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Thursday, 10 September 2020

UEC makes announcement on local, international media coverage of 2020 General Election

1. News media can freely cover the 2020 General Election on 8 November in line with the existing laws, bylaws, rules, media ethics and electoral guidelines for media.
2. Each local media organization will be allowed four persons for covering news at the townships of respective district where the general elections take place.
3. In applying for press identity card to cover election news, the following rules have been set out for media personnel:
 - (a) Local media personnel need to submit approval letter of their organizations for covering the elections to the relevant district election sub-commission. If they want to cover the election in more than one district, applications must be submitted to those district election sub-commissions;
 - (b) Local private media personnel need to attach the approval letter of media organization they work for in submitting their applications to the relevant district commissions. If they want to cover the election in more than one district, applications must be submitted to those district election sub-commissions;
 - (c) International media organizations need to submit their applications to the Ministry of Information. The Union Election Commission will issue the press identity cards to the organizations or individuals for international media organizations approved by the ministry.
4. Application of press identity cards for election coverage can be made not later than 23 October 2020.

Union Election Commission

60 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Thailand

A relief flight of MNA (Myanmar National Airlines) from Bangkok, arranged by Myanmar Embassy in the capital of Thailand, landed at Yangon International Airport last night, bringing 60 Myanmar nationals back home.

As they arrived in the Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged proper medical check-ups and 21-day quarantine for the returnees.

Similarly, another relief flight of MNA (Myanmar National Airlines) from Cairo, arranged by Myanmar Embassy in the capital of Egypt, will land at Yangon International Airport on 10 September morning. The relief flight will bring 128 Myanmar nationals back home.

For the repatriation of My-



Myanmar citizens line up under COVID-19 regulations to pass immigration control at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

anmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with 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. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Over 47,000 bags from reserved rice sold at fairer price within 2 months

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“People are the key”

Advice to people in Yangon Region

1. About 6,000 people have been quarantined in Yangon. Within two days, quarantine spaces were arranged for 1,000 people who came back from Rakhine State. Now, the number of people who had contacts with COVID-19 patients has increased, so seven new quarantine centres have been established for 1,000 more people. The civil society organizations and volunteers are invited to help the persons at the quarantine centres.
2. People in Yangon need to send the persons who had contacts with confirmed cases in the contact tracing to the quarantine centres without making them worried.
3. People should adhere to the required rules and regulations in the quarantine centres. When sending food to people in quarantine centres, alcohol and cigarettes should not be included in the delivery.
4. People in Yangon have lots of difficulties, challenges and burdens. Therefore, they need to strictly follow the rules by staying at home in two to three weeks during this period. In going outside for necessary reasons, they must wear masks. As Yangon City has a large number of population, people are also advised to abide by the rules of Ministry of Health and Sports amidst the increasing number of confirmed cases.

Myanmar parliamentary delegates ‘attend’ videoconference of 41st AIPA



Parliamentary delegates from Myanmar attend meeting of 41st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly through videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 41st General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA 41) discussed a series of important issues during its second working day yesterday.

The AIPA Committee on Political Matters was taken part by Myanmar parliamentary delegates, led by the group leader and the chairman of AIPA joint committee U Zaw Thein together with Dr Than Win and U Maung Maung Latt, via the

videoconferencing.

One of the issues tabled at the meeting was the ‘Parliamentary Diplomacy for Sustainable Peace, Security and Prosperity in ASEAN’.

In his discussion, U Zaw Thein made objections against OP 9 and OP 10 in the draft motion in relations to Rakhine State in accordance with the policy of ‘non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States’ in the ASEAN

Charter. The draft motion was not approved due to the lack of general consent of AIPA member countries.

The AIPA Committee on Economic Matters was joined by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Naing Htoo Aung and U Bo Bo Oo, and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt. The meeting discussed the topic ‘The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery in

post COVID-19’.

In the afternoon, the AIPA Committee on Social Matters held talks on the report (2) and the topic of ‘Enhancing the role of AIPA to support the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community in responding to the COVID-19’. The discussion was taken part by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives Dr San Shwe Win and Dr Khin Soe Soe Kyi, and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Latt.

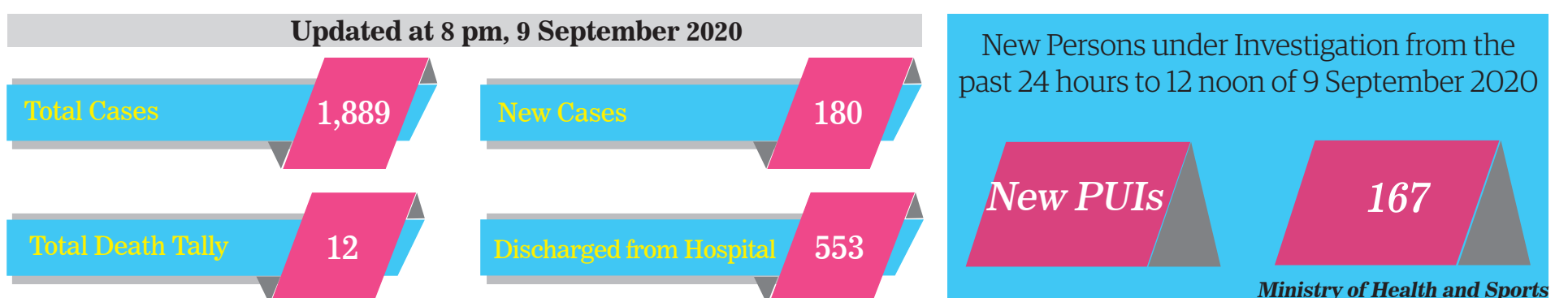
Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Dr Than Win and Dr Win Myint, and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zar Ni Min took part in the discussion of AIPA secretariat where three reports of administrative affairs and 13 draft motions were approved.

The Second Plenary Session and closing ceremony of 41st AIPA will be held on 10 September.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

180 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 September, total figure rises to 1,889

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 1,889 after 180 new cases were reported on 9 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 1,889 confirmed cases, 12 died, 553 have been discharged from hospitals and 167 were held under investigation.—MNA



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy meets

THE ninth meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy was held via videoconference this morning.

The meeting was chaired by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the Working Committee Union Ministers, U Soe Win, U Thein Swe and Dr Than Myint, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and representatives of the ministries concerned took part in the meeting.

The government established the K100 billion COVID-19 Fund to assist the affected hotels and tourism industry, CMP enterprises and SMEs in April 2020. In continuation of the measures, a second tranche of



Union Minister U Thaung Tun addresses a videoconference on COVID-19's economic impact on Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

K100 billion will be provided by the State to affected enterprises in the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries and food processing sectors, agencies dealing with labour recruitment, vocational

schools as well as export-oriented and import substitution industries. The meeting discussed matters relating to ways and means to expedite the process for the disbursement of loans

from the COVID-19 fund.

The meeting also discussed the need to consider new strategies to meet the challenge posed by the spike in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks.

