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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August 2020

It is announced that public statements, orders, notifications, and directives of the Union-level organizations and the Union ministries effective until

15 August 2020 for protection, control and prevention, control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 31 August 2020 as it is required to

continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).



State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body for implementing NCA



State Counsellor and Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes a speech at the 9th edition of JICM on 13 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, attended the 9th edition of Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting (JICM) on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which was held at the Sapphire Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairmen of NRPC Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win, Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Union Minister U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen

Tin Maung Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), NRPC Secretary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Peace Commission advisory board members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, and Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.

The ethnic armed organizations were represented by

Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) Acting Leader and Chairperson of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Sao Yawd Serk, Secretary Sao Sai Ngern, Patron of the PaO National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khun Okka, Vice-Chairman Khun Myint Tun, Central Committee member of Arakan Liberation Party Saw Mra Yazar Lin, Chairperson of All Burma Students' Democratic Front U Than Khe, Vice-Chairperson U

Myo Win, Saw Mo Shay and Saw Sein Win from Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), General Secretary of KNU/KN-LLA-PC Dr Naw Ka Paw Htoo, Joint General Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt, General Secretary of Karen National Union Pado Saw Tar Do Hmu, Central Committee member Pado Saw L Kalusay, Chairman of Lahu Democratic Union Kyar Khun Sar, Secretary Kya Salmon,

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“People are the key”

State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body ...

FROM PAGE-1

Chairperson of Chin National Front Pu Zin Kyone, Vice-Chairperson Dr Salai Hlyan Hmone Sar Khaung, Chairperson of New Mon State Party Nai Han Thar and Central Committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngay.

Honor Award and Certificate for Peace Negotiators

Director-General U Zaw Htay announced that the list of peace negotiators who are honoured for their dynamic efforts in the leading role of Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting (JICM) from 2016 to now.

Opening address of State Counsellor

NRPC Chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi gave a speech. She said as everyone knows, Myanmar has not been able to resolve the issues of different ideological con-

the democratic transition, there have been differences of opinion among us as to what kind of programmes we need to pursue and what kind of steps we need to take in the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union; this is natural; it is not possible to give undue pressure in order to transform all the differences of opinion to reach conformity and merge into one single view; as an initial step we had to strive towards a common agreement as to how we should march towards a Union, although we had to contend with more than 70 years of differences of opinions; we had to share understanding and build trust; in order to establish understanding and trust, it is very important to be able to have empathy for the wounds, feelings, pain and desires of our ethnic nationals.

Today we have been able to reach an agreement for the establishment of the Democratic

process, although we have been able to come up with (8) main titles, there is still a need for us to continue our negotiations about the detailed programmes; we need to have detailed discussions regarding how to proceed with the step-by-step programmes as to when the states should draft their constitutions, and how to proceed step-by-step with regard to the distribution of power between the Union and the states; how to carry out the process of security integration at what stage and in what manner; all these need to be implemented in harmony and balance.

No matter what, Part 3 of the draft Union Accord presented at this meeting by the working group was not produced easily; our peace process went through many ups and downs and highs and lows after the end of the Union Peace Conference – 21 Century Panglong Third Session which was held in August of 2018; because it was not possible to convene official meetings, we could say that we experienced a stalled NCA process; during this time our NRPC conducted informal meetings, and official meetings separately and in groups; these were done many times; in order to reactivate the stalled NCA process and resume the peace negotiations, we used many different approaches by considering many methods.

We negotiated until agreement was reached with respect to the practical problems that came up after the signature of the NCA agreement. These included the root causes of incidents at the lowest level among combatants; these were reviewed objectively and views were exchanged between the two groups; discussions were made as to how to find a solution acceptable to all parties; for problems which could not be immediately solved at the present moment, we thought about the problem in many ways so as to adopt an action plan to solve the problem in the long-term. To find a path which has harmony and balance between political aspects and military aspects, we sought to find how to create a better path which could overcome all difficulties of the past. Workgroups of both sides negotiated tirelessly to seek a future path that would be com-

To find a path which has harmony and balance between political aspects and military aspects, we sought to find how to create a better path which could overcome all difficulties of the past.

fortable for all parties concerned.

She added that it was found that the draft agreement was made after serious and intensive discussions with the strenuous efforts among the stakeholders; meetings and discussions were also made through videoconferencing due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic; all the stakeholders in peacemaking process are expressed thanks for their energetic efforts despite many challenges.

The State Counsellor said that it will take times for democratic reform and establishment of a federal union, while the country is working for national reconciliation and peace of the Union simultaneously; after considering the connection between these long-term processes and the amendment of Constitution, the way which encompasses the whole mechanism have been identified, and the route must be taken to erase bitter experiences of the past, to address ongoing problems of the Union and to make the dream of future Union for all the national people come true.

The global countries are fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic which is a common challenge for all; however, different managements have turned

vigilant against this disease.

Although Myanmar is seen as the country with conflicts, people collaboratively faced against the pandemic and the disease has been under control.

Peace negotiation could not be made and NCA process came to a halt in the past, however, the situation has improved and the 21st Century Panglong Conference will be held soon; some political agreements have been made; these are the steps towards the emergence of a democratic federal union, national reconciliation and lasting peace in the country.

The State Counsellor emphasized the seriousness of stakeholders in peacemaking processes has generated success; more efforts are needed for the emergence of a democratic federal union and peace; the existing reciprocal understanding and trusts are important steps forward.

She also urged all the stakeholders to strive for peace which is required for the posterity.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win also delivered a speech, saying that implementation of NCA through the results from political dialogues is a crucial step for eternal

Today during our era and time, everyone has accepted the fact that the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union is the solution for resolving the issues of national equality and national unity which are the root cause of armed conflicts.

flicts and conflicts arising out of demands for equality which we have faced at the same time as independence; the result of this was efforts to resolve these matters using arms leading to armed conflicts and endless armed battles; that was how we have reached the present situation. She continued, although attempts have been made for national reconciliation and peace throughout the different periods using different methods and approaches, at the present time after more than 70 years we are still striving; today during our era and time, everyone has accepted the fact that the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union is the solution for resolving the issues of national equality and national unity which are the root cause of armed conflicts.

However, with respect to

Federal Union, by conducting round tables and from these round tables, in spite of differences of opinion, we have arrived at a step-by-step approach, a detailed programme which is acceptable to everyone; this is Part 3 of the Union Accord to be signed at the Union Peace Conference – 21 Century Panglong Fourth Session which has been presented by both the working groups. This Accord would be able to show a clear path for resolving the present political difficulties and the difficulties for establishing the Democratic Federal Union by linking these to amending the Constitution.

We need to see the reality that this Accord is not perfect nor complete; we need to accept this fact; in the post 2020 period, in the step-by-step programmes and step-by-step implementation

Although Myanmar is seen as the country with conflicts, people collaboratively faced against the pandemic and the disease has been under control.

out different results; although Myanmar is not a rich country and faced with conflicts and poor healthcare system, the pandemic is well controlled by the public participation with high awareness; the global communities have recognized it; however, people are still advised to remain

peace and a democratic federal union that is expected by the national people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; serious discussions of peace negotiators in JICM have turned out fruitful results.

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2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.



Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law



IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act 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.

State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body ...

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The 9th edition of JICM was the outcome from implementation of decisions in its 8th edition meeting; the ongoing discussions should be based on the agreements of workgroups made in their preliminary discussions; more preliminary agreements should be turned out; the workgroups met four times before the 9th edition of JICM; although some meanings have been defined in NCA, the terms were discussed again not to deviate from their senses, delaying for discussing new issues; bilateral discussions again for amending the existing agreements such as bilateral/parallel negotiations, the words such as the federal security system which are not included in the NCA; these issues have delayed further steps, and that it is required for speeding up the discussions of civil organizations.

