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## VP U Myint Swe presides over coord meeting to prepare for 73<sup>rd</sup> Martyr's Day



Vice President U Myint Swe discusses organizing of 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Martyr's Day on 19 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

**V**ICE President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the patron of the central committee for organizing the 73rd Anniversary Martyrs' Day, chaired its second coordination meeting at the Yangon Region government yesterday.

The Vice President discussed the works of the central committee, work committee, security committee and seven sub-committees which implemented their tasks in accordance with the 26 decisions made in the first coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein led the

work committee meeting on 15 June and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko chaired his central committee meeting on 17 June.

The Vice President reminded the meeting attendees to follow preventive and control measures of COVID-19 in organizing the Martyr's Day event this year, especially spraying disinfectants at the event places, medical tests of staff members who will perform duties there and arrangements for social distancing in line with the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports.

The events which will be organized this year include lay-

ing of wreaths at the Martyr's Mausoleum in Yangon, national flag raising and salute in the compound of the Secretariat (former Office of the Ministers) and offering meals to members of the Sangha at Zabuthiri Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council Office and the Yangon City Hall, dedicated to the fallen martyrs on 19 July.

However, public access to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum building on Natmauk Street in Yangon, meeting room where the martyrs were assassinated at the Secretariat and the parliamentary meeting hall will not be allowed this year.

Arrangements will be made for the family members of late

national leaders and the attendees to stay in their vehicles before their turn for paying respects in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Vice President continued to give instructions and comments about traffic control on rehearsal days and the main event, protocol guidelines for the Union ministries and diplomats, awareness programmes on TV channels, newspapers, radios and IEC materials, and only limited numbers to assign duty for rehearsal at the flag-raising and salute ceremony in the Secretariat.

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### 23 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 19 June, total figure reaches 286

Updated at 8 pm, 19 June 2020



Recovery Update on 19 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 19 June 2020



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## VP U Myint Swe presides over coord meeting ...

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He also discussed healthcare measures to be taken at the ceremonies to offer "soon" (day meal) to Sanghas at the Zabuthiri Hall

in Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon City Hall and security plans for the events.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko made suggestions for

coordination in management, security and healthcare matters.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presented social distancing plans at the

events.

The heads of work committee also discussed coordination among the committees.

The Vice President then

gave comments and advice to ensure coordination and inspected preparations for the event at the Martyr's Mausoleum.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## MoI holds meeting on production of voter awareness TV programmes

The Ministry of Information held a meeting on production of voter awareness TV programmes yesterday for the 2020 General Election.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, department heads and other officials.

MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing first explained broadcasting of election awareness programmes starting from 17 June, and plans to air election songs and films in early July.

Samples of the TV spots, songs and information programmes were then played.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung briefed on



Union Information Minister Dr Pe Myint looks at presentation of the 2020 General Election voter awareness programme on 19 June. PHOTO: MNA

cooperation with the Union Election Commission in the production of these programmes.

The Union Minister and the Deputy Minister then instructed to follow guidelines of social

distancing in the productions of programmes and to make programmes attractive with useful

information about 2020 General Election.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## National Skill Standard Authority launches trial web portal

The web portal of the National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA), www.nsa.gov.mm, had a trial version launched at its

focal ministry, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended

by the Union Minister, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, directors-general, and other officials.

During the meeting, the Director-General of the Department of Labour said the NSSA web portal was assisted by GIZ and Information Matrix Co. Ltd and began in January 2019 and the Director of the Skills Development Sub-department explained the various stages of the design and system construction of the web portal.

Next, Union Minister U Thein Swe said the NSSA web portal can provide information in real time to all stakeholders in raising the skills of the Myanmar workforce. He said it is difficult to achieve long-term sustainability depending on the government's budget and expressed his desire to link with

training schools.

The Union Minister said they must make the NSSA web portal to become a networking system that for the changing future work and need to connect it to the national server. He called for suggestions on improvement after the trial launch and thanked GIZ and Information Matrix Co. Ltd.

The NSSA web portal will provide information on job opportunities, vocational training courses, job skill expertise reviews and certificates of skill acknowledgments. The authenticity of national skill certificates can also be checked online.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population launches web portal of the National Skill Standard Authority on 19 June. PHOTO: MNA

## MoHA, MoD, MoHS to hold press conferences on 22 June

THE Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Sports will hold joint press conferences on their fourth-year performances at the Office No.7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 22 June.—MNA

## Total COVID-19 figure reaches 286 after maximum 23 positive cases in single day on 19 June

THE Ministry of Health and Sports reported the maximum number of 23 COVID-19 confirmed cases of the country in a single day on 19 June, bringing the total number of people tested positive to 286.

Among 23 newly infected persons, 19

persons are the returnees from Thailand and 4 from Malaysia.

Out of the 286 positive cases, six patients have died, 192 have recovered, and 177 were discharged from respective hospitals.—MNA



## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the High-Level Videoconference on Belt and Road International Cooperation



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the High-Level Videoconference on Belt and Road International Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19.

PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the High-Level Videoconference on Belt and Road International Cooperation on Combatting COVID-19 at 6:30 pm on 18 June 2020 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, and was attended by the Foreign Ministers and other Ministers concerned from 26 Partner Countries of Belt and Road Cooperation, the Director-General of World Health Organization, and the Administration of the United Nations

Development Programme.

At the meeting, the Ministers shared their national efforts in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed matters on cooperation by extending mutual support, sharing timely and necessary information, upgrading the capacity of public health system, promoting joint scientific research and international dialogues among health professionals and providing assistance to countries in need in the fight against the pandemic.

The Ministers also exchanged views on the importance of enhancing cooperation among BRI countries in such areas as

digital economy, health care industry, food security, and exploration of new sources of growth to mitigate the global economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19. They also encouraged business friendly policies, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and vulnerable economic sectors. They also emphasized the importance of promoting economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects. They also stressed that deepening Belt and Road Cooperation would contribute to socio-economic development, poverty alleviation and economic recovery.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin informed the meeting that Myanmar had so far been able to keep the COVID-19 under control, attributing to the "Whole-of-Nation" approach taken by the government by mobilizing the strength of people and support of the partners in its efforts for prevention and containment of the COVID-19. He also stressed that adhering to the principle of "Leaving no one behind", Myanmar's response to the COVID-19 covers the whole strata of society including IDPs, EAOs and people with disabilities. He also explained Myanmar's endeavours to mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic including the

adoption of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

Union Minister also encouraged BRI participating countries to foster cooperation by setting up an arrangement to provide necessary medical equipment and supplies to the countries in need in responding to the pandemic. He also stressed the importance of keeping supply chains and ensuring smooth cross-border movement of food commodities and essential medical equipment and supplies through closer macroeconomic policy coordination, ensuring the smooth flow of cross-border bilateral trade with China. He also emphasized the need to work together to move forward BRI projects in accordance with the respective national development plan and policies, early implementation of foreign investment projects and promotion of trade to enhance economic growth, socio-economic development and creation of job opportunities, despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic.

The joint Statement of the High-Level Videoconference on Belt and Road International Cooperation "Combatting the COVID-19 with Solidarity" was issued at the meeting. Also present at the Videoconference were the Permanent Secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

## Farmers to get COVID-19 relief loans of K50,000 per acre

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank-MADB under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will provide farmers nationwide the loan of K 50,000 per acre from the Special COVID-19 Relief Loan, according to U Min Thu, MADB's Managing Director.

The COVID-19 relief loan, which totally amounts to K600 billion nationwide, will be given to farmers starting from 22 June.

In addition to the monsoon loan that farmers get K150,000 per acre, the relief loan was provided by the government to farmers amid COVID-19.

"The loan is given to help farmers for their losses in agricultural sec-

tor, boost agricultural production, and increase the speed of cash flow among the public. Its interest rate, which is the same rate of current agricultural loan, is 5 per cent," U Min Thu said.

Farmers in all regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will get the relief loan for their total 12 million acres of farms.

All farmers across the country who fully paid their previous loans are eligible for the relief loan. Each farmer can borrow the loan for up to 10 acres of their farms.

The bank already provided K362 billion of winter loan and K18 billion of monsoon loans, is currently

granting K1,471 billion of monsoon loan, and will provide K600 million of one-year COVID-19 relief loan.

In addition to the MADB's loans, JICA loans that each farmers get up to K50 million were also provided to farmers for purchasing agricultural machineries, he said.

He adds that a total of 5,000 farmers were already given the loans of K200 billion with up to 40-year loan term. It is very beneficial for farmers in the long term.

U Zaw San Htay, a farmer from Salin Township, said, "We get winter loan, monsoon loan and COVID loan as agricultural loans. Getting this additional relief loan is very helpful

for us." Markets have been closed since COVID-19 outbreak, and crops are not sold yet. Even though some shops and markets are now open, the prices of the crops are not good.