It has been reported that the government has provided a total of K1908.085 billion to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the country's economy:

No.	Title	Subject	Billion
1	Household Support	1 st time (5 Rations) 5.3 million	71.103 billion
		2 nd time (20,000-2 times) 5.4 million	218.112 billion
2	Household (3 rd time)	(Issuance of 20,000 kyats rate) 5.6 million	113.535 billion
3	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	Paddy Seed Production, Village Fund Project, Distribution of Fish Species and Fingerlings, Cash to Support Input, Construction of Production Route and Village Infrastructures, Educating Programmers for Animal Breeding, Training to Seafarers for Safety and Security at Sea, Agricultural Services, Cash for Job Training.	92.612 billion
4	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Cash assistance to senior citizens of ages between 80 and 84 and pregnant women, provision for 30 days of charity homes and homes for elderly, household support in IDP camps to buy 5 food stuffs, school uniform support for students from IDP camps, assistance to people with disabilities, leprosy patients and victims of human trafficking from abroad and victims of domestic trafficking.	35.923 billion

5	Ministry of Health and Sports	Purchasing the necessary medicines, medical equipment and related items for hospital upgrade and spending on building and renovation works	267.903 billion
6	Teashop(Loan)	Providing loan for teashops and street-side shops	100 billion
7	MFI (Loan)	Micro Credit Loan to Microfinance businesses	100 billion
8	MSME Fund (Loan)	Microfinance Businesses Supervisory Committee providing loans to SMEs	200 billion
9	MADB (Loan)	Cash assistance to farmers by 50,000 kyats for one acre	600 billion
10	Exemption of Electricity Charges	April, May, June	107.379 billion
11	Electricity Charges in Taninthayi Region		1.518 billion
Total			1908.085 billion

Advice to people who returned from Rakhine State

1. The names of people who came back from Rakhine by air after 10 August 2020 have been published in the newspapers. Although they were informed to contact relevant departments, about half of them have not made their report. Therefore, their names will be published again together with their addresses. And that, they would be known by their neighbours and friends. There will be a specific period for the report. If they failed to make the report voluntarily during this period, legal actions will be filed against them.
2. About half of those who travelled from Rakhine State have not made reports until now, and more than 4,500 people, still need to do so.
3. They need to make a voluntary report to the nearby health centres and administrative organizations out of consideration for themselves, their family members, their wards/villages, their townships and regions and their citizens.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related Meetings held via videoconference

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the Opening Ceremony of the 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related Meetings which were held via videoconference yesterday at 07:30 am from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Opening Ceremony was commenced with the singing of ASEAN Anthem by Vietnamese artists. Then, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as ASEAN Chair of the year 2020 delivered welcoming remarks and Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam delivered opening remarks.

The 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting was chaired by Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and attended by ASEAN Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. At the Meeting, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN community building, follow up to the 36th ASEAN Summit and ASEAN 2020's priorities, applications of external partners to accede to the Trea-



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting via videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

ty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), regional architecture and external relations, regional and international issues, activities of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives, adoption of the Joint Communique of the 53rd AMM, preparations for ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, 21st ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 27th ASEAN Regional Forum and the 37th ASEAN Summit and related

Summits.

Then, the Union Minister attended Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission, the 27th ASEAN Coordinating Council, Special Session of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting on Sub-Regional Development, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, 21st ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting and 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

At the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) with

China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on future cooperation as well as regional and international issues.

The Special Session of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting on Sub-Regional Development was attended by Foreign Ministers from the ASEAN Member States, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Representatives from ASEAN Economic Community pillar, ASEAN Socio-Culture Community pillar, Asia Development Bank and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East

Asia.

The 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers from the ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. During the Meeting, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on future directions of the East Asia Summit Cooperation, regional and international issues and the preparation of the 15th East Asia Summit which will be held in November this year.—MNA



Myawady Border Traders Association Chairperson Daw Thin Thin Myat hands over assistance for quarantine centres to Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

Thailand provides assistance to quarantine centres in Kayin State

TAK DISTRICT in Thailand provided assistance worth of over 200,000 Thai Baht for quarantine centres in Kayin State. The donation ceremony was held online on 8 September in BCF Zone of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2).

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak delivered the opening speech and Kayin State Minister for Electricity and Industry U Soe Hlaing said words of thanks at the online ceremony.

Administrator of Tak District Mr Unsit Sampuntharat and Administrator of Myawady District

U Tay Zar Aung explained the cooperation of two border towns and COVID-19 control measures.

Myawady Border Traders Association Chairperson Daw Thin Thin Myat handed over the assistance on behalf of Tak District, and Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung received the donation.

The donations included bed sheets, pillows, blankets, mosquito nets, water purifier, washing machines, canned fish and snacks, all worth of 200,050 Thai Baht.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Translated by Eri Phyu Phyu Aung



Guaranteed that there would not be any shortage of food supplies in Rakhine State

She guaranteed that there would not be any shortage of food supplies; the necessary food supplies would be sent with available means of transport; she also hoped that the respective States/Regions would provide necessary cooperation; financial assistance would also be provided; although Myanmar is not a wealthy country, any part of the Union which needed assistance would always be provided with assistance.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020)

Health officials discuss effective response to rapid spread of COVID-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held a videoconference with medical personnel across the nation to effectively respond to the swift spread of COVID-19 yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, the deputy minister and permanent secretary, the director-general of the ministry's office, the rector of University of Medicine 1, deputy directors-general, heads of state and regional Public Health and Medical Services Departments, professors and department heads, medical specialists including those from state and regional hospitals, central field inspection members in Rakhine State and other officials.

Meeting agenda

The coordination meeting discussed a comprehensive analysis of Yangon Region and Rakhine State where COVID-19 cases are surging in addition to the other states and regions. They discussed the conditions of people currently being treated for COVID-19 in hospitals, need for more space to quarantine people who have been in close proximity to new positive cases in Yangon Region, expanding new patient wards in the COVID-19 treatment facility in Phaunggyi and the need to appoint new doctors, nurses and assistant professionals.

The meeting discussed using hospital tents in Phaunggyi if necessary, having doctors from the Department of Human Resources for Health assist in COVID-19 treatment activities, increasing lab tests in Yangon Region, monitoring for strict adherence to preventive measures and guidelines for COVID-19 in factories and workshops.

The meeting also discussed separating COVID-19 positive patients based on whether they have normal symptoms, underlying illnesses, are in critical condition or neither have symptoms nor likelihood of developing into critical health conditions. They discussed making use of doctors from the private sector volunteering in COVID-19 processes, the human resource, hospital space, quarantine facilities and finance required for the long term, the list of townships with high number of cases that should be considered for stay-at-home status, searching for people who have had close contact with COVID-19 positive patients, the physical and mental exhaustion accumulated as a result of prolonged quarantines, treating patients and containment measures.

Union Minister's speech

Dr Myint Htwe said distributing medicine and medical apparatuses in a timely manner is critical for effectively containing the rapid spread of COVID-19 and failing to do so will delay many processes. The procurement and logistics sub-department needs to have daily reviews of remaining medicine and apparatuses at the central department and sub-national departments to ensure there is no shortage and procure supplies in advance as necessary. The time it takes to order supplies and reach dispensaries has to be calculated in addition to possible causes for delay that might arise.

The supplies must reach their destinations on time and there must be communication to confirm whether they have arrived or not. Videoconferences between medical profession-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over meeting for controlling spread of COVID-19 on 9 September.
PHOTO: MNA

als must continue on a regular basis and decisions pertaining to treatment must be carried out immediately. The central department will support other requirements and only matters of policy need to be submitted to the central department, said the Union Minister.

He said he would like teachers from institutions under the Department of Human Resources for Health to assist in COVID-19 processes in Rakhine State and Yangon Region since universities will be closed. It is important for volunteers to not contract COVID-19 while interacting with positive cases. Prevention guidelines must be systematically enforced in quarantined areas and public health activities. The Union Minister pointed out that over 70 per cent of people from Rakhine State, where the disease is rapidly

spreading, who are currently in other states and regions may be carrying the disease while showing no symptoms and transmitting it to other people.

