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## State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID-19 on trade sector



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the videoconference on the impact of COVID-19 on the trade sector from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a videoconference on the impact of COVID-19 on the trade sector yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The following persons participated in the videoconference: Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, City Mart Managing Director Daw Win Win Tint who manages a major supply chain in domestic trade and SME entrepreneur Daw Thet Su Htay

who is producing natural tamarind/plum juice, fried beans and fermented bean paste.

The State Counsellor, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Prevention, Control and Treatment, said that the Ministry of Commerce plays crucial role in economic matters, especially this ministry manages export of products to foreign countries, Myanmar people earn their livelihood by exporting agricultural

products abroad; and that this issue has been given serious consideration not only during COVID-19 crisis but also during normal times, with regular instructions being given to the Ministry of Commerce; Myanmar cannot rely only on one or two markets for her exports; more markets are required for the higher quantity of products in a wide range of varieties; only then would our country have protection and have more choices; we would be able to export our

agricultural products on a larger scale and also in more varieties; if only one or two places wanted to buy one or two products, then our country would have to produce fewer varieties of crops; three or four years ago the Ministry of Commerce tried to expand markets, and we are now reaping the good results of these efforts; when China closed border trade due to the COVID-19, export volume to China has declined; however, rice and corn exports to Thailand increased and be-

cause it was possible to divert trade to Thailand this has given the country some form of relief. She added that she wanted the Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Commerce to continue by discussing these matters.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo discussed the impacts of trade, relations with an economic stimulus plan and matters related to post-COVID economic relief plan.

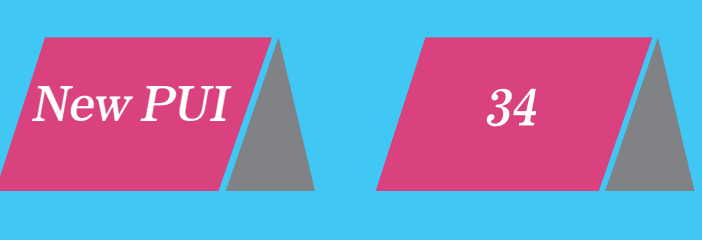
**SEE PAGE-3**

### 2 more cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 23 June, total figure reaches 292

Updated at 8 pm, 23 June 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 22 June 2020



INSIDE TODAY

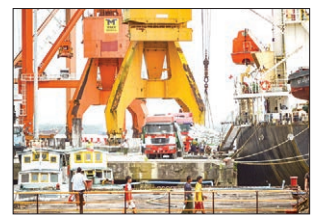
**NATIONAL**  
Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation makes official visit to Russia Federation  
**PAGE-2**

**NATIONAL**  
Myanmar citizens from foreign countries brought back home by relief flight  
**PAGE-6**

**LOCAL NEWS**  
Bagan-NyaungU prepare to reopen hotels, guesthouses  
**PAGE-10**



**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
Agro exports up \$466 mln as of 12 June  
**PAGE-7**



## Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation makes official visit to Russian Federation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is in Russian Federation to attend 75th Anniversary of Victory Day of Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). **PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, took a special flight of Myanmar Airways Inter-

national on 22 June to visit the Russian Federation at the invitation of its Defence Minister Army General Sergei Kuzhugetovich Shoigu to attend the 75th Anniversary of Victory Day of Great Patriotic War (1941-1945).

They arrived at the Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow in the afternoon of local time.

On 23 June morning, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing separately met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with editors and reporters from the Arguments and Facts media, Zvezda TV channel, RT TV network, Red Star media and Politics Magazine.

During the interviews, the

Senior General explained the role of Tatmadaw in the history of Myanmar, its leading role in national politics, representatives of Tatmadaw in Hluttaws, national security, sovereignty of state and participation of Tatmadaw in COVID-19 measures, and progress of cooperation in military technologies between Myanmar and Russia.

The Senior General and party received Vice-President of Irkut Corporation for Marketing and External Relations Mr Vladimir N. Sautov and officials, and exchange views on cooperation in technologies, according to the report of Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in the virtual 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting (RCEP ISSL MM 10)

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun yesterday attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting via videoconference.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Trần Tuấn Anh, Viet Nam's Minister for Industry and Trade, and co-chaired by Ms Myung Hee Yoo, Korea's Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy. Economic Ministers from 10 ASEAN Member States and ASEAN FTA Partner countries — Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand, and the ASEAN Secretary-General participated in the meeting.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to sign the RCEP Agreement in 2020 as instructed by the Leaders at the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCEP Summit which was held in November 2019.

At the meeting, the RCEP Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) Chair presented the TNC Report to Ministers



Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in the 10th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting via videoconference on 23 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

regarding with the signing of RCEP Agreement in 2020. The report included the progress of RCEP negotiations resulted from RCEP TNC Meetings and the remaining issues seeking for the Ministers' guidance. The Ministers noted the report and tasked TNC for way forward to settle down all the remaining issues.

The Union Minister reaf-

firmed Myanmar's commitment to sign the RCEP Agreement in 2020 and expressed his thanks to the Trade Negotiation Committee and relevant working groups for their continuous efforts to get significant progress resulted from the Virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the importance of conclusion of the RCEP in November this year particularly as

the global economy is facing severe challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that the signing of the RCEP would reflect the strong and resilient regional commitment to maintain the global rules-based multilateral trading system. He also encouraged all RCEP participating countries to show their utmost flexibility to resolve the outstanding issues.

The Ministers adopted the Joint Media Statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> Intersessional RCEP Ministerial Meeting.

U Than Aung Kyaw, Myanmar RCEP TNC Lead, Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations Department and other senior officials supported the Union Minister's participation in the meeting.—MNA

## 2 more cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 23 June, total figure reaches 292

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

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas Travel History	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
291	30	Female	Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes (Bangladesh)	District Hospital, Maungtaw	Positive	Held under quarantine (Maungtaw Township)
292	38	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes (Bangladesh)	People's Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

# “People are the key”

## State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID-19 on trade sector

### FROM PAGE-1

He talked about one-fifth of trade in GDP value, the impact of COVID on both local and foreign trades; negative effects of curfew on production, commerce, tourism, hotels and restaurant services across the country.

However, the Ministry of Commerce could stockpile about 9,000 tonnes of rice purchased at the bottom price, and the ministry contributed 4,000 bags of rice in the government's donation to Wuhan locals in China; could sell 120,000 rice bags to Yangon Region government for supplying to grassroots people.

The State Counsellor said that one item of concern to the people was produce like tomatoes which did not last long, furthermore, it perishes when damaged slightly and thus would not fetch a good price; they were worried about such matters; especially in cases where the product could not be exported, it was important for the product to be consumed inside the country; internal transportation was very important; that was why the Ministry of Commerce had been instructed to give special attention to this matter and the ministry had taken necessary measures; after the COVID-19 pandemic started, there was a problem with tomatoes; that time was when the tomatoes were produced in abundance and export was very difficult; that was why the Ministry of Commerce took the lead in seeking out domestic markets; it is understood that the matter turned out quite well; the market for tomatoes did not crash. She said she wanted to know how the Ministry of Commerce managed to control the situation.

The deputy minister explained their coordination with Shan State government in transporting tomatoes into local markets and border trades with China for Myanmar crops.

Daw Win Win Tint, the Managing Director of City Mart, discussed the impacts of COVID-19 in both retail and wholesale markets; the country has over 300,000 to 400,000 retail shops and most of them are in traditional management; the retail sector contributes 90 per cent of market and supermarkets, convenience stores and shopping centres have received more market shares with the

changing trends of living styles.

She also remarked popularity of online marketing amid COVID-19 crisis; the needs for production of value added items in the country; food sufficiency amid the pandemic; the relaxation of rules and regulations in FDA for SMEs, digital marketing and e-commerce which are being used I leapfrogging of technology.

Daw Thet Su Htay of the SME owner explained production with plump and tamarind juice without chemicals; expansions of business to produce value added items; the available assistance government, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; receiving training programmes and showcasing expos in Thailand, China, the United States, Viet Nam, Japan and Korea with the assistance of the government.

She added the benefit of COVID-19 loan to the businesses during the crisis, lay-offs at the factories due to the pandemic and preparations for post COVID-19 period; difficulties in repayment of loan and FDA application.

