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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 11 September 2020

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report to People regarding need for strict compliance with regulations, instructions, directives issued for containment of COVID-19

FIRST of all, I wish to send good wishes and Metta to all citizens of Myanmar for your good health and well-being. At this time, I am sure everyone understands how very important it is to be in good health. We can say that this COVID-19 disease has come to us again for the second time beginning from the middle of August. At this moment it is spreading, especially in Yangon region. In this regard, as I am speaking now, I will be speaking especially to the citizens of Yangon. In Rakhine State, we can say that we have been able to contain, to a certain extent, the infection that began to spread from Sittway. This is because the people obeyed the strict rules and regulations issued by the authorities. Regarding this, I wish to express my appreciation to U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State, members of the state government and the people. If we all obeyed strictly the rules and regulations, there is no reason why we cannot control this disease. Right now, we have issued rules and regulations

with regard to Yangon region. Some might think that these rules and regulations are too restrictive. However, if we all obeyed these restrictions strictly for two or three weeks, we can arrive at a situation when this disease would be under control. That is why I urge all of you to obey the rules and regulations. When we say "rules", we should think about its meaning. The first point is to protect oneself. The next thing is to protect others. By obeying the rules and regulations, first of all, you are protecting yourself.

I am sure all of you know that the infection spread in Yangon is faster than the rate of infection spread in March and April earlier on. Not only is the infection spreading faster, we can say that the number of people who have passed away has increased at a faster rate compared to the previous period. Before it was 6, and now it is 8, so in total it is 14.

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

8<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME  
(10<sup>th</sup> September 2020)

1. The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases across the country has reached 1,635, including 6 deaths,— 736 cases in Yangon Region and 899 cases in other regions and states— on 10-9-2020 after some persons tested positive on 16-8-2020 as the cases were assumed to be local transmission without having no travel history to foreign countries.
2. Therefore, people are advised not to make local trips, except health issues and other serious matters, and to follow orders and directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports to be able to control the spread of COVID-19 in timely manner.

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## 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 into 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 the entrance gate, the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be returned. 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.

## Announcement to people in Yangon Region

The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Yangon has reached 656 on 8-9-2020 after the first case was reported on 24-8-2020. Therefore, people in 44 townships, including the townships under the stay-at-home programme, of Yangon (except Cocogyun Township) are prohibited to go outside the Yangon Region, except for health issues and important matters, from 11-9-2020 to 1-10-2020.

Yangon Region Government

## 18 Myanmar nationals return home through Chinshwehaw border

LOCAL authorities in Chinshwehaw border town of northern Shan State received 18 Myanmar returnees from China on 9 September.

Among 11 males and 7 females, 1 person was from Sagaing

Region, 2 from Bago Region, 1 from Magway Region, 1 from Kachin State, 9 from Nay Pyi Taw and 4 from northern Shan State.

They will go back to respective areas through Lashio with the arrangement from Chinshwehaw

COVID-19 committee. A total of 15,042 persons have returned Myanmar from China through Chinshwehaw border crossing from 30 April to date.—Zin Zin (IPRD) Chinshwehaw. (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



An official checks body temperature of a returnee from China at Chinshwehaw border crossing on 9 September. PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)

## 284 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 10 Sept

A total of 284 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No.2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 10 September.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Officer U Tay Zar Aung, his deputy officer U Aung Nyein Chan 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 76,201 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 178 males and 106 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Kayin State Hluttaw MP and local authorities help in the return of Myanmar nationals at Myawady border on 10 September. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

## 53 Myanmar seamen spend hotel quarantine in Kawthoung

A total of 53 Myanmar seamen who signed off from the ships anchored in the Andaman Sea arrived in Kawthoung on 9 September evening and are currently held under hotel quarantine.

Out of 53 seamen, 15 signed off from MV Sun Brave ship of Indonesia while another 15 from MV APL Pusan of Bangladesh, 5 from MT Canopus of Bangladesh and 18 from MTM New York of Brazil.

These 53 Myanmar seafarers had swapped duties with 15 seafarers with another 14 seafarers, with 7 seafarers and with 18 seafarers.

The local officials of jetty and health departments helped them



53 Myanmar seamen are now spending hotel quarantine in Kawthoung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

with medical tests and other supplies and put under 21-day hotel quarantine, while their swabs will be sent to the National Health

Laboratory of Yangon. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

# 2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



## The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

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



## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report to People...

### FROM PAGE-1

Among those 8 persons who passed away, two are not that old. We can say they are in the prime of life. They don't have any underlying diseases. That is why we have to assume that they passed away because of the COVID. That is why I don't want all of you to think in a carefree manner "let COVID happen, it is not life-threatening". I want to say emphatically that those who have underlying diseases are at greater risk. Among those who have passed away, the majority are those with diabetes and high blood pressure. If one has diabetes or high blood pressure, it is next to impossible to fight back against the COVID disease. Please be careful. People who are not in good health should be especially careful. The rest of the people also need to be careful. The other thing I have noticed is that among some of those infected, some are teenagers. They are 16, 15 and 18-year-olds; youths in the prime of life. That is why we should deeply understand that COVID does not discriminate whether you are old or young, or whether you have underlying health problems or not. This is very important.

For Yangon, the main thing is to impose travel restrictions and to prevent public gatherings from happening. All need to practise

social distancing. The pandemic could be controlled if individuals follow simple guidelines for wearing masks, gloves and staying 6 feet apart in minimum from each other. We also noticed that the rules for preventing public gatherings have impacts on the livelihood of the people and that the government has adopted plans to provide support to the public, and has been implementing them. We will continue to work as needed. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and restrictions, the daily routines have been affected. People must have patience with this situation. The more our people abide by the rules, the faster we could lift the restrictions. We have imposed strict restrictions for stay-at-home programmes in some townships of Yangon. I need to mention Thingangyun Township because there are many confirmed cases there. It was learnt that the virus spread among the visitors to KTV lounges. It has been concluded that public gatherings are one of the root causes of this. At the KTV lounge, the visitors will not stay 6-ft apart. Singing in the karaoke lounge would cause transmission of the virus more easily. The visitors used the microphones one after another. Infection occurred in this way. So, we have ordered the KTV's to close. However, we also have consideration for people who are relying on this business

for their livelihood. In fact, their businesses will not stop for long. The spread of the virus would have wider impacts. Therefore, we have imposed strict rules.

With regard to travelling, as soon as positive cases were reported in Rakhine State and many cases were found in Sitway, travel restriction from this state to other areas was imposed. Although our people in Rakhine State wanted to go outside as usual, we did not pander to their wishes and persuaded them not to do so. This was not because of hatred towards them, but to prevent the spread of this disease to the other areas of the country. If the whole country had to suffer from this pandemic, we would not be able to focus on Rakhine State. This was the reason for imposing restrictions on the places with many cases. This disease is spreading in Yangon with a faster pace in comparing with that of other areas. So, we have to impose restrictions in Yangon. Don't go outside of Yangon unnecessarily. Authorities from other areas will conduct medical tests to those who come from the Yangon Region, and the visitors will have to stay under quarantine.

Therefore, it is better for all people in Yangon to stay at home. There would be a question regarding shopping for household commodities. It is an unavoidable

issue. People need to go to the market. However, they need to strictly follow the rules at the markets. Legal actions will be taken for violation of the rules.

I have said frequently that law is not for punishing citizens. In fact, it is for ensuring the stability and tranquility of the society. If the disease widely spread, our society will be affected, and so it can't be stable and tranquil. So, we say that those who violated the rules and regulations concerned will be charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law because the Natural Disaster Management Law is more severe than the Communicable Diseases Law. Only severe legal action will be able to control the spread of COVID-19. We always issue instructions to let the general public know what our objective is and what we want them to do. We want the general public to thoroughly observe the instructions. I can't read out all the instructions right now. But, the instructions will be announced on TV. The newspapers will also publish the instructions. I want the citizens to observe and follow the instructions.

