

**NATIONAL**

Bamar People's Party, National League for Democracy (NLD) and Kokant Democracy and Unity Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 18 September 2020

## Myanmar repatriates 56 nationals from Viet Nam on 17 Sept



A Myanmar citizen returned from Viet Nam is seen at the immigration counter of Yangon International Airport on 17 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

**A** TOTAL of 56 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Viet Nam due to suspension of commercial flights returned home yesterday.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight carrying the Myanmar citizens from Viet Nam landed at the

Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated

hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international flights, in accordance with the

guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

Until now a total of 15,453 Myanmar nationals abroad were repatriated by relief flights and special flights.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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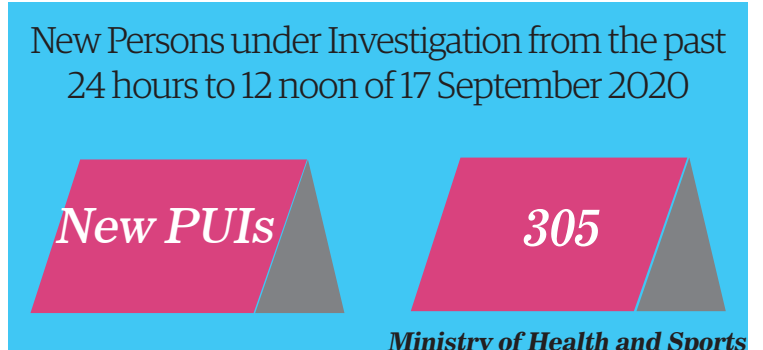
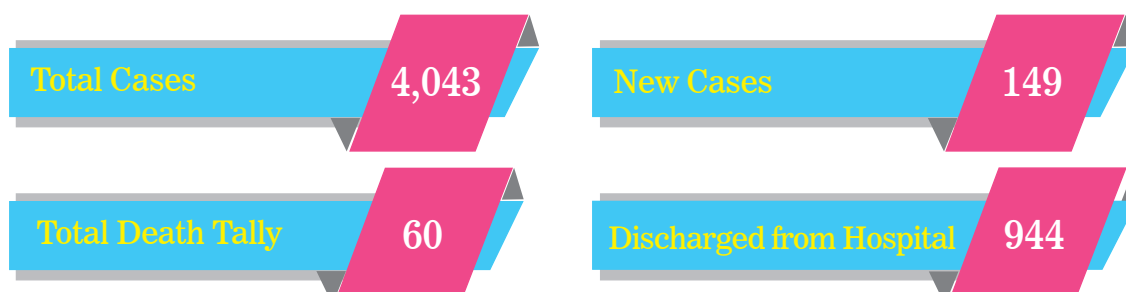


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## 149 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 September, total figure rises to 4,043

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 4,043 after 149 new cases were reported on 17 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 4,043 confirmed cases, 60 died, 944 have been discharged from hospitals and 305 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 17 September 2020





## 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.

## Campaign speeches of political parties not edited for broadcasting on MRTV and publishing in dailies

Some rumours are circulating on social media that public campaign speech of National Democratic Force party was edited before being broadcast on Myanma Radio and Television and being published in the state-owned newspapers.

In accordance with the guidelines of Union Election Commission, campaign speeches for 2020 General Election of 31 parties were produced at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) and those of 54 parties at MRTV in Yangon (Pyay Road) beginning 6-9-2020.

These political parties were allowed for one rehearsal before the final shooting to meet a specific duration for their programme. After each shooting, the programme was shown to the responsible persons of political parties for their approval before broadcasting.

MRTV broadcast campaign speeches of political parties in one scene-one shot after the long take (continuous shot) in shooting time. If any error and fault occurred during the shooting, the programme was shot from the beginning. Campaign speeches of political parties were not edited. Similarly, the state-owned dailies published the whole texts of campaign speeches from broadcasting without making any editing.

The approval of speakers from respective political parties for the final version of their campaign speech programmes were also recorded at MRTV. Campaign speeches of political parties were broadcast on TV channels, MRTV Facebook page. Campaign speech of every political party was also posted on Facebook. The campaign speech programmes can be checked and viewed in the recorded video files of MRTV Facebook page.

Therefore, MRTV and the dailies of the Ministry of Information did not edit the campaign speeches of political parties, including the National Democratic Force party.

*Myanma Radio and Television*

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls in Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar and hands over an Aide Memoire regarding border security

U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called in Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 1330 hrs. on 17 September 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon.

During the meeting, the Director-General clarified on-ground situation about recent movements of Myanmar security forces near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border, in response to the points raised by the Bangladeshi side in its Aide Memoire at the meeting between Ambassador of Myanmar to Bangladesh and Director-General of Myanmar Wing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on 13 September 2020.

The Director-General explained that the recent movements of Myanmar security forces near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border cited by Bangladesh was only a regular change of duty of police personnel accompanied by their family members. He also stated that such movements were carried out in the territory of Myanmar and it is part of the regular duties undertaken to ensure the prevalence of rule of law and security, and to safeguard the livelihood of all local communities in Rakhine State. The Director-General also assured that the movements and activities of the Myanmar security personnel were intended neither to intimidate nor to pose a threat to Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the Director-General recalled that the Border Liaison Office of Myanmar was established in Maungtau on 15 October 2018 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the Establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) signed on 24 October 2017. Although Myanmar proposed three times to hold BLO meeting with Bangladesh but the first two proposals were not responded. With regard to the third, the Bangladeshi side replied that it would not be convenient because of COVID-19. The Director-General reiterated that Myanmar stands ready to hold meetings with Bangladesh to discuss border-related security matters through the existing BLO mechanism. Then, the Director-General handed over an aide memoire to the Bangladeshi Ambassador.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw*

## 79 Myanmar nationals return home via Chinshwehaw border in past two days

A total of 79 Myanmar citizens – 47 males and 32 females – returned home from China through Township, Kokang Self-Administered Zone in past two days. Nineteen of them came back on 16 September, and 60 of them



Myanmar citizens returned from China have temperature checked at Chinshwehaw border on 17 September 2020. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

returned yesterday.

Among them, one is from Mandalay Region, two from Sagaing Region, three from Bago Region, 24 from Magway Region, 14 from Kachin State, two from Rakhine State, 14 from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 19 from Shan State.

Chinshwehaw COVID-19 Containment Working Committee has been handing over the returnees to state/region COVID-19 committees concerned.

Until now the committee handed over a total of 15,120 returnees – 8,428 males and 6,782 females– relevant COVID-19 committees.—Zin Zin (IPRD)  
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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# 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

51

## 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.

## Union Minister for Education 'attends' virtual SEAMEO education forum

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi joined the 9th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO member countries and associate member countries, which was held online yesterday, under the theme of 'School Reopening and Rehabilitation Strategy for Covid-19 in Southeast Asia'.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained the reopening strategy of schools jointly implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports after adopting the 80 assessment points.

Under this strategy, a total of 6,526 schools were reopened, out of 7,173 high schools across the country. However, these schools were closed on 27 August due to spread of COVID-19.

Dr Myo Thein Gyi also said that the MoE has set a policy of no discrimination, no one is left behind in education and no dropout rate from schools.

The preliminary results from Inter Census Survey 2019



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the 9th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO member countries and associate member countries via videoconference on 17 September 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

have shown the increasing rate of school enrollment has increased, the dropout rate at the primary level has lowered under

1 per cent.

The ministry also upgraded the courses of education colleges from 2 years to 4 years, develop-

ing into the degree colleges, and established the Myanmar Digital Education Platform.

He also highlighted the im-

portance of technology and infrastructure development in ASEAN during the Industry 4.0 era, on-line learning of soft skills for 21st century and fostering high-tech learning and high-touch learning to be able to generate locally and globally competitive young generation.

Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela, the director of SEAMEO Secretariat in Thailand, delivered a speech, followed by keynote presentations of Dr Libing Wang from the UNESCO Bangkok, Mr Francisco Benavides from the UNICEF EAPRO and Director-General U Ko Kay Win from the Basic Education Department.

