.

The reopening of business does not mean that the pandemic is going away. Instead, it is exposing our failures to protect the coronavirus spread.

The employers and employees are obliged to tell groups of customers or those clustered too closely together that they needed to follow the rules of social distancing even though they wear masks. If we fail to abide by the rules, it is impossible to know how many people would be infected with the virus.

Meanwhile, it is regrettable to see that many people find themselves forced to return to work by their financial needs, even if they would be safer at home.

Hence, today is the critical time for all of us to tackle the challenges posed by COVID-19 by working together.

Businesses must ensure workers safe. All citizens are obliged to wear masks for others and should have true comprehension of what social distancing meant. Be appreciative of those serving you and respect the burdens they face.

As this virus knows no boundaries, people should be well prepared to live with coronavirus, even if some people don't follow the recommended guidelines.

At the same time, those owners of the businesses including restaurants who don't take steps to control their customers nor follow the guidelines would face actions.

Before actions, warnings should go to places which are "totally out of hand" with a lack of social distancing.

To ensure the people live with new ways of participating in certain activities amidst COVID-19, region and state governments are advised to beef up enforcement activities.

Now, we all are ready to enjoy a new normal life. On behalf of those most at risk, we would like to ask the people to please respect our fellow citizens.

By Nandar Win  
PHOTO: TARYAR

# Fourth-Year Performances of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw: working towards a Democratic Federal Union, maintaining checks and balances with all branches of democracy

TO STRENGTHEN multiparty democracy system in a nation, the role of parliament is very important. The Hluttaw represents the people and amends or repeals laws that are no longer relevant to modern times. They also enact new laws that safeguard the legal rights of all citizens equitably.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is tasked with the legislative authority of the entire nation and also represents its citizens, enacts laws and ensuring checks and balances with all branches of democracy. This is done in line with stipulations contained in the Constitution and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw laws and bylaws for the benefit of all citizens.

### Hluttaw meetings

The Second Hluttaws began on 1 February 2016 and will be completed on 31 January 2021 after five years. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed its fourth year and has completed its four regular sessions.

### Legislative matters

In addition to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's main task of enacting new laws, it constantly scrutinizes existing laws and either repeals them or makes amendments to make them more relevant to current times.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted or amended the following laws during its fourth year: the Cultural Heritage Zone Conservation Law, Patent Law, Occupational Safety and Health Law, Consumer Protection Law, Penal Code Amendment Law, Boundary Demarcation Act, Myanmar Engineering Council Law Amendment, Gambling Law, Second Amendment to The Union Civil Service Board Law, Myanmar Literature



President U Win Myint, Vice President U Myint Swe and dignitaries attend the 4th Anniversary of Second Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 January 2020.

and Art Copyright Law, Bridges Law, Second Amendment to the Labour Dispute Settlement Law, 2018-2019 Financial Year Union Budget Additional Allotment Law, Amending the Myanmar Investment Law, Tax Management Law, Amending the High Court Judges Council Law, Amending the Bar Council Act, Child Rights Law, Myanmar Telecom Corporation Law, Land Confiscation, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Law, Fourth Law Amending Union Judiciary Law, 2019-2020 Financial Year National Budget Law, Educational Research, Planning and Training Law, 2019-2020 Financial Year Union Budget Law, New Plant Variety Protection Law, 2019 Union Taxation Law, Exchange of Terminology Law, Law Amending the Myanmar Stamp Act, Myan-

mar Medical Degree, Diploma and Certificate Law, Basic Education Law, Safeguard Law on Increased Import, Fifth Amendment to Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, Fifth Amendment to Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, Fifth Amendment to State/Regional Hluttaw Election Law, Rural Development Law, and National Record and Archive Law.

Among these laws, the Union Government alone can submit the National Planning Law, Union Budget Law, Union Additional Budget Allotment Law, and Union Taxation Law to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw every year so that they can be enacted before the new financial year sets in.

During the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's fourth year, the assembly successfully appointed Union Election Commission members and reforming union-level ministries.

### Committee formations

Within the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there are committees made up of equal number of members from the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw bill committees and public accounts committees. They are the joint bill committee, joint public accounts committee, and the Hluttaw representative scrutinizing committee made with suitable members from Hluttaw affairs committees of both sides.

They were formed at the first meeting of the Second Hluttaw and carry out Hluttaw matters.

### Myanmar Parliamentary Union

To facilitate efficient coordination and legislation matters between the union-level and state/regional-level Hluttaw, the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) was formed on 1 March 2016. Its members comprise of the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and the Speakers of state/regional Hluttaws. The MPU held a meeting during the fourth year of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also discussed 22 international conventions and agreements during its fourth year.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 and Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals 1968, sending the two approved memorandums of agreement to the ASEAN Secretary-General office, sending letters of approval of the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Agreement to all affiliated nations, approving the ASEAN-Hong Kong Investment Agreement, ASEAN Justice Council Contract agreement and signing discussions.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds the meeting on 13 December 2019.

In addition, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed exempting customs, trade tax and special commodity tax of five office vehicles imported for the International Red Cross Committee, Myanmar signing the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea in 1974, becoming a member of the ecosystem service and biodiversity international science policy, signing the fourth amending contract to the ASEAN multilateral investment agreement, signing the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services, becoming an observation member of the belt and road project's collaborative tax management system, becoming member to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement of Safety Standards and Inspection for Non - Convention Ships Within ASEAN Member States, the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL PROT 1988), the agreement to elevate the International Anti-Corruption Academy to international level, and the children in armed conflict related agreement.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also discussed Myanmar signing the Arrangements (MRA) on Type Approval for Automotive Products (APMRA) in ASEAN regions, Convention on Limitation of Lia-

bility for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC 1976) and Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC PROT 1996), International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law Relating to Bill of Lading ("Hague Rules"), Hague Visby Rules and SDR Protocol, WCO Revised Kyoto Convention, and tax exemptions for importing six Toyota Landcruiser (bullet proof).