Dr Myint Htwe said it is a good sign that state and regional departments for public health and medical services are cooperating sub-national governments and affiliated departments and organizations. He said they are aiming to reduce the quarantine period from 21 days to 14 based on findings from the WHO and the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and will relax other restrictions in line with international findings.

Meeting results

The meeting decided to coordinate with the Department of Medical Services and Department of Human Resources for

Health to appoint their doctors in COVID-19 processes, maintain regular contact with the Central Medical Stores Depot and logistics to fulfil medical supply requirements, shutting down factories and workshops that do not meet prevention guidelines and conducting random checks on those that meet the guidelines in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, formulating a plan to increase hospital tents in Phaunggyi when necessary, following the definition for close contact with COVID-19 cases when making related decisions at hospitals and clinics, and preparing the dormitories and stadiums of the department of sports and physical education as quarantine centres in Yangon Region.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 102/2020

7th Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(9th September 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in exercise of the rights contained in Section 21, sub-section (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time. Due to the increasing numbers of confirmed cases, including those with neither travel history nor exposed to positive cases, in Yangon Region, people residing in some townships are required to live under the “Stay-at-Home” programme in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.

2. It is hereby announced that people residing in the following townships in Yangon Region are included in the Stay-at-Home programme:

- a. South Okkalapa
- b. Tamway
- c. Mayangon
- d. Kamayut
- e. Dagon Myothit (North)
- f. Hlinethaya
- g. Sangyaung
- h. Botahtaung

- i. Mingalar Taungnyunt
- j. Dagon Myothit (South)
- k. Yankin
- l. Dagon
- m. Kyimyindine
- n. Kyauktada
- o. Dagon Myothit (East)
- p. Ahlon
- q. Bahan
- r. Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)
- s. Dawbon
- t. Lanmadaw
- u. Hlegu

3. People from the said 21 townships 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 government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces not included)
- b. Only one person per one household to go out for shopping for unavoidable circumstances.
- c. Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if a need arises.

d. To put on masks when going outside.
e. To allow only authorized vehicles, and buses providing transport service to those who are going to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards.

f. The 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 to go outside, 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 existing laws.

6. This order comes into effect from 8 pm on 10 September 2020.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister for
Health and Sports

Committee on Preventing Grave Violence Against Children in Armed Conflicts holds its 7th coordination meeting



Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts holds an videoconference on 9 September. PHOTO:MNA

THE Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts held its 7th coordination meeting via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The work committee members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of De-

fence, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Attorney-General's Office and Myanmar Red Cross Society attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Per-

manent Secretary U Soe Han, in his capacity as Chairperson of working committee said that President's Office has approved National Action Plan (2020-2021) in relation to prevention of death, injury and sexual harassment against children during armed conflicts on 10 August 2020 and it needs to implement the 10 pro-

cedures in that plan.

It needs to release information for the people to know that the government drafts such national plan to prevent child casualties and sexual violence in armed conflicts and it also needs to form working committees for the implementation of the activities included in the action plan.

Then, Director-General of the Department of Rehabilitation U Win Naing Tun, in his capacity as Secretary of working committee briefed the activities based on decisions of 6th working committee meeting, phone operator courses under the Multi Year Work Plan which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF, educative programmes by using IEC Materials, plans to conduct workshops, organizing committees for monitoring and assessment and drafting duties and the attendees gave suggestions on future functions.

The government formed “Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts” on 7 January 2019.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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

Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

1. People should not illegally come to Nay Pyi Taw. If a person comes back from other places to Nay Pyi Taw, he/she needs to inform and receive medical examination. The charge for COVID-19 tests has been considerably reduced.
2. It has been learnt that some people get out of the cars on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and some old roads, and then they entered Nay Pyi Taw via motorcycle roads and inter-village roads. So, authorities are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force to take strict measures to control these illegal entries.
3. The ward/village administrators have been instructed to report, manage and send individuals who entered or came back to the ward/village to the quarantine centres.
4. To make the flow of goods smooth, truck drivers will be given the slip at the entrance gate, from which the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be left. The truck drivers are not allowed to go to other places between the entrance gate and the exit gate.
5. Face mask rule has been imposed in Nay Pyi Taw townships and COVID-19 awareness has been raised via loudspeakers. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in force, and surprise checks have been carried out on restaurants.

More 21 townships in Yangon announced for Stay at Home, reaching 28 in total

THE total number of townships in Yangon under the Stay-at-Home programme has reached 28, after the Ministry of Health and Sports added 21 townships of the region into the list yesterday.

The first seven townships— Thingangyun, Insein, North Okkalapa, Thakayta, Pazundaung and Mingaladon—

were announced for this programme on 1 September.

The latest 21 townships are South Okkalapa, Tamway, Mayangon, Kamayut, Dagon Myothit (North), Hlinethaya, Sangyaung, Botahtaung, Mingalar Taungnyunt, Dagon Myothit (South), Yankin, Dagon, Kyimyindine, Kyauktada, Dagon Myothit (East), Ahlon,

Bahan, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dawbon, Lanmadaw, and Hlegu townships.

The announcement of MoHS included that legal actions will be filed against the people who failed follow the directives under the existing laws.—Htet Lyan

(Translated by Aung Khin)

2020 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' 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.



Officials are conducting medical tests to Myanmar returnees from China in Chinshwehaw border town. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

24 Myanmar nationals enter Chinshwehaw border town in returning home

LOCAL authorities in Chinshwehaw border town of northern Shan State received 24 Myanmar returnees from China on 8 September.

Among 19 males and 5 females, 1 person was from Yangon Region, 12 from Mandalay Region and 3 from Sagaing Region, 1 from Bago Region, 3 from Ayeyawady Region, 1 from Nay Pyi Taw, 2 from northern Shan

State and 1 from eastern Shan State. They will go back to respective areas through Lashio with the arrangement from Chinshwehaw COVID-19 committee. A total of 15,024 persons have returned Myanmar from China through Chinshwehaw border crossing from 30 April to date.—Zin Zin (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

247 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 9 September

A total of 247 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 9 September.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, Deputy District Administrator U Aung Chan Nyein and local officials

helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 75,917 to date.

The latest group of returnees included 160 males and 87 females from different regions and states and they were sent

to the relevant quarantine centres.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar migrant workers queuing at Myawady border as they return home on 9 September. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**



Let sharp two-day increase in Coronavirus cases be a wakeup call

WE have seen a significant rise in coronavirus cases since mid-August after a surge of locally-transmitted infections, which struck Rakhine State in mid-August.

The cases that hit us is significantly upward, rising from around two digits in mid-August to nearly 200 a day now.

Over the past seven days, our country saw 180, 191, 99, 166, 82, 60 and 166 cases respectively. The seven-day trend indicates the peak was probably three or four days ago.

Meanwhile, over 70 per cent of the people who travelled between 10 to 27 August might have been infected by the coronavirus and most of them are now staying in parts of the country.

This virus has not gone away and we all take responsibility for our own actions. We can only bring this local outbreak under control if everyone pulls together and follows the rules.

This is a wake-up call for the public to observe the COVID-19 health rules as carriers can spread the disease far and wide without ever realizing they're ill due to asymptomatic infection.

On 8th September in Yangon, a cluster of over 70 cases are linked with a music zone in Yangon. Every business, especially with high risk environments, has a responsibility, and the people have a responsibility to comply with COVID-19 health and safety measures.

This virus has not gone away and we all take responsibility for our own actions. We can only bring this local outbreak under control if everyone pulls together and follows the rules.