Professor U Tun Aung Chin and Dr U Win Aung acted as the moderators at the panel discussion where Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam submitted their country papers, and the presentations of Australia and Spain.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Follow the rules and regulations strictly beginning from now with full cooperation

All people know that Yangon has the most infection cases. This is because Yangon has the highest population density. People move about a lot. It has the highest number of people coming in and going out. By this, I mean both internal and external travel. So I have to say that there have been some weaknesses in following the rules and regulations. We have to face the events as they are. If all of us followed the rules and regulations strictly beginning from now with full cooperation, we would be able to contain the situation in Yangon in the near future.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report on status of COVID-19 infection spread in the country, on 15 September 2020)*



MoSWRR organizes virtual workshop on M&E framework indicators



Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement holds virtual meeting on developing indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation Framework via videoconference on 17 September 2020. PHOTO:MNA

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a virtual workshop yesterday to develop indicators for the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

in implementing the objectives of relevant departments under the ministry.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye made an opening speech at

the workshop, saying that the ministry is working for the changes of each citizen; while providing assistance to the victims of natural and man-made disasters,

conflicts and armed clashes, the staff members of ministry is taking part in COVID-19 control measures across the country.

Since early 2019, the relevant departments have held discussions and workshops, and the draft version of Ministry-Wide Monitoring & Evaluation Roadmap which will be made into a book.

The Department of Social Welfare is tasked for developing indicators in social security coverage, the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (MCCD), the Social Cash Transfer, the gender equality and the domestic violence; the Department of Disaster Management for the indicators of natural disaster mitigation, natural disaster awareness campaign, early warning system, natural disaster and conflict related deaths and injuries and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons; the

Department of Rehabilitation for awareness campaign on landmines, anti-trafficking in persons, elimination of child soldiering, and rehabilitation.

The Central Statistical Organization is also developing the National Indicators Framework.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye added the M&E Framework of the ministry also meets the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and the NIF.

Ms June Kunugi, the Country Representative of UNICEF, expressed her thanks for an opportunity to work with the ministry in drawing the M&E Roadmap, and talked on further assistance in this process.

The virtual workshop was participated by the officials of relevant departments under the minister and the Central Statistical Organization.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

YCDC plans to implement Htantabin Industrial Park Project in year-end

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has planned to develop the Htantabin Industrial Park and Floating Market, which will be constructed by 14 companies, at the end of this year.

“YCDC implemented the Htantabin Industrial Park and Floating Market Project, and the works of changing farmland documents of remaining 11 farmers into Form-7 certificates are underway,” said Htantabin Township Hluttaw Representative U Htay Maw.

He added a total of 210 factories will be constructed in the project's first two years according to MoU.

The project will enable create job opportunities that are needed during COVID-19 and will completely change the development progress of Htantabin Township, he added.

The 2,237-acre project will be implemented after the farmland documents of 11 farmers are changed into Form-7 certificates.

The industrial park project will become a driving force for economic growth of Yangon and will assist socio-economic development of the rural area by creating job opportunities.—Than Soe *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

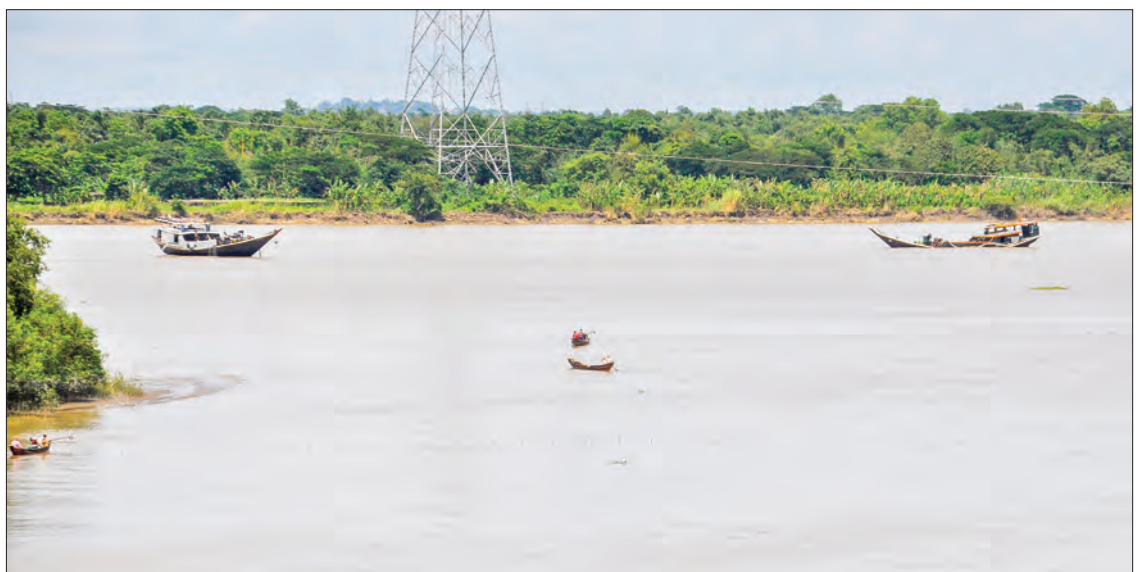


Photo taken on 16 September shows the place that will be implemented Htantabin Floating Market. PHOTO: THAN SOE



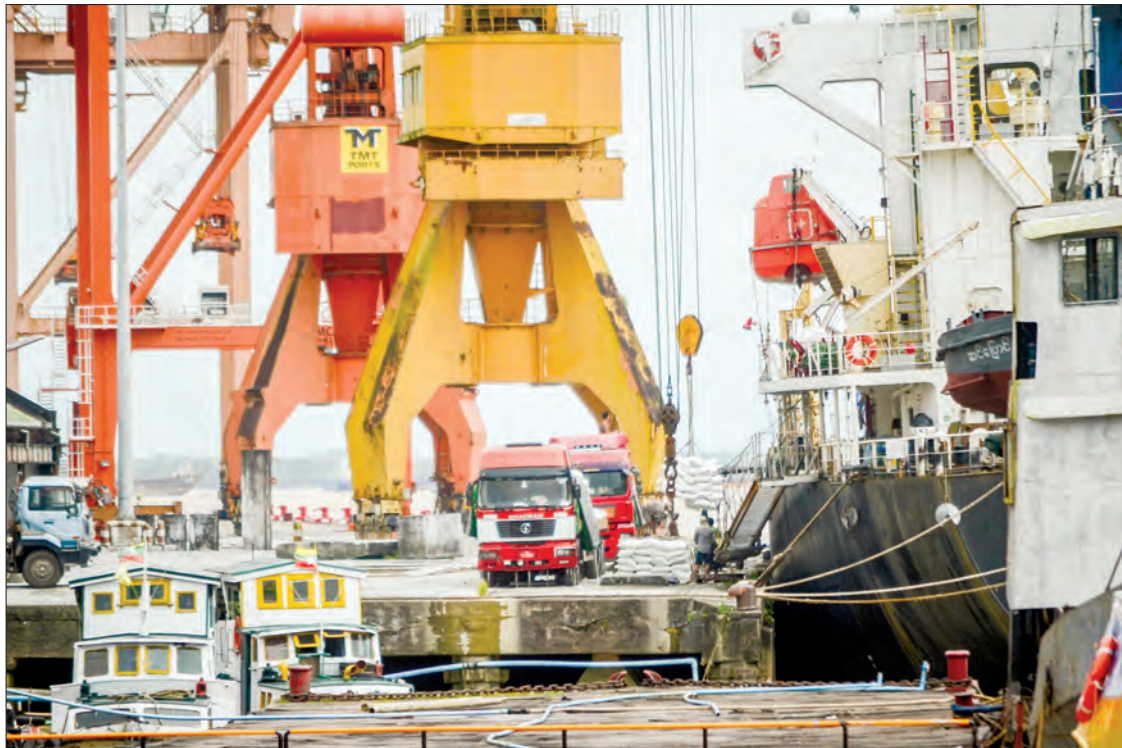
## Rice export through sea trade accounts for 84pc in current FY

MYANMAR maritime trade constituted 84 per cent of rice exports. It generated an estimated income of US\$646.759 million as of 4 September in the current financial year, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the borders have generated an estimated \$117.669 million in the current financial year.

MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the current FY and the country meet the export target before the financial year-end. Between 1 October and 4 September, Myanmar sent over 402,528 metric tons to neighbouring countries through border trade, while over 2.09 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.5 million tonnes.

Ove the past eleven months,



Myanmar exported more than 2.09 million tonnes of rice and broken rice by sea in the current financial year. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

the value of Myanmar rice and broken export was estimated at US\$764.428 million.

A surge in rice shipping through sea trade was contributed to meeting year's export target, MRF stated.

Border trade sharply dropped due to China clamping down on illegal trade and China's

precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus, U Aung Than Oo, vice president of MRF said.

"Illegal trade is highly witnessed between Myanmar and China borders in the previous years. This year, traders sent the goods via legitimate trade route, and trading volume sharply fell,"

he added.

Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and the Philippines. Madagascar is the fourth-largest buyer and Guinea the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

In the current FY, Myan-

mar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by China, Senegal, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 60 foreign markets.

ASEAN countries constitute 19 per cent of Myanmar's total rice exports with over 466,995 tonnes. In comparison, 29 per cent of total rice exports in Myanmar goes to China with over 726,185 tonnes, followed by African countries with 28 per cent after exports of around 703,078 tonnes. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports with over 498,515 tonnes while other countries represent four per cent of exports with over 106,482 tonnes.

Myanmar targets to export 4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the coming financial year 2020-2021, the MRF vice president said.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 financial year, which was on all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the 2018-2019FY. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## US dollar exchange rate on downward trend

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar exchange rate keeps falling in the local forex market, showing a drop of K30 over the two weeks.

In the third week of September, the exchange rate dropped a two-week low of K1,320 which slumped from the price of above K1,350 in the first week of September.

On 17 September, the US dollar exchange rate was opened at K1,321 in the forex market.

"The instability in the exchange rate posed difficulties to those stakeholders engaged in the agriculture and livestock supply chains including farmers, traders and exporters. That is why the stable exchange rate is vital of importance for the businesses," the businesspersons said.

At present, the local forex market sees the weak sentiment amid the coronavirus outbreak and the trade disputes between the US and China, the business experts shared their opinions.

"It will negatively affect the exporters if the exchange rate slips. The downward trend in Kyat-Dollar exchange rate and Kyat-Yuan exchange rate hurt the exporters to a large extent. In general, the appreciation of the domestic currency hampers exports," said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of Muse Rice Depot. He highlighted that the drop in the exchange rate is attributed to the US-China tensions and coronavirus resurgences. This year, the rate is remained

on the low side.

However, the depreciation of the US dollar against Kyat stimulates the importers of oil and pharmaceuticals as it makes the imports cheaper, businesspeople said.

This year, the exchange rate moves in the range of K1,456-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July and K1,335-1,390 in August.

Last year, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



US Dollar drops against Myanmar Kyat in past two weeks. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

## Only 6 trucks allowed in Tachilek-Mae Sai border crossing

THE surge in coronavirus cases in Myanmar led Thailand to close its border area in Mae Sai recently. Only six lorries are now allowed on Tachilek-Mae Sai bridge per day after negotiations of the two countries, stated the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in its news release.

Following the coronavirus resurgences in Myanmar, Thailand imposed a ban on Myanmar's trucks plying through Tachilek-Mae Sai No.2 Friendship Bridge on 15 September. Myanmar officials were prompt to negotiate with Thailand counterparts in the afternoon of 16 September, and six trucks will be allowed for entry and exit on the bridge.

The entry and exit restriction will undoubtedly hinder the flow of goods. The truck drivers are issued entry cards. They will be fined 100,000 baht or one-year imprisonment if they violate the rules published in Chiang Rai province, the UMFCCI stated.

Between 1 October and 4 September in the current financial year 2019-2020, Tachilek border trade topped over US\$137 million, with exports worth \$65.53 million and imports valued \$71.54 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports garlic, rubber, onion, dried tea leaf, pasteboard, manganese dioxide, used glass and plastic bottles and bark through Tachilek border. At the same time, it imports cement, gasoline, diesel, two-wheel tractor, iron rod, detergent powder, building materials and aviation fuel.

Besides Tachilek, Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteekhee, Kawthoung and Maese border areas respectively. Among them, Hteekhee performed the most extensive trade in border trade with Thailand, followed by Myawady.

Through the remaining border areas, Myanmar exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns and bamboo shoots to Thailand. This year, corn exports to Thailand rose significantly compared with the previous years, yet natural gas export drastically plunged. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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# Govt provides K20,000 each to people with no regular income in Dala

Government provides cash assistance of K20,000 each for 35,137 grassroots families in Dala Township, Yangon Region on 16 September 2020. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

THE government has provided cash assistance of K20,000 to each household in Dala Township that has no regular income

during the outbreak of a pandemic.

The 3rd cash providing ceremony was held in Thirizayar

Nawyahtar hall of Township General Administration Department on 16 September in line with the guidance of the

Ministry of Health and Sports.

At the ceremony, township administrator U Yin Htway explained the aim of the support of cash assistance. Then, they handed over the cash assistance to the respective ward and village-tract administrators. The cash assistance will reach the households through the neighbourhood and village-tract administrators.

The government has provided a total of K702,740,000 to 35,137 households in Dala township. Each family will receive K20,000. There are 24,225 households in 24 wards and 10,912 homes in 54 villages from 23 village-tracts in Dala township.

Additionally, the Yangon regional government has provided a thermometer and a hand speaker to each village-tract to prevent, control and treat COVID-19 in Dala township.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

# Myanmar sends 5 overseas workers, creates 17,332 local jobs during pandemic

MYANMAR has sent five workers to work in South Korea legally in August amidst the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

However, the workers need to pay K200,000 (US\$147) for COVID-19 test at the National Health Laboratory. South Korea is giving those workers who have at least 4 to 10 years of work experience priority. The Myanmar government has also

given the second priority to send overseas workers to their work destinations. Those citizens who need urgent medical treatment abroad are given first priority, though.

Besides, the government has created job opportunities for 17,332 domestic job seekers in some regions in August. Among the most popular areas, the commercial city of Yangon was ranked first with 9,983 new employees, followed by Bago Region with 2,349 and Mandalay

Region with 992, Ayeyawady Region with 934, Magway Region with 659, Sagaing Region with 530 and Taninthayi Region with 289.

Among the states, a total of 476 job hunters took jobs in Shan State while 327 others seized employment opportunities in Kayin State, 221 in Mon State, 122 in Kachin State, 92 in Kayah State, 91 in Chin State and 44 in Rakhine State. The Nay Pyi Taw council area offered jobs to 211 people in August.

Last year, over 300,000 Myanmar nationals went to work abroad for lack of jobs in the country.

Concerted efforts are being made by the ministry to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job seekers through a new online labour exchange management system, which serves as a bridge between the employers and the employees.—GNLM

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

# YRTA issues over 9,000 YBS driver smart cards

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has already issued over 9,000 driver smart cards to YBS drivers, said Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

Now, a total of 9,049 YBS drivers have already been issued with the driver smart cards, said YRTA. Among them, there are also female drivers.

The driver smart cards have been issued, and the YRTA disciplinary team will conduct surprise checks on the bus drivers whether they have smart cards or not.

"Moreover, suppose the passengers find undisciplined vehicles. In that case, they are urged to report to YRTA inspection team, calling Viber numbers: 09448147149, 09448147153 and 09448147154 and also sending the videos or photos as evi-

dence," YRTA confirmed.

The smart card contains the personal information of the driver such as NRC number, address and license number so that if any cases of accident happen, it will be easier to arrest the drivers. Also, it will be more straightforward for the authority to deal with the complaints and take action against the undisciplined drivers.

YRTA will also maintain a centralized database detailing

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

According to the data of the YRTA, over 4,500 YBS buses are run by 117 bus lines on 135 routes including the Airport Shuttle and the City Transit. The number of daily commuters is estimated to be 1.8 million before the outbreak of COVID-19.