Farms were prepared to cultivate monsoon pad-

dy and sesames. Money is needed to prepare the farms.

"If we borrow money from others, the interest rate is high; the government's COVID-19 relief loan, whose interest is low, is very helpful for our farm-

ers," he added.

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank will provide the COVID-19 relief loans to farmers through its 57 banks and 151 branches.—Myo Min Naing (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A staff member of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank giving out loan to a farmer. PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN



# MoFA, MoIC, UAGO, UCSB brief on 4<sup>th</sup>-year performances

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Union Attorney-General Office and the Union Civil Service Board organized their press briefings on their 4<sup>th</sup>-year performances yesterday.

Union Civil Service Board U Saw Valentine, the member of Union Civil Service Board, explained appointment, promotion, transfers, training, setting rules and principles for the officers. In the 4<sup>th</sup>-year of this administration, the UCSB elected 1,370 officers for ministries and organizations, section process of 227 vacant position and 1,303 assistant health officers.

The USCB conducted psycho tests in helping the ministries and organizations, promotion into gazette officers, transfers of officers from the Ministry of Defence to the civil departments, and management courses for all the levels of officers.

In their 4th year of the present government, the USCB could generate 18,273 trainee officers, and issued the Civil Service Personnel System on 4 October 2019 for the improvement of the State administrative machinery and the consistency of the functions of service personnel. It also managed to amend 7 articles in the Union Civil Service Board Law.

The UCSB will issue a report of the public opinion on the State service personnel which was collected from 2,520 households in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states under the directives of Union Government Office.

Leadership development scheme for advanced civil service management report has been issued in Myanmar and English languages.

The USCB also reviewed civil service ethics and produced

updated versions after submitting them to the President's Office, introduced the Online Application System (OAS), posting the activities on the www.ucsb.gov.mm and Facebook page Union Civil Service Board Myanmar, and creating Mobile App for application of officer positions.

The e-library system has set up at the two central civil service institutes, with preparations for conducting the courses in blended e-learning system, reciprocal evaluations among the trainees, learning management system, tests, other ICT courses.

The USCB has planned to implement the e-Recruitment and integrated Civil Service System in 2019-2020 financial year and to conduct training courses online during the COVID-19 threats.

From reform programmes, the USCB has expected the results of improvement of government's administration mechanism, generating civil service employees who can perform their duties continuously in organizing manners, strengthening their leadership role with progressive attitudes through learnings, trainings and methods, and for improvement of transparency among civil service members.

Regarding the media questions, U Khin Maung Win, the Permanent Secretary of USCB, answered the 97,443 officers and 920,385 other ranks, excluding the members of Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force, are in civil service duties across the country, and 2,532 personnel left out of the duties.

Member of USCB U Saw Valentine and Permanent Secretary U Khin Maung Win then answered to the media questions, including appointment of permanent staff, advisors at the



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation explain their performances during the 4th-year term of present administration on 19 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

ministries and the new edition of civil service ethics.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation

Permanent Secretary U Soe Han from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained the 4<sup>th</sup>-year performances of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation on international relations and cooperation in promoting the interests of country and people in the international arena, and the works of ministries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in practising an Independent and Active Foreign Policy.

The President made three state foreign visits: the first one is to Viet Nam from 10 to 14 May 2019 for working visit and the United Nations Day of Vesak, the second one is to India from 30 to 31 May 2019 for swearing-in of an Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi and the third visit is official visit to India invited by its President from 26 to 29 February 2020.

Meanwhile, the State Counsellor made eight overseas visits to China from 25 to 27 April 2019 for the Second Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Summit, to Cambodia from 27 to 28 April 2019 at the invitation of its prime minister, from 1 to 4 June 2019 to the Czech Republic, from 5 to 7 June 2019 to Hungary, to Thailand from 20 to 23 June 2019 for attending the 34th ASEAN Summit, from 20 to 24 October 2019 to Japan for coronation of Japanese King, from 31 October to 4 November 2019 to Thailand for attending the 35th ASEAN Summit and from 25 to 17 November 2019 to attend the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Summit and ROK-Mekong Summit.

Vice President U Myint Swe visited China from 18 to 22 September 2019 to attend the 16th China-ASEAN Expo.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited Indonesia from 19 to 21 October 2019 to attend swearing-in of its president, to Cambodia from 18 to 21 November 2019 to attend the 2nd Asia-Pacific Summit and to Korea from 3 to 5 February 2020 to attend the World Peace Summit.

Foreign leaders also made official visits to Myanmar—ROK President Moon Jae-in and wife from 3 to 5 September 2019, Nepali President Bidya Devi from 16 to 20 October 2019, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc from 16 to 18 November 2019, Chinese President Xi Jinping from 17 and 18 January 2020 in the year of 70th anniversary diplomatic relations between the two countries as the first Chinese president to Myanmar after 20 years of his predecessor Jiang Zemin, the Vice President Seychelles, the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, the Dep-

uty Prime Minister of Viet Nam and the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia.

During the President's friendly visit to India, the MoU and 10 agreements were signed.

During the visit of State Counsellor to China, the five-years development plan for economy and trade cooperation, the four-agreements for cooperation in economy and technologies.

Myanmar and Nepal signed two agreements, and Myanmar and ROK signed cooperation agreement, MoU and 33 letters.

Diplomatic relations were extended to the Republic of Benin and the Togolese Republic in 2019, making foreign ties with 193 countries out of 123.

The two ministries are also working for finalizing demarcation of borders with the five neighbouring countries such as Thailand, India, China, Laos and Bangladesh.

Consular services of these ministries earned K34 billion (US\$22.26 million) during the 4th year of the present administration.

The MoFA arranged relief and repatriation flights to bring back a total of 4,587 Myanmar nationals stranded abroad due to outbreak of COVID-19 up to 18 June 2020.

Opportunities for capacity building of 11,740 civil service staff were created between 2016 and 2020 under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

The \$6.7 million from Mekong-Lancang Special Fund (2020) for 22 projects of 10 government ministries was received and an agreement was reached with the member countries for establishing the Mekong-ROK Biodiversity Centre in Myanmar.

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The Union Civil Service Board holds a press briefing on 4th-year performances 19 June. **PHOTO: MNA**



## MoFA, MoIC, UAGO, UCSB brief on 4<sup>th</sup>-year ...

FROM PAGE-4

The Independent Commission of Enquiry was formed in 2018, with the Chairperson of Philippine Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo and the commission presented its final report to the President on 20 January 2020.

The works of ministries could prevent international pressures at UN Security Council until now.

Myanmar managed to face against the Gambia's accusation of Crime of Genocide at the International Court of Justice.

The State Counsellor attended hearings on provisional measures at the ICJ from 10 to 12 December 2019.

The MoFA also contributed its diplomatic efforts to name Bagan as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in June 2019.

The ministry also worked for health insurances of diplomatic staff in 29 offices.

In responding to the media questions, Permanent Secretary U Soe Han said that Myanmar missions abroad are helping its nationals, either legal or illegal, in the respective countries, their return to home during COVID-19, delay of reparation for 3,000 Myanmar nationals who are servicing prison terms due to breaching immigration laws of respective countries, while priority is being given to other people facing more difficulties, problems of Myanmar citizens in Malaysia during the COVID-19, the ministry's implementations of provisional measures of ICJ and preparation for the second report to be submitted in November during the period of General Election, directives to the respective embassies for the return of undocumented Myanmar nationals, request of budget at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for legal dispute at ICJ, charges for lawyer services, inviting former Myanmar citizens for the services in the development of the country and practices in diplomatic ethics.

### Union Attorney-General Office

The Union Attorney-General Office explained their fourth-year performances at the press conference.

Permanent Secretary Dr Thida Oo said the Legal Review and Advice Department has reviewed 178 legal bills and drafts of government orders,



The Union Attorney-General Office holds press briefing on 4th-year performances 19 June. PHOTO: MNA

notifications and directives and 437 regulations, and translated 38 enacted laws and bylaws and 26 regulations and government orders from Myanmar to English in the 4th year.

The Legal Advice Department reviewed, advised on, and published 952 matters related to international and ASEAN laws, 1,267 matters related to business contracts signed between government departments and domestic and foreign private companies, and 654 general legal advice.

The Prosecution and Legal Vetting Department has completed 508 criminal appeals, 25 special criminal appeals, 909 criminal case preparations, verification of 38 capital punishments, 11 general criminal cases submitted, and 35 special general criminal cases submitted. The department accepted 39 writs on behalf of the Union Government while the OUAG gave legal advice for 238 criminal cases before filing charges.

The Administrative Department has opened 4 training courses for legal officers, organized 65 workshops with domestic and foreign organizations, published 2nd issue of the 11th volume of the 2018 law and bylaw documents legal journal, letters for legal offices, issues 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of translated legal books, the Bar Council Act, books on bylaws and regulations for electing high court lawyers and distributing them to the OUAG and its branches across the states and regions.