### Loan acquirement

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed acquiring Yen 38.642 billion for upgrading infrastructure in Myanmar, K1016.818

billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar to fulfill the national deficit between October 2018 to September 2019, Baht 1458.248 million from NEDA for the upgrading electric supply in Yangon Region by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Euro 35.7 million from France Development Agency for MoEE.

Other loans include Yen 82.273 billion from JICA for Myanmar's development plans, Euro 29.96 million from Netherlands' FMO and ING Bank for water distribution in Mandalay, USD 100 million from World Bank's International Development Association to provide financial aid for mothers and children under 2 years of age, USD 51.20 million from Asia Development Bank for improving rural roads and communications, USD 185 million from ADB for the response positive human resource development project.

Also includes loans of USD 100 million from IDA on inclusive education programme by Ministry of Education, Euro 50 million from Poland government's ODA waste management project by Yangon City Development Committee.

### International cooperation

Myanmar's Hluttaws increased cooperation with international parliaments in the fourth year and held 12 meetings and workshops with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and 3 meetings with Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Joint Coordination Committee was formed on 2 May 2016 to acquire support from international parliaments for Union-level state/regional-level Hluttaws.

### Ceremonies

International Democracy Day was observed 15 September 2019 and the ceremony was attended by the President, State Counsellor, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, members of union-level institutions, Speakers of state/regional Hluttaws, Hluttaw representatives, political parties, foreign embassies and UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, celebrity artistes and students.

The 130 Years of Empowering Parliamentarians marking the 130th year of the IPU was implemented through June 2019 to June 2020 and the 4th anniversary of the Second Hluttaws was observed on 31st January and attended by the President, Hluttaw Speakers and Deputy Speakers.

### Implementing e-Parliament

The Hluttaw Intranet (Share Point) was set up for e-Parliament system to share Hluttaw news and information and was introduced to Hluttaw representatives in May 2019. The ICT Helpdesk Counter was set up during the 13th regular session to aid Hluttaw representatives with their ICT queries.

The Hluttaw will continue to work representing the people and checking and balancing the other branches of government as they head towards another year of serving the nation.

(Translated by Pen Dai)



Hluttaw's research departments organize the seminar on research skills on 8 October 2019.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds the meeting on 13 December 2019.



# Fourth Year Performances of Mon State Government

## Tirelessly working for regional development: Mon State Government

By Thi Thi Min  
PHOTO: THAZIN

**I**N ALL (10) townships of Mon State, multi-faceted development tasks are rolling ahead in full swing using the fund provided by the Union Govern-



Mon State Chief Minister  
Dr. Aye Zan

ment and the fund allocated to the Mon State Government with the enthusiastic participation of State Level Departments; the district / township levels General Administration Departments; the local people; the investors; the business people from companies and organizations.

An interview is called on Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, who is at the helm of the state development task and the onerous projects, and that the data and information is submitted to the esteemed readers and the people.

**Q: Please tell us on the road communication sector in the fourth year.**

**A:** During 2019–2020 financial year, the road communication expansion and repair works are most essential tasks of Mon State. We have successfully completed such as putting up the asphalt /



Kyaikkhami Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.

concrete layers on (16) miles and (5) furlongs stretch; that of asphalt covering of (1) furlong; that of the asphalt road expansion (11) miles; that of the concrete road pavement (11) miles (7) furlongs; and that of the asphalt layers covering (15) miles (6) furlongs.

Moreover (46) bridges were construction with RC concrete; (6) bridges over the water release RC concrete culvert pipes.

Furthermore, in Kyaikmaraw Township, (644) meters long Ataran River crossing “Sabai Gu Bridge” en route “Kyaikmaraw – Sabai Gu – Kaw Pa Naw Road” which has started in 2018 - 2019 financial year; and that (76) percent is completed so far.

**Q: Please tell us on the agriculture sector.**

**A:** Heavy rains hit hard in Mon State last year that flooded the large areas of cultivation land. For timely resuming of the culti-

vation, the farmers are provided with (50) hand tractors.

Their farm lands covering (432) acres have been assisted with the transplanting machines in time.

Moreover, land restoration work for better cultivation has been provided on (588) acres of land for the farmers.

Due to the grave rains that ravaged in August 2019, total of (23,911) acres of paddy fields and (200) acres of sugarcane cultivation have been destroyed. Flood hit farmers have been distributed with (13,611) baskets of paddy seed.

For the greater good of the local farmers, the non-functioning “Thaton Sarr Chaung Small Creek” in Thaton Township has been revamped and repaired for irrigation in the areas. About (80,000) acres would be able to supply with irrigation water soon. The irrigation drainage for water

supply is being dug for (24) miles stretch from “Belin River” in Belin Township to “Yay River” in Paung Township.

**Q: Please tell us on power supply to for developing social life of the people.**

**A:** With the Mon State Government budget, connection of power lines have been made such as that of (11) KV power supply line for (86) miles; that of (400) volt for (29) miles; that of 11 / 0 point 4 KV capacity power substation (138) units; that of the replacement power supply lines with (33) KV for (5) miles; that of (11) KV capacity power supply lines for (22) miles; that of (400) volts power supply lines for (33) miles.