Yangon is a 'heart-city' which enjoys a special place in our hearts. So, it is important that the residents in Yangon need to show a good example. In Rakhine State, we now can control the disease. That means we have reached a

stage where the disease has been put under control, but that does not mean our task of controlling the disease is complete. So, there is no reason that we cannot control the spread of the disease in Yangon Region. There is no reason that the city in the hearts of the citizens cannot handle the issue successfully. I want you to make strenuous efforts. All people need to abide by the rules and regulations, which are not difficult to follow. They are very simple. And it is not difficult for the general public to understand why the rules and regulations were laid down. So, please follow the rules. Don't get overconcerned. But you can never be too cautious. So, always be cautious. We will make efforts as much as possible in order to reach the situation in which we can relax restrictions. But in making efforts, the role of the general public is very important, as I have said frequently. Only if the general public cooperates with us, our efforts will be successful. So, residents in Yangon need to show what stuff they are made of. In conclusion, I would like to request Yangon residents to show the whole world how you can rapidly and effectively control the COVID-19. May you all enjoy good health and well-being!—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Mying, Aung Khin)

## Yangon road transport authorities suspend services

In accordance with the guideline issued by National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID - 19), the Road Transport Administration Department's Yangon Region Office, Yangon Region Branch Office (Ywa Tha Gyi), District Office (West Yangon), District Office (East Yangon), District Office (North Yangon), District Office (South Yangon) will suspend their services of licence extensions for vehicles and drivers commencing 11-9-2020 (Friday) until further notice. Regular services will resume only after the situations become stable, and we will announce the date the services will resume in advance.

Road Transport Administration Department

## “People are the key”

# Myanmar parliamentarians join second plenary session, closing ceremony of AIPA-41



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat attends the last day of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly through videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR parliamentary delegates, led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, joined the second plenary session and

closing ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA-41), which took place in Ha Noi of Viet Nam, via

videoconferencing yesterday morning.

At the second plenary session commenced at 8:30 am, the reports of relevant committees

were passed and the AIPA-41 joint communique was approved with the e-signatures of AIPA legislative leaders.

At the closing ceremony of

AIPA-41, the supreme legislature of Norway and the Parliament of Morocco were conferred a formal status of Observers of AIPA.

The President of the Lao National Assembly and the Vice-Chairwoman of the Viet Nam National Assembly were presented with awards for their excellent contributions to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

The rotating Chairman of AIPA and the National Assembly of Viet Nam made a closing remark of the ceremony.

The chairmanship of AIPA-42 was handed over to the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, and its speaker delivered an address for the acceptance through video clip.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and co-chairs ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting held via videoconference

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the ASEAN-United States Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting and ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting which were held via videoconference today starting from 07:30 am from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the Ministerial Meetings, the Ministers reviewed cooperation between ASEAN and respective Dialogue Partner and exchanged views on future directions as well as regional and international issues.

As Myanmar is the current Country Coordinator of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin co-



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting from his office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

chaired the ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting with Mr François-Philippe Champagne, Foreign Minister of Canada. In his statement delivered on behalf of the ASEAN Member States, Union Minister U Kyaw

Tin appreciated the steady growth in the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations and significant progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced

Partnership (2016-2020). The Union Minister highlighted possible areas of cooperation between ASEAN and Canada to strengthen dialogue relations based on inclusivity, equality, mutual respect and mutual ben-

efit. He also stressed the importance of enhancing mutual trust, engagement and cooperation between Canada and individual ASEAN Member State in strengthening the existing partnership and enhancing the dialogue relations to the higher level. At the end of the Meeting, the Ministers adopted a new Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2021-2025).

The Union Minister also attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Interface with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives and the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Strengthening Women's role for Sustainable Peace and Security.—MNA

**Elections are the root for development of democracy.**

## It was for the public good



It needs to be considered how to encourage the individual to live in solitude; “We Love Yangon” is requested to provide information; some persons think that giving information is causing problems for someone; that is not the case, but it was for the public good; although someone has recovered from the disease, two points need to be considered; the first thing is another person infected from the someone might not be as lucky, and that it needed to consider that the other person could get infected.

The second thing is that the long-term results of COVID-19 are still not yet known; some say that this disease would leave respiratory diseases and some other weaknesses; however, these conclusions have not been confirmed until now.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders of quarantine centres for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 on 8 September 2020)*

## Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends 73<sup>rd</sup> session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the first day of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Southeast Asia on 9 September through video-conferencing.

The session was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and the Minister for Public Health Mr Arutin Chernvirakul, Vice-Chairman and Minister for Health and Population of Nepal Mr Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal.

During the session, WHO Regional Director Mrs Poonan Khetrapal Singh discussed the organization's annual report on activities in Southeast Asia in 2019. Director-General for WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom discussed the current COVID-19 outbreak in the world and plans for further WHO support.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe commented on the annual report of the South-East Asia Regional Office that the challenges and lessons learned from the report must be taken into account of the next two-year action

plan of the South-East Regional Office and he urged to study the contents of the report and to consider to have a significant impact on the public health sector in the respective countries by taking technical assistance from WHO and to give practical advice to the regional office to make the WHO assistance more effective.

The Union Minister said that the regional office should carefully review the last three years' reports on how to effectively improve the work of the WHO; whether the funds allocated to member countries were being used effectively and the challenges we all needed to overcome; review on how WHO was cooperating with GAVI, Global Fund, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS and other development partner organizations; to pay attention to how the organizations were connecting with each other; to draw up a framework for external assistance in a two-year work plan for the coming years to ensure that aid to member countries does not overlap unnecessarily and to



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and officials join the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia on 9 September. **PHOTO:MNA**

use the effective support of the WHO to develop the respective countries' public health sector.

The representatives of WHO and the Health Ministers and Superior Officers of South-East Asia Regions such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor Leste joined the ceremony together with the Ambassadors in India and Thailand, Director-General of WHO, Regional Director for South-East Asia, UN organizations and International Non-governmental Organizations.

On the second day of the session, the Health Ministers held roundtable regarding the new normal lifestyle in post-COV-

ID-19 period under the topic like experiences and lessons of South East-Asia regions, healthcare systems during COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing public health services and Director-General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw briefed the experiences of Myanmar.

Then, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom and WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Phoonan Khetrapal Singh pledged that WHO will keep cooperating with the regional countries in conducting the COVID-19 response measures.

Thailand, alternative host country, announced the Ministerial Declaration on collective response to COVID-19 and all the Health Ministers of 11 South East-Asia member regions

agreed with it.

A ceremony to give certificates of honour to the outstanding South East-Asia countries for public health was held and Myanmar received a certificate for eliminating a public health problem, the Trachoma.

WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Phoonan Khetrapal Singh gave the certificate to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe.

WHO Director-General, Director-General and Director for South-East Asia Regions, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Minister for Public Health delivered the concluding speech.—MNA

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

**Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.**



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun talks at an online meeting for printing and distribution of school textbooks. **PHOTO: MNA**

## MoI, MoE discuss tender invitation of school textbook publishing for 2021-2022 academic year

The School Textbook Printing Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Information and the School Textbook Distribution Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Education held a coordination meeting on inviting tenders for printing and distributing school textbooks for 2021-2022 Academic Year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning via videoconferencing between the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Deputy Minister U Win Maung Tun, who are the chairpersons of respective committees, made their opening speeches.

Deputy Chairperson of the School Textbook Printing Sub-Committee and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung, School Textbook Distribution Sub-Committee Secretary and Director-General of the Department of Basic Education U Ko Lay Win, and School Textbook Printing Sub-Committee Secretary and Acting Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing discussed the activities of the sub-committees for inviting tenders for printing and distributing school textbooks for 2021-2022 Academic Year.—MNA

ment of Basic Education U Ko Lay Win, and School Textbook Printing Sub-Committee Secretary and Acting Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing discussed the activities of the sub-committees for inviting tenders for printing and distributing school textbooks for 2021-2022 Academic Year.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## Myanmar brings back its citizens stuck in Japan, ROK

AN All Nippon Airways (ANA) relief flight brought 133 Myanmar citizens from Narita International Airport in Japan and landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Another relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) arrived in Yangon, carrying 140 seafarers who have signed off from a ship of JSM International Shipping Company Limited and stranded in Korea under

the arrangement of Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and JSM International Shipping Company Limited on the same day.

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.