The Union Government formed the Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Coordinating Body in February 2017 with the Union Attorney-General as Chairman and the Deputy At-

torney-General and the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs as vice-chairmen.

The group disseminates legal information and access to justice for everyone while receiving 731 reports on justice in the two years since its formation. They published the Justice for the Public Strategic Plan (2019-2023) in January 2019 and organized 34 seminars.

The Bar Council held 3 work meetings in the fourth year and reviewed 1,115 applications for high court lawyers and sent them with remarks to the Supreme Court of the Union.

The Bar Council also issues smart cards for high court lawyers and the law amending the Bar Council Act was enacted in June 2019 while the bylaw for electing the Bar Council and regulations for electing in the Bar Council has been enacted. According to Bylaw Section 4-(a), the Bar Council election will be held on 2 August 2020 with 15 members, of which 11 will be elected high court lawyers.

The Legal Translation Commission was established with Order No.16/2016 by the President's Office and reformed with Order No.31/2017. The Union Attorney-General serves as Chairman of the Legal Translation Commission that has 12 members. The commission has translated 24 of 81 laws from English to Myanmar and have published up to volume 7 of legal books.

The Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body submitted the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) to the President on 20 January 2020. The President's Office announced on 21 January

to continue criminal investigation related to Rakhine State and to press charges if sufficient evidence was found, as instructed to the OUAG.

The President's Office formed the Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body with the Union Attorney-General as Chairman and with ten members on 24 January to fulfill these tasks. The group consists of deputy ministers from relevant departments, Deputy Judge Advocate-General, directors-general, and the deputy chief of Myanmar Police Force. This group has called four meetings and submitted its report on the work they have done from 24 to 30 January 2020 to the President's Office on 1 May 2020.

The Special Unit on International Criminal Justice was formed with the President's Order on 25 November 2019 to investigate the allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine State. The special unit consists of representatives from the Union Attorney-General Office, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ASEAN Law Association (ALA) was formed in February 1979 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Myanmar became a member in 2012 while formed the ALA Myanmar in July 2013. The committee was renewed on 25 April 2019 with Order No.71/2019 with the Union Attorney-General as Chairman and with 9 members. The committee's first meeting was held on 30 May 2019. Senior officials from the OUAG soon attended the ALA meetings as representatives of Myanmar annually.

The www.mlis.gov.mm web-

site was successfully launched on 24 May 2018 with assistance from KOICA and has a resource of over 9100 legal information, including laws and conventions, that are updated regularly. The Code of Ethics for Law Officers was published to increase public trust in the OUAG and its branches and has been included as a separate subject in training courses.

The dossier management and document management system was implemented with help from USAID and 8 pilot legal offices have been opened to ensure case efficiency and authenticity. The Special Prosecution Unit was formed with the Director-General of the Prosecution and Legislative Vetting Department and 24 legal officials and held 7 workshops in collaboration with the US Department of Justice.

Next, Permanent Secretary Dr Thida Oo replied to a question from the media on the current activities of the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice and the OUAG's handling of assistance and advisory opinions related to the matter of the International Court of Justice.

Dr Thida Oo said as they need more experience on international criminal justice, the special unit compiles research papers and advisory opinions. She said the OUAG has lead the formation to implement the ICOE report and has formed task forces and advises them on strategy. She said the special unit compiled research papers for the ICJ matter as well.

Dr Thida Oo said they have formed executive committees and working committees at various levels for the ICJ with OUAG members in those committees. She said they implement provisional measures such as writing reports, translating, suggesting on improvements. She said the OUAG translates, issues directives related to preventing hate-speech, adhering to the Genocide Convention, and preventing destruction of evidence.

The press conference on the fourth-year performances of the Union Government will continue will the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Health and Sports on 22 June.—Han Myo Su, Kay Tar

(Translated by Aung Khin, Zaw Htet Oo)



## Female artists organize online arts show for State Counsellor's birthday

SEVENTY-FIVE female artists across the country organized a virtual arts exhibition to mark the 75th birthday of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from the National Museum in Yangon yesterday.

The online arts show titled "75 for 75th" has displayed a total of 75 portrait paintings of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

On behalf of the 75 Myanmar women artists, artist Daw Khin May Kyi said, "In last year's arts exhibition, we female artists decided to exhibit 75 portrait paintings of State Counsellor in her 75th birthday this year."

She adds that we 75 female artists made 75 portraits of Mother Suu. All of us love Mother Suu. We imposed no limitations to draw the portraits of Mother Suu. From elderly to younger artists, we all are different ages.

"Artists U LunGywe and U Hla Tin Tun gave commands that this is a



The painting showing State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greeting with a Kachin ethnic woman. **PHOTO: YI YI MYINT**

remarkable show that will promote women's role, and advised us to organize the event at the National Museum." she added.

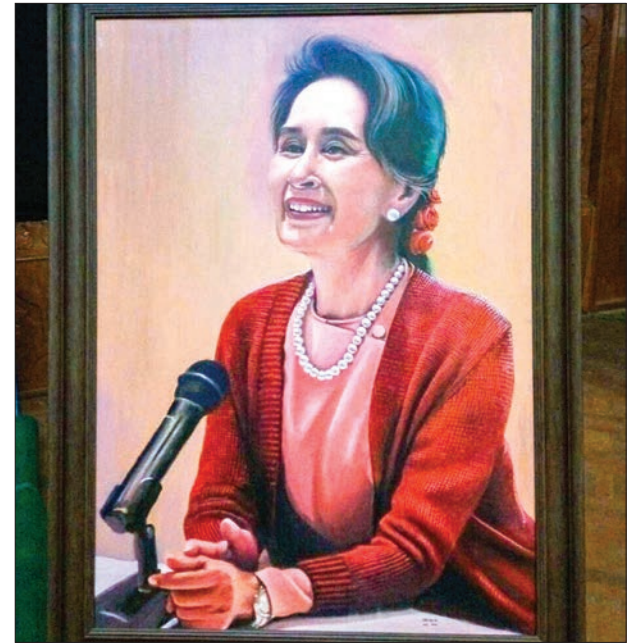
Due to COVID-19, the arts show was changed online, and it became the first online arts exhibition. In addition to the Mother Suu's portrait paintings, a

statue of Mother Suu is also included, she added.

The portraits were painted in watercolor and oils and with acrylic, pencil/colour pencil, charcoal powder, mixed medium, and pastel. Daw Nan Lol Ngin, Director of the National Museum (Yangon), said, "The event was pre-

viously planned to take place from 19 and 23 June at the National Museum (Yangon)."

After the Ministry of Health and Sports had issued guidelines on COVID-19 to avoid crowds and abide by social distancing measures, the arts exhibition went online, she said.



The painting showing State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivering her speech. **PHOTO: YI YI MYINT**

She adds that due to holding the exhibition online, people in every parts of Myanmar can join the event. It also became the first online arts exhibition at the National Museum (Yangon). We have to make more efforts, as it is an online event, she added.

The "75 for 75th" on-

line arts exhibition can be viewed at the National Museum (Yangon)'s social media page <https://www.facebook.com/national-museumyangon/>, and its website <https://www.nationalmuseumyangon.gov.mm/>.—Yi Yi Myint ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## SWRR Ministry, Rakhine govt discuss closure of Kyauktalone IDP camp



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holding the virtual meeting to discuss closure of Kyauktalone Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Kyaukpuy, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held an online meeting with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state cabinet members regarding the closure of Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukpuy Township yesterday.

The Union Minister first said the National Strategy on Resettlement Programmes and Closure of IDP Camps has been approved and closure of IDP camps in Rakhine State are under way. He said they prioritize creating jobs for self-reliance, access to education and healthcare, social coexistence and sus-

tainable development.

The Union Minister said it is important for the closure of Kyauktalone IDP camp to be done systematically in line with the strategic plan and to adhere to existing laws, bylaws and regulations. He said as it is a region prone to natural disasters, there should be preventive measures in place when planning resettlement. He said the IDPs and the world always need to know the truth of the current development plans in progress.

Next, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said the local residents, IDPs and the rest of the world need to know

the true situations and processes in the field so that fake and superficial news are not spread. He said this necessitates regular contact and discussions.

The meeting then commenced with discussions on the use of technology in preparing for natural disasters, details of cooperation between the government and the private sector in the development programmes, and other matters.

The Union Minister delivered the closing speech afterwards and concluded the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Script selected for international film co-production

A script of Director Aung Phyo named "Thit Thee Khue" was selected for international film co-production by Switzerland's Locarno Open Door Hub and Italy's Ties That Bind Workshop in the second week of June.

The script won award

in Memory Script Fund in 2017 and also won award in Autumn Meeting held in Viet Nam in 2018.

His script had already discussed with international script experts in FLY Film Lab 2019 held in Republic of Korea, Luang-Prabang Talent Lab 2019

held in Laos and Southeast Asia Film Lab 2019 held in Singapore.

