

NATIONAL

Arakan National Party (ANP) and Danu National Democracy Party present their policies, stances, work programmes

PAGES-10, 11

NATIONAL

UEC passes advance ballot papers to MoFA for overseas citizen voters

PAGE-2

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Friday, 25 September 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Notification 196/2020 8th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME (24 September 2020)

1. In order to control the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) more effectively in Yangon Region, the Ministry of Health and Sports issued Order 107/2020 dated 20-9-2020 and Order 108/2020 dated 22-9-2020 respectively. The Stay-at-Home order has been issued for the people in townships of Yangon Region not to go to their workplaces, except for the essential businesses included in the orders.
2. According to these orders, the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in exercising the rights in Article 100 of Social Security Law 2012 and in accordance with Article 31 (b-2) and its bylaw 136 (b), will pay 40 per cent of contribution for June 2020 to the insured persons, as a family assistance fund, who included in the Stay-at-Home order, worked at the private industries, factories, and departments until 23-9-2020 and paid their contribution for June 2020, although they have not pay their contributions for 36 months at least before June 2020.
3. Employers or their representatives of the private industries, factories and departments which are registered at the Social Security Board and entitled to the stipulations in the above paragraph 2 may apply for social security fund for their employees at the relevant social security office or through Webportal <https://ssbmyanmar.org> or Website-<https://ssb.gov.mm> since the day this notification has been released.
4. The above-mentioned stipulations also come into effect since the day this notification has been released.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

88 Myanmar nationals repatriated from Malaysia by relief flight



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 24 September 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

A relief flight of Air Asia landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday, with 88 Myanmar nationals who wanted to return home as they were facing difficulties in Malaysia.

The flight was organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and the respective companies.

The returnees have to stay the 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels after immigration processes and medical tests, followed by the 7-day home quarantine, under the arrangements of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government.

In accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is also working together with the respective organizations to repatriate the citizens who have no valid documents and who were held at the detention centres after verifying their citizenship.—MNA

(Translated By Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
MoC organizes meeting on trademark registration
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Education, TVET coordination group hold 15th meeting online
PAGE-4



BUSINESS
Dollar exchange rate continues slumping despite CBM purchase of \$12.7 mln within 4 days
PAGE-5

LOCAL NEWS
ICT online panel discussion to be launched on 27 September
PAGE-6

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.

UEC passes advance ballot papers to MoFA for overseas citizen voters



UEC Director-General presents advance ballot papers and envelopes to the Director-General for the Planning and Administrative Department of MoFA on 24 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Election Commission's Director-General U Khin Maung Oo presented third batch of ballot papers and envelopes for 43,422 Myanmar eligible voters abroad for advance voting to Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aung Soe Win yesterday.

The township sub-commissions of UEC scrutinized the copies of Form-15 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the voters in foreign countries.

The UEC handed over first batch of the advance ballot papers and envelopes for 188 overseas eligible voters on 18 September and for 20,426 voters in the second time on 23 September.

The third batch ballot papers and envelopes were for the eligible citizen voters who will cast ballots at the Myanmar embassies in Bangkok, Singapore, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur.

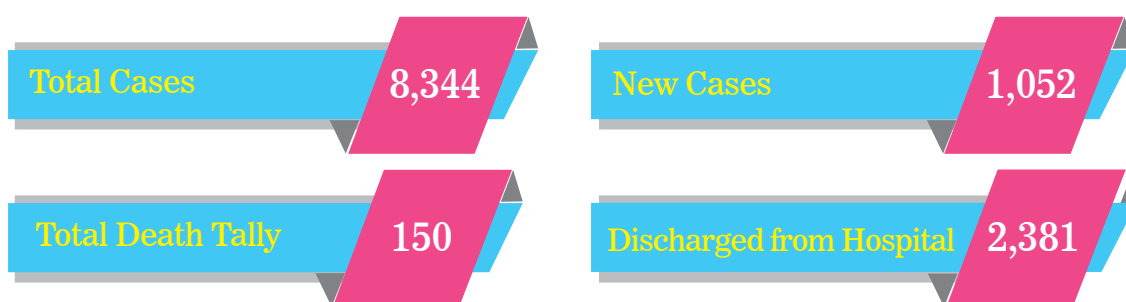
Until now, the UEC has presented advance ballot papers and envelopes for a total of 64,036 voters to the MoFA. – MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