Regarding the discussions, the State Counsellor remarked that some products have to rely on domestic markets when export markets were not under favourable; domestic communications and transports sectors are important; Myanmar experienced panic buying amid fears of COVID-19, such as purchase of unnecessary items; public anxiety then gradually declined as they realized that they did not need to worry about such commodities; she did not want the people to have such an attitude to accumulate commodities with fear; no matter what it was the government's responsibility to take care of the problem; it would be necessary to develop a system for the distribution of an essential item which is in limited supply in a fair and equitable manner; a problem such as this could be overcome only with collective strength; to talk about this subject, during the Second World War, the allied countries had to struggle a great deal; there was strict rationing for items such as sugar, butter, meat, flour, and bread; it was not done in a random manner without serious thought; it was done only after consultation with health experts; the dietary requirements

were calculated and in a country where bread was the staple diet, items such as the amount of bread, fruits, fish and meat, items which could be substituted etc.; when this was done in various ways in a systematic and careful manner, the majority of their people became healthier; purchase of items considered to be luxuries decreased and the people only purchased essential items; because the income of the people declined due to COVID-19, people began to buy only essential items with the limited amount of money available; the trading pattern was such that in the early stage demand increased due to panic buying; the reason for the decline in sales during May and June is because of decline in income and because trading became more difficult; the Union Government was trying its best to revive trading; although the Union Government wished to see the economy

sector; Myanmar is an agricultural country and can produce healthy food items; the country has many opportunities and advantages; they must be used to uplift the country; while making efforts to develop the country it was necessary to always keep one eye on a crisis such as COVID; on the other hand they had to be considering about the post COVID period; the reason they had to be considering about the post COVID situation is because in a situation such as this, they need to consider what would be profitable for the country in the long term; in normal times, the goal should be continuous development; the country should proceed towards the goal of development by making energetic and strenuous efforts; in times like this the challenges are huge and there is much to consider; according to the saying “necessity is the mother of invention”, our

The country has many opportunities and advantages; they must be used to uplift the country; while making efforts to develop the country it was necessary to always keep one eye on a crisis such as COVID

return to normalcy, it had to be extremely careful all the time so that a second COVID wave would not hit the country due to undue haste; lessons should be learnt from other countries where the number of cases increased after they hurried in relaxing strict restrictions; therefore, regular steps are being taken in this matter; it must be said that the habit of buying non-essential items has declined while people are placing more priority on essential items; the fact that people are thinking more about what is an important issue and what is minor is not a bad thing; some persons working in declining markets might have some difficulties; such problem must be addressed step-by-step; domestic commodity flow, domestic trading and production of value added items must be considered for both local and foreign markets; Myanmar need not worry about food if systematic management is carried out in this

innovative brains become more active; we need to be creative and innovative and figure out how to make our existing resources to be more valuable for ourselves as well as for the whole world; our country does not exist in isolation; that was why if there is a need for a particular commodity in a certain country, as a rule we should sell this commodity if we are able to sell it; we should sell it as much as possible; we should assist others who are in need; this may be considered as humanitarian assistance apart from that it is also good for our relations among the human community; she believes that in the long term good results would come out of good intentions according to the law of karma. Although the act was done without expectation of getting back something, it is her belief that good intentions always proceed towards good results in the end. That was why she considered the interests of other countries while

considering about the interests of Myanmar. We need to consider what commodities were popular in the markets and work towards developing that commodity; at this time it was important to get a foothold of a particular market while the opportunity presents itself.

The new buyers would become regular customers of Myanmar products to improve the economy of the country; recent surveys on the impacts of COVID have showed that the domestic SMEs have taken crucial role for local customers; food supplies are no more stockpiled; no crime cases have increased in the country; on the contrary, while other countries have encountered more criminal cases, according to the recent research.

It is believed that the government's support to the grass roots people would be helpful to them because the strength of a country or an organization is equivalent to the collective strength of least powerful people and communities, and not comparable with the total powers at the top; the government is trying to lessen worries of grass roots people; despite vigorous attempts, the results remain low as Myanmar is not a rich nation that has limits of resources; especially, traditional products are largely popular among the people, and these sectors need more support; for example, the FDA issue; the norms of FDA could be adjusted if the SMEs have problems with it; problems might be concerned with complexity and delay in FDA processes, as well as the norms; the former can be facilitated, while the latter is not possible to relax the norms; relaxing the norms for trade in COVID-19 will not be good for both present and future terms because the existing situations must be maintained in the role of the country, social status and quality of products; some matters related to FDA is concerned with long-term economic development; if the standards of local FDA failed to meet international norms, the country's export sector will decline and it will not be useful for the country; the norms of FDA aimed for the welfares of people, health and safety; however, complicated procedures must be relaxed if the

SEE PAGE-4

## State Counsellor discusses impact of COVID-19 on trade sector

### FROM PAGE-3

processes do not meet the situations of Myanmar although it is not possible to reduce the level of norms; loan programmes for traditional businesses should be easy; the impacts of loan programmes are also monitored, and the loans should be settled to give out them to others who need capitals in their businesses for supporting development of the country; some daily-waged workers have some difficulties and loan plans will be considered for them through fair policies; their income is a driving force the survival of country's economy; the Ministry of Commerce is taking care steps in this issue; the government will support online business; rules and principles should also meet the needs in post COVID-19 period; although all the sectors cannot be supported simultaneously, the government's preparations are quite similar to these; new policies should turn out good results; the extent of good results cannot be estimated, but could be judged on the final outputs; public cooperation are always called for success; for exam-

ple loans should be used appropriately not only for individuals but also for the benefit of whole country; both retailed and wholesale business are not neglected; good managements are required for this sector.

Relations between producers and distributors are seemed to be strong; discussions on the issues of SMEs, loans, technologies and loans are almost similar; some procedures of FDA might be complicated; land plots and property ownership would be considered; quality of products must be developed into international norms in terms of technology and health; because natural healthy products are expensive despite using high technology as in foreign countries; organic products are expensive in developed countries; these products become popular among people of rich countries although prices are high; however prices are as important as healthy qualities in Myanmar; healthy products will have low demand in the local market; the government has noted to support in using high-tech for production of goods at reasonable prices while it is

needed to understand good quality items will have higher prices; development of the country is necessary for high demand of these products; the government will reconsider loan programmes; the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will strictly scrutinize on its tasks to be able to keep reserve items for emergency cases; expenditures must be systematic; some persons did not take loans as they worry about repayment; it is a responsible attitude of them with great impression, while the loans would not be settled under unfavourable situations; it is a negligence on responsibility in the business; the one-year loan term would be reconsidered; the loans should also be given to persons with certain property for guarantee and to those who need the loan; the government will also consider how the borrow could repay the loan.

It has been realized that cooperation is required for development; the government and businesspersons are not oppositions, just partners; the government has desire for the development of the country and

has many ways to support the business firms; economic development is important for national development, therefore, it is needed to have mutual support between these two sector.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo explained his experiences in SME development; the needs of alternative ways to support SME sector. He also advised to promote online advertisement and e-commerce; contradictions of rules and regulations between SMEs and FDA to certify the products.

In her concluding remark, the State Counsellor said the yesterday's discussion focused on production, distribution, the role of Ministry of Commerce and the national affairs; however, all the stakeholders in respective sectors are for the well-being of people and consumers; collaborative efforts of these people could not only over the COVID crisis and also experience better development in the post of this crisis.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Ceasefire work group meets for framework negotiation

REPRESENTATIVES of government and NCA-S EAOs held the fourth negotiation at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre at Shweli Road in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of NRPC and Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Ministry of Defence (Army), Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, members of the Peace Commission Advisory Board U Hla Maung Shwe, U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General of the State Counsellor Office U Zaw Htay.

The NCA-S EAOs were represented by Sao Sai Ngin, Coordination of NCA implementation framework negotiation committee U Myo Win, mem-



Representatives of government and NCA-S EAOs hold meeting at NRPC in Yangon on 23 June.

PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

bers of negotiation team U Hla Htay, Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, Dr Salai Lian Hmon Sakhong, Salai Htarlar Yay, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw Tar Do Hmu, Pado Saw L Klu Sae, Kya Salmon, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Dr Sai Oo and Khun Myint Tun, and other representatives on

videoconference.

Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo made an opening remark, saying three negotiation meeting and one informal meeting where participants discussed implementation of NCA included in the Part 3 of Union Accord, step-by-step

implementation beyond 2020 and the basic principles. He added the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Union Peace Conference- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong is scheduled to convene in August this year; finding agreements on the timeline for bilateral negotiations, reduction of participants with appropriate

composition in the conference due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Sao Sai Ngin remarked preparations for Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, UPDJC meeting, and JICM meeting will be discussed through friendly manners.

U Hla Maung Shwe, the member of Peace Commission Advisory Group, said the meeting focused on NCA framework, basic principles of NCA; separation meetings of EAOs representatives and government officials will be held on 24 June, and both sides will meet again on 25 June afternoon. U Myo Win, the coordinator of NCA implementation, said they discussed holding political dialogues before the peace conference and recommendations from both sides.—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Anti-narcotics task force destroy precursor chemicals to mark World Drug Day on 23 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

## Precursor chemicals destroyed to welcome World Drug Day

ANTI-NARCOTICS police destroyed seized precursor chemicals worth nearly K3,379 million (US\$2.3 million) at the field near the Asia World toll gate in Kutkai Town, northern Shan State, yesterday.

The seized chemicals were destroyed to welcome International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that falls on 26 June.

The destruction ceremony, which was held in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, was attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control

(CCDAC) and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye and officials, northern Shan State's Deputy Administrator U Kyaw Thu Zaw and departmental heads, Kutkai Tactical Operation Commander and Tatmadaw personnel, Muse District's head of police force and police, anti-narcotics police and locals.