Director of Wathann Film Festival Ko Theikdhi said, "Director Aung Phyo studied film producer education from India and he is being acted as a creative producer. His film named

"Pyar Yaung Nyo Yaung Mine Talae Lae" was officially selected for Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland.

Ko Theikdhi continued that Director Aung Phyo's script named "Thit Thee Khue" has already selected for international film

co-production and agreement has been reached for co-production of the script with co-producers from Czech Republic and France.

The script will be produced in 2021 and will be shown not only locally but also internationally, said

Ko Theikdhi. As Myanmar Film Industry is celebrating its 100 years, I hope the movies can reach on new path in collaboration with international co-producers, stressed Ko Theikdhi.—KyawSwar (FDC) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



## H&T Minister, Korean Ambassador discuss COVID impacts on tourism industry



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism discusses with ROK Ambassador about impacts of COVID-19 on tourism sector and relief plans on 19 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung held a videoconference with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar from his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, discussing the impacts of COVID-19 on tourism sector and relief plans.

The meeting discussed the ministry's implementation of COVID-19 tourism relief plan, destinations for restarting local tourism businesses, businesses that are related to hotels and tourism industry, and preparation for reopening with COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

After COVID safe services are provided in accordance with Standard Operating Producer (SOP), local and foreign visitors will be invited step by step.

To revitalize tourism indus-

try, ASEAN and Asian nations will establish bilateral travel bubbles step by step. The Union Minister and the Korean Ambassador also discussed signing MoU for promoting tourism between Myanmar and South Korea to mark 45th anniversary of establishment of Myanmar-Korea diplomatic relations. As Myanmar is included in the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam), they also discussed preparing travel bubbles for 2021 Mekong-ROK Exchange Year.

The ministry is planning for opening tourism refresher courses and skills upgrading courses by paying daily-wages, therefore, the assistance from KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) were discussed.—MNA  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## 45<sup>th</sup> GMS Tourism Working Group convenes videoconference

THE Tourism Working Group of the Greater Mekong Subregion held its 45th meeting on videoconference on 18 June afternoon.

Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the this ministry chaired the meeting which was attended by tourism authorities of the six GMS member countries China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as Director Mr Alfredo Perdiguero

from the Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division of Asia Development Bank, Unit Head Mr Steven Schipani from the Project Administration Department, Executive Director Mr Jens Thraenhardt from the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office and the invited participants.

The meeting discussed challenges of GMS member countries amid COVID-19 pandemic, appropriate work plans

for recovery of tourism industry in post COVID-19, implementation and amendment of the GMS Tourism Marketing Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020, activities of Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office to promote tourism sector in the region, meetings of the TWG, cooperation in tourism among GMS countries and partner organizations and future recovery plan for this industry.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## ACC opens corruption cases on 4 Yangon officials

UPON investigation, the Anti-Corruption Commission discovered that Police Captain Aung Zaw Moe who previously served in the Pabedan Township Police State, Yangon Region, solicited K600,000 from a man named U Myint Oo for procuring documents related to a case titled (Pa)151/2018. The ACC has charged him with Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

The ACC also discovered that Deputy Director Daw Ni Ni Win of the department of writs received a total of K5,700,000 in seven installments for arranging legal advice concerning two cases titled (Pa)141/2018 and (Pa)151/2018. The ACC has charged her with Section 57 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

The ACC has also discovered that U Nyan Tun Tun, Chairman

of Yangon Youth Sanctuary Administration, and treasurer U Myint Oo had given bribes to Pol-Capt Aung Zaw Moe and Daw Ni Ni Win, thereby encouraging corruption. The ACC has charged the two men with Section 63 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

The ACC has opened cases in relevant police states and is continuing legal action.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Myanmar citizens from Thailand, Malaysia brought back home by relief flights

A total of 217 Myanmar citizens – 80 from Thailand and 137 from Malaysia – were repatriated by relief flights yesterday.

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) carrying a total of 80 Myanmar nationals stranded in Thailand landed at the Yangon International Airport in the late evening.

A total of 137 Myanmar working in Imperial Garments Sdn Bhd and Pen Apparel Sdn Bhd also arrived back at the Yangon International Airport at 2:30 pm yesterday by a special flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) arranged by the company.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided the re-

turnees proper medical examination and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

A relief flight of Qatar Airways carrying some 250 Myanmar nationals and seamen stranded in London will also land in Myanmar today (20 June).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with the guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded in other countries due to COVID-19.

A total of 4,183 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home until now. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar nationals arrive at Yangon International Airport by a relief flight on 19 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

### Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

People can face anxiety during COVID-19 and remember not to resolve things with anger, not act out of impulse, avoid alcohol and drug abuse, search for solutions together with family members and close friends, perform physical activities according to weather and health situation, eat nutritional foods, get enough sleep to resolve mental pressure.

Everyone can put these suggestions into practice to prevent their mental health from become fatigued and boost willpower. — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)



# Support to fisheries sector amidst COVID-19 should not be delayed

**T**HE government is planning to provide financial support to the fisheries sector, which is facing the economic challenges caused by COVID-19.

Fishermen and aquaculture farmers have suffered from decrease in fishing price and suspension of export amidst COVID-19 while fishing suffer from lack of bait, ice, and gear

proposal to the government to provide loans to sea fishing and aquaculture sectors including cold storage factories to help tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak so as to recover quickly during the post COVID-19 period.

Needless to say, farmers of all sorts play an integral role in ensuring food security and in earning foreign currency for our country. Therefore, in the short-term, they must be given all necessary assistance promptly. We suggest that assistance including SME loans for the fish farmers should not be delayed.

Our country has the largest fishery resources in Asean, but productivity is the lowest. Vietnam produces around US\$10 billion [14 trillion kyats] worth of marine products [annually]. But, our production is worth just \$720 million [1 trillion kyats].

In our fishing industry, we now have many factories that meet European Union norms.

While our understanding of the implications of the pandemic is still incomplete, there is a need to look at the international market. We should also seek ways to effectively support the export sector, which can recover quickly and will bring quick wins in our country's economic recovery.

As the fisheries sector plays a vital role in food and livelihood security, we emphasize the need for rapid mobilization by all parties in support of the fisheries sector.

Short-term responses must be swift and targeted to the most vulnerable. In the longer-term, there is a need to develop a coordinated response and support network to transform existing institutions, supply chains, and food systems in ways that improve conditions and resilience of the fisheries sector.

As the fisheries sector plays a vital role in food and livelihood security, we emphasize the need for rapid mobilization by all parties in support of the fisheries sector.

and limited transportation services.

Removing the barriers for the farmers is extremely important and the authorities need to intervene in order to guarantee the continuity of fish production and survival of the fish farming communities.

Under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, the government is planning to distribute fingerlings worth K40,000 to each acre of fish pond across the country, and the aid will reach about 150,000 acres of fish farms.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has submitted a

## The initial results from the RECOVERY trial in the UK World Health Organization welcomes dexamethasone results



Dexamethasone, a commonly-used steroid, can help critically-ill COVID-19 patients, according to a new study (AFP PHOTO/JUSTIN TALLIS)

**T**HE World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the positive results of dexamethasone in treating the novel coronavirus, while warning that the drug should not be used on mild cases or for prevention purposes.

At a virtual press briefing on Wednesday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus congratulated the initial results from the RECOVERY trial in the UK, which shows that dexamethasone, a common steroid, has had a beneficial effect on patients severely ill with COVID-19, reports Xinhua news agency.

For patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about one third, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about one fifth, according

to preliminary findings received by WHO.

"This is very welcome news for those patients with severe illness," said Tedros, adding: "However, dexamethasone was shown to not have a beneficial effect for those with milder disease, who did not need respiratory support."

Echoing the warning of the WHO director-general, Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Program, highlighted that dexamethasone, as a "very powerful anti-inflammatory drug", must be used under medical supervision.

"In fact, steroids — particularly powerful steroids — can be associated with viral replication. In other words, they can actually facilitate the division and replication of viruses in human bodies," said Ryan.

"It is not a treatment for the virus itself. It is not a prevention for the virus," he said, adding: "It's exceptionally important in this case that this drug is reserved for use in severely ill."

According to Ryan, the findings from the UK, though significant, were "still just preliminary data from one study", and the WHO needs to see the final data before updating the clinical guidance and supporting countries to access and utilizing the drug in the most appropriate way possible.

Meanwhile, South African pharmaceutical giant Aspen Pharmacare has said that it is ready to scale up production of a generic anti-inflammatory drug that could help save the lives of critically ill coronavirus patients.

SOURCE: Xinhua/AFP

## Let's create a new environment beyond COVID-19

By Khin Maung Myint

**B**YOND COVID-19 the world will not be the same. There will be many changes; hopefully for the better. The pandemic has affected every aspect or facet of life on the Earth, especially the ways of life or the life styles of everyone in one way or the other. Many a writer from across the world had written and are still writing about how this pandemic could affect the world. In the beginning most opinions were centered on the health, economics, education, social, politics, diplomatic protocol and some, the impact on the environment.

