

PARLIAMNET

Second Pyithu Hluttaw convenes 10th day meeting of 17th regular session

PAGE-2

PARLIAMNET

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses report on uncovering methods to reduce and protect cancer

PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 127, 3rd Waxing of Wagaung 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 21 August 2020

UPDJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes the opening remark at the 20th meeting of UPDJC in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 August. PHOTO: MNA

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee organized the 20th meeting yesterday at the Ruby Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was to approve the proposals of UPDJC secretaries for the Part III of Union Accord which was slated to be signed at the third and final day of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong today.

The UPDJC is proportionally comprised three groups—the government side includes the officials from administrative sector, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw; the NCA-S EAOs group and the political parties group.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of UPDJC, made an opening speech. (Speech of State Counsellor is covered on page 4)

SEE PAGE -3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar Press Council presents media guide-books for 2020 General Election

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses controversial bills

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

Part III of Union Accord approved at 20th UPDJC meeting

PAGE-7

LOCAL NEWS

About 9,000 smart cards issued to YBS drivers

PAGE-10

BUSINESS

Exports top \$14.84 bln as of 7 August

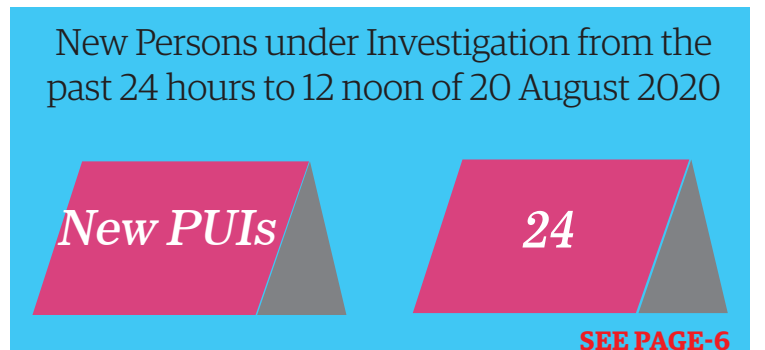


PAGE -11

Five new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 20 August, total figure reaches 399

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 399 after 5 new cases were reported on 20 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. The case No. 395 had contact with case-375 and case-398 with case-395. The case Nos. 396, 397 and 399 had no contact with positive cases and overseas travel history. Out of the 399 confirmed cases, six died, 333 have recovered, 331 have been discharged from hospitals and 24 were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 20 August 2020



PYITHU HLUTTAW

Second Pyithu Hluttaw convenes 10th day meeting of 17th regular session

THE 10th-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday with two committee members substituted, two bills and a motion approved for further debate, and a motion on alleviating agricultural debt of farmers put on record.

Substitution of committee members

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the substitution of two Tatmadaw members from two Pyithu Hluttaw committees. Maj-Gen Tin Swe Win will be replaced with Maj-Gen Aung Myo Tun as a member of the Hluttaw Rights Committee while Colonel Khin Maung Soe will be replaced with Colonel Than Hlaing as a member of the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee.

Q&A session

In the Q&A session, MP U Win Win from Minbu constituency raised a question on whether a sluice gate can be installed on the Kyauk Nwar Thoe dam (a) Mahndyke during the next summer. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied there is currently no plan to build a sluice gate there but feasibility study will be conducted and a budget proposal will be submitted in the appropriate financial year depending on the result.

MP U Kyaw Soe from Bamauk constituency then asked if the Department of Rural Road Development will



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

consider adding the remaining roads of Bamauk Township to the official list for rural roads and from the remaining townships to the national list for rural roads. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied that the department will consider and follow regulations to add the remaining rural roads if the relevant state or regional government brings it to light.

MP U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency asked whether there were plans to compensate the local residents who had their land damaged during the construction of the railway bridge, part of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon), during the 2020-2021FY. Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin replied that the central farmland management committee decided on 3 July 2019 to compensate the 167 local residents in Nyaungdon Township who lost a combined 126.76 acres. The compensation budget pro-

posal of K316.9 million has been submitted to the Union Budget for 2020-2021FY and appropriate action will follow once it has been approved.

Two bills set for further discussion

Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine submitted a report on the microfinance bill that had been sent back with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw. The report stated 12 of the amendments should be accepted and 10 left unchanged as previously approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw while the Bill Committee makes one more amendment.

The Speaker asked for the opening of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and then the deliberation of the Hluttaw. Bill Committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin motioned for the 11 disagreed facts to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for

further contemplation, which the Speaker approved.

The Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw had sent back the bill to amend the 1959 Defence Services Act with their own amendments. The Speaker called for the assembly's deliberation, received no opposition and announced it has been approved for further action.

Motion

MP Dr Aung Tun Khaing (a) U Chain Win from Ye constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to upgrade and reinforce Myanmar's police force. He said the police are a security force that has the most daily interaction with the public and their main duty is to conserve the environment. He said they are formed democratically and need to respect democratic frameworks while building trust with the public and following regulations.

The motion was seconded by MP U Tin Soe from Phakant constituency and approved for debate by the assembly. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the motion to enrol their names.

Hluttaw representatives debate a motion tabled by MP U Thein Tun from Kyaunggon constituency urging the Union Government to implement a course of action to acquire international financial support or long-term loans with no interest rates to lessen the debt accrued through various agricultural development projects for improving

the livelihoods of farmers and cultivators.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Zayar Min said centralization should be reduced and a policy to include cooperation from farmers should be implemented to resolve the practical requirements in existence.

The motion was further debated by MP U Khin Maung Myint from Yaksawk constituency, MP Dr Maung Thin from Meiktila constituency, MP U Nan Mon Htin from Machanbaw constituency, MP U Tun Mya Aung (a) U Saw Tun Mya Aung from Papun constituency, MP U Khin Maung T from Loilem constituency, MP U Aye Maung from Bawlakhe constituency and Tatmadaw representative Major Moe Oo Kyaw.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win responded that while the motion displays the positive concern for farmers, it would be more constructive to support farmers in paying back their debt rather than considering to wipe it clean. He said it is a practically challenging proposed course of action and should just be kept on record.

MP U Thein Tun asked the Speaker to approve the motion and the Speaker called for a vote. Of the 364 MPs in attendance, 124 agreed with the motion while 240 disagreed and thus, the motion was merely put on record.

The 11th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 17th regular session will be held on 25 August. -Aye Aye Thant (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses report on uncovering methods to reduce and protect cancer

THE 10th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 17th regular session convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Q&A on construction, squatters, IDPs

MP U Hla Oo from Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether there were plans to expand the road from milepost 8 to 14 of the Monywa-Thazi-Naung Gyi Ai-Mu Kam Gyi-Seikun-Shwebo road from 12 feet to 18 feet wide within the 2020-2021 financial year. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw replied that they only received funding for expanding 4 furlongs from mileposts (7/4) to (8/0) but will



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

submit budget proposals for the remaining road in successive financial years.

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than from Mon State constituency 11 asked whether

squatters in Kyaiktiyo's wildlife sanctuary will be dealt with in a legal manner. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe responded that squatters and poachers were dealt with by the joint management group consisting of members from the forestry department, the police, Kyaiktiyo's board of trustees, firefighters, the General Administration Department, and the regional military group.

MP U Myint Naing from Rakhine State constituency 5 then asked whether there were plans to install proper shelter from the rains for displaced persons in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine

State, and to swiftly implement IDP camps. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that the Department of Disaster Management has given out K380 million in financial assistance to displaced persons in Kyauktaw Township between December 2018 to 30 July 2020.

The Deputy Minister said they are planning to construct 4 rows of accommodation and 16 toilet units to meet the needs of increased IDPs in Kyauktaw Township. He said it will cost around K88.720 million but will accommodate around 500 to 600 IDPs once completed.

SEE PAGE-5

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



UPDJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong

FROM PAGE-1

Vice-Chairperson of UPDJC Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong said that the 20th meeting of UPDJC will approve the proposals of UPDJC secretariat on the decisions at 19th UPDJC meeting for Part III of Union Accord before it is signed at the Union Peace Conference.

This document has three topics: (1) 15 points of agreements on NCA implementation (2) 8 points for implementation of step-by-step processes and phase-by-phase implementations in the post-2020, and (3) 4 points of agreements on principle guidelines for establishment of a Democracy Federal Union.

Vice-Chairperson U Thu Wai discussed the duties of national people to protect the Union, importance of human rights issue for everyone, duties and responsibilities and prevention of violating other's rights by law.

He added that unity of national people is vital to the development of the country and peace of the Union.

The attendees at the meeting continued discussions on finalizing the topics for Part III of the Union Accord.

In his concluding remark, U Thu Wai expressed his appreciations on peacemaking efforts of relevant persons, and highlighted the crucial role of unity for the country.

Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong said that the meeting has made an agreement on the Part III of Union Accord; the UPDJC is tasked with organizing and supervising political dialogues which are aimed for the establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism.

He added that the UPDJC



The 20th meeting of UPDJC is in progress at the Ruby Hall of MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

was working both day and night in 2019 despite some worries about the delay of peace dialogues after the 10 Plus 10 Meeting in 2018.

A working committee has been formed to implement the decisions of JICM made on 8 January 2020; the work groups discussed the needs of the country; it is believed coordination with these work groups could help in the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union.

He also remarked that the next step should focus on close and friendly discussions among senior leaders, rather than the members, of UPDJC; for ensuring a stronger UPDJC, its secretaries, work groups and committees will need to work more; the next administration is believed to continue the existing peace processes after the upcoming elections soon per the provisions

of Part III of Union Accord.

He also concluded that the country is implementing peace process and democratic reform simultaneously; the ethnic armed groups have some restrictions on access to the common people; more public participation is required in peace efforts with the view of 'peace is essential'.

UPDJC Vice-Chairperson Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said, quoting the speech of State Counsellor, that the Part III of Union Accord slated to be signed at the conference on 21 August could create a new route for post-2020. He added that the political talks were really effective and fruitful, and agreements were reached for identifying future steps to implement the peace process.

He said that the statement saying "Nothing but goodwill

is needed to achieve peace" is genuinely true. He insisted that the discussions and negotiations were successful because all UPDJC members have goodwill. He said that the objective of the UPDJC is "to build a Union based on principles of democracy and federalism in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue; in the spirit of Panglong, which fully guarantees democratic rights, national equality and the right to self-determination; on the basis of liberty, equality and justice; and upholding the principles of non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty". He urged all groups to resolve long-lasting political problems to meet the objective of the UPDJC, and to build mutual trust to clear up historically-rooted doubts.

The Union Minister highlighted the importance of increasing momentum of political dialogue for post-2020, and the importance of the duties of UPDJC. He said that whether armed conflicts in Myanmar will be ended permanently depends on the efforts of the UPDJC. He added that UPDJC will continue to exist in post-2020, and continue its efforts to settle the political problems. There can be changes of representatives in UPDJC, but the spirit of UPDJC will not change, and that spirit can bring success, said the Union Minister.

He also stressed that despite different opinions and arguments among different groups of UPDJC, the members could maintain friendship and actively participate in the meetings.

SEE PAGE-5

Speech of State Counsellor and Chairperson of UPDJC at 20th meeting of committee

(20 August, 2020)

I WISH to extend my welcome greetings to all the representatives who have come to attend the UPDJC (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee) 20th meeting. I pray for your good health with Metta.

We will discuss and approve at today's UPDJC meeting the three parts of Part III of the Union Accord, which was tabled at the conference yesterday. We still need to do further work for it to be ready for signature at the conference.

The first point I wish to say is about the matter of the basic principles, which are already included in Part I of the Union Accord that was signed at the UPC – 21st Century Panglong Second Session and Part II of the Union Accord that was signed at the UPC – 21st Century Panglong Third Session.

We have already been able to obtain 51 basic principles from the various parts of the Union Accord, which we have already signed at the aforesaid two conferences. What are we going to do with these basic principles? Aren't we going to use them? Such kinds of questions exist. I want to say, don't worry about them. In Part II of the Union Accord which deals with the step by step programme and step by step implementations in the post-2020 period which will be signed at the present conference, we have achieved agreement only on (8) main headings. These (8) main headings are included in the five main sectors such as political, economy, social, security, land resources and environment which are part of the framework for political discussions formulated and adopted by our UPDJC. As we conduct the step by step discussions, the (5) main basic principles which we have achieved



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes a speech at 20th meeting of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee on 20 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

earlier would find their places under the respective main headings as basic principles which have already been agreed upon.

What we need to do now is to put the 51 basic principles which have already been agreed upon after thorough discussions by all of us, under their respective headings and proceed with the step by step implementations. What I wish to say is that we need to continue our discussions about the other headings and when we have Table 2 for step by step implementation we would arrive at a situation whereby we would be ready to implement the basic principles of Part I and Part II of the original Union Accord.

The second point I wish to talk about is regarding the matter of amending the framework for political negotiations. UPDJC has the duty to manage and provide leadership for the political negotiations; it also has the main duty to formulate the framework for political negotiations and make amendments to improve its quality. If we look back and make an appraisal, the framework for political negotiations which was

formulated by our UPDJC and amended for over 10 times, we may see that it mainly contains details such as who should participate, how the negotiations are to be conducted, and what matters should be discussed. There are 8 TORs and one SOP which have been drawn up based on the framework for political negotiations.

Since our TORs and SOPs were drawn up based on the framework for political negotiations, it contains more about conducting meetings and negotiations. This is because we were working towards obtaining basic principles for the Union Accord; that is the reason it has taken on this kind of shape and form. If we look further ahead to survey the tasks and programmes for UPDJC, we would have to give priority to the task of drawing up a Framework for Political Negotiations that would be in harmony with the step by step work plan and step by step implementation for the post-2020 period, which we will be agreeing and signing at this present conference. We need to continue with our step

by step discussions; as to how the political agreements obtained by the UPDJC should be implemented would have to be discussed and negotiated at the work committees. That is why our UPDJC needs to have many more discussions and negotiations to produce a framework for political negotiations which is workable and pragmatic.

The third point is the future of UPDJC. Our country held many peace talks in the past. However, the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong and its related discussions have appeared as the first peace dialogue since the country has regained its independence. The UPDJC is the leading body to organize peace talks. It is a tripartite body formed with three sides in proportional participation of representatives from the government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw at one hand, the NCA-S EAOs are another side, and the political parties include in the remaining front.

These groups have different backgrounds and diversities of stance. However, these groups worked together in the UPDJC for the common goal to develop a peace and stable Democracy Federal Union; in line with its tripartite structure, the committee could help for holding the upcoming Conference.

You had already made heated arguments and suspension of talks in awkward situations before respective groups made negotiations. Some unexpected issues delayed the discussions which were assumed as the productive talks. Among these political climates and various circumstances, the UPDJC becomes gradually mature. In the past, discussions could be made only at the formal sessions, and

some delays occurred in making agreements. At present, informal talks and prior negotiations were also held in a new approach among the committee members. As a result, some severe disputes could be avoided at the formal UPDJC meetings.

Better understanding and mutual trust could be made each other. One side has come to realize the other's feelings. These are the good results of UPDJC in taking future steps. Instead of grasping firmly on individual desires of each group, it will be better to consider the interests of the Union and all the national people. Right deeds could generate excellent results. It is essential to understand that we all are getting a historic opportunity for the better future of the Union where we are living together.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt thanks. We all have realized that only a genuine Federal Union could ensure peace; equal nationality rights could make national unity. It is our goal as well as the dream of our national people. Strenuous and united efforts of all UPDJC members have helped in holding the 21st Century Panglong up to its fourth session. The UPDJC is the focal body to address political problems. Practically, it is not an easy task to solve decades-old armed conflicts rooted in political issues. However, the UPDJC could move forward steadfastly despite a lot of ups and downs along with its move. I would like to conclude my speech by extending thanks, on behalf of the Union, to all the members of UPDJC, its secretaries, stakeholders and workgroup members for their hard efforts.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

Five new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 20 August, total figure reaches 399

FROM PAGE-1

Five more COVID-19 cases on 20 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
395	40	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (case 375)	No	Peoples' Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
396	29	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	Peoples' Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
397	38	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	Peoples' Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under investigation
398	28	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-395)	No	Peoples' Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
399	83	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	Peoples' Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under investigation

Ministry of Health and Sports

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 93/2020 2nd Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME (20 August 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in exercise of the authority mentioned in the Section 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time. There were 22 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Rakhine State up to 20-8-2020 morning. Six new confirmed cases were reported from 16-8-2020 to 20-8-2020 morning. Therefore, people residing in Sittway Township in Rakhine State are required to “Stay at Home” in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.

Therefore, it is hereby announced that people residing in Sittway Township, Rakhine State are included in the “Stay at Home” programme.

People in the township who are included in the Stay at Home programme shall follow the following rules:

- (a) To stay only at their homes (those who need to perform their duties at governmental departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces not included)
- (b) Only one person per one household to go out for necessary shopping
- (c) Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if such a need arises
- (d) To put on masks when going outside
- (e) To allow only authorized vehicles, and buses providing transport services to those who are going to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards
- (f) Each vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for going shopping in the ward, and only a driver and two persons for going to hospital or clinic

4. Regarding matters relating to clauses b, c and f of paragraph 3, if more passengers need to ride on the vehicle or to go for other emergencies, they are to seek approval from the respective Ward Administration Office, and the responsible persons of the respective Ward Administration Office shall not allow anyone to go out or come in to their wards except those who are going out and coming in to assume their charge of duties.

