

PARLIAMENT

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions to Nay Pyi Taw Council, ministries, approves Central Provident Fund Bill, Underwater Management Bill

PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT

Amyotha Hluttaw raises queries to three ministries, hears bill, report

PAGE-2

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President U Win Myint cultivates Mahogany plant to launch 2020 Greening Campaign



President U Win Myint is cultivating a Mahogany plant at monsoon plantation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 August. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint took part in the monsoon plantation ceremony for conducting 2020 greening campaign, organized in Phoe Zaung Taung Reserved Forest beside Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon No.1 road in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, the Union Ministers, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, permanent secretaries and officials. **SEE PAGE-3**

State Counsellor remarks "nation is strong and sturdy only when the smallest areas are strong"



State Counsellor holds meeting with local officials in Cocogyun Township on 6 August. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, visited Cocogyun Township yesterday. She held talks on development programmes of the township with departmental officials and viewed the high school and the people's hospital. **SEE PAGE-4**

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar holds second preparatory meeting for 41st AIPA General Assembly

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

UEC, Ministries discuss advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad and standard operating procedure

PAGE-6



LOCAL NEWS

Beekeepers worry about damaging mites in Magway

PAGE-10

LOCAL BUSINESS

Rice export through sea trade up by \$180 mln this FY

PAGE-11

PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions to Nay Pyi Taw Council, ministries, approves Central Provident Fund Bill, Underwater Management Bill

PYITHU Hluttaw yesterday held its 9th-day meeting of the 17th regular session, with questions of MPs to the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Construction. The 9th-day meeting also approved a report of the committee on management for procurement and distribution of antibiotics, the Central Provident Fund Bill, and the Underwater Management Bill.

The new four Tatmadaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw were sworn in and signed the swearing-in documents in the presence of the Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat.

Next, MP U Mya Sein from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency raised a question whether the government has an urgent plan to make necessary arrangements for the people who were displaced to the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township when a housing project was carried out in Shukhintha Ward in Thakayta Township in Yangon. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun replied that according to the current Town Land Roll and the Block Map, the people just stay in the area of Kyi Su Cemetery in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) owned by the Yangon City Development Committee, and the necessary scrutiny could not be taken for the matter, so the government could not make the arrangements in this current period.

MP U Than Linn Linn from Mese constituency asked a question whether the authorities have a plan to provide equipment re-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

lated to collecting garbage in villages in Mese Township. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun replied that there is no plan to provide garbage trucks and garbage bins because rural municipal works are done by the relevant village administrators.

MP Dr Daw Pyone from Indaw constituency asked a question whether there is a plan to open a vocational training school in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region. The Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied that there is no plan to establish a vocational training school in the township in 2020-2021 financial year because young people in the Indaw Township can go to a new industrial training centre, which will be opened soon in Monywa, Sagaing Region.

MP U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung from Manaung constituency asked a question whether there is a plan to reconstruct Kamar Chaung and Thitwa Chaung bridges on the Manaung

Island. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied that a budget to reconstruct Kamar Chaung and Thitwa Chaung bridges as reinforced concrete bridges has been requested to add to the 2020-2021 FY Rakhine State government budget, so the iron concrete bridges will be built depending on the budget allocation.

MP Dr Linn Linn Kyaw from Myittha constituency asked a question if there is a plan to upgrade Ywashay-Bonekwin Road in Myittha Township into a tar road or a concrete road. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied that a one-mile road section was upgraded into a tar road in 2019-2020FY, and a budget to upgrade another one-mile road section has been requested to add to the 2020-2021FY Mandalay Region government budget.

MP U Myint Kyi from Katha constituency asked a question related to maintenance of basic education schools; MP U Aung

Kyaw Kyaw Oo from Hline constituency raised a question related to possible establishment of textile universities, institutes and schools; and MP U Khin Maung Thi from Loilem constituency raised a question about appointing teachers to fill vacant posts for schools in the villages in Loilem Township. Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi responded to the questions.

MP U Sai Phoe Myat from Muse constituency raised a question about construction of a bridge across Shweli River that will link Phaing Kyaung Village in Muse Township and Naung Hin Village in Manhero. MP U Maung Myint from Mingin constituency raised a question about land compensation in his township. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn addressed the questions.

Pyithu Hluttaw's Health and Sports Development Committee member Dr Khin Saung put forward a motion to approve the investigation report of the committee on management for procurement and distribution of antibiotics. Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat sought the assembly's opinion, and then the Hluttaw unanimously approved it.

MP U Sai Oo Kham from Hsenwi constituency submitted a motion to urge relevant authorities to provide more for health policies to reach the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). MP U Sai Maung Pwint from Tangyang constituency

supported the motion. Then, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly's opinion on whether the motion should be discussed. The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion, so the Hluttaw Speaker invited the MPs who wanted to discuss the motion, to register their names in the list.

The Central Provident Fund Bill submitted by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry was unanimously approved with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Bill to amend the Law Protecting Privacy and Security of Citizens sent back with amendment of the Amyotha Hluttaw was submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw. The Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun pointed out five points that they differ with the amendment of the Amyotha Hluttaw. The five points will be discussed in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that Pyithu Hluttaw received the bill amending 1959 Defence Services Act sent with amendment of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and then the Speaker invited MPs to register their names in the list if they wanted to put forward proposals to amend the bill.

The Pyithu Hluttaw unanimously approved the Underwater Management Bill, with all the necessary amendments.

The 10th-day meeting of 17th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be convened on 20 August. —Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by
Maung Maung Swe)

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw raises queries to three ministries, hears bill, report

AMYOTHA Hluttaw held its 9th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday, and a new representative of Tatmadaw took and signed an oath.

MP U Zal Khaung from Kachin State constituency 3 asked about removal of toll gates set up by people's militia forces which were not allowed by the Road Management Department.

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that the local military command has instructed leaders and officials of these militia forces for the removal of their gates on Waingmaw-Mungwein-Chipwe motorway. MP U J Yaw Wu from



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Kachin State constituency 1 asked about construction of a border crossing near Myanmar-China

boundary pole point No.31 in Zee Htan village-tract in Khaunglanphu Township of Putao District

in his constituency and issuing border pass documents.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing replied that the area has difficult access to transportation with poor commodity flow, and that the Ministry of Home Affairs could not dispatch its security forces for the border checkpoint. He added that although the border demarcation has been completed at the No. 31 boundary pole point, it is not included in the 8 official borders.

However, the deputy minister said that an official border crossing will be set up in that area with the bilateral agreement between

the two countries, and then border pass document programme will be carried out under the immigration law.

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than from Mon State constituency 11 asked for legal actions against illegal gold mines where the government has permitted for only plant cultivation near Thonegwa village-tract in Kyaikto Township. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe replied that legal actions will be taken against illegal mining in the rubber plantation plot.

SEE PAGE-6

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



President U Win Myint and party look around Phoe Zaung Taung Reserved Forest in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint cultivates ...

FROM PAGE-1

President U Win Myint cultivated a mahogany plant at the designated place, and Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio did teak and Eugenia plants respectively.

After the senior government officials have grown the saplings, the President looked around cultivation of plants in the forest reserve.

At the ceremony, over 700 plants of some species were grown in Phoe Zaung Taung Reserved Forest with 8,517.09 acres covering 51 fields where over 20 varieties of plants are growing.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Vice President U Myint Swe cultivates teak plant on 6 August. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio cultivates Eugenia plant on 6 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor remarks “nation is strong and sturdy only when the smallest areas are strong”

FROM PAGE-1

Her entourage included Union Ministers U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Soe Htut and U Thant Sin Maung, Yangon Region Government Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

At the meeting hall of the Township General Administration Department, the State Counsellor held discussions with the local officials.

GAD officer Daw Moe Moe Aye reported on the situations of area, including population, rainfall, works for reopening of schools, renovation of school buildings, monthly rice supplies, electricity, major business of the township, development programme and facts about the township.