At that time, I had jumped onto the band wagon and wrote a few articles to spotlight how the COVID-19 can affect. In those pieces, I had touched very lightly on the impacts it could have on the environment. In the present one that matter will be dealt a bit more indepthly.

Only a few days into the "stay home" period in our country, the first thing noticeable was the air quality. During my morning walks, I felt a strange feeling that I have never experienced in Yangon before. At first I didn't take notice or rather, I didn't relate that strange feeling to the change in the air quality. Then, it was realized the air was very fresh and clean due to lesser or absence of particulate matters. The surrounding vista looked clear, bright and pristine under the clear blue skies, a view not seen before, as far as I could remember. It was the first time in decades that I ever noticed the air

quality in Yangon had improved so much.

Another thing I noticed was, there were lesser or no plastic wastes around like before. I deduced that it meant there would be less plastic wastes entering the rivers and streams and hence there would be lesser plastics ending up in the oceans and seas. As the plastic are polluting the oceans and seas, with lesser plastic wastes, the oceans would definitely become cleaner.

These facts were pointed out in one of my articles "Let's embrace the new normal way of life (3 June 20 GNLM)". A few days after that, a report in the international media mentioned that a distant snow covered peak in the Himalaya range becoming visible to the residents of Northern India for the first time in over 30 years. Thus, that phenomenon of improving air quality is happening not only here, but it's happening everywhere else. Then, there was another report of the canals in the City of Venice becoming very clear that one can see the bottom. Thus, it's not only the air quality that have improved, but also the seas and oceans too are becoming less polluted.

It is also learnt that large schools of mackerel and tuna fish are said to be spotted in the Gulf of Thailand. Before the pandemic these fishes were very scarce in that area due to overfishing by local fishing boats as well as by poachers from other countries. Also, the wildlife in the Khao Yai National Park in Central Thailand too are roaming freely during daylight hours, which they never did in the past. Large herds



Consumers are more frequently shopping online rather than in-store as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. PHOTO: AFP

of wild elephants, wild buffalos, wild cattle, wild boars, packs of wild dogs, hordes of monkeys and other various species are seen venturing into open spaces and along the motorways inside the park in broad daylight. These are indications that due to less human activities during the lockdown, the wildlife are reclaiming their rightful habitats that the humans had intruded.

There were many similar reports of the improvements in the environment, but just these few cases will suffice to highlight the effects of the lockdown on the environment. It's now quite certain and almost undeniable that the deterioration of the environment are caused by human activities. Hence the climate change, the result of these deteriorations, is undoubtedly man-made, a fact which the deniers of the climate

change don't want to accept.

Just barely a month or so with almost all commercial air traffics stopped, factories shut down, lesser motor vehicles on the roads, lesser trains and ships operating, the environment is significantly recovering at an unexpected rate. Our planet is recuperating fast. Thus if we can reduce the human activities that impact on the environment, we have much chance of controlling the worsening of the global warming, which is caused by the greenhouse effects caused by the presence of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere.

Another noticeable change was the reduction of the noise pollution, which too is a nuisance for us. With the traffics almost at standstill, absence of hawkers and the unbearable loudspeakers blaring at full volumes inside the

wards, and the reduction of ambient noises of human, the neighbourhood was calm and quiet.

COVID-19 had shown us that the climate change is controllable. If only the world citizens pay heed to it and continue to maintain that situation as during the lockdown after all these were over; the future of the Earth would be very bright. It would be a pleasant place for humans and the wildlife alike. However, it may not be easy to restrain people as we had done during the lockdown. Although that may be the case, if we can adapt to the "new normal" life styles that we had been exposed to, and continue observing them, it would contribute to certain extent to the environment.

During the lockdown, people had resorted to working from home, did shopping online, used video conferencing, utilized the

food delivery services that had flourished overnight and many other improvised ways of doing things without leaving the house. People should be encouraged to do their daily chores virtually as much as feasible, like they had done during the lockdown, with the aid of the computers and the Internet. It will contribute much to the well being of the planet Earth and its inhabitants. If we can continue preserving the newly acquired habits or culture and if people should spend more time at home and go out only when necessary or unavoidable, there will be lesser people out and about. Lesser people out and about means lesser traffic, lesser Carbon emission, lesser ambient noises and thus lesser pollutions - both the air and the noise.

It may sound somewhat over-optimistic. However, if we really care to safe our world from further destruction by the climate change, we should endeavour to control it by strictly following the regimens dictated by the "new normal" way of life. It wouldn't be very difficult if most of us get well adapted to the new life styles that the COVID-19 had imposed on us. What we need to do is to just take advantage of that situation and make the world a safe and pleasant place for every living thing - humans, animals, trees and plants. Let's create a new environment beyond COVID-19. The least we can do is stay home as much as possible, walk or ride a bicycle to get around instead of commuting by cars or taking the public transports.



The Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) on the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations for 2020 on Children and Armed Conflict Statement No. (6/2020)

The Report of the United Nations Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict for 2019, released pursuant to Security Council resolution 2427(2018), has delisted the Myanmar Tatmadaw for the recruitment and use of children, as a result of a continued significant decrease in recruitment, ongoing prosecutions and agreement to continue to trace and release cases identified in the previous years. In addition, the Secretary General welcomed the adoption by the Myanmar Government of the Child Rights Law which criminalizes the six grave violations against children, and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The disciplinary action taken against military personnel was also welcomed by the Secretary General. The delisting of the Myanmar Tatmadaw demonstrates the deserved recognition by the United Nations of its commitment and persistent efforts in addressing the issue of child soldier. However, the MNHRC notes that the report expresses certain concerns about a few further actions necessary to be taken to improve the protection of children.

As the United Nations will certainly continue to monitor the developments in the country in this regard, the MNHRC hopes that the firm commitment of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, as evidenced by the delisting, will lead to further efforts to sustain the existing measures and to take necessary measures to remain delisted and to be delisted from section A of Annex 1 of the report as well.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 19 June 2020

Myanmar Daily Weather Report  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Napyitaw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan (South and East), Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Weak to moderate monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



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## Monsoon paddy seeds provided free of charge in Hlegu tsp



Farmers seen monsoon paddy planting in the field in Hlegu Township.

**PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)**

ABOUT 15,000 baskets of monsoon paddy seeds were provided in Hlegu township, Yangon North District under Yangon re-

gional government's Rainbow project, according to the Township Agriculture Department.

To boost the yield of mon-

soon paddy in Hlegu township, about 15,000 baskets of monsoon paddy seeds were distributed to 6,484 farmers

from 53 village-tracts in Hlegu township.

A total of 529 bags of Hsinthuka monsoon paddy seeds were provided free of charge to 344 local farmers from Hlegu township, according to the Township Agriculture Department.

To prevent the declining yield of paddy because of the outbreak of coronavirus, monsoon paddy seeds were distributed to the local farmers from Hlegu township.

At present, the department is collecting data to have the correct acreage of paddy farmland, to provide sufficient water supply in paddy growing season, to ensure the good quality seeds of monsoon paddy and to apply proper paddy growing technology. —Thae Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Truck fares to China hike double in pandemic period

By Nyein Nyein

THE truck fares to China have hiked double in the coronavirus pandemic, said Chairman U Win Aung Khant of Muse Highway Freight Forwarders Association.

Although 12-wheel truck fares for Muse-Mandalay route cost only K700,000-950,000 before the outbreak of viral disease, the transport fares have risen to K1.8 million in this pandemic period. The charges of a 22-wheel truck for Muse-Mandalay route have increased up to K2.8 million from K1.3-1.4 million.

Similarly, a 12-wheel truck's transportation charges for Muse-Yangon route have in-

creased to K2.8 million from K1.2-1.4 million while the transport charges for a 22-wheel truck for Muse-Yangon route have risen to K3.8 million from K1.8-K2.1 million. With the double charges demanded by the trucks, the import sector is being faced with many difficulties, he said.

"When the truck charges are doubling, we are being faced with difficulty to hire the truck. When we could not import the cargos to Myanmar, the cargos are stored in Kyaigaung and Shweli warehouses. According to such a market condition, the price of the imported products is on the rise because of the high demand and low supply. So, we

are being faced with many difficulties," he added.

Besides, the lack of loading and unloading labourers in the transportation sector is also posing a big problem. Previously, labour charges cost only K4,000 per tonne. At present, the labour charges have increased up to K12,000 per tonne. The trucks are waiting for four or five days in warehouses for lack of freight handlers.

China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus since April with the truck having to wait in long queues in Muse and Kyalgaung because of the driver substitution poli-

cy. So, there has been a traffic delay resulting in unnecessary losses. China's demand for Myanmar products are dropping, he stressed.

