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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves \$180 mln ADB loan, establishment of diplomatic ties with Nicaragua

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw held the 5th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday.

The Hluttaw approved getting US\$180 million loan from Asia Development Bank for implementing Yangon City Water Resilience Project, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced appointment of security and border affairs ministers of the Sagaing Region government and the Yangon Region government, who have returned to the unit to perform their original military duties.

National Planning Report and Union Budget Report

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win submitted the National Planning Report and the Union Budget Report sent by the government for the first-half of 2019-2020FY.

Members of the Joint Public Accounts Committee tabled their findings and recommendations on these reports.

Annual debt report of government

The Deputy Minister also discussed the annual debt report of government for 2018-2019FY.

The report covers for the periods from April to September 2018, and from October 2018 to September 2019, totalling 18 months as there was a change in the first period of fiscal year.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes its 5th-day meeting of 17th regular session on 24 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar signed three loan agreements from the three foreign governments and organizations, valued at US\$111.255 million in the first period, and the seven loan programmes from the four foreign governments and organizations, valued at \$731.346 million, while taking out the highest volume of loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the largest repayment to China during these periods.

After presenting findings and recommendations of the

JPAC, the Hluttaw announced to discuss the report on 29 July.

ADB loan for Yangon City Water Resilience Project

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained the proposal of \$180 million loan from ADB for Yangon City Water Resilience Project which will include prevention of impacts on environment and society.

The project will take 180 million gallon of water from Nga Moe Yeik Reservoir which has storage volume of 49,000 million

gallon and is under the management of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The YCDC is concerned with installation of water pipelines. The Hluttaw approved the loan proposal without any objection.

MP Daw Htu May from Rakhine State constituency 11 and MP Daw Khin Hnin Thit from Pantaung constituency discussed establishment of diplomatic ties with Nicaragua.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin added his discussions. And the

Hluttaw approved it.

The Hluttaw also discussed the President's motion for elimination of violence and harassment in workplaces through Convention No. 190 and Recommendation No. 206.

MPs also discussed the proposed \$171.27 million loan from ADB for rural electrification project submitted by the President.

The 6th-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue on 27 July.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Govt discusses establishment of Tamu trade zone



Union Minister Dr Than Myint (centre) discusses establishment of Tamu Trade Zone during a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

GOVERNMENT is working for the establishment of a trade zone in Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, which is bordering with India.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, in his capacity as the chairman of trade zone implementation committee, chaired a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw for this project yesterday. At the meeting, the Union Minister said that the Tamu trading zone is aimed to promote trade for

the interests of residents as the area is close to the India border.

The Union Minister also urged the participants of the meeting to give suggestions for speeding up the implementation of the tasks cooperating with the relevant departments and the Sagaing Region government.

Participants also discussed the bilateral trade, employment opportunities, establishment of a larger trading zone in the future and to form a new committee from Sagaing Region

government for supervising closely along with the existing two committees.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister, the Minister for Planning and Finance of Sagaing Region government, the Permanent Secretary, the Directors-General, the Deputy Directors-General, the chairperson of the Kalay-Tamu-Kalewa Border Trade Chamber of Commerce and officials.—MNA ■

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

UNODC provides protective items for frontline officers in drug-abuse control

THE United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has handed over 30,000 masks and 3,000 set of gloves to Myanmar's Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), the branch of the Myanmar Police Force, that is leading the country's efforts to respond to illicit drug production and trafficking.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has created new challenges

for CCDAC's frontline officers, impeding their ability to operate at full capacity as concerns over officer safety have risen to the forefront, and that these protective items are aimed to mitigate the risks of infection and to continue drug control measures.

Myanmar is a key drug control partner for UNODC and Mekong MOU partners.—GNLM ■

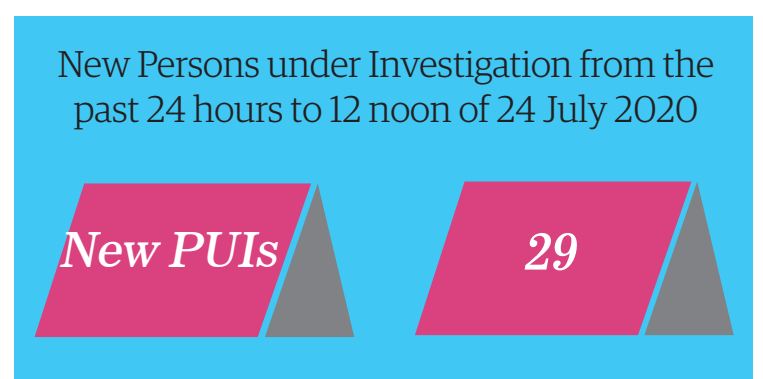


A police officer (right) receives the protective items for frontline officers handed over by a UNODC representative. **PHOTO: MNA**

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 346 after three new cases reported on 24 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 346 after 3 new cases were reported on 24 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 344 and 345 returned from India and 346 from Thailand. Out of the 346 confirmed cases, six died, 286 have recovered, 269 have been discharged from hospitals and 29 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 24 July 2020



Three new cases of COVID-19 on 24 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
344	29	Male	Tonzang Township, Chin State	No	Yes, India	People's Hospital, Tiddim	Positive	Keep under Investigation (Tonzang Township)
345	18	Male	Tonzang Township, Chin State	No	Yes, India	People's Hospital, Tiddim	Positive	
346	32	Female	Myawady Township, Kayin State	No	Yes, Thailand	People's Hospital, Hpa-an	Positive	Keep under Investigation (Myawady Township)

National Interest

Parties are not essential. What is essential is that they be free from partisan biases that harm the national interest.

When it is in the national interest for them to do so, all parties should be ready to abandon partisan concerns and unite and cooperate with each other.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's Speech delivered at the 1st Congress of AFPFL)



Myanmar, Japan exchange documents on electricity supply project from LNG

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy hosted a ceremony yesterday to exchange 'Notice to Proceed' to begin drawing work plan, designing, permit application and pre-engineering services for the 'LNG to Power' project of the two governments to be invested in Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Deputy Ministers for MoEE U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama, departmental heads, officials from relevant companies and invited guests.

In his opening remark, Union Minister U Win Khaing said the electricity plays a crucial role for developments of industrial sector and socioeconomic development of the country, and that Myanmar worked for electricity generation from liq-



Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama (centre left) and MoEE's Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing (centre right) exchange documents on electricity supply project from LNG during a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

uified natural gas to power.

He added that electricity could be generated within 72

months after issuing Notice to Proceed.

Myanmar is implementing

'LNG to Power' projects and 'LNG Terminal' for electricity generation due to the long time

in construction of hydropower plants, decline in natural gas productions from respective fields, unreadiness of commercial production from new gas fields and the falling price of LNG which can also be substituted for the distribution of natural gas.

The Union Minister continued to say that Myanmar will also implement a Gas Pipeline Master Plan phase by phase.

The 'LNG to Power' project is located in Yangon, and it will connect to 500kV transmission lines (Union Grid) in power distributions to other areas of the country. The project is expected to supply reliable services at reasonable price.

At the ceremony, Permanent Secretary of MoE U Tin Maung Oo and the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar exchanged the 'Notice to Proceed.'—MNA ■

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MOFA protests against Bangladesh's call for economic sanctions on Myanmar

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 1400 hrs on 24 July 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and border-related issues. The Permanent Secretary reiterated Myanmar's readiness to resolve the issue of displaced persons bilaterally in line with the agreements reached between the two countries, and underscored the need for both sides to faithfully implement those agreements.