5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by this order under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

6. This order comes into effect from 8 pm on 20-8-2020.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses ...

FROM PAGE-2 Approving medical equipment bill

The medical equipment bill was debated by MP U Soe Thein from Taninthayi Region constituency 10, MP Dr Tin Tin Win from Bago Region constituency 5, and Tatmadaw representative Captain Daw Thazin Hlaing.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then gathered the approval of the assembly for a proposal to amend the bylaws amending Water Resource and Bodies of Water Conservation Bylaw, sent by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

MPs debate cancer report

Hluttaw representatives then debated a report from the Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee uncovering methods to reduce and protect from the spread of cancer and its mortality rate.

MP Naw Hla Hla Soe from Yangon Region constituency 10 said there is a risk of cancer in each stage of production of food to the dining table and the Food and Drug Administration and other relevant organizations should strictly manage quality control of food packaging. She also advised the committee to examine the FDA's activities to ensure sound public health.

MP U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 then suggested a comprehensive contact list of philanthropic cancer foundations should be made available for low-income cancer patients without access to treatment. He also suggested adding in successful cancer treatment methods from

around the world in the report to encourage cancer patients.

The report was further debated by Daw Shwe Shwe Sein from Bago Region constituency 3, Tatmadaw representative Captain Daw Win Thiri Swe, Dr Win Myint from Bago Region constituency 11, and Dr U Kwyel Kwyel from Mandalay Region constituency 6.

The secretary of the Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee, Dr San Maung Maung, responded to the MPs' debate and motioned for the report to be approved. The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the report has been approved.

Two committee reports approved

MP U Thet Naing Soe, member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Farmers' Affairs Committee, reading the committee's report on their processes from 1 March 2018 to 30 July 2020 to the assembly. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enrol their names.

MP Daw San San Myint, a member of the Committee on Immigration and Myanmar Internal and Migrant Workers, read the committee's report on its processes between 1 March 2018 to 30 July 2020 to the assembly. The Speaker then called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enroll their names.

The 11th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 17th regular session will convene on 25 August.—Aung Ye Thwin (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UPDJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong

FROM PAGE-3

On behalf of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, he expressed thanks to all UPDJC members for having the opportunity to work together in UPDJC for more than four years.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe made a wish that the spirit of UPDJC will be maintained in post-2020 too, and all UPDJC members can exert efforts to achieve the objective of the UPDJC and the hope of the Union.

At the meeting, the representatives from the government group were Vice-Chairpersons of UPDJC and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Peace Commission Chairperson Dr Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Minister U Min



Vice-Chairperson of UPDJC Dr Lian Hmung Sakhong. PHOTO: MNA



Vice-Chairperson U Thu Wai. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe. PHOTO: MNA

Thu; UPDJC members Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr Win Myat Aye and Naing Thet Lwin; Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Maj-Gen San Myint, Maj-Gen Soe Naing

Oo, Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MPs Khun Maung Thaung and U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission advisory board member U Hla Maung Shwe, Director-General U Zaw Htay.

The representatives from NCA-S EAOs were UPDJC

Vice-Chairperson Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong (CNF), Sao Sai Sai Nguen (RCSS), U Myo Win (ABSDF), Saw Mra Raza Lin (ALP), P'doh Saw Tah Doh Moo (KNU), Khun Myint Tun (PNLO), Saw Sein Win (DKBA), Saw Kyaw Nyunt (KNU/KNLA-PC), Nai Aung Min (NMSP), Kyar Solomon

(LDU), Mi Su Pwint (ABSDF), Salai Thla Hei (CNF), Dr Sai Oo (RCSS), Saw Samit Dun (DKBA), Khaing Lin Khaing (ALP) and P'dho Saw L Kalu Sae from KNU. Those from political parties group were Vice-Chairperson of UPDJC U Thu Wai (Democratic Party-Myanmar), U Naing Ngan Lin (NLD), U Myint Soe (USDP), Sai Kyaw Nyunt (SNLD), Tar Hla Pe (Ta'ang – Palaung), U Thein Tun (NUP), U Aung Kyi Nyunt (NLD), Dr Aung Myat Oo (USDP), U Oo Hla Saw (ANP), Khun Tun Shwe (PNO), U Zam Za Hmon (ZCD), U Shwe Min (LNDP), Dr Tu Jar (KSDP), Nai Ta La (MUP), Daw Yin Yin May (KDUP), Saw Tun Aung Myint (KPP) and officials.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin, Maung Maung Swe)

It would be necessary to create the markets ourselves;

During the COVID period, we also need to consider how to minimize the impact of COVID on the fisheries and prawn breeding and how to make these enterprises grow in the long term; it would be necessary to create the markets ourselves; looking for markets and creating markets are quite different. Looking for markets means looking for existing markets; while creating markets or developing markets means the process of developing new products that others would wish to buy; both are important;

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions at videoconference regarding impact of COVID-19 on livestock and fisheries sector with stakeholders on 7 July 2020)



Myanmar Press Council presents media guidebooks for 2020 General Election

MYANMAR Press Council presented media guidebooks for 2020 General Election to the Union Election Commission yesterday.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, MPC Chairman U Ohn Kyaing (Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing), UEC members and officials from Myanmar Press Council attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, a total of 1,000 guidebooks were given for the media.

The books were jointly produced by the UEC and MPC to give information about covering news on the 2020 General Election, with the contribution of MPC in printing and publishing the books.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

A ceremony to present media guidebooks to Union Election Commission is held on 20 August. **PHOTO:MNA**



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses controversial bills



Joint Bill Committee discusses bill for amending the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens and the 2020-2021 National Planning Bill on 20 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the controversial bill for amending the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens, and 2020-2021 National Planning Bill in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice-Chairmen, Secretaries, Joint secretaries and members of the Joint Bill Committee and the Joint Public Accounts Com-

mittee, Chairmen and Secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee, Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries of Joint Planning and Budget Review Group (5), (13) and (15), Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs who submitted the amendments, officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Finances and Industry, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

165 Myanmar citizens repatriated from foreign countries

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 165 Myanmar nationals stranded in UAE, Oman and other foreign countries, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Among these returnees, 28 persons are from Oman, 1 from Bahrain, 82 from UAE, 9 from Egypt, 4 from Belgium, 2 from the Maldives, 7 from Israel, 3 from Bangladesh, 10 from Brazil, 8 from French, 2 each from

Spain, South Africa and Nigeria, 3 from Panama and 1 each from the US and Djibouti.

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 stranded in foreign

countries by relief flights and chartered flights per the instructions from National-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 and brought back 11,577 citizens to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returning from UAE, Oman and other foreign countries queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 20 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

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.



Part III of Union Accord approved at 20th UPDJC meeting

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee reached an agreement to sign the Part III of the Union Accord during its 20th meeting held at MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A press conference was held after the meeting with UPDJC Secretariat members Tar Hla Pe, U Zaw Htay and Nai Aung Ma Ngay where they explained the structure of Part III of the Union Accord, which will be signed at the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

U Zaw Htay said the content of Part III of the Union Accord was submitted to the peace conference on its first day and approved by the UPDJC in this meeting. It will be signed at the peace conference today.

The third part of the Union Accord includes a framework to implement the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), a framework for implementation of various processes beyond 2020, and basic principles to establish a democratic federal union.

Nai Aung Ma Ngay said they will incorporate the implementation framework for the NCA, a framework for processes after 2020, and the basic principles of a union based on democracy and federalism at the peace conference. The peace conference will have 11 programmes in addition to signing the Part III.

U Zaw Htay then replied to a question on how the government will persuade non-signatories to sign the NCA. Both sides are negotiating towards a meeting and after KIA+3 submitted their position and thoughts, the government held a meeting with the Tatmadaw and Hluttaws as well. Certain factors in these groups led to some restrictions in the invitation for the peace conference and this might require the Government and Tatmadaw to talk on how discussion with those 4 groups will be arranged. An official response will be sent to them after a decision has been made, said U Zaw Htay.

He added that there are negotiations on MoUs as the EAOs seem to be observing the upcoming election and the situation



Press briefing is held after the 20th meeting of UPDJC on 20 August. PHOTO: MNA

that will follow it. The resurgence of COVID-19 in Rakhine State recently is a cause for concern and the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued directives to prevent a second wave. This will make travelling and meeting face-to-face a challenge if, for example, a meeting was organized in China where they will have their own quarantine rules and measures and returning from there means people will have to go into quarantine again here. The government also has to work out details with the Tatmadaw on this matter and these reasons are why it is not easy at the moment to persuade non-signatories.