1,052 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 September, total figure rises to 8,344

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 8,344 after 1,052 new cases were reported on 24 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 8,344 confirmed cases, 150 died, 2,381 have been discharged from hospitals and 416 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 24 September 2020



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



Ministry of Health and Sports

Online application for trademark registration to be introduced on 1 Oct

THE Ministry of Commerce will launch the soft opening of filing trademark applications online on 1 October.

According to the ministry's notification 63/2020 issued on 28 August 2020, the first stage of filing trademark applications will be accepted with WIPO File System starting from 1 October via trademark registration

service businesses, companies and law firms. The date for the second stage of the registration process will then be announced.

IP Myanmar Facebook Page will broadcast live the soft opening of the trademark registration.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

44

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.

MoC organizes meeting on trademark registration

UNION MINISTER for Commerce Dr Than Myint presided over a virtual meeting yesterday morning with businesspersons, representatives from law firms and relevant organizations to explain the process of trademark registration in line with the ministry's Order 63/2020 dated 28 August 2020.

The Union Minister discussed the need to comply with international standards in practising copyright system and to match with the existing politics, economy and education of the country.

He remarked that the implementation of four copyrights laws should be carried out one after another to lessen possible difficulties, to ensure sufficient human resource and to overcome technical problems.

The Union Minister added that the Trademark Law will be implemented first, followed by the Industrial Design Law, and the Copyrights Law on Literary and Artistic Works and the Patent Law, as well as the



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint chairs virtual meeting with businesspersons, representatives from law firms and relevant organizations on trademark registration on 24 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Geographical Indications.

In implementing the Trademark Law, the existing First to Use System will be changed into the First to File System that favours the applicants. The ministry has issued the Order 63/2020, informing that registration can be started from 1st October 2020, with the objective of implementing a smooth transition.

Deputy Minister U Aung

Htoo that Myanmar has adopted the copyright laws in line with international copyright laws and procedures of the World Intellectual Property Organization, however, these legal documents have not come into force until now.

The trademark registration could be done in line with the Trademark Law although it was carried out under the Registration Act.

Under the new registration system, the WIPO file system could be used in filing applications for trademark registration, supporting the Ease of Doing Business, and the registration fee could be paid from mobile banking.

Adopting copyright laws in Myanmar was supported by WIPO, JICA, JPO, USAID, and USPTO.

The Union Minister also

expressed thanks to these partner organizations and confirmed to coordination with them.

Filing application for registration of Trademark could be done through the law firms or by individuals; the MSMEs and the copyright department will work together for the business firms in MSMEs sector.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Strenuous struggle

The outbreak of COVID has been for over six months or half a year. Our people have become tired during this period. But we would be satisfied with our tiredness in the future when we have gained success after our strenuous struggle. Our understanding that victory was achieved through our collaborative efforts would turn into a great strength for us.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's update on government measures against COVID-19 pandemic, on 22 September 2020)



Education, TVET coordination group hold 15th meeting online



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi (L) participates in the meeting of Education and TVET Sector Coordination Group via videoconference on 23 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Education and TVET Sector Coordination Group organized their 15th meeting on 23 September.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, permanent secretaries and representatives from the related ministries, representatives from development partner

organizations, the directors-general and the deputy directors-general from the departments under the ministry.

At the meeting, the Union Minister stressed the improvement of Human Development Index Value in Myanmar from 0.566 in 2015 to 0.584 in 2018; meanwhile, the Human Capital Index has also reached 0.48 in 2020 from 0.47 in

2018.

He also said the decline of dropout rate at the primary level to less than 4 per cent and the significant increase in school enrolment rates compared between the 2014 Census and the 2019 Interim Census.