The Permanent Secretary also expressed his disappointment over the press release recently issued by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry stating that the Foreign Minister appealed the international community to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar. The Permanent Secretary protested against such unfriendly acts inimical to Myanmar which would not contribute to resolving the bilateral issues. He added that only by maintaining friendly relations, will the two neighbours be able to find a durable solution to the issue of displaced persons. —MNA

25 Myanmar citizens come back home from HK on 24 July

A total of 25 Myanmar nationals from Hong Kong — 22 seamen and three students — returned home by a special chartered flight yesterday.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s flight carrying 25 from Hong Kong landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

On arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine

for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

A total of 8,556 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home to date.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

“People are the key”

Govt, local authorities discuss resettlement of IDPs in ethnic areas



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye chairs meeting of National-level Committee for Resettlement and Closures of IDP Camps yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE National-level Committee for Resettlement and Closures of IDP Camps held its second coordination meeting via videoconference yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the committee chairman, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U

Khin Maung Tin as vice-chairman (1), Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung as vice-chairman (2), deputy ministers as committee members, representatives from State-level committees of Kachin, Kayin, and Shan states, and departmental officials took part in the discussion.

At the meeting, Union Min-

ister Dr Win Myat Aye said the national-level committee was formed in accordance with the National Strategy on Resettlement of IDPs and Closure of IDP Camps that was adopted in October 2019.

After forming state-level committees, the works on resettlement of IDPs and closures of IDP camps were being implemented, with the closures

five IDP camps in Kachin State, five in Shan State, and four in Rakhine State.

The committee is working for resettlement of the displaced persons at two IDP camps in Kayin State.

There are currently 125 IDP camps across the country, and the works at the camps are being implemented as per strategic plans.

The committee's vice-chairman (1) also called for systematic resettlement schemes and closures of IDP camps in careful consideration of political situation and international pressures.

He also advised to carry out resettlement plans with great cares amid timely pressures from some countries and organizations.

The vice-chairman (2) also said it is needed to regularly inform the national-level strategy, policies and works to the people who are living at the camps and near the camps.

The resettlement works must be carried out in accordance with the relevant states' rules and regulations.

He also urged the officials concerned to choose the locations and manage the lands for IDPs in accordance with rule and regulations.

Schools, healthcare centres, roads and markets are needed to be systematically implemented. Moreover, the original rural development projects are needed to be taken into consideration, he added.

Representatives from Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states also discussed current conditions of the IDP camps, formation of state-level committees, choosing locations for closures of IDP camps, and other required coordination matters.

Their discussions also included arrangements for vocational businesses, the important role of media and cooperation, the works of departments concerned, and assistance for IDP camps during COVID-19.

The resettlement works in line with COVID-19 guidelines were also discussed during the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoI joins 'ASEAN Special Online Workshop on Fake News'

THE ASEAN Special Online Workshop on Fake News was held on 23 July and the experts from UNESCO and the European Union to ASEAN, as well as the relevant persons from information sector of the ASEAN, attended the virtual meeting.

The 12 staff officers from MRTV, IPRD and NPE Departments under the Ministry of Information joined the online workshop from Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam to address broadcasts of false news, fake news and misinformation, conventions and directives on fake news, cooperation of member countries to prevent fake news and development of international reviews.

During the first section of meeting, the attendees presented law and rules of respective countries, activities of ASEAN member countries regarding



MoI staff members join ASEAN Special Online Workshop on Fake News on 23 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

the cooperation works and reviews in combatting fake news while the Singaporean representative of Information Division under the Ministry of Communications and Information discussed Singapore's

preventive measures against the fake news.

The representatives of UNESCO and EU also explained international practices in reduction and prevention of fake news.

In the second section, the ASEAN Secretary-General's Office discussed decisions and plans in previous editions of the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Correction

Please read “...Notification (49/2011) on 23-9-2011” instead of “... Notification (49/2011) on 23-9-2020...” in the third line of No.1 Paragraph of Union Election Commission's Notification (139/2020) titled “Public Announcement on dissolution of political party” on page-4 of the 24 July Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error.—Ed

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Need to prevent and severely restrict dangerous illegal border crossings

In this type of situation, all of us need to prevent and severely restrict dangerous illegal border crossings. Those who come in illegally do not enter quarantine; if they carry the infection, the disease can spread to others. The steps needed to be taken to investigate and search for people who might have been exposed to the disease (contact tracing) and to quarantine them is such a huge burden for the country. This is a duty we have to undertake without fail so that the people would be free from danger.

Those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law. If you happen to know any occurrence that endangers the public, please inform the ward/village administrative authorities. Giving this type of information does not mean that you are putting someone into trouble. This is just to prevent innocent people from falling into the COVID-19 abyss.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 13 June 2020)



Ministry of Commerce holds zoom meeting on 'Doing Business'



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo presides over Ease of Doing Business Ranking meeting on 24 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Commerce held a coordination meeting by using zoom application in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, the team leader of Ease of Doing Business Ranking discussed processes for respective index of Myanmar Doing Business Action Plan 2020/2021 which was sent by the International Finance Cooperation and changes in implementation works.

Discussions highlighted cooperation between the ministries and other organizations to complete the works within a fixed time frame in taking previous

experience.

The Deputy Minister discussed the information from Labour Market Regulations to be published on the website and to keep carrying out for the Government Procurement (or) Contracting Governance in line with the Communication Plan.

The directors-general and leaders of indicator supporting groups, representatives of World Bank, International Finance Corporation and officials of Ease of Doing Business Task Force participated in the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

UAGO officials join ASEAN Law Institute meeting online

THE ASEAN Law Institute held its 3rd meeting via videoconference yesterday.

The Union Attorney-General Office Permanent Secretary Dr Thida Oo, Director-Generals Dr Swe Swe Aung, Dr Thi Thi Myint and other responsible persons participated in the meeting, together with ASEAN member countries.

The ASEAN member countries established the ASEAN Law Association in 1979 and Myanmar has become a member in 2012.

The association established the ASEAN Law Insti-

tute in Manila of the Philippines in 2018 to provide the ASEAN legal matters.

During the 3rd session of ASEAN Law Institute, the officials discussed programmes for ASEAN Law Institute to be able to stand as an organization formed in accordance with the law, procedures in strategic plans (2020-2024), processes that are completed or still under the operation according to 2020 Work Plan, suspended work due to COVID-19, ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, studies of local investment law of individual



Senior officials of Union Attorney-General Office take part in 3rd meeting of ASEAN Law Institute on 24 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

country, working plan for 2021, knowledge exchange among

ASEAN legal officers and the plan for upcoming meeting.—

MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

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Over 10,000 YPS payment cards sold in a week earning over K46 mln of top-up



A customer uses YPS Card to pay for a YBS bus ride in Yangon on 24 July 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 10,000 YPS payment cards were sold in a week earning over K46 millions of top-up, said U Thant Thiha, Deputy CEO of Asia Starmar Transport Intelli-

gent Company.

These YPS payment cards are being distributed in the market starting from 16 July. Within a week, more than 1,700 standard cards and over 8,800 promotion cards were sold out.

This YPS payment cards can be used onboard over 500 YBS buses and these YBS bus lines are Nos 43,62,72,87(1),87(2), 88, 89(1),89(2), 96(1), 96(2) and Bandoola lines 12,14, 25,30, 38 and 55.

The remaining over 1,000 YBS buses have planned to install YBS payment machines in four months, according to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Company.

Those YPS cardholders, who lost their cards, may inform the service centre to close their cards telling the code number of their cards to prevent loss of their money from the lost cards. So, the YPS holders need to take photos of their YPS cards to save the code number.