UPDJC Secretariat member Tar Hla Pe replied to a question on the government's role and involvement in the peace process. He said there is the UPDJC sector, JICM sector, JMC sector, NRPC sector and Peace Commission sector to the peace process. He said the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw are one side, the EAOs are one side, and while the political parties are technically one side they are linked to the government's side. He said it would be difficult to connect with the international community and arrange national level events without the involvement of the government. Thus, while we are negotiating and discussing at an equal level, the government has the role to lead implementation, said Tar Hla Pe.

Responding to the same

question, U Zaw Htay said the peace process is a local process and that is why there is no leading or negotiations from foreign entities. This is why the government has to lead and the government of any given time has to take that role. He said the government has to lead negotiations with non-signatories and signatories in addition to political dialogues and ceasefire matters.

U Zaw Htay said there is a peculiarity as all 10 NCA signatories are not necessarily of one mind and a collective agreement has to be negotiated. It is the same case with the 21 political parties that won the election where a common stance has to be negotiated at the UPDJC. The government also has to negotiate within itself between the government officials, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw before going into talks with EAOs and political parties.

U Zaw Htay said they have to renegotiate with the Tatmadaw if topics they have not discussed yet emerge. He said most other nations don't have three different factions in the government sector for their peace processes. He said this is why they have to divide the government and Hluttaw to one group and the Tatmadaw to one group when drawing frameworks and the Tatmadaw and EAOs coordinate with each other as well.

U Zaw Htay then answered a question on whether the govern-

ment will request the Tatmadaw to extend their ceasefire announcement after 31 August. He said the UN Secretary-General requested a ceasefire around the world during the COVID-19 period. Some nations with internal conflicts responded at the national level, some responded with date restrictions, and some responded with regional restrictions. He said the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council decided to announce the call to ceasefire with the exception of conflict with those labelled as terrorist organizations.

The Tatmadaw's announcement is also similar to that principle and it was negotiated with the government as well. The ceasefire period will depend on the COVID-19 situation and status of the world, said U Zaw Htay.

The Part III of Union Accord will be signed by UPDJC Vice-Chairperson Dr Tin Myo Win in representing for the Government, Dr May Win Myint for the Hluttaw, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win for the Tatmadaw, Dr Lyan Hmone Sar Khaung for EAOs and U Thu Wai for the political parties.

UPDJC Secretariat member Nai Aung Ma Ngay said, "The third point in the Part III of Union Accord is quite significant and concerned with the establishment of a Federal Union. There are 8 points for the step by step implementation of peace in the post 2020. We reached

agreements principally on the topics for discussions in these points. The Part III will develop opportunities to hold talks on constitutions for the states. We have discovered fundamental principles for building a Federal Union and for persuading the other ethnic armed organizations into peace talks."

UPDJC Secretariat member Tar Hla Pe said, "A total of 51 points of agreements have been signed in the Part I and Part II of the Union Accord. The upcoming Part III could activate those agreements because it includes an agreement to implement the Union Accord. The more remarkable outcome is a pledge to continue peace process under future administration beyond 2020."

UPDJC Secretariat member U Zaw Htay said, "Some countries take further steps for DDR and SSR after ceasefire agreement. However, we will lead to political way after the ceasefire. The NCA will control ceasefire while holding political dialogues, and final stage is the establishment of a Federal Union. The Tatmadaw has agreed in the paragraph 22 (d) of NCA to amend the Constitution.

He added, "The State Counsellor talked about democratic reform and practice of federalism, as well as peace and national reconciliation. Implementation of peace process in the Part III of Union Accord beyond 2020 is as important as the framework agreement on implementation of NCA in the Part I. Although there are some weaknesses in the NCA, we could make agreements to overcome these issues."

U Zaw Htay continued to say, "We will proceed the political issue in three steps. This agreement is a great success to implement the step by step peace process beyond 2020 in working for peace, democratic reform, federalism and national reconciliation. The Conference could promote the future peace processes to a better level."

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo, Aung Khin)

Stay at home, avoid panic and don't spread rumours!

WITH a spirally upward number of locally transmitted Coronavirus infection cases, Rakhine State's Sittway Township has imposed stay-at-home orders, which took effect at 8 pm yesterday.

The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the order to effectively contain the spread of the infectious disease after the township saw 22 positive cases in four days.

The need for this move is not in doubt as the country does everything possible to avert further spread of the virus. It is critically important that all the local people follow public health guidelines for their safety and their loved ones and the country at large.

The government has imposed disease control rules and health guidelines. Local authorities have given strong advice to tighten them to ensure individuals obey those rules and guidelines. The rules aren't complicated. Please stick to the basics: wear masks

over the face and nose, wash your hands thoroughly; stay at home; only one person per household go for shopping; observe social distancing in every situation. People are obliged to understand the prohibitions and to follow the official advice.

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both.

Meanwhile, another threat to public health in this time of crisis is fake news. Those who spread fake news intentionally to cause panic can be jailed for one year or fined, or both. Any threat to public health is classified as a "crime".

On the other side, local authorities are obliged to inform the public with updated information on the COVID-19 outbreak in our country, to ease the public's fear and anxiety.

The time has come to increase our efforts, especially in Sittwe Township, in raising awareness about the COVID-19 disease, to ensure that local communities understand that they can protect themselves from the infection by following health guidelines and social distancing.

No one knows how long this order will remain in effect. All we can do is comply and help our families and neighbours, as much as possible.

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both.

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

SPOTTING FAKE MEDICAL GOODS

Dangers of fake medical supplies in a pandemic

By Athira Nortajuddin
Journalist at The ASEAN Post

The falsification of medicines bears risks for public health as products may not properly and effectively treat a disease and may facilitate the development of drug resistance, stated the United Nations (UN).

TO date, over 22 million people have been infected with the deadly coronavirus disease, which has claimed some 700,000 lives. Amid the health crisis, there has been a surge in demand for medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to combat the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, this has led to criminals taking advantage of the situation to earn fast money.

Back in March, Interpol coordinated a global operation targeting the online sale of illicit medicines and medical devices and seized more than 34,000 fake medical goods. Based on their report, the most counterfeited products are medicines (antivirals, herbal medicines and malaria treatments), medical equipment (face masks, disinfectants, fake coronavirus test kits, gloves and ventilators), and sanitizers (substandard hand sanitizers, soaps and cleaning wipes).

The falsification of medicines bears risks for public health as products may not properly and effectively treat a disease and may

facilitate the development of drug resistance, stated the United Nations (UN).

"Best case scenario they [fake medicines] probably won't treat the disease for which they were intended," said Pernette Bourdillion Esteve from the World Health Organization (WHO). "But worst-case scenario they'll actively cause harm, because they might be contaminated with something toxic."

From ASEAN member state Malaysia to the Republic of Mozambique, authorities have confiscated tens of thousands of counterfeit medical products, many of which claim to be able to cure the COVID-19 virus.

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society president, Amrahi Buang recently told local media that although there is an abundant supply of the standard three-ply face mask in the country, people should still be wary of fake ones in the market as the quality of imported masks could not be ascertained.

Neighbouring Indonesia has also reported cases of counterfeit medical supplies. In February this

year, local police officers arrested 10 people who had been identified as manufacturing fake medical masks following a raid in north Jakarta. An estimated 30,000 boxes of medical face masks said to have failed to meet Indonesia's national standard requirements were seized.

Another trend that the populous archipelago has seen is fake 'COVID-19-free' medical letters that are sold on Indonesian e-commerce sites. Back in May, it was reported that doctors in the country warned that a black market in these free health certificates risks further fuelling the spread of the illness in the archipelago.

According to local media, one fake certificate bearing the official letterhead of a hospital in the capital Jakarta was being sold online for as low as IDR70,000 (US\$3.80), while others were going for much higher prices.

Illegal Trade

According to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) research brief titled, 'COVID-19-related Trafficking of Medical Products as a Threat to



This file photo shows a makeshift advertisement for N95 face masks displayed on the front door of a pharmacy in Kuala Lumpur. PHOTO: AFP

Public Health', criminal gangs are exploiting both uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus along with inconsistencies in national regulation regimens.

"Transnational organized crime groups take advantage of gaps in national regulation and oversight to peddle substandard and falsified medical products," explained the UNODC.

The research found that a

high demand for medical products during the pandemic led to a jump in the trafficking of substandard and faulty merchandise.

Last month, counterfeit personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, and fake medicines worth PHP244 million (US\$5 million) were seized by the Philippines' Bureau of Customs (BOC). The fake goods were mostly smuggled from China, con-

fiscated between 25 March and 31 May. A 2019 report by the UNODC also stated that the Philippines had the highest incidences of fake medicines in Southeast Asia.

A seizure of 3,300 thermometers was also reported in ASEAN member state Thailand, after being trafficked through three other countries.

SOURCE: THE ASEAN POST

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Pandemic reignites German debate over four-day work week

The coronavirus pandemic has reignited debate in Germany about cutting the working week to four days to help preserve jobs during and after the economic shock.