Besides, factories are urged to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines as the Ministry of Health and Sports and authorities concerned will conduct surprise inspections to reduce the risk from the spread of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is making arrangements for reducing the quarantine period from 21 days to 14 days and also considering to relax other restrictions depending on the findings by international experts. These measures show that the Union Government is taking all precautions extremely seriously.

The significant rise in new Covid-19 cases reported over the last two days should serve as a wake-up call. People are urged to maintain social distancing, and to keep taking measures to avoid spreading the virus to vulnerable sections of the population.

We need the help of everyone in our country to prevent the increasing and onward spread of coronavirus.



THE NEED TO REDRESS THE VAST INEQUITIES

COVID-19 pandemic threatens lives of millions of children: UN

New mortality estimates published by the UN's children's fund UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group found that 2019 saw the lowest number of global under-five deaths on record.

DISRUPTIONS to health services due to the pandemic are putting millions of additional lives at risk worldwide, the United Nations said Wednesday (Sep 9), warning that COVID-19 could reverse decades of progress in reducing child mortality.

The past 30 years have seen remarkable strides forward in preventing or treating causes of infant deaths including premature births and pneumonia.

New mortality estimates published by the UN's children's fund UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group found that 2019 saw the lowest number of global under-five deaths on record.

Last year around 5.2 million children died due to preventable illness, compared with 12.5 million in 1990.

But it warned that the pandemic risked undoing all this by cutting routine child and mater-

nal health services.

A UNICEF survey across 77 countries found 68 per cent reported at least some disruption in child health checks and immunizations.

Henrietta Fore, UNICEF executive director, said that children and mothers particularly in low- and middle-income countries were being denied access to healthcare as COVID-19 cases clog national infrastructure.

"The global community has come too far towards eliminating preventable child deaths to allow the pandemic to stop us in our tracks," she said.

"Without urgent investments to re-start disrupted health systems and services, millions of children under five, especially newborns, could die."

Neo-natal care in developing nations is relatively inexpensive and can profoundly affect child survival rates.



This file photo shows children playing near apartments on the outskirts of Yangon. PHOTO: AFP

For example, women who receive care by professional midwives are 16 per cent less likely to lose their baby and 24 per cent less likely to experience pre-term birth, according to the WHO.

Modelling conducted earlier this year by Johns Hopkins University found that almost 6,000 additional children could die every single day if COVID-19 healthcare disruptions continue in the medium term.

"VAST INEQUALITY" The survey found that seven countries had child mortality rates of more than 50 deaths in 1,000 live births last year.

In Afghanistan, where 1 in 17 children die before their fifth

birthday, the ministry of health reported a "significant reduction" in visits to health facilities, UNICEF said.

Much of the disruption may be down to fear of contracting COVID-19. But there are profound risks for mothers and babies avoiding healthcare facilities that have nothing to do with the coronavirus.

John Wilmoth, director of the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said that the report showed that the world had made significant progress on reducing child mortality over the last 30 years.

"It also draws attention to the need to redress the vast inequities in a child's prospects for survival and good health," he said.

SOURCE: AFP



HOW TO SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU HAVE TO HELP SUPPORT FAMILY

Don't spend our money on creature comforts during COVID-19 pandemic!

By: Tommy Pauk

SINCE the COVID-19 coronavirus infection started escalating rapidly in the world, the guidelines and restrictions such as stay-at-home or locking down the certain locations or residential areas on stricter basis have been laid down by the government concerned for protecting virus transmissions. Significantly, in the metropolis, factory workers, company staff, those involve in doing business companies suffer the impact of COVID-19 pandemic deeply.

Consequently, the people with low income encounter the hardship of livelihood both in rural and urban life. Some even lose their part-time jobs. Thus, this great impact hits the vast the majority of people badly. During this pandemic period, obviously, either

local and foreign trade or worldwide air-network and overland route of trade are paralyzed due to the prevailing circumstances. For these bad situations, it is not wise to spend much money on creature comforts rather than normal expenditure on daily intake of wholesome food and drink.

The longer the pandemic period, the worse situation prevails on human lives. Therefore, the onus is on the respective countries' governments to provide essential food items and commodities to those who are of low income, proletarians and the destitute.

Despite the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic, the daily bazaar, supermarkets and some food stores are open on conditions that they must adhere to the COVID-19 pandemic control guidelines and restrictions. So people can go and buy there what they really need.

Unfortunately, some people do panic buying and the rich people do stockpiling.

In this case, the jobless people as well as the poor people have to depend on the donations of cash and kind donated by the philanthropic organizations, well-wishers and donors. No one knows for sure when the COVID-19 pandemic will end. Still, even the epidemiologists and medical scientists cannot say or predict the lifespan of this deadly coronavirus.

On the other hand, COVID-19 vaccines are being manufactured in some countries to do clinical trials. Nevertheless, people around the world are socially distant and they have adhered to the COVID-19 pandemic control guidelines and restrictions, expecting the world to return to normalcy. We greatly expect to see the new normal life after the

COVID-19 pandemic. According to the above-stated situations, we all need to be resilient to the COVID-19 pandemic attack and to be able to combat the deadly coronavirus by cooperating with the government, medical front liners, medical workers and volunteers. Amid this disastrous pandemic period, we need to spend money as frugal we can for our daily expenditure. Apart from spending money on wholesome food and drink for our daily sustenance, we should not spend money on creature comforts like luxuries junk food etc., which are not essential for us especially in this pandemic time. The suggestion is made for us who are in middle class or salary earners. No matter we have saved a big amount of money in the bank or at home, we are obliged to spend our money for ourselves and our family mem-

bers frugally.

In case, the money runs out, we need to borrow money from the money lender or from the usurers indeed. Even if we have saving in the bank, it is difficult to withdraw our money at bank due to some unusual restrictions.

Otherwise, we have to pawn our belongings at the pawn shop. We must be aware that we would face much difficulty in connecting with usurers and money lenders because the COVID-19 pandemic control guidelines and restrictions still exist around us. We cannot get access to them easily and conveniently. We must be careful about spending money in order to coping with the economic impact caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Actually, being thrifty is a good habit or practice for our family while overcoming the economic problem during the pandemic

crisis.

Due to the bad impact arising during the pandemic time, some person's legal way of earning or doing jobs have been changed. In order to sustain the stable income, they are obligated to work. However, they earn low income and that is not sufficient for a single life or family life as well. As a result, by any means, they need to be thrifty in spending their income. To tackle this problem of earning low income, we all must practice to become thrifty persons. Spending money on creature comforts should be avoided and enjoying healthy food and drink should be prioritized. We have to keep balance between our expenditure and either our daily income or monthly income. Hopefully, the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic will be eradicated sooner!!



World First Aid Day

“ ရှေးဦးပြုစုအလေ့အကျင့်များ ကပ်ရောဂါအလိုက်ပြင်ဆင်သွား ”
“ Adapting First Aid practices to the Pandemic ”

၂၀၂၀ပြည့်နှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာ ၁၂ ရက်။



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 9th September, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 10th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Chin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Democratic Party (Myanmar) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Democratic Party (Myanmar) Secretary General Daw Than Than Nu presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 9 September.



Dear esteemed people and national brethren,

We established our Democratic Party (Myanmar) just a decade ago. However, we have been working for all 'to be a human being with dignity' since the onset of our establishment. It is our party's main objective.

It is an essential and vital fact that we should develop human resources because every nation composes its citizens, who are all human beings. Striving to create human resources means developing all 'to be a human being with dignity'.