Authorities are planning to arrange to buy the YPS cards by

registration of the ID. Currently, the YPS cardholders need to scan the cards to pay for a single bus journey when getting in and getting out of the YBS.

The YPS machines will cut only K200 for the fare. Later on, the YPS machines will cut the fares depending upon the distance of the journey.

The YPS payment cards can be purchased in three service centres located in Thamine, Tamwe and Sule and 102 g&g convenient stores. Moreover, YPS can also be purchased at city hall bus stations, Eight Mile bus station, Myanmar plaza bus station and Para mi Nyaungbin bus station, according to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Company.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Myanmar migrant workers are queuing as they return home via Myawady border bridge (2) on 24 July. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

425 Myanmar migrant workers return via Myawady border on 24 July

A total of 425 Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand -- 264 males and 161 females -- returned home through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday.

Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, Deputy

District Administrator U Aung Chan Nyein and officials concerned helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

A total of 52,839 returnees have come back home through this border crossing since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

IWT 2 ferry lines reopen as per regular schedule

TWO ferry lines from the Inland Water Transport (IWT) (Delta Division) and two private ferry lines operating in Yangon and Ayeyawady Delta region are now reportedly resuming as per regular schedule while the remaining ferry lines except cargo ferries are still under suspension since the outbreak of the coronavirus infection.

“Only two ferry lines including Yangon- Kyonmangay ferry line that operates on Saturdays and Yangon-Kyarkan ferry line that operates on Thursday have been running after the Water Festival. The remaining ferries are still suspended. The Cherry ferries cruising between Pansodan and Dala are running 46 crossings per day. Two Z-crafts running between Yangon and Dala are operating 16 routes daily, said Assistant General Manager U Hla Win Naing of the IWT Del-

ta Division with the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The private pontoons operating between Mawgyun and Bogale are carrying 200 or 300 passengers daily. From 7 June to 15 July, the ferries cooperated with the Health Department to conduct the medical-related checks in the early morning. But

now, there are no more medical-related tests. Now, people are travelling as usual. Some vessels operating between Pyapon and Kyaiklat are running alternatively. But they do not ask for higher fares. The remaining ferries are still suspended, said U Thein Naing Oo, a member of Private Vessels Supervisory Committee.

The ferries are running in Pathein, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Mawlamyinegyun and Kyonmangay towns. Because of the spreading of coronavirus, the operation of passenger's vessels except cargo vessels have been suspended temporarily starting from the last week of March.—Thant Zin Win

(Translated by Hay Mar)



A jetty in Yangon is seen on 21 July 2020. The Inland Water Transport (IWT) is resuming ferry service to Ayeyawady from Yangon. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

Yadana Hsemee Pagoda Complex: An emerging travel destination for visitors to Inwa

THE Yadana Hsemee Pagoda Complex become well-known among the visitors to Inwa, which is the ancient kingdom founded by King Thado Minbya in 726 ME.

This complex has many historic artefacts, including 6 pagodas and other ancient architectures, from times of Amarapura, Yatanabon and Konebaung.

The pagodas were surrounded by palm and red-silk-cotton trees outside the residential areas of Inwa.

A rectangular old brick building can be seen at the main en-

trance along a small terrace.

The aged-old ruins are also making for some exciting photo opportunities, including a Buddha statue in front of several palm trees.

A massive earthquake hit this area in 1839, and leaving Inwa city and its structures in ruins.—Nway Nadi (Myit Ngai)

Tourists are seen visiting the Yadana Hsemee Pagoda Complex in Inwa on .
PHOTO : NWAY NADI (MYIT NGAI)



LOCAL BUSINESS

Onion growers in Kyaukpadaung suffer as onion prices drop

With widely growing of the onion in the villages around Kyet Mauk Taung dam in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay, the local farmers are suffering from sharply dropping price of onion this year, said U Tin Tun Aung, a winter onion grower from Laegwa village.

The price of onion reached K 500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the early harvest time. Then, the price of onion dropped to K 350 per viss in COVID-19 period. So, the onion growers could

not cover their production costs, leading to losses on the part of the local growers.

After harvesting the onion, the price of onion has dropped significantly. So, the winter onion growers do not even get back their capital investment resulting in difficulty to invest in production of onion next season, said U Nam Tin, a winter onion grower from Moat Gone village.

The production of the winter onion takes five and a half months. So, the farmers are sell-

ing their onion in September, October and November even they could not get the good price. Although the price of winter onion is rising regularly in October and November, the local growers are now being faced with the losses caused by COVID-19.

The cultivation of the winter onion costs K 2 million per acre and the local growers get back only K 350 per viss.—Ko Htein (KPD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



(FILE) Women sorts onions for sale at a compound of a house in Upper Myanmar on 1 February 2015.
PHOTO : KYAUKSE (IPRD)

Rice floor price set at K520,000 for every 100 baskets

By Nyein Nyein

A floor price for rice was set at K 520,000 per 100 baskets (one basket weighs 46 pounds, according to the announcement issued by the Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion on 23 July.

In accordance with the Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion Law, the committee has fixed the basic price of paddy for the local farmers to be able to sell at a fair price and serach the market for their produce.

While the floor price for rice has been declared at K 520,000 per 100 baskets, it has to meet the prescribed criteria 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed, and small stones.

The Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion has also mentioned that if the market price is above the set price, the merchants have to purchase the paddy at the prevailing

market price. However, if the market price is below the set price, they have to buy the paddy at the fixed floor price.

Moreover, this floor price is referred to this year monsoon paddy and next summer paddy.

The local farmers who have difficulty selling at the floor price may contact the township representatives of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) to the following numbers 01-2301128, 01-2301129, 01-218266, according to the announcement of the Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion.

The government also announced on 15 October 2019 that MRF members were to buy the paddy at the set basic price.

Starting from 2018, the announcement of the floor price for rice has been led by the MRF. Starting from 2019, the floor price has been announced by the Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Understanding, cooperation key for successful resettlement of IDPs

TO CLOSE IDP camps and resettle the internally displaced with dignity, a National Strategy, written in keeping with current requirements and international standards, was adopted in October, 2019.

So far, five IDP camps in Kachin State, five in Shan State and four in Rakhine State have been closed, and resettlement for the IDPs from two camps in Kayin State are being discussed as part of efforts for closing the camps.

At present, there are 125 IDP camps nationwide and the government is taking further steps for the resettlement of the displaced people and closure of the camps.

For the resettlement of IDPs and closure of IDP camps, in accordance with the national-level strategy, we should take cautious steps, since we are under the scrutiny of the international community, noting that some countries and organizations are putting pressure on the government that coincide with our implementation.

The officials concerned are advised to discuss the national strategy, policies and tasks with the IDPs to ensure they clearly understand the government's policy, which is committed to ensuring that displaced people rebuild their lives with safety and dignity, without depending upon others.

It is worth noting that cooperation and consensus from the IDPs through their clear understanding of the government's policy is key for successful implementation of the IDP resettlement strategy.

Hence, details about the government's plans need to be provided at IDP camps in Kayin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states till residents of these camps gain confidence to return to their place of origin or a place of their choice in future.

The resettlement of IDPs would be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the rules and regulations of the respective region and state governments. Also, choosing the sites for relocation and land management must be carried out in conformity with the law.

When it comes to the closure of IDP camps, we must not lose sight of our special goal of IDP resettlement with safety and dignity. Before closing down camps, the political, social, and security aspects of the IDP camps in Kachin, Kayin, and Shan states must be given consideration. Armed conflicts uprooted scores of people from their homes in Myanmar and forced them to take shelter in camps for the displaced in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, and Rakhine states.