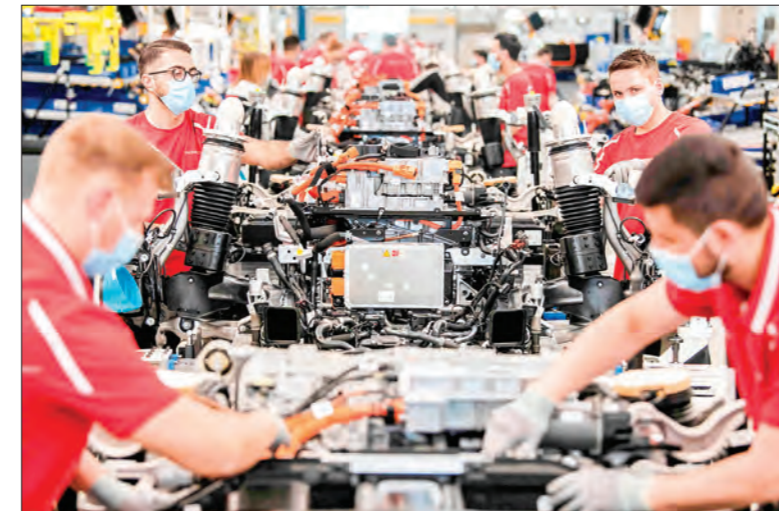
But the idea remains highly controversial.

The president of Germany's powerful metalworkers union IG Metall, Joerg Hofmann, started a national conversation by proposing the measure at a time when fears about unemployment are rising, as they are across the world.

Before the pandemic pumelled the global economy, Germany boasted a record low unemployment level of around five percent.

By July, the rate had climbed to 6.4 percent.

German Labour Minister Hubertus Heil, a member of the centre-left Social Democrats, has



Employees of German car manufacturer Porsche wear face masks as they work on power trains for the Taycan full-electric sports car at the production site in Stuttgart, southern Germany. PHOTO: AFP

signalled he is open to moving away from a traditional five-day working week.

"Reduced hours with some wage compensation may be an appropriate measure," he said this week.

The basic idea is that in working less, employees share more of the jobs that are fading away.

Paving the way

Such a move could be the answer to the structural changes hitting sectors such as the car

industry, which faces a "digital acceleration due to the pandemic", the IG Metall boss told the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung at the weekend.

Hofmann, whose union represents more than two million workers, also said that for those switching to a shorter week, salary cuts should be kept in check so as not to cause a fall in purchasing power.

This isn't IG Metall's first battle on working hours, and its achievements have often set the benchmark for employees in other industries.

In 1995, it won a 35-hour working week. In 2018, the union won the right for employees to opt to work only 28 hours a week for two years, with only a limited decrease in pay.

Its latest proposal is supported by 60 per cent of Germans, ac-

ording to a YouGov poll published on Wednesday.

Germany's far-left Die Linke party wants to go even further, urging a reduction of working hours to 30 a week without a loss of pay. **Hit to productivity**

But employers appear reluctant to jump on board.

Switching to a shorter week will only worsen "the enormous productivity shock" being suffered at the moment, according to Stefan Kampeter, director of the employers' federation BDA.

"The longer the crisis lasts, the more we must find intelligent solutions that do more than just distribute wages and subsidies," Carsten Linnemann, a senior member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party, told business magazine Wirtschaftswoche.

Several large German com-

panies, such as engineering firm Bosch and carmaker Daimler, have already implemented schemes to reduce working hours, while discussions continue at tyre maker Continental and aerospace giant Airbus.

But in these cases employees have had to make major financial sacrifices.

Back in the 1990s, when Volkswagen introduced a four-day week for some employees to save 30,000 jobs that were at risk when the group was in crisis, those affected had to accept a 10 per cent salary cut.

In the beleaguered car industry's current climate, the four-day week would be "neither appropriate nor economically viable", Daimler personnel chief Wilfried Porth said.

SOURCE: AFP

The four objectives

1. To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting human trafficking as a national duty;
2. To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
3. To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
4. To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders — government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Flood Warning (Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 20-8-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa is observed as about (1½) 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 Kalewa and Monywa Townships to take precaution measure.

Flood Bulletin (Issued at: 12:00 hrs MST on 20-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (2½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (2½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2) feet 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 Homalin, Phaungpyin and

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**CHIEF EDITOR**Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS**EDITORS**Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR TRANSLATOR**

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORSHay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/thegnlm**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

About 9,000 smart cards issued to YBS drivers

By Nyein Nyein

ABOUT 9,000 smart cards have already been issued to YBS drivers, said Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

YRTA has issued the smart cards to 8,933 YBS drivers who have applied for the YBS smart cards. Among them, there are also female YBS drivers.

Following the issuing of the smart cards, the YRTA inspection teams are also checking the YBS buses whether the drivers are holding the smart cards or not.

Moreover, the passengers are urged to report to YRTA inspection teams whenever they find undisciplined vehicles calling Viber numbers 09448147149, 09448147153 and 09448147154 and also sending the videos or photos as evidence, according to YRTA.

A staff of YBS demonstrates how to use a smart card with the card payment system. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The YRTA will have the personal information of every single driver. So, it will be more straightforward for the authority to deal with the complaints and take action against the undisciplined drivers.

YRTA will maintain a centralized database detailing the job history and work experience of the YBS drivers. This database will enable YRTA to quickly find the year of the work experience of the drivers.

At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,500 buses on 135 routes along with the Airport Shuttle and the city transit. The number of daily commuters estimates at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

5,000 nationwide fish breeding ponds to get fingerlings: MoALI

MINISTRY of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will spend K6,000 million on providing the fingerlings for 5,000 fish breeding ponds across the country, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The ministry is supplying the fingerlings to boost the fish breeding sector. There are a total of 27 fish hatching camps across the country. The Fisheries Department will provide the fingerlings from those camps

to the fish breeders across the country.

The department is scrutinizing the fish breeding ponds to supply the fingerlings per the Farmland Law Lana (39).

The department also con-

ducted training in connexion with the safety of the fishermen at sea and workplaces in the coastal regions and states. — Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Chance Myanmar acquires global-standard courses from Hong Kong company

CHANCE Myanmar, a pioneering E-learning platform, has recently acquired two global-standard online training courses to boost its educational portfolio offerings to 16 courses.

With over 100,000 students from Myanmar and other parts of the world, Chance Myanmar has always been on the lookout for effective and relevant learning opportunities for its target market. It has recently added the English for the Workplace and Communications and Self Leadership courses from LEARN Education Group, a Hong Kong-based education company that provides end-to-end learning and performance

solutions to companies and organizations.

Phyo Phyo Aung, Chance Myanmar Founder & CEO, said, "Chance Myanmar has been designing or acquiring existing innovative skills training courses that are relevant to the market. I have founded Chance Myanmar as a platform to empower people with our training and enable the Myanmar youth to cope with the requirements of the changing professional, business and economic environments."

Chance Myanmar also strengthens its position as a market leader with its partnership with LEARN Education Group. LEARN represents

international brands including Manchester Metropolitan University, Westford Education Group and Rang Sit University International. The Group also operates a portfolio of education brands including LEARN Competency-based Learning Institute, ASK Tech International and LEARN Global Institute.

"At Chance Myanmar, we are redesigning what learning in the 21st century should look like in Myanmar. We are super excited about working with LEARN to expand our product offering, as we continue to help our students excel in whatever they do, from career to relationships." Phyo Phyo Aung stated.

Chance Myanmar focuses on courses not typically taught in the Myanmar formal education system such as psychology, communication, cultural competence to self-betterment, among others. Through its online courses, the students learn from various renowned authors, expert trainers and influencers, the relevant soft skills they need to become a better version of themselves, thereby affecting their business and professional performance.

Chance Myanmar, which also recently released its own mobile application, will start offering the new courses in beginning of September 2020.—GNLM

To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters' lists.

Exports top \$14.84 bln as of 7 August

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 7 August in the 2019-2020 financial year shot up to US\$14.84 billion from \$14.6 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous budget year, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects an increase of \$218.224 million compared with the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, minerals and other goods showed an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products and finished industrial goods declined.

Export values have registered at \$3.35 billion for agro products, \$69.56 million for livestock, \$757.35 million for fishery products, \$1.59 billion for minerals, \$128 million for forest products, \$8.07 billion for manufactured goods, and \$871.256 million for other commodities.



Merchants evaluate the quality of jade stones at the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar's top 10 export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK, the

Commerce Ministry stated.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the

CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is decreasing.

The CMP garment sector, which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector, is becoming challenging because of the cancellation of order from some countries and suspension of trade caused by the coronavirus negative impacts. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, business people highlighted.