The Vice Senior General also suggested to adopt a suitable democracy and federal system for the country without copycatting other styles and allowing to accept the formats forced by others, with giving an example of fitting a dress with the specific body size.

He also emphasized the Our Three Main National Causes, the own situations of the country, removing mistrust among the stakeholders in peacemaking efforts.

He also quoted Article 354 of the Constitution concerning freedom of expression in the discussions about future processes beyond 2020.

The Vice Senior General finally advised to make peace negotiations in line with the Constitution and the situations of the country and the unity of national people in facing against the challenges; closed-door policy is no more appropriate in the period of IT and globalization; national interest must be considered in international relations; the establishment of the Union based on democracy and federal system through political dialogues; the Tatmadaw is enthusiastic about the lasting peace of the country.

PPST Acting Leader and Chairperson of RCSS Sao Yawd Serk

The 8th JICM could adopt

Struggle and efforts with patience are needed to achieve an excellent result; good intention, wisdom and courage are required in working for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union;

guidelines and resolutions for peacemaking processes; both sides held 8 meetings to discuss the framework agreement for NCA, the plan for beyond 2020

and phase-by-phase implementations, basic principles for building a Democratic Federal Union, holding the 4th session of Union Peace Conference, enforcing the ceasefire, more ethnic armed organizations in peace processes.

The role of leaders from all the stakeholders plays a crucial role in the agreement to organize the 21st Century Panglong Conference on 19,20 and 21 August.

Topics at 9th JICM

Participants then discussed issues and agreements for discussion format in the enforcement of the ceasefire, the NCA framework agreements that will include in Part 3 of Union Accord, processes for beyond 2020 and table 1 of phase by phase implementation, approvals for fundamental agreements for building a Democratic Federal Union, further discussions be-

tween the government and the NCA-S EAOs, decisions on the schedules of the Union Peace Conference and the general issues.

Wisdom is also as important as the good intention for making right decisions; courage is the opposite of doubt in works; all these three matters are required in making crucial steps for establishing a Democratic Federal Union;

Concluding remarks

In his concluding remark, PPST Acting Leader and Chairperson of RCSS Sao Yawd Serk said the 9th JICM could approve the results of negotiation meetings and schedules for the 21st Century Panglong Conference; the firm determination of leaders from both sides in making agreements on Part 3 of the Union Accord.

Vice Senior General Soe Win also said the 9th JICM could make the 7 points of agreement and the schedule for the Union Peace Conference has been decided; these developments were expected by the people; further discussions will be made on Table 2 for step-by-step implementation of works beyond 2020 and basic principles and guidelines for democracy and federal system in line with the situations of the country.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that struggle and efforts with patience are needed to achieve an excellent

result; good intention, wisdom and courage are required in working for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union; this intention could help in overcoming all the difficulties; wisdom is also as important as the good intention for making right decisions; courage is the opposite of doubt in works; all these three matters are required in making crucial steps for establishing a Democratic Federal Union; the fruitful results from peace are for the next generations, and that long-term objectives must be considered.

She said that each step for peacemaking effort is well appreciated and that honour awards and certificates were presented to all the stakeholders in recognition of their works in this process, and it is believed that collaborative efforts would be made in the Union Peace Conference that will commence on 19 August. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

State Counsellor receives PPST acting leader Sao Yawd Serk

STATE COUNSELLOR and Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) acting leader Sao Yawd Serk, who is also Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), in her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed development, arrangements for the

fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, and the peace process being conducted in accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The meeting was also attended by the Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, and Sao Sai Lyan from the RCSS.

—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives PPST acting leader Sao Yawd Serk on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 88/2020

10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August 2020

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order under the authority of Article 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 37/2020 on 16-4-2020 and Order 56/2020 on 28-5-2020 to prohibit from gathering five or more than five persons exception for some reasons, to curb the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to implement preventive measures. The ministry announced modification of these orders with Order 79/2020 on 1 August 2020, increasing the number of persons in gathering from five to 15 or more than 15 persons.
2. The Ministry of Health and Sports has re-issued this new order that will take effect on 16-8-2020 to increase the limited number of persons to less than 30.
3. The Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law will apply to those who breach the orders and instructions related to the COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Public Health Department.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 152 / 2020

10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August, 2020

Termination of registration and dissolution of a political party

The Union Democratic Party fails to contest as Hluttaw candidates from its party in at least three constituencies in the General Elections to be held on 8 November, 2020. The Union Election Commission (UEC) decided in its plenary meeting (30/2020) on 13-8-2020 to terminate the registration of Union Democratic Party as a political party and to dissolve it in line with Section 12(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law.

Sd

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Myanmar returnees from the Philippines queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar brings 151 nationals back home by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) brought back 151 Myanmar nationals stranded in the Philippines, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

As they arrived in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration

and medical checks.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for 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)*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development sectors in Tiddim, Tonzang townships

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Chin State, went yesterday morning, to the construction sites of San Kite school building of No (1) B.E.H.S in Tiddim, Cyclone Shelter, 25-bedded hospital and Var Bridge (2) in Tonzang .

The Vice President firstly inspected the completion of San Kite school building of No (1) B.E.H.S in Tiddim together with Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers and other officials and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Headmaster U Im Khan Mone explained the operation of school building.

The Vice President met town elders of Tiddim at the school and attended the ceremony of issuing national scrutiny cards under "Thitsa Project".

The 2020 Multiparty General Election will be held on 8 November, said the Vice President, adding working plans in the relevant regions and states not to lose voting rights of all eligible voters and to cast their votes, concerted efforts of relevant sub-election commission, General Administration Department and Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, announcement of voter lists at the relevant wards and villages, some requirements in the released voter lists and importance of correct voter lists.

In order not to lose voting rights, the relevant region, state, district and township offices under the Department of Immigration and Department of Population also conduct field projects regarding official household lists and ID cards which are the needs of ordinary migrants and temporary migrants under Thitsa Project and the Chin State General Ad-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects construction of high school in Tiddim Township on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA



ministrative Department, Election Commission, Department of Immigration and Population and other officials should keep cooperating in unity, he added.

Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Zo Bawi and Deputy Minister of Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing presented the ID cards to the local residents.

During the second section of ceremony, the Vice President explained his inspection trip to Chin State where is difficult to get one place to another during rainy season, Myanmar ranks at a certain level out of the world countries to control the COVID-19 pandemic because of the concerted efforts of the government, civil service, organizations and the citizens.

He also expressed hope that the government and the public will strongly overcome any disaster together in unity and instructed to follow the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

It is important not to lose the voting rights of eligible

voters in upcoming election on November 8, since every person over the age of 18 gets the opportunity only once in every five years, it is necessary to ensure that the eligible voters do not lose their votes, the relevant departments should urge the people to go and check the voters lists whether their names are in the lists and all must cooperate to cast the votes systematically in line with the laws, rules, procedures, regulations and directives.

Tiddim town elder U Khin Swin Mone discussed designation of Tiddim as district town, water access from 18 miles for water security, upgrading 100-bedded hospital into 200-bedded hospital, receiving electricity from the national grid, opening school of science and technology and construction of township-level hall and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and U Khin Maung Win and Director General U Soe Oo joined the discussion.

The Vice President presented cash assistance to volunteer

group of Tiddim that participated in fight against of COVID-19.

The Vice President and party arrived at a silk farm in Tonzang Township and farm manager U Harain Htaung Htang explained the detail of the farm.