Deputy Administrator U Kyaw Thu Zaw made an opening remark, and district head of police force explained the purpose of destroying the chemicals.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release 24/2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of First Waso, 1382 ME  
(22 June 2020)

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

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 20 June 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Shwe Kyee Nyo (a) Min Naing Oo who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 June 2020, police searched the house of Shwe Kyee Nyo (a) Min Naing Oo, 34, son of U Tin Shwe, who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(pa)67/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Khin Maung Myint who lives in Pintha Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 June 2020, police searched the farm hut of Khin Maung Myint, 35, son of U Tun Khin, who lives in Pintha Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him and his wife Ma Aye Win (a) Ai Hmway, 27, daughter of U Poe Hman together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(pa)109/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Than Kyaw Htay and Eeipon who live in Pegon Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 15 June 2020, police searched the house of Than Kyaw Htay (a) Angelay, 40, son of U Ba Thein, who lives in Pegon Village, Indaw Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Mawlu) MaYa(pa)28/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Eeipon (a) Kyaw Min Naing, 39, son of U Tun Myint, who lives in Pegon Village, Indaw Township on 19 June 2020 and arrested him and two other - Maung Oo (a) Myint Oo, 40, son of Nga Maung, who lives in Thayargon Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State and Kyaw Ko Ko, 36, son of U Maung Win, who lives in Myaing Thayar Village -- together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mawlu) MaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Phoe Chaing who lives in Hedaung Village, Kalewa Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 June 2020, police searched the house of Phoe Chaing, 44, son of U Aye Maung, who lives in Hedaung Village, Kalewa Township and arrested him and his son Chan Min Thu (a) Chan Thu, 19, together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Masein) MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Soe Moe Than who lives in Moezar Ward, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	In Chinsu Ward, Sagaing Township, police searched a motorcycle driven by Soe Moe Than, 35, son of U Tun Than, who lives in Moezar Ward, Sagaing Township and arrested him together with heroin on 18 June 2020. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sagaing) MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Kyet Lee who lives in Namkhan Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 June 2020, police searched the house of Kyet Lee (a) Thura San, 46, son of U Ye Maung, who lives in Namkhan Village, Wuntho Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho) MaYa(pa)67/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened 22 cases and arrested 22 men and four women together with stimulant tablets, stimulant tablet crash powder and speciosa powder in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Shine Htet Naing, 19, son of U Kyaw Naing, who lives in Aungthukha Ward of Kawthoung Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets, at the Thetan junction, Aungthukha Ward, on 14 June 2020. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(pa)116/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Zeyar Naing who lives in Dapinswehti Ward, Penwagon Town, Bago Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	At mile post 107/3, Yangon-Mandalay highway in Penwagon Town, police searched a motorcycle driven by Zeyar Naing (a) Phoe Tayoke, 22, son of U Htwe Hsaung, who lives in Dapinswehti Ward, Penwagon Town and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on 17 June 2020. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Penwagon) MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Daw Khin Htoke who lives in Thitchaukkin Village, Pyu Township, Bago Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 June 2020, police searched the house of Daw Khin Htoke, 58, daughter of U Gyi Sate, who lives in Thitchaukkin Village, Pyu Township and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Pyu)MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Myo Min Tun who lives in Kyatsakhan Village, Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 June 2020, police searched the house of Myo Min Tun (a) Ko Min, 41, son of U Than Aung, who lives in Kyatsakhan Village, Thazi Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Yinmarpin) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

11.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs on the Abid-Khalaedaing village road in Mudon Township, Mon State.	Police have opened 12 cases and arrested 21 men together with speciosa and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a motor cycle on the road of Abid-Khalaedaing Village near Abid Village, Mudon Township on 16 June. It was driven by Chit Soe, 23, son of U Pyar, and Ko Ko Naing, 19, son of U Kauk Mae, who live in Kyaungywa Village, Thanbyuzayet Township, and arrested them together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet) MaYa(pa)35/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Ma Lae Lae Win who lives in No 2 Ward, Hline Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 June 2020, police arrested Ma Lae Lae Win (a) Ma Zar Lay, 32, daughter of U Mya Oo, who lives in No 2 Ward, Hline Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana near Ywamagway bus stop, No 2 Ward, Hline Township. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Padaukchaung) Maya(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Law.
13.	Information received of Daw Thay Ma who lives in Hmawset Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 18 June 2020, police searched the house of Daw Thay Ma (a) Nwe Nwe Yi, 43, daughter of U Hla Yi, who lives in Hmawset Ward, Dala Township and arrested her and Phyo Ko Ko (a) Ko Phyo, 22, son of U Nan Shwe, who lives in the same ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dala) MaYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14.	Information received of Aphwargyi who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 20 June 2020, police searched the house of Aphwargyi (a) Daw Yin Htay, 62, daughter of U Khin Maung Oo, who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Northokkalapa) MaYa(pa)41/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township, northern Shan State.	Police have opened 13 cases and arrested 16 men together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Zaw Naw, 56, son of U Zaw Daung, and his elder sister Daw Mar Kaw, 59, who lives in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township, together with heroin on the Yanaung road in No 5 Ward on 14 June 2020. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(pa)119/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Daw Ton Shi Mae, 33, daughter of U Tan Pauk Chaing, who lives in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township and arrested her and Soe Khaing, 42, son of U San Tin, who lives in No 4 Ward, together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(pa)120/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,196 cases have been opened files as of 20 June 2020. A total of 1,846 people, including 1,543 men and 303 women had been arrested with 9,556.3314 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 43,563.92886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,263.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 635,441 stimulant tablets, 10,771.90 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 629.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 56.95 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 26 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

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

## COVID-19 committee honours volunteers, CSOs in Shan, Kayah states



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (centre right) presents face masks, badges, and hand gels to a volunteer (centre left) at a quarantine centre on 23 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 presented certificates of honours, badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and civil society organizations (CSOs) that are fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Shan and Kayah states yesterday.

Secretary of the COVID-19 Central Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye was accompanied by Shan State government's Bamar Ethnic Affairs Minister, Deputy Director-General of State Public Health and Medical Services Department, Deputy

Director-General of Social Welfare Department, and officials from the General Administration Department at the certificates presentation ceremonies in Shan State.

At the Phaya Phyu Dhamma Garden's quarantine centre, the Union Minister handed over certificates of honour for volunteers

and CSOs to the Shan State's Bamar Ethnic Affairs Minister, and presented badges, face masks, and hand sanitizers to the representatives of volunteers and CSOs.

He also expressed thanks to the volunteers and CSOs, and discussed compilation of volunteer handbook, conducting online training for the volunteers who are working at the quarantine centres, providing necessary assistances, and presenting certificates of honours.

A total of K7.35 million, K30,000 per person, for 156 pregnant women, 74 children under 5-year-old, and 15 elderly persons was handed over to the camp's in-charge.

At the Loikaw Education's College's quarantine centre in Kayah State, the Union Minister gave certificates of honour for volunteers and CSOs to the Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, and presented

badges, face masks, and hand sanitizers to the representatives of volunteers and CSOs.

He also provided a total of K720,000, K30,000 per one, for 12 pregnant women, eight children under five-year-old, and four elderly persons, to the camp's in-charge.

The ministry gave 2,869 volunteers and 254 CSOs in Shan State and 75 volunteers and 15 CSOs in Kayah State certificates of honour yesterday.

The committee will continue presentation of certificates of honour to the volunteers and CSOs in other regions and states with the approvals from the regions and states' volunteer steering committees.

The committee held yesterday's handover ceremonies in Shan and Kayah states in accordance with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.— MNA ■  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

### COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily 9 am to 5 pm

THE Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee has opened the COVID-19 Call Centre at the Department of Medical Research in Yangon daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre was established by the four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company in

coordination with Medical Research Department and Post and Telecommunications Department.

Forty-three staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteer doctors from the Myanmar Medical Association are working at the call centre. The call centre, which was previously open from 8 am to 8 pm, has now changed from 9 am to 5 pm.— MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

### Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press briefing

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team held a press briefing at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun, the Secretary of True News Information Team, explained preparations for erecting Marble Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw by using marble block from Sakyin hill in Madaya Township of Mandalay Re-

gion, the visit of Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Russian Federation to attend the military parade of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), repatriation of Myanmar citizens from Nepal and India, implementation of procedures in return of lands and transfer in line with the existing laws, sending medical supplies

of COVID-19 by Chin State government and private well-wishers for the locals, civil service officials and internally displaced persons in Paletwa Township, security measures of Tatmadaw members in upgrading Matupi-Sami-Paletwa motorway, according to the report from the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Myanmar citizens from foreign countries brought back home by relief flight



Myanmar nationals returned from foreign countries queue for immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport on 23 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

A total of 129 Myanmar nationals — 92 from the Republic of Korea and 37 from Belgium, Norway, Switzerland and the United States — were repatriated yesterday. Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight had carried the Myanmar citizens from Incheon International Airport in South Korea, and arrived at the Yangon International Airport at 8 pm.

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

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

Until now a total of 4,893 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home.— MNA ■  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Agro exports up \$466 mln as of 12 June



Myanmar has seen a surge in agricultural export between 1 October and 12 June this year.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

MYANMAR'S exports of agricultural products between 1 October and 12 June in the current financial year 2019-2020 increased to over US\$2.9 billion from \$2.4 billion in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past eight months, the export figures reflect an increase of \$466 million against a year ago period.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

Myanmar faces slower access to market information, which sometimes poses obstacles in the market. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, which leads to degrading of the quality of fruits, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation, quality control and food safety are key to the promotion of exports. Therefore, improved agricultural practices

need to be developed.

Additionally, the country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand.

Contract farming systems, the involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department. The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.

— Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## High demand drives black bean price up to above K1 mln in Yangon market

THE prices of black bean (which is called urad in India) jumped above K1 million per tonne on account of the growing demand in recent days, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The price climbed up in the weekend of 19 June, showing an increase of K30,000 per tonne compared with the previous week. The traders guessed that the price of black bean would rise in September. However, the price rose last week unexpectedly.

On 23 June, the black beans fetched K31,800 per 20-viss (one viss equals to 1.6 kg) in Yangon market, whereas it was priced around K28,800 per 20-viss on 18 June, the market data showed.

During the post-Thingyan period in April, the black bean was priced K995,000 to K1 million per tonne. Thereafter, it dropped to K960,000-965,000 per tonne in the third week of May.

The traders are closely observing the market with the changes in India's policy on bean importation. Now, the growers have already sold out the beans and they are in the hands of traders. Earlier, India set to import 400,000 tonnes of black bean for the next fiscal year by March 2021. It changed policy and narrowed the import deadline to three-month period,

according to its recent notice.

"The changes of policy reflect on the unguaranteed market for the domestic growers. The sudden change in policy burdens the growers, raising confusion," said an official of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. The country has around 250,000 tonnes of black bean stocks. It is unlikely to export the entire quota of 400,000 tonnes to India, he continued.

The supply chain of Myanmar's beans — the growers and traders are facing hardship due to short period of rapid change.

"The country lays down policy for its national interest. India's move is possible to protect their farmers as India's beans will be harvested in September. This is why they shrank the deadline to August-end 2020. If the yield is not good in September, they will surely make an extension for the import period. If not for poor yield, the import period will end as scheduled," he added. Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, are also grown in Australia and Africa, the association stated. — Ko Khant ■  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Natural gas exports to Thailand down by \$400 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports of natural gas over the past eight months of the current financial year amounted to US\$1.8 billion, a decrease of about \$400 million compared with the corresponding period of 2018-2019 FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

In the year-ago period, the country exported natural gas worth about \$1.4 billion.

The drop in the value of exports is linked to the collapse of the global oil and natural gas prices, according to an expert.

Natural gas is included in the list of major export items of Myanmar. Over 20 per cent of the country's total export earnings come from the sale of natural gas.

There are 53 onshore blocks and 51 offshore blocks, totalling 104 blocks. A total of 25 onshore blocks and 31 offshore blocks

are operating under foreign investment. Natural gas extraction is being made at the Yadanar, the Yedagun, the Shwe, and the Zawtika offshore blocks as well as onshore drilling blocks. Yearly extraction is elevated to cubic feet in 670.36 billion from 600 billion this year, according to the fourth-year performances stated by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The Shwe natural gas field, located offshore from Rakhine State, was discovered in 2014. Natural gas extracted from the field is exported to China.

The Yadana natural gas project is being carried out by the TOTAL Company, with its pipeline supplying natural gas to Thailand. Natural gas is also extracted in Yedagun, located offshore from Taninthayi and discovered in 1992. The Zawtika Project in the Gulf of Mottama



Natural gas export of Myanmar has fetched US\$1.8 billion in the past eight months of current financial year.

PHOTO: MNA

mainly supplies natural gas to neighbouring Thailand.

Production at Yadana and Yedagun is declining, and

those projects will be halted in the coming years. Myanmar's exports of natural gas in the previous financial year

totalled \$3.88 billion, as per Commerce Ministry data. — Ko Htet ■  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Enforcing safety, rule of law in jade mining is essential

**J**ADE mining in Phakant, Kachin State, has been part of the life of migrant workers searching for lesser quality jade stones discarded by large mining companies for more than two decades.

When miners began using heavy machinery to extract jade from mines in Myanmar in 2005, migrant workers across the country flocked to the area to scavenge for small jade stones from discarded soil.

While migrant workers have been working illegally risking their lives, in spite of the presence of job opportunities in Phakant, lethal landslides strike regularly.

Over 100 scavengers have been lost in a landslide in November, 2015, and over 50 employees from a mining company died in a landslide in April, 2019.

The preventable disasters strike the jade land killing migrant workers regularly. Not only deadly landslides, the drug use and general lawlessness pervades Hpakant destroying countless lives.

The tragedies have highlighted the role of responsibility for safety lies with the jade mining industry.

The works on safety and the rule of law in Hpakant will take speed up when the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation adopts a by-law for the new gem stone law.

That's why, a task force with 14 members was formed by the Union Government on 4 October, in 2018 and tasked with 14 goals. Six sub-working groups were formed under the task force on the same day. Out of 16 decisions made at previous meetings focusing safety and the rule of law in the jade land, 13 have been implemented and the remaining need to take time.

As part of efforts for ensuring the safety of migrant miners, the sub-working groups are carrying out drug rehabilitation, socio-economy of families of migrant workers and local people, conservation of environment destroyed by the mining.

The works on safety and the rule of law in Phakant will take speed when the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation adopts a by-law for the new gem stone law.

Environmental destruction and deadly accidents in Phakant are preventable. The new gemstone law and its by-law along cannot address all problems in our mining sector. The participation of migrant miners, local people, and businessmen is critical to maintaining peace and the rule of law in the area.

Every person has the right to go to work with the expectation they will return home safe to their families when the working day is done.

# IOC joins forces with WHO and UN to fight COVID-19

**O**N Olympic Day, 23 June 2020, the International Olympic Committee and WHO launched a partnership with the United Nations to encourage individuals and communities around the world to be #HEALTHY Together. The three fellow and Olympic athletes will highlight the global collaboration needed to stay healthy and reduce the prevalence and impact of COVID-19.

Olympic athletes will help deliver important public health information, motivate people to adopt or continue behaviour that will cover the epidemic and provide information that promotes physical and mental health. During this time the partnership with Olympians around the world performing various exercises to stay healthy came to a close today.

A WHO survey showed that many people who had a severe disease of COVID-19 were already living with or at risk of



noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The results emphasize the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including being physically active, taking a healthy diet, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol.

"We are pleased to partner

with the International Olympic Committee to spread important health messages that will save lives. Olympians will help us advocate for a healthy population to ensure that people are as essential to fighting COVID-19 as our health is," Dr Said Tedros

Adnom Ghebeyius, Director General, WHO.

In the last six months, the COVID-19 epidemic has affected every corner of the world and every aspect of people's lives. The world is searching for global institutions that can work together

to deliver reliable, credible information from trusted sources. IOC President Thomas Bach Said, "Sports can save lives. We have seen in the last few months how important sports and physical activities are for health and well-being. And by working closely with the WHO and the United Nations, we can take another step. We will ask our Olympic athletes to help share the information that the world needs right now."

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, added, "During this time of unprecedented challenges and change - from the COVID-19 epidemic to the ongoing struggle for racial and social justice, the climate crisis - there has never been a greater need for global solidarity and hope. The Olympic Movement and its athletes have always done the best in humanity,

and the United Nations is pleased to work with the International Olympic Committee and the World Health Organization to unite people everywhere and be #HEALTHY Together."

Global participation will act locally through the voices of Olympic athletes - voices that symbolize perseverance, dedication and endurance - all individuals need to have qualities during this public health challenge. WHO will work with athletes to bring health messages tailored to people going through various stages of the epidemic through digital platforms.

As COVID-19 changes our daily routines and lives - how we interact with others, how we move and exercise - we need to focus on our mental and physical health and that of others. Help those who need extra help. By working together, Olympic Day and every day partnerships aim to be healthy together.

SOURCE: WHO

## THE OUTLOOK FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

# Global trade set to shrink 18.5 per cent in Q2: WTO

**G**LOBAL trade is expected to drop around 18.5 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of this year in a huge coronavirus-driven plunge which nonetheless could have been much worse, the World Trade Organization said Tuesday.

The WTO said that in the first quarter, the volume of merchandise trade shrank by three per cent compared to the same three months in 2019.

"Initial estimates for the second quarter, when the virus and associated lockdown measures affected a large share of the global population, indicate a year-on-year drop of around 18.5 percent," the global trade body said in a statement.

However, it said the expected plunge was better than the WTO's worst-case scenario for the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on global trade -- and that the world economy may have bottomed out in the second quarter of the year.

"The fall in trade we are now seeing is historically large -- in fact, it would be the steepest on

record. But there is an important silver lining here: it could have been much worse," said outgoing WTO director-general Roberto Azevedo.

"This is genuinely positive news but we cannot afford to be complacent."

**Outlook 'highly uncertain'**  
In its annual trade forecast issued in April, the WTO forecast that volumes would contract by between 13 per cent at best and 32 per cent at worst in 2020.

"As things currently stand, trade would only need to grow by 2.5 per cent per quarter for the remainder of the year to meet the optimistic projection," it said.

"However, looking ahead to 2021, adverse developments, including a second wave of COVID-19 outbreaks, weaker than expected economic growth, or widespread recourse to trade restrictions, could see trade expansion fall short of earlier projections."

The WTO said the outlook for the global economy over the next two years remained "highly uncertain".

Azevedo said policy decisions had softened the ongoing blow and would help determine the pace of economic recovery from the crisis.

"For output and trade to rebound strongly in 2021, fiscal, monetary, and trade policies will all need to keep pulling in the same direction," said the Brazilian career diplomat, who is leaving his post a year early at the end of August.

**Trade may have 'bottomed out'**

Looking at the pandemic and its impact on trade, the WTO said that measures to suppress the spread of the virus, such as physical distancing and restrictions on travel and transport that were in full effect in March, April and May were now increasingly being relaxed.