For the repatriation of Myanmar 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 Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar citizens returning from Japan undergo medical checks through immigration at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

## MoRAC, Lay Kyun Thu foundation donate cash assistance for medical staff in Nay Pyi Taw quarantine centre



Two officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Lay Kyun Thu Foundation hand over cash assistance for medical staff taking care of quarantined civil servants. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Lay Kyun Thu Foundation donated cash assistance for the medical staff taking care of the government officials who are under quarantine in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

At the donation ceremony, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Department of Reli-

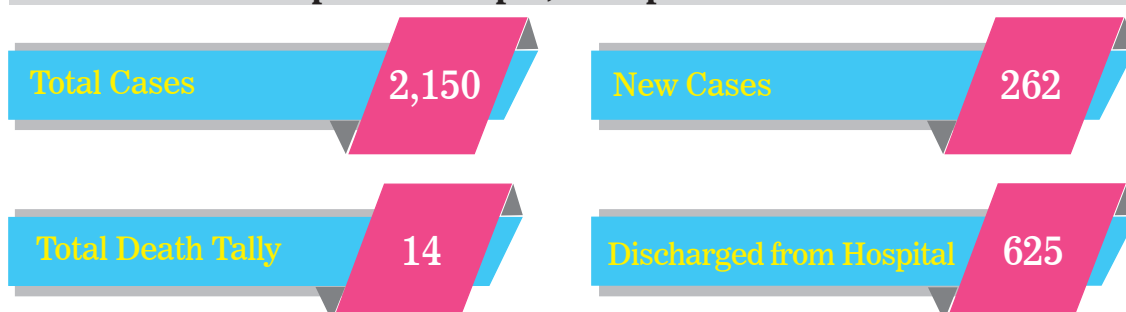
gious Affairs) donated K4 million, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Department of Culture) donated K4 million, Lay Kyun Thu Foundation donated K3 million, totally K11 million and responsible persons from the Ministry of Health and Sports received the donation.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

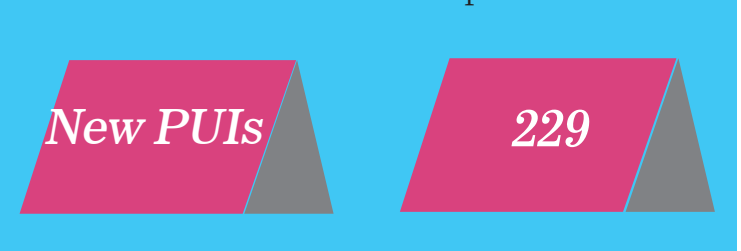
## 262 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 September, total figure rises to 2,150

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 2,150 after 262 new cases were reported on 10 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 2,150 confirmed cases, 14 died, 625 have been discharged from hospitals and 229 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 10 September 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 10 September 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

## Onion growers may suffer loss due to bulk supply amidst COVID resurgence

THE onion growers, as well as traders, are experiencing market fallout due to the surging COVID-19 cases. As a result of this, workers engaged in onion depots are suffering financial hardship, said a depot owner from Mandalay.

At present, there is a steady demand for China. The onions are highly yielded this year. If there is no external market beyond China, it might hurt the growers and traders.

“Earlier, onions were highly demanded by Bangladesh, India and China. Now, the trade with

Bangladesh and India is halted to contain the spread of the coronavirus. That’s why the price is on the decline,” said onion depot owner from Mandalay.

“The prevailing prices of onions range between 400-550 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg) in the domestic market depending on the size and quality. The market is regular during June and July. The growers will undoubtedly suffer a loss if the onions cannot be exported to Bangladesh and India. Indeed, the onions will be stockpiled in the market,” said a grower.

Last year, Bangladesh’s demand for Myanmar’s onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable rise in price prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation.

Although traders said stocking onions might lead to losses, the price of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

However, there is uncertainty



Workers sort out onions for packaging and selling later. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

with foreign demand during the coronavirus pandemic, a market observer pointed out.

Onion prices may change depending on the weather conditions and market supply, said

traders.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## YCDC digital construction permit platform receives over 1,000 applications

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON City Development Committee (YCDC) has received over 1,000 applications through Yangon Building Permit System (YBPS) during five months since its establishment.

The YBPS provides Building Completion Certificate, building permit, a notice of inspection approval, minor building work approval, technical, administrative information and other managerial procedures.

The system is designed to boost private investments in the city. It is initiated by International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of World Bank Group, with the aims to reduce some procedures and paperwork in seeking construction permits, and cut frequent meetings and unnecessary disputes between the staff and applicants.

“The registered engineers, architects and landowners can apply for the permit through online platform anytime and anywhere. This is a great reform amid the COVID-19 crisis,” said Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, secretary of YCDC.

It has made us more technologically ad-

vanced and helped us become more conscious about environmental sustainability by adopting a paperless process, she continued.

Additionally, the initiative, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DGAT) has helped modernize the system and provide new software and training for staff. It is a one-stop source for those developers to obtain a construction permit.

“Myanmar construction sector accounts for five per cent of the labour force (about 1 million workers), it has among the highest earning potential for people,” said Jane Xu, IFC Country Manager for Myanmar and Thailand.

“Streamlining the construction permit process is helping to improve transparency, cut red tape and speed up processing for permits which will ultimately improve the overall investment climate in Yangon. This is part of IFC’s larger effort to support the development of the private sector and spur the job creation,” said Ms Jane Xu.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Domestic investments hit K1,700 bln in 11 months, up over K300 bln against previous FY

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTMENTS by Myanmar citizens in the country exceeded K1,700 billion in the past 11 months of the current financial year 2019-2020, an increase of over K300 billion compared to the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October and 28 August in the current FY, 118 local enterprises were allowed to invest in the country by the Myanmar Investment Commission and the state and region investment committees. Domestic investments have reached K1,710 billion so far, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, as per the DICA’s data.

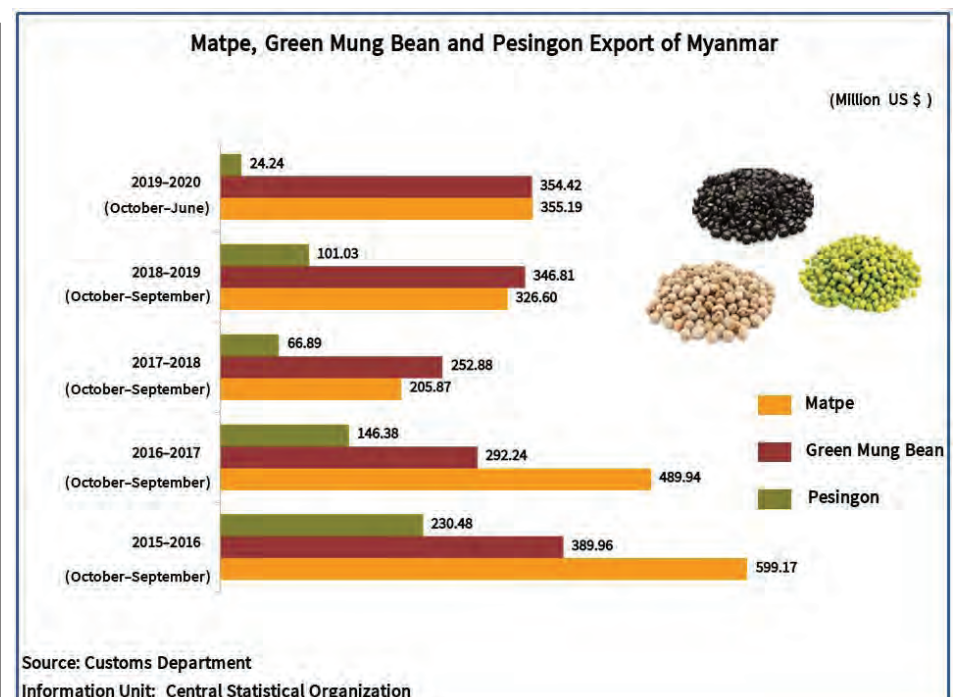
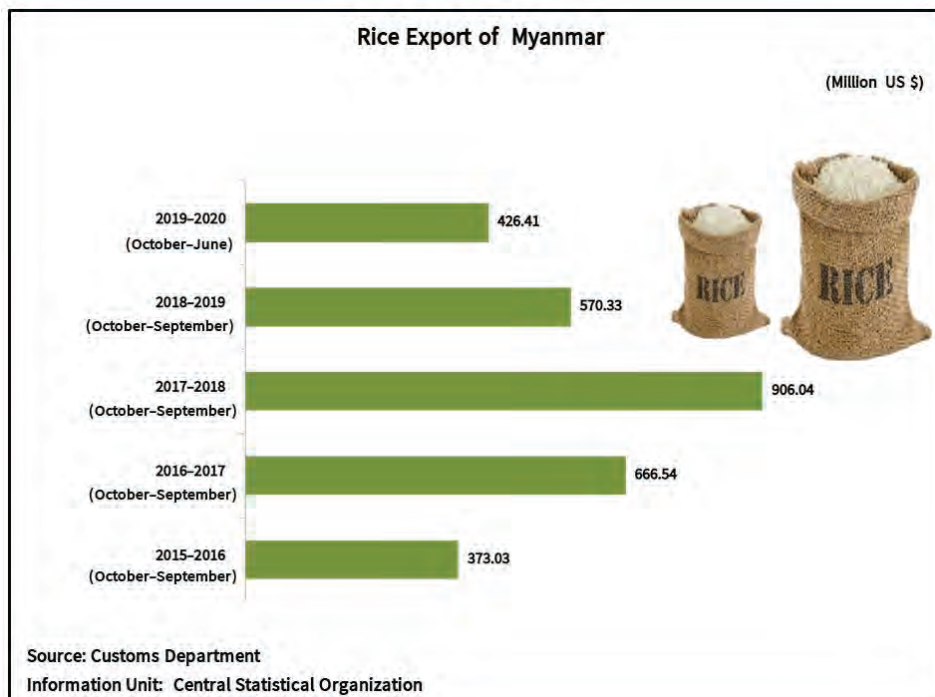
Domestic investors pumped K1,368 billion into 151 projects in the corresponding period of the 2018-