To ease the traffic problem, the association has requested the authorities concerned to grant the normal entry permit to Myanmar drivers, extend the capacity of borders between the two countries and reduce inspection time in China and streamline the unnecessary red tapes from Myanmar side. The association also wants the governments of the two countries to negotiate the border trade effectively, according to the association.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Welfare associations' vehicles granted licence in Mandalay region

WITH the issuing of HSE (Health and Safety Executive, licence to the vehicles being used in the welfare associations in Mandalay region, more than 1,800 vehicles have already been granted the licence in Mandalay region, said Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min, the Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

These vehicles do not need to pay the road charges at the toll gates except Yangon-Mandalay highway, he added.

The minister was responding to a question raised by Dr Chit Ko Ko, the Pyigyitagon township constituency 1 Hlut-

taw representative, on the sixth day of the 18th regular session of regional Hluttaw held on 17 June. Dr Chit Ko Ko asked about having the licence and relaxation measures for issuance of the licence to the welfare associations and supporting arrangements like reducing of the road charges in Mandalay region.

The welfare associations are mostly the religious associations and they were formed to assist the public in such sectors as social, education and health. The public assistance helps the government to save the costs, said Dr Chit Ko Ko.

Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min said that we have already issued the HSE licence to the welfare associations across the country under the 2014 project. Before the project period, there were only 16 vehicles from five welfare associations registered with the regional government. Now, we have issued the HSE licences to 1,859 vehicles from 901 associations. When the associations applied for the licence from the regional government, the associations are issued with the temporary licence within seven days of applying date in according with the association

registration law. After that, the district and township registration team issues the certificates within thirty days. The regional registration team issues the certificates within sixty days to the associations which abide by the rules and regulations.

At present, a total of 127 licences have been reportedly issued by the regional registration team while 128 licences have been issued by the district registration team and 746 licences are by the township registration team. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



## 23 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 19 June, total figure reaches 286

FROM PAGE-1

23 new cases of COVID-19 on 19 June 2020: Updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
264	42	Male	Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hpa-anTownship)
265	38	Male	Kawkareik Township, Kayin State	No	Yes, Thailand	People's Hospital, Hpa-an	Positive	
266	20	Male	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region		Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	
267	27	Male	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	
268	37	Male	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	
269	31	Male	Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	
270	22	Male	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital,	Positive	
271	18	Female	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
272	26	Male	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
273	22	Male	Ye Township, Mon State	No	Yes, Malaysia	People's Hospital, Mawlamynie		
274	46	Male	Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State	No	Yes, Thailand	People's Hospital, Mawlamynie	Positive	
275	29	Male	Chaungzon Township, Mon State	No	Yes, Malaysia	People's Hospital, Mawlamynie	Positive	
276	33	Male	Thaton Township, Mon State	No	Yes, Thailand	People's Hospital, Mawlamynie	Positive	
277	29	Male	Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
278	24	Female	Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
279	27	Female	Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
280	30	Female	Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Malaysia	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
281	31	Female	Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
282	22	Male	Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Malaysia	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
283	33	Male	MraukU Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
284	16	Male	Hlegu Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
285	30	Male	Okpo Township, Bago Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
286	27	Male	Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region	No	Yes, Thailand	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	

Ministry of Health and Sports

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FLORA VOY. NO. (007N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FLORA VOY. NO. (007N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1122S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1122S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HOSEI CROWN VOY. NO. (EAL12)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HOSEI CROWN VOY. NO. (EAL12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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 EVEREST ASIA LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178



# Seed balls scattered for reforestation in Shan, Sagaing

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Defence scattered seed balls on wetland areas in Shan State and on former gold mines in Sagaing Region as a move for reforestation yesterday.

A total of 300,000 seed balls, which include 13 varieties of seeds, were thrown by using a helicopter in Inle's deforested areas in Nayungshwe Township, Taunggyi District in southern Shan State.

Shan State government's Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut and ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Deputy Commander of eastern Command Brigadier General Win Zaw Moe attended the aerial seeding event.

Some 100,000 seed balls were broadcast by a helicopter in nine deforested areas by mining in Homalin Township, Khandi District in Sagaing Region.



Forest Department's officials and military personnel carry seed balls bags onto the helicopter for scattering.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw representative, Aymotha Hluttaw representative and Region Hluttaw representative, Homalin Air Base's Acting Chief and officers, departmental officials, town elders, and Forest Department's

Director and officials were present at the event.

In addition to aerial seed scattering, other reforestation methods were also used to replant trees since the third week of 2020.

A total of 1,070,000 seed balls were sown by people in Chin State, Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw in the first week of June 2020.

—MNA  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

# Repatriation of 79 trafficked victims discussed in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR authorities held a meeting on repatriation of 79 trafficked victims who are now held at the centres of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand.

The meeting was held at Department of Rehabilitation in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 June, and attended by officials from General Administration Department, anti-trafficking in persons, immigration, UNICEF, IOM, World Vision and Save the Children. The repatriation programme will be carried out in line with the COVID-18 healthcare guidelines on 29 June through Myawady town, bordering with Mae Sot of Thailand.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

### Notice for change of distributor

We, **Dongguan Ruidefeng Biotechnology Co., Ltd.**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Htet Thiha Naing CO., LTD** to **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	MAR DAR	Chlorpyrifos 15% GR	Provisional	2015-2533

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

### Notice for change of distributor

We, **Fujian Sino-dashing Bio-Tech Co., Ltd.**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **MYANMAR WAI FUNG AGRICULTURE CO.,LTD** to **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Bacare	Kasugamycin 2% SL	Provisional	P2019-4708

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

### Notice for change of distributor

We, **Shaanxi Royal Cropscience Co., Ltd.**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **MYANMAR WAI FUNG AGRICULTURE CO., LTD** to **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Mighten	Difenoconazole 250 g/l EC	Provisional	P2019-4747

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

### Notice for change of distributor

We, **Guangdong Haode Crop Science Co.,Ltd.**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **MYANMAR WAI FUNG AGRICULTURE CO.,LTD** to **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	HD Choice	Atrazine 48% WP	Provisional	P2018-4422
2	HD Close	Pretilachlor 30% EC	Provisional	P2018-4423
3	HD Partner	Cyhalofop-butyl 100 g/l EC	Provisional	P2018-4424
4	HD Cover	Bensulfuron-Methyl 30% WP	Provisional	P2018-4425
5	HD Elite	Haloxypop-P-methyl 108 g/l EC	Provisional	P2018-4450

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No.177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

### Notice for change of distributor

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No	Trade Name	Active ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	BZ Sniper	Profenofos 500 g/l EC	Provisional	P2018-4434
2.	BZ Global Hawk	Cyromazine 75% SP	Provisional	P2018-4433
3.	BZ Invincible	Chlorothalonil 75% WP	Provisional	P2018-4388
4.	BZ Wall	Sulfur 50% SC	Provisional	P2018-4416

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

### Notice for change of distributor

We, **Shenzhen Noposion Agrochemicals Co., Ltd.**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Htet Thiha Naing Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Htet Mat Tin	Abamectin 5% EC	Full	F2019-1931
2	Htet Hexa	Hexaconazole 25% SC	Full	F2020-2732
3	Noposion Atra 38 SC	Atrazine 38% SC	Provisional	P2017-3925
4	Noposion Safon 250 SL	Fomesafen 250 g/l SL	Provisional	P2017-3927
5	Noposion Phosate 480 SL	Glyphosate 480 g/l SL	Provisional	P2017-3928

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09-696590664, 09-403723854

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# EU leaders launch talks on huge virus recovery plan

BRUSSELS — EU leaders launch fraught negotiations Friday on a major recovery fund to revive a European economy ravaged by the coronavirus outbreak, deeply divided on the way forward.

Europe faces its biggest recession in the bloc's 63-year history, and states are under pressure to look beyond their own borders and to find ways to lift the whole continent.

On the table at Friday's virtual summit is

a proposal from European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen for a 750 billion euro (\$840 billion) rescue fund that, if accepted, would mark a historic milestone for EU unity.

But opposition is fierce from countries known as the "frugal four" -- The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Austria -- who have promised to fight deep into the summer to rein in the spending.

"It is clear that we expect no essential agreements at this summit," said a government official in Germany, which takes over the EU's rotating presidency on July 1 and will drive the negotiations.

"We know about the difficulties. This will be a big piece of work," the official said. A French source called it a "warm-up round" that would "take the temperature" before leaders land a compromise in late July.

'Sending the bill'

Lined up against the frugals are EU countries such as Italy and Spain that were the first and hardest hit by the pandemic, and quickly asked for help from their better off partners.

Crippled with overstretched finances, these countries lack the ability to fight the recession with a wave of extra spending and are looking for a highly visible act of solidarity.