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*



CAMEL'S PROFILE

# UK's PM urges Britons to flatten pandemic's 'second hump'

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Thursday he could close pubs earlier to "stop the second hump" of coronavirus cases, comparing the country's trajectory of resurgent transmission to a camel's profile.

His government is set to unveil new restrictions in England, which could also include greater social curbs, later on Thursday, initially targeting the northeast region where Covid-19 cases are surging.

It already imposed rules across England on Monday limiting socializing to groups of six people or fewer, as daily cases reach levels not seen since early May.

In an interview with The Sun newspaper, Johnson said new measures may be needed as "the only way to make sure the country is able to enjoy Christmas" and an alternative to another full lockdown.

"What I don't want to be doing is locking down sections of the economy," he said.

"We can grip it now, stop the surge, arrest the spike, stop the second hump of the drome-



Pubs in northeastern English cities like Newcastle must close early starting on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

dary, flatten the second hump," Johnson told the tabloid, before musing on his metaphor.

"Dromedary or camel? I can't remember if it is a dromedary or a camel that has two humps? Umm. Please check."

Dromedaries are Arabian camels which have only one

hump.

Johnson had compared Britain's first wave of virus cases to a sombrero hat, imploring people to "squash it" by obeying the nationwide lockdown in place from late March until June.

But the prime minister has

faced stinging criticism this week over the failure to achieve the "world-beating" testing and tracing system he promised by the summer.

The government admits that increasing demand for virus tests is posing problems, after hospital bosses warned delays

in the system were jeopardizing healthcare services.

It has blamed people who do not need tests overburdening the system, with ministers vowing to unveil new prioritization rules in the coming days.

"I really sympathize for those that can't get the test that they want," Johnson added, conceding "the system is really struggling with the real weight of demand".

"Often, and I don't in any way reproach people for doing this, but it's a fact, a significant proportion of those people are asymptomatic."

Johnson vowed to "continue to ramp it up" and has promised to have the capacity to test 500,000 people a day in place by October.

Britain has been the worst-hit country in Europe from the pandemic, with the government registering nearly 42,000 deaths.

The Office of National Statistics, which uses broader criteria for counting Covid-19 fatalities, has said closer to 58,000 Britons have died from the virus.

SOURCE: AFP

CONCERNED POPULATION

## Madrid backtracks on plan for targeted virus lockdowns

The local government of Madrid, the region of Spain hit hardest by the pandemic, on Thursday backtracked on its plans to introduce targeted lockdowns in areas with high numbers of coronavirus cases.

The region's deputy health chief, Antonio Zapatero, announced Wednesday that the local health department was planning to confine people in areas with the highest incidence of the virus, without naming which neighbourhoods would be affected. The announcement caused concern among residents of densely populated, low-income neighbourhoods in the south of Madrid which have a high rate of infections.

But on Thursday the justice minister in the Madrid regional government, Enrique Lopez, said the word confinement "generates anxiety" and he stressed that the government planned only to "reduce mobility and contacts" in areas with a high rate of infections but would not lock

them down.

"We need to send a message of calm to the population," he added during an interview with radio Onda Cero.

A source at the Madrid health department told AFP that a press conference would likely be held on Friday to outline the new measures, which would take effect on Saturday or Monday, depending on how early they could legally be implemented.

Spain has over 600,000 confirmed cases of the virus and 30,000 deaths from the respiratory disease, one of the world's highest tolls.

The Madrid region accounts for around one-third of the country's active Covid-19 cases.

"We must do whatever it takes to control the situation in Madrid," Health Minister Salvador Illa said during an interview with Spanish radio when asked about the Madrid region's plans to introduce new virus measures.

SOURCE: AFP

REFUSED ENTRY

## Hasidic pilgrims at Ukraine border refuse to return despite Israel plea

HUNDREDS of Hasidic Jews were still massed at Ukraine's border, with some saying they had no intention of leaving, even though Kiev has refused their entry citing coronavirus and Israel has urged them to return.

Tens of thousands of Hasidic Jews head to the central Ukrainian city of Uman every Jewish New Year -- which falls on September 18-20 this year -- to visit the tomb of Rabbi Nahman, the founder of the Breslov Hasidic movement.

The believers departed for Uman this year even though both the Ukrainian and Israeli governments last month had urged them not to travel because of the pandemic.

Speaking to AFP from the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, one of ultra-Orthodox pilgrims, Itsik Cohen, said the believers were hoping for divine intervention.

"I'm waiting and praying that they open the borders, so we can have the privilege of being



Crowds of believers began building up on the closed Ukraine border and pilgrims were still refusing to leave. PHOTO: UKRAINE'S BORDER GUARD SERVICE./AFP

with our Rabbi, God willing," said Cohen, an Israeli Breslov Hassid from Jerusalem.

"We believe in God, and if God wants it this way, we need to do anything we can to show our determination, to the very last minute."

Ukrainian authorities said the situation had not changed since Monday when crowds of believers began building up on the closed Ukraine border and

pilgrims were still refusing to leave.

"They are dancing, they are singing, they are praying," the spokesman for the Ukrainian border guard service, Andriy Demchenko, told AFP.

He said that some 1,000 pilgrims were staying between Belarusian and Ukrainian border crossings, while more people were in Belarus.

SOURCE: AFP



# Volunteering is key to lessening public health burden

**C**OVID-19 positive cases have been climbing up since mid-August, reaching over 4,000 nationwide with 60 deaths yesterday.

Fever clinics, aggressive testing, contact tracing of primary and secondary contacts were the keys to control the virus. Acknowledging that early detection is essential to prevent the spread of the virus and deliver successful treatment, small-scale fever clinics have been set up aiming to divert people with mild or moderate symptoms away from hospital emergency departments and GP clinics to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Severe cases will still be provided treatment at hospitals.

We are taking pride for the volunteers and doctors who are providing medical care to the patients at the fever clinics nationwide in this time of crisis in our community while suffering from fatigue.

tients at the fever clinics nationwide in this time of crisis in our community while suffering from fatigue. Having doctors and volunteers at our fever clinics is like a breath of fresh air for the communities.

We also appeal to volunteers, especially local doctors who closed their private clinics, along with retired government servants, military medical service personnel and private doctors to come forward at this hour of need.

Volunteering to provide medical care to the needy can be considered donating medical services, which is different than other ways of helping out, both physically and mentally.

Meanwhile, special measures should be taken to ensure that all the needs of the community-based fever clinics are supplied and fulfilled, and we also encourage donating medical equipment and other needs of the clinics.

Sharing the public health burden reflects the noble mission of caregivers.

The efforts made by the Union Government have been aimed at slowing the spread of the virus to allow the health system to cope with the surge in cases.

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the role of the community fever clinics has become an important factor in providing healthcare services to the people, and in diagnosing possible COVID-19 patients because detecting suspected COVID-29 cases at earlier stages can prevent serious conditions from developing.

Fever clinics and public hospitals have been at the center of Myanmar's public health efforts to combat COVID-19. They are also considered to be the first line of defence in the fight against COVID-19.

We are taking pride for the volunteers and doctors who are providing medical care to the pa-

## KEEP HEALTH WORKERS SAFE TO KEEP PATIENTS SAFE

# WHO urges safety for health workers bearing brunt of virus

The UN health agency said that the pandemic had exposed health workers and their families to "unprecedented levels of risk".

TOO many doctors and nurses are paying the ultimate price while battling Covid-19, the World Health Organization said Thursday as it launched a charter aiming to boost safety for health workers.