2019 financial year.

This FY, the number of enterprises permitted was 33 less than the previous year. However, the quantum of investment was more extensive compared with the year-ago period as the business with large capital flowed into the country, the DICA stated.

During the 11 months, the real estate development sector pulled the most massive domestic investments, followed by manufacturing and other service sectors. The domestic investments also flow into hotels and tourism, agriculture, oil and gas, transportation and communication, construction, livestock and fisheries, mining, and power sectors. In contrast, industrial estate out of 12 domestic investment sectors attract zero investment in the current FY, the DICA stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



# Stay-at-home is not only better, but necessary

**W**ITH the number of locally-transmitted cases in Yangon Region having risen sharply in recent days, Yangon Region has imposed travel restrictions on people in the region banning the people from going outside of the region from 11<sup>th</sup> September to 1 October, 2020.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke to the country's people yesterday underlining the seriousness of the situation we now find ourselves in, with the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise again in Yangon Region since mid-August.

Yangon Region found its first locally-transmitted case on 24 August, and the number of cases reached 656 on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

It is not hard to guess why. Yangon has the highest population density among the cities in Myanmar. Commuters and office workers crowd buses, ferries and trains and people crowd restaurants and city marts.

That was why the authorities set COVID-19 rules when the country found the first case on our soil.

"Regarding the situation in Yangon, Stay-at-home order and avoiding gatherings are critical to control the situation. The rules and guidelines set by the government is very simple and clear. Wear masks when you go outside; wear gloves when it is required; and maintain at least six-foot social distancing. If everyone follows these guidelines, this pandemic will be put under control," she said.

While most people understand the importance of the health rules and measures and are following the guidelines to protect themselves and their communities, unfortunately, far too many are ignoring the restrictions.

We acknowledge that the stay-at-home order is not the life we are used to living. It is a bitter medicine. But, it is not only better but also necessary to save lives. People need to pay attention to and comply and need to act responsibly as the COVID-19 health rules

have been introduced by the authorities.

We have a responsibility to ourselves, but a huge responsibility to others as well.

Now, the time has arrived for Yangonites to display their good citizenship by following the authorities' COVID-19 rules and guidelines, in response to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

Yangon has a special place in the hearts of our people. Let's show our good citizenship to our country and to the world by following the rules.

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# The neglected water and sanitation crisis

By Kevin Rudd

**T**HE COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the importance of access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. As we all know now, hand washing is one of the best front-line defences against the virus. Yet three billion people – almost half of the world's population – lack access to basic hand-washing facilities, around one-third (2.2 billion people) do not have access to safe drinking water, and almost twice as many (4.2 billion) go without safe sanitation services of any kind.

The situation is even worse in the Pacific Islands, where the share of the population without secure access to potable water is twice that of the global average, and where sanitary indicators are lower than in Sub-Saharan Africa. As we are seeing in countries like Papua New Guinea, the absence of facilities for maintaining basic hygiene makes it incredibly difficult to combat the virus once it takes hold.

Yet despite our knowledge of the problem, water and sanitation continue to slide down the political agenda globally.

Politicians are rarely as eager to open a wastewater plant as they are to cut the ribbon in front of a new school or hospital. But the problem is not so much a lack of political will as an inability to seize political opportunities. After

all, it is hard to think of any other government service as important as the delivery of clean water and sanitation.

The real problem, in fact, is finance. For too long, governments have seen water and sanitation as a drain on national budgets rather than as an investment opportunity. As a result, they have traditionally relied on taxes, tariffs, and transfers to subsidise the sector. And though people are often willing to pay for access or improvements to these services, the utilities struggle to cover the costs of basic operations or maintenance without additional support.

This makes no sense politically, considering that people desperately want and need these services. But it also makes no sense economically. The annual losses associated with inadequate water and sanitation services currently total some US\$260 billion – 1.5 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) per year, whereas every dollar invested in water and sanitation brings a four-fold return in health, economic, and educational outcomes – all of which can serve a government's broader economic and social agenda.

The biggest challenge is to persuade governments to view the sector as assets that will yield high economic and financial returns



Students wearing facemasks wash their hands, India, before attending a class at a government-run school in Secunderabad, March 4, 2020. PHOTO: NOAH SEELAM / AFP

without breaking the bank. Such a shift in mindset will also lend momentum to other long-needed reforms. There are ample opportunities for improvement in sector planning and management, subsidy targeting, cost-recovery policies, and tariff regimes, as well as a need for new earmarked taxes and other options for cross-subsidization. Some governments are already pursuing these opportunities. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, for example, has helped focus national attention on water and sanitation issues, as have recent efforts by President Muhammadu Buhari in Nigeria. Meanwhile, other governments have expanded access

to repayable finance mechanisms designed to reduce risk and pool financial resources at a national, municipal, or household level.

For example, in Kenya, the national water regulator has worked with the World Bank to adopt "shadow credit ratings" with which to attract more financing. In Indonesia, the government has used grants for lower-income households to improve services for those who need it most. In Peru, a mix of incentives and direct assistance is being used to improve local governments' delivery of services. And in countries like Kiribati and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, governments have secured access to new climate funds, or

used social-impact bonds to bring in additional sources of finance.

These and similar financing options have now been compiled in a practical new handbook for governments. Published by the United Nation's Partnership on Sanitation and Water for All and titled, "Water and Sanitation: How to make public investment work" provides real-world examples to show political leaders how they can secure additional finance for water and sanitation in ways that are both, politically and economically sensible. Without a course correction, the challenges facing this critical sector will only escalate as climate change, rolling global health emergencies, and other systemic risks continue to build. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the plight of financially struggling service providers around the world. But the crisis also represents a rare opportunity to see and do things differently.

Because water and sanitation are central to the emergency response, world leaders and finance ministers are all the more justified in pursuing immediate action on this front, including at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's (IMF) annual meetings next month. Investing in water and sanitation creates jobs, boosts business, and reduces the

long-term burden on government budgets. But, more to the point, it radically improves people's lives, particularly those of women and girls.

For those in political office, there are not many opportunities where a single investment can reduce premature deaths and illnesses, increase life expectancy, improve quality of life, and ensure the privacy, safety, and dignity of all. But investing in water and sanitation does all of these things and more.

It is time for policymakers around the world – from donor governments and international financial institutions to national banks and local cooperatives – to seize the opportunity that this crisis has created.

There is a rich offering of financing options on the menu, and the potential rewards are enormous.

SOURCE: The ASEAN Post

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Kevin Rudd, a former prime minister of Australia, is President of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York and High-Level Chair of the United Nations Global Partnership on Sanitation and Water for All.



## A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO TRACE THE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD

# Not wasted: Sewage in Nepal serves as affordable virus warning tool

**A** pungent smell hangs in the early morning air as researchers collect samples of sewage dumped into a river in Nepal – a cost-effective way to trace the coronavirus spread for the resource-strapped Himalayan nation.

As the number of cases continues to rise worldwide, more countries are analyzing wastewater for traces of the infectious disease to quickly identify which communities are experiencing an outbreak.