At present, exports of rice, corns and pulses are rising, while CMP garment export is dropping.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Tourist arrival drops in Myanmar by 65 pc as of July 2020

THE tourist arrival in Myanmar has dropped by 65 per cent from January to July 2020 because of the global coronavirus outbreak, according to the data released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Myanmar received a total of 852,432 foreign visitors in the first seven months of 2020, a decrease of 1.6 million visitors. The same period of last year, the number of tourists who entered the country stood at 2.4 million, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

As of July 2020, a total of 324,329 tourists

arrived in Myanmar via the international airports, 889 tourists came to the country via cruise liners, and 40,415 tourists entered through land borders with visa. Besides, 486,799 tourists entered Myanmar via the border crosses.

The number of tourist arrival by flights declined by 67 per cent, by ships declined by 85 per cent, by land borders with visa declined by 43 per cent and by cross-border passes declined by 66 per cent.

Last years, the majority of visitors were from China followed by Thailand, Japan, South

Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam. Citizens of the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain also visited Myanmar.

This year, the foreign visitors stopped traveling and lost 72 per cent from China, 63 per cent from Thailand, 72 per cent from South Korea, 72 per cent from Singapore and 68 per cent from Viet Nam.

Tourists have cancelled their trips, and the national airline flights have also suspended their operations as the coronavirus has spread around the world. The countries have also denied visas to the tourists.

Myanmar tourism sector like that of other countries around the world has been severely affected by the pandemic.

Myanmar welcomed 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017, 3.55 million in 2018, and 4.4 million in 2019. — GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Myanmar has seen significant plunge of tourist arrival due to global coronavirus outbreak. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Import deadline extension needs Indian response for black bean

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH Myanmar's bean body has asked for deadline extension for import quota of 400,000 tonnes set by India, there is still no response, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

"India has not released an official letter regarding deadline extension. Yet, Indian traders are predicting that there might be a one-time extension of the deadline. We have to wait and see that they will extend or not by the end of August," he said.

India rapidly changed the import period of black bean to three months by August-end 2020 from the earlier set deadline of March 2021, as per their official notice on 22 May.

With the changes in Indian policy on bean importation, Myanmar still falls short of the target, and it is not possible to



India narrowed down import deadline of beans and pulses, affecting Myanmar market. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

export all the entire quota. The growers have already sold out the beans, and they are in the hands of traders. They have stockpiled around 200,000-250,000 tonnes of black beans, the association stated.

Myanmar can export about 100,000 tonnes of black beans out of 400,000 tonnes to India by August-end deadline, said the MPBSSMA secretary.

Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association has asked Indian Embassy to Myanmar and the Ministry of Commerce to extend

the deadline for black bean import.

At present, the prices of the black bean remain unchanged at around K950,500 per tonne, while pigeon peas are priced K802,500 per tonne, as per the market's data.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, Australia and Africa grow other kinds of peas such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, the association stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Heirloom bean, butter bean selling well due to China demand

HEIRLOOM beans and butter beans are traded well in Mandalay market as the demand by China rises.

Earlier, the market of those beans was cooling in the early outbreak of the coronavirus infection. In recent days, the market raises its head again on account of China's strong demand on butter beans and heirloom beans, said Mandalay traders.

The heirloom bean currently fetches K57,000 per three-basket bag. The price is up by K500 as against July's rate. Meanwhile, the cost of butter beans has remained unchanged at K54,000 per pack, and they are selling well, said U Soe Win Myint, depot owner from Mandalay. "We are happy for market recovery. But, the price should have risen higher than that. Chinese traders cannot pay higher when the Yuan



Myanmar exports about 75 per cent of butter bean production to foreign markets. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

is weakening. China has been purchasing heirloom beans for four years. The demand is increasing

year over year. The beans are selling well, starting from August this year. The only small volume of

the beans has remained in the local market. If Yuan value gains, the beans will be priced higher

up to over K60,000 per bag. The growers are just okay with the prevailing prices," he added.

As the heirloom beans have market potentials, the growers are interested in extending the growing acres. Myanmar exports about 75 per cent of butter bean production to foreign markets — Japan, China, Denmark, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, China (Taipei) and Viet Nam, with an export volume of 15,000-30,000 tonnes per year.

Farmers primarily grow the butter beans in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeeyawady regions and Mon and northern Shan states. Magway Region produces good-quality butter beans, and Japan buyers prefer them.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Small-scale rubber farmers hope for Government subsidy

By Nyein Nyein

GOVERNMENT'S subsidy is a requisite for small-scale rubber farmers to survive in the industry, said U Khaing Myint, secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

Those small-scale rubber farmers account for 92 per cent of rubber plantation in Myanmar.

"We need the government's subsidy for the small-scale rubber farmers to survive in the crisis. They constitute 92 per cent of rubber plantation. They need contribution and technical assistance to maintain quality.

The government's support in the respective parts are vital of importance for the survivals of them," he pointed out.

At present, the COVID loan provided by the government to the coronavirus-stricken businesses does not cover the small-scale rubber farmers, he added.

"Those farmers do not meet criteria in accessing the COVID loan. So, they are excluded from it," he said.

Therefore, the MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farm owners separately.

There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, and 80,000 of them

can be produced latex. Over 200,000 tonnes of rubber raw materials are exported to external market per year, generating an income of US\$200 million.

At present, Myanmar Natural Rubber Quality Testing Lab was set up at the Commodity Testing and Quality Management Division (Hlegu Township) of the Consumer Affairs Department under the MOC.

The lab will soon to issue the certificate after testing rubber quality, the association stated.

The raw rubber fetches K700 per pound in the local market.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Livestock, fisheries attract 5 investment projects this FY

LIVESTOCK and fisheries sector has attracted four foreign investment projects and one domestic business so far in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those businesses brought in around US\$30 million, including the expansion of in-

vestments by the existing joint ventures.

They are executing broiler chicken farming, production, processing and marketing of all kinds of poultry feed, broiler hatchery, production of shrimp, freezing, and cold storage as per data of the DICA.

Since 1988-1989FY, about US\$800 million of FDI have flowed into the livestock and

fisheries sector.

At present, 16 countries invested in the livestock and fisheries sector. Thailand has topped the list of investments among them, with over \$380 million in 18 enterprises, followed by Singapore with over \$129 million worth 14 enterprises.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-EU trade exceeds \$2.57 bln in 9 months

MYANMAR'S trade with members of the European Union (EU), during the first nine months of the current financial year 2019-2020, reached over US\$2.57 billion, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export to the EU surpassed its import, with \$1.845 billion worth of export and \$726.147 million valued import.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. Germany is the biggest trade partner in EU with the most considerable trade value, of \$564.993 million with Myanmar, followed by Italy in second place, with about \$349.166 million. Spain was listed in third place with trade valued at \$344.092 million, while The Netherlands stood at fourth place with an estimated trade value of \$325.755 million. Myanmar's trade with France reached about \$243.332 million.

The value of bilateral trade with Belgium was \$201.416 million, while that with Poland was \$133.847 million. Businesses with Denmark, Sweden and Finland, brought in more than \$75 million each.

Trade values with Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cy-

prus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia was less than \$50 million each.

The main export items are rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, garments on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, Myanmar imports machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods.

The CMP garment sector is now encountering hardships because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western nations during the coronavirus crisis.

Myanmar reinstated EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference starting from 19 July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods. Nevertheless, the EU imposed a three-year tariff on Indica rice (long-grain rice) imported from Myanmar and Cambodia starting from 18 January 2019.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Departing WTO chief gets top job at PepsiCo



Outgoing World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Roberto Azevedo will move to a top job at US snacks and drinks giant PepsiCo. PHOTO: AFP

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization's exiting chief, who is leaving the crisis-stricken institution a year ahead of schedule, will move to the private sector as a top executive at PepsiCo, the company said Thursday.

Roberto Azevedo, who on August 31 will step down as WTO Director-General after seven years at the helm, will the next day become an executive vice president and chief corporate affairs officer with PepsiCo, the US soft drink and snacks giant said in a statement.

The company said the role had been created for the Brazilian career diplomat who will work on "solidifying PepsiCo's external engagement efforts with national and international (authorities), regulators, international organizations and non-governmental stakeholders."

Azevedo, PepsiCo chief Ramon Laguarta said, would bring "valuable political skills and technical knowledge of the complex social, political, and regulatory environments" impacting the company.

The departing WTO chief, who was educated as an engineer, said in the statement that he was "delighted to join PepsiCo at time when strengthening relationships between business, government and society has become essential to generating sustainable and inclusive long-term growth".

Azevedo, who made the surprise announcement in May that he would end his second WTO term 12 months early, for "personal reasons", is leaving the organization engulfed in multiple crises.—AFP ■

Alibaba revenue up 34 per cent as coronavirus fuels online spending

BEIJING — Chinese e-commerce leader Alibaba on Thursday reported solid 34 per cent growth in revenue for the April-June quarter in the latest sign that the coronavirus, rather than hurting the company, had actually helped.