"These developments are reflected in a variety of economic indicators which, taken together, suggest trade may have possibly bottomed out in the second quarter of 2020," it said.

It said commercial flights, which carry much international



The WTO said the outlook for the global economy over the next two years remained "highly uncertain". PHOTO: AFP

air cargo, were down by 74 per cent between January 5 and April 18, but had since risen by 58 per cent through to mid-June.

Container port throughput also appeared to have staged a partial recovery in June compared to May, it said.

The 164-member WTO said

fiscal and monetary policies had arguably been rolled out more quickly and on a larger scale during the pandemic than they were in the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.

It said much of the decline in output had been concentrated in non tradeable services such as

hospitality and entertainment, which were less import-intensive than manufacturing.

Increased purchases of consumer durables could be seen as a bellwether, signalling renewed consumer confidence as lockdowns ease, the WTO said.

SOURCE: AFP

## Myanmar Gazette Head of service organization appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, as Director-General of the same office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## U Thurain Thant Zin concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Slovak Republic

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thurain Thant Zin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Slovak Republic.—MNA



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020)  
BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan(North and East) and Chin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Bago Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Weak Monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

## Bagan-NyaungU prepare to reopen hotels, guesthouses

MANDALAY REGION government has permitted twenty hotels and one guesthouse to reopen after meeting the prescribed requirements set by the Ministry of Health and Sports. These hotels and guesthouses in Bagan-Nyaung U suspended their operations when viral infection broke out, said Deputy Director U Win Aung of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan office).

"The owners of hotels and guesthouses officially submitted a proposal to our department to resume their businesses. In this case, our department is cooperating with the district health department to issue instructions to



Mandalay Region government has permitted twenty hotels and one guesthouse to reopen in Bagan-NyaungU. **PHOTO: KYAW MIN OO (YENANGYAUNG)**

the hotels and guesthouses to check whether they conform with the rules adopted by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Then, we made a list of the hotels and guesthouses that follow the rules and submitted the list to the related General Admin-

istration Department and the regional government. When we received a reply from the regional government, we give the green light to the hotels and the guesthouses to reopen. As of today, we have permitted 20 hotels and one guesthouse to reopen. Currently, four hotels and four guesthouses have sought permission to reopen," he added.

Bagan-NyaungU region has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and always packed with the local and foreign travellers. The businesses in Bagan-NyaungU region are arranging to provide better service after they have permitted to run their operation again. — Kyaw Min Oo (Yenangyaung)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Fewer passengers take highway buses to Myeik

ALTHOUGH Myeik passenger bus lines suspended to control spreading of coronavirus disease, Taninthayi Region is resuming their operation starting from 5 June on Myeik-Yangon route from Myeik highway terminal, there are a few passengers on board the buses, according to Myeik Township Private Transport Supervision Committee.

"The travellers need to bring the ward administrator's recommendation letter and health certificates along with them. And the passengers need to use two-seat space. So, the bus line tickets are selling for K33,500, an increase of K10,000 for Myeik-Yangon route. The regional authorities have ordered the bus lines to carry only 50 per cent of passengers," said an official from Myeik Township Private Transport Supervision Committee.



Myeik passenger bus lines suspended to control spreading of coronavirus reopen from 5 June. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

During the coronavirus prevention period, the bus drivers and conductors followed the instructions of the authorities, carrying only half of accommodation capacity, keeping the social distancing rule and following all other instructions given by the

Ministry of Health and Sports.

"Before pandemic, nearly 500 travellers from across the country reached Myeik highway terminal. Since the resumption of the highway buses beginning from 5 June, only 100 passengers or so reached the highway termi-

nal. The number of passengers declined to nearly 1,600 for 10 days of June, from 9,000 in February," the committee official said.

"The number of passengers declined because of COVID-19 and rising of the bus fares. We have no job and we are difficult to travel," said a traveller from Yangon.

With Myeik passenger bus lines resuming under Taninthayi region government rules, passenger bus lines cannot carry more than the prescribed number in this period, and if they fail to abide by this rule, the passengers can report to Taninthayi Region government. At present, a total of 65 bus lines are operating in the Myeik terminal with 40 bus lines operating in the region while 25 bus lines operating outside of the region. —Myint Oo (Myeik)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Myanmar's first underwater aquarium to complete in December

THE construction of Myanmar's first aquarium including an underwater world will be completed in December, according to Mottama Development Group.

The glass walls were installed in the aquarium building in May and the lakeside plaza will be built at the end of August. The remaining tasks of the project such as the installation of electricity, decoration inside the building, architecture works etc. are being done to complete the whole construction project within

the prescribed period.

The new aquarium project is being developed on five acres of land located on the old aquarium space in Kandawgyi lake.

Myanmar's first aquarium will showcase both local freshwater and saltwater fish species from southern and northern parts of Myanmar. There will also be over 30 exhibitions including an underwater section, training areas related to the fisheries industry as well as food stalls and shops of fisheries products and

related items.

The new aquarium is being constructed to meet the international standard. The development of the aquarium is not only for upgrading of the building but also for the creation of fish survival system, modernizing the technology in mechanical and aspects and the safety of those who are working and staying underwater.

Yangon Ecological Aquarium is being developed by the Yangon regional government starting from 2016.

Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to develop the aquarium to meet international standard with an initial investment totalling US\$ 30 million. After building the international standard aquarium, the aquarium will attract more investment, said the Yangon Region government. The land was rented under for 40 years with the permission of the Fisheries Department. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Pompeo compares ex-security advisor John Bolton to Edward Snowden

WASHINGTON—John Bolton's explosive tell-all account of his time as National Security Advisor is comparable to Edward Snowden's disclosure of state-backed mass surveillance of US citizens, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday.

Pompeo's comments come the night before the release of Bolton's book "The Room Where It Happened," which contains many damning allegations against President Donald Trump.

"Frankly, the information he has released puts criminal liability squarely on him," the top US diplomat told Fox News.

"We all saw what's happened when people leak classified information like Edward Snowden. What John Bolton did here is not dissimilar to that," Pompeo said.

Edward Snowden is a former US intelligence contractor who revealed in 2013 that US agents from the National Security Agency (NSA) were carrying out widespread surveillance on citizens.

Snowden has been living in exile in Russia since his revelation. He has been charged in the US with espionage and theft of state secrets and faces up to 30 years in prison. "This kind of information getting out, it presents real risk and real harm to the United States of America," Pompeo added.—AFP ■

## Palestinians protest Trump plan that includes Israel's annexation of parts of West Bank

JERICHO—Thousands of Palestinians on Monday demonstrated against U.S. President Donald Trump's plan for the Middle East that includes Israel's annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank.

The protest in Jericho, in the south of the Jordan Valley, came in response to a call by Fatah, the party of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, agency reporters said. It was the largest rally of its kind since Trump in January unveiled his controversial plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace, which gives Israel a green light to annex West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley.

The Palestinians have rejected the plan and have been trying to rally international support against it. "If Israel annexes there won't be any land left for a Palestinian state," said protester Mohammed Ishloon, 47, who came to the demonstration from the Aqabat Jaber refugee camp outside Jericho.—AFP ■

## Looming election rout ups stakes for France's president



French President Emmanuel Macron appears barely concerned by the expected vote route, reflecting a disdain of party politics. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS—Emmanuel Macron's party is staring at defeat in municipal elections Sunday, dealing a blow to the French president's bid to chart a fresh course for the remaining two years of his term in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. In cities and towns across France, his Republic on the Move (LREM) party is fighting a losing battle for town halls in the vote while the president's personal popularity has slipped again.

Despite its name, efforts by the LREM to build up grassroots support have gone nowhere in the three years since Macron swept into the top job with a

pledge to end politics as usual.

The vast majority of its candidates failed to make it past the first round of voting last March, days before Macron announced a coronavirus lockdown only now being lifted.

Paris, Marseille and other key cities are widely expected to remain in Socialist or right-wing hands, forcing the centrists into conflicting alliances to obtain at least some local seats.

Their goal is to have 10,000 municipal councillors -- a fraction of some 535,000 nationwide.

"The LREM still hasn't taken root locally, and is struggling to prove that it's a viable force,"

said Jean Garrigues, a political historian at the University of Orleans. Even Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, whose popularity has soared on his perceived steady hand during the COVID-19 outbreak, faces a close fight to regain his mayor's seat in the port of Le Havre.

An Ifop poll released Sunday saw Philippe's approval ratings rise to 50 per cent while Macron's dropped further to 38 per cent.

It may be no coincidence that Philippe has refused to become a card-carrying LREM member, after leaving the right-wing Republicains to become head of government.—AFP ■

## US Congressman Krishnamoorthi urges Trump to reverse order suspending H-1B, other work visas

WASHINGTON—US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi on Monday expressed disappointment over the new restrictions on work visas, including H-1B visas used widely in the tech industry, and urged President Donald Trump to roll back the order to ensure a broader economy and more jobs that could combat the next phase of the pandemic and make way for economic recovery.

"I'm deeply disappointed by President Trump's misguided order to suspend these key work visa programmes. I urge him to reverse this decision to help ensure our health care system and broader economy are ready to combat the next



According to the USCIS, between 2007 and 2017, it received the maximum number of 2.2 million H-1B petitions from high-skilled Indians. PHOTO: AFP

phase of this pandemic and to create the jobs we need for our economic recovery," Kr-

ishnamoorthi said in a statement following the announcement of new restrictions on

work visas by the administration.