For impoverished Nepal, still recovering from a major 2015 earthquake and with its economy reeling from the pandemic's shattering impact on its crucial tourism sector, the sewage tests could become an affordable weapon in the virus fight.

"When you are limited in the resources that are available for testing and screening, this is a quick and easy way – and a cheaper way – of finding hotspots," said Dibesh Karmacharya, who co-founded Centre for Molecular

Dynamics Nepal, the NGO leading the research.

"Then you can go and do extensive screening there."

With some cases asymptomatic, the community-wide nature of the testing, rather than at an individual level, could help pick up the disease in places where it may not appear to be present.

The World Health Organization's Nepal representative, Jos Vandelaer, described it as an "early warning system". In other countries where testing has been done, positive samples were found three to seven days before coronavirus symptoms were visible, he said.

### Surveillance tool

Karmacharya's organization is well versed in using effluent to trace diseases.

The centre in 2018 sampled wastewater for typhoid in areas where there have been vaccinations in a

study with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In June, its researchers started testing sewage samples for Covid-19 in the Kathmandu Valley and detected the pathogen at two of four sites.

Infections in Nepal have surged since the lockdown in the nation of 28 million people was lifted in July.

The country has recorded an average of 1,000 new infections each day since August, for a total of more than 48,000 cases.

The government's Nepal Health Research Council has now partnered with the centre to test sewage in Lalitpur district, which has reported more than 1,000 cases, near the capital Kathmandu.

"Once we have the findings, we are planning to coordinate with the government and take it forward as a nationwide campaign," Council chief Pradip Gyanwali told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP



Researchers in Nepal collect samples of sewage dumped into a river to trace the coronavirus spread. PHOTO: AFP



## 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 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States, scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon 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:** Continuation of thundery activities in Northern Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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## Rakhine State National United Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Rakhine State National United Party Chairman U Aye Kyaing presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 10 September.



### Mingalaba

I would like to greet you by explaining why we formed our party. Before we were permitted to establish this party in 2010, we made a discussion with some representatives from five townships in the Rakhine State. At that time, there was no Rakhine party formed by Rakhine people, so we decided that there should be a Rakhine political party to represent Rakhine State, and that's why we established this party for the benefits of Rakhine people and the country.

I am Rakhine State National Unity Party Chairperson U Aye Kyaing. Representing the Rakhine State, our party was formed in 2010 with party registration number 8. Our party's emblem is a cross of two branches of *Bulbophyllum Auricomum* (Thazin) flower. A nature of *Bulbophyllum Auricomum* (Thazin) flower is that it cannot blossom under a shaded area; it grows and flourishes on high branches of tall trees. And the flower enjoys a place of honour in Rakhine. Our party will never submit to other organizations. We, alongside all Rakhine people, will cooperatively resolve the issues related to the Rakhine State, based on the desires of the people and real situations.

**Party's Flag** – In the left section of the flag, there is a white triangle which consists of a symbol of a coin of the Rakhine State. The white colour is symbolic of purity. The red band in the upper section of the flag is symbolic of bravery, and the blue band in the lower section of the flag is symbolic of unity. The four white stars in the middle of the flag represent the pure mind of “Lay Wady” residents and equality between them.

**Party's Slogan** – Vote for “two branches of Thazin flower” party to fulfil people's wishes.

Our party was established in 2010 to represent the Rakhine State. It was founded since 2010, so local and foreign government organizations, other organizations, and other political parties might offer us financial opportunities. Still, by the metaphor of *Bulbophyllum Auricomum* (Thazin) flower, we prove our loyalty to the people by not focusing

on self-interests, by not violating ethics, and by not allowing any other organization to influence us, and by being self-reliant.

Now, following the party's policy and the multiparty democratic system, we believe that we can work cooperatively for the benefits of the citizens and national interests. Between the government and political parties, we can give constructive suggestions to each other. By holding that belief, we are waging our electoral campaign, so we would like to urge those who want to work with integrity for the Rakhine State to cooperate with the Rakhine State National Unity Party, whose emblem is two branches of *Bulbophyllum Auricomum* (Thazin) flower.

### Our party's objective, belief and policy

Our party's aim is: to transform from one-party system dictatorship into multiparty federal democracy ruled by the civilian government, to use the market-oriented system under the transparent leadership of a democratic government, and to create more mature social lives and systematic society as soon as possible.

### Party's Direction

The 2008 constitution cannot guarantee 100 per cent democracy that we want. Elected MPs, who represent the citizens, need to amend the parts of 2008 Constitution that should be amended, and all stakeholders need to exert efforts to ensure autonomy, multiparty federal democratic system, and equal development in all areas.

### Party's Policy

Our policy is to work hard for development in multiple sectors in the area. Development needs unity. We will cooperate with the residents and other political parties to fulfil the needs of the residents. We will work together for the same objectives, and if there are different opinions between us, we will continue negotiations. We will work unitedly for sustainable development.

We will exert efforts so that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the government, Tatmadaw, all official political parties, all ethnic armed organizations, the general public, specialists and academics can take part in all-inclusive efforts to have a constitution that will be based on a multiparty democratic federal system that people in all regions and states including Rakhine State want.

In the meantime, under the multiparty democracy system, we sometimes form temporary coalitions comprising, for example, 14 official political parties, 18 parties or 32 parties to suggest and criticize the current government and to issue statements, if we see

the government making things that can harm the areas and the country.

To have equal development in all regions and states, by making necessary changes to the constitution as said before, we can exert efforts for the development of the Rakhine State by using a system by which natural resources of the Rakhine State can be shared appropriately with the Union government.

We will help a lot of migrant Rakhine workers in foreign countries to come back to home, and create plenty of job opportunities. We will cooperate with foreign and local business persons to establish industrial zones.

In the constitution of our political party, we have published our policies on social matters, politics, economics, peasants' matters, education, workers' matters, health care and other issues. Now, the presentation time is limited so that I will talk about the policies in brief.

Our party will make great efforts to achieve signs of progress in healthcare, education, peasants' matters, and workers' matters.

Regarding matters related to immigration, we will try to prevent illegal entry from neighbouring countries to our country effectively. We will exert accurate and effective efforts for processes for granting citizenship, withdrawal from citizenship, and conducting the census.

Dear people of Rakhine State, Rakhine people are honest and frank. I would like to urge you to observe and think practically without blind and unreasonable belief to avoid some people taking unfair advantage of our honesty and frankness.

### Single-party system vs Multiparty system

This party encourages a multiparty system. We will cooperate and make discussions with other parties to resolve various problems and issues. We will transparently disclose our political and social activities as a collaborative effort.

In conclusion, I would like to say that in the 2020 General Elections, the citizens must elect the representatives, who will have to take responsibility for “Three State Powers”. So, I would like to urge the citizens to wisely vote for those whose actions are in line with their pledges and those who will work hard for the citizens.

I wish you all the best.



## Campaign speech of Party for Democracy and Peace to be broadcast on 11 Sept, published on 12 Sept

Campaign speech of Party for Democracy and Peace for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 11 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 12 September.—MNA

## Kayin People's Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Kayin People's Party Chairman Saw Tun Aung Myint presents his party's policy, stance and work programmes on TV and radio on 10 September.



I am the Chairman of Kayin People's Party, Saw Tun Aung Myint. My Kayin name is Saw Sardu Gaw. It means 'morning star'. I would like to thank the authoritative body for permitting us to speak to the public through radio and television.

Firstly, I would like to explain the definition of our party's name – Kayin People's Party – as I have done in previous years. Our initial objective when we first established this party was to pave the way for our Kayin people to enter politics lawfully. We have 'Kayin' first in the name because ethnic Kayin members founded the party. However, it was our wish to incorporate the other ethnic people living in the same area, drinking the same water and experiencing the best of times and the worst of times with us, and thus we added the word 'People' to our name. We are a political party that while initially established by Kayin people, takes a collective stand for the citizens of different ethnic backgrounds living in the same region. We are not based on narrow-minded ethnic views.

### KPP's policy

Kayin People's Party has set its national policy for participating in national reconciliation and aiding Myanmar in its transition towards a system based on federalism and democracy that ties in with the nation.