Even after the armed conflicts ceased, the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained unresolved for years.

All hands from local communities, civil organizations, international organizations, and UN agencies should be on deck in efforts to end this issue in the country to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Light of literature from Sarpay Beikman shines upon Myanmar

By Maung Hlaing

ON 10 July 2020, the first coordination meeting of the Literary Consultant Team of Sarpay Beikman was held at the headquarters of Printing and Publishing Department on Thein-byu Street.

It was 6 June in 1947. On that day, representatives, economists and officials met to deliberate on the national rehabilitation needs, under the leadership of Bogyo-oke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence. That historic meeting (widely known as conference) at the Building of Sorrento Villa which was situated at 361, Pyay Road in Yangon.

The attendees drafted a Two-year Plan on Economic Development to be implemented when Myanmar regained her independence. The Plan came to be known as "Sorrento Villa Plan" after the venue of the meeting. Bogyo-oke Aung San, who chaired the conference, made a historic speech. It was the last speech in the life of our later lamented national architect of independence, who became a Martyr on 19 July 1947.

The Sorrento Villa Plan was beneficial not only to the economic situation of the nation but also to the literary world of the nation.

"A translation department should be established to translate useful books and have them published in the interest of the people", said Bogyo-oke Aung San



Book sellers on the streets of Yangon offer a wealth of reading pleasure and knowledge through the ages. **FILE PHOTO/GNLM**

in his speech. His speech paved the way to save the people from the age of darkness. In order to implement his speech, the Burma Translation Society (BTS), or Sarpay Beikman, was established on 26 August 1947. In this way, the building of Sorrento Villa, located at 361, Pyay Road was found while seeking a place of peace and quiet to implement the literary tasks of the BTS.

The name of Burma Translation Society was changed into

more honourable "Sarpay Beikman".

Later, the name was used in English as "Palace of Literature" where necessary. Now, the name in Myanmar စာပေဗိမာန် is transliterated as "Sarpay Beikman". The motto အမှောင်ခွင်၌ရှိ အလင်းဆောင်အံ့ written in Myanmar by Sayagyi Min Thu Wun was translated into English as "Light, Where Darkness Was" by Sayagyi U Khin Zaw (K).

As a result of implementing

the suggestions made by Bogyo-oke Aung San at the Sorrento Villa, a grand publishing house emerged. At that time, although it received occasional government subsidy because of the educational nature of its work, Sarpay Beikman was not a government organization. It was a private, non-political institute, governed by a Managing Council whose members, in addition to its President, Premier U Nu, included U Tin, Minister for Trade Develop-

ment, Dr U E Maung, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court, U Ohn, Counsellor to the Premier, U Cho, Executive Officer of the United States Educational Foundation in Burma, U Thein Han (Saya Zawgyi), Librarian of the University of Rangoon, U Myo Min, Professor at the Department of English, University of Rangoon.

U Wun (Saya Min Thu Wun), Director of the University Translation and Publications Department, U Ba, Director of Education, U Chan Htoon, Justice of the Supreme Court, U Khin Zaw (Saya K), Director of Burma Broadcasting Service, U Aung Min, Director of Social Welfare, U Thant, Secretary to the Premier, and U Thet Su, Chairman of Social and Economic Council.

Such presons were those who played the leading role in the political, economic, social and literary fields. Because of the efforts made by them, Sorrento Villa Printing Plant came into being and literary activities were successfully carried out. In the 1950s, the (Sarpay Beikman) Printing Plant was known as the most modern one in Southeast Asia where all our books were printed. Believe it, or not, in Sarpay Beikman Printing Plant, Ludu Theikpan Kyau (Science for the masses), school text-books,

Sarpay Beikamn monthly magazine, People's Handbook Series, books for children and other useful reading materials were produced.

Throughout the ages of Parliament Democracy, Revolutionary Council, Lanzin Party, or Burma Socialist Programme Party, Sate Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Develop- ment Council and incumbent Government, Sarpay Beikman has been contributing a lot to literary development. We cannot deny that.

The 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Sarpay Beikman was successfully held on 26 August 2017. We are now looking forward to seeing the Diamond Jubilee Ceremony in 2022. With the passage of time, Sarpay Beikman has to carry out gigantic tasks - Scrutinization of National Literary Awards, Scrutinization of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards, holding of paper reading sessions, and other literary activities in addition to production of regular publications of Shwe Thway Weekly Journal for children, People's Handbook Series, Myanmar Year Book (Encyclopedia), Thuta Padetha (General Knowledge) Monthly Magazine.

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POLICY AND LAW TO PROTECT HEALTH AND WELLBEING

New COVID-19 Law Lab to provide vital legal information and support for the global COVID-19 response

The newly launched COVID-19 Law Lab initiative is aiming to ensure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and that they adhere to international human rights standards.

The COVID-19 Law Lab gathers and shares legal documents from over 190 countries across the world to help states establish and implement strong legal frameworks to manage the pandemic. The goal is to ensure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and that they adhere to international human rights standards.

The new Lab (at www.COVIDLawLab.org) is a joint project of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the

O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

Well-designed laws can help build strong health systems; evaluate and approve safe and effective drugs and vaccines; and enforce actions to create healthier and safer public spaces and workplaces. Critically, they are key to effective implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations: surveillance; infection prevention and control; management of travel and trade; and implementation of measures to maintain essential health services.

"Laws and policies that are grounded in science, evidence and human rights can enable people to access health services, protect themselves from COVID-19 and live free from stigma, discrimination and violence," says Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator. "The COVID-19 Law Lab is an important tool for sharing good practices on laws and policies."

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a vast increase in urgent legislative action to control and reduce the pandemic.

"Strong legal frameworks are critical for national COVID-19 responses," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Laws that

impact health often fall outside the health sector. As health is global, legal frameworks should be aligned with international commitments to respond to current and emerging public health risks. A strong foundation of law for health is more important now than ever before."

However, laws that are poorly designed, implemented, or enforced can harm marginalized populations, entrench stigma and discrimination, and hinder efforts to end the pandemic.

"Harmful laws can exacerbate stigma and discrimination, infringe on people's rights and undermine public health re-

sponses," according to Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "To ensure responses to the pandemic are effective, humane and sustainable, governments must use the law as a tool to uphold the human rights and dignity of people affected by COVID-19."

The COVID-19 Law Lab is a database of laws that countries have implemented in response to the pandemic. It includes state of emergency declarations, quarantine measures, disease surveillance, legal measures relating to mask-wearing, social distancing, and access to medication and vaccines. The database will continue

to grow as more countries and themes are added.

It will also feature research on different legal frameworks for COVID-19. These analyses will focus on the human rights impacts of public health laws and help countries identify best practices to guide their immediate responses to COVID-19 and socio-economic recovery efforts once the pandemic is under control. It builds off the work of the UHC Legal Solutions Network, which was established to help countries achieve universal health coverage through the implementation of rights-based legal frameworks.

SOURCE: WHO

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Zaw Win	Rector, Sagaing University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
(b) Dr Tha Tun Maung	Rector, Kalay Univeristy, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
(c) Dr Ba Han	Rector, Meiktila University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
(d) Dr Win Naing	Rector, Sittway University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
(e) Dr Aung Kyaw	Rector, Maubin University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Htay Win	Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(b) U Nay Aung Ye Myint	Director-General, Deputy Director-General (Admin), Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction

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Light of literature from Sarpay Beikman shines upon ...