What we can define 'to be a human being with dignity': the government must carry healthcare services for the people since their infancy; rather than saying infants, the pregnant mothers need to have healthcare services. To implement this fact effectively, not only there have been modernized maternity, children, and general hospitals in cities but we do need to have good clinics, skilled midwives, adequate medicines and medical equipment in villages as well. There should be a general medical doctor at least at one district hospital. Health combines with education when the infants grow up to the youths.

'Today's young people will become adults in the future'. The future of our nation Myanmar is at the hands of today's youths, likewise. That is why young people should develop themselves with five noble strengths: (1) physical power, (2) mental capacity,

(3) wealth, (4) friendship and (5) moral character.

According to the 2008 Constitution article 33, the Union shall strive for the youths to have healthy and dynamic patriotic spirit, the correct way of thinking and to develop the five noble strengths. The future generation should be able to learn to respect the constitution, take responsibility and perform duty in tune with the legislation. We should emphasize this fact as a part of the 'to-be-a-human-being-with-dignity' principle. In another way, we should diligently nurture and foster them to get themselves equipped with citizenship and patriotic spirit, and thereby they shall strive for the development of their country to their best of ability. It's also part of the 'to-be-a-human-being-with-dignity' principle.

I've read and noted the words of a veteran leader just after regaining independence of Myanmar in 1948. When Myanmar resisted British colonists, almost all political leaders at that time used to say that 'Myanmar people would be rich if it's free from under the yoke of English'. It's a significant point. Later after regaining independence, the people were asking again whether they would enjoy riches.

Now, it's approaching to 2020 General Election. Each party is campaigning for the election. In this regard, the Democratic Party (Myanmar) does not need to ask what the people need at the foremost for we are consistently considering upon the people. At the same time, as the State's responsibility is as large as the entire nation and should cover the equal rights of its people, we do not wish to make any promise easily.

The people from all walks of life should ask which responsibility they, as good citizens, shall carry. The answer is crystal clear. An essential duty amongst others is just what they can perform to safeguard and protect the unity of all national races from disintegration.

We can say that Myanmar is rich with natural resources as well as magnificent in human resources. You are aware that some countries may not have much wealth in natural and human resources; however, with the unity of all national races they can also stand abreast with world nations.

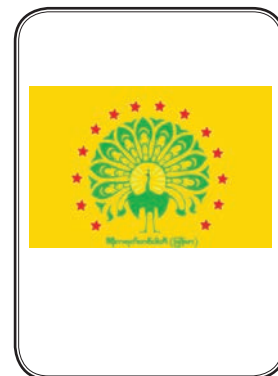
We need to take into an appropriately proportional account of time, place, and act of causing for a decision. We Myanmar people are in current and dire need of cooperation and unity. An emblem of our Democratic Party (Myanmar) means a lot. A dancing peacock denotes all the people in Myanmar dancing in gusto. Myanmar also envisions independence, justice, development, and happiness. The same-sized 14 stars encircle the dancing peacock representing 14 states and regions with equal rights. The green dancing peacock and 14 red stars in the backdrop of gold colour visualize richness and wealth in above and underground natural resources.

Democratic Party (Myanmar) will march forward with the following objectives:

- 1) Citizens of the Union of Myanmar shall enjoy disciplined and equal rights based on democracy;
- 2) Building a united nation full of peace and tranquillity;
- 3) Looking forward to seeing a serene Union based on national unity and reconciliation.

That is why the Democratic Party (Myanmar) choose candidates based on honesty and good-nature. The late Abbot Ashin Zanakabhivamsa of Amarapura Mahagandayon Monastery selected the monks, who were going to learn, based on ten principles.

He prioritized number one (being good-natured) out of ten. If anyone is good-natured even though they may have weaknesses, they can behave themselves without anger nor arrogance; They can become matured respectful citizens; They can be able to work for others efficiently. I would like to earnestly request all to vote. I wish physical and mental wellbeing for all!



Campaign speech of Rakhine State National United Party and Kayin Peoples Party to be broadcast on 10 Sept, published on 11 Sept

Campaign speech of Rakhine State National United Party and Kayin Peoples Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 10 September; and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 11 September.—MNA

The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

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

FDI inflows into Myanmar up by \$1 bln in 11 months (Oct-Aug)

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has attracted more than US\$5.1 billion in foreign direct investments within the past 11 months of the current financial year 2019-2020, an increase of \$1 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, as per data of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to the DICA statistics, 234 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees between 1 October and 28 August in the current FY, bringing in the capital of \$5.16 billion, including the expansion of capitals by the existing enterprises.

In the year-ago period, FDI of just \$4.097 billion had poured in from 267 enterprises.

The number of permitted or endorsed enterprises this year was 33 lower than last year. However, the surge in in-

vestment in the current budget year was attributed to the projects with large investments, the DICA stated.

Both the foreign and domestic investment sectors are not affected by the COVID-19 negative impacts, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

Amid the COVID-19 concerns, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses, including the garment enterprises, he added.

Of the investment pro-

posals, the commission prioritized the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others, which can contribute to the fight against the COVID-19 in the country at the soonest.

In the current financial year, the MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been

inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

"The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and it is now under implementation.

As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach an FDI target of \$200 billion in forthcoming 20 years," stated Union Minister U Thaung Tun.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 47,000 bags of reserved rice sold at fairer price within 2 months



Workers refill reserved rice into smaller packaging for sale. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 47,000 bags (108 pounds per bag) from reserved rice have been sold between 10 July and 8 September, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Of them, Yangon traders made the most significant purchase with 31,990 bags, followed by Nay Pyi Taw with 4,300 bags.

Additionally, 3,600 bags are sold in Mon State, while 2,420 in Taninthayi Region, 2,000 in Chin State, 1,373 in Mandalay Region, 1,000 in Kayah State, 400 in Bago Region, 400 in Magway Region and 100 in Sagaing Region.

Out of 500,000 reserved rice bags, 47,583 bags have

been sold as of 8 September, and that 452,417 bags are still in stock for sale.

Regarding the rice purchase at a much fairer price, those interested retailers and factories can contact through mobile numbers 09-694386994/5 of MRF and 09-694386996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.

At present, MRF purchased the rice bags at K22,400 per pack from the Consumer Affairs Department and distribute them at K22,800 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops, to pay storage charges.

It is the government's move to sell the rice at K1,000 per pyi (2.13 kg), which is a

much fairer price than the prevailing market price. MRF is supporting the government's plan with non-profit, the federation reported.

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

The state's emergency rice reserve is to ensure food security, keep the price stable in the domestic market, continue to export them regularly and lessen the worries of the consumers during the COVID-19.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sesame prices slide at harvest time despite China demand

THE price of sesame seeds has declined at the harvest time despite steady demand by China, according to Mandalay pulses depot.

The prevailing prices of sesame move in the range of K140,000 to K185,000 per three-basket bag depending on the quality and varieties of sesame. The market sees a decrease of K10,000-15,000 per pack compared with the last week of August.

"The price has been fluctuating during the harvest time. Moreover, traders are carefully observing in a sluggish market. The coronavirus impacts hurt pulses market in the respective regions and states. At present, the market is scarred by the rising coronavirus cases in Myanmar," said a depot owner from Magway.

Amidst the coronavirus consequences, the sesame prices drop by over 20 per cent compared with the prices in the previous years, a trader from Mandalay market pointed out.

Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Department.

Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China buys various coloured sesame seeds from the country.