These power supply lines have distributed to (30) villages with (4,523) households with electricity. Spending the Union Budget, (34) villages with (5,825) households would be able to enjoy electricity in a near future in Paung Township.

Moreover, (11) villages with (1,333) households would be able to enjoy electricity in Thaton Township. Similarly, (24) villages with (4,841) households in Kyaikmaraw Township would have the electricity soon.

During 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, (833) villages are already enjoying electricity, and that 2019 – 2020 financial year is expected to bring electricity to a total of (909) villages. In other words, the electricity is coming to additional (76) villages in a near future.

**Q: Please explain on the**

**education sector.**

**A:** With the objectives to achieve the planned targets such as that of enrolling and taking in all school going age children for the development of basic education; that of all students to have access to basic education; that of the equality and impartiality between the urban education and the rural education; and that the Mon State Government has upgraded (92) basic education state schools in addition to establishing of (4) Matriculation Examination centers.

Furthermore, implementation are being made such as that of the construction of (149) school buildings; that of the expansion of university lecture halls, hostels for faculty members, dormitory for students, dining halls for students.

Most importantly, a new college on tourism is under construction in Mon State.

**Q: Please tell us over the healthcare sector.**

**A:** Constructions and repair works are in progress such as that of (12) buildings for rural healthcare centers, sub-rural healthcare branches, and staff housing; that of (14) buildings for staff housing at sub-rural healthcare branches; that of major repair at the main hall of Women and Children Hospital in Mawlamyine; that of the building extensions at Kyaikmaraw Township Hospital, Chaungzon Muyit Kalay Station Hospital, Theinzayat Kyauk Nyat Station Hospital in Kyaikhto Township.

**Q: Kindly explain rural road development tasks.**

**A:** Spending the Union Budget, the road construction and road repair works are being carried out with concrete road pavement, the asphalt road pavement, the covering of asphalt layer, the paving of gravel roads, covering (8) miles and (4) furlongs, including (4) concrete bridges.

By using the Mon State Government fund, the tasks such as the concrete road surface, the asphalt road surface, the putting of asphalt layers, the gravel road surface, the paving of rock road, the paving of earth road for (74) miles and (7) furlongs.



New housing for families who lost their homes in a landslide occurred at the Ma Latt Hill near Thae Phyu Kone Village, Paung Township, Mon State.

**SEE PAGE-11**

## Fourth-Year Performances of Mon State Government

FROM PAGE-10

Moreover, (17) concrete bridges and (7) box culverts have been constructed. Essential roads for the rural people as well as the rural access roads to reach towns have been under construction as pilot projects.

Such rural access roads are in progress with (26) miles in Thanbyu Zayat Township and in Thaton District with (360) feet “Kyone Haw Rama Seik” concrete bridge en route “Phyu ba – Tae Kone Road”.

With the budget allocation of Mon State Budget, implementation are in progress such as the constructions of roads in Kyaikmaraw Township, roads in Thaton Township, roads in Kyaikhto Township, roads in Mawlamyine Town, roads in Ye Township, including concrete roads and culvert bridges.

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) has been undertaking projects such as that of the erection of retaining walls along the strand road in Belin Township; the erection of retaining walls in the prevention of river bank erosion of Sittoung River near the Sittoung Bridge in Kyaikhto Township; another retaining wall to prevent Sittang River erosion en route “Met Kha Maw – Kha Ywaie Motor Road” near U Thila Hillock in

Kyaikhto Township.

**Q: Kindly explain on the urban and rural areas beautification programs.**

**A:** Beautification and decoration tasks are being undertaken by Mon State Development Committee in (10) townships through the works such as that of paving nylon asphalt roads, the paving of new roads, the paving of concrete roads, the laying of concrete on the roads, the paving of hard rock roads, total stretching (75) miles and (4) furlongs.

Moreover, (176) concrete bridges and two water pipe culvert bridges have been constructed.

During this year, the water pumping and water distribution system is under way from Attaran River in Mawlamyine Township. It is a large project to distribute water to (14) wards / villages with (342) million gallons of drinking water each day. The project is expected to complete in September 2020.

**Q: Please tell us on the prevention of natural disaster.**

**A:** With regards to natural disaster prevention tasks, works are in progress from October 2019 to January 2020. The awareness raising talks, knowledge imparting lectures and multipliers courses of youth volunteers on disaster reduction



Sabel Gu (Attaran River Crossing Bridge) under construction on Kyaikmaraw-Sabel Gu-Koupanaw Road in Mon State.



The Buddha Image made of bamboo strips located in Myathabeik foothill in Thaton, Mon State.

management have been conducted in Mon State.

From April 2019 to April 2020, food-stuff distribution have been made for the population being hit by flood as well as ravaged by cyclone.

Road repair and bridge repair works, and the school repair work are being carried out including the repair of office building. Moreover, the people at Sittang Village being hit from heavy flooding are provided with land plots and new dwellings.

In Ye Township, the irrigation and drainage are being dug in Han Gan Village and a cyclone shelter is constructed at the cost of MMK (1,295) million.

In Paung Township, the rehabilitation and recovery fund MMK (2,360) million have been handed over to the villagers at Thae Phyu Gone Village Track and Ye Pyar Kone Village where Ma Lat Mountain eroded and inflicted heavy damage and loss to the villagers.

**Q: Please tell us other development tasks.**

**A:** With the funding of the Mon State Government, the regional development plans are in progress in many places in Mon State.