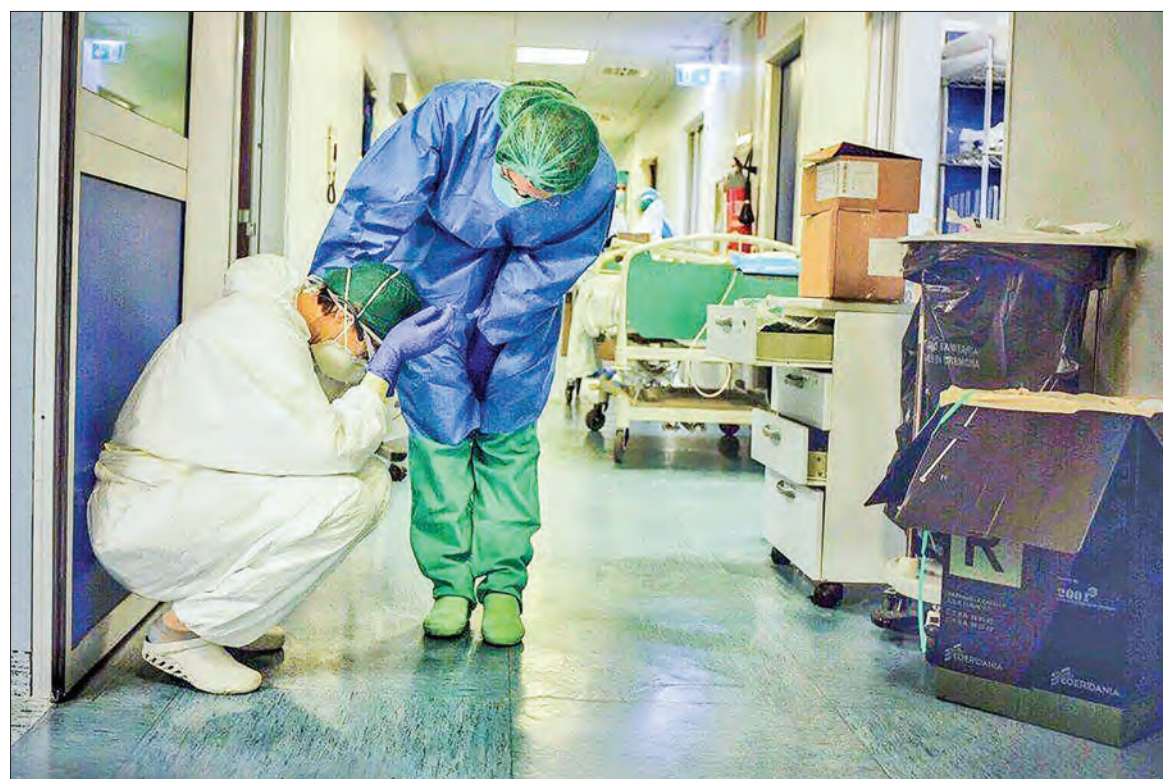
The UN health agency said that the pandemic had exposed health workers and their families to "unprecedented levels of risk".

While the coronavirus crisis has taken a heavy toll overall, data from many countries and regions show that healthcare workers have been infected at a far higher rate than the general population.

Health workers represent less than three per cent of the population in most countries and less than two per cent in low- and middle income countries, but account for around 14 per cent of all Covid-19 cases reported to the WHO.

In some countries, the proportion has been as high as 35 per cent, the body said.

On Wednesday, the International Council of Nurses said thousands of nurses had likely died in



Health workers face physical danger and psychological stress in the pandemic. PHOTO: PAOLO MIRANDA/AFP/FILE

the pandemic, pointing to numbers from just 44 countries showing 1,097 deaths by mid-August.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded all of us of the vital role

health workers play to relieve suffering and save lives," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

"We all owe health workers an

enormous debt, not just because they have cared for the sick, but because they risk their own lives in the line of duty."

The risks are not only phys-

ical. The WHO pointed to "extraordinary levels of psychological stress" on health workers, who have been asked to work long, draining hours battling Covid-19, living in constant fear of being infected.

Many are also living separated from their families, and facing social stigma amid fear they are carrying the virus.

### Depression, anxiety

These strains are increasing the likelihood of depression among medical professionals, who were already more at risk of suicide than the general public in a number of countries prior to the pandemic.

One in four healthcare workers surveyed for a recent study said they were struggling with depression and anxiety amid the pandemic, while one in three said they had suffered insomnia, the WHO said.

In its charter presented Thursday, the WHO emphasized the legal and moral obligations governments have to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of

health workers.

The charter among other things calls on countries to develop programmes that better protect the health and safety of medical workers, and to combine them with patient safety policies.

It also calls for better policies for protecting health workers from violence in the workplace, and for improving access to mental health support.

And it demands that minimum standards for patient safety, infection prevention and control, as well as for occupational safety are implemented across all care facilities.

Access to personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as sufficient training in how to use such equipment safely should also be guaranteed, it said.

"No country, hospital or clinic can keep its patients safe unless it keeps its health workers safe," Tedros said.

SOURCE: AFP

## ALARMING RATES OF TRANSMISSION ACROSS EUROPE

# WHO Europe warns of 'alarming' virus transmission rates

"Our quarantine recommendation of 14 days has been based on our understanding of the incubation period and transmission of the disease. We would only revise that on the basis of a change of our understanding of the science," WHO Europe's senior emergency officer Catherine Smallwood said.

THE World Health Organization warned Thursday of "alarming rates of transmission" of Covid-19 across Europe and cautioned countries against shortening quarantine periods.

The WHO's regional director for Europe Hans Kluge said the number of coronavirus cases seen in September "should serve as a wake-up call for all of us."

"Although these numbers reflect more comprehensive testing, it also shows alarming rates of transmission across the region," he told an online press conference from the Danish capital Copenhagen.

The health body also said it would not change its guidance calling for a 14-day quarantine

period for anyone exposed to the novel coronavirus.

"Our quarantine recommendation of 14 days has been based on our understanding of the incubation period and transmission of the disease. We would only revise that on the basis of a change of our understanding of the science," WHO Europe's senior emergency officer Catherine Smallwood said.

In France for instance, the recommended length for self-isolation in case of exposure has been reduced from 14 to seven days.

It is 10 days in the UK and Ireland, and several other European countries, such as Portugal and Croatia, are currently con-



Some European countries like France and Spain have seen a quick increase in cases. PHOTO: AFP

sidering reducing their recommendations.

"Knowing the immense individual and societal impact even

a slight reduction in the length of quarantine can have... I encourage countries of the region to make scientific due process

with their experts and explore safe reduction options," Kluge said, adding that the "concept of quarantine must be protected" and "continuously adapted."

### Covid 'fatigue'

The 53 member states of WHO Europe have recorded nearly five million cases of Covid-19 and more than 227,000 related deaths, according to the organization's own figures.

The number of daily cases recorded is currently between 40,000 and 50,000, comparable to a daily peak of 43,000 on April 1 -- although testing in many countries has increased considerably.

A new record was set on September 11, with some 54,000

cases recorded in 24 hours.

Following the introduction of strict measures in many countries around Europe, cases hit an all-time low in June, Kluge stressed.

"If you lift the pressure from the virus, naturally you're going to see this increase," he said.

However, noting reports that Europeans were experiencing Covid "fatigue", he said that rather than returning to lockdowns authorities ought to "focus on reducing harm, where and when possible."

"Engage the youth in finding new and safe ways to be social," Kluge said.

SOURCE: AFP

## Myanmar Gazette

# Heads of Service Organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name, Designation, Department	Appointment
1. U Win Maw Deputy Director-General, Oil and Gas Planning Department, Ministry of Electricity and Energy	Director-General Oil and Gas Planning Department, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
2. Dr Aung Kyaw Thin, Pro-Rector, Bhamo University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education	Rector, Bhamo University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
3. Dr Theingi Shwe, Pro-Rector, Dawei University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education	Rector, Dawei University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (6 - 10) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5 - 8) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



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

Bamar People's Party Chairperson U Aung Thant Tint presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 17 September.



### Esteemed voters and members of the public Greetings to you all

I am U Aung Thant Tint, Chairperson of the executive committee of Bamar People's Party. I wish for the mental and physical wellbeing of all citizens.

The coming 2020 elections will decide how strong the democratic transition for Myanmar will become. That is why the next Hluttaw needs to have representatives with the highest spirit, skills and experience.

The Hluttaw will be at the forefront of reforms in Myanmar in the future, and it is imperative to have the most capable representatives to strengthen the Hluttaw. This will ensure that the legislative pillar, one of the three pillars of government, will have the best opportunities with new people, ideas, opinions, strength and systems.