The number of sesame acreages has increased in the country. Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the primary producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 tonnes, worth \$130 million, in the 2015-2016 financial year; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the 2017-2018FY. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Yangon-Magway buses keep running despite passenger slump

"EXPRESS buses plying between Yangon and Magway will not be suspended despite the number of passengers has dropped sharply during the COVID-19 period, according to Magway Region Private Bus Lines Supervision Department.

"Although the express buses are operating between Yangon and Magway as usual, Magway-Yangon trip is operating with only three or four passengers on board. Last week, the number of passengers onboard the express had declined. There are only a few passengers who are travelling only in cases of emergency. When the bus lines were closed in the first wave of COVID-19, the passengers

A man talks on his mobile phone with empty express buses in the background. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

faced with difficulties for hiring taxis at exorbitant prices. So, we won't close the bus lines this time to prevent a similar situa-

tion from happening again," said U Myint Soe, the chairman of the committee.

"We have already informed

the business to record the personal information and travelling history of the passengers, to make them wear the masks and put the hand gels on board the buses and to charge the passengers the normal bus fares despite giving them two seats," he added.

"Those who will come from the stay home townships from Rakhine State and Yangon Region need to be quarantined for 14 days and also to undergo medical checkup at their expenses. Then, they have to be one week quarantined at home or facility quarantine, according to Magway Region COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Air Thanlwin suspends domestic flights from 10 to 24 September

AIR Thanlwin, a domestic carrier, has suspended the domestic flights from 10 to 24 September to control the spread of coronavirus, according to an announcement made by Air Thanlwin.

With spreading of the pandemic in Yangon region, the number of flight passengers has dropped after authorities have announced that the travellers must be quarantined regardless

of wherever areas they go.

Air Thanlwin is based in Yangon and flies to Mandalay, Heho, Kengtung, Tachilek, Khamti, Lashio, Myitkyina and Sittwe.

Although Air Thanlwin has suspended its domestic flights, the state-owned airline Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) and other domestic airlines are flying their domestic routes as

usual.

MNA is flying the domestic routes as usual and also conducting relief flights to foreign countries, including Singapore and Thailand.

To be able to prevent spreading of COVID-19 to the travellers via air routes, the authorities have extended the suspension of scheduled international flights till 30 September

2020, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

At present, Myanmar has reported 1,807 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 12 deaths as of 9 September, according to the latest figures released by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fish paste prices fall on low demand

THERE are many commercial-scale fish paste making business people who catch fish and prawn in Shwe Taung Yan beach. The fish paste makers are unhappy with not having good price of fish paste this year. The fish paste price dropped to K7,000 per viss this year from K15,000 per viss from last year, according to the fish paste makers.

Fish paste and dried fish are essential foodstuffs in Myanmar. They are manufactured in the whole of Myanmar. The fish paste and dried fish are distributed to all parts of the country. Last year, the fish paste and dried fish shops from Chaungtha beach demanded the fish paste at a high price from the fish past making makers. This year, the shops from Chaungtha beach were closed temporarily because of COVID-19, and so they are

Local residents lay out fish to dry under the sun in Shwe Taung Yan beach. **PHOTO: KO KO MAUNG (IPRD)**

selling the fish paste with nearly half of average price. Even though the shops are selling the fish paste at the half price, the sale of those fish paste is still dropping this year.

There are two kinds of fishing vessels—the small boats with three or four people and the larger vessels with 10 or 15 people. So, the ships with a larger group of people

are facing difficulties because of the inconvenient situation. —Ko Ko Maung (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Storm as UK violates EU treaty with proposed law



Critics accuse the British government of engaging in bad-faith diversionary tactics as it battles Brussels on key issues. **PHOTO: PRU/AFP/FILE**

LONDON—Britain readied on Wednesday to intentionally breach its EU divorce treaty with new legislation that critics warned would undermine its global standing and any hopes for an orderly exit out of the world's biggest single market.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government was to submit a new bill governing the UK's own internal market across its devolved nations, to take effect after the expiry of a transition period out of European Union membership in December.

The government maintains the changes are needed to smooth post-Brexit trade between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and help power a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

But Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis has conceded they do "break international law in a very specific and limited way", in an extraordinary admission that provoked incredulity across the political spectrum in Britain, Brussels and beyond.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (049N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (049N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (5/2020-2021)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-069(20-21)	Seismic Blaster, VHF Radio, Walki-Talki, UP-Hole Unit, Digital Detonator Tester, Laser Distance Meter (6) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-070(20-21)	Rig Air Compressor (2) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-071(20-21)	Emission Tester (3) Nos	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-072(20-21)	Safety Loader (6) Ton (1) Unit	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-073(20-21)	Cement Hydration Analyzer, Positive Material Identification (2) Items	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-074(20-21)	Model 3530 A Direct Indicating Viscometer with Software, 2-Scale Metal Mud Balance (2) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-075(20-21)	Wastewater Treatment (2) Units	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-076(20-21)	300 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set / 315 KVA, 11/0.4 KV, Transformer / 80 KVA UPS Back Up Power Supply Unit (3) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-077(20-21)	Assorted Sizes of Seamless Steel Casings (10) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-078(20-21)	Assorted Size of PDC & Tri Cone Rock Bits (4) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-079(20-21)	Adaptor Spool and Double Studed Flange (2) Groups	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-080(20-21)	13 5/8" Casing Head Housing and Accessories (2) Groups	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-081(20-21)	Assorted Size of Gate Valve and Accessories (1) Lot	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-082(20-21)	5" Drill Pipe 19.5# NC50 (1800) M	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-083(20-21)	2 7/8" and 2 3/8" Seamless EU Tubing (3) Items	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-084(20-21)	3" Line Pipe (ERW) (30,000) Meter	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-085(20-21)	Casing and Tubing Swab Cup (2) Items	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-086(20-21)	Insert Pump and Accessories (1) Lot	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-087(20-21)	4", 6" HFERW API 5L Grade X-42 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipes (2) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-088(20-21)	Steel Ball Valves, Pipe Fitting, Insulation Gasket Kit and Foam Pig (4) Groups	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-089(20-21)	Spares for L-Type CNG Compressor (20) Items	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-090(20-21)	Spares for ZW-Type CNG Compressor (43) Items	Ks
(w)	DMP/L-091(20-21)	Spares for SAFE CNG Compressor (HP) (27) Items	Ks
(x)	DMP/L-092(20-21)	Spares for Intermech CNG Compressor (LP) (19) Items	Ks
(y)	DMP/L-093(20-21)	Spares for Clean Energy (Mother & Daughter) CNG Compressor (IMW) (40) Items	Ks
(z)	DMP/L-094(20-21)	Spares for Aspro CNG Compressor (13) Items	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L-095(20-21)	Spares for Kwangshin CNG Compressor (46) Items	Ks
(ab)	DMP/L-096(20-21)	Spares for CAT 3508B Marine Engine Ex Mann-4 River Craft (77) Items	Ks
(ac)	DMP/L-097(20-21)	Spares for CAT C18 Marine Engine Ex MTBN-5 River Craft (20) Items	Ks
(ad)	DMP/L-098(20-21)	Spares for Caterpillar 3508B Rig Engine Ex 55/6 Rig (64) Items	Ks
(ae)	DMP/L-099(20-21)	Spares for CAT-C15 Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (57) Items	Ks
(af)	DMP/L-100(20-21)	Spares for CAT 3512B Generating Set Engine Ex ZJ50D SR-1 Rig (70) Items	Ks
(ag)	DMP/L-101(20-21)	Electrical Spares for YNG Oil Field (44) Items	Ks
(ah)	DMP/L-102(20-21)	Electrical Spares for Oil Fields & Drilling Rigs (5) Items	Ks
(ai)	DMP/L-103(20-21)	Electrical Spares for KLA Oil Field (38) Items	Ks
(aj)	DMP/L-104(20-21)	Lubricant Oil (10) Items	Ks
(ak)	DMP/L-105(20-21)	Fiber Optic Cable (FOC) Installation at Nay Pyi Taw	Ks

လုပ်ငန်းအား Turn Key စနစ်ဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 9 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 8 October 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-10-2020, 12:00 pm

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (035S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (035S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0144N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0144N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XIN HAI ZHOU-2

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XIN HAI ZHOU-2 VOY. NO. (2008)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LTD

N. Korea marks founding anniv. as economy hit by pandemic, disasters



Political party members rally in Pyongyang on Sept. 8, 2020, in support of the recovery efforts from typhoon damage in North Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO**

BEIJING—North Korea on Wednesday marked the 72nd anniversary of its founding, at a time when the nation's economy has been apparently languishing against a backdrop of the aftermath of the new coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters.