"The H-1B programme, in

particular, plays a crucial role in addressing our dangerous shortage of health care professionals while also providing other key sectors of our economy with talent from around the world to not only fill jobs but create new ones. Suspending this programme will only weaken our economy and our health care workforce at a time when they need to strengthen both is as clear as ever," the Congressman added.

The White House, earlier in the day, announced that the restrictions were put in place to ensure American workers take first priority as the nation starts recovering from the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.—ANI ■

# CBA facing huge fines in latest Australian banking scandal



Commonwealth Bank stands accused of receiving Aus\$22 million (\$15 million) in prohibited payments from a subsidiary . PHOTO: AFP

SYDNEY—Australia’s Commonwealth Bank faces hefty fines for alleged misconduct in the sale of pension products, regulators said Tuesday, the latest in a flurry of scandals to rock the country’s finance industry. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on Tuesday accused Commonwealth Bank (CBA) of receiving Aus\$22 million (\$15 million) in prohibited payments from a subsidiary, Colonial First State Investments, to promote its retirement fund to customers.

The corporate regulator said CBA, the country’s largest lender, sold the product to 390,000 customers via bank tellers and online over the six years to June 30, 2019.

The maximum fine for each breach of the law is Aus\$1 million (US\$690,000), and ASIC said it was pursuing financial

penalties against both CBA and Colonial.

It did not reveal how many breaches it was alleging. ASIC deputy chair Daniel Crennan said the case arose from a referral from a major inquiry into the banking industry -- which last year exposed rampant malpractice across the highly profitable sector.

The Royal Commission found banks had charged fees to dead people and to others for no services at all, used aggressive sales tactics and provided poor advice that led to significant financial upheaval for clients. ASIC alleged Colonial’s payments to CBA amounted to “conflicted remuneration”, which is banned, as they could have influenced the product recommendations or financial advice CBA gave to customers.—AFP ■

## Microsoft ends game streaming, teams up with Facebook

SAN FRANCISCO—Microsoft said Monday it was throwing in the towel on its livestream gaming platform and teaming up with Facebook to better compete with rivals like Amazon-owned Twitch.

Microsoft Mixer will be shuttered on July 22, the tech giant said in a statement.

“It became clear that the time needed to grow our own livestreaming community to scale was out of measure with the vision and experiences that Microsoft and Xbox want to deliver for gamers now, so we’ve decided to close the operations side of Mixer and help the community transition to a new platform,” the Mixer team said.

The gamers will be encouraged to transition to Facebook Gaming, which has some 700 million people who play or watch games every month.

“We will work to transition the Mixer community over the next few weeks. Starting on July 22, all Mixer sites and apps will redirect users to Facebook Gaming,” said by Phil Spencer, head of Xbox, the gaming division of Microsoft.

Microsoft announced it was buying the livestream service Beam in August 2016 to bolster its effort to boost its ranks of people who play and watch games online.—AFP ■

## Japan department store sales drop 66% in May, pace of fall moderates

TOKYO—Japan’s department sales in May dropped 65.6 per cent from a year earlier as the novel coronavirus pandemic continued to take a toll, but the pace of

decline moderated following the previous month’s record plunge, an industry body said Tuesday.

The latest data from the Japan Chain Stores

Association reflected the government’s lifting of a nationwide state of emergency in stages during May and compared with April’s record drop of 72.8 per cent.

While the outcome in May represented the second biggest per centage fall since comparable data became available in 1965, the association said recent sales suggest the recovery trend is continuing, with sales in the first 17 days of June at 41 large outlets down 27 per cent from the same period a year earlier.

May sales at 203 outlets run by 73 operators totaled 151.54 billion yen (\$1.4 billion) on a same-store basis, marking the eighth straight month of decline, the body said.

Duty-free sales dropped 97.5 per cent on a same-store basis to about 770 million yen with Japan’s cross-border travel restrictions for over 100 countries still in place.—Kyodo ■



Workers wearing face shields serve customers at an Isetan department store in Tokyo on May 30, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (078 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (078 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2020 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 CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (093N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (093N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (904N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (904N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

# Europe 2020 auto sales to plunge record 25%: industry group

PARIS — Auto sales in Europe this year will tumble a record 25 per cent due to the coronavirus pandemic which has left manufacturers facing a “major economic crisis”, a top industry group said Tuesday.

The European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA) also urged the European Union and member state governments to help the industry recover and safeguard jobs.

EU car sales will “tumble by more than three million from 12.8 million units in 2019 to some 9.6 million units this year”, ACEA said in a statement.

So far this year, the auto market has shrunk 41.5 per cent due to the impact of coronavirus lockdowns but ACEA said the



EU car sales will “tumble by more than three million from 12.8 million units in 2019 to some 9.6 million units this year”, ACEA said. PHOTO: AFP

situation should improve somewhat as restrictions are eased.

“In terms of percentage change, the bleak outlook represents the sharpest drop ever witnessed by Europe’s automobile sector,” it said.

“ACEA maintains hope that this dramatic scenario can be mitigated through fast and strong measures by the EU and national governments,” group head Eric-Mark Huitema said in the statement.

“Given the unprecedented collapse in sales to date, purchase incentives and scrappage schemes are urgently required right across the EU to create much-needed demand for new cars. — AFP ■

# Rohto to begin stem cell clinical test for COVID-19 in August

OSAKA — Rohto Pharmaceutical Co. said Tuesday it will begin a clinical trial in August using stem cells for a potential treatment for patients severely ill with COVID-19.

The Osaka-based drugmaker said it will be the first time in Japan that domestic stem cells have been used for such a clinical test.

To confirm the effectiveness and safety of this therapeutic approach, it will administer mesenchymal stem cells derived from adipose tissue from a donor to patients with severe cases of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The trial is expected to run through December but if everything goes well

it could end sooner, Rohto said, adding it will apply for the launch of the test to the health ministry in late June.

Under the plan, six COVID-19 patients who need to be on mechanical ventilators will receive an intravenous injection of the cells once a week for a total of four times. It is hoped that the injections will restore their lung tissues.

“It has been reported abroad that lives were saved (by the administration of stem cells), Yoshiki Sawa, a professor at Osaka University’s Graduate School of Medicine, who is cooperating in the trial, told a press conference. “We can assume it would be effective against pneumonia.”—Kyodo ■

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (39/2019-2020)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-206(19-20)	Coverall, Steel Helmet & Rain Coat (1) Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-207(19-20)	Safety Shoes & Gun Boots (1) Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-208(19-20)	PPE (Fire Crossing Proximity) Complete Sets and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (1) Lot	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 23 June 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 23 July 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 23-7-2020, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

## Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation No.(2) Mining Enterprise Invitation for Opening Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

Sr.	Materials Classifies	Weight (MT)	(F.O.B)	Tender Closing Date/Time
1.	Tin Concentrate	101.350	Dawei	22.7.2020 (12:00) pm
2.	Wolfram Concentrate	6.233		
3.	Tin & Wolfram mixed Concentrate	104.169	Dawei	
4.	Tin Concentrate	104.374	Myeik	
5.	Tin & Wolfram mixed Concentrate	1.327		
6.	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite mixed (≥55%)	91.444	Loikaw	
7.	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite mixed (≥55%)	103.330	Loikaw	
8.	Tin & Wolfram mixed (Low Grade)	25.126	Loikaw	
9.	Tin & Wolfram mixed (Low Grade)	5.600	Lashio	
10.	Tin & Wolfram mixed (Low Grade)	36.142	Pyinmana	
11.	Tin (Low Grade)	1.944	Yangon	
12.	Tin & Wolfram mixed (Low Grade)	3.280	Myeik	

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interest companies and contact to No.(2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph:+95-(0)67- 3409391, E-mail; metwo@e-monrec.gov.mm, within office hours.

Tender Committee  
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

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### Tender Notice

Sr. #	Brand and model	Quantity (units)
Lot No.1	Tongyada 35M³ Banana Cement Trailer	12
Lot No. 2	Huaian 35M³ Twin Cone Cement Trailer	8
Lot No. 3	Gardner Denver XK18 Compressor	20

Yoma Fleet Limited is announcing a tender notice to the interested buyers for the purchase of Cement Trailers and Compressor. The interested buyers may purchase the whole Lot by category or by unit from a lot.

Tender Commencement Date – 15.06.2020  
Tender Deadline – 03.07.2020

Please submit your tender bid at <https://bit.ly/cstender01>

The tender items specified above are available for inspection at Yoma Fleet Yard in Thilawa Industrial Zone, Yangon. Address - No. 27, Yaw Atwin Win U Phy Hlaing Street, Thilawa Industrial Zone, Yangon.

Inquiry phone number – 09 966 235 338

#### Terms & Conditions

The tender application must be submitted with full information on the form. The winner of the tender will be announced by 06.07.2020. Payment shall be deposited to Yoma Fleet Limited's Bank Account within 7 working days of winning the tender.