Our party thinks it's not enough to have time for change or time for thinking but time to act on changes. We need modifications to our nation's politics, economy and society.

- We need changes to eliminate poverty.
- We need changes to the rule of law.
- We need changes in social security.
- We need modifications to lower commodity prices.
- We need changes to end armed conflicts.

### Esteemed voters and members of the public

Unemployment rates are high in Myanmar, and healthcare is expensive and secure livelihoods are falling.

- We need to promote economic development to combat the rise of unemployment. We need to create new jobs. We need changes like that.
- We need to build more community hospitals, regional health departments and sub-departments to combat the rising costs of healthcare. We need to appoint sufficient doctors, nurses and midwives. Specialists need to provide medical services in rural areas regularly. We need to make these changes.
- We need to eradicate crime and violence to ensure social security. We need to eliminate

illegal drugs, corruption, environmental pollution. We need to take effective action against violence towards women, human trafficking, sexual abuse, murder and underage sexual misconduct. We need to make these changes.

### Esteemed voters and members of the public

Bamar people have been living with their own kingdoms, nation and lofty people for many years. We formed the Bamar People's Party (BPP) to emulate the positive aspects of this history. We have vowed to make BPP last and prevent negative images of the Bamar people in the future.

BPP promises to strive to prevent the Bamar people from fading away from history. We will make BPP lasting, avoid the national identity of Bamar people from vanishing, create opportunities to chart our own destinies, and ensure sovereignty is in the hands of all citizens.

The BPP's national policy is to pursue the middle path, implement a democratic system, aim for freedom, equality and equity, and stand for the capable voting citizens.

### BPP Policy

- (a) Eliminate poverty.
- (b) Ensure sovereignty is in the hands of the citizens.
- (c) Be united with all ethnic groups with transparency and free of all doubts.
- (d) Establish a federal union based on democracy.

### Esteemed voters and members of the public

The Union of Myanmar is home to diverse ethnic groups. They have different geographical locations, cultures and traditions, livelihoods and religions. That is why it is essential to have equal socioeconomic development among all ethnic groups. Socioeconomic development plays a crucial role, whether in implementing multiparty democracy system or establishing a federal union.

Therefore, why we need to promote healthcare, education, literature and culture, jobs and livelihoods, social security, protection of the elderly and people living with disabilities, youth capabilities, and protecting the rights of women and children to establish a modern and developed, prosperous society. The BPP, representing Bamar people, was formed to establish such a society by practising a political system based on the people.

### BPP's flag

The red background of the flag represents the courage and bravery of Bamar people. The peacock represents the national symbol of the Bamar people. The nine stars represent the 9 Bamar ethnic groups, and the blue undertone of the peacock symbolizes maturity

and tranquillity. The yellow out-line of the peacock represents the brightness of Buddhism, revered by the Bamar people.

### BPP's logo

The party's logo is the gaung baung, a component of the traditional Myanmar attire. It represents the cultural identity of the Bamar people. The red backdrop represents Bamar people's courage, and bravery and yellow symbolize the glow of Buddhism. BPP is the abbreviation of the party in English.



### BPP's objectives

1. We will continuously strive as our national duty for ethnic solidarity, strengthening sovereignty, and establishing a federal union.
2. To ensure all citizens can coexist with unity and peace for democracy affairs, national reconciliation, national stability, human rights, and equality.
3. To prioritize national interest over the interest of our party.
4. To ensure mutual trust, close relations, cooperation and peaceful coexistence among all Bamar ethnic groups and other ethnic groups in the nation.
5. To cooperate on the improvement of Bamar People's Party.

- Bamar party aims for public benefit.
- Thakin lineage, our Bamar, united in cooperation.
- Bamar symbol starts from the gaung baung, support in unity.

### Esteemed voters and members of the public

Bamar People's Party will have U Aung Thant Tint contesting for Pyithu Hluttaw seat for east Hline-thaya Township of Yangon Region, U Wunna Soe for Bamar affairs representative in Mon State, and Daw Than Than Sint for Bamar affairs representative in Kayin State. We request the residents of east Hline-thaya Township to vote for U Aung Thant Tint. The gaung baung is the symbol of our party. "Check the gaung baung – true Burmese blood."

Being eligible to vote is both a civic right and a human right. Thus, we urge members of the public not to lose those civic and human rights and cast your votes in the Multiparty Democratic General Elections on 8 November 2020.

Thank you all.

## Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election 18-19 September

CAMPAIGN speeches of Democratic Party For Myanmar New Society, Myanmar National Congress, Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 18 September and to be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 19 September. However, that of Pa-O National Organization (PNO) will only be published on 19 September. — MNA



## National League for Democracy (NLD) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

National League for Democracy (NLD) Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 17 September.



### People of the Union of Burma,

#### May you enjoy peace of heart and mind!

The General Elections will soon be taking place. The time has come for us to ask for the support, the supporting votes, of our people. In reality, the support of the people is at all times an essential for the success of any enterprise of worth for a nation. It is for this reason that the National League for Democracy (NLD), fully aware that we were one with the people and that the people were key, placed our trust in our people, and started out 32 years ago on the long and difficult journey towards a democratic federal Union.

The prominent milestones along this long journey are the General Elections of 1990, the by-elections of 2012 and the General Elections of 2015. Please allow me to speak about some memorable facts related to these milestones. In the 1990 elections the NLD, with the wholehearted endorsement of our people, was victorious in some 82% of the constituencies, but we were not even allowed to convene the Hluttaw. We only met with various kinds of oppression. However, the NLD flag remained aloft as we exercised the highest of the four levels of effort (Viriya), "to persist in an endeavour with the unwavering resolution even in the face of defeat", and continued along the hard journey. Because the NLD was born of the people, and was sustained by the strength of the people we held on to our convictions and survived a struggle that went on for more than two decades. Then in the 2020 by-elections, the support of the people enabled us once again to raise our banner of victory. We won 42 of the 43 seats that we contested, and the people's representatives of the NLD were, for the first time, in a position to serve in the legislature. Little more than forty in the Union Hluttaw that numbered more than six hundred was indeed a small minority, but we were strong in the support of our people.

In the 2015 elections, NLD representatives gained a majority of seats in the Union Hluttaw, and we were able to form a government of the people. A government that has been elected by the people bears responsibility as great as the honour it holds.

I would like to compare the challenges that the NLD had to face after we took on the responsibility of government at the end of March 2016 with an undertaking to create a valuable park out of a plot of land that had been neglected for many many years. A patch of ground ugly and dangerous with pits and hollows, rocks and sand, weeds and thorns, worthless trees and broken fences, a casualty of bad weather, bad methods, indolence and other ills. Much effort is needed to transform such a place into a safe, beautiful, valuable garden. It has to be cultivated ceaselessly, day and night, with all the strength, intellectual, physical and financial, at

our disposal. There is so much that needs to be done for long term sustainability, for progress and durability, for true worth that can be passed down through the ages and generations to come.

Our efforts to lay a firm foundation for lasting peace, prosperity and progress, which are the basic requirements for any nation, and to build a genuine democratic, federal Union, are based on the commitments we made to the people when the NLD was first founded. The will to continue until our efforts have resulted in durable success is the chief reason for our participation in the coming General Elections.

For the NLD, contesting in an election is an intrepid undertaking of which the outcome is dependent on the trust of the people. I say this because, under the present national constitution, our elections do not meet true democratic standards. In all the legislatures, Union, Regional and State, the people have the right to elect only 75% of the representatives. The remaining 25% are appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Tatmadaw. So to be able to form a government, the NLD will have to overcome a 25% handicap. To form a government that can consolidate the nation-building work on which we have begun, we need a majority in the Hluttaw. However, as we are only allowed to contest 75% of the seats, we need to win at least 67%. (In the elections of 2015, we won around 79% and was therefore able to form a government.)

To avoid the need for going into these percentage calculations, I would like to appeal to our people simply to vote overwhelmingly for us that we might win every seat that we are contesting. Every single vote is beyond price. Casting a vote in the right way is not only an indication that the duty of a citizen has been discharged, it is a clear sign that the rights of citizens are valued.