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With the guidance given by the Union Minister for Information, the One-hundred Myanmar Classic Book series have come out. Volumes one, two and three have already been published and they won the attraction of book-worms. Besides, the book lovers including researchers are now looking forward to seeing the Vol.1 of Encyclopaedia that will come out with a new updated version. The plan has been implemented in cooperation with the Tun Foundation.

It is heartening to see that the Translation Branch of Sar-

pay Beikman is now making efforts in producing translation works in full swing. Recently, it has produced an interesting book "Mass Media, Politics and Democracy" by John Street, translated by veteran translator (ex - Chief Editor of the Mirror) Ye Tint.

The Public Library of Sarpay Beikman is open to all, providing services to readers including researchers, compilers, scholars and so on. In addition to its reference library, Sarpay Beikman has a Children's Library to make the children have interest in reading and to build up their reading habit. However,

it is disappointing to know that the number of readers who visit the library has fallen, compared to the past results.

Actually, Sarpay Beikman has been carrying out literary development activities in addition to its normal duties.

However, times have passed. Good and able persons of Sarpay Beikman have done their best and earned their rest. According to the vicissitudes of life, the new have to substitute for the old in the long march. The new comers have to be well trained to follow in their predecessors' footsteps. To be frank, successors need to be qualified.

To meet the needs, the literary consultant team of Sarpay Beikman has emerged. Man of letters such as veteran writer and librarian Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung and veteran scholar Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min - Danubyu) will lead the members who have possessed their own reputation in Myanmar literary world. The team will give guidance and advice on implementation of literary development works, production of quality publications, conducting training courses for editorial staff, promoting practices of literary studies, republishing famous books of Sarpay Beik-

man, translation of Myanmar cultures into English and etc.

I for one, I assume that what Sarpay Beikman needs is capacity building for newly hatched editorial staff. Our seniors have done the best and earned the rest. But they have to relay what is the best to the next generation.

As Alfred Lord Tennyson said in his poem.... For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever...., Sarpay Beikman will go on forever!

Ref (1) A booklet on Sarpay Beikman Institute, 1958.

(2) မြန်မာ့အလင်း 31-3-2019

Malaysia in \$3.9 bn settlement with Goldman over 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia reached a \$3.9 billion settlement with Goldman Sachs Friday over the Wall Street titan's role in the 1MDB scandal in exchange for the country ending all criminal proceedings against the bank.

Billions of dollars were looted from sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad in a fraud that allegedly involved former prime minister Najib Razak and his cronies.

The cash plundered from state coffers bankrolled a global spending spree, and was spent on everything from artwork, to real estate and a super-yacht.

Goldman's role came under scrutiny over bond issues totaling \$6.5 billion it helped arrange for the investment vehicle, with Malaysia claiming large amounts were misappropriated during the



Hundreds of millions of dollars were looted from Malaysia's 1MDB fund **PHOTO: AFP**

process. Najib lost power in 2018 amid public anger at the scandal, and a new government charged Goldman and a string of former and current employees over the fraud, as well as demanding hefty

compensation.

Malaysia and Goldman had been locked in long-running talks, and the country's finance ministry announced a breakthrough had finally been achieved.—AFP

US airlines report losses as latest COVID-19 spike mars outlook

FORT WORTH — American Airlines and Southwest Airlines both reported quarterly losses Thursday as the industry reins in spending and reduces flights amid a shaky demand environment further weakened by the latest spike in US coronavirus cases.

Executives described volatile appetite for flying as consumers veer between the desire to escape cabin fever after lockdowns and unease as coronavirus cases rise and authorities and companies impose quarantines or other restrictions.

American Airlines, which moved more aggressively than other carriers this spring to add flights amid a brief spurt in consumer interest, expects to trim capacity back somewhat in August and September.

Vasu Raja, chief revenue officer at American, said there had been a "marked" weakening of demand in July compared to May and June, and that the company was taking a "flexible" approach to scheduling.

"You'll see us taking down Q3 (capacity) more," Raja said on a conference call.

Southwest described a similar dynamic, with Chief Executive Gary Kelly saying bookings "recently stalled in July with the rise in COVID-19" cases.

"We expect air travel demand to remain depressed until a vaccine or therapeutics are available to combat the infection and spread of COVID-19," Kelly said. Kelly's comments came after United Airlines Chief Executive Scott Kirby said Wednesday that he expects revenue to plateau at around 50 per cent of pre-coronavirus levels until there is a vaccine.—AFP

Russia jails air traffic controllers over Total chief death

MOSCOW — Russia on Thursday handed three air traffic controllers jail terms for the deaths of Total CEO Christophe de Margerie and crew members in a collision with a snowplough in Moscow.

The CEO of the French oil giant was killed along with two pilots and a flight attendant when his private jet crashed into a snowplough on takeoff from Moscow's Vnukovo airport in October 2014.

Snowplough driver Vladimir Martynenko was accused of driving his vehicle while drunk into the path of the Falcon jet departing for Paris.

He and his superior Vladimir Ledenev were sentenced in 2017 to four and three-and-a-half years in prison but both were freed in

an amnesty.

Three air traffic controllers — senior employee Roman Dunayev, as well as Alexander Kruglov and Nadezhda Arkhipova — went on trial accused of violating safety rules.

Moscow's Solntsevsky district court sentenced Arkhipova to 5 years, Kruglov to 5.5 years and Dunayev to 6 years in a type of open prison with less harsh conditions than a penal colony, the court spokeswoman said.

Arkhipova was immediately freed in an amnesty, she added.

Defence lawyer for Dunayev, Igor Chernetsky, told AFP that "we don't agree with this sentence, we think it is unlawful and baseless." — AFP



The chief executive of French oil group Total, Christophe de Margerie. He was killed in a plane crash at a Moscow airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Singapore's manufacturing output declines 6.7 pct on year in June

SINGAPORE — Singapore Economic Development Board announced on Friday that the country's manufacturing output decreased 6.7 per cent year on year in June, compared to a revised 8.1 per cent decrease in May.

In the first half of 2020, the manufacturing output grew 3.5 per cent year on year.

Excluding biomedical manufacturing, the output rose 2.1 per cent in June from a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted

month-on-month basis, Singapore's manufacturing output increased 0.2 per cent in June. Excluding biomedical manufacturing, the output decreased 0.8 per cent. Output of the biomedical manufacturing cluster fell 30.6 per cent year on year in June, compared to a revised 1.9 per cent growth in the previous month. The medical technology segment grew 5.9 per cent to meet export demand for COVID-related medical devices. —Xinhua ■



Singapore Economic Development Board announced on Friday that the country's manufacturing output decreased 6.7 per cent year on year in June, compared to a revised 8.1 per cent decrease in May. PHOTO: AFP

Vietnam PM orders suspension of wildlife trade amid virus pandemic

HANOI — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc has ordered suspension of wildlife trade, in a measure taken as the country weathers the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the Vietnam News Agency, the directive issued Thursday calls for suspending the import of wildlife, as well as their parts or derivatives, with the notable exception of those used in medicines.

Localities are required to abolish wildlife markets and to strictly tackle the illegal hunting, buying, selling, transporting, slaughtering, consuming, storing, advertising and abuse of wildlife.

"The directive stresses Vietnam's consistent view on tightening the enforcement of

national and international laws on wildlife in order to realize its relevant international commitments," VNA said.

It said Phuc also ordered government ministries to consider heavier punishments relating to illegal wildlife trade and consumption.

The move comes about a week after three ivory traffickers were sentenced to 10-11 years each by a Hanoi court for trading over 200 kilograms of ivory from African elephants.

The origins of the current novel coronavirus pandemic are widely thought to lie in wildlife trade.