### FOR CLOSED TENDER !

Tenders are invited for the sales of the following vehicles

Model Year : 1996

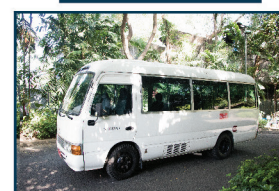
TOYOTA Crown

Model Year : 1996

TOYOTA Coaster

Model Year : 2002

Mercedes Benz 5320



Last day of tender is 7 July 2020 on 12 noon.

\*For more details or vehicle inspection, please contact Straits Greenfield Limited from Monday to Friday at +95 9 860 5377 or email [kyizin.win@sedonamyanmar.com](mailto:kyizin.win@sedonamyanmar.com).

\*\*All biddings should be in a sealed envelope address to the General Manager, Sedona Hotel Yangon and send to the tender box next to Security Office, Kabar Aye Pagoda Entrance at Sedona Hotel.

# Consumer rights and the rules employers will have to follow

By Naing Oo (DOCA)

**T**HE author had a quick casual glance at three shops close at hand while he was in Mandalay Region on business purpose. A company shop wrote an advertisement in bigger font claiming that the customers can use its products for posterity offering the customers a right and fair price if they are bought. In the same way, nearby another shop described an advertisement saying that the customers can enjoy taste and satisfaction worthier than money they paid. Only when good quality products are chosen and bought, can hygiene and freshness be acquired. The shop selling phones and accessories was named 'Yone Phu' and in Myanmar language it means feeling that you don't believe something or somebody.

## Legal consumers' rights capable of being claimed

We are demanding a variety of rights such as human rights, gender equality, and so on, but it is very rare to find those who are demanding for hygienic foodstuffs free from chemical dyes, clean clothing and cosmetics, and safe and secure cement and steel. Most of the consumers forget to demand consumer rights individually and the consumers have the rights to claim, lodge complaints, remedy and settle the problem. With the use of illegal chemical dyes and durable chemical substances, some businessmen are dealing with foodstuffs, medicines, electrical and telecom appliances, personal goods and industrial materials and they pay attention only to profit regardless of accountability and responsibility with regard to the services such as education, insurance, transport, hotel and catering, beauty parlor, and health which have most impacts on the consumers. For that

reason, it is necessary to control these consumer issues. According to the guidelines of consumer protection bodies formed globally, the Department of Consumer Affairs was constituted under the Ministry of Commerce in Myanmar and wide-ranging measures to provide consumer protection are being launched across the country.

The Consumer Affairs Department (CAD) is launching preventive measures for enabling more than 51 million consumers to have easy access to safe and quality goods and services and possess a longer life. It is also giving help to the businessmen in providing goods and services in line with the international norms. For the sake of the interest of the people, the laws are amended and directives are issued if necessary in accordance with globally practicable rules and regulations. In this way, frequent meetings in cooperation with consumers, entrepreneurs, governmental departments, and relevant organizations were held and the solutions were sought in line with the regulations.

## Harmonious law meant for competition

The work of consumer protection is to keep a balance of competition between the consumer and the entrepreneurs. On the other hand the consumers should have access to safe and quality goods and services. The consumer protection measure forces the entrepreneurs to manufacture safe and quality goods and provide services together with responsibility and accountability. In doing so, the commodities and services can be expanded not only to the local market but also to overseas one. In case of consumer issue, remedial action can be carried

out between the consumers and the entrepreneurs ignoring bias.

The consumers, the human resources of our country, need to be harmony with the entrepreneurs who are trying to improve the country. As regards, the officers and the staff of Department of Consumer Affairs, the intellectuals and intelligentsia from home and abroad made efforts in designing for ensuring the emergence of the consumer protection law to meet the norms of the international one. Previously, the consumer protection law was enacted in 2014. But the consumer protection law capable of guaranteeing that the entrepreneurs can achieve success not only in penetrating into local market but also into foreign one could be enacted with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 9 on 15 March in 2019. Moreover, the by-law of the consumer protection is in a draft form and soon it will be able to protect the consumers more than they were in the past and the new consumer protection law is going to give much help to the entrepreneurs. According to the newly-enacted consumer protection law (2019), apart from the rights, duties and demand of the consumers, it clearly states the obligations the entrepreneurs will follow.

## Rights, duties and demands of the consumers

The consumers enable to use safety of the goods or services and to choose the goods or services and obtain the promised value, terms and conditions and warranty. Moreover, they have the right to completely and correctly obtain the information relating to the condition and warranty of the goods and services. They can claim to hear and settle on dispute related to the goods or services they used and enable to obtain consumer protection



and correct settlement. The consumers must avoid false accusation intended to detriment on entrepreneurs and similarly they must avoid the saying, writing and acting in order to detriment on relevant entrepreneurs by mean of media or by other mean while relevant persons is settling the consumer dispute.

If the entrepreneurs fail to live up to their promises as to the goods, the consumers have the right to demand to replace with the quality goods or the compensation can be claimed. With regard to the services, compensation and remedial action can be claimed.

## The duties the entrepreneurs to follow

The duties of the entrepreneurs are as follows: they must act the business accord with business ethics; they must give clear and proper information on goods or services; they must treat honestly and properly with non-discrimination to the consumers; they must guarantee the goods or services traded or produced based on stipulated standard and quality; they must provide opportunity to test on goods or services which require to test quality before purchasing; they must take responsibility as guaranteed in respect of damage due to consuming goods or using services during the warranty period; they must take responsibility as agreed terms and conditions if received or used goods by consumer are inconsistent with the agreement; they must comply exactly with the agreed agreement or promise in the agreement in doing service business; they must avoid

the saying, writing and acting to cause detriment on the relevant consumer by means of media or by other means while relevant person is settling the consumer dispute.

## Prohibition of entrepreneurs

The entrepreneur shall not carry out the production, trade of the followings:

- goods that are not in conformity with the information or condition stated on the label, warrantee, distinctive, efficacy, net weight, net volume, total amount, quality, grade, position, mode, style of the relevant goods;
- goods that are not in conformity with the statement contained in the ingredients of label or advertisement and sale promotion;
- goods without name, size, net weight, volume, composition, instruction, manufactured date and batch number, expiry date, side effect, poisonous materials, name and address of manufactured company, name of distribution, trademark, information and preparation;
- goods without stating in Myanmar language or jointly in Myanmar and other language, the information or instruction related to use commencing from the date stipulated by the Central Committee;
- goods mentioned improperly in respect of place of yield or place of production;
- goods that are not in conformity with the recommendation of acknowledged department or organization of domestic and abroad; or the prescribed standard;
- goods that are stated the guarantee of health and nutrition without reference of scientific research finding by the respective organization;
- goods that are not in



that are expired; (f) selling by mixing goods that are similar and lower in quality; and the goods that are different and unsafe to consume.

Besides, the entrepreneur shall not offer for sale, promote sale or advertise on special price within on certain period without arrangement to sell the goods or services within the designated period or according to the amount as offered, promoted sale, advertised. 12. The entrepreneur shall not offer for sale, promote sale or advertise the goods or services if not enable to give actually although promised to give other goods as prize or give service free of charge.

Additionally, the entrepreneur shall not offer for sale, or advertise the goods or services by using any mode which causes annoyance to physical or mental of the consumer. In addition, the entrepreneur shall not advertise the following kinds of advertisement: (a) advertisements that are deceived to the consumers in respect quality of goods, quantity, ingredients in goods, mode of use to goods, price of goods, rate of service and time to be enable to deliver the goods or services; (b) advertisements that are deceived on warranty of the goods or services; (c) advertisements containing false information in respect of goods or services; (d) advertisements that are not informed the risk of using the goods or services; (e) advertisements used on any person or any incident without the permission of the person concerned; (f) advertisements that violate the provisions of Law, ethics. What is more, the entrepreneur or advertiser shall be liable to the consequences of own advertisements.

For these reasons mentioned above, the consumers are required to choose and buy the goods or services in a systematic manner by weighing whether they are safe and hygienic. If losses and damages are found, the consumers should lodge complaints to the Consumer Dispute Settlement Body formed at the different levels of township, district, and region/state. The entrepreneurs are urged to carry out the production and the trade of the goods and services meeting the international norms claiming that they are safe and hygienic by following law, order and directives.

*Translated by  
Htut Htut (Twantay)*

conformity with the prescribed standards and norms; (i) service that is not in conformity with stated condition, guarantee, distinct, term, efficacy in respect of the relevant service; (j) service that is not in conformity with the statement contained in the advertisement and sale promotion.

Moreover, the entrepreneur shall not offer for sale, promote sale and advertise with intent of misleading the buyer or user in the following conditions; (a) being goods discounted or fixed special price that are not in conformity with the referred quality standard, style or mode, distinct characteristic, use; (b) being goods that are not in fresh and good condition; (c) making firm sponsor and approval to goods or services of any other company; (d) being goods or services that are not useful or available; (e) being goods or services that the defect and need are concealed; (f) disparaging directly or indirectly other goods or services; (g) using exaggeration not approved with complete information; (h) being goods or services that are sold or given by offering with uncertain promises.