As we are asking for the support of your votes, you will wish to know what the NLD government has done to benefit the nation. It will not be possible to address this issue fully in a speech of restricted duration like this one. Please read about it on the Chair NLD Facebook Page. Our election manifesto, which spells out the policies and purposes of the NLD, can also be accessed on the same Facebook Page.

On this occasion, I would like to apprise you of some matters that we consider to be of importance to our nation. Let me revert to the park metaphor that I used earlier. The greatest need for our park is security. We must make our fences strong and safe against external predators, men and animals. The most effective, safest bulwark for the defence of the park that is the Union of Burma is our unity. It is for this reason that our government set up the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, and has been working incessantly to extinguish the fires of civil strife that have been causing so much suffering to our people, and to put an end to the political culture (it should rightly be termed barbarism) of resolving political problems through the use of arms and violence.

As we need unity for peace, so we need the rule of law for peace and unity. It is important that prevailing laws of the land should accord with our times and circumstances. This is why we tried in the Hluttaw to amend the Constitution, the crowning law of the land, that it might accord with the genuine democratic standards to which we all aspire. We did not succeed in achieving the required amendments; but it was a kind of victory because it gave those of our people who were interested in the issue an opportunity to learn why we wanted to amend the Constitution.

In defending the nation, we have to consider not only

internal perils but external dangers as well. There are tangible defences, such as the wall along our Western border. Our government approved twenty billion kyats for the project. More profound and challenging is the intangible, invisible task of defending our country in the international arena.

As our people well know, we are faced with many difficulties and troubles in our Rakhine State as a consequence of problems that began many decades ago. As we struggle with these challenges, we have met with criticism and pressure, rather than understanding, sympathy and help. Why is this? It is because, basically, there are few who know or wish to know, our country well. There are few who wish to learn about our country. To put it in another way, our country is not of great consequence on the world stage. We have not yet reached a notable level of import. We do not have enough resources to make us highly significant. "But our country is rich in natural gas, forests, minerals, precious gems," some might aver. I am not referring to such resources. The truly valuable resources of a nation are: peace and stability, the security guaranteed by the rule of law, sustainable development and, greatest of all, a people well endowed with education, health and spiritual strength. Our NLD government would like to continue to discharge our responsibilities, with the support of the people, until we reach a stage where such resources are firmly embedded in our soil. We would like to tend our valuable plot of land which, fenced and cleared, is emerging from wild neglect to take on the semblance of a garden, to make it safe and pleasurable with shade-giving trees, fruits, flowers and lush greenery. In the event of unpredictable cyclones, such as Covid-19, the gardeners must take the responsibility to use available resources with the rightness of purpose, wisdom and perseverance to ensure the least possible damage to the garden. We would like the people to be confident that "never again will our land revert to a wild state."

The emblem of our National League for Democracy is a field of red, depicting courage, emblazoned with a golden fighting peacock that represents students and youths who have played a crucial role in epoch-making movements, and a large, white star, the symbol of revolution. To elaborate, it is a banner that brings together and irradiates the courage and perseverance of people who can dare all for their country, the bright future of new generations, and the strength of change rooted in purity. Since 1988, we have been able with the support of the people to bear aloft the banner of the NLD, even in the hardest of times. In 2015, we were able to plant our banner of victory. Now in 2020, I appeal to the people to give us, with their supporting votes, the responsibility to make firm our banner of victory.

**Let us vote for the abiding firmness of the victory banner.**

**Let us vote NLD for true democracy.**

May the people of the Union of Burma enjoy peace of heart and mind!

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## Kokant Democracy and Unity Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Kokant Democracy and Unity Party Vice-Chairperson Daw Yin Yin May presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 17 September.



### Esteemed people

I am Kokant Democracy and Unity Party Vice-Chairperson Daw Yin Yin May. Our party's registration number is at 4, and our party was allowed to be officially formed on 7 June 2010.

**Thanks for having this opportunity to deliver the electoral speech.**

Ethnic Kokant people live in Kokant area located in the northeastern edge of Shan State in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since a long time ago. It is a long narrow land, and the total area is 2,000 square miles.

Kokant area shares a border with China's Yunnan Province to the east, and it shares a boundary with

Wa area to the south. Thanlwin River is located to its north. In its west, Thanlwin River divides Kokant and (Kutkai and Muse districts).

There are a lot of mountains, ravines and streams in the northern part of the area. It is a mountainous region and has a minimum flat area. It has a lot of mountains, ravines and streams, so farmers working in Terrace Farming obtain water for their crops from streams.

In addition to rice and maize, other commercial crops such as pear, walnut, sugarcane, and tea leaves are grown in the area.

In the past, chieftains ruled Kokant people. One out of 33 former chieftains in the Shan State was a Kokant chieftain in the monarchical era.

In Myanmar's successive political history, Kokant people took part in activities for the benefits of the entire Union, according to historical evidence.

When our country began adopting multiparty democracy system, we formed the Kokant Democracy and Unity Party to represent ethnic Kokant people, to take part in Myanmar's democratic transition as a political entity.

**I would like to introduce our party's five basic policies as follow:**

1. We will stay loyal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and all national races;
2. We will always respect the three leading national

causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty;

3. We will cultivate friendship with any party which has been formed under the Constitution, to benefit the country and the entire people;
4. Following the Constitution, we will always put in a lot of efforts to protect the birthrights of ethnic Kokant people. And under existing laws, we will work hard for socio-economic development of the entire ethnic Kokant population;
5. We will steadfastly take part in whatever roles of collective efforts to build a Democratic Federal Union.

### Esteemed national people

In conclusion, I would like to say that our party will diligently work side by side with political parties in the states/regions and mainland for the development of the Union.

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## WORLD NEWS

### Asia-Pacific ministers vow to boost health cooperation amid pandemic

TOKYO — Finance and health ministers from member countries of the Asian Development Bank on Thursday agreed to boost cooperation toward making healthcare systems accessible to anyone in developing countries, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Noting the importance of universal health coverage, over

40 ministers and deputy ministers from the Asia-Pacific region confirmed the need for "stronger collaboration" during an online symposium held as part of the second stage of ADB's annual meeting, according to the bank.

In a video message to the symposium, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso expressed hope that the ADB would "un-

cover the assistance needs of the region" and play a "leading role" in promoting universal health coverage.

The event was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Japanese government on the first day of the two-day online meeting of the Manila-based bank, owned by 68 member economies.— Kyodo

### Coronavirus epicentre Wuhan re-opens for international flights

WUHAN — China's Wuhan, ground zero for the coronavirus outbreak sweeping the globe, has re-opened for international flights, ending an eight-month moratorium since the deadly disease first emerged.

China stopped international flights in March as global alarm increased about the spread of Covid-19, but has now largely brought the disease under control at home through travel restrictions, testing and lockdowns.

A flight operated by South

Korean carrier T'way landed at Wuhan's Tianhe International Airport Wednesday morning with 60 passengers, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Officials in white hazmat suits, masks and visors were seen checking the passports of arriving passengers.

All international passengers arriving in Wuhan have to pass a test within 72 hours of departure, Li Yizhuo, director of Wuhan's Civil Aviation Office, told CCTV.

China still bans most for-

eigners from entering and those allowed have to undergo two weeks of quarantine.

South Korean budget carrier T'way will operate one weekly round-trip flight between Wuhan and Incheon International Airport, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

Other major Chinese cities — including Beijing and Shanghai— already allow direct international flights, but have tightened visa processes and health checks.—AFP

### Russia to supply 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to India

MOSCOW— Russia's sovereign wealth fund said Wednesday it had struck a deal with Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. to supply the Indian pharmaceutical company with 100 million doses of the "Sputnik V" COVID-19 vaccine.

"Deliveries could potentially begin in late 2020 subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by

regulatory authorities in India," a Russian Direct Investment Fund statement said.