Opportunities for learning technical and vocational education training have increased in the

country, while the global ranking of Yangon University, Mandalay University and some other universities has risen.

The Union Minister also explained home-based learning TV programmes from the Education Channel, online lessons from the Myanmar Digital Education Platform and through DBE boxes for the students in far-flung are-

as with no internet access, with providing ICT equipment to the schools.

The ministry is drawing the Comprehensive Education Development Plan suggested by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State headed by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Plans are underway to draft the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030) based on the fruitful results of its previous version in 2016-2021 period, the advice from the relevant ministries, local/international experts, partner organizations and stakeholders.

Ms Min Jeong Kim, the head of UNESCO Myanmar and the Coordinator of ETVSCG, talked about future assistance of partner organizations for education development. The directors-general from the respective education departments presented their sectors, followed by the discussion of the ETVSCG Co-Facilitator and Finland's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Riikka Laatu before the concluding remark of the Union Minister.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

National level tests held to enter 9th ASEAN Quiz

SELECTED Myanmar students took written tests and interview session at the national level quiz yesterday in preparation for entering the regional level 9th ASEAN Quiz which will be held in Singapore.

A team of judges led by Dr Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, Rector of National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, interviewed the 10 students who had passed writing tests via videoconference. The Myanma Radio and Television, in-charge department of SCI-Myanmar, organized the personal interview

session.

Ministry of Education's Department of Higher Education primarily selected a total of 34 students nationwide for 9th ASEAN Quiz-National Level.

Out of them, 30 students sat for the written tests held online on 20 August, and 10 of them qualified for the personal interview.

Five of the students who pass the personal interview will represent Myanmar at the 9th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level.

ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level that allowed participation of students aged between

15 and 18 years old of ASEAN member countries aims to enhance the ASEAN knowledge, to foster ASEAN spirit and to promote cooperation among ASEAN youths.

ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) launched the quiz project in 2002, and ASEAN member countries, in turn, hosted the quiz competition that takes place every two years.

Thailand hosted the quiz competition in 2002, Brunei in 2004, Malaysia in 2006, the Philippines in 2009, Cambodia in 2012, Viet Nam in 2014, Laos in 2016 and Indonesia in 2018.

Singapore will host 9th



Students participate in online interview session of 9th ASEAN Quiz-National Level on 24 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level this year, and its 10th edition event will be organized by My-

anmar in 2022. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Dollar exchange rate continues slumping despite CBM purchase of \$12.7 mln within 4 days

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar exchange rate keeps falling in the local forex market. However, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) purchased US\$12.7 million in the auction market within four days, forex market data showed.

In a bid to keep the exchange rate stable, the CBM purchased 1.8 million dollars on 21 September, 3.3 million dollars on 22 September, 3.8 million dollars each on 23 and 24 September at an auction market rate.

The CBM has purchased \$30.9 million in the auction market between 1 and 24 September.

Despite the CBM's purchase, a dollar touched a low of K1,312 at the opening time on 24 September.

"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 businesspeople 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.

This year, the exchange rate moved 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)

Chilli growers earn high profit



Workers harvest chillies at a farm in Ngathayauk Township, Mandalay Region in January 2019. PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)

WITH chilli grown on a commercial scale in Myinmu township, the local chilli growers are earning a good income, according to the local chilli growers.

"The chilli plants are mostly grown with two or three feet away from one another. Around 7,000 plants of chilli can be grown in an acre of land. The chillies have to be plucked after two months, and it can be plucked

twice a month. The oldest chilli plants can produce more chilli. For the first time, the chilli can yield around 200 visses (one viss equals 1.6 kg). The retail price of fresh chilli is K1,600 per viss in the market. So, the growers can earn over K300,000 per acre from chilli plantations. If there is some space to grow the plants, the local people should grow the chilli plants," said U Hla Myint,

a chilli grower from Myinmu township.