Hangzhou-based Alibaba said revenue -- a key measure of the internet giant's business health as well as overall Chinese consumer spending -- rose to 153 billion yuan (\$22 billion), slightly exceeding a Bloomberg analyst poll.

The coronavirus, which emerged in China late last year, hammered the Chinese economy, causing a historic 6.8 per cent contraction in the first quarter of 2020.

But Alibaba and other Chinese tech titans have largely shrugged

off the impact, and Chairman Daniel Zhang made clear the pandemic and its associated lockdowns and social distancing were fuelling turnover by consumers opting for the safety of online shopping.

"We were well-positioned to capture growth

from the ongoing digital transformation, which has been accelerated by the pandemic, in both consumption and enterprise operations," he said in a statement accompanying Alibaba's earnings announcement.

Profit jumped 124

per cent in the quarter to \$6.7 billion, due mainly to gains in equity investments, it said.

But Alibaba could find itself in the crosshairs of Trump administration efforts to squeeze Chinese tech giants.

—AFP ■

Bread sold to mark 80th anniv. of visas that helped Jews flee Nazis

GIFU, Japan — Bread and cakes commemorating the 80th anniversary of "Visas for Life", issued by Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara to help Jews escape from Nazis persecution during World War II, have recently gone on sale in his hometown in central Japan.

Often dubbed Japan's Oskar Schindler, the German who provided Jews with a safe haven during the war, Sugihara (1900-1986) issued transit visas for some 6,000 Jews in 1940 while serving as an acting consul to Lithuania, defying an instruction by the Japanese Foreign Minis-

try not to do so. The baked goods, made by Como Co. in Aichi Prefecture and sold by the Gifu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, contain Lithuanian dried fruit such as blueberries and cowberries and come as an assortment with a price tag of 3,000 yen (\$28).—Kyodo ■

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and Map Pacific Company Limited [Under Sections 345 & 348]

The following Written Members' Special Resolutions were passed by all the Members of Map Pacific Company Limited in lieu of meeting on 19th August, 2020 pursuant to Section 156 (d) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

- (1) Resolved that the Company be wound up voluntarily as members' voluntary winding-up.
- (2) Resolved that Daw Hnin Su Mon (B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, A.C.C.A), holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/Ma Ya Ka (Naing) 114749, Senior Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, be and hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

By order of the Board,

Mr. Kyaw Win
Resident Director
Map Pacific Company Limited

Map Pacific Company Limited
(Under Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM DEBTS

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator at address mentioned below in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their said debts or claims on or before 22nd September, 2020 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts and claims.

Daw Hnin Su Mon
B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, A.C.C.A
Liquidator
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (217N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (217N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT/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 OLIVIA VOY. NO. (033S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (033S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMIT** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်စာတိုက်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 01-8604530

China suspends Hong Kong's legal cooperation with U.S. in retaliation



The Chinese government imposed a strict new national security law on Hong Kong, criminalizing secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference. PHOTO: AFP/ANTHONY WALLACE

BEIJING — China has decided to suspend legal cooperation between its territory Hong Kong and the United States in retaliation for the latest move by the administration of President Donald Trump, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

On Wednesday, the United States stepped up pressure against Beijing's actions to erode the freedom of the former British colony by imposing the national security law, announcing the suspension or termination of three bilateral agreements with Hong Kong that have treated it differ-

ently from the mainland.

The three agreements cover the surrender of fugitive offenders, the transfer of sentenced persons, and reciprocal tax exemptions on income derived from the international operation of ships, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said in a statement. "The Hong Kong special administrative region government has strongly opposed and condemned the unilateral decisions by the United States government in suspending or terminating the three bilateral agreements signed with Hong

Kong," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in a news conference in Beijing.

"We fully agreed with the Hong Kong SAR government's expression. With respect to the United States' wrongful act, China decided that Hong Kong SAR suspend executing the Hong Kong-U.S. legal cooperation agreements," he said. Hong Kong said it "strongly reprimands" the U.S. decisions and denied the agreements constituted preferential treatment for Hong Kong as alleged in the U.S. President's executive order.—Kyodo ■

Mass infections at S. Korea church grow to over 670 cases

SEOUL — A church in South Korea's capital Seoul has become a new epicentre of coronavirus infections with a total of 676 cases traced to it as of Thursday afternoon, raising concern about

the virus' spread in the greater capital region and beyond.

South Korea on the same day reported 288 new cases of the virus, 276 of them domestically acquired. Out of the 276, 135

were traced back to Seoul and 85 to the surrounding Gyeonggi Province, according to the Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 3,200 people from the church have so far been tested for the virus, and the public health agency is closely monitoring those who visited a rally in Seoul last Saturday as some church members also took part in it.

The country has seen a triple-digit rise in virus cases every day for the past week. The government has already tightened social distancing rules in the metropolitan area, while ordering karaoke parlors and clubs to shut. Church services were banned on Wednesday in the metropolitan region except for those conducted online.—Kyodo ■



Lawyer Kang Yeon Jae (centre), co-lawyer of the the Sarang Jeil (Love Foremost) Church and Pastor Jeon Kwang Hoon, hold a press conference to accuse the Seoul Metropolitan Government at Yongsan Building in Yeouido on August 19, 2020 in Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: KYODO

Kim calls rare congress for North Korea's ruling party

BEIJING — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called a rare congress of the ruling Workers' Party for January to address policy "shortcomings" and lay out a new five-year plan for the isolated nation's moribund economy.

Kim made the announcement at a full meeting of the party's central committee on Wednesday, where he "assessed achievements and shortcomings" since the last congress in 2016, the official KCNA news agency reported Thursday.

In unusually frank terms for Pyongyang, the meeting concluded "the goals for improving the national economy have been seriously delayed", and living standards had not been "remarkably" improved.

Kim said there had been "unexpected and inevitable challenges in various aspects and the situation in the region surrounding the Korean pen-

insula".

The UN Security Council, US, EU and others have imposed sanctions on the North over its banned nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, which have made rapid progress under Kim's leadership.

The acknowledgement of falling short was "intended to justify the regime's expected failure to achieve the economic goals it set out earlier", Hong Min, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification, told AFP.

The timing of the meeting in January, close to the inauguration of the winner of November's US presidential election, was intended as a signal, he added. Nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington have been stalled since the collapse of a Hanoi summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump last year.—AFP ■



Voters queue to cast their ballots at the '3.26 Pyongyang Cable Factory' during voting for the Supreme People's Assembly elections, in Pyongyang on March 10. PHOTO:AFP / FILE

India, China to hold WMCC meeting today to discuss disengagement along LAC, de-escalation of troops

NEW DELHI — A meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs will be taking place on Thursday as part of the dialogue between the two countries for disengagement along LAC in Eastern Ladakh and de-escalation of troops.

The seventeenth meeting of WMCC was held last month in which the two countries

agreed that early and complete disengagement of the troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and de-escalation from India-China border areas in accordance with bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquillity was essential for the smooth overall development of bilateral relations.

The WMCC talks are headed by joint secretary-level officials from both sides.—ANI ■

Iraq PM to meet Trump with US troops on the agenda

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi will meet US President Donald Trump for the first time in Washington on Thursday, with the presence of American troops in the country at the top of his agenda.

The meeting comes as attacks on American targets by pro-Iranian fighters have been on the rise, and with Tehran and Washington competing for influence in Iraq, the gulf between pro-Iranian factions and Baghdad's US-friendly premier is growing.

Kadhemi, who took office in May, faces challenges from factions of the Hashed al-Shaabi, a coalition of Iraqi Shiite paramilitary groups with close ties to Iran.

The Hashed al-Shaabi is officially integrated into the Iraqi state, and its political representatives have called for the expulsion of the 5,000 US troops deployed in the country as part of anti-jihadist efforts.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that "armed groups not under the full control of the prime minister have impeded our progress," calling for them



Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi will meet US President Donald Trump on Thursday for the first time. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

to "be replaced by local police as soon as possible."

Pompeo -- who was speaking at a press conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein -- appeared to be referring to Shiite paramilitary groups, though he did not identify them by name.

Asked about the plan for cutting the 5,000 US troops now in Iraq, Pompeo said he had no numbers and urged people "not to focus on that."

On the troop issue, a senior administration official said: "There are no hard fast timelines, and there are no hard

fast numbers but that certainly would be part of the discussion, as we evaluate what Iraq security requirements are, and what the United States believes it can do."

The official described "armed groups" as "a persistent problem that challenges Iraqi security, has threatened US forces' interests in the region, and certainly it's a challenge to Iraq sovereignty."