The commission's



The coronavirus crisis is pushing the EU to grapple with an old institutional problem -- the lack of joint borrowing to fund major projects for the bloc. PHOTO: AFP

plan is inspired by a German and French proposal in which EU money is raised on the financial markets to spend Europe-wide in the biggest slice of joint borrowing ever undertaken by the union.—AFP ■

## Nobel laureate Honjo sues Ono Pharmaceutical over patent royalties

TOKYO — Japanese Nobel laureate in medicine Tasuku Honjo on Friday filed a lawsuit against Ono

Pharmaceutical Co., seeking about 22.6 billion yen (\$211 million) in patent royalties from the company

that sells the cancer treatment drug Opdivo developed based on the discovery of his research team. The complaint, filed with the Osaka District Court, said Ono Pharmaceutical made a verbal proposal in 2014 to pay Honjo 40 percent of the patent royalties due from a U.S. drugmaker if he cooperated on a lawsuit between the two companies.

Honjo, a distinguished professor at Kyoto University and 2018 Nobel Prize winner, agreed to help the Japanese drugmaker, but the company broke

its promise and paid only 1 percent of the royalties after the two firms reached an out-of-court settlement, according to the complaint.

The royalties he is now seeking correspond to the difference between the 40 percent of the fees Ono Pharmaceutical earned from the U.S. drugmaker from 2017 to 2019 and the actual sum Honjo was paid.

The discovery of the protein PD-1 by Honjo and his team in 1992 later led to the development of Opdivo, a drug that triggers the immune system to attack cancer cells.—Kyodo ■



Nobel laureate Tasuku Honjo, deputy director general and distinguished professor at Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study, gives a lecture at the Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo 2019 on March 17, 2019, in Yokohama. PHOTO: KYODO

## Brazilian economic activity drops 9.73 pct in April

BRASILIA — Economic activity in Brazil registered a 9.73 per cent drop in April compared to March, marking the biggest decrease since records were kept in 2003, the Central Bank of Brazil said on Thursday.

According to the bank's economic activity index (IBC-Br), the seasonally adjusted figure for April reflects the impact the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on Latin America's biggest economy, which began to suffer the effects

of lockdown measures starting in mid-March. Compared to April 2019, the index fell 15.09 per cent with no seasonal adjustment made because the comparison is between two similar periods. In March, the first month to feel the pinch of anti-pandemic measures, the index slipped 6.16 per cent compared to February. In the first four-month period of 2020, the index shrank 4.15 per cent, and in the past 12 months ending in April, the index dipped 0.52 per cent.—Xinhua ■

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	RDF Dicozole 37 WG	Difenoconazole 37% WG	Provisional	2015-2531
2	RDF Fundione 255 SC	Iprodione 255 g/L SC	Provisional	2015-2532
3	RDF Better	Hexaconazole 5% ME	Provisional	P2018-4447
4	RDF Granary	Tricyclazole 75% WP	Provisional	P2019-4527
5	RDF Predator	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	Provisional	P2018-4266
6	RDF Hunter	Niclosamide 70% WP	Provisional	P2018-4441
7	RDF Roarer	Chlorfenapyr 100g/L SC	Provisional	P2018-4435
8	RDF Guard	Bifenthrin 100 g/L EC	Provisional	P2018-4460
9	RDF Skynet	Buprofezin 25% WP	Provisional	P2018-4438
10	RDF Assault	Deltamethrin 2.5% ME	Provisional	P2018-4437
11	RDF Witness	Cyromazine 50% SP	Provisional	P2018-4436
12	RDF Replacer	Bifenthrin 10% EW	Provisional	P2018-4459
13	Bluten	Copper Hydroxide 77% WP	Provisional	P2019-4745
14	Dowmar	Dimethomorph 80% WG	Provisional	P2019-4713

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 09-696590664, 09-403723854

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Noposion M-Mancozeb 58% WP	Mancozeb 48%+ Metalaxyl 10% WP	Full	F2019-1921
2	Noposion Paraquat 20% SL	Paraquat 20% SL	Full	F2019-1922
3	Noposion Imida 70% WG	Imidacloprid 70% WG	Full	F2019-1937
4	Noposion Acetamiprid 20% SP	Acetamiprid 20% SP	Full	F2019-1932
5	Noposion Abamectin 1.8% EC	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Provisional	2015-2729
6	Noposion Azoxystrobin	Azoxystrobin 25% WG	Provisional	2016-3098
7	Noposion Acetamiprid WG	Acetamiprid 70% WG	Provisional	2016-3096
8	Noposion Imida 600 SC	Imidacloprid 600g/L SC	Provisional	2016-3097
9	Linn Yone	Lambda-cyhalothrin 5% ME	Full	F2019-1920
10	Poe That Sayar	Emamectin Benzoate 5% ME	Full	F2019-1934
11	Shwe Yan Kinn	Emamectin Benzoate 0.6%+Lambda-cyhalothrin 2% ME	Provisional	P2018-1930
12	NPS Stronger	Sodium Nitrophenolate 1.8% SL	Provisional	P2018-4426
13	NPS Easy	Dichlorvos 90% SL	Provisional	P2018-4268
14	NPS Sweeper	Metaldehyde 6% GR	Provisional	P2018-4440
15	NPS Sentry	Deltamethrin 2.5% WP	Provisional	P2018-4267
16	Goobue	Zineb 65% WP	Provisional	P2019-4720
17	Boonove	Propineb 70% WP	Provisional	P2019-4711

Address: **Myanmar Woodpecker Agroscience Co., Ltd.** No. 177, Ka (3<sup>rd</sup> St), Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 09-696590664, 09-403723854

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May,  
09251022355, 09974424848



# Mekkhaya in the Myanmar history

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**M**EKKHAYA, an eminent, ancient city among various towns and villages across Myanmar, is located in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region. Singaing beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway is 413 miles from Yangon and 21 miles from Mandalay.

Stone age and Pyu era objects were found in Singaing Township, which is 15 miles from the east to the west and 13 miles from the south to the north. Ancient Mekkhaya City and guard cities took positions in Singaing Township.

## Mekkhaya area

The ancient city was built on Kyaukse plain at the confluence of Myitnge and Zawgyi rivers.

New Twinthin Myanmar History mentioned three brother kings arrested Bagan

King Kyawswa (1287-1298 AD) in 1298 AD. Eldest Yazathingyan reigned to Myinsaing City, younger Athinkhaya to Mekkhaya City and youngest Thihathu to Pinle City. Ancient Myinsaing City is located 19 miles south from ancient Inwa City in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region and ancient Pinle City, five miles southeast of Kume of Myittha Township. Mekkhaya City was established in 1304 AD.

## Mekkhaya in Bagan era

King Anawrahta of Bagan set up cities at different levels for recruiting soldiers ranging from ten to lakh numbers for defending the State. Moreover, 43 guard cities were established for checking entrance and exist of people as well as for levying tax over commodities. At that time, Mekkhaya was one of the guard cities together with Taohn and Myittha in Singaing Township.

In reign of King Anawrahta, Mekkhaya was a guard city to mainly block important Myitnge valley where enemies might enter Kyaukse plain. King Anawrahta built Taohn guard city, two miles from Myitnge River and northwest of Mekkhaya, so as to raise security measures.

Ancient Mekkhaya City was built with double walls. The existing outer wall was two furlongs wide from the east to the west and 2.5 furlongs long from the north to the south. The city was rounded with a 56 feet wide moat. The eastern wall was equipped with Mingala Gate. U Kalar History mentioned Mekkhaya City was included on the list of cities to recruit 100 soldiers to Inwa Royal Palace. Its area was 470 tars. The government set ancient Mekkhaya City as ancient cultural zone in January 2009.

Shwesikhon Pagoda and



Mekkhaya Shwezigon pagoda.

Royal Palace built together with Mekkhaya City not longer existed there. More than 50 ancient pagodas have been renovated in the city. Travellers can observe mural paintings at some stupas and temples.

## Two stone plaques in Mekkhaya

As evidences of Stone Age humans residing in Mekkhaya area, rough and finished stone weapons were found from the ancient city. Similar stone weapons were also found around pagodas in Yazagyi precinct, northwest of the ancient city

and Shinpin SeikU pagoda. Some pieces of Neolithic age were also gathered at the site, one furlong north of Epya Village at the entrance to ancient Mekkhaya City.

Results of research conducted by researcher cum writer Taik Kyi (Singaing) mentioned that a stone plaque of Sikhon monastery and another plaque bearing records of donation by mason among 22 ancient stone plaques are located in ancient Mekkhaya City.

Sikhon monastery's stone plaque was firstly carved in the reign of King Badon. It was carved for three times in respective eras. The stone plaque, 6.5 feet high, three feet and one inch wide and six inches thick, was found near the northern arch to King Yan Naung's tomb in the compound of ancient Mekkhaya City on 23 April 2008. The plaque related to Mekkhaya Shwesikhon Pagoda was made of schist.