### KPP's beliefs and stance

- The different ethnic groups in the nation will be able to build close relationships and trust that will create sustainable peace and stability for Myanmar only when the nation adopts and practices a federal democratic system.
- Educational development is fundamental for improving the individual's abilities needed to establish a modern and developed federal, democratic nation.
- Lasting peace can only be established when a system that guarantees and protects the rights of all ethnicities and minorities in the Union of Myanmar can be established.
- The global political and social scene will continue changing with to fit mainstream narratives. The national stance of Kayin People's Party is to maintain the best balance in adapting to change while preventing negative impacts on the nation

and its interests.

- Kayin People's Party does not have a prejudice for Kayin ethnicities, religious affiliations or regional preference and views all Kayin as equal.
- Kayin People's Party views the discovery, preservation and elevation of Kayin literature, culture and customs as a national duty towards maintaining the Kayin as a distinct ethnicity around the world.
- We are working for a better future for all citizens with kindness and compassion based on Kayin people's reverence for justice, loyalty and other similar virtues.
- Trust and solidarity between all the ethnic people of Myanmar can be achieved by revitalizing nationalism through preserving each of their unique literature, culture and customs and developing mutual respect.

### Kayin People's Party objectives

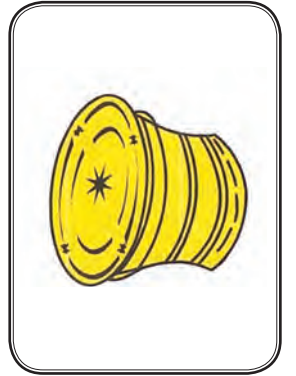
1. To establish a federal democratic nation for Myanmar.
2. Improving the living standards and economic developments of the working class.
3. Ensuring fair rights and opportunities for ethnic Kayin groups and other ethnic groups living together with us.

### Kayin People's Party work programmes

1. Participating in the establishment of genuine and lasting peace in Myanmar.
2. To build a peaceful federal democratic nation, coordinating with in unison with citizens of all ethnicities to implement reforms brought about by changes to the existing Constitution.
3. Working for the proliferation of the rule of law and fairness for all citizens in parliament.
4. Ensuring information and resources are available for health and other education of mothers and access to higher income, and children's health, cultural and disciplinary development.
5. Ensuring Kayin and youths (male/female) all have access to vocational education, higher education, modern communication technology, management and leadership skills, and political science.
6. Ensuring the production quality, market and income of Kayin people, who are mostly farmers and labourers and other farmers, are elevated.
7. Working towards a state where all ethnic citizens can live in harmony and travel in solidarity.
8. Ensuring Kayin affairs and rights are obtained through legal channels by having sufficient Kayin parliamentary representatives from a Kayin people-based party that can articulate the nature and situation of Kayin people.
9. Ensuring the full rights of minority ethnic groups is applied for Kayin people outside of Kayin State in line with achieving self-determination for Kayin State.
10. Assisting and protecting all Kayin people in ensur-

ing they have secure lives within Kayin State and outside it across the nation.

11. Ensuring Kayin literature and culture is preserved, and Kayin literature is developed through legal means to ensure Kayin people's way of life do not disappear.
12. Ensuring the historic and auspicious days and significance of Kayin people are kept on record and allowed celebration.



Kayin People's Party will be contesting for seats in Hluttaws from the following states and regions during the 2020 elections:

1. Kayin State
2. Taninthayi Region
3. Bago Region
4. Mon State
5. Yangon Region
6. Ayeyawady Region

We will contest for:

44 seats in Region/State Hluttaws,  
5 seats in Kayin Affairs representatives,  
18 seats in Pyithu Hluttaw,  
7 seats in Amyotha Hluttaw,  
for a total of 74 seats.

As I draw to a close, I would like to notify the following to my Kayin people for the 2020 elections:

1. Please check and verify if your name is included on the electoral roll at your local village/ward election commission office.
2. If you are an eligible voter, but your name is not on the electoral roll, then notify your local election commission office and follow steps to add your name to the electoral roll. If there are complications, then contact the Kayin-based political party in your area for assistance.
3. Make all necessary preparations to cast your vote without fail on 8 November 2020.
4. As Kayin people, cast your votes for Kayin political party representatives in unity at the 2020 elections to elevate Kayin politics.

In conclusion, the third general elections that our country will be organizing in the 21st century is fast approaching in 2020. The authorities, competing political parties, and the people have gained considerable experience. I urge everyone concerned, especially to all citizens, to fulfil your duties in the upcoming third election and participate with the genuine aspiration for the best of the nation.

Thank you.

## Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting 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.



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# Twante canal crossing bridge to be built in Seikkyi Khanaungto

Photo shows a model of the Twante canal crossing bridge connecting to Seikkyi Khanaungto Township. **PHOTO : NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

SEIKKYI Khanaungto Township is well known as an island town and most of the residents rely upon the motor vessels to cross the river. So, authorities are planning to build the Twante canal crossing bridge.

There are over 35,000 people in nine wards in Seikkyi

Khanaungto township. The township does not develop in industrial and agricultural businesses. So, 90 per cent of the local people are working in Yangon City. "We have been crossing the canal to reach Yangon city for many years. Now, Dala bridge is being constructed. We are

glad to hear that authorities are planning to construct a bridge in Seikkyi Khanaungto. Previously, no one knows where Seikkyi Khanaungto is. Upon completion of the bridge, Seikkyi Khanaungto will be developed in education, health, economic and transportation," said U Ohn Maung, an

80-year-old man from Seikkyi Khanaungto township's eastward. The bridge project can create job opportunities for the residents. Over 90 per cent of the residents can reach Yangon city in a short time by land route. The bridge project can develop the local people's social and economic lives. Upon completion of the two bridges, which are essential for the development of the north of Yangon city, local people can reach Yangon City from Seikkyi Khanaungto and Dala towns. Seikkyi Khanaungto township is 3.04 square miles wide. Twante canal crossing bridge connecting Seikkyi Khanaungto township with Dala township will be a two-lane reinforced bridge. It will be 2,542 feet long with 775-metre long and 10-metre wide approach road. Estimated cost of the project is K25 billion. The Bridge Construction Unit-1 from the Ministry of Construction will construct the bridges in 2019-2020 financial year.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala) (Translated by Hay Mar)

## Film, music, theatre, periodicals, media to get loans under separate programmes

By Nyein Nyein

A plan is underway to provide the loans to the people engaged in the film, music, theatre, periodical and media fields under separate programmes, according to the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic. This plan was discussed at the meeting 9/2020 held on 9 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

The government is making the necessary effort to remedy the impact of COVID-19 from different aspects.

According to the data on 4

September, the government provided K71.103 billion for the first time, K218.112 billion for the second time, K113.535 billion for the third time to the lower-income households. The government also offered K92.612 billion for agriculture and livestock sector through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, K35.923 billion to the public including the older adults, pregnant mothers, conflict victims and persons with disabilities through the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement

and K267.903 billion for health sector through the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Moreover, a total of K1908.085 billion were also provided including K100 billion each to restaurants and teashops and SME businesses, K200 billion from COVID-19 fund, K600 billion to the local farmers through Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, K107.379 billion for meter bill for April, May and June 2020 and K1.518 billion for meter bill for the residents from Taninthayi region. By doing so, the economic

impacts affected by the pandemic can be remedied in time, said Union Minister U Thaug Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Chairman of the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by the pandemic. Then, the committee also discussed matters regarding providing loans for the second time in September after scrutinizing and drawing a necessary plan to remedy the economic condition affected by the COVID-19. (Translated by Hay Mar)

## About 400,000 fish species to add to Ayeyawady River

FISH species will be added to the Ayeyawady River in the second week of September to be able to increase fisheries resources, according to the Fisheries Department from Mandalay Region.

These fish species will be provided by the hatching camps in Mandalay region. The department has planned to add about 400,000 fish species to the Ayeyawady River. This the project

is aimed at the development of fisheries resources and fisheries production. By adding the fish species, there will be an increasing volume of the fisheries resources.

Currently, the fingerlings are being supplied through Theyetgone, Netyaekan, Yenantha and Kumae hatching camps from Mandalay region. About 400,000 Rohu and Barbus fish

species will be added to the river from the department's hatching camps. The department will supply about 2,000 fingerlings worth K40,000, per acre of fish ponds for re-establishment of the fisheries sector adversely affected by the outbreak of coronavirus disease, according to the Fisheries Department in Mandalay region.