Vietnam has fared better than some countries in Southeast Asia with 412 cases, with no deaths to date.—Kyodo ■



A binturong or bearcat (*Arctictis binturong*) in Vietnam, where the meat is consumed and parts are used in traditional medicine. IMAGE BY RHETT A. BUTLER / MONGABAY.

China's civil aviation recovers as daily flights increase

BEIJING — China's civil aviation continues to recover as daily flights hit a new high on Thursday since the COVID-19 outbreak, said the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) on Friday.

The daily number of civil aviation flights reached 13,059 on Thursday, about 80 per cent of the level before the COVID-19 outbreak, according to the CAAC.

The daily number of air passengers hit 1.27 million on Thursday, rebounding to 70 per cent of the level in the same period last year.

Since February, the year-on-year growth rate of China's air passenger traffic has picked up month by month. The civil aviation sector reported an average of 10,820 daily flights in June, up by 14.1 per cent from May.—Xinhua ■



A security staff member checks a passenger's temperature at Sanya Phoenix International Airport in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, Jan. 27, 2020. According to the airport authority, all passengers arriving or leaving the airport should accept temperature checks. (PHOTO BY PU XIAOXU/XINHUA)

Confirmed cases continue to surge in Asia-Pacific as India reports highest daily jump

HONG KONG — Asia-Pacific countries reported more COVID-19 cases on Friday as India recorded its biggest one-day spike of 49,310 infections, taking the total to 1,287,945.

India's health ministry Friday morning reported 740 new deaths during the past 24 hours across the country, taking the number of deaths to 30,601.

According to ministry officials, so far 817,209 people have been discharged from hospitals after showing improvement.

Bangladesh reported over 2,500 new COVID-19 cases, as the total number of infections rose to nearly 219,000 and the death toll reached 2,836. Senior Health Ministry official Nasima Sultana said in a briefing that 2,548 new

COVID-19 positive cases and 35 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

"The number of confirmed infections in the country totalled 218,658 while fatalities stood at 2,836," she said. In the Philippines, the number of total cases surged to 76,444 after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 2,103 new cases.—Xinhua ■

US Senate passes \$740.5 bn defence bill that would rename bases

WASHINGTON — The US Senate on Thursday passed a \$740.5 billion bill setting Pentagon priorities, but which President Trump has threatened to veto over a provision that removes Confederate names from military bases.

The Senate's version of the National Defence Authorization Act for critical defence spending passed by a vote of 86 to 14, a veto-proof result that saw several Republicans defy the president and support the base-renaming measure.

The House of Representatives approved its own version of the bill, which also included a provision to rename several US bases named after Confederate generals who fought on the pro-slavery side of the 1861-1865 Civil War. The House vote was also well beyond the two-thirds necessary to override a presidential veto, setting up a likely clash with the White House.

The two chambers will now negotiate a compromise version



US soldiers guard Yongsan military base in the South Korean capital of Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

of the bill, a process that is expected to take months before it reaches the president's desk.

A defence authorization bill has cleared Congress every year since 1961.

This year's Senate version

includes a three percent pay raise for troops and a Pacific initiative to deter aggression from China.

"The NDAA gives our military the personnel, equipment, training and organization needed to... thwart any adversary who

would try to do us harm," Senate Armed Services Committee chairman James Inhofe, a Republican, said in a statement.

"I don't want a fair fight out there, I want to be superior -- and this bill does that."—AFP ■

Iraq forces free German woman kidnapped in Baghdad



German citizen Hella Mewis ran programmes at a Baghdad centre supporting young artists, before she was kidnapped near her office in the Iraqi capital. IRAQI ART COLLECTIVE TARKIB/AFP

BAGHDAD — A German woman kidnapped in Baghdad earlier this week was freed overnight, Iraqi officials said on Friday, without providing additional details.

"Security forces have freed activist Hella Mewis," Iraq's military spokesman Yahya Rasool said in a statement.

There were no details on the timing of the operation, the force that carried it out or who had kidnapped Mewis.

A spokesman for Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, Abdelsattar Bayraqdar, said the operation had been backed by a Baghdad investigative court.

"We are still investigating this crime," he said.

Mewis, who ran arts programmes at Iraqi collective Tarkib, was kidnapped late on

Monday as she was leaving her office.

"She was riding her bicycle when two cars, one of them a white pickup truck (of the type) used by some security forces, were seen kidnapping her," a security source told AFP.

Police officers at the local station witnessed the abduction but did not intervene, the source added.

Mewis's phone was still unreachable on Friday and her friends had not heard from her.

The German embassy in Baghdad had no immediate comment.

A friend of Mewis told AFP she had been worried following the killing of Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi scholar who had been supportive of anti-government protests last year.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US intercepts Iranian passenger plane over Syria

TEHRAN — The US said Thursday it had intercepted an Iranian passenger plane as it flew over Syria, after Iranian state television accused Israel of being behind the encounter.

US Central Command, which oversees US operations in the Middle East, said an "F-15 on a routine air mission... conducted a standard visual inspection of a Mahan Air passenger airliner at a safe distance of approximately 1,000 metres from the airliner."

"Once the F-15 pilot identified the aircraft as a Mahan Air passenger plane, the F-15 safely opened distance from the aircraft," Centcom said.

It added: "The professional intercept was conducted in accordance with international standards."

The US statement came after IRIB television channel aired amateur footage of passengers on board screaming as the Mahan Air jetliner appeared to change course suddenly.

Another video apparently shot on a phone appeared to show at least two fighter jets flying beside the plane.—AFP ■

US government watchdogs to probe federal crackdowns in Portland, DC

WASHINGTON — The US Justice Department's independent watchdog announced Thursday it was launching probes into the use of force by federal agents in Portland, Oregon, and the US capital.

The move comes following outrage by members of Congress, as well as rights activists and the public, over daily violent clashes in Portland between federal forces and demonstrators protesting against racism and police brutality.

Inspector-General Michael Horowitz said his office has opened an investigation into the civil unrest, which escalated in the past week following reports of camouflaged federal agents using force and snatching people from the streets of the western city and putting them into unmarked cars.—AFP ■

S.Africa probes alleged corruption with coronavirus funds

CAPE TOWN — South Africa is investigating dozens of alleged corruption cases involving theft or misappropriation of funds earmarked to fight the coronavirus pandemic, president Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday.

A special investigating team had been set up to look into "allegations of corruption in areas such as the distribution of food parcels, social relief grants, the procurement of personal protective equipment and other medical

supplies," he said. "At least 36 cases are currently at various stages of investigation and prosecution," the president said in a special address to the nation.

In April, the government announced an unprecedented

500-billion-rand (\$26.7-billion) economic stimulus and social relief package to cushion the impact of coronavirus. But some of those funds have been stolen, misused or relief food aid has been diverted from households in need.—AFP ■

Eurozone business growth turns positive: IHS Markit

Business activity in the 19-nation eurozone is increasing for the first time since February, before the coronavirus lockdown, according to a survey of purchasing managers by IHS Markit.

The firm's PMI output index turned positive – hitting 54.8 points in July compares to 48.5 in June – and showed the sharpest rate of growth in July for just over two years.

The index fell to its lowest ever level in April, plunging to 13.6 points – anything under 50 in-

dicates a contraction. It improved to 31.9 in April and 48.5 in June.

“The data add to signs that the economy should see a strong rebound after the unprecedented collapse in the second quarter,” said Chris Williamson, IHS Markit's chief business economist.

IHS Markit ascribed the turnaround to lockdowns across the continent easing – allowing firms to get back to work and consumers to return to shops, easing the pace of job losses.