Deputy Director-General U Kyi Tin from the Yangon Region Development Committee explained upgrade of roads, free distribution of drinking water and construction projects; Chairman U Maung Maung Latt from Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) about distribution of electricity from diesel-fueled generator for the township, installation of electrical meter boxes, quota of diesel for generators in 2019-2020 financial year, erecting lamp post, maintenance of generators, plans for replacing old power lines with new ones, 0.5 MW power generation project by the solar hybrid system for the township and requirement of school buildings and reconstruction of some facilities.

In responding to the discus-



State Counsellor talks to a student at the high school in Cocogyun Township on 6 August. PHOTO: MNA

sions the State Counsellor said, in looking at the main strength of the nation, one could not look at the largest areas and say that there was great strength; we can say that the nation was strong and sturdy only when the smallest areas were strong; she was happy to come to a place like Cocogyun to visit and study the situation. One could say that Cocogyun situated on the outer perimeter of the Union territory is providing the security of the nation.

She said that was why she wanted the citizens of Cocogyun to take pride in themselves; at one time this island was known as an island for convicts; furthermore, there were many prisoners of conscience who had been imprisoned here; Myanmar had progressed because of such prisoners of conscience who had the courage to struggle mainly for their convictions and beliefs; that was why Cocogyun could

be proud of her history.

She was happy to note that only a few of the local residents left the island; this showed the love they had for their place of residence; the fact that the residents of this island decided to remain here in spite of the hardships of this place, this kind of spirit was a very valuable characteristic for the country.

Another thing was the fact that due to the small area of this place, it was easy to transform this area into a model place; some might think that because of the smallness of this place they felt weak in spirit, insignificant and that there was nothing to be done for this place; however, it was possible to turn such a small place into a model place; this was an easy thing to do; to speak in a pragmatic way, in a developing country like Myanmar, one could not operate without thinking about costs; we have to think pragmatically; however for

a place like Cocogyun, there was no reason why we cannot do it; the fact that Cocogyun was going to get electricity from solar energy was very good indeed.

The request for four additional rooms for the school was not a problem at all; it can be done immediately and we will certainly do it; it was the most important thing to raise the level of education here. She wanted highly skilled male and female teachers to serve in a place like Cocogyun; she wanted them to take pride by serving in a place like the Cocogyun for the development of the country, in their own small way. She wanted youths and middle-aged people to have the spirit and willingness to meet the challenge and of overcoming this challenge by serving in a place like this.

She said she was not satisfied with the percentage of students passing the university entrance exams; she wanted the success rate for the university entrance exams in a place like Cocogyun to be 100 per cent; she wanted this place to be exemplary; the Union Government would work hard with special focus to transform Cocogyun into a model township in the education and health sectors. She said in this effort, she wanted not only the residents of Cocogyun but also all the teachers in the whole country to nurture and encourage the spirit to serve on this island among the youths and middle-aged people.

She said the biggest difficulty she noticed when she setting foot on Cocogyun was the difficulty of connecting with the mainland; this was the low frequency of ships coming to the island; that was the reason why she wanted U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications to look into this matter

and take immediate action to resolve this matter so that the frequency of ships coming to the island could be raised; he needs to find out whatever is needed, what could be done and how it should be done.

With regard to COVID-19, she has noticed that in a place like Cocogyun, one could feel very safe; because the island was small and the population density was not that high, it was much easier to maintain discipline; however she wanted to remind everyone here to be forever vigilant; in such a place just as it was easy to implement protective safety measures if there was a breach in the protective safety measures, it was very difficult to reinstall the protective safety protocols. In a place like the Cocogyun, if an outbreak occurred, the virus infection could spread to a large portion of the population; if preventive measures could be taken, maximum security could be guaranteed; that was why she wanted to stress the need for preventive measures. In looking at a problem, one had to look at the positive side and the negative side; in a place like the Cocogyun there were advantages as well as disadvantages; these disadvantages can be handled and corrected; there was no reason why these matters could not be resolved.

She wanted to transform Cocogyun into a model township, a remote outpost providing and protecting national security; in a way to designate Cocogyun as an indispensable place and work for the development and progress of this island as a priority; to look at this in another way, when we study the progress of our country, we can look at the image of Cocogyun and gauge how far our country has progressed.



State Counsellor provides cash assistance to a patient at people's hospital in Cocogyun Township on 6 August. PHOTO: MNA

They have to take preventive measures now to prevent possible setbacks

She added that they have to take preventive measures now to prevent possible setbacks when attempting to resolve the safety and needs of the public. She said preventing issues from arising is better than resolving them later. She said the Union Government and businesses should consider how to prevent the loss of regular income than only providing assistance when a person no longer has it.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussion with stakeholders of construction sector on 3 July 2020)



State Counsellor remarks "nation is strong and sturdy only when the smallest areas are strong"

FROM PAGE-4

Security and peace of mind are important for all the 1,360 people of Cocogyun Township; health and education are in the list of top priorities at present; people are in good health and this status should be maintained; the government is working for reopening high schools across the country soon; it is expected all the classes could be resumed in Cocogyun Township under favourable conditions.

The future of country is depending on the new generations; quality education is required for the great future; children must be encouraged for desirous of education; the government will focus on the education standard of Cocogyun Township.

The elections play vital for the whole country; the elections are important for political sector not only for the internal affairs, but also for international relations; if Myanmar could conduct the elections successfully

despite challenges in health sector, then it would be a political glory in international arena; the administrative officials, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the election commission need to work together for ensuring voter rights of all eligible voters.

The government will do the best not to lose voting rights, while people are responsible for voting as a national duty.

There are only a few businesses in Cocogyun; however, each business needs to strive for the success; the arrival of commercial vessels and good transportation are required; poor transportation has posed a burden on the common people due to higher commodity prices; this problem should be tackled.

The government is seeking an appropriate reform which can ensure the welfare of local people in Cocogyun Township; although the township is a small area, it has many advantages for development if suitable

management are performed by taking these opportunities; people will enjoy progress; the role of administrative sector is more important in this area; their works must be correct and effective for the people; the administrative officials are advised to serve for the welfare of common people; if these officials also participate in health, education, transportation and electricity supply, this area could see significant development in months or years.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications needs to concert more efforts; power supply project is expected to complete by 31 January next year; authorities should actively fulfil the needs of public; although there is no demand from healthcare sector, the government will provide more assistance; the request of headmistress was not very special, and that it will be implemented soon.

In conclusion, the State

Counsellor made her wishes for being healthy, wealthy and peaceful of the people in Cocogyun Township.

Cocogyun Township is powered by the 350 kVA diesel generator from 6 pm to 12 midnight every day, and the new solar hybrid system could produce the electricity for 24 hours per day in the township. All the lamp posts will give lights from 6 pm to 6 am. The project will be started soon and the township will have access to the 24-hour electricity commencing January 2021.

Out of 2,127 villages in Yangon Region, 1,849 villages have connected to electricity, and the remaining 259 villages will have the power by 31 December 2020.

After paying respect and donating offertories and cash to the leading monk of Sasana Mandine Monastery, the State Counsellor visited the state high school.

The State Counsellor advised that the township admin-

istrative body needs to create employment opportunities; teachers should persuade the children to have more interest in education; plans are underway for reopening middle schools and more classes could be resumed only when there is no worry about the pandemic.

The State Counsellor greeted the school children, and presented cash assistance to the schools.

The State Counsellor and party then visited the public hospital, comforted the patients and presented cash assistance. She also congratulated the doctors and health workers at the hospital for their services in remote areas before she gave cash for the nursery school and the hospital.

After looking around the airport ground in the motorcade, the State Counsellor and party arrived back to Yangon in the afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

Myanmar holds second preparatory meeting for 41st AIPA General Assembly

MYANMAR Hluttaw representatives organized the second preparatory meeting yesterday to participate in the 41st ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly scheduled from 8 to 10 September 2020 via videoconferencing.

At the meeting, Myanmar delegation leader and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein discussed one draft proposal for Political Committee, 15 draft proposals for AIPA Administrative Committee and other topics for the remaining committees from the AIPA Secretariat.

He also urged the respective committees to make suggestions

for the Myanmar delegation to comment on these draft proposals.