Furthermore, the entrepreneur shall, in selling and buying, not deceive or mislead the consumers with any of the following conditions: (a) stating incorrectly that the goods or services meet the prescribed standard, quality; (b) concealing and stating the need of the goods or services; (c) selling by substituting the other goods which is not the proposed goods; (d) increasing the price of the goods or services before sale promotion of the goods or services; (e) selling by redecorating and mixing the goods

## KBZPay launches shopper loan; Myanmar's first digital loan service that builds a credit score for customers

**K**BZPay, the leading mobile wallet in Myanmar, has launched the KBZPay Shopper Loan, the first digital loan service to deploy an automated decision engine that uses machine learning techniques to determine the credit worthiness of customers. The KBZPay Shopper Loan offers KBZPay customers who are salaried employees a fast and convenient way to obtain loans of up to MMK 5 million to purchase electronic products such as mobile phones and home appliances from any of KBZPay's merchant partners nationwide.

The loan application process is managed within the KBZPay mobile app, making it paperless and fully mobile. Customers are not required to provide collateral, guarantors or application fees and the loan verification period takes less than 24 hours to approve. The day after receiving approval on their loan, customers can make a purchase using the loan funds in their KBZPay mobile wallet, and can make loan repayments in flexible monthly installments over 12, 18 or 24 months.

The KBZPay Shopper Loan is the first in a series of mobile app-based loan products that will leverage KBZ Bank's automated decision engine. These loan products are designed to provide KBZPay customers with wider access to financial products and services and allow them to seek immediate and formal financing backed by the security and strength of KBZ Bank, the country's largest private bank, instead of relying on informal lending channels or trying to save up for months. Furthermore, customers need not have to visit a bank branch or handle cash as they can use their KBZPay mobile wallet to make payments for product purchases, as well as loan repayments.

Mr Chong Ho, Head of KBZPay and Unsecured Consumer Lending for KBZ Bank, says, "The KBZPay Shopper Loan, and other loan products that will soon be launched under KBZPay, reflects KBZ Bank's commitment to address the financial challenges of people in the country, especially the working population. Through our investment in mobile technology and KBZPay, our customers can now enjoy a loan service that is paperless and which helps them to build a credit score for the future. Following loan approval, a shopper can simply head to our merchant partner and walk away with the purchase without worrying about making an initial payment or needing cash in hand."

### KBZPay Shopper Loan's automated decision engine

The new KBZPay Shopper Loan is Myanmar's first digital loan service to deploy an automated decision engine to determine the credit worthiness of the customer. The twin powers of big data and advanced analytical techniques, coupled with high computing power, enable instantaneous calculation of a credit score and credit limit for each individual customer.

This process leverages machine learning techniques to automatically determine each customer's loan terms, minimising the risk of personal judgement and human error. KBZPay Shopper Loan customers who borrow responsibly and repay their loans on time will receive good credit scores which will in turn lead to positive benefits in the future.

### Application and Terms of KBZPay Shopper Loan

The KBZPay Shopper Loan is now available to Level 2 KBZPay customers in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw who are salaried employees drawing monthly income of at least MMK150,000. The loan product will be introduced in other cities and areas of the country in the coming months.

To find out more and to make a loan application, customers can tap on the "KBZPay Shopper Loan" menu item on the home screen of the KBZPay app. After clicking on 'Apply Now', the applicant can select the loan amount and duration of monthly repayments. The customer will then see an estimation of their loan amount, the interest applied, and the monthly repayment totals, before they proceed with the loan application. The final approved loan limit may differ from the amount shown in the loan calculator.

To proceed with the loan application, which only takes less than 15 minutes, the applicant will need to provide the following:

- \* Ward recommendation (Should not be older than 1 month)
- \* Electricity Bill
- \* Pay Slip or Salary Recommendation from HR for the past three months

After the loan application is completed, applicants will be required to watch a video about responsible borrowing and best practices for managing loan repayments.

Following the 24-hour loan verification period, applicants will receive an in-app notification to confirm if the loan application is successful. Successful applicants will receive a QR code that will be scanned by the KBZPay merchant partner to complete the payment for the item purchased.

The loan can only be used for purchases at KBZPay's Shopper Loan partner merchants, the majority of which offer mobile phones, electrical devices and home appliances. Loan recipients will not be able to cash-out the loan amount or transfer it to someone.

Loan recipients will need to make their loan repayments on the selected day of the month using funds in their KBZPay mobile wallet. All loan repayments will be reflected in the 'History' tab.

The KBZPay Shopper Loan merchant partners include leading retailers of electronic goods with branches across the country such as Technoland, Win Mobile World and Snoopy Mobile. Outside of Yangon, customers can also obtain a KBZPay Shopper Loan to purchase scooters.

KBZ Bank encourages its customers to borrow responsibly and to prioritise borrowing for only what is needed. Some tips on how to borrow responsibly:

- \* Set a budget for the item to be purchased and do not look to borrow over the budget amount.
- \* Allocate a portion of your monthly income to manage loan repayments.
- \* Make loan repayments before each monthly deadline to avoid incurring any penalties.
- \* Review your current loan balance regularly.
- \* Avoid obtaining several loans during a period of time.

## AFC discusses K League's resuming plan via videoconference

THE video meeting on the resuming plan of K League, the football league that early began amid the coronavirus pandemic, was held yesterday.

AFC's General Secretary Dato' Windsor John has led the videoconference, which was attended by AFC member-countries football federations' general secretaries, leagues CEOs, and officials.

AFC's General Secretary made an opening remark, saying that it is also expected to resume the respective countries' leagues soon.

Depending on each country's situation, resuming the leagues can be early or later. However, football in this era is very important for all, he added.

The meeting discussed the member-countries resuming plans and draft plans that can be

adopted by other countries if they are suitable for them.

An official from K League, the soccer league that early began amid coronavirus pandemic, detailed the resuming plan.

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) general secretary and Myanmar National League-MNL CEO also participated in the meeting.

K League is South Korea's professional association football league including the first division K League 1 and the second division K League 2.

According to MNL, if the government allows, MPT Myanmar National League will resume on 16 July 2020 in the closed stadium in Yangon following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—Kyaw Khin ■

## 'Ticks the boxes' - Australia, N Zealand favourites to host 2023 women's World Cup

SYDNEY — A decade ago Australia spent millions of taxpayer dollars on a disastrous quest to host the 2022 men's World Cup, but its football boss is quietly confident that crushing defeat will not be repeated this week.

Australia and New Zealand's joint bid to host the 2023 women's World Cup, using the slogan "As One", is up against Colombia, with the decision due on 25 June after the field was whittled down from 10. Japan, whose 'Nadeshiko' women's team won the 2011 World Cup, withdrew on Monday, a move seen as taking Australia

and New Zealand's biggest rival out of the race.

Thursday's announcement by the FIFA Council comes with women's football, and women's sport in general, on an upward trajectory. The last women's World Cup in France was a big success, watched by 1.12 billion people globally.

The next edition will have 32 teams for the first time, up from 24, with pressure on to take it to another level.

Australia and New Zealand both have experience in hosting major events and their bid was

regarded as the frontrunner after scoring strongly in FIFA's evaluation report. "When you look at our bid, we think it ticks a lot of the boxes," Football Federation Australia chairman Chris Nikou told AFP. "Whether that's infrastructure, or the facilities, whether it's the legacy or the commercial outcomes for FIFA.

"Or just our genuine engagement with women's sport and women's issues... and Australia and New Zealand are great places to visit too, so as a package we hope it's a compelling proposition."—AFP ■



The United States are the reigning champions after winning the 2019 World Cup in France. PHOTO: AFP



Veteran manager Neil Warnock has been tasked with saving Middlesbrough from relegation to the third tier of English football. PHOTO: AFP

## Middlesbrough turn to Warnock in relegation fight

LONDON — Championship strugglers Middlesbrough sacked manager Jonathan Woodgate and hired the experienced Neil Warnock on Tuesday as they battle to avoid relegation to the third tier of English football.

The widely travelled Warnock, 71, whose lengthy managerial career has included spells at Sheffield United, Crystal Palace, QPR and Leeds, has been out of the game since he left Cardiff in November.

Middlesbrough parted company with former England international Woodgate following their 3-0 defeat to Swansea at the weekend — their first game since the Championship resumed following the coronavirus shutdown.

It left them one place above the bottom three but only above Hull on goal difference.

"MFC can confirm that head coach Jonathan Woodgate has been relieved of his duties with immediate effect," a club statement said.

"Jonathan was relieved of his role on Tuesday morning and will be replaced by the experienced Neil Warnock."

Former Leeds and Real Madrid defender Woodgate, 40, was appointed last year but oversaw just nine wins in 38 league games.

Warnock has eight matches remaining to try to keep Middlesbrough, who were relegated from the Premier League in 2017, in the second tier.

His first game is against fellow strugglers Stoke City on Saturday.— AFP ■

## McTominay signs new deal at Man Utd

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Scott McTominay has signed a new deal that will keep him at the club until 2025, with the option of a further year, the club announced on Tuesday (23 Jun).

The 23-year-old academy graduate made his debut in 2017 and has made 75 appearances for the side, scoring six goals.

"Whilst I understand that we all have so many other things to think about at the moment,

I'm so happy to sign this contract and play a part in the future ahead for this team," the Scotland international said.

"All I have ever known is United and I hope that my passion for the club shows every

time I go onto the pitch. I'll continue to give everything for this club whenever I pull on the shirt." McTominay has made 28 appearances in all competitions this season, despite missing two months due to a knee injury, and

has been one of manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's standout players. "Scott has done tremendously well since I joined and has been a vital part of our midfield," the United boss said.—AFP ■