On Aug. 11, Russia's health ministry registered the "Sputnik V" vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, making it the world's first registered vaccine against COVID-19. — Xinhua

### UK Welcomes Prospect Of Japan Joining 'Five Eyes' Intel Nations

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday, fresh from sealing a trade pact with Japan, welcomed the possibility of Asia's second-biggest economy joining the US-led "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance.

"It's an idea we are thinking about but we have a fantastic relationship with Japan, a

very close defence and security partnership," he told MPs at a parliamentary hearing where he also chastised China over Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

It would be the first non-English speaking member of the intelligence-sharing alliance grouping Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. — AFP



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"Business management, sales consultancy; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear clocks and watches, spectacles, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, bags, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Exhibitions (organization of-) for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; advice and advisory services for consumers; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy; organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear clocks and watches, spectacles, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, bags, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles; Online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear clocks and watches, spectacles, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, bags, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles; Mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear clocks and watches, spectacles, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, bags, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles" included in **International Class 35**.

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"Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations; oiled paper for medical purposes; cachets for pharmaceutical purposes; gauze for dressings; empty capsules for pharmaceuticals; ear bandages; eyepatches for medical purposes; menstruation bandages; menstruation tampons; sanitary napkins; sanitary panties; absorbent cotton; adhesive plasters; bandages for dressings; collodion for pharmaceutical purposes; bracelets for medical purposes; sanitary masks; wrapping wafers for dose of medicine; liquid dressings; breast-nursing pads; dental materials; diapers; diaper covers; fly catching paper; mothproofing paper; lacteal flour for babies; dietary supplements for humans; dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes; dietetic food adapted for medical purposes; beverages for babies; food for babies; dietary supplements for animals; semen for artificial insemination; incontinence diapers; cotton swabs for medical use; pharmaceutical preparations and substances; diagnostic reagents; diagnostic preparations; diagnostic preparations and reagents for medical, clinical or veterinary purposes; reagents for medical use; medicines for human purposes; chemical preparations and reagents for medical or veterinary purposes" included in **International Class 05**; and

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Dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Bank of Japan upholds policies as economy slowly revives

TOKYO — Japan's central bank on Thursday said it would maintain its ultra-loose monetary policy as the virus-hit economy gradually picks up, with no big changes announced the day after new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga took office.

Suga has pledged to continue the work of former leader Shinzo Abe, whose signature "Abenomics" programme involved vast government spending,

massive monetary easing and attempts to cut red tape. The Bank of Japan kept its negative interest rate of 0.1 per cent on bank deposits, as well as its policy of unlimited purchases of Japanese government bonds, to ensure their 10-year yields remain around zero per cent.

Haruhiko Kuroda, the bank's governor, said the institution would continue to work closely with the government, adding he has

"no plan" to step down before his term ends in 2023.

"As new Prime Minister Suga took office yesterday, we will continue to support the Japanese economy with the current monetary policy," he told reporters.

Through its stimulus measures, the bank will "make efforts to ensure financing of businesses and stability of financial markets" in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, Kuroda added.—AFP ■



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda (L) said he had 'no plan' to step down before his term ends in 2023. PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP







## MFF president contributes US\$1 mln to combat pandemic

THE Ayeyarwady Foundation through the foundation chairman U Zaw Zaw, who is also the president of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) donated US\$1 million for the upcoming COVID-19 prevention and combatting processes, according to the foundation.

The cash donation will be used to build temporary treatment centre which will be next to the National Football Academy in Yangon.

The centre can accommodate up to 416 COVID patients and will be managed by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The centre will be fully air-conditioned and the Ayeyarwady foundation will donate all the fund required for the whole infrastructure, logistics, and supplies.

“We will accommodate patients at this new centre, starting from Sunday (20 September 2020). The pandemic has changed a lot of things within months as it is an unexpected crisis for all of us,” said U Zaw Zaw, MFF president and Ayeyarwady Foundation chairman.

The second wave of the pandemic make our country to reach in a difficult time. It

is a massive challenge for us. I have decided to help my country with all-out effort as a person in football and also a person in social activities,” the MFF president added.

The foundation Chairman U Zaw Zaw has been closely supervising the setting up of 416-bed temporary treatment centre to be completed in time.

Healthcare services will be provided by a team of 100 members which includes healthcare professionals, pharmacists, and volunteers, according to the Ayeyarwady Foundation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



MFF president U Zaw Zaw (Right) supervises the setting up of full-facility healthcare infrastructure in Yangon. **PHOTO: AYEYARWADY FOUNDATION**

## Ayeyarwady United's Raphael Success runs for MNL top goalscorer



Ayeyarwady United's expatriate player Raphael Success seen in a previous MNL match against Sagaing United at Thuwunna Stadium on 15 September 2020. **PHOTO:MNL**

AFTER completion of the Week 16 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020, Raphael Success from Ayeyarwady United is still standing as the top scorer with 14 goals, according to the statement with the MNL yesterday.

Raphael Success is well known for his tenaciousness, close ball control, dribbling ability, speed and good finishing in his team.

In the meantime Emeka Ndubuisi and Donald Bissa

from Hantharwady United followed Raphael Success with 12 goals each.

Next Myanmar young football star Win Naing Soe from Yadanarbon FC is standing in the fourth place of the top goalscorers' list with eight goals.

Meanwhile, Patrick from Sagaing United and Emmanuel from Yangon United followed Win Naing Soe in Week 16 with 7 goals each. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## FIFA estimates COVID-19 will cost global football US\$11 billion

BELLINZONA, Switzerland — FIFA on Wednesday (Sep 16) put the cost of COVID-19 on football around the world at US\$11 billion in lost revenue.

The pandemic has already led to more than 150 football associations to seek financial help from the US\$1.5 billion emergency relief fund set up by football's governing body.

Olli Rehn, chairman of FIFA's coronavirus steering committee, laid bare for the first time the true financial impact the virus has had on the game through fixture list chaos, empty stadiums and loss of TV rights revenue.

“It's a huge number and it covers the football economy in its entirety, including all youth academies,” Rehn, a Finnish

politician and governor of the Bank of Finland, told a press conference.

“This will impact next year as well, there is a carry over.

“That is why this COVID-19 relief fund is not time-bound - they may request loans later on if they need to,” Rehn, who is also independent deputy chairman of the FIFA Governance Committee, said.

He said that while Europe was hit hardest in terms of absolute cost, it was the associations outside Europe which “have suffered more”.

“In particular in South America, many on account of their relative means and the spring to autumn season,” he said.

Last month European Club

Association chairman Andrea Agnelli predicted lost revenue of €4 billion (US\$4.7 billion) over two years for its member clubs.

Each national association can request a FIFA grant of US\$1 million (US\$2 million for confederations) plus US\$500,000 for women's football.

Loans are available to national associations up to a maximum value of US\$5 million (US\$4 million for confederations).

Rehn was at pains to stress that unlike in the past it was imperative the money made available by FIFA “is being used for the right purposes”.

“Corruption has no room in football,” he stated.

“Good governance is at the heart of this COVID-19 relief fund,” he said.—AFP ■

## Virus rules leave Sheffield Utd boss Wilder all at sea

LONDON — Sheffield United manager Chris Wilder says he is baffled by coronavirus rules that allow fans into stadiums for a pilot scheme at the same time as tough new restrictions are in place to limit social mixing.

Eight English Football League matches are set to be played in front of crowds of up to 1,000 this weekend, in the second, third and fourth tiers.

The government granted the EFL permission to use se-

lected fixtures as pilot events to reintroduce spectators to venues on a socially distanced basis.

But the games will take place just days after tighter rules were brought in to stem an upsurge in Covid-19 cases.

Wilder referred to the “rule of six” as he expressed his confusion. Social gatherings of more than six people are banned in England from this week.

“I just don't know where we are with it all, I've got to say, I

haven't got a clue,” he said.

“Am I allowed to see my nan (grandmother)? Am I allowed to see my mum? But then we can have 1,000 people in a ground but we can't have 15,000 and then I can't go and have a pint with my mates unless there's only six of us.

“So I've got to say I'm like the majority of the people in this country -- I have not got a clue what's going off, haven't got a clue.”—AFP ■