The AIPA National Secretariat Deputy Director-General U Bhone Kyi Aung briefed cooperation works together with the relevant ministries and organizations for accessing information regarding these draft proposals.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Hluttaw representatives hold second preparatory meeting on 6 August for participating in 41st AIPA General Assembly. **PHOTO: MNA**



UEC, Ministries discuss advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad and standard operating procedure



Union Election Commission holds meeting with ministries for successfully holding of the 2020 General Election. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Election Commission, Ministry of the Office of Union Government, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of

Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Health and Sport held coordination meeting yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi

Taw. The meeting was attended by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers,

members of the Union Election Commission and officials.

The Chairman of Union Election Commission said that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the smooth running of the election process to hold the 2020 General Election successfully.

He also said that firstly, it was for advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad; that the date to take out Form 15, and dates to receive the forms are announced; that the sending of Form 15, reviewed forms and ballot papers between Myanmar missions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commission will be carried out by relief flight.

Relating with the enquiry of the National Level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, he said that there were local and foreign

donors for the protective materials, a Union level organization or a focal ministry should take responsibility for accepting these materials, buying the necessary materials and managing the expenses.

The UEC chairman advised to set Standard Operating Procedure- SOP by taking example of South Korea, Japan and Singapore which have successfully held elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. He suggested to issue the directives for Hluttaw candidates and political parties in conducting their campaign and to monitor safe voting at the poll stations.

The chairman of UEC and officials exchanged discussions with the Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials at the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Amyotha Hluttaw raises queries to three ministries, hears bill, ...

FROM PAGE-2

MP U Saw Moe Myint (a) Samuel from Kayin State constituency 1 asked about phases and actions of processes for closure of former and existing major mines Sabai Taung, Kyay Sin Taung, Kyauk Pahto gold mine, Heinda tin mine, Maw Taung Hinlin Phwint coal mine and Kalaywa underground coal mine.

Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe replied the mine closure process is underway at Sabai Taung systematically, and the remaining mines are still running. These mines will be closed in accordance with the procedures.

MP Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon State constituency 9 asked about the updated situation of national mental health policy to provide effective protection and treatment.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that the ministry has asked recommendations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs for ensuring the policy meets international norms and state policy in cooperating with international organizations, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Office of Attorney-General of the Union for policy issue and legal affairs.

She also confirmed that there was no objection from

these ministries and the legal body, and that the Mental Health Policy and Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2025 will be announced with the approval of government.

MP U Min Swe Naing from Kachin State constituency 6 asked about construction of a new two-storey building for the 100-bedded hospital in Mohnyin District hospital in his constituency; MP Dr U Kywal Kywal from Mandalay Region constituency 6 about upgrade of station hospital in the west Tada village in Taungtha Township of his constituency.

The two questions were answered by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the Medical Devices Bill submitted by Deputy Minister.

The Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss the report on cancer disease, reduction of its death rate and preventive plans, which was submitted by the Health, Sports and Cultural Affairs Committee.

The 17th session of Amyotha Hluttaw will take a break from 8 to 18 August for the candidate scrutinizing processes of political parties to contest the third parliamentary elections.—Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Legal Action against Voter Fraud

In accordance with section 59 (h) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law, obtaining or casting ballot paper or advance ballot paper by impersonating another voter is not allowed. Anyone who violates the law shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand kyats), or with both.

Myanmar citizens stranded abroad return home by relief flights

A relief flight of Air India landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing 54 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in India while All Nippon Airways (ANA) relief flight brought 169 Myanmar citizens from Japan.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the

Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flight and chartered flight in accordance with the instructions of Nation-

al-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar citizens arrive at Yangon International Airport by relief flights from India and Japan on 6 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Gradual, steady steps towards Union Peace Conference

THE 7th coordination meeting between the government and NCA-S EAOs was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw from 4 to 5 August.

Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office and NCA-S EAOs Representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay then held a press conference after the meeting.

Mostly favourable results

U Zaw Htay said they managed to agree to 14 points of the NCA implementation framework, Part I to the Union Accord, with only one point on amending the political dialogue framework left for discussion. He said they have also completed Table (1) of Part II of the Union Accord that focuses on successive stages of process and implementation after the year 2020. He said they have 8 topics single tested for discussion and implementation on that matter. Lastly, he said Table (2) goes into detail on the implementation process in all 3 stages and this is left for detailed discussions and negotiations.

He said they also discussed Part III of the Union Accord where they came to an agreement on two points concerning the fundamental guidelines for establishing a democratic federal Union. There are five points left to discuss. A working unit on the structure of the Union Accord was formed during the meeting and will meet up in the future. The meeting also agreed to hold the preliminary meetings to the JICM on 10 and 11 August with the JICM meeting on 13 August.

Next, Nai Aung Ma Ngay said the meeting was fruitful as they have finished discussion on Part I and have only



Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office and NCA-S EAOs Representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay hold press briefing on 5 August. PHOTO: HTIKE GYI

a few topics to cover on Parts II and III. He said there will be a two-day meeting with the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) in Nay Pyi Taw on moving forward.

AA will not be invited

Nai Aung Ma Ngay said they have asked the government to invite all EAOs that have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. While they have agreed to invite seven non-signatories to the peace conference they have officially announced they will not be inviting the AA. However, the government will invite the leader to attend if they so desire but not a representative, said Nai Aung Ma Ngay. He said he hopes the JICM meeting will produce good results for everyone.

Q&A

The questions and answers session then began. U Zaw Htay said they will be inviting seven non-signatories

to the conference but they are legally unable to invite some of them. He said they will invite two leaders each from signatory and non-signatory groups. They will not be allowed to send representatives and only the invited leaders will be allowed to attend. He said this holds true for the 21 winning political parties as well who will only be allowed to send two leaders. Meanwhile, CSO Forum groups will be allowed 5 invitations but observers will not be able to attend as a precaution to COVID-19.

He said the JICM will convene on 13 August and the UPDJC on the 17th while the political parties will be briefed on the 14th. The UPDJC Secretariat meeting will be held on the 15th and the peace conference will go from the 19th to the 21st.

He said this means they will be holding the UPDJC meeting once before the peace conference and will discuss the agreements from the JICM meeting there and the Union

Accord's structure for further approval including the nature of signing. He said the UPDJC is the forefront of political dialogues but they had to restart at the JICM due to a deadlock between the government and EAOs.

UPC-21st Century Panglong

U Zaw Htay said the peace conference will be held for three days. On the first day, they will host the opening ceremony and hear keynote speeches from different leaders in the morning and have the UPDJC Secretariat meeting in the afternoon. Then on the second day, they will have the UPDJC meeting and the signing ceremony on the third day. From there, there will be Part III of the Union Accord, approving the decisions made at the 8th JICM at its 9th meeting, and then continuing the conference.

He said both sides are negotiating a more flexible approach than the situation that

led to the deadlock. He said some concerns were addressed at this meeting, such as the structure of the Union Accord which will have successive levels of implementation after 2020. The Guiding Principle of Part III is important while Part I focuses on overcoming the issues in implementing the NCA, he said, adding that this is for creating a blueprint that can be implemented by the next government to take office after the upcoming elections.

He explained that after reviewing the 51 points of agreement from the previous three sessions of the peace conference, they were half-complete as they could be implemented despite being a part of the Union Accord, approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and even approved for the different sectors they will impact. He said this Union Accord will designate a single action plan that can be implemented in three phases.

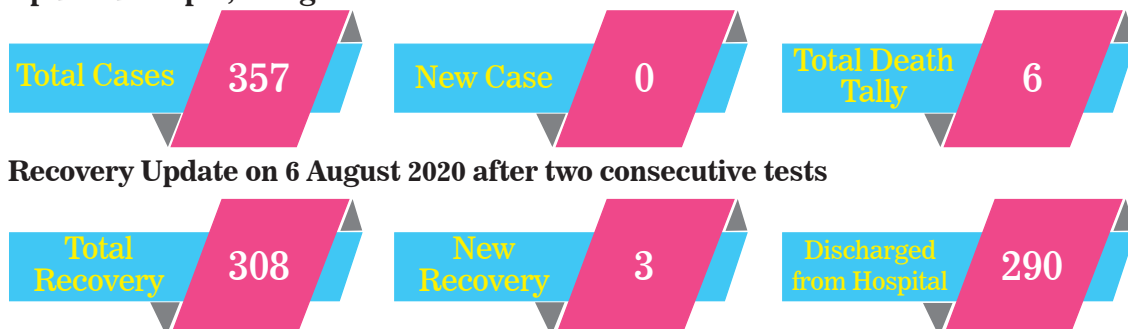
He said they will continue discussing technically after an agreement has been reached and begin implementation immediately after. He said establishing federalism and democracy is a long-term process and everyone has agreed that it must be taken step-by-step. He said this is similar to the gradual stages of amending the 2008 Constitution and states and regions will soon be able to draft their own subnational constitutions.