"We think that Iraq's internal security needs are best met by forces that are, first and foremost, under the sovereign control the government of Iraq,"

the official said.

Pro-Iranian factions were hit hard by Washington's assassination in January of one of their top chiefs, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in a strike that also killed top Iranian commander General Qasem Soleimani.

Attacks on the rise

The Hashed al-Shaabi denies any connection to a recent spate of anti-US attacks, but videos and claims on social media hint at its involvement, through groups operating under other names. —AFP ■

OBITUARY

Asleep In Jesus
Mr Alexander Khup Za Lian Thang @ Thangno
Veteran
Age (60) Years

Mr Alexander Khup Za Lian Thang @ Thangno, beloved son of the late Pu Lt. Col Son Kho Pau, former 2nd Chin Battalion Commander, & Pi Esther Kyin, who lived at 2/4 Tahan, Bogyoke Rd., Kalaymyo, Sagaing Region: loving brother of Pa Victor Vum Za Cin Pau & Nu Fung Lian Hluai (Newzealand), Pa Peter Khup Cin Pau & Nu Niang Lun Vung (USA), Ms Sm. Dim Khan Cing (UK), Nu Men Khan Cing & Pa Thawng Za Kap (USA), Nu Pome Neam Kying & (Pa Kip Kho Khai) (Ygn), Pa David Bathike Cing & Nu Hau Suan Dim (Canada), (Ms. Lian Lamh Cing), (Pa Michael Van Deih Thang) & Daw Phyu Phyu Win (Kalaymyo); also survived by 17 nieces & nephews, Ms Pau Do Cing, Mr Pau Khan Lian, Mr Kim Lian Mung, Mr Mang Thawn Mung, Mr Kim Lian Mang (Newzealand), Mrs Esther Lam Cing, Mr Pau Lian Mung, Ms Mang Sian Dim (USA), Ms Tluang Za Khim, Ms Mawi Nai Kim, Mr Lian Za Thawng (USA), Ms Lydia Man Suan Kying, Ms Esther Thian Lamh Uap (Ygn), Mr Pau Thian Muang (Canada), Mrs Lily Man Suan Hung (Ygn), Mr Pau Lam Mang (Maymyo), Mrs Ther Thian Cing (Kalaymyo), peacefully passed away on Monday 11 pm, 10th August 2020 at home, 35, 53rd Street, Qtr. 4, Botahtaung Tsp., Yangon. Funeral worship services held on 12th August 2020 Wednesday at 4 pm, at home in Talian, followed by the burial service with interment continually at All Denominational Christian Cemetery. The bereaved family.

Iran says holding UAE boat over fishermen deaths

TEHRAN — Iran on Thursday said it seized a United Arab Emirates vessel and summoned the UAE envoy after two of its fishermen were shot dead in an incident in the Gulf.

The foreign ministry said the boat was seized on Monday after UAE coast-guard vessels "opened fire on several Iranian fishing boats... leading to the deaths of two fishermen", adding that it had summoned the UAE charge d'affaires to protest.

"The Emirati boat was seized by coast guards of the Islamic republic of Iran because it was sailing illegally in our waters, and its crew have been arrested," a statement added.

The incident comes amid high tensions between the two countries following last week's surprise announcement that the UAE has agreed to normalize ties with Israel under a US-brokered deal.—AFP ■

Kremlin wishes Navalny a speedy recovery

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said Thursday it was aware that President Vladimir Putin's chief critic Alexei Navalny was ill and wished him well, but said there was no evidence yet to back claims he had been poisoned.

"We are reading this information... We know that he is in serious condition... Like with any citizen of the Russian Federation we wish him a speedy recovery," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Aides to Navalny, who was in intensive care in a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk, said they believed

he had been poisoned because of his political activities.

Peskov said there was no evidence yet of any poisoning.

"As far as we know there are not yet any test results. All assumptions are only assumptions," he said. "Whether it was a poisoning needs to be confirmed by a laboratory."

If tests confirmed there was a poisoning, he said, "then there will be an investigation" just like with any Russian citizen.

Navalny, a 44-year-old lawyer and anti-corruption campaigner who is among President Vladimir Putin's

fiercest critics, was being treated in a hospital in the city of Omsk after he lost consciousness on a flight to Moscow and his plane made an emergency landing.

His spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh wrote on Twitter that Navalny had been placed in a coma on a ventilator and that tests were being carried out.

"Alexei has toxic poisoning," she wrote. "Alexei is now in intensive care."

"I'm sure it was intentional poisoning," she told the Echo of Moscow radio station.

State news agency TASS reported that Nav-



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was flying from Siberia to Moscow and his plane made an emergency landing after he fell ill. PHOTO: AFP

alny was in the intensive care unit for toxicology patients in Omsk Emergency

Hospital No. 1.

"He is in a serious condition," the hospital's

chief doctor Alexander Murakhovsky told TASS. —AFP ■

Yangon United attend MFF-conducted FIFA course



Yangon United players attend the updated FIFA Laws of the Games Course conducted by MFF on 20 August 2020. **PHOTO:YUFC**

COACHES, footballers and officials from Yangon United attended updated Laws of the Games Course, which was conducted yesterday at the indoor

stadium of the Yangon United by Myanmar Football Federation, according to the statement with the football club.

Referee Department from

the MFF visited the football club. It highlighted the new FIFA football rule as a preparation for the upcoming Myanmar National League season which will start

on 22 August. Chief Executive Officer of Yangon United U Yar Zar Htwe, Yangon United head coach U Tin Maung Tun and assistant coaches and players from the football club attended the course. Firstly, Officials from Myanmar Football Federation explained new FIFA Laws of the Games to the Yangon United.

Next, officials from the Referee Department pointed out some updated FIFA Laws of the Games to be used in the upcoming matches.

U Hla Tint from Referee Department also clarified the details facts of the FIFA Laws of the Games and Yangon United players and coaches participated in the course discussion.

Yangon United is currently in a challenging environment as the team is in the third place of the MNL standing table with 7 points difference with the first-placed team Hantharwady. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

6th Asian Beach Games postponed to 2021

THE 6th Asian Beach Games, which was formerly scheduled to be held this year November in Sanya, China, have been postponed to April 2021, according to the announcement with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) recently.

Full name of the Games: “6th Asian Beach Games Sanya 2020” and the tourney’s logo will remain unchanged, and it will be held from 2 to 10 April in 2021, according to the OCA.

The decision, taken jointly with the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) and the Sanya Asian Beach Games Organizing Committee (SAB-GOC), is to ensure the safety of the athletes, officials and spectators due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said the statement with OCA.

Da Nang, Vietnam hosted the last edition of the Games in 2016.

Women’s event will be participated for the first time in Sanya in upcoming games.

Sanya is a resort city on the tropical Hainan Island province in Southern China and is the second Chinese host for the Asian Beach Games after Haiyang in 2012. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

FIFA ethics committee clears Gianni Infantino

ZURICH—FIFA’s independent ethics committee has cleared the organization’s president Gianni Infantino of any alleged breach of its code, the world soccer regulator announced Wednesday.

The ethics committee received a complaint on June 21 regarding meeting between the FIFA chief and Swiss Attorney

General Michael Lauber. They received documentations from Swiss authorities and courts.

“All of this material has been duly scrutinized by the chairperson of the investigatory chamber in the context of the preliminary investigation,” the committee said in a statement.

“Based on the information

available to date, no aspect of the conduct analyzed constitutes a violation of the FIFA regulations,” it added. Criminal investigations by Swiss authorities into Infantino’s conduct continue. FIFA’s ethics committee had launched preliminary investigations into several alleged transgressions, including a FIFA-booked private

flight from Suriname to Geneva, and secret meetings between Infantino and Lauber. “There is no factual basis whatsoever for this criminal investigation,” FIFA deputy general secretary Alasdair Bell told a news conference this month, describing the investigation as “grotesque” and “absurd.”—AFP ■

Liverpool host Leeds on opening weekend as Man City, Man Utd sit out

LONDON—Leeds’ first Premier League game for 16 years will see Marcelo Bielsa’s men travel to defending champions Liverpool, while Manchester City and Manchester United will miss the opening weekend to give them extra time to recover from a late end to the 2019/20 season.

All sides were guaranteed by the football authorities to have at least 30 days off between the two seasons after the late finish to the campaign caused by a three-month stoppage due to the coronavirus pandemic.

City and United were elim-

inated from the Champions League and Europa League respectively last weekend, three weeks after the end of the Premier League season.

Chelsea and Wolves will start their seasons on Monday September 14th after they too were involved in European competition into August.

Leeds are back in the top-flight for the first time since 2003/04, but could not have asked for a tougher start, on September 12 against the champions who have not lost a league game at Anfield in more than three years.—AFP ■



Liverpool begin their Premier League title defence against newly-promoted Leeds United. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**