Thihathu, governor of Pinle City, established Pinya City in 1313 AD and passed away in 1322 AD. His son King Uzzana succeeded to the throne and built seven Sakar monasteries—Zabuka, Weluwun, Einneint, Zetawun, Kalakyaung, Taungsun and North. He finished construction of Pinya Shwesikhon Pagoda built by his father. He handed over the throne to his younger brother five elephant winner Kyawswa in 1344 AD and left the secular in Mekkhaya.

King Uzzana built 135 feet high Mekkhaya Shwesikhon Pagoda which enveloped Muhtaw Pagoda of King Thiri Dhamma Thawka with 150 feet high of lower structure. As the pagoda was damaged into a brick pile, it was renovated in 1370.

The stone inscription of Sikhon monastery carved by King Uzzana in 687 ME comprised 20



Painting on the wall of the pagoda.





Ancient Buddha Stupa at Mekkhaya old city.

lines. Among them, first six lines bore the land plot and slaves for services of the pagoda donated by King Uzzana and nine more lines mentioned the record of toddy palm plants donated to the pagoda in 716 ME.

The stone inscription with last five lines was carved by King Uzzana's grandson who was governor of Mekkhaya. It was a record on donating 270 pei of land to the pagoda.

According to the stone inscription, the precinct of Sikhon Pagoda is surrounded by the creek in the east, Wutgyi in the west, Kyaukse in the south and Kyetsugyaing in the north.

A small stone plaque bearing a record of donation by a mason in Bagan era can be seen at Myoyoe Pagoda called No 43 ancient building in Mekkhaya area. One square foot of stone plaque bore 10 lines of inscrip-

tions carved in the reign of King Tayaphya (1322-1336 AD). It was a record of donation carved by Bagan citizen mason who offered candle lights to the pagoda dedicating to the Nibbana.

Two Mekkhaya princes

Two princes governed Mekkhaya City. The first prince compiled English-Myanmar dictionary.

As Maung Pyoe in childhood name, Prince Mekkhaya was born of King Badon and Queen Thiri Maha Yadana Devi in 1153 ME. His sister was Myitha governor Shwe Nan Myint. The prince was conferred on Minye Kyawswa title in 1159 ME, Thadoe Minhla Kyawswa title in 1164 ME and Maha Thiri Dhammaraza title in 1168 ME. In the reign of King Sagaing, he was named Malun Prince due to governing Malun.

He learned English from British merchant Mr Roger. He compiled English-Myanmar Dictionary from 1830 AD to 1835 AD.

The dictionary with 468 pages was printed by Baptist Press in Kolkata of India in 1841. First Mekkhaya Prince passed away on 1 July 1848.

Second Mekkhaya Prince was son of King Mindon. After Prince Kanaung was assassinated, he managed factories of Prince Kanaung. The prince was killed on 31 January 1879 when an issue of the royal palace happened to give a throne to Prince Thibaw.

A bell donated by governor of Mekkhaya was hung at Phalinpoe Monastery in Singaing. Abbot of the monastery Bhaddanta Pannabala donated to pagodas in ancient Mekkhaya City on 27 November 2004. At



Myanmar ancient architecture works.



Myanmar ancient architecture works.

present, the bell is hung at the stand in the ancient city.

Mekkhaya dolomite relief

Buddha images were carved of earth, brick, concrete, wood, stone, gold, silver and alloy metal as well as dolomite in Myanmar in successive era. There are five dolomite images across the nation—three at the national museum and one each in ancient Mekkhaya City and Tamok Shwegugyi Pagoda. Mekkhaya dolomite relief is displayed at the museum of Shweyaungtaung Pagoda.

Dolomite is  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$  in white, pink and brown colours. Dolomite reliefs can be seen in India. But, dolomite reliefs were carved on large plaques in India and small ones in Myanmar.

The museum showcases documentary photos of ancient objects in Stone Age and Pyu

era and pagodas in ancient Mekkhaya City before renovation.

Significant, ancient Mekkhaya City shows part of Myanmar history. Equipment of Stone Age and Pyu era found in the city prove ancient city Mekkhaya has flourished the stone age, Pyu, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa and Konbaung eras.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

Reference:  
Myanmar Encyclopaedia  
Volume IX

New Twinthin Myanmar  
History, First Volume (Maha  
Sithu U Tun Nyo)

Milestone of Eleven My-  
ittha Districts (Lin Htaik Tin  
Hlaing, Kyaukse)

City Singaing from Ledwin  
area in the history (Taikkayi,  
Singaing)



## MFF discuss holding of youth football tournaments



Myanmar Football Federation officials seen in the coordination meeting to discuss holding of the youth football tournaments. **PHOTO:MFF**

MYANMAR Football Federation held a coordination meeting at the headquarters of the MFF in Yangon yesterday afternoon to hold youth version football tournaments across the country in near future, according to the statement with the football federation.

U Min Hlaing, chairperson of the committee to hold youth football tournaments and committee members, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation and U Aung Naing Oo, Chief Operating Officer of the Myanmar National League and other football authorities attended the meeting.

During the coordination

meeting, the officials discussed holding of U-14 youth football tournaments after getting permission from FIFA, to host women qualifiers of U-20 and U-17 in 2021, to hold youth football tournaments for boys and girls in different states and regions, to prepare and strengthen youth version tournaments of Myanmar National League.

Football authorities also discussed on holding U-13 Girls Football Tournament, U-14 Boy's Football Tournament and U-12 Boy's Football Tournament as previous year's programme, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

### Winners appear for MPT Freestyle Football Challenge

MYANMAR National League (MNL) and Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) announced yesterday the winners of the MPT Freestyle Football Challenge which was held by MPT from 23 May 2020 to midnight of 12 June 2020.

In the challenge football lovers participated by submitting their freestyle football videos to MPT web portal.

Among the participants across Myanmar, three winners plus 17 consolidation prize winners appeared.

PyaePhyoAung won the first prize while Nyi San Min won the second prize and Htet-Naing Phyo won the third prize.

The seventeen consolidation prize winners were Htet-

Paing Phyo, Baereh, Zaw Win Hlaing, Hein Zabu Soe, Mg Mg-Khin, Khine Phyo, Ye Min Hein, Zon Moe Aung, Ye Win Hlaing, Boi Kim Thang, Moe Khine, Win Thant, Soe Thu Aung, Min Thu Aung, Sai Khay Swan Han, Nay Myo Lwin and Nay Myo Htut Kyaw.

The winners were selected by 50 per cent voting and 50 per cent judgment.

First prize winner will get K300,000 and second prize winner will garner K200,000 while third prize winner will earn K100,000. Consolidation prize winners will each get K50,000 as prizes.

All the prizes will be awarded by the MPT via MPT Money Application.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Juventus supremacy under threat as Serie A returns

MILAN — Juventus's Serie A supremacy faces a stiff test with the champions just one point ahead of Lazio as the Italian league kicks off again this weekend following a three-month shutdown.

A return had looked unthinkable back in April as Italy counted their daily coronavirus deaths in the hundreds for nearly 35,000 victims in the country.

But the situation has improved with strict health protocols in place and all matches being played behind closed doors.

Four postponed games will take place first this weekend involving teams at the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Atalanta host Sassuolo in Bergamo on Sunday, and Inter Milan are at home against Sampdoria. On Saturday, Torino host Parma and Cagliari travel to Hellas Verona.

Next week all teams will have 12 games left to play with Juventus at Bologna on Monday, and Lazio travelling to Atalanta on Wednesday.

Maurizio Sarri's Juventus fell in the Italian Cup final to Napoli on penalties midweek,

having also lost the Italian SuperCup to Lazio in December.

"Ronaldo, (Paulo) Dybala and our great soloists lack that little bit of brilliance, but I consider it quite normal in this period," said Sarri.

"I didn't say anything to the players, we were all very angry and disappointed and I think it's better to be silent right now."

Sarri's woes have been compounded with Brazilian defender Alex Sandro tearing a knee ligament against Napoli and Sami Khedira picking up a potentially serious tendon problem.—AFP ■



Lazio, powered by Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile, are on a 21-match unbeaten run. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Werder Bremen braced for 'relegation final' in Mainz

BERLIN — Struggling Bundesliga giants Werder Bremen have just two matches to avoid relegation, but can take a significant step towards survival at Mainz on Saturday.

Bayern Munich were confirmed Bundesliga champions for the eighth straight season in midweek, but the fight to stay up is still raging. Bremen are second-bottom and in danger of losing their status as the club with the most years spent in Germany's top flight. They sit one point

behind Fortuna Duesseldorf, who occupy the relegation play-off spot, but six behind 15th-placed Mainz after their surprise win at Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday. Four-time champions Bremen have been in the Bundesliga every season bar one since its introduction in 1963. They were relegated in 1980, but came straight back up. Bremen visit Mainz in one of nine games at 1330 GMT on Saturday and host Cologne on the final day of the season on June 27.—AFP ■