He said these preparations will allow the next government to take office to continue the discussions and implementations beyond 2020 while balancing the political and security aspects of both sides. —Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 6 August, total figure remains at 357

Updated at 8 pm, 6 August 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 6 August 2020



Focus on mental health in new normal

AS officials expect to see an increase in the number of mental health problems in the new normal brought on by the COVID-19 crisis, the Ministry of Health and Sports is moving forward with proactive measures to strengthen mental health services as part of the COVID-19 response.

The ministry is planning to release its Mental Health Policy and Mental Health Care Strategy 2020-2025, after seeking approval from the Union Cabinet.

Also, the Union Government is taking measures to tackle challenges, prior to implementing the mental health care policy, as it is committed to putting in place the universal health care services throughout the country.

The strategy to control and suppress spread of infection, strengthen and maintain health services, and support each other to stay safe, healthy and well, will help us to save lives and minimize impact.

After decades of neglect and underinvestment in mental health services globally, the COVID-19 pandemic is now hitting families and communities with additional mental stress.

According to the World Health Organization, health-care workers, the old and young, and those with pre-existing mental health conditions or who are dealing with conflict and crisis are at the most risk.

In this time of COVID-19 crisis we are facing two pandemics. One is the Coronavirus. The other one is more threatening, caused by societal panic with its accompanying fear and anxiety, along with the stress caused by concerns for daily livelihoods.

The second could do more harm and last longer than the first, if we don't manage it well.

Experts have warned of the isolation felt by many, especially the elderly who are quarantined. There are also the anxieties that will affect daily waged workers and those working just to make ends meet. Others will worry about the future of their jobs.

We must also stay well, look after our mental health and be supportive of others. It is natural to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis. Helpful coping strategies include getting sufficient rest, exercise, eating well, avoiding harmful substances and staying in close contact with family and friends.

We must continue to stand together to tackle what is the greatest public health challenge of our generation.

We would like to urge civil societies, health authorities and others to come together urgently to address the mental health dimension of this pandemic.

VIRUS TRANSMISSION

Intensive farming heightens pandemic risk: Study

INTENSIVE farming makes future pandemics such as COVID-19 more likely as wild animals carrying diseases known to infect humans are forced into increasingly close contact with us, research showed Wednesday.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, a team of researchers from University College London warned that animal pathogens are increasingly likely to make the leap to humans as land use changes benefit animal hosts.

The United Nations estimates that three quarters of land on Earth has been severely degraded by human activity since the start of the industrial era.

An insatiable surge in food consumption means that one third of all land and three quarters of all fresh water is given over to agriculture.

Land used for farming is

expanding every year, often to the detriment of natural havens such as forests, home to wild animals that carry numerous diseases from which humans can fall ill.

The UCL team looked at more than 6,800 ecological communities from six continents and found that animals known to carry pathogens -- such as bats, rodents and birds -- are more common in landscapes intensively used by humans.

Need to change

They said their findings show a clear need to change how we exploit land in order to reduce the risk of future pandemics.

"The way humans change landscapes across the world, from natural forest to farmland, has consistent impacts on many wild animal species, causing some to decline while others persist or increase," said Rory



Intensive farming makes future pandemics such as COVID-19 more likely as wild animals carrying diseases known to infect humans are forced into increasingly close contact with us, research showed Wednesday. **PHOTO: ANTARA/WAHDISEPTIAWAN**

Gibb, from UCL's Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research.

"Our findings show that the animals that remain in more human-dominated environ-

ments are those that are more likely to carry infectious diseases that can make people sick."

Maintain essential health services during COVID-19 response: WHO

By WHO South-East Asia

THE World Health Organization urged Member countries in South-East Asia Region to maintain essential health and accelerate resumption of disrupted healthcare services, hit by the pandemic, as an integral part of the COVID-19 response.

"The pandemic has put immense strain on health systems across the South-East Asia Region. The previous disease outbreaks have shown that disruption to essential services caused by an outbreak can be more deadly than the outbreak itself. We must fast track efforts and do all we can to avoid that happening, while continuing efforts to break COVID-19 transmission chains," said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region, in a virtual meeting with Ministers of Health from the Region today.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, repurposing of health workers, cancellation of elective care, closure of outpatient services, insufficient personal protective equipment, and changes in treat-

ment policy have significantly impacted delivery of essential services. Additionally, changes in health-seeking behavior, constrained physical access and financial hardship have also limited service uptake.

Countries in the Region have been developing and implementing innovative ways to overcome these challenges - leveraging the potential of telemedicine; developing novel supply chains and medicine dispensary options; and better engaging the private sector and communities. WHO issued guidance on maintaining essential health services in March and its update in June as a core part of the pandemic response which has been a critical part of the Region's COVID-19 response.

"We must strengthen our evidence and knowledge base on how essential services can be maintained. We must continue to innovate, accelerate our efforts to sustain our gains while sharing our experiences and learnings and adapting policies to suit local contexts and transmission see-

arios," Dr Khetrpal Singh said.

Strengthening health system resilience with a focus on primary health care is key to maintaining and strengthening essential health services amid our new normal, the Regional Director said, adding, that the emergence

social impact of the pandemic and how it affects the health-seeking behaviour of specially the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and their access to services.

"We must act with speed and scale to restore and maintain essential health services to protect

"We must strengthen our evidence and knowledge base on how essential services can be maintained."

and spread of COVID-19 has reiterated the critical importance of building strong primary health care systems able to withstand acute events while continuing to provide the services required to meet most people's needs.

Communities must continue to remain at the centre of the response, she said. Attention should be given to understanding the

our many gains in the Region. In the past few years, Member countries have been driving substantive and conclusive gains in health and well being in line with flagship priority programmes in the Region," Dr Khetrpal Singh said.

A rapid assessment of 25 essential services carried out by WHO in May showed significant

disruptions to essential health services across the world, including WHO South-East Asia Region. Routine immunization and supplementary measles and rubella campaigns were disrupted in eight of the Region's 11 countries. Both outpatient and in-patient services for non-communication diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart diseases, cancer etc, have been greatly affected. The most affected service has been mental health, which is so critical in these difficult times.

Across the Region, family planning, antenatal care and institutional childbirth services have been reduced significantly, impacting our capacity to accelerate reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality, the Regional Director said.

Health system pressures, reduced service utilization, damaged supply chains and the potential for reductions in health spending could inhibit progress towards universal health coverage and weaken the battle against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Disease reservoir

More than half of agricultural land increase is being carved out of Earth's forests, according to the UN's biodiversity panel.

COVID-19, which has infected more than 18 million people and killed more than 700,000, is almost certain to have originated in animals before passing to and spreading among humans.

The novel coronavirus is just one of several deadly viruses that have made the leap from animals, which carry thousands of types of microbes that may be harmful to humans.

And as the disease reservoir gets squeezed ever tighter, the risk of leaks rises.

Research co-author Kate Jones said the findings showed how governments should view agriculture and food supply as intrinsically linked to human health. **SOURCE: AFP**

Announcement for voters

1. Union Election Commission has announced eligible voter lists on noticeboards at the relevant wards/village-tracts sub-commission offices and villages for 14 days, from 25-7-2020 to 7-8-2020.
2. This period will be extended for 7 days, from 8.8.2020 to 14.8.2020, to have enough time for the processes of addition, subtraction or correction of voter lists.
3. The voters can use Form 3 for the absence of their names in voter lists, submit objection to ineligible voters by using Form 4 and report any correction by using Form (4-c) until 14.8.2020.