For the improvement of the livestock sector, the department

is also providing educational courses and raising awareness about illegal fish farming and preservation of endangered fish species as well as releasing fish into rivers, creeks, dams, and reservoirs, and collecting fishery data in cooperation with international organizations. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# UK holds crisis talks with EU as Pelosi warns on Brexit bill

LONDON — Britain headed into emergency talks with the European Union on Thursday facing warnings of legal action over a new Brexit bill and a threatening reminder of its obligations to Northern Ireland from top US Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

Britain held emergency talks with the European Union on Thursday, facing warnings of legal action over a new Brexit bill and a threatening reminder of its obligations to Northern Ireland from leading US Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

Warnings redoubled too within the ranks of the governing Conservative party as former prime minister John Major, who helped lay the foundations for Northern Irish peace in the 1990s, said his successor Boris Johnson risked trashing the UK's global



US Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, warned there will be no Transatlantic trade deal if the NI agreement is not honoured. US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

reputation.

"If we lose our reputation for honouring the promises we make, we will have lost something beyond price that may never be regained," Major said, after the government conceded that the proposed new legislation would

breach an EU withdrawal treaty in the countdown to a full Brexit divorce.

European Commission vice president Maros Sefcovic headed to London demanding "clarifications" over the new UK Internal Market Bill, after it was submitted to a stormy ses-

sion of parliament Wednesday. "I came here to express serious concerns the European Union has over the proposed bill," Sefcovic told reporters before starting the meeting with his counterpart on a UK-EU joint committee, Michael Gove.—AFP ■

## Industry 'leveraging pandemic' to peddle unhealthy products: NGOs

EDINBURGH — Food and drink producers are leveraging the coronavirus pandemic to push unhealthy products such as alcohol, sugar-laden soft drinks and fatty fast food on consumers, an international coalition of health charities said Thursday.

Crowd-sourced research conducted by the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance raised concerns that food giants are fuelling increases in chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease — themselves known Covid-19 risk factors.—AFP ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2016E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2016E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOBARID /VOY.EAL4

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOBARID / VOY.EAL4** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERETT ASIA LINE PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V STELLA PRIMA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V STELLA PRIMA VOY. NO. (208)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-3** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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



## Expression of Interest

The World Health Organization in Myanmar invites locally registered suppliers to partake in an Expression of Interest (Eoi) exercise for the following goods:

- LOT 1: Medical equipment, supplies and consumables (PPE, medicines and vaccines excluded)
- LOT 2: Laboratory equipment, supplies and consumables

The complete Expression of Interest documentation, including submission details, is available at <https://bit.ly/31MUPdQ> or by request to [semmlpo@who.int](mailto:semmlpo@who.int)

The deadline for submission is **September 21, 2020, 15:00 PM**, Myanmar Local Time.

### Myanmar Takeuchi Company Limited (In member's Voluntary Liquidation) Pursuant of Section 357 (B) of the Myanmar Company Law Notice for Final General Meeting

Final General Meeting of the members' voluntary liquidation of Myanmar Takeuchi Company Limited which is in the course of winding up will be held and all the members are cordially invited to attend the Final General Meeting according to the following schedule

Date: 07 October 2020  
Time: 10:00 am  
Place: Unit 1601, Level 16, Office Tower 2A, Time City Complex, Between Hantharwaddy and Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon

At the meeting, the liquidator's report and liquidation statement of accounts shall be finally presented and the winding-up procedure shall commence.

U Moe Myint Yan Aung  
H.G.P, Serial No. 51260  
Unit 1601, Level 16, Office Tower 2A,  
Time City Complex, Between Hantharwaddy  
and Kyun Taw Road,  
Kamayut Township, Yangon

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# Japan, India sign military supply-sharing pact

TOKYO — Japan and India have signed a military pact enabling them to exchange logistical support, the Japanese government said Thursday, as part of efforts to step up security cooperation in the face of China's growing assertiveness.

The countries had intended to sign the acquisition and cross-servicing agreement last December during Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's scheduled visit to Guwahati in eastern India. But, the trip was canceled after violent protests broke out in the city over a controversial immigration law.

In a phone call on Thursday, Abe and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi agreed on the importance of their countries' close security and economic cooperation, and shared the view that the signing of the pact the previous day will help realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the Japanese



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi are pictured during a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership summit on the outskirts of Bangkok on Nov. 4, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

government said.

The agreement provides a framework for the Japanese Self-Defence Forces and the In-

dian Armed Forces to provide each other with supplies and services including food, fuel and spare parts, as well as provide

transportation and use of each other's facilities during joint exercises and U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Both countries must conclude domestic procedures for the pact to enter into force. Japan already has similar arrangements with the United States, Britain, France, Canada and Australia.

In the 30-minute call, Abe briefed Modi on his decision to resign due to health concerns, to which the Indian prime minister responded by thanking him for his leadership in strengthening bilateral relations, the government said.

The two also agreed on cooperation on delayed plans to introduce Japanese high-speed trains to India in 2023.

Both countries are concerned by Beijing's ambitions in the region, with Tokyo protesting the sending of Chinese ships near the Senkaku Islands, a group of Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed uninhabited islets in the East China Sea. —Kyodo ■

## Indonesian capital to reinstate large-scale social restrictions



Indonesia's capital Jakarta will reinstate large-scale social restrictions beginning Monday due to a resurgence in novel coronavirus infections, its governor said Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP / FILE

JAKARTA — Indonesia's capital Jakarta will reinstate large-scale social restrictions beginning Monday due to a resurgence in

novel coronavirus infections, its governor said Wednesday.

After first imposing the restrictions in early April, Jakarta gradually eased the measures starting in June as it managed to flatten the curve of new coronavirus cases. More recently, however, the emergence of new cases has seen a rapid increase.

Jakarta Gov. Anies Baswedan told a virtual press conference, "We have no other choice except immediately pulling the emergency brake" because the fatality rate and bed occupancy rate for new coronavirus patients keep going up, bringing the capital into an "emergency situation."

"We will be back to the early days of the pandemic -- working from home, studying from home

and performing religious activities at home," he added.

According to Baswedan, about 77 per cent of the hospital beds available for COVID-19 patients with moderate symptoms are occupied, with the limit expected to be reached by Sept. 17 at current capacity levels.

Under the tightened restrictions, many socioeconomic activities outside the scope of essential services must be halted again, forcing some entertainment parks and shopping malls that have been operating under special conditions since June to be closed.

"Restaurants can only provide delivery service and are not allowed to give dine-in service," Baswedan said.—Kyodo ■

## Pardon for US Marine should get Philippines virus vaccine access: aide

MANILA — President Rodrigo Duterte's pardon of a US marine convicted of killing a transgender woman should help the Philippines gain access to coronavirus vaccines being developed by American companies, his spokesman said Thursday. "I accept the reality that the president is upholding the higher national interest," spokesman Harry Roque said, although he insisted he was expressing a personal opinion, not that of Duterte.

Duterte sparked controversy earlier this week for granting a surprise pardon to Lance Corporal Joseph Scott Pemberton, who was halfway into a 10-year sentence for killing Jennifer Laude in October 2014. Laude was found dead in a motel room in the northern Philippines hours after she met the American at a bar in Olongapo city. Roque said the pardon was linked to Duterte's desire to win swift access to a vaccine against a virus that has infected about a quarter of a million Filipinos, killing more than 4,000 of them.—AFP ■

## China rips into Trump order revoking visas of 1,000 Chinese students

BEIJING — China accused Washington of "political persecution and racial discrimination" on Thursday, after the US confirmed it had revoked the visas of more than 1,000 Chinese students under an order by President Donald Trump that accused some of espionage.

Trump declared in May that

some Chinese nationals officially in the United States for study have stolen intellectual property and helped modernize China's military, as tensions between the two countries soar on multiple fronts.

China's foreign ministry hit back Thursday, saying the US should "immediately stop using

all kinds of pretexts to restrict and suppress Chinese students in the US for no reason."

"This is outright political persecution and racial discrimination. It seriously violates the human rights of these Chinese students," said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a press conference on Monday.

He said that China reserved the right to "further respond".

The US State Department offered its first figures on the effects of Trump's order on Wednesday, saying more than 1,000 visas from students and researchers had been revoked since it began implementing the proclamation on June 1.—AFP ■

## France hosts Med leaders for summit on Turkey tensions

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron will gather leaders from Mediterranean states for a summit Thursday set to be dominated by growing tensions between Turkey and EU states in the east of the sea.