The cultivation of chilli costs K600,000 per acre. Each chilli plant can be picked up 14 times. Monywa merchants come to buy the chilli right on the chilli fields. So, the chilli is one of the best crops to grow recently. — Aung Soe Phay (Myinmu)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



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Myanmar-China trade exceeds \$40 bln in incumbent government period

THE value of Myanmar bilateral trade with the neighbouring country China through maritime trade and border trade has stood at an estimated amount of US\$42.29 billion in the incumbent government period, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The ministry reported that the imports outperformed the exports in trade with China over the past four years, with exports reaching over \$19.7 billion and imports valued at over \$22.5 billion.

Between 2016-2017FY and 2019-2020 (as of August), China has been Myanmar's largest trade partner beyond the regional states. China accounted for 80.4 per cent of total trade in the FY2016-2017 with an estimated trade value of \$6.28 billion, 78.8pc in the FY2017-2018 with a trade value of over \$7.05 billion, 57.45pc in the FY2018-2019 with \$5.9 billion and 58.7pc in the FY 2019-2020 (Oct-April) with \$3.56 billion respectively.

Rice, various types of peas,

sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, gem and animal products are primarily exported to China. In contrast, machinery, plastic raw materials, CMP raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

The border trade value (\$22.8 bln) is relatively higher than the maritime trade value (\$19.47 bln) in the bilateral trade between Myanmar and China.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products to China through the border trade, which is often halted, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China is too high.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the relevant departments and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negoti-

ating with China counterparts.

"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," said an official of Myanmar Rice Federation.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade. Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce is trying to boost exports of rice, broken rice, agro-products, fruits and fisheries to China through diplomatic negotiations.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar is carrying out its external trade mostly with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. — Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

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

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORSHay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 97442414**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

ICT online panel discussion to be launched on 27 September

By Nyein Nyein

THE ICT talk online panel discussion led by Yangon Region Computer Industry Association will be held on the motion of "Health and ICT" through Zoom App from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on 27 September.

The association will launch the panel discussion to provide

support through ICT technology to the doctors and health workers who are fighting COVID-19 second wave and will discuss matters to avoid or to apply things related to COVID-19.

The panel discussion will be broadcasted live through the CIA-Yangon Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MCIA.Yangon/>.

During the discussion, U Zayar Phyoo @Jack Chen (MD/ Technovisions Co., Ltd) will be the moderator for the panel discussion and the panelists are Dr Tun Thura Thet, Founder & CEO/ Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd, Dr Khin Khin Gyi, Director/Ministry of Health and Sports, Dr Tin Aung Kyaw, Assistant Director/Yan-

gon General Hospital and Dr Htet Zan Linn, CEO/On Doctor Company Limited.

As of 24 September at 8 am, Myanmar has reported 7,827 COVID-19 confirmed cases including 133 deaths, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Shan State govt decides not to hold Taunggyi hot-air balloon festival this year

SHAN State government has decided not to launch his year Taunggyi hot-air balloon festival, which is one of the significant festivals in Shan State, according to the Shan State government cabinet regular meeting.

Because of COVID-19 pandemic, the festivals including Tazaungdaing are not celebrat-

ed to avoid crowding of the people, according to the Shan State government.

The Tazaungdaing hot-air balloon festival will not be organized this year due to the outbreak of pandemic, said an officer from the Shan State Traditional Hot-air Balloons Association.

The Tazaungdaing Hot-Air Balloon Festival is celebrated for ten days annually. In 2019, it was celebrated for nine days from 4 November to 12 November. Many travellers were visiting the first day of the festival, and it is one of the famous festivals in Myanmar.

Among Tazaungdaing festi-

vals, Taunggyi's hot-air balloons and firework-launching competition is the most prominent festival. The origin of Taunggyi's hot-air balloons contest dates back to 1894 when the British first held the hot air balloon competitions in Taunggyi.

—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Onion price sharply increases in Seikphyu

THE onion from Seikphyu township is sold well at K800 per viss in the local market, up from around K400-K500 per viss previously.