Union Election Commission

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 11:00 hrs MST on 6-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (1½)feet above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (1)foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (1)foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung has exceeded by about (1½) inches above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (4) inches during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada, Zalun and Thabaung townships, Seiktha and Ngathaingchaung to take precaution measure.

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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.

Beekeepers worry about damaging mites in Magway

Bee breeding has been a popular business for the locals in Magway Region. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

THE beekeepers from Magway region are worrying about varroa jacobsoni or bee mite falling on their farmland, according to the

Apiculture Division in Magway Region.

On 1 August, the mites were found in some bee farming

camps, which were moved to Magway from Mandalay Region. These bee farms were relocated to other bee farming camps six miles away.

"In 2000, the varroa mites were found in the bee farming camps. However, it has been so long we do not find any varroa insects. Now, this is a serious situation. These varroa insects can reduce production. They can also destroy the bee farming," said U Kyaw Tin Myint, a beekeeper.

The bee farming camps from Mandalay and Sagaing regions are now being inflicted with the varroa jacobsoni insects. The beekeepers move their bee farms and cultivate other crops like sesame, sunflowers and plum crops, which are the seasonal plants, and they are likely to be infected in those crops farming as well, said a beekeeper.

"This varroa jacobsoni in-

sect is big and can live a long life. It can also jump. It is highly likely to be infected when the bees are pollinating. Sixty-five per cent Flomax acid in the form of pesticide can kill the varroa jacobsoni insects. The Apiculture Division is also taking effective measures and investigating to prevent the varroa jacobsoni insects from falling onto the bee farming camps," said U Soe Naing, regional head from the Apiculture Division of Magway Region.

When the beekeepers moved to the plum farms in Kani town, Monywa District, where there is 60 per cent of the country's honey production, the division needs to give recommendations that their bees are not infected. The division also provided the training courses to the beekeepers as to how to protect against the varroa jacobsoni insects, he said.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

High price of elephant foot yam raises growers' family income in Katha

MANAGEABLE-scale growers of elephant foot yam from Zayti Gone Village in Katha Township, Sagaing region are happy with the rising price of elephant foot yam this year, according to the local growers.

The price of elephant foot yams is on the rise this year, compared to that of last year. So, the local growers are happy with their family income this monsoon and earning a high profit. Elephant foot yam production has become a lucrative business this year. "The elephant foot yam is produced everywhere in Katha Township. It could not fix the same price. There will be different prices depending upon the delivery costs and the market

demand. Each time, six visses of the elephant foot yam are boiled. This business can earn our family a high income in monsoon," said U Tin Phone, a local elephant foot yam maker. Eight villagers from Zayti Gone Village are being engaged in the elephant foot yam businesses. The village usually sells 100 visses of elephant foot yam per day. They are also sending it to Katha and Htigyaing. A viss of fresh elephant foot yams is valued at K1,200 while the ready-made elephant foot yams, K1,000 per viss this year.

Myanmar elephant foot yams are primarily purchased by China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.—Ye Aung (Katha-IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Elephant foot yams can be used as natural remedy to cure bowel movement, constipation, cramps, and intestinal burn.

PHOTO: YE AUNG (KATHA-IPRD)

Yangon-Cocogyun vessel trip to resume on 9 August

By Nyein Nyein

Joint Secretary U Hla Aung of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) said Yangon-Cocogyun vessel trip would reopen on 9 August, adding that during this trip over 470 tonnes of electrical supplies would be mainly sent to the Cocogyun Township to implement the electricity programme under the Yangon regional government plan.

"The Yangon regional government plan to light up the

whole Yangon Region is an important project.

This project includes Cocogyun Township. We have assigned YRTA to run vessels to Cocogyun. We are preparing for the trip because Yangon regional government has instructed us to transport the electrical supplies to Cocogyun. It depends on the weather conditions to know how many tonnes of the materials can be carried on board. This time, we have to transport over 470

tonnes of electrical supplies, including lamp posts. So, we will hire MV Charites ships instead. Then, we will run on 9 August," he stressed.

Although YRTA operated Yangon-Cocogyun ferry service at the spending of K20 million previously, YRTA will now spend K35 million to run MV Charites ships.

The operation of MV Charites ships will cost K 35 million, and this cost will be incurred by Yangon Electricity Supply Cor-

poration (YESC) and YRTA, he said. YRTA has operated Yangon-Cocogyun ferry service to provide transport to the local people and the government staff assigned there.

YRTA has run two times the Yangon-Cocogyun vessel trip on 21 January and 7 March. Its Yangon-Cocogyun vessel trip was suspended beginning from April when the viral disease started to break out.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Rice export through sea trade up by \$180 mln this FY

MYANMAR rice export through sea trade generated an estimated income of US\$581.6 million as of 17 July in the current financial year and the figures reflect an increase of \$181.4 million compared with a year-ago period, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar maritime trade constituted over 85 per cent of rice exports.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14.8 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the borders have generated an estimated \$96.68 million in the current financial year, which plunged from \$173.3 million registered in the corresponding period of last year.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the borders. However, trading in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

It is difficult to ship rice in the rainy season. In July, rice prices significantly

plunged as against June, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 17 July in the 2019-2020FY has been estimated at over 2.25 million metric tons, worth over \$678.29 million, according to an announcement from the MRF.

In the current budget year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Madagascar. The Philippines is the fourth-largest buyer and Cote D'Ivoire the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

In 2019-2020FY, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Senegal, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 57 foreign markets.

ASEAN countries constitute 17 per cent of Myanmar total rice exports. The European Union countries account for over 20.45 per cent of rice exports, while 30.2 per cent of total rice exports in Myanmar goes to African countries.

According to the work coordination meeting held on 26 June, 150,000 tonnes of rice will be exported each in July and



Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018FY, which was an all-time record in rice exports. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

August. And, 100,000 tonnes of rice will be sent to the external market in September, totalling rice export quota of 400,000 tonnes.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. The state

has purchased an adequate amount of rice (50,000 tonnes).

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018FY, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019FY. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Stock trading value plummets by K300 mln in July: YSX report

THE value of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in July sharply plunged to K1 billion, showing a decrease of over K300 million compared with June trading value, according to YSX monthly report.

Also, the trading volume fell to 125,137 shares last month.

In January, 2020, 196,836 shares worth K1.25 billion were traded on the exchange while 188,919 shares, with estimated value of K1.48 billion were traded on the exchange in February and 228,913 shares valued K1.42 billion were traded in March respectively. It touched the lowest of K902 million with 173,808 shares in April. It rose to K1.2 billion with 200,416 shares being traded in May. The share volumes traded

on the exchange surged to 221,682 in June, with estimated value of K1.3 billion, the exchange's monthly report showed.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR) are being traded on the exchange.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market in March 2020. Foreigners have held over 38,900 shares in equity market over past three months.

In July, the share prices of

FMI were closed at K10,500 per unit, MTSH at K3,750, MCB at K8,200, FPB at K22,000, TMH at K2,800 and EFR at K2,800.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

To boost the trading, the YSX has doubled its stock trade matching time from two to four per day last year. The exchange launched 7 times matching per day on 26 March 2020.

In addition to this, it has held promotional events to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

A total of 2.4 million shares worth K13.39 billion were traded on the YSX in 2019, a significant increase compared to the previous year, according to the annual report released by the exchange. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI inflows into Myanmar up by \$1 bln in Oct-July

BY Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has attracted more than US\$4.9 billion in foreign direct investments within the past ten months of the current financial year, an increase of \$1 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, as per data of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA statistics show that 219 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). And endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees between 1 October and 31 July in the budget year bring in the capital of \$4.977 billion, including the expansion of capitals by the existing enterprises.

In the year-ago period, FDI of just \$3.526 billion had poured in from 224 enterprises.

The number of permitted or endorsed enterprises this year was five lower than last year. However, the surge in investment in the current FY was attributed to the projects with large investments, the DICA stated.

Both the foreign and domestic investment sectors are not affected by the coronavirus

negative impacts, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

Foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses like the garment enterprises amid the pandemic.