The Vice President inspected the construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelter and Township Administrator Salai Htaung explained the facilities.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Chin State Minister U Paung Lon Min Htan and Director-General U Win Naing Tun explained the completion status of the multi-purpose cyclone shelter; status of completed cyclone shelters and related work in cyclone shelters, completion of disaster prevention work funded by the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, construction works for war victims and the submission of the work to be carried out to the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and the Vice President asked what he wanted to know.

The multi-purpose cyclone shelter is 60 feet long and 70 feet wide and was built with K224 mil-

lion.

During the meeting with Mayors of Tonzang Township at the Township's General Administration Department, the Vice President said that the government was fulfilling the requirements of the township and that he came to inspect the implementation and know the requirements to be fulfilled. He also said that the township was located near the border area of Chin State, the focus is on development needs more than other areas.

The Vice President thanked those who involved in protection and control of COVID-19 and urged to cooperate in the preventive measures of the disease.

The Vice President urged the people to cooperate with the responsible persons of the department in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission for the successful convening of internationally recognized election and to ensure that the voters lists for the upcoming election are accurate and those who have the right to vote do not lose their right to vote.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party visit construction site of public hospital in Tonzang Township on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA



No.2 Var Bridge that crosses Manipur River is under construction. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development ...

FROM PAGE-5

Town elder U Gin Swin Mone explained the local development needs of drinking water and electricity and the Chief Minister, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General U Soe Oo discussed.

The Vice President presented the cash assistance to the charity workers and volunteers who cooperated during the COVID-19 period.

The Vice President inspected the construction of two-storey extension ward with operating room and maternity ward at the 25-bedded General Hospital and Township Health Officer



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the cyclone shelter in Tonzang Township on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Aung Ngway San explained the construction of the building. The building is 95 feet long and 50 feet wide and it costs 472.36 million kyats.

The Vice President arrived the construction site of Var Bridge which across the

Manipur River and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction U Shwe Lay and Chief Engineer of the Department of Bridges explained the situation of the bridge. Var Bridge No. 2 is 557.77 feet long, 30 feet wide and 9.843 feet high.

It is a truss bridge type and is being built at a cost of K4.050 billion.

Var Bridge No.1 was temporarily closed due to the flooding of the Manipur River during Cyclone Koman in 2015. If the river level rises more, it will be

dangerous for the Var Bridge and due to possible communication loss of Kalay-Falan-Hakha Road, the construction of Var Bridge No.2 is underway.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoI holds seminar on Myanmar media trend



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint makes an opening remark at the seminar on Myanmar media trend on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Information organized a seminar on the trend of Myanmar media, with focus on online media and copyright, at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made an opening speech, mentioning the aim of seminar that

the form of media and its landscape have changed into digital platform in various ways and those who are working at the MoI need to know not only the global and local media situations, as well as the changing trend.

Acting Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department

U Ko Ko Naing explained Print Media amid Digital Revolution and Society Changes.

A round table discussion was also held on the topic of online media and copyright, in which Staff Officer from Myanmar Radio and Television U Kyaw Thet Lin acted as moderator.

Deputy Director-General from Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Htay discussed the Copyright Laws, Assistant Director from MRTV Daw Myat Kyay Mhone discussed online media and broadcasting media.

Editor Daw May Thu Soe from PPD held talks on print media, and Editor Daw Honey Win from NPE discussed Myanmar's

media trend and News Media Law.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun commented the need for the best preparations in facing unavoidable changing trend of media.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made a concluding remark on the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun gives remarks on online media and copyright discussions on 13 August. PHOTO: MNA



U Ko Ko Naing.



U Kyaw Thet Lin.



U Kyaw Htay.



Daw Myat Kyay Mhone.



Daw May Thu Soe.



Daw Honey Win.



It is very important to live with vigilance

It has been said that the way COVID-19 disease spread was different from country to country. It changed from one place to the other. In Myanmar, it has been said that most of the infection cases did not show any symptoms. It was very dangerous. If the symptoms were visible the disease could be avoided. If the COVID-19 disease did not show visible symptoms, it could not be avoided. That was why it was very important to live with vigilance.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)

MoHS braces itself for second wave of COVID-19

THE COVID-19 Central Command Centre of Ministry of Health and Sports conducted the Central-Level Table-Top Exercise in preparation for effective response to possible second wave of COVID-19 yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said although the disease is controlled to a certain extent, some people fail to follow the health guidelines in most of the places and the ministry will keep carrying out the preventive measures not to occur second wave of COVID-19.

The Table-Top Exercise is held to serve the systematic response by referencing the rules of epidemics if there is second wave of COVID-19 in the country, he said, adding continuous study on infections of neighbouring coun-

tries and world nations.

He also said that this Table-Top Exercise will mainly focus on how to control the disease during the second wave, how much time or human resources will be needed to respond to the disease including the laboratory test, restrictions and treatment and how to conduct division of labour to the relevant sectors and organizations by analyzing the current situation.

According to this discussion, it needs to fulfill the required things as quickly as possible and to designate further standard operation procedures and criteria if necessary and the responsible persons or experts of the ministry should prepare and hold such Table-Top Exercise regularly to improve the skills in response



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech on the Table-Top Exercise at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

to the disease as other diseases might break out in the future, he added.

The Central Epidemiologi-

cal Unit should collect the case scenario for upcoming table-top exercise, he said, and then the health experts briefed the current

procedures for COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MSWRR provides support to IDPs in Kachin

UNION Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday visited two villages in Kachin State where former IDPs returned to their homes, and inspected the process of rehabilitation.

The Union Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Minister, the Kachin State Chief Minister, regional ministers, the Director-General of the ministry, and other relevant officials. The visit of the Union Minister and his entourage also reflects implementation of the “agreements in social sector basic principle” included in the Union Accord and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

The Union Minister and his entourage visited Nansangyang Village in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, and said words of encouragement to the former IDPs. The Union Minister went



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye inspects rehabilitation works for IDPs in Kachin State on 13 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

to the Basic Education Middle School of the village and the rural sub-health centre to make discussions with relevant officials. Then, the Union Minister inspected 100 acres of arable lands that will be used in the process of rehabilitation for the former IDPs.

During his meeting with

the villagers, the Union Minister said that the government is giving higher priority to ethnic matters and national peace, and providing assistance to IDPs. He informed the villagers that the National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Closure of IDP Camps has al-

ready been drafted, approved, and implemented. He also explained the ministry's works for various matters including providing aid to vulnerable groups, anti-drug efforts and education.

Speaking on alleviating the impact of COVID-19 crisis, the Union Minister said that the government is implementing the CERP. During the meeting, the Deputy Minister, the Kachin State Chief Minister and the Director-General also explained their works. In accordance with the CERP, the Ministry gave K40,000 to each of the 98 households in the Nansangyang Village (total K3.92 million), and handed over K1.5 million to the relevant officials for creating “Child Friendly Space”. The Kachin State government provided 16 rice bags for the households in the village.

Similarly, the Union Minister and his entourage visited Dabatyang Village and said inspiring

words to the villagers.

For resettlement of IDPs in the Kachin State, China recently contributed Yuan 4 million. Yesterday, the Union Minister handed over the money to the Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung at the Kachin State Government Office in Myitkyina.

The Union Minister and his entourage also handed over a total of K353.6 million for 8,840 households (K40,000 per household) in the IDP camps in Kachin State, K203.6 million for disabled persons in the state, K25 million for elderly persons in the IDP camps, K151.1 million as social pension for the last quarter of 2020, and K3 million for creating “Child Friendly Spaces” in the two villages. The Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung expressed thanks to the Union Minister.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst

WITH success in containing the coronavirus infection, the Union Government has relaxed restrictions step-by-step, allowing restaurants and high schools to reopen, and public transportation to resume their services in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines.