In cooperation and collaboration among the various District / Township

Departments, the rural development tasks are in progress as follows.

Such as that of (2) projects in Mawlamyine Township; that of (5) projects in Chaungzon Township; that of (1) project in Kyikemaraw Township; that of (4) projects in Mudon Township; that of (2) projects in Thanphyuzayat Township; that of (3) projects in Ye Township; that of (4) projects in Kyaikhto Township; that of (3) projects in Belin Township; that of (3) projects in Thaton Township; that of (1) project in Paung Township; totaling (28) projects.

In this connection, total of (80,000) bags of cement were assisted to the people for the construction of rural roads.

In conclusion, Mon State Government has been working on (3) main core development projects such as that of Attaran River Water Pumping Project; that of digging irrigation drainage on “Sarr Chaung Small Creek” in Thaton Township; and that of “Kyaikmaraw – Sabai Gu Bridge” project in full swing for the greater good of the people.

*Translated by UMT (Ahlon)*

### Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

EACH of us has the responsibility to prevent, contain and respond to COVID-19 and to adhere to directives and regulations issued.

As COVID-19 draws on, there are worries about health, employment, financial issues, separated from family, discrimination, and other mental pressures. As the public works hard to overcome these mental hurdles, adhering to directives and regulations should not be viewed as additional mental pressure but the adherence to them should serve to make the public more resilient. They will aid in solving socioeconomic issues as well. —Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

### Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

YOU are not the only one under pressure from COVID-19, but all of society is and that fact can help to build compassion among the public.

Compassion can reduce hatred between individuals and accept issues for resolving together.

Anxiety can be reduced by this method and everyone should try hard to face and overcome COVID-19 issues.—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

# Netanyahu lashes out at 'ludicrous' graft charges as trial begins

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived at a Jerusalem court Sunday for the start of his long-delayed corruption trial, rejecting the "ludicrous" charges against him and declaring he was facing the hearing "with my head held high."

The veteran premier, who has just forged a unity government after over a year of political turmoil, now faces the next challenge — being the country's

first premier to face criminal charges while in office.

Flanked by ministers and bodyguards, Netanyahu addressed reporters before entering the Jerusalem District Court where he was to face charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

He condemned the "fabricated and ludicrous" allegations and declared: "I'm here with a straight back and my head held high."

The longest-serving

prime minister in Israeli history has long claimed to be the victim of a witch-hunt and again suggested the charges were trumped up to stop him continuing in office.

"When you need to take me down, a strong prime minister from the right, everything is possible," he said.

Netanyahu also requested "for everything to be broadcast live and uncensored so that the public will know".—AFP ■



Israeli supporters hold flags and a poster depicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alongside French officer Alfred Dreyfus, who had been unjustly convicted of treason in 1895, during a rally outside the district court of Jerusalem. PHOTO: AFP

# China 'open' to international effort to identify virus source: FM

BEIJING — China is "open" to international cooperation to identify the source of the novel coronavirus, but any investigation must be led by the World Health Organization and "free of political interference", China's foreign minister said Sunday.

Wang Yi blasted what he called efforts by US pol-

iticians to "fabricate rumours" about the origins of the virus and "stigmatise China".

The United States and Australia have called in recent weeks for an investigation into the source of the pandemic.

Both US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

have accused China of a lack of transparency over the issue, and repeatedly pushed the theory that the virus leaked from a Chinese maximum-security laboratory.

Most scientists believe the virus jumped from animals to humans, possibly from a market selling exotic animals for meat in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

"China is open to working with the international scientific community to look into the source of the virus," Wang said at a press conference on the sidelines of China's annual parliament session.

"At the same time, we believe that this should be professional, fair and constructive," he added.—AFP ■



Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi has said Beijing is open to international cooperation to identify the source of the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

# Greece dismisses reports Turkey occupied border strip

ATHENS — Greece on Sunday dismissed reports that Turkish soldiers had occupied a strip of Greek territory in the Evros border region, where Athens is expanding a fence to keep migrants out.

Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said allegations, picked up by the British press, that Turkish troops had occupied a

patch of land that is normally submerged at this time of year on Greece's side of the border were "utterly false".

Dendias acknowledged, in an interview with Skai TV, that "a presence of Turkish forces has been observed in a strip of land where some preparatory works had been made by the Greek army" after

Athens would not give Turkey the coordinates of its fence expansion in Evros in advance. But Greece had asked Turkey "not to make any other move in the area", he said.

The Greek defence ministry had already on Saturday said that "at no time Greek soil has been occupied by foreign forces".—AFP ■

# Iranian fuel shipment reaches Venezuelan waters

CARACAS — The first of five tankers carrying much-needed Iranian fuel and oil products entered Venezuelan waters on Saturday, a Venezuelan government official said. "The ships of the sister Islamic Republic of Iran are in our exclusive economic

zone," Venezuelan oil minister Tareck El Aissami wrote on Twitter after the arrival of the first tanker, named Fortune. The fleet is carrying about 1.5 million barrels of gasoline according to media reports, and arrives amid tensions between Tehran and Wash-

ington, which has imposed sanctions on Venezuelan oil exports and Iran.