Of the investment proposals, the commission prioritizes the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others that can contribute to the fight against the infectious disease in the country at the soonest. In the current financial year, the MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

"The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and it is now under implementation. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach an FDI target of \$200 billion in forthcoming 20 years," stated Union Minister U Thaung Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Shares of six listed companies are being traded on Yangon Stock Exchange. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

CRIME NEWS

Three Meiktila officials charged with embezzlement of government funds

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has opened cases against three officials in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, for misappropriating government funds.

The officials in question are Junior Engineer-2 U Myo Zaw, Executive Engineer U Myint Win and Deputy Director U Khin Maung Tin who have collectively caused a loss of K20,210,074 to the national budget.

Upon investigation, the ACC found that U Myo Zaw used two fake receipts to take out K15 million from the 2018-2019

FY's allotted funds for carrying out maintenance on old landfills and only paid K1.5 million for hiring a dozer, thus causing a loss of K13.5 million to the national budget. He will be charged with Article 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

The ACC is also charging U Khin Maung Tin with Article 56/63 of the same law for approving U Myo Zaw's withdrawal with the fake receipts.

Similarly, U Myint Win was found to have abused his position to implement a road paving project in Paukkyang Ward, Meiktila for 2018-2019FY without

publicizing a call for tender and failing to follow regulations in managing excess funds that have caused a loss of K6,710,074 to the national budget.

The ACC is charging U Myint Win with Article 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law and also charging U Khin Maung Tin with Article 56/63 of the same law for approving U Myint Win's cash withdrawals. The cases have been opened at Meiktila Police Station, according to the commission. —MNA

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)

Police seize weapons, drugs in Shan State

THE Drug Enforcement Division and security forces in Lashio and Hsenwi townships, Shan State, arrested three people together with weapons, narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs on 3 and 4 August.

The officers found a

suspected vehicle without the driver around 6:30 pm on 3 August near Oriental Toll gate on Muse-Mandalay highway road and seized 10 rifles, 40 magazines, 9 gun straps and 9 gun cases.

Upon further investi-

gation, the police arrested Ma Mar Kaut (a) Lee Kyin (a) War War Win at her house in Hsenwi Township, and confiscated raw opium 1.6 kg, ICE 2kg, one rifle and its 7 bullets, one bullet case and one hand phone around 2 pm on 4 August.

Officers also arrested Soe Htein Lin and Ma Jaw Kyee Htike (a) Shouk Yone together with one motorcar and two hand phones.

The MPF has reported they have opened a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law against the three people.—MNA

(Translated by
Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Seized motor vehicle and weapons. PHOTO: MNA

Weapons, illegal drugs seized in Tachilek

NARCOTIC drugs worth more than K6.3 billion and weapons were seized in Tachilek, Shan State, according to a statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The statement said that Tatmadaw security forces, while they were conducting patrol in Tachilek, suspected an

abandoned building near Panku (Akhar) Village around 2 pm on 5 August. During the investigation in the building, they confiscated American-made one 9 mm pistol, one bullet case and seven bullets, 773,000 narcotic pills labelled as WY, pink and orange-coloured methamphetamine pow-

der (340 kg), white caffeine powder 600 kg and drug-making equipment.

Confiscated weapons, drugs and equipment were transferred to the Drug Enforcement Division in Tachilek. —MNA

(Translated by
Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER N° MYA/002•20 3157 (Works)

Title: Construction of Happy Kwel Micro Hydropower Project in Keng Tung Township, Eastern Shan State

in the framework of Project MYA/002 receiving financial resources from the Governments of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

This notice of invitation is launched by and according to the procedures of the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation (Lux-Development), on behalf of Project MYA/002 receiving financial support from the governments of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. Identification and financing of the Project

a) Title: Project MYA/002 - Eastern Shan State Rural Development and Inclusion Project
b) Source of financing: The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as set out in the Project's Memorandum of Understanding dated 12 December 2017

2. Identification of the Contract

a) Type of Contract: Works
b) Object: Construction of Happy Kwel Micro Hydropower Project in Keng Tung Township, Eastern Shan State (75KW)
c) Reference number: MYA/002•20 3157
d) Number of lots: 1
e) Grouping of lots: N/A
f) Main Structures of the work: Weir/Intake; Inlet Channel; Desilting Basin; Headrace; Forebay/Head Tank; Penstock; Power House & Tailrace, Transmission/Distribution Lines, Door to Door System and 1.5 Km of access road including 1 RC concrete

3. Eligibility and evaluation criteria

a) Origin: no restriction
b) Eligibility: companies satisfying the criteria included in the Statement of Good Standing and in the Ethics Clauses of the General Regulations
c) Evaluation: the lowest administratively and technically compliant tender will be granted the contract
d) Variants: no variants will be considered

4. Location and timeframe

a) Location of the Project: Eastern Shan State, Myanmar
b) Place of performance: At 7 villages of Happy Kwel 1,2,3; Nam Aww, Nam Inn, Bar Ngoo Upper and Bar Ngoo Lower in Keng Tung Township, Eastern Shan State, Myanmar (Google map GPS Coordinates of the Powerhouse: 21.05001, 99.4778)
c) Performance period of the Contract: 300 calendar days
d) Validity period of tenders: 90 days from the time limit for receipt of tenders.

5. Definitions

a) Awarding authority: Lux-Development
b) Contracting Authority: Eastern Shan State Department of Rural Development on behalf of Project MYA/002
c) Beneficiary: Around 300 Households living in 7 villages at Section 4.b) above
d) Supervisor: Myanmar Hydropower Development Co. Ltd
e) Donor: Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
f) Donor's Representative: Lux-Development

6. Tender Dossier (TD)

a) How to obtain the TD: the TD may be obtained on request by email to mya002@luxdev.lu
b) Consultation of the dossier: the TD may be consulted on request by email mentioned above
c) Written notifications and communications must be sent to email mentioned above
d) Deadline for requests for additional information: 10 days before the deadline for submission of tenders
e) Deadline for providing explanations to tenderers by email: 5 days before the deadline for submission of tenders

7. Language, currency, receipt and opening of tenders

a) Language: English
b) Currency: Kyat
c) Address for receipt and opening: 1 original and 2 copies to:

Project MYA/002

Eastern Shan State Rural Development and Inclusion Project
Address: 1st Floor of the Building of Department of Rural Development
Myo Thit Quarter 3, Keng Tung Township, East Shan State

Tenders in color PDF scan may also be submitted by e-mail (with dossier number MYA/002 20 3157 in the subject line) to the following address:

Email: mya002@luxdev.lu
Cc: thinnes@luxdev.lu

d) Deadline for receipt of tenders: 07 September 2020 at 14h00 (local time)
e) Date and time of the non-public opening session: 24 hours after the deadline for submission of tenders.

8. Guarantees

a) Tender Guarantee: N/A
b) Performance Guarantee: N/A
c) Other Guarantees: see TD (advance repayment bank guarantee and retention bank guarantee)

9. Payments

All eligible payments which are part of this Contract will be processed by Lux-Development on behalf of Project MYA/002.

10. Information meeting and/or site visit

a) Mandatory information meeting: starting at 8h30 on 24 August 2020 at the address at 7.c above
b) Mandatory site visit: immediately after the mandatory information meeting
Note: The participants must carry an ID card, a letter of authorisation or introduction from their company. No participant may represent more than one company.
Costs for site visits and preparing tender: No costs incurred by the tenderer in site visits, preparing and submitting the tender shall be reimbursable. All such costs shall be borne by the tenderer.

11. Complementary or additional services

This Contract does not include any complementary or additional works. In the event where complementary or additional works would be required (initially not included), its value will be limited to a maximum of 100% of the initial value of the Contract.

12. Additional information: see TD

Comparison of foreign national entries at international airports, jetties and borders

No.	Month	2018-2019 Financial Year			2019-2020 Financial Year		
		Tourists	For Work	Total	Tourists	For Work	Total
1.	October	52,647	21,005	73,652	91,836	27,590	119,426
2.	November	77,498	21,482	98,980	115,898	27,488	143,386
3.	December	82,474	19,538	102,012	127,950	24,967	152,917
4.	January	93,125	18,689	111,814	123,622	26,032	149,654
5.	February	102,016	24,612	126,628	46,879	21,948	68,827
6.	March	95,932	23,693	119,625	14,479	21,979	36,458
7.	April	71,148	22,848	93,996	0	61	61
8.	May	67,410	22,123	89,533	0	102	102
9.	June	65,879	21,714	87,593	1	278	279
10.	July	78,835	23,245	102,080	0	426	426
Total		786,964	218,949	1,005,913	520,665	150,871	671,536

Remark: Although incoming flights have been suspended since 30-3-2020, foreigners have been arriving on special flights related to COVID-19.