But Williamson warned that, despite an “initial V-shaped recovery”, many businesses are merely completing backlogs of work and there may be more trouble ahead.

“The concern is that the recovery could falter after this initial revival,” he said.

“Firms continue to reduce headcounts to a worrying degree, with many worried that underlying demand is insufficient to sustain the recent improvement in output.”

—AFP ■



The easing of lockdown orders across Europe has helped business activity rebound. PHOTO: AFP

Airbus makes gesture to resolve EU-US dispute

Airbus announced Friday it had made a gesture to end a long-running dispute between the European Union and the United States at the World Trade Organization over aircraft subsidies.

The manufacturer said it had reached agreement with the French and Spanish governments that

raises the interest rates on funds provided to help develop the long-haul A350 to levels the WTO considers appropriate.

“Airbus considers itself in complete compliance with all WTO rulings,” it said in a statement.

“After 16 years of litigation at the World Trade Or-

ganization, this is the final step to stop the long-standing dispute and removes any justification for US tariffs.”

An epic legal battle between Airbus and Boeing at the WTO began in 2004 when Washington accused Britain, France, Germany and Spain of providing ille-

gal subsidies and grants to support the production of a range of Airbus products.

A year later, the EU alleged that Boeing had received \$19.1 billion worth of prohibited subsidies from 1989 to 2006 from various branches of the US government.

The two cases were then tangled up in a legal quagmire, with each side being given partial vindication after a long series of appeals and counter appeals.

In June the US threatened to levy tariffs on another \$3.1 billion in EU goods as it has been authorized to do under an WTO ruling.

Airbus said that the impact of those tariffs plus the coronavirus pandemic were the reason it was making the effort to resolve the dispute.—AFP ■



Airbus said that the impact of those tariffs plus the coronavirus pandemic were the reason it was making the effort to resolve the dispute. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

UK manufacturing sees record slump amid coronavirus pandemic

LONDON — British manufacturers activity saw a record fall in the three months to July due to significant impact caused by the coronavirus pandemic, said an industry report Thursday.

The Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) quarterly industrial trends survey showed that output dropped in 14 out of 17

sub-sectors in the quarter to July, with the headline fall being led by “motor vehicles & transport, food, drink & tobacco, and mechanical engineering”.

According to a survey of 356 manufacturing firms, the total new orders in the period fell “at their fastest pace since October 1980”, said the survey. — Xinhua ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Face Shield for COVID-19 protection in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (23.7.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (5-8-2020), 12:00 noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411628, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (095 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (095 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2020** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1123 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1123 S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2020** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GLODEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (029S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (029S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** 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.

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Stone sculptures in Sri Kestra era

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

SRI KESTRA, an ancient Pyu city included on the World Heritage Sites, is located in Hmawza Village of Pyay Township in Bago Region. It is the largest Pyu city in Myanmar.

Pyu cultural evidences excavated from ancient Sri Kestra area comprised images related to Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism and Hinduism.

The evidences of Theravada Buddhism consisted of stone sculptures such as Buddha images, pagodas and stone plaques bearing pagodas and Buddha images reliefs, celestial being statues, thrones decorated with human statues and Buddhological episodes.

U Sein Maung Oo, who ex-

cavated Sri Kestra, wrote that stone sculptures found from Sri Kestra could be roughly identified as statues of Buddhism, that of Hinduism, furniture and created statues.

Two stone plaques to cover reliquary

Two stone plaques covering reliquary found from Khinba mound in 1926-27 are showcased as significant stone sculptural works of Theravada Buddhism at Thiri Khittaya museum in ancient Sri Kestra.

A shale plaque, 4.75 feet long, 4.5 feet wide and four inches thick, distinctly bore the relief reliquary of the pagoda. A five-tier umbrella was posted on the reliquary. The base of the pagoda consisted of



Buddha image unearthed from Shwenyaungpin mound.

five archways, each of which bore a Buddha image in Jhana Mudra of hand posture, dedicating to four already-Enlightened Buddhas and forthcoming Arimatteya Buddha.

Each statue of Brahma kept the pagoda under umbrella together with banners. The Sun and the Moon were carved on both sides of the pagoda. The base of

the pagoda was carved as throne. The pagoda on the lid of reliquary was similar to Sanchi Stupa in Sanath of India.

The lid of second reliquary was five feet and four inches high and four feet and seven inches wide. The relief on the stone plaque was similar to the first one. **Stone plaques bearing Buddha images**

French General Leon de Beylie arriving in Myanmar in 1907 and Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey Mr Taw Sein Kho from Myanmar Archive Department excavated Sri Kestra and found one stone post, one stone plaque and three stone reliefs from the precinct of Kyaukkathein monastery near Hmawza Village. These items were kept in Kyaukkathein museum.

The stone post was 2.5 feet high, 8.7 inches wide and 9.5 inches thick. Stone plaque was 3.75 feet high, three feet wide and 11 inches thick. The inscriptions and pictures on the plaque were invisible.

The first stone relief was eight feet and two inches high, 6.5 feet wide and 1.5 feet thick. The second was three feet and 10 inches high, five feet and two inches wide and one foot and 11 inches thick. The last one was four feet and seven inches high, five feet and two inches wide and 1.5 feet thick.

A sitting Buddha image in Bhumi Phassa Mudra each as relief was carved in the centre of all plaques. A disciple each was seen both sides of the Buddha image. Likewise, three stone plaques bore similar images kept at East Hmawza Monastery.

The stone plaque found near Bawbawgyi Stupa in 1906 bore a sitting Buddha image with Jhana Mudra together with a disciple on right side but relief of the disciple



Yahanta Lake in Sri Kestra.

did not pay homage to the Buddha image. The disciple on left side could not be seen.

The sitting relief Buddha image on the stone plaque, eight feet and two inches high, six feet and three inches wide and one foot and three inches thick found from Bebe Stupa was on the double lotus throne. The Buddha image was paid homage by one disciple on both sides. French General Leon de Beylie expressed faces of the Buddha image and two

macakka Desana was excavated from Shwenyaungbin mound near Thaungpyae mound at ancient Sri Kestra city in 1939. The limestone plaque consisted of two portions. The upper portion depicted Buddha image in Dhammacakka Mudra on lotus throne flanked by one monk on either side. The Buddha image's above the neck was damaged. The lower portion was portrayed with a Cakka flanked by a deer on either side. The right side depicted king of

Pagoda was carved as Buddha image similar to that of southern wall. Right hand was touched on left instep. Significantly, the Buddha image was flanked by a pagoda in Pyu style on either side similar to that of Bawbawgyi and Phayama.

Phokhaungkan shale plaque, nine feet long, six feet wide and one foot thick, bore two celestial beings wearing headdress flanked the Buddha image on right side. Three persons putting palms together were seen on left side of the Buddha image. Leon de Beylie expressed two persons from the left side might be Indra or Vajrapani in his report.

Buddha images

A Buddha image, 3.5 feet high, in Jhana style was excavated from Nyaungnibin mound in 1906 and one foot and 10 inches high Jhana Buddha image from Kyaukkathein Monastery in 1926.

Bhumi Phassa style Buddha images were unearthed from the precinct of Kyaukkathein Monastery in 1906 and 1959. Moreover, four similar Buddha images were also discovered from same venue in 1928 and the Buddha images holding alms-bowl in 1959 in addition to two sitting and standing Buddha images.

A stone plaque from ancient Sri Kestra city in 1938-39 expressed a Buddha image flanked by two monks walking into Rajagaha illustrating victory over elephant Nalagiri.