Venezuela had said its navy and air force would escort the tankers after Tehran warned of "consequences" if the US stopped the ships from reaching their destination.—AFP ■

### Tender Notice

Spectrum invites bids from businesses to supply Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and associated cooking equipment to households in Waing Maw IDP Camps from July to December 2020. The call for bids will be closed 12:00 mid-day on 8 June 2020. For full information on this tender and bid form, please go to <https://www.spectrumsdkn.org/en/news/332-tender-supply>

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (659 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (659 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1137W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1137W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
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# N. Korea's Kim hosts military meeting to boost nuclear deterrence



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hosts a military meeting of the ruling Workers' Party to discuss new policies aimed at boosting the country's nuclear deterrence. **PHOTO: KYODO**

BEIJING — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hosted a military meeting of the ruling Workers' Party to discuss new policies aimed at boosting the country's nuclear deterrence, state-run media reported Sunday.

As denuclearization talks with the United States remain locked in a standstill over sanctions relief, North Korea may

step up its development of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, foreign affairs experts say.

Late last year, Kim pledged to unveil a "new strategic weapon" to be possessed by North Korea "in the near future."

The military meeting, which appears to have taken place on Saturday,

was the first gathering of its kind since December.

The Sunday edition of the Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of the ruling party, ran on its front page photos showing Kim in attendance at the event.

The Korean Central News Agency said the meeting "discussed important military steps and organizational and

political measures to further bolster up the overall armed forces" of North Korea.

It marks his first appearance in state-run media since May 2, when the news agency reported his attendance at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a newly opened fertilizer factory in Suncheon, near Pyongyang, the previous day.—Kyodo ■

## Indian state seeks more time to open airports as COVID-19 cases rise

MUMBAI — India's western state of Maharashtra has sought more time to open up the airports from the country's federal government as the novel coronavirus cases continue to surge in the state.

Addressing the citizens of the most in-

dustrialised state of the country with Mumbai as its political capital, Maharashtra, Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray said, "I understand the need for opening up air travel, but we need more time to prepare."

—Xinhua ■

## Wuhan lab had three live bat coronaviruses: Chinese state media

WUHAN — The Chinese virology institute at the centre of US allegations it may have been the source of the COVID-19 pandemic has three live strains of bat coronavirus on-site, but none match the new global contagion, its director has said.

Scientists think COVID-19 — which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and has killed more than 340,000 people worldwide — originated in bats and could have been transmitted to people via another mammal.

But the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology told state broadcaster CGTN that claims made by US President Donald Trump and others the virus could have leaked from the facility were "pure fabrication".

In the interview filmed on May 13 but broadcast Saturday night, Wang Yani said the centre has "isolated and obtained some coronaviruses from bats".

"Now we have three strains of live viruses... But their highest similarity to

SARS-CoV-2 only reaches 79.8 percent," she said, referring to the coronavirus strain that causes COVID-19.

One of their research teams, led by Professor Shi Zhengli, has been researching bat coronaviruses since 2004 and focused

on the "source tracing of SARS", the strain behind another virus outbreak nearly two decades ago.

"We know that the whole genome of SARS-CoV-2 is only 80 percent similar to that of SARS. It's an obvious difference," she said.—AFP ■



The director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology told a Chinese state broadcaster that the lab has three live strains of bat coronavirus on-site, but that claims the coronavirus could have leaked from the facility were 'pure fabrication'. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Japan to fully lift coronavirus emergency in Tokyo area, Hokkaido

TOKYO — Japan plans to fully lift the state of emergency in the Tokyo metropolitan area and Hokkaido on Monday, a minister said Sunday, given a decline in the number of new coronavirus cases and

improved medical systems.

Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama and Hokkaido were the last remaining areas under the measure among the country's 47 prefectures. —Kyodo ■

### Notice of passing special resolution for reduction of share capital by Coffee Concepts (Myanmar) Limited (the "Company")

Notice is hereby given as required by Section 116 (i) of the Myanmar Companies Law that the Company incorporated in Myanmar with Certificate of Incorporation No. 105504551 and having its registered office at Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar had passed a special resolution for reduction of share capital of the Company ("Special Resolution").

The summary details of the reduction of share capital ("Capital Reduction") are as follows:

- (1) Capital Reduction is selective reduction.
- (2) Share capital of US\$350,000 previously paid up by MX Caterers (Asia) Pte. Ltd. will be cancelled and returned to MX Caterers (Asia) Pte. Ltd. in cash.

### INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER No.2/2020

(1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender in the United State Dollars.

(a) Cathode Copper (7000)M/T (26) Lot			
Group (1)	(1)Lot 100 Tonnes each,	5 Lot	Monywa, Mine Site
Group (2)	(1)Lot 200 Tonnes each,	10 Lot	
Group (3)	(1)Lot 300 Tonnes each,	5 Lot	
Group (4)	(1)Lot 500 Tonnes each,	6 Lot	

Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses ) shall be winning tender.

- (b) Smelter Slag (60000) M/T
  - (1) Lot (10000) Tonnes each, 6 Lot Namtu Mine Site, Namtu
- (c) Mill Tailing (7000) Tonnes 1 Lot Namtu Mine Site, Namtu
- (d) Antimony Ore 3 Ton Taungoo Township
- (e) Lead Ore and other mixed 7.35 Ton Mandalay Branch, Mandalay Township
- (f) Petrified Wood Fossil & Quartz 3.835 Ton Mandalay Branch/ Lashio Branch
- (g) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.757 Ton Myeik Township, Mining (2) Store

(2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 ( 14:00 )hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.

(3) Tender document are available from Nay Pyi Taw, Office Building No.(19), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, the Procurement Department and Details can be asked to +95-(0)67- 3409162 within the office hours.

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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The photo shows the beauty of wide view of Pindaya seen from Shwe Oo Min Pagoda.