Streets, restaurants and supermarkets are filled with people. Human traffic is almost back to pre-virus levels in towns. People are naturally moving around more without wearing mask guidelines even in crowded places and this situation can give the coronavirus more opportunities to mingle.

Our people should understand that one infected person will on average spread it to more than one other person.

Of course, our country has contained the coronavirus infection to a certain extent, but people are inconsistent in following the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Of course, our country has contained the coronavirus infection to a certain extent, but people are inconsistent in following the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

multiple locations.

It means we still need to remain vigilant. We would like to implore to our people, especially, youngsters who are far less susceptible to the worst manifestation of COVID-19, to be more vigilant.

The ministry is right to worry about their ability to spread it. With no vaccine yet available, local authorities and civil society organizations are urged to throw themselves into effective social media campaigns to remind people of the importance of mask wearing, proper distancing, hand washing and social distancing. It is for local health authorities and governments to redouble efforts, and they must work together, and encourage the people to pull together.

Individuals, too, must do their part by following official advice. Although we hope for the best, we should prepare for the worst when it comes to bracing ourselves against the recurrence of the second wave of COVID-19.

Our current achievement has shown that we can prevent the second wave of COVID-19 with increased public awareness of how to reduce the risk of infection.

THE SECOND QUARTER CHANGES IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

Coronavirus pushing much of the world into record slumps

THE coronavirus pandemic has pushed most of the world's major economies into unprecedented contractions in the second quarter, except for China which escaped a recession.

Here are the second quarter changes in gross domestic product (GDP) compared to the previous quarter for the world's top economies. Unless stated otherwise, the figures are from the national statistics institutes.

Germany
Europe's top economy was hit less hard by the coronavirus than its neighbours, but still saw its GDP fall by 10.1 per cent in the second quarter.

France
The eurozone's number two economy was in a longer and stricter lockdown than its eastern neighbour, and second quarter GDP fell more steeply, by 13.8 per cent, after a drop of 5.9 per cent in the previous three months. Previously the worst quarterly GDP growth in France happened in 1968 because of a general strike in May of that year.

Italy
Italy's growth was impacted very early on by the coronavirus which hit its richest region, Lombardy, particularly hard. Italian GDP fell by 5.4 per cent in the first quarter and then by 12.4 per cent in the second, pushing the country into recession.

Spain
After a 5.2 per cent drop in the first quarter, Spain's economy contracted a further 18.5 per cent in the second, notably because of a 60 per cent drop in tourism income and a fall by one third in exports. Eurozone

United Kingdom
The UK suffered the worst recession in Europe in the first two quarters of the year, also recording the highest number of coronavirus deaths in Europe. GDP fell 20.4 per cent in the second quarter after a 2.2 per cent drop in the first.

United States
The United States, the world's top economy, suffered a 9.5 per cent slump in the second quarter following a 1.3 per cent drop in the first, according to figures published by the OECD. The US government publishes annualized figures (-32.9 per cent

months to June, after 3.6 per cent in the first quarter, making the second quarter downturn "by far" the worst since statistics agency Eurostat started compiling growth data for the area in 1995.

China
China, the world's second-largest economy, may have been where the novel coronavirus originated, but thanks to strict lockdown measures it was able to largely halt the spread of the virus and reopen factories, thus avoiding a recession.

Japan
Japan announced in mid-May it was already in recession when first quarter GDP slid by 0.6 per cent after a 1.9 per cent drop in the final quarter of 2019. The world's number three economy has yet to publish second quarter GDP figures.—SOURCE: AFP



Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike takes part in a videoconference with Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura and economic revitalization minister Yasutoshi Nishimura on May 2, 2020, to discuss anti-coronavirus measures. PHOTO: KYODO

PROJECTED POVERTY IMPACTS OF COVID-19

COVID-19 threatening Malaysia's poorest

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that the pandemic has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars.

The COVID-19 virus, which first emerged in Wuhan, China has now infected over 20.8 million people worldwide, with over 700,000 fatalities related to the disease. Unfortunately, the coronavirus isn't merely a health crisis. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that the pandemic has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars.

The coronavirus crisis has ravaged livelihoods, left millions unemployed and struggling financially and mentally. Enterprises and countries have all felt the pinch from the pandemic. Even ASEAN member state Malaysia, one of the relatively wealthier countries in Southeast Asia, has been hit hard.

According to Malaysia's Department of Statistics, the country's unemployment rate increased to 5.3 per cent in May



The Lost Food Project is one of the pioneer food banks in Malaysia and has been focused on reducing food wastage and fight hunger since its inception, feeding more than 6,000 less fortunate every week. PHOTO CREDIT: THE LOST FOOD PROJECT

from five per cent just a month prior. The number of unemployed persons went up by 47,300 to 826,100 individuals – the highest in 27 years.

For those who are facing the highest risk and degree of socioeconomic marginalization, a

loss of income could translate to spikes in poverty, missed meals and schooling for children, and reduced access to healthcare, wrote Dr Haniza Khalid, Senior Development Economist at UNDP Malaysia in an article titled, 'COVID-19 and the Most

Vulnerable Among Us.' "However, the monthly change of unemployed persons in May 2020 was very much lower than the change registered from March to April, that is 168,300," said Chief Statistician Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin.

"The reduction could partly be due to the implementation of numerous stimulus packages reaching its intended target in addition to more businesses were allowed to operate following of Conditional Movement Control Order (MCO) during the month," he added.

Malaysia has now issued over RM290 billion (US\$67 billion) worth of incentives since February 2020.

Poverty Line

Malaysia typically uses the B40, M40, and T20 distinction to classify household incomes; bottom 40 per cent, middle 40 per cent and top 20 per cent. However, the Statistics Department recently updated its figures to paint a more realistic picture.

To be considered living in poverty in Malaysia, the household income is RM2,208 (US\$526) or less a month.

Senior research associate of not-for-profit organization, Khazanah Research Institute (KRI), Hawati Abdul Hamid told local media that many households in Malaysia are very vulnerable to fall into poverty this year.

in the second quarter), a method that is not comparable with most other countries.

China, the world's second-largest economy, may have been where the novel coronavirus originated, but thanks to strict lockdown measures it was able to largely halt the spread of the virus and reopen factories, thus avoiding a recession.

Japan announced in mid-May it was already in recession when first quarter GDP slid by 0.6 per cent after a 1.9 per cent drop in the final quarter of 2019. The world's number three economy has yet to publish second quarter GDP figures.—SOURCE: AFP

Based on the revised methodology, the poverty rate was estimated to be at 5.6 per cent in 2019 with the poverty line income (PLI) average of RM2,208 (US\$526), she explained via email to local media in the country.

"Looking at the relative poverty rate [defined at PLI of RM2,937 (US\$700) i.e. half of median RM5,874 (US\$1,401)], the poverty rate stands at 16.9 per cent." "The difference between absolute PLI and relative PLI is RM700 (US\$167), yet differences in the poverty rate are about 11 per cent. It means, just by (an) income shock of RM700 (US\$167), an additional 800,000 households would have become 'poor,'" she continued.

She also noted that a line chart for 2019 income distribution showed that there are 5.6 per cent of households with income below RM2,000 (US\$477), and about 12.3 per cent of households for the RM2,000 to RM3,000 (US\$477 to US\$715) income group. This means that an income shock of RM1,000 (US\$238) will add 12.3 per cent more poor households.—SOURCE: THE ASEAN POST

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin is observed as about (3½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Homalin and Phaungpyin Townships to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 13th August, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area has formed over Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Odisha and West Bengal coasts (India) still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14th August, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8 – 12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th August, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th August, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th August, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Warning (Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2020)

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin is observed as about (3½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Homalin and Phaungpyin Townships to take precaution measure.