The local farmers from Seikphyu township mainly grow the onions. The onions are also exported annually to foreign countries through townships and border areas from across the country. The onions can be harvested in March and April.

The local onion growers are selling the onion in the onion commodity depots depending upon the onion market for their family livelihood, education, health and social matters.

Then, the onion from Seikphyu Township are sent to Yangon Bayint Naung commodity depot, Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Pyaw towns and also sent to the border routes such as Muse, Myawady and Sittway towns.

At present, the border areas are closed temporarily be-



A woman sorts onions at a warehouse in Seikphyu, Magway Region. **PHOTO: KO ZWE (A NYAR MYAY)**

cause of the pandemic and the commodity flow is faced with difficulties. So, the onions are sent only to the townships from across the country, and the price of onion dropped this year. From April to September, the cost of onion is around K400-500 per viss. Because of the difficulties in the storage of onion, the local onion

growers are selling at a low price.

Recently, the locally produced onions are consumed not only in the country but also demanded from Bangladesh. So, the price of onion has risen again these days. The price of onion ranges between K700 and K800 per viss depending upon the size of the onion. These days, about

10,000 tonnes of onion enter Seikphyu commodity depot.

The local onion growers will be faced with the losses of the profit by growing onion. So, the growers expect to get more price of onion before Thadingyut Festival.

—Ko ZWE (A Nyar Myay)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

38 students attending Huawei's five-day ICT technology programme

THIRTEEN-EIGHT outstanding local students from computer and technological universities across Myanmar were selected to embark on a 5-day educational programme "Sky Seeds for the Future" for cutting-edge technology from 21st to 25th September.

The selected students will study cutting-edge technologies such as 5G, AI, cloud computing to better equip them with ICT

knowledge, crucial for their future career advancements. An awards ceremony for students will be held on 25th September, after the conclusion of the programme.

This 4th batch of the programme is conducted online due to current health and safety concerns this year.

In 2020, Huawei will offer a 5-day online programme in-

cluding 6.5 hours of compulsory courses, 6.5 hours of live streamed sessions and 1 hour of elective course with free access to additional resources for self-learning about Chinese culture.

Seeds for the Future, a global flagship CSR programme of Huawei, aims to foster local ICT talents, enhance knowledge transfer, promote a better

understanding and interest in ICT sector, and improve and encourage regional building and participation in the digital community.

Introduced in 2017, Huawei's "Seeds for the Future" has since enrolled 68 Myanmar students including this batch, which in total has included more than 5,770 students from over 500 universities worldwide.—GNLM

COVID TRENDS

Virus death rates climbing in seven countries, warns EU



Romanian workers are in high demand as farms and home care firms throughout western Europe clamour for help from the east, even with borders closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SEVEN EU countries are of “high concern” because of rising virus death rates, with

worrying trends in several other countries, the EU’s disease control agency warned on Thursday.

The seven have “an increased proportion of hospitalized and severe cases” among

older people and “increasing or high death notification rates are already observed... or may be observed soon”.

The countries outlined were Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Malta.

Other countries have observed rising infection rates primarily among younger people, who are less at risk of developing severe symptoms.

The European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention singled out 13 European countries in this situation, including France and Britain.

However, because of developments in recent days, most of these countries “now appear to meet the criteria for classification as countries with high concerning trends”, because of an increase in infection rates

among older age groups, the ECDC said.

A third group were considered to be stable, where the risk was “low” for the general population and “moderate” for risk groups.

The ECDC noted that in the EU, “the vulnerability of the population to infection remains high as available data from seroprevalence studies suggest that the level of immunity in the population is less than 15 per cent in most areas within the EU/EEA and the UK”.

“Most of the people can still be infected,” ECDC director Andrea Ammon told reporters during an online briefing with European Commissioner Stella Kyriakides.

SOURCE: AFP



MARSEILLE “MAXIMUM ALERT”, PARIS “ELEVATED ALERT”

Paris, Marseille hit out at new virus restrictions

OFFICIALS in Paris and Marseille reacted angrily Thursday after the national government announced tighter restrictions to curb a flare-up of coronavirus cases, in particular for restaurants and bars already hammered by a two-month lockdown last spring.