# Pindaya, the lovely Danu's City (1)

By Thiha, the Traveller  
@ Thiha Lulin

If a trip is taken to the south of Shan State (South), firstly Kalaw, Inlay and Taunggyi are thought of visiting and much time is usually given to go there, but Pindaya is near in position en route to these worth-visiting places, however the travellers to the south of Shan State must not miss it. The travellers make a half day trip to Ywangan and Pindaya while visiting Kalaw, but of course Pindaya has many sights to keep the visitors occupied. It is a worth-visiting town spending at least one night stopover.

The author previously did not have an idea to have one day stopover in Pindaya because he did not think it has many sights to view. Once the author has seen hidden beauties in Pindaya, it dawns upon

him that it is a worth-visiting site.

Pindaya, land of Danu

In Shan dialect, Pintaya is pronounced as Pindaya which means wide-ranging plain, some says far-reaching plain full of *Bauhinia acuminata* (a kind of Swedaw flower) and some differently says Pindaya came from Pintkuya since the spider was defeated in the legend. Pindaya is adjacent to Yaksawk in the north, to Ywangan in the west and Pwayhla in the south. There is a difficult access to water in Kalaw, but Pindaya has an easy access to water. Pindaya is known as the central region of the south of Shan State and it was one of 16 central regions in the time of ancient kings. The author had ever read that Pindaya is the vacant land between

Shan and Myanmar. In 1741 Pindaya was originally situated and it is a town with 3,000 feet above sea level.

Pindaya's history is unclear, but the stories of seven female nats, the spider and Konmabaya prince are very famous and talked about a lot by local people in this region. The spider is used as a tourism promotion logo especially making a trip to this region. In Konbaung era, Ngwe Khun Hmu ruled Pindaya and relatives succeeded in.

Danu Self-Administered Zone is home to most Danu people and PaO, Taungyoe, Manaw, Shan, Myanmar, Intha and Palaung are residing there as well.

Climate

Pindaya is a little hotter than Kalaw and Aungban.

How to get to Pindaya

Pindaya doesn't have a direct highway bus line, but it can be reached Yaksawk highway bus. In the past there was 2+1 but now 2+2. Lonvine highway bus can reach directly to Yaksawk. If a flight is taken, there is a drive from Heho airport.

Worth-visiting places around Pindaya

There are not many places of visit inside the town, but small villages outside the town are nice to visit where local people are very friendly and delicate. It is not busy and noisy and its traffic is not heavy. Local people are helpful to each other.

Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda

While in Pindaya, not to be

missed is Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda. It is situated on a high hill where the visitors can overlook an impressive view of the whole town. The author mentioned that if I say about the cave first before about the pagoda, this Shwe Oo Min cave naturally exists in lime stone. It is estimated to be 200 million years old.

The research showed that images of Buddha were found on 10 January in 1773 which guessed these were from the time of King Singu. The cave entrance was narrow in the past, but area of the cave entrance was enlarged in 1924. The pagoda was built there and from that time onward, number of Buddha images has been increasing and now there is no space left inside the cave because of the con-

struction and it is a sign of sorrow. As soon as the visitors go up the cave, they can pay homage to the 75-foot high pagoda. If they go in according to road sign to the cave, they will have to pay obeisance to different shapes of Buddha images. At last the cave entrance becomes quite narrow. The entrance of the cave to the other end of the north is 490 feet long. This pilgrimage visit is especially good for the nature-lovers. The good sites the pilgrims to Shwe Oo Min Pagoda taking photos are the statues of seven female nats, the spider and Konmabaya prince at the bottom of the hill.

Many shops and the car park located at the bottom of the hill of Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda look very lovely. The dealings of the shopkeepers are very attractive to the customers and local products and traditional costumes are available there and these are return home gifts.

Pindaya Tabaung Festival (Pindaya Pagoda Festival) is held on the 6th Waxing of Tabaung every year. On such occasion, culture, dance and lifestyles of Danu ethnic can be observed. Those coming to the pagoda festival by bullock-carts spent many nights in the open fields near Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda previously. These scenes are very much liked by the photographers.

Age-old banyan trees

While in Pindaya, don't miss to take photograph near age-old banyan tree in front of Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda. This kind of banyan tree can be seen in most parts of Pindaya, but this location look very impressive. Parts of a tree that grows out from the main stem look as beautiful as a painting. The author visited Pindaya by bicycle. Some visitors had the photo taken riding horses there. The visitors can hire the hors-

es. Local products such as fruit, vegetables and snacks are available. The author strangely noticed that some elderly persons thought to be Chinese travellers were found among the stems of the banyan tree standing and concentrating.

Pon Taloke Lake (Poke Taloke Lake)

Pon Taloke Lake located in the downtown adds the attractiveness to the beauty of the town and beside it there is a banyan tree which is also a good place to take photographs and provide shade as well.

Pindaya Market

Once the author arrived in Pindaya market, he had to spot the day of the market with a teeming crowd. To be honest, he liked the market day of Kalaw more than that of Pindaya.

Pindaya Hawnan (Manor of Shan chief)

There is Hawnan in Pindaya. It is learnt that Shan chief of former times are still residing at Hawnan until now. The author missed visiting to Hawnan during the visit.