The EuroMed 7 is an informal group of EU Mediterranean states, sometimes dubbed “Club Med”, that held its first summit in 2016, though Turkey is not a member.

France has strongly backed Greece and Cyprus in a growing standoff with Turkey over hydrocarbon resources and naval influence in the eastern Mediterranean that has sparked fears of more severe conflict.

The summit of leaders from France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Cyprus will open around 1500 GMT at Porticcio, a coastal resort on the French island of Corsica.

Speaking with journalists in Ajaccio late Wednesday, Macron

said the Mediterranean should be “a region of circulation of cultures and knowledge, and not, as is too often the case, a region of geopolitical, energy or religious conflicts.”

A French presidential official said Macron would seek to “make progress in the consensus on the relationship of the EU with Turkey above all ahead of the 24-25 September EU summit.”

Reaffirming Macron’s policy towards Turkey, the official said that France wants a “clarification” in relations with Ankara which should be an “important” partner.

### ‘Same desire’

Turkey has sought to join the EU for over half a century, though analysts say the growing rift President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the bloc’s leaders has made the prospect increasingly unlikely.

Ankara’s hunt for gas and



Turkey has said the drilling ship Yavuz would be conducting searches off Cyprus. PHOTO: AFP

oil reserves in waters claimed by Greece, the latest conflict between Turkey and a fellow NATO member, has further strained re-

lations.

Turkey last month deployed an exploration vessel backed by military frigates in waters

between Greece and Cyprus, prompting Athens to respond with naval exercises as a warning.—AFP ■

## Iran holds naval exercise near sensitive Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN — The Iranian navy began a three-day exercise in the Sea of Oman near the strategic Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, deploying an array of warships, drones and missiles.

One of the exercise’s objectives is to devise “tactical offensive and defensive strategies for safeguarding the country’s territorial waters and shipping

lanes,” the military said on its website.

The navy will test-fire surface-to-surface and shore-to-sea cruise missiles and torpedoes, and rocket-launching systems fitted on warships, submarines, aircraft and drones, it added.

Dubbed “Zolfaghar 99”, the exercise will be held over two million square kilometres

(772,000 square miles) of sea stretching from the northern part of the Indian Ocean to the eastern end of the Strait of Hormuz, the sensitive shipping lane from the Gulf through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

The exercise’s spokesman, Commodore Shahram Irani, said that foreign aircraft, especially US drones, had been warned to steer clear of the area.

“We saw focused activities by American UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to gather information” on the exercise, he told the armed forces’ website, adding that the US aircraft had since left the area.

In July, Iran’s ideological force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, blasted a mock-up of a US aircraft carrier with missiles during an exercise near the Strait of Hormuz.—AFP ■



The Iranian navy will test-fire cruise missiles and torpedoes. PHOTO: AFP

## Mali junta launches ‘consultation’ amid pressure over handover

BAMAKO — Mali’s military junta on Thursday launches a three-day “national consultation” with political parties, unions and NGOs, facing questions at home and pressure from abroad over its plans for returning the country to civilian rule.

Around 500 people are due to attend the forum, unfolding at a conference centre in Bamako, the capital of the impoverished West African state.

The talks mark the second round of discussions between the young officers who overthrew President Ibrahim Bou-bacar Keita on August 18 and civilian representatives, many of whom had campaigned fiercely for him to resign.

At stake is how the junta intends to make good on its vow, made just hours after the coup,

to restore civilian governance and stage elections within a “reasonable time.”

Early jubilation among many Malians over Keita’s exit has been superseded by questions and also divisions about the speed of the handover and the military’s role in the transition period.

The coup -- Mali’s fourth since gaining independence from France in 1960 -- came after months of protests, stoked by Keita’s failure to roll back a bloody jihadist insurgency and fix the country’s many economic woes. Mali’s neighbours have watched with concern, fearing the country could spiral back into chaos -- a scenario that eight years ago helped fuel the jihadist revolt which now rattles Niger and Burkina Faso.—AFP ■

## New York to mark 9/11 anniversary amid the coronavirus pandemic

NEW YORK — With crime on the rise, shops and apartments increasingly vacant and homeless people on the sidewalks, New York on Friday will mark the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic and a bitter fight with the White House.

The city will hold its annual ceremony in memory of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the bloodiest terrorist attack

in US history, punctuated by a minute’s silence at the exact moments that Al-Qaeda jihadists crashed two hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center towers.

Instead of reading out the

roll call of the dead, this year the families of victims have recorded themselves. But they will still be present at the “Ground Zero” memorial.

The site museum will also open for the first time since the

novel coronavirus brought the city to a standstill in March.

Almost two decades after the attacks, September 11 remains synonymous with New York’s heroism and resilience.—AFP ■

## MNL Week-15 to be shown live on free-to-air channels



Shan United's Yakubu Aboubakar (red) tries for a pass over Hantharwady's Shwe Hlaing Win (blue) during their Week-14 match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 7 September 2020. **PHOTO: SUFC**

WEEK-15 matches of Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels: MRTV, MRTV Sports and Myawady, according to a statement with the MNL yesterday.

The Week-15 includes thrilling matches of teams aiming to achieve trophy record as the MNL is reaching its final weeks to complete the season.

Sagaing United will play against Hantharwady United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 11 September, and the match will be broadcast live on Myawady Channel and also streamed live on MyCujoo application at 3:30 pm.

Another exciting match on the same day is defending champion Shan United vs Magwe match at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon, and the game will be

streamed live on MyCujoo application.

Next, Yadanarbon will also play with Rakhine United at Yangon United Sports Complex on the same day, and the match will be broadcast live MRTV Sports channel and streamed live on MyCujoo application.

On 12 September, Yangon United will meet Southern Myanmar FC at Thuwunna Stadium at 3:30 pm, and the match will be shown live on Myawady Channel and also streamed live on MyCujoo application.

Likewise, on the same day, Ayeyawady United will play against ISPE at Yangon United Sports Complex at 3:30 pm, and the match will be broadcast live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application, MNL stated. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Premier League clubs forget coronavirus crisis in transfer splurge

LONDON — Just five months after Premier League clubs consulted their players about taking a 30 per cent wage cut, the English top-flight is again blowing Europe's other top leagues out the water when it comes to splashing the cash.

A return to the routine spending of tens of millions of pounds on players jars with the bleak forecasts often presented by the clubs themselves as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

At the height of the pandemic, Liverpool and Tottenham planned to use government money to pay non-playing staff, only

to back down in the face of public anger, while Arsenal announced proposals to cut 55 jobs just last month.

If Premier League clubs require a reminder that Covid-19 remains a threat, they need only look to the empty stands that will accompany the start of the new season from Saturday.

Gate receipts may only account for 13 per cent of the Premier League's revenue, according to figures from UEFA's latest benchmarking report, but the other major streams of income such as television rights and commercial sponsorships

are also not immune to the crisis.

A rebate worth a reported £330 million (\$429 million, 363 million euros) was due to domestic and international broadcasters because the 2019/20 season was not completed on time after a three-month stoppage to the campaign.

Last week the Premier League announced its deal with Chinese streaming platform PPTV, understood to be worth about \$700 million, had been cancelled, with political tensions between Britain and China potentially making a new contract difficult to negotiate. —AFP ■

## Mother superior: Serena, Azarenka eye US Open final



Victoria Azarenka celebrates during her quarter-finals win against Elise Mertens at the 2020 US Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK — Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka renew their rivalry Thursday when they go head-to-head in the semi-finals to determine who is mother superior at the 2020 US Open.

Williams, chasing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, takes on unranked Azarenka, seeking a first tennis major trophy in seven years, for a spot in Saturday's final.

"Can it get any better?" Azarenka asked Wednesday after booking her place in the last four with a 6-1, 6-0 demolition of 16th-seeded Belgian Elise Mertens.

"For me, it can't. I'm so excited about this. It's an amaz-

ing opportunity to play against a champion, somebody who I respect a lot, who is my friend," added the two-time Slam winner.

Williams defeated Azarenka in the final of the US Open in 2012 and 2013.

Azarenka's last Slam title came at the 2013 Australian Open, when she retained the crown she had won a year earlier.

Her last appearance in the final of a tennis major was her US Open defeat to Williams that same year, which she lost in three sets. Azarenka also suffered an agonising loss in 2012, when she served for the match at 5-3 in the third set only to lose 7-5.—AFP ■



The 2020/21 Premier League season will start with all games behind closed doors. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**