Health Minister Olivier Veran announced Wednesday that bars, restaurants and gyms in Marseille will shutter from Saturday, while eating and drinking establishments in Paris and 10 other cities will close at 10:00 pm starting Monday.

Marseille was put on “maximum alert”, while Paris was at “elevated alert” – the second tier

on a new sliding scale system of infection control measures.

The Mediterranean port city objected that it was not consulted ahead of time, and insisted that steps taken locally have started bearing fruit in braking the virus outbreak.

Under the new measures, public establishments such as theatres, museums or cinemas in Marseille will also have to close unless they have strict virus barrier measures in place.

The city asked for a 10-day reprieve to show its own measures were working.

“Once again our territory is being sanctioned, punished,

singled out,” Marseille’s deputy mayor Benoit Payan told reporters.

For her part, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said she had lodged a formal protest.

Apart from restricted bar and restaurant hours starting Monday, Paris will also see gyms and other indoor sports facilities closed. “I do not think that the closure of bars after 10:00 pm is a pertinent measure,” Hidalgo told France 3. “It is hard to understand: how will it prevent the spread of the virus? How will the fact that we can no longer exercise help us, while sport is an important part of keeping us



The number of new coronavirus cases have surged in France in August, the main holiday month in France. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

healthy with strong immune systems?” she asked.

“How can you understand an easing of health protocols in schools on one hand, and on the other we have to close bars at 10:00 pm?”

Veran’s announcement came as the public health agency reported 13,072 new cases in 24 hours countrywide – a new daily record since a March-to-May lockdown was lifted.

SOURCE: AFP

“PAINFUL” CANCELATIONS

Met Opera cancels entire 2020-21 season over coronavirus

NEW York’s Metropolitan Opera on Wednesday announced the “painful” cancellation of its entire 2020-21 season over the still-spreading coronavirus, a major blow for the city’s decimated arts and culture industry.

The announcement is a dire signal for live arts institutions in New York – including the renowned Broadway theatre

district – which have sat dark since the pandemic hamstrung the city starting in mid-March, and look set to remain that way indefinitely.

Shows at the Met, a 3,800-seat bellwether for the return of live performances, now will not resume before September 2021 at the earliest.

The Met said it based its

decision to cancel the entirety of its current season on the advice of health authorities, saying it would be unsafe to resume rehearsals and productions until “a vaccine is widely in use, herd immunity is established, and the wearing of masks and social distancing is no longer a medical requirement.”

“Health officials have said

this will likely take at least five to six months after a vaccine is initially made available,” the organization said.

Peter Gelb, the Metropolitan Opera’s general manager, told AFP that with the cancellation of this season along with the final eight weeks of the previous one, the revered house anticipated a loss in earned revenues of at

least \$154 million, even as expenses have been reduced.

Calling this “the most challenging time” in the company’s 137-year history, Gelb said in an interview he was aiming to negotiate with unions representing many Met employees to help them weather the storm.

SOURCE: AFP

Social security benefits a key to making workers resilient to COVID-19

THE consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic have forced workers of some factories to stay under the Stay-at-Home order.

This situation has been anticipated by the government since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar. To address the socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Government has taken measures to ease the impact on workers by relaxing some rules of the Social Security Law.

If factory workers contributed social security fees to the Social Security Department for June, 2020, and if the factories are running until 23 September, 2020, then they will be eligible to enjoy 40 per cent of their salaries as social security benefits.

Section 31 (b) (ii) of the 2012 Social Security Law says: "When the insured person and family encounter natural disaster, it is entitled to enjoy the following health care, relief material and cash assistance from the family assistance fund in accord with the stipulations (i) if the contribution had been paid for a minimum of 36 months prior to natural disaster and thereafter encountered the natural disaster and lost own properties, 40 percent of average wage per a month within one year before the day of such encountering natural disaster as cash assistance and relief