Comparison of foreign national entries at international airports and borders

No.	International airports & borders	July 2019		July 2020		Remark
		Tourists	For Work	Tourists	For Work	
1.	Yangon Airport/Jetty	44,072	16,705	0	421	
2.	Mandalay Airport	29,231	4,114	0	5	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	937	297	0	0	
4.	Myeik Airport	0	0	0	0	
5.	Tachilek	3,273	88	0	0	
6.	Myawady	1,079	1,820	0	0	
7.	Kawthoung	49	70	0	0	
8.	Htiikee	6	23	0	0	
9.	Tamu	182	18	0	0	
10.	Reedhorda	6	0	0	0	
Total		78,835	23,245	0	426	

Remark: Although incoming flights have been suspended since 30-3-2020, foreigners have been arriving on special flights related to COVID-19.—MNA

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor of the following pesticides manufactured by Saigon Plant Protection Joint Stock Company, will be changed to Shwe Dar Co., Ltd.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1.	Babui 20 WP	Bispyribac Sodium 20% w/w	Full	F2017-1244
2.	Sapen Alpha 5 EC	Alpha Cypermethrin 5%	Full	F2015-824
3.	Saipan 2 SL	Kasugamycin 2% w/w	Full	F2015-828
4.	Sago Super 20 EC	Chlorpyrifos Methyl 20%	Full	P2015-827
5.	Beron 10 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 10% w/w	Full	F2018-823

Shwe Dar Co., Ltd invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objects are received, party mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities.

Shwe Dar Co., Ltd., No. 5, Thiri Mingalar Street, Taung Lone Pyan Ward, Mingalar Taung Nyunt, Yangon.

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture Agrinova Cropcare Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Ema Landa 15EC	REALLY 15EC	Emamectin benzoate 5% + Lambda Cyhalothrin 10%EC	Provisional	2015 - 2405

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd

No. (33), Shwe Padauk Yeik Mon, Bayint Naung Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.



Embassy of Sri Lanka
Yangon, TP: 01-822812

Sale of previous flag car of the Embassy

Sealed quotations are called from interested parties
Closing date of Tenders-6.9.2020

Visit www.slembyangon.org for more details and to download the Proforma

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (216N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (216N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BABUZA WISDOM

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BABUZA WISDOM VOY. NO. (202001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-7 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KITTY TIDE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KITTY TIDE VOY. NO. (2136) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS
CO LTD

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Rajapaksa party on course for big Sri Lanka election win

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's ruling party took a clear lead Thursday in early results from parliamentary elections in which the dominant Rajapaksa family hope to strengthen their grip on power.

Counting in the island's south showed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP) with 72 per cent of the vote.

Since the prime minister's younger brother Gotabaya won a presidential election in November, Sri Lankans have largely embraced the family's populist platform.

The policy programme emerged from a wave of nationalist sentiment that followed Easter bombings in 2019 by Muslim radicals which killed 279 people.

The brothers are viewed as heroes by the country's Sinhalese majority for orchestrating a ruthless military campaign to



A man reads a newspaper in Colombo a day after Sri Lanka's parliamentary polls saw a turnout of over 70 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP**

end a decades-long Tamil separatist war in 2009 under the

leadership of Mahinda. The Rajapaksa family is now

seeking to expand its mandate with Wednesday's legislative polls.

Early results on Thursday from postal ballot counts showed the main opposition SJB gleaned just 13 per cent of the vote, while the leftist JJB party had eight per cent and former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) just four.

Final results for the coronavirus-delayed election were expected late Thursday. Private surveys have projected Rajapaksa's party will take between 130 and 135 seats in the 225-member parliament, short of a two-thirds super-majority it needs to roll back constitutional changes made by the previous administration that limit the president's powers. —AFP ■

Japan marks 75th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing

HIROSHIMA — Japan on Thursday marked 75 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack, with the coronavirus pandemic forcing a scaling back of ceremonies to remember the victims.

Survivors, relatives and a handful of foreign dignitaries attended this year's main event in Hiroshima to pray for those killed or wounded in the bombing

and call for world peace.

But the general public was kept away, with the ceremony instead broadcast online.

Participants, many of them dressed in black and wearing face masks, offered a silent prayer at exactly 8:15 am (2315 GMT Wednesday), the time the first nuclear weapon used in wartime was dropped over the city.

Speaking afterwards, Hi-

roshima mayor Kazumi Matsui warned against the nationalism that led to World War II and urged the world to come together to face global threats, like the coronavirus pandemic.

"We must never allow this painful past to repeat itself. Civil society must reject self-centred nationalism and unite against all threats," he said.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has been criticized by some for his attempts to revise a key pacifist clause of the country's constitution, pledged in his address to "do my best for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons and peace for all time".

And UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who addressed the gathering by video message because of the pandemic, warned that "the only way to totally eliminate nuclear risk is to totally eliminate nuclear weapons". —AFP ■



Visitors burn incense at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to mark 75 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack. **PHOTO: AFP**

Vietnam reports 34 new COVID-19 cases, 2 more deaths

HANOI — Vietnam reported a total of 34 new cases of COVID-19 infection on Thursday, bringing its total confirmed cases to 747, as well as two more deaths from the disease, according to its Ministry of Health.

Three cases have recently entered Vietnam from abroad

while the rest were recorded domestically, among which 16 people were reportedly in contact with confirmed COVID-19 patients, according to the ministry.

The ministry confirmed on Thursday that two more COVID-19 patients had died, bringing

the death toll to 10, noting that both were 67 years old and had underlying medical conditions.

One of them, who died on Wednesday night, was among the 34 newly confirmed cases as her test returned positive with COVID-19 on Thursday morning. —Xinhua ■

Thailand gets new economic team amid COVID-19 slump

BANGKOK — Thailand's Cabinet was reshuffled on Thursday, with a new finance minister and two new deputy prime ministers named at a time when the country is struggling to cope with the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reshuffle of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's one-year-old Cabinet, involving seven people and eight portfolios, was published in the Royal Gazette after being endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

It was the first shakeup since the restoration of quasi-civilian rule followed a leadership change in the ruling Palang Pracharath Party in June amid intraparty feuding.

Predee Daochai, former

chairman of the Thai Bankers' Association and former CEO of leading private bank Kasikornbank, is Thailand's new finance minister.

He replaces Uttama Savanayana, who was resigned last month along with other key ministers including then Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, who oversaw economic policy.

In the new Cabinet, Supattanapong Punmeechaow, former director of PTT Global Chemical, has been given the dual posts of energy minister and deputy prime minister in charge of economic matters.

Incumbent Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai has also been appointed as a deputy prime minister. —Kyodo ■



Thai tourists and elephant trainers wear face masks and shields as they ride elephants at the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Royal Kraal on June 6, 2020, in Ayutthaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Europe fears second virus wave as Trump takes heat for ‘misinformation’

WASHINGTON — While Europe tightened virus restrictions to face the threat of a second wave of COVID-19, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday found himself in the crosshairs of Facebook and Twitter because of a video in which he claims children are “almost immune” to the new coronavirus.

The worldwide death toll crossed 700,000 as the two US social media giants took action against Trump for spreading what they called “misinformation” about the virus.

Several European countries and cities reimposed tighter restrictions, including a “wake-up week” in Greece and new face mask and quarantine rules elsewhere.

The US tallied another 1,262 deaths and 53,158 cases Wednesday, marking 157,930 total deaths and more than 4.8 million cases

— making it by far the worst-hit country in the world.

A total of 703,640 deaths have been recorded so far around the world, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources as of 0300 GMT Thursday.

Europe remains the hardest-hit region with 211,764 fatalities, but the number of deaths is rising fast in Latin America, with 208,329 deaths recorded.