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9th JICM produces 7 points of agreements, UPC set for 19th August

THE 9th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office and New Mon State Party's executive committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngay answered to journalists in a press conference afterwards.

Agreement on 7 points

U Zaw Htay first said that they achieved 7 points of agreement in this meeting as a result of discussing the decisions made at the 8th JICM for the past 8 months. He said these agreements will be further submitted to the UPDJC and inked at the peace conference. He said Part III of the Union Accord is different from Parts I and II and the meeting agreed for practical successive implementation processes as well. He said they were drawn collectively based on the three stages of transition for democracy and federalism each.

U Zaw Htay said both the discussion and implementation processes follow three stages too with the first stage set for political dialogue, the second stage for technological discourse, and the third stage for implementation. He gave an example that if a point on federalism reached an agreement then the first step would be to discuss a political agreement framework, the



Director-General U Zaw Htay and New Mon State Party's executive committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngay holds a press conference on 9th JICM on 13 August. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN**

second would be to discuss the different work processes from a technological perspective after which implementation would be carried out and even incorporate possible amendments to the Constitution.

U Zaw Htay said the Union Accord encompasses national reconciliation and peace, much like the State Counsellor said in her opening speech, in addition to establishing a democratic federal republic and making amendments to the Constitution. He said the result of achieving practical and effective steps for implementation is unique and significant.

Acknowledging peace efforts

U Zaw Htay said they have conferred awards and certificates for steering peace to leaders of both sides that have participated in the JICM meetings between 2016 to 2020. Similarly, he said they will confer awards for implementing peace to the 48 individuals that have participated in the UPDJC from 2016 to 2020. They will also confer awards for conserving peace to EAO and government leaders that participated in JMC-U meetings within the same period.

U Zaw Htay said the State Counsellor will confer these awards in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC). The reason for giving out these

awards was mentioned in the State Counsellor's closing speech as the peace process being difficult and despite it almost fading away, everyone helped to bring back on the track towards the NCA and they will be recognized for their efforts.

Agreement to 7 points

Next, Nai Aung Ma Ngay also said they achieved 7 points of agreement at this 9th JICM meeting and explained four of them in detail. He said the first point of agreement was related to ceasefire and discussion formats talked about between NCA signatories and the government on 22 June 2020. He said it mainly involves chapters 3 and 4 of the NCA and an agreement on how

separate and collective discussions should be carried out.

The second point of agreement is divided into 3 parts in the Union Accord, said Nai Aung Ma Ngay. The first part achieved 15 points of agreement for an implementation framework for the NCA, the second part achieved agreement on 8 topics in Table-1 of implementation plans for post-2020, and the third part was the achievement of 5 guiding principles for establishing a democratic federal republic. All three parts were agreed to be signed into the Union Accord.

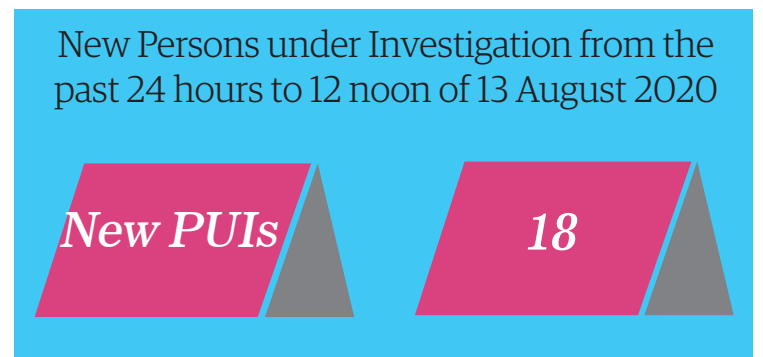
Nai Aung Ma Ngay then said the fourth point of agreement concerned Table-2 for continuing implementations in the year 2020. He said they agreed to discuss Table-2 as a principle and will go into detailed discussions for sub-headings at another point in time. He said they have yet to reach an agreement on 3 points but they have decided to put on record the agreements made at the JICM meeting and to hold the peace conference from 19 to 21 August in Nay Pyi Taw with 230 representatives. He said they also agreed to encourage the non-signatories to sign the NCA.

Director-General U Zaw Htay and NMSP executive committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngay then answered questions raised by journalists at the press conference.—Myo Naing Hein (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

8 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 13 August, total figure reaches 369

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 369 after 8 new cases were reported on 13 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 362, No.363 returned from Japan and others from UAE. Out of the 369 confirmed cases, six died, 321 have recovered, 312 have been discharged from hospitals and 18 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 13 August 2020



Eight more COVID-19 cases on 13 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
362	24	Male	Tamway Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Japan	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
363	24	Female	Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon State	No	Yes, Japan	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital	Positive	

Yangon investment committee approves 2 foreign, 1 domestic projects with over 1,000 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) virtual meeting on 12 August has approved two foreign projects from China, and Samoa and one domestic project.

Those projects will bring in US\$6.964 million and K2.17 billion, creating 1,073 jobs. They will invest in manufacturing of foam mattress, camera bags and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

Yangon Region tops foreign investments among the regions and states, attracting more than 600 enterprises over the four years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to DICA statistics, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar, Mandalay attracts 30 per

cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees have granted permits and endorsements to 905 foreign enterprises between 2016-2017 financial year and as of May-end in the 2019-2020FY, with estimated capitals of US\$22.39 billion.

Of 51 foreign countries, Singapore put the largest investments, followed by China and Thailand.

MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 residents, according to the DICA. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Hong Kong-based company to employ over 8,000 workers in Bago Region

HONG KONG-BASED Glamoroso Apparel (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will develop a factory on 20 acres of land in the industrial zone in Bago Region, creating over 8,000 jobs for the locals.

General Manager Mr Lau Siu Kin of Glamoroso Apparel (Myanmar) Co., Ltd and Bago region factory establishment and supervisory committee secretary U Khin Maung San signed a land lease agreement on 12 August.

At the leasing event, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein gave the remark that the region is always open to the investors and the regional government will support them in line with the law. "The investments can create job opportunities for local people and help boost

state revenue. The company will engage in the manufacturing of apparel. It has also grasped a market share in European countries," he added.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, the relevant ministers, the region auditor-general, the region attorney-general, the region cabinet secretary, officials concerned and representatives from the company attended the signing event.

The investments in the Bago region primarily flow into the manufacturing business.

Nearly 90 foreign businesses are being implemented in the Bago Region, according to Bago Region Investment Committee. —Tin Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Monywa depot sees decline in commodity sale

THE sale of Monywa depot is cool these days, said U Zaw Moe, general secretary of Monywa depot.