Leader Kim Jong Un has acknowledged that he cannot achieve his year-end goal of rebuilding the economy following “unexpected” damage by typhoons, while vowing to take measures to rehabilitate areas

affected by them, state-run media reported.

As its negotiations with the United States on denuclearization and economic sanctions relief have also remained at a standstill, North Korea may be facing difficulties in providing adequate necessities for its citizens, foreign affairs experts say.

Since earlier this year, North Korea has cut off traffic to and from China and Russia amid fears that the virus, first detected in the central Chinese city of

Wuhan, could intrude into the country, stifling its trade with the two neighbours.

On July 26, the official Korean Central News Agency said a person who defected to South Korea three years ago is “suspected to have been infected with the vicious virus” after “illegally” returning to Kaesong, which is on the border with the South.

But state-run media have yet to report whether the person has been definitely diagnosed as a COVID-19 patient.—Kyodo ■

WORLD IN BRIEFS

South Korea's tattoo artists seek legalization

SEOUL—South Korean tattooist Doy counts Hollywood superstar Brad Pitt and members of K-Pop band EXO among his celebrity clients, but his delicate, detailed designs could land him in prison.

Now he is leading a campaign for the abolition of a law that reflects tattoos' long-marginalized status in South Korea, where they were once associated almost exclusively with organized crime.

While tattooing itself is not illegal, it is classed as a medical procedure and may only be carried out by a fully qualified doctor -- with the law setting a minimum two-year prison sentence for violators, although judges can impose lighter penalties.

But artists say the law has failed to keep pace, as tattoos have become more mainstream in recent years, championed by K-pop stars, athletes and others with powerful fan bases.

Doy's career illustrates the contradictions: One of the most prominent tattoo artists in the country, he has nearly 500,000 followers on Instagram.

He declines to say what he inked Pitt with last year, citing client confidentiality, but is known at home and abroad for his unique designs -- from a bird to croissants to a jumping gymnast -- and intricate use of colour.

Even so, there is no sign on his studio in central Seoul.—AFP ■

Over 10,000 arrested over last year's social unrest in Hong Kong: police

HONG KONG—A total of 10,016 people have been arrested from June 9, 2019 to Sept. 6, 2020 in relation to last year's chaos and violent incidents, the Hong Kong Police Force said on Wednesday.

Among the arrested, 2,210 have been charged with crimes including rioting, unlawful assembly and possession of offensive weapons, among others.

The police said 462 out of the 550 offenders who have gone through judicial proceedings are subject to legal consequences.—Xinhua ■

Oxford COVID-19 vaccine trials not paused in India, clarifies Serum Institute

NEW DELHI—After AstraZeneca suspended the trials of COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, Indian pharmaceutical giant Serum Institute of India (SII) on Wednesday clarified that testing of the possible vaccine candidate in India is ongoing and has not faced any issue so far.

“We cannot comment much on the UK trials, but they have been paused for further review and they hope to restart soon. As far as Indian trials are concerned,

it is continuing and we have faced no issues at all,” SII said in a statement.

On Tuesday (local time), UK-based biopharma giant AstraZeneca has said that the phase 3 testing of its COVID-19 vaccine being developed with Oxford University has been put on hold, due to a suspected serious adverse reaction in a participant in the United Kingdom.—ANI ■



Indian pharmaceutical giant Serum Institute of India (SII) on Wednesday clarified that testing of the possible vaccine candidate in India is ongoing and has not faced any issue so far. A scientist works over an experimental coronavirus vaccine in a laboratory. **PHOTO: AFP**

10 killed in attack in Afghanistan capital likely targeting VP

KABUL—A bomb attack likely targeting First Vice President Amrullah Saleh's convoy rocked Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Wednesday, leaving at least 10 people dead and 15 others injured, the country's Interior Ministry said.

The vice president sustained light injuries to his face and hand but survived the attack. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the incident, with the Taliban in a statement denying their involvement.



Damaged vehicles are seen as smoke rises following a bomb attack targeting Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh's convoy in Kabul, Afghanistan on September 09, 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The dead included civilians, while the injured included some of Saleh's bodyguards.

Known for his hard-line stance on Taliban insurgents and Islamic State militants, Saleh has been targeted in attacks before.

Following the signing in February of an agreement between the United States and the Taliban, the government and the Taliban are set to hold intra-Afghan talks in Doha, Qatar, to negotiate a permanent ceasefire and postwar governance in

the war-ravaged country.

Differences over the release of prisoners, which was a precondition for the intra-Afghan talks under the U.S.-Taliban agreement, kept delaying the negotiations that were originally scheduled to begin on March 10.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, in a statement, condemned the blast as a “terrorist attack” on Saleh. The ministry offered its condolences for the lives lost in the attack and also expressed relief that the vice president was safe.—Kyodo ■

Trump to announce US troop withdrawals from Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—US President Donald Trump was expected to announce further troop withdrawals Wednesday from Afghanistan and from Iraq, where several thousand US troops hunting down jihadist sleeper cells have faced increasing attacks blamed on pro-Iran factions.

The deadly bomb and rocket attacks have put additional pressure on Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, who has pledged to rein in rogue groups pledged to fight the US military presence.

Kadhemi travelled to Washington last month for strategic talks, including on the future of the US-led coalition deployed in Iraq since 2014 to fight the Islamic State group.

At the time, Trump told Kadhemi US forces would leave Iraq but gave no timetable or cap for troop levels.

A senior US official told reporters the president would make an announcement Wednesday but offered no details. There was no immediate response from the US-led coalition to a request for comment from AFP.

The US has already been steadily downsizing its troop levels in Iraq in recent months as Iraqis take over combat and training roles.

“These withdrawals are part of the agreed transition of the US-led coalition’s role in Iraq,” an Iraqi official told AFP.

US and other coalition troops stayed on after IS’s defeat in 2017 to support Iraqi forces with air strikes, drone surveillance and training to prevent a jihadist resurgence.

Shrinking presence

By late 2018, there were an estimated 5,200 American troops



In this file photo taken on Feb 22, 2017 US troops walk as a US Army C-47 Chinook helicopter flies over the village of Oreij, south of Mosul. US president Donald Trump will announce further troop withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan in the next few days, a senior administration official said. PHOTO: AFP

still stationed in Iraq, making up the bulk of the 7,500 coalition forces there, according to US officials.