The stone plaque bore the episode of giving birth in which mother Mayadevi holding branch of sal by left hand and hugging her sister Pajapati Gotami by left hand. The Buddha embryo stood on right side of mother Maya.

In 1939-40, the stone plaque bore Buddha image in Dhammacakka Mudra on double lotus throne. Stone sculptural works related to Buddhism found in Sri Kestra were not similar to each other.

Stone sculptural works found in Sri Kestra consisted of images in Theravada and Mahayin Sect in addition to a female celestial being. Vishnu statues in Hinduism were also excavated from Sri Kestra.

Stone urns, stone thrones, lids of reliquaries and post caps are displayed at Sri Kestra museum. Most of the stone sculptures discovered from Sri Kestra were of shale stones as well as stone plaques bearing Buddhism reliefs. These carving works proved Buddhism might flourish in Sri Kestra in 4th century AD.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



A stone lid excavated from Khinba mound.

disciples were of Mongoloid and caption was written by unknown letters, in the ASI Annual Report 1909-10. It was named Pyu language.

Reliefs of preaching Dhammacakka Desana

The report mentioned facts about the stone plaque, two feet and eight inches high, 1.5 feet wide and six inches thick, found in East Market Cave. The sitting Buddha image's left arm was on the left knee and right hand was seen at elbow only. So, it was assumed the right arm might lift up.

Two statues on both sides of the Buddha image were decorated with headdress, so they were assumed as Bodhisattha. Lower part of the plaque bore a Cakka sign flanked by a deer on either side. Two persons holding up their hands were seen beside right deer. So they were assumed as Sangha because their heads were bare hair. The two beside the left deer were seen with hair on heads assumed as layperson. Saya Sein Maung Oo wrote that the reliefs were believed as episode of preaching Dhammacakka Desana by the Lord Buddha.

A plaque of relief bearing the episode of preaching Dham-

celestial beings and three-head Brahma paying homage to the Lord Buddha.

Another plaque bearing preaching of Dhammacakka Desana was excavated from Nyaungnibin mound in 1977-78. The left top of the plaque was damaged. The centre of the plaque bore a pagoda on a pyramidal spire which was flanked by celestial beings and Brahmas. The Buddha image on lotus throne was carved in Dhammacakka Mudra. The Buddha image was paid by a monk on either side. The Dhammacakka circle and two deer were depicted under the image.

Other reliefs

The wall of pivot from southern arch of Laymyethna Pagoda was seen with the Buddha image flanked by embryo Buddhas. The plaque was carved as relief on Buddha image with cross-leg sitting.

As the top of plaque was chipped, the head and left hand of Buddha image were lost. ASI Annual Report 1909-10 mentioned the left image was embryo Buddha and right statue might be daughter of Saturn.

The stone plaque on the western wall from Laymyethna



Bhumi Phassa Mudra shale Buddha image found from Sri Kestra.



Bawbawgyi Stupa in Sri Kestra.

Reference:
ASI Annual Report (1909-10)
Ancient Sri Kestra City (U
Saya Sein Maung Oo)

Studies on stone sculptural fine arts in Buddhism at Sri Kestra (Dr Than Than Si Thein)

MFF holds meeting to discuss Futsal development

MYANMAR Football Federation held the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee Meeting yesterday at the MFF headquarters in Yangon to discuss development of Futsal sport in Myanmar.

Chairman of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, Dr Ye Mon Htut, and committee members, MFF General Secretary U KoKoThein and MFF authorities attended the meeting.

The meeting was launched by an opening speech of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee Chairman, Dr Ye Mon

Htut saying that MFF will make special arrangements for holding the Futsal Knockout Cup, Myanmar Futsal League and other domestic Futsal League, and international Futsal matches of Myanmar National Futsal Team in coming months when COVID-19 pandemic is well controlled. Next, MFF officials discussed issues on holding futsal tournaments in 2020-2021 season, finding sponsorships for the tournaments, programme for live broadcasting, setting up the Futsal Management Workshop plus launching Futsal referees and coaching courses,

educating futsal players and referees with new Futsal rules and regulations set up by FIFA, youths development programme along with the Futsal sport, recruiting more futsal referees for upcoming youth futsal tournaments, and starting the 2021 futsal tournaments with amateur and professional level teams.

The meeting was concluded by focusing on strength and weakness of Myanmar Futsal by reviewing preparations for Myanmar National Futsal Team in international tournaments. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

South Korea to allow fans back into baseball, football games



South Korea will start letting limited numbers of fans back into baseball and football stadiums. PHOTO: AFP

SEOUL — South Korea will start letting limited numbers of fans back into baseball and football stadiums, an official said Friday, as authorities seek to restore normality after the coronavirus crisis.

The country endured one of the worst early outbreaks outside China but appears to have brought it broadly under control with an extensive “trace, test and treat” programme while never imposing a compulsory lockdown.

Social distancing rules

were relaxed in early May and some professional sports -- including baseball and football -- started new seasons behind closed doors.

From Sunday, fans will be allowed to fill about 10 per cent of seats at professional baseball games, said Yoon Tae-ho of the Central Disaster Management Headquarters.

The same proportion will be allowed at football matches from August 1, he added.

“All tickets will be pre-sold online to record who is being

admitted to the stadiums, and every spectator will be required to wear a mask” throughout the games, Yoon told reporters.

The South’s daily new infections tally has varied between around 25 to 60 in recent weeks, mostly in the Seoul metropolitan area where half of the population lives.

Of 41 new cases announced on Friday -- taking the country’s total to 13,979 -- 28 were domestic infections while 13 were people arriving from overseas.—AFP ■

Liverpool’s Henderson crowned football writers’ player of the year



Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson won the FWA footballer of the year prize on Friday. (AFP PHOTO/PAUL ELLIS)

LONDON—Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson was named the Football Writers’ Association player of the year on Friday for leading the Reds to their first league title in 30 years.

The 30-year-old beat Manchester City’s Kevin De Bruyne, Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford and teammates Virgil Van Dijk and Sadio Mane to the prize.

As well as making his presence felt in 30 Premier League games this season as Liverpool have surged to the title with an 18-point lead at the top of the table, Henderson led by example off the pitch during football’s three-month shutdown due to coronavirus.

He spearheaded the PlayersTogether initiative during the lockdown which saw play-

ers team up with to raise money for Britain’s National Health Service.

“I accept it on behalf of this whole squad, because without them I’m not in a position to be receiving this honour. These lads have made me a better player, a better leader and a better person,” said Henderson.

“If anything I hope those who voted for me did so partly to recognize the entire team’s contribution.” As well as the top five, 10 other players received votes from FWA members. Trent Alexander-Arnold, Alisson Becker, Raheem Sterling, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Sergio Aguero, Adama Traore, Danny Ings, Jack Grealish, James Maddison and Jonny Evans were all nominated. —AFP ■

Premier League pulls off ‘Project Restart’ without a hitch

LONDON —The longest Premier League season on record will finally come to a close on Sunday just two weeks short of a calendar year since it began, but the fact it will finish on the pitch at all is cause for celebration after months of uncertainty caused by coronavirus.

In the 100 days without play between March 9 and June 17 there were huge doubts the season could be restarted in the country with the highest death toll from COVID-19 in Europe.

The return of the world’s richest league has not been flawless. Empty stands have

seen matches played out to the echoes of players’ cries to each other rather than the atmosphere generated by full houses.

Water breaks in each half, even in matches played in rainy English conditions, and the chance for each side to make five substitutes have further disrupted the flow of a league that often sells itself on a fast-paced product.

But amid the backdrop of financial ruin that cancelling the season would have caused, those imperfections and a few drab matches were worth living with for most.—AFP ■