"Now, the sale of the commodity is cool in the market. The Monywa depot is relying upon India and China demand. At present, India, which suffers from the serious outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and is ranked the world third, is less buying the beans in this period. So, the pigeon peas and black beans are not selling well these days. The prices of the bean have also dropped these days. The price of chickpea was K27,000-K28,000 per basket in February and March. At present, the price of chickpea is K23,500-K24,000 per basket. The price of chickpea

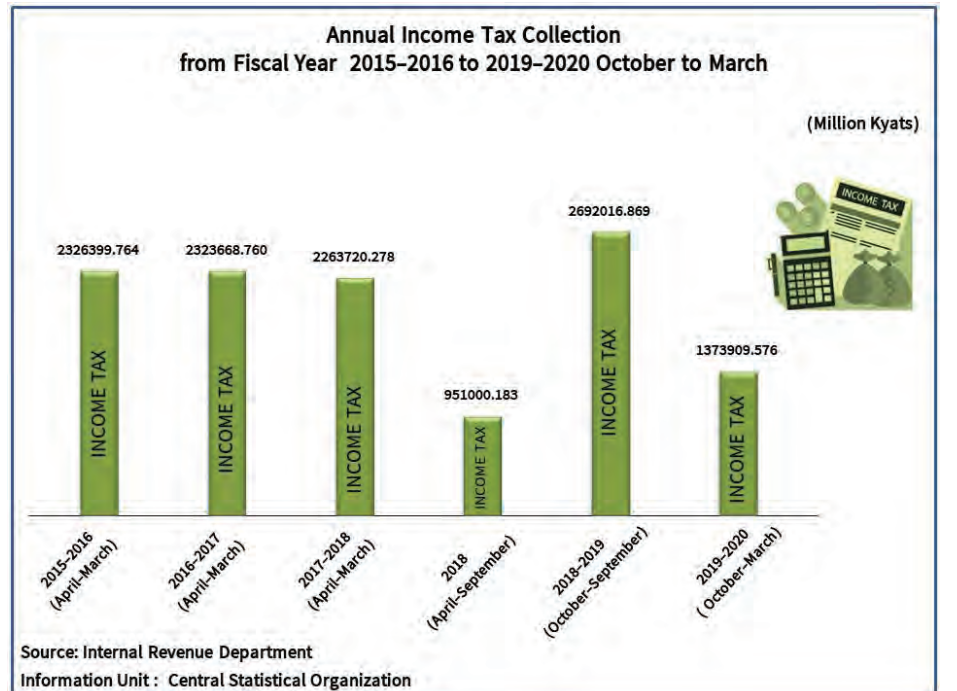
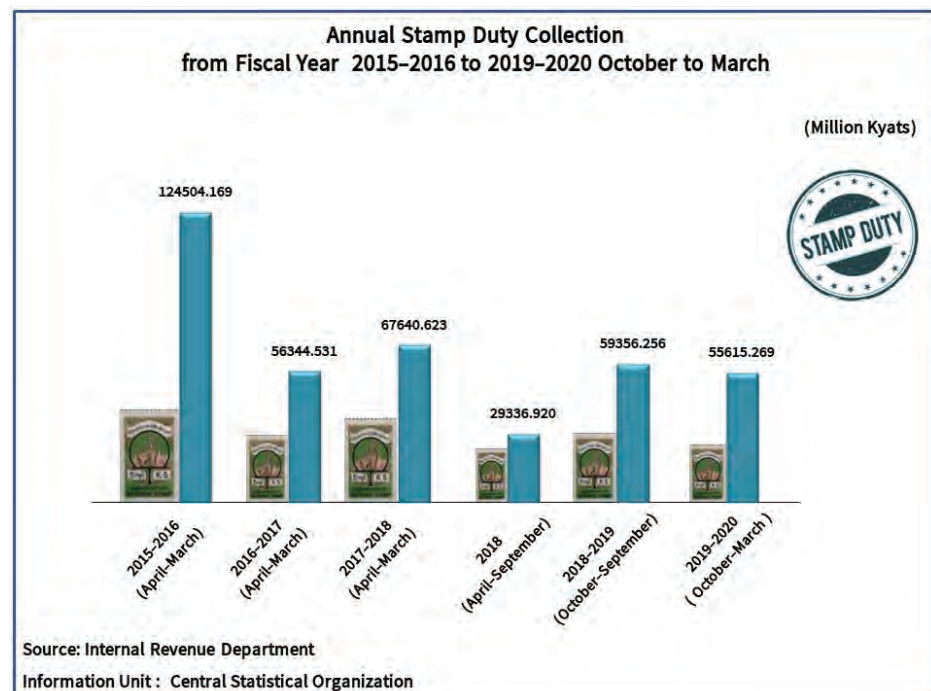
dropped to K3,000-K3,500 per basket. The prices of a variety of beans have also declined. The coronavirus has adversely affected the businessmen," he said.

"The price of black bean has not significantly dropped. But there is low stock in the market. The price of sesame is rising in the market and has reached a minimum of K48,000 per basket. The production of the sesame has also declined. This is the reason why the price of sesame has increased. During the pandemic period, the production has dropped and so the prices of the products are rising," said U Thein Oo, a trader at Monywa Depot. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Prices of Myanmar beans and pulses have declined due to lesser demand from India amid the outbreak of COVID-19. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)



Eight new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 13 August, total figure reaches 369

FROM PAGE-10

364	21	Male	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
365	26	Male	Mawlamyine, Mon State	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	
366	21	Male	Mawlamyine, Mon State	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	
367	24	Male	Minbya Township, Rakhine	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	
368	33	Female	Nawngkhio Township, Shan State	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	
369	29	Female	Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialsits Hospital,	Positive	

Ministry of Health and Sports

US holds off on extra tariffs in EU Airbus dispute

WASHINGTON — Washington said Wednesday it would hold off on its threat to impose higher tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of EU goods in its long-running dispute over subsidies to European aircraft maker Airbus.

Last year the World Trade Organization authorized the US to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on \$7.5 billion in European goods.

Washington then slapped 25 per cent taxes on a number of EU products including wine, cheese and olives. A 10 per cent tariff on Airbus planes was increased to 15 per cent in March.

The European Union last month said it had brought itself into compliance with WTO rulings and called for the tariffs to be lifted.

Washington said Wednesday the bloc had



The epic legal battle between Airbus and Boeing at the WTO began in 2004 when Washington accused Britain, France, Germany and Spain of providing illegal subsidies and grants to support the production of a range of Airbus products. PHOTO: AFP

not done enough but signaled it was willing to seek a solution.

“The EU and member states have not taken the actions necessary to come into compliance with WTO decisions,” US trade representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement.

“The United States, however, is committed to obtaining a long-term resolution to this dispute.

“Accordingly, the United States will begin a new process with the EU in an effort to reach an agreement that will remedy the conduct that harmed the

US aviation industry and workers and will ensure a level playing field for US companies.”

In June it had threatened to levy tariffs on another \$3.1 billion in EU goods as it has been authorized to do under a WTO ruling.—AFP ■

US says Iran forces board ship in international waters

DUBAI — Iranian forces boarded a tanker in international waters, using a helicopter and two ships to take over the vessel, the US Central Command said in a tweet on Wednesday.

“Today in international waters, Iranian forces, including two ships and an Iranian ‘Sea King’ helicopter, overtook and boarded a ship called the ‘Wila,’” Centcom said.

It also posted grainy black-and-white footage of a helicopter hovering low over a vessel, and what appeared to be two personnel rappelling onto the deck.

The ship was most recently positioned near the Strait of Hormuz -- a chokepoint for a third of

the world’s seaborne oil -- after floating off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates for about a month, Bloomberg said citing its tracking data.

It said the vessel is a Liberian-flagged chemical and oil products tanker, and that it had stopped in July near the Iraqi oil terminal of Al-Basra where its draft increased, indicating it had picked up a shipment.

Iran and its arch enemy the United States have traded barbs in the past year over a spate of incidents in the sensitive waters of the Gulf. The escalation of Iran-US tensions last year saw ships mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in the strait.—AFP ■

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (047N/S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (047N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2020 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (033W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (033W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V YONG SHUN</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YONG SHUN VOY. NO. (EM2005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S A.N.T IMPEX PTE LTD</p>
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Facebook launches US voting information centre

CAMBRIDGE — Facebook on Thursday launched a voting information centre as part of its campaign to help millions of voters register for November's US presidential election and counter misinformation.