Over the past year, dozens of rocket attacks have targeted those forces, the US embassy and logistics convoys heading

to Iraqi bases, killing at least six military personnel -- three Americans, one Briton and two Iraqis.—AFP ■

Salvador government probed over ‘negotiations’ with crime gang



Members of the “Mara 18” and “MS-13” gangs at El Salvador’s Izalco maximum security prison in September 2020. PHOTO: AFP

SAN SALVADOR—Prosecutors in El Salvador are investigating alleged secret negotiations between government officials and a prominent organized crime gang that has long terrorized the Central American nation.

The probe follows the publication of a newspaper investigation into alleged government links with the country’s infamous Mara Salvatrucha gang.

Online newspaper El Faro reported that the government

of President Nayib Bukele held talks last year with leaders of the feared gang -- otherwise known as MS-13 -- offering improved prison conditions in exchange for guarantees that the gang would reduce the country’s notoriously high murder rate.

The reported talks would contradict a pledge by 39-year-old Bukele -- elected last year on a pledge to get tough on crime -- not to negotiate with the gang, which EL Salvador’s courts have designated a terrorist group.

El Salvador is one of the world’s most dangerous nations, with an average of 35.6 homicides per 100,000 people last year.

Attorney-General Raul Melara announced late Monday that his office had opened an investigation into the explosive allegations.—AFP ■

Thousands homeless as blaze guts Greece’s main migrant camp

ATHENS—Thousands of asylum seekers on the Greek island of Lesbos fled for their lives Wednesday as a huge fire ripped through the camp of Moria, the country’s largest and most notorious migrant facility.

Greece’s Lesbos island was plunged into crisis Wednesday after thousands of asylum seekers were left homeless from a huge fire that gutted the country’s largest and most notorious migrant facility, Moria camp.

The civil protection agency declared a four-month emergency for the island of 85,000 people and Germany urged EU states to take in the camp’s survivors.

“With the European Commission and other EU member states that are ready to help, we need to quickly clarify how we can help Greece,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, whose country holds the presidency of the bloc, said on Twitter. “That includes the distribution of refugees among those in the EU who are willing to take them in,” he added.

EU home affairs commissioner Ylva Johansson said the bloc would finance “the immediate transfer and accommodation on the mainland of the camp’s remaining 400 unaccompanied children and teenagers.”—AFP ■



By morning, dozens of people were milling around among charred containers, some carrying away belongings, others snapping cellphone pictures. PHOTO: AFP

Russia says Navalny ‘disinformation’ being used for new sanctions

MOSCOW—Moscow said on Wednesday a “disinformation campaign” over the alleged poisoning of opposition figure Alexei Navalny was being used to promote new sanctions against Russia.

Moscow released a statement after the Group of Seven foreign ministers demanded on Tuesday that Russia quickly find and prosecute those behind Navalny’s suspected poisoning, which Germany says was carried out with a Novichok nerve agent.

The “ongoing massive disinformation campaign” aims at “mobilizing sanctions sentiment” and has nothing to do with Navalny’s health or “finding out the genuine reasons for his hospitalization”, the Russian foreign ministry said.

In its statement in response to the G7, the foreign ministry also reiterated accusations that Germany, where Navalny was evacuated, has been refusing to share its findings on his case with Moscow.—AFP ■



Hantharwady United's players (blue) challenge for the ball against Shan United players (red) during their MNL Week-14 match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 7 September 2020. PHOTO: MNL

Hantharwady leads MNL by narrow points with competitors

AFTER completion of the Week-14 matches of the Myanmar National League 2020, Hantharwady United is still leading the standing table of the MNL despite the team faced 4-2 loss to defending champions Shan United last week.

Though Hantharwady is in the first place of the MNL standing table, another three teams Ayeyawady United, Yan-

gon United and defending champions Shan United are following closely to the leading team.

Currently, Hantharwady earns 30 points with 10 wins and two losses after 12 matches played.

Ayeyawady United is following the first-place team with the same points, but with differences in goals, nine matches won, three draws and no loss.

In the third place, Yangon United has 26 points, which is just four points difference with the first and second-placed teams.

Yangon has won eight matches, lost two games and played two draws.

One more interesting point is defending champion Shan United is garnering the same point with the third, placed sitter

Yangon with goals difference.

Rakhine United is currently standing in the sixth place of the standing table with 17 points earned, five wins, two draws and five losses.

In the meantime, Yadanarbon United is currently standing in the sixth place with ten points earned, two wins, four draws and six losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Cristiano Ronaldo scores 100th goal for Portugal

SOLNA (Sweden)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 100th goal for Portugal on Tuesday, on the stroke of half-time of a UEFA Nations League match against Sweden. The 35-year-old Juventus attacker curled in a free-kick from

25 yards over the wall and into the far left corner beyond Sweden's stranded goalkeeper Robin Olsen for a memorable milestone in his trophy-laden career.

After making his first senior international appearance as

an 18-year-old in 2003, Ronaldo notched up his first goal for Portugal in a 2-1 defeat by eventual winners Greece at Euro 2004.

Ronaldo, capped 165 times by Portugal, is second only to Iran's Ali Daei, on 109, in the list

of top men's international goal scorers. Incredibly for Ronaldo, just 17 of his 100 goals have come in friendly matches, and his nine hat-tricks all came in FIFA or UEFA tournaments or qualifying games.—AFP ■

Osaka gets 'revenge' against Rogers to reach US Open semi-finals

NEW YORK—Fourth seed Naomi Osaka overcame unseeded Shelby Rogers in straight sets to reach the US Open semi-finals on Tuesday and declared it "revenge" for earlier defeats.

The Japanese 2018 US Open champion brushed aside the 27-year-old American 6-3, 6-4, in 1hr 20min inside Arthur Ashe Stadium. Osaka, 22, will play 28th-seeded American Jennifer Brady on Thursday for a place in the final.

Despite going into the last-eight match as favorite, the world number 9 Osaka said she was apprehensive about playing the 93rd-ranked Rogers because she had failed to beat her in three previous outings.

"Honestly, I just felt like she had the upper hand because I've never beaten her," Osaka said.

"And those memories are stuck in my head so I consider this a little bit of revenge," she added.

Osaka said a defeat to Rogers in 2017 on clay in Charleston had left "a really bad aftertaste in my mouth." —AFP ■



Naomi Osaka of Japan returns a volley during her quarter-finals match against Shelby Rogers of the United States at the 2020 US Open. PHOTO: AFP/MATTHEW STOCKMAN

Tokyo governor pledges to hold 2020 Olympics 'by all means'



The city will "implement every possible measure" to ensure the safety of the event, Tokyo's governor Yuriko Koike said. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO—The postponed Olympics must be held next year "by all means", Tokyo's governor said Wednesday (Sep 9), becoming the latest official to insist the event is feasible despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Yuriko Koike's remarks, at an event hosted by Kyodo news agency, come after International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates told AFP that the Games would go ahead in 2021 "with or without Covid".

"Athletes are going through much hardship due to the one-year delay given that their physical condition and motivation were targeted at this summer," Koike said, according to an English translation of her remarks published by Kyodo.

"We have to go forward with the Games next summer by all means," she added, at the corporate event for the news agency's subscribers.

The city will "implement every possible measure" to ensure the safety of the event, Koike said.

On Tuesday, Japan's Olympic minister also said the event should be held next year, given athletes' efforts to be ready. "I feel we have to hold it at any cost," Seiko Hashimoto said, when asked about Coates's remarks.

The 2020 Games were postponed in a historic decision earlier this year because of the pandemic, and they are now set to open on Jul 23, 2021.—AFP ■