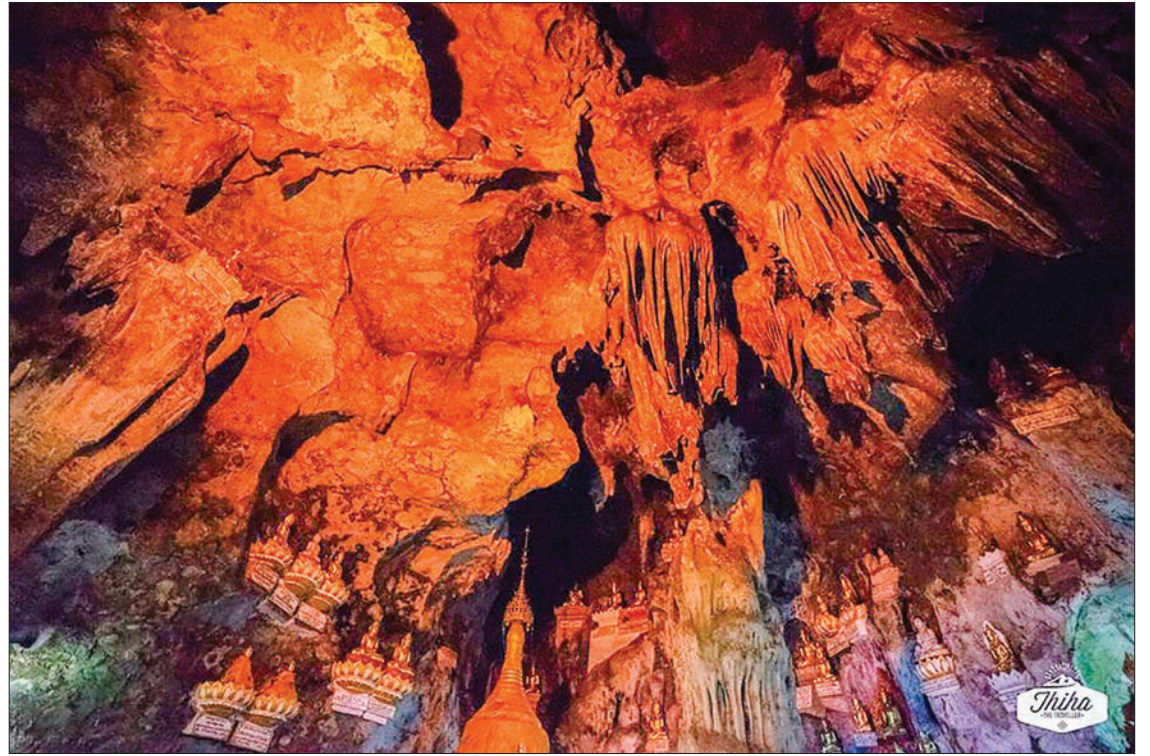
Pinseinpin and Hsekya-in villages

Pinseinpin and Hsekya-in in Pindaya were recognized as the villages of the community-based tourism in early September in 2018. Local people from these villages welcome the visitors and provide them with the services of accommodation and food. They arrange for trekking to the forest, visits to places of interest and observation of traditions of Danu ethnic. The visitors can enjoy Danu's group dance, the dance of self-defence art with stick and drum in the evening.

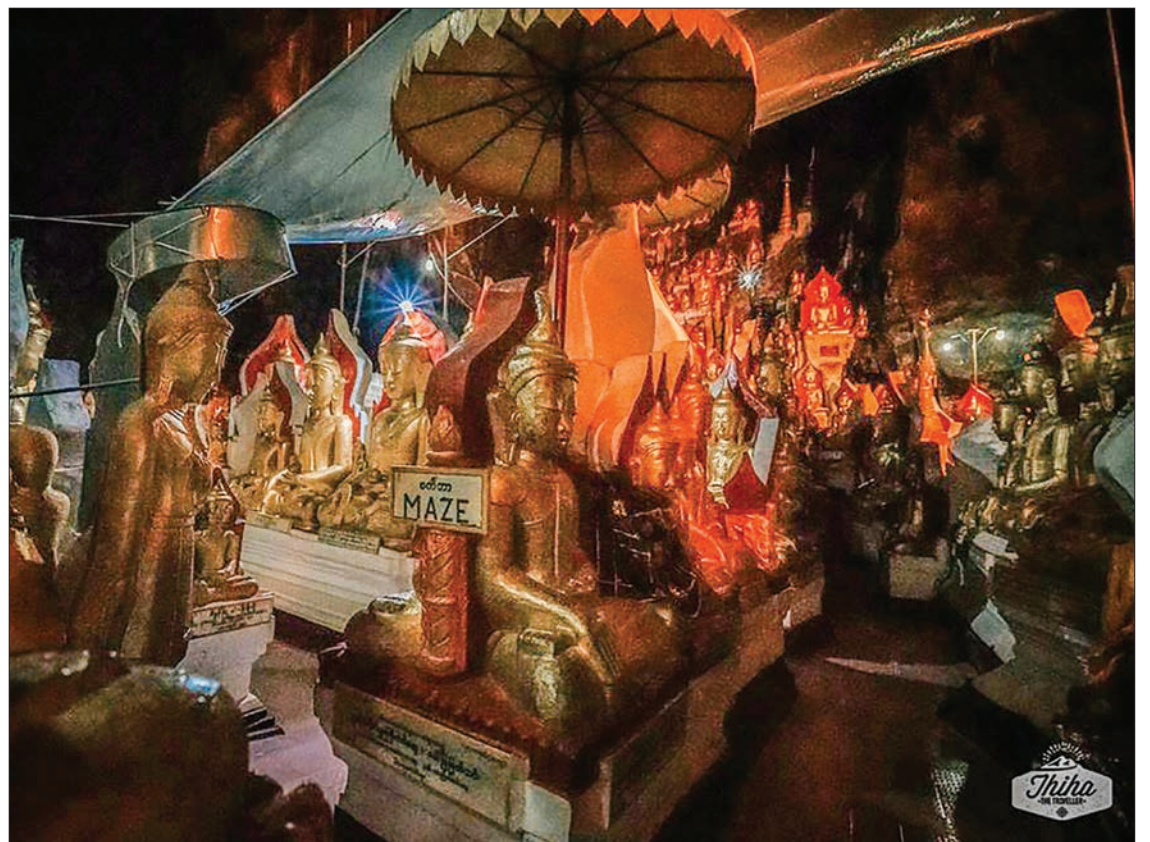
(Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay))



The photo shows gifts shops at the bottom of the Shwe Oo Min Pagoda.