The hub accessed from the menu on Facebook and Instagram "will serve as a one-stop-shop to give people in the US the tools and information they need to make their voices heard at the ballot box," the social media giant said.

It is the latest effort by the platform to prevent a repeat of the online disinformation that marred the 2016 US election.

Facebook said the voter information tool would also help people navigate the changes to voting pro-



Facebook stated voter info software would additionally assist individuals navigate the adjustments to voting procedures. **PHOTO CREDIT: TWITTER**

cedures being brought in by various states due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It is also important that we help protect the integrity of our elections," the San Francisco-based

social media giant said. Facebook and Instagram users can use the tool to check if they are registered to vote and how to do so if they are not.

The social media

group said it would from Thursday add labels to voting-related posts on Facebook and Instagram, after last month rolling them out for politicians.

—AFP ■

Against the odds, Chinese companies still committed to U.S. market: survey

WASHINGTON — Against the odds of escalating anti-China rhetoric and ongoing uncertainty, Chinese companies continue to be committed to the U.S. market, according to a new survey by the China General Chamber of Com-

merce-USA (CGCC). The 2020 Annual Business Survey Report on Chinese Enterprises in the United States, conducted in partnership with global auditing and consultancy firm PwC, found that more than half of Chinese com-

panies operating in the United States have been adversely affected by the escalating anti-China rhetoric in recent months, with 36 per cent noticing identifiable financial losses.

Another challenge Chinese companies face

in the U.S. market is barriers on immigration, which 42 per cent of respondents cited as a key area of concern for future growth, showed the survey that assessed around 200 Chinese enterprises in the United States.—Xinhua ■

Indonesia's palm oil export drifts down 11 pct in H1 as epidemic suppresses demands

JAKARTA — The volume of the crude palm oil (CPO) export from Indonesia edged down in the first half of this year as the novel coronavirus pandemic has eroded global demands of the commodity.

The Indonesian Palm

Oil Association (GAPKI) said that the shipment of the crude palm oil abroad shrank by 11 per cent to 15.5 million tonnes from January to June annualized, local media reported on Thursday.

The lockdown poli-

cies imposed by foreign nations, particularly the main buyers of Indonesia's crude palm oil, have been ravaging business activities which culminated to the weakening of the demands, GAPKI's Chairman Joko Supriyono said.

Still, rising global prices of the commodity have helped drift up the value of the Indonesian crude palm oil in the period by 6.4 per cent to 10.06 billion U.S. dollars on the yearly basis, the chairman said on Wednesday.—Xinhua ■

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.05 feet to 21.42 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 18th to August 14th, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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Embassy of India,
Yangon

74th Independence Day of India

Embassy of India will celebrate the 74th Independence Day in-house in a restricted manner in compliance of Myanmar Govt's Covid 19 guidelines on 15th August 2020 from 07:30am to 08:30am. The entire programme will be live streamed through Mission's Facebook page @IndiaInMyanmar and @MizzimaDaily. There will not be any function open to public on that day.

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Shops reopen at Yangon night market

YANGON night market on Strand Road closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it now reopens as usual.

"Small non-food shops have opened since June, with one or two remaining closed. Bars opened until 10:30 pm in mid-July. Now, there are 30 non-food shops, 97 food shops, 5 container restaurants and 8 container bars. And we are preparing another one to open. As for monthly rental fees, 25,000 kyats for small food shop and 13,000 kyats for secondhand shop. During the COVID-19 crisis, we reduce one-month rental fees for small shops and two-month rental fees for big container bars and restaurants," said A 25 Myanmar Development Co.,Ltd Director Ko Aung.

The night market has been opened since 2017. It has restaurants and night enter-



A 25 Myanmar Development Co.,Ltd is operating the night market on the Strand Road in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: THANT ZAW WIN**

tainment programmes. There are bars, and shops selling Asian foods, European foods, Indian foods, Arabic foods as well as tea shops and local food shops. Although secondhand shops for mobile phones and electrical equipment opened

from 3 pm to 3 am, now they open from 3 pm to 10:30 pm because of COVID-19 crisis.

Since 2018, the former night market was handed over to the Yangon City Development Committee and it has been constructing the shops and public

toilets. Now, 80 per cent of the constructions have been completed. The project is set to be completed in three years. — Thant Zaw Win

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

YIA Terminal 3, Gate 4 to close till end of August

YANGON International Airport's Terminal 3 Gate 4 will be closed until the end of August for the extension work at the airport terminal for the convenience of the domestic travellers, according to an announcement released by Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL), which took over YIA operation and management.

The YIA Terminal 3, Gate 4 has been closed from 4 August to 10 August for the renovation of YIA. The Gate 4 closing dates will be extended up to 31 August because of the delay in the construction process during the rainy season.

During this period, the passengers must use Gates 1, 2 and 3 as the entrance gates.



Yangon International Airport will close its Terminal 3 Gate 4 until the end of August for extension works. **PHOTO: YA MA NGA**

For the convenience of the airport users, YACL is arranging for building up the roof between the car parking area and Terminal 3 platforms, according to

YACL.

If there is any inconvenience for the flight users, the airport authorities will request the passengers to be patient and

obey the health rules and regulations adopted by the airport authorities. —Ya Ma Nga

(Translated by Hay Mar)

JV to build Ayeyawady International Industrial Port in Pathein

By Nyein Nyein

EVER Flow River Group Public Company (EFR) joined hands with Ayeyar Hinthar Holdings Co., Ltd (AHH) to implement Ayeyawady International Industrial Port (AIIP) and set up a joint venture namely A Logistics Co., Ltd, according to the EFR's press statement.

Unison Choice Services Limited, a subsidiary of EFR, owns 60 per cent of shares of

A Logistics Co., Ltd and 40 per cent are held by AHH Co., Ltd. They signed an agreement to implement multi-sectoral infrastructure development project AIIP in Pathein town, Ayeyawady Region.

The JV has carried out a feasibility study for over a year.

The project includes bonded warehouses, container yard, international port terminals, and necessary infrastructure. Later, the port can handle inter-

national ships and ocean liners, as per the statement.

The project is situated on about 6,700 acres of land in Pathein-Ngaputaw Highway.

As per the agreement, A Logistics Co., Ltd will operate AIIP project, build the workforce, work design, support logistics to manufacturing and trading sectors, provide ocean freight service to penetrate the local products to the international market, import raw

materials for CMP businesses and agriculture sector, and offer comprehensive logistics services.

Upon the completion of the project, it will bring about the market competitiveness, promoting Myanmar's agro products in the international market, access to high-quality products, local productivity growth and job opportunities.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

US to ease water rules after Trump's shower moan

WASHINGTON — The US government is looking at easing regulations on shower fittings following complaints from President Donald Trump who has regularly railed against water conservation rules in his quest for “perfect hair.”

On Wednesday the Department of Energy (DOE) said it was proposing to amend the definition of a showerhead to allow multiple showerheads on a single fitting, which would get around water conservation measures brought in under president George H.W. Bush.

The 1992 rules established a maximum water use of 2.5 gallons per minute for showers but the amendment means that will apply to each showerhead rather than a single shower fitting.

The announcement comes after Trump complained about the lack of water pressure in showers. “Showerheads -- you take a shower, the water doesn't come out,” he said in July at the White House announcing a rollback in regulations.—AFP ■

Biden, Harris appear together for 1st time as running mates

WASHINGTON — U.S. presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden attended Wednesday a campaign event in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, together with Kamala Harris, his choice of Democratic vice presidential candidate, in what was the duo's first public appearance as running mates.