Restrictions re-introduced

Announcing the re-introduction of restrictions in Greece, government spokesman Stelios Petsas told Mega TV: “We are trying to awaken people with messages and daily announcements on additional measures,” citing travel, social gatherings and public transport as major spreading concerns.—AFP ■



A school is disinfected against the spread of the new coronavirus in Brasilia. PHOTO: AFP

France’s Macron heads to Lebanon after deadly mega-blast



Much of Beirut’s port district was obliterated by the force of Tuesday’s monster explosion of 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron was expected in Lebanon Thursday, two days after a monster blast sowed unfathomable destruction in Beirut and brought Paris’s Middle East protege to its knees.

The highest-ranking foreign official to visit the country since Tuesday’s tragedy, Macron will visit the site of the blast that obliterated part of Beirut port and ripped through entire neighbourhoods of the city.

Two days on, Lebanon was still reeling from a blast so huge it was felt in neighbouring countries, its mushroom-shaped cloud drawing comparisons with

Hiroshima and the devastation caused by its shockwave with the scene of an earthquake.

The provisional death toll stood at 137 but with dozens missing and 5,000 wounded, the number of victims was expected to rise as rescue workers continued to comb through the rubble.

According to several officials, the explosion was caused by a fire igniting 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertilizer stored in a portside warehouse.

“Apocalypse”, “Armageddon” — Lebanese were lost for words to describe the impact of the blast, which dwarfed anything the country had ever

experienced despite its violence-plagued history.

The Beirut governor estimated up to 300,000 people may have been made temporarily homeless by the destruction, which he said would cost the debt-ridden country in excess of three billion dollars.

International probe

Even as they counted their dead and cleaned up the streets, many Lebanese were boiling with anger over a blast they see as the most shocking expression yet of their leadership’s incompetence and corruption.—AFP ■

Emergency aid lands in Lebanon as world offers support

BEIRUT — Countries dispatched emergency medical aid, field hospitals, rescue experts and tracking dogs to Lebanon Wednesday as the world reacts swiftly to a vast Beirut explosion in a nation already close to economic collapse.

The blast centred on the city’s port caused massive destruction and killed at least 113 people, heaping misery on a country in crisis.

Gulf states were among the first to respond, with Qatar sending mobile hospitals to ease pressure on Lebanon’s medical system, strained by the coronavirus pandemic.

A Qatari air force plane delivered hundreds of collapsible beds, generators and burn sheets in the first of a convoy of flights to Beirut.

Kuwait also sent medical supplies as the Lebanese Red Cross said more than 4,000 people were being treated for injuries after the explosion, which sent glass shards and debris flying.

A Greek C-130 army transport plane bearing a dozen rescuers landed at Beirut’s airport, itself damaged in the catastrophic blast.

Algeria said it would send four planes and a ship with hu-

manitarian aid, medical teams, firefighters, supplies and construction materials.

Lebanon’s Prime Minister Hassan Diab has called on “friendly countries” to support a nation reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades as well as a coronavirus outbreak that has infected over 5,000 people and killed 68.

As emergency crews hauled survivors from the rubble of demolished buildings, France said it was sending search and rescue experts aboard three military planes loaded with a mobile clinic and tonnes of medical and sanitary supplies.—AFP ■

Virus outbreak shuts huge Papua New Guinea mine

PORT MORESBY — A coronavirus outbreak has forced the closure of a major Papua New Guinea mine, its operator said Thursday, as the virus spreads to a remote corner of one of the Pacific’s poorest nations.

Ok Tedi Mining said it had decided “to immediately suspend operations for at least 14 days” after seven cases were detected at the facility near the Indonesian border.

The copper and gold mine sits in the remote Papua New Guinea highlands, employs thousands of people and accounts for around seven per cent of the country’s GDP, according to company figures.

It is believed the virus was

brought to the area by a mine worker arriving from the now locked-down capital Port Moresby more than 800 kilometres (500 miles) away, where authorities are struggling to contain several rapidly growing clusters.

“The employee is currently working in our operations, travelling to and from work on buses,” Ok Tedi said in a statement.

“It is likely that more people have been infected, giving rise to an unacceptable risk of accelerated transmission within the Ok Tedi workforce.”

The firm said it hopes to use the next 14 days to limit further transmission through extensive “contact tracing, isolation and testing”. —AFP ■

Tatmadaw donates essential things for Lethwei fighters in Kachin

TATMADAW donated essential foodstuffs plus medical products to Myanmar traditional Lethwei fighters in Kachin State this week to support ease of fighting sports athletes' nutrition amidst the COVID-19 period, according to the statement with the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC).

The donation ceremony was held on 5 August at the Bala Min Htin Hall of Northern Command in Myitkyina, Kachin State and Northern Command Com-

mander Major-General Tayza Kyaw attended the ceremony.

The Major-General handed over rice bags, oil bottles, salt sacks, bean bags, egg boxes, surgical masks and hand sanitizers to 37 Lethwei fighters in Kachin State, according to the MLWC.

The donated items were received on behalf of the Lethwei fighters by Upper Myanmar Chairperson U Kyaw Min Khaing of Myanmar Lethwei Federation and federation members. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Johnson hopes problematic back holds out at PGA Championship

SAN FRANCISCO—Dustin Johnson cited his bad back for failing to break 80 at the Memorial tournament last month in his first event since winning the Travelers Championship to extend his career win streak to 13 years.

The injury also caused him to withdraw from the US PGA Tour's 3M tournament before rebounding with a 12th-place finish on Sunday at the WGC St. Jude Invitational in Memphis.

"I was swinging terribly," Johnson said. "My back was bothering me just from swinging. I didn't hurt it doing anything. I hurt it swinging just because I was swinging so poorly."

"I rested for four days, got treatment, and then went out and practiced Monday at home. I just went back to the basics, worked on the right things and started hitting the ball well again.—AFP ■

Yangon United takes good shape for AFC Cup ASEAN Zone Semifinal



File photo shows Yangon United players seen entering the Thuwunna Stadium before the previous AFC Cup group match against Hougang FC on 10 March 2020. PHOTO: YUFC

YANGON United FC, one of the Myanmar National League clubs in AFC Cup competition is currently in good shape to reach the ASEAN Zone semifinal of the AFC Cup after saving their points and victories in the first round of the tourney.

The team is currently making ready for the AFC Cup competition amidst the COVID-19 pandemic condition as the

team's matches have scheduled to take place in Viet Nam in September 2020.

Yangon United is falling into the Group F of the tourney along with Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City FC, Singapore's Hougang FC, and Lao's Toyota FC.

All the teams had played three matches and Ho Chi Minh City is currently standing in the first place of the Group F with

two wins and one draw of seven points garnered while Yangon United has seen in the second place with the same points with the first place sitter but with the difference in goals earned.

In the meantime, Singapore's Hougang FC is in the third place with three points of one win and two losses and Lao's Toyota FC is in the fourth place with no point. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Another chance for Hazard but Madrid can beat City without him

MADRID—Real Madrid would love nothing more than for Eden Hazard to burst into life against Manchester City on Friday but their march to the La Liga title has shown they know very well how to win without him.

Faced with the challenge of overturning a 2-1 first-leg defeat in February, a lesser Madrid might have been looking to Hazard for inspiration as they try to shock Pep Guardiola's side and reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

"We know we have to go there and win," said Zinedine Zidane after the first leg.

Back in England, where he forged his reputation as one of the world's most lethal attackers, and up against arguably the favourites to win the tour-

namment, the stage is set again for Hazard to rescue what has been a nightmare opening year in Spain.

Yet few are billing this as a duel between Hazard and Kevin de Bruyne, Belgium's two brightest talents, or tying Madrid's progress to the mast of a decisive Hazard intervention, the like of which Madrid's fans are yet to witness this season.

"We know the team wins with Eden," said Zidane in February. "That's why we signed him, he's a great player."

But the team have won without him too. The reality is Madrid have learned not to miss the player they signed for 100 million euros last year and who said at his unveiling at the Santiago Bernabeu he wanted to become the club's next Galactico.—AFP ■



Real Madrid have shown they can live without Eden Hazard ahead of their Champions League second leg against Manchester City on Friday. PHOTO © AFP