The photo shows a moment to take a look at the ceiling of the cave.



The photo shows the maze in Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda.



The photo shows the statue of describing commemorative legendary story of Pindaya Cave or Shwe Oo Min Pagoda.

## Phone Myint Kyaw to play Chu Bing Jie on 31 May

MYANMAR'S pool star Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ko Ar Ti will play against Chinese player Chu Bing Jie on 31 May as a seventh and last match of the first round of the 8 Battle Chinese Pool Super Match 2020 Tournament, being held in Chao Yang, China.

The match will be a point collection match for Phone Myint Kyaw as he had already advanced to the second round after six straight wins in the China 8-ball pool tournament with a win over Wu Yeng by 21-19 on 16 May.

All six wins make Myanmar's pool star to be the very first player to advance in the second round of the tourney bagging full 37,800 points.

Currently, Phone Myint Kyaw is standing in the first place with no loss record and possessing 126 sub-matches wins out of six games. Top three players will directly advance to the second round while fourth and fifth positioned players will fight for a play-off for their hope of next stage.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's pool star Phone Myint Kyaw competing in a previous match of 8 Battle Chinese Pool Super Match 2020 Tournament. **PHOTO: KO AR TI'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

## La Liga can resume week of June 8 - Spanish Prime Minister

MADRID— Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced on Saturday that La Liga can resume from its coronavirus lockdown in the week of June 8.

"The resumption of major professional sporting competitions and in particular La Liga will be allowed from the week of June 8," Sanchez told a press conference.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has said the preferred date for games to resume is Friday, June 12 and Sanchez's announcement means that plan has been given the green light from the government.

"We are very happy with the decision. It is the result of the great work of clubs, players, coaches," wrote Tebas on Twitter.

"But it is very important to follow the health protocol and respect the trajectory of

the pandemic. We cannot lower our guard."

More than two months after the COVID-19 pandemic halted the season in Spain, players have begun training in small groups as they aim to be as ready as possible for the planned reboot next month.

Barcelona sit top of the table, two points ahead of Real Madrid.

Clubs have 11 games left to play to finish the season, with the proposed final round to be completed by the end of July.

The Andalusian derby between Real Betis and Sevilla is likely to be the first game back.

A compressed calendar would mean teams playing matches both in midweek and at weekends while fixtures will be held behind closed doors, with only 197 people allowed to attend, according to a protocol prepared by La Liga.—AFP

## Bundesliga player ignores COVID-19 protocols to hug 'life-saver' manager



Hug a hero: Dimitrij Nazarov. **PHOTO: AFP/THOMAS KIENZLE**

BERLIN — Bundesliga second division footballer Dimitrij Nazarov said he ignored coronavirus health protocols to embrace his team manager, who he said "saved our lives" following a road accident en route to their game at the weekend.

The 30-year-old Azerbaijan midfielder, who plays for Erzgebirge Aue, hugged Thomas Romeyke, who also doubles as the team's bus driver, after

scoring the winner in Friday's 1-0 victory at Nuremberg.

"I hope that the DFL (German Football League) will turn a blind eye. I know that none of this is allowed and hope that they show some humanity," Nazarov told broadcaster MDR on Saturday.

Nazarov wanted to thank Romeyke for his quick-thinking at the wheel on the way to Nuremberg.

Romeyke kept his cool when the team bus was hit by flying vehicle parts from an accident on the motorway and managed to emergency brake safely.

"He just saved our lives. Who knows what would have happened if he hadn't reacted so quickly? That's why the goal celebrations went to him," said Nazarov.

The Aue players were uninjured following the scare, but the driver and passenger in the other vehicle which crashed were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The top two leagues in Germany restarted last weekend after a two-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 virus.

According to the DFL's strict hygiene guidelines, players are discouraged from making contact during goal celebrations.

However, the league has already said there will not be sanctions for those who forget the protocol.—AFP

## Premier League says two more people test positive for coronavirus

LONDON — England's Premier League on Saturday said that two more individuals from two different clubs have tested positive for coronavirus, just three weeks from a proposed restart of the season.

In all, 996 players and club staff were tested over three days last week for COVID-19.

"Of these, two have tested positive from two clubs," said

an EPL statement.

"Players or club staff who have tested positive will now self-isolate for a period of seven days."

In previous tests on May 17 and 18, a total of 748 individuals were tested with six testing positive from three clubs.

"The six ... are still within their seven-day self-isolation period" and did not feature in

the recent round of testing.

"The Premier League is providing this aggregated information for the purposes of competition integrity and transparency," said the statement.

"No specific details as to clubs or individuals will be provided by the League and results will be made public after each round of testing."—AFP



Lionel Messi and Barcelona have been given permission to restart La Liga next month. **PHOTO: AFP**