Postponed for several hours due to power outage on site, the event, held in a basketball venue, finally saw the former vice president and the senator from California walk out side by side, both donning masks.

“I picked the right person to join me as the next vice president of the United States of America and that's senator Kamala Harris,” Biden said, praising the first African as well as South Asian-American woman to be nominated for vice president in a major party as being “smart,” “tough,” “experienced,” and “a proven fighter for the backbone of this country - the middle class.”

Sitting next to the podium and keeping social distance with Biden as he spoke, Harris, however, took off the mask as she listened to Biden, who



A woman at a house in Arlington, Virginia, watches news showing U.S. presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden (R, on the screen) speaking at a campaign event together with Kamala Harris in Wilmington, Delaware, the United States, on Aug. 12, 2020. (XINHUA/LIU JIE)

spoke without wearing the mask either.

Biden in his remarks pledged that a “Joe Biden and Kamala Harris administration will have a comprehensive plan to meet the challenge of Covid-19 and turn the corner on this

pandemic”, adding that they will adhere to “masking, clear science-based guidance”, meanwhile “dramatically scaling up testing, getting states and local governments the resources they need to open the schools and businesses safely”.

Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican immigrant father and an Indian immigrant mother, later took to the podium saying she was “incredibly honoured by this responsibility” of the vice presidency, and that she was “ready to work.”—Xinhua ■

Greek FM visits Israel, agrees to resume Israeli tourism



A man walks at the archaeological site of Hadrian's library in Athens as Greece eases lockdown measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19. (AFP PHOTO/LOUISA GOULIAMAKI)

JERUSALEM — Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias and his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi met in Jerusalem on Thursday and agreed on arrangements for renewing Israeli tourism to Greece.

Under the agreement, some 600 Israeli tourists could enter Greece every week and visit Athens, Corfu, Thessaloniki and Crete. The visitors will have to undergo two coronavirus tests, one before departing from Israel and the other upon their arrival in Greece. They will briefly stay in quarantine

until the results of the second test arrive.

“I welcome Greece's decision to allow tourism from Israel to Greece in the coronavirus era,” Ashkenazi said in a statement released on his behalf. “I hope that other European countries will also adopt this decision,” he added.

The Israeli foreign ministry said the meeting between the two ministers focused on “the importance of bilateral, trilateral (with Cyprus) and regional relations.”

“The two ministers dis-

cussed regional developments, the challenges of stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region,” the statement read.

Dendias arrived in Israel on Thursday morning amidst escalating tensions between Greece and Turkey. He is expected to meet also Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin before flying back to Greece.

Israel is considered a “red country” due to its high COVID-19 morbidity rates and Israeli tourists have been barred from many European countries.—Xinhua ■

Italy orders virus tests on Croatia, Greece, Malta, Spain arrivals

ROME — Italy has imposed mandatory coronavirus testing for all travellers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta and Spain, and banned all visitors from Colombia, in a bid to rein in new infections.

“We must continue to be

cautious in order to protect the results obtained thanks to sacrifices made by all in recent months,” Health Minister Roberto Speranza said after issuing the new rules, which will last until September 7, late Wednesday.

Health authorities worry in

particular that Italians returning from vacations abroad may be bringing home the virus and passing it on when people are crowding outdoors, on beaches, at festivals or parties during the summer.

Travellers arriving at an

airport, port or border crossing can choose from a number of options, including rapid tests on the spot, or the presentation of a certificate obtained within the last 72 hours which shows they are COVID-19 free.

They can also choose to car-

ry out a test within two days of entering Italy, but will have to stay in isolation until the results arrive.

Anyone found to be positive, including asymptomatic cases, must report to the local health authorities.—AFP ■

Myanmar National League to resume on 22 August

THE remaining matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 season will be back into action on 22 August with strict COVID-19 standard operation procedure, according to an official statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League Committee yesterday.

The MFF released an official announcement for restarting the football matches following a videoconference held on 12 August with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, MFF President U Zaw Zaw and former Myanmar national team player and current Shan United keeper Thiha Si Thu.

The MNL 2020 season,

which will restart on 22 August, will end on 2 October, according to the MFF.

Currently, Hantharwady United is leading the MNL standing table with 27 points earned of nine wins and one draw after ten matches played.

Next, Ayeyawady United is standing in second place with 23 points of seven wins and two draws after nine matches played.

Former MNL champion Yangon United is in the third place with 20 points of six wins, two draws and one loss after nine matches played. Defending champion Shan United is sitting in the fourth place with 17 points of five wins, two draws and two losses after nine matches played.

There are twelve teams currently participating in the tournament. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Shan United's defender Hein Phyo Win (Red) passes through Yangon United's midfielder Yan Paing Soe (Green) during a previous MNL match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 22 February 2020. PHOTO:SUFC

Messi's toughest task as Barcelona face up to Bayern Munich



Lionel Messi after scoring against Napoli in the Champions League last 16, second leg. Bayern Munich will be daunting opponents for Barcelona in the quarter-finals on Friday. PHOTO:AFP/FILE

LISBON — Lionel Messi might never have been faced with a more daunting task at Barcelona than engineering a victory against Bayern Munich in Lisbon on Friday.

The only surviving former winners of European club football's greatest prize -- with five titles each -- meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarter-final behind closed doors at the Estadio da Luz.

It is not often that Messi's Barcelona come into such a big

European tie as the underdogs, but they have this time, with Quique Setien's team having lost out to Real Madrid in the Spanish title race while Bayern appeared flawless on the way to winning a German league and cup double.

Messi is now 33, yet Barcelona appear more reliant on him than ever.

He scored twice against Bayern in the quarter-finals in 2009 when Barcelona went on to win the Champions League

under Pep Guardiola.

He hit four against Arsenal the following year and five against Bayer Leverkusen in 2012 but on both occasions, Barca were favourites.

Messi also sank Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in 2011 when his double in the first leg of the semi-final, including one of the finest goals the competition has ever seen, transcended a rivalry that had been dragged to its ugliest point.

And he was part of perhaps the tournament's greatest comeback, the 6-1 destruction of Paris Saint-Germain in 2017 after Barcelona lost 4-0 in the first leg of that last-16 tie.

Yet this time threatens to be different. With Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann alongside him, Frenkie de Jong and Sergio Busquets behind him and Jordi Alba out wide, Messi should not be on his own.

Even in defence, Gerard Pique still has a claim to be the best defender in La Liga and Marc-Andre ter Stegen is among the most impressive goalkeepers in the world.

"Bayern are playing really well and are full of confidence but we have the weapons to beat them," Griezmann told Barca TV.—AFP ■

'That's what I want': Top-ranked Barty driven by Wimbledon dream

SYDNEY — World number one Ashleigh Barty won't have a chance to fulfil her dream of winning Wimbledon this year, but she remains laser-focused on being crowned champion at the All-England Club.

The Australian won the junior Wimbledon title as a 15-year-old in 2011, but the expectations that came with that success took their toll and she made a shock decision three years later to ditch tennis for cricket.

"In short, I think I needed just to find myself," Barty, who is skipping the upcoming US Open due to coronavirus fears,

said in an interview Thursday (Aug 13) with broadcaster ABC of her move to the Brisbane Heat cricket team.

"I felt like I got twisted and maybe a little bit lost along the way in the first part of my career."

While cricket gave her "a different perspective about sport", the lure of tennis was never far away, driven by an ambition to taste success again at Wimbledon.

"My dream is winning Wimbledon. Without a doubt," said Barty, who returned to tennis in 2016.—AFP ■



World number one Ash Barty says her top goal is winning Wimbledon. PHOTO:AFP/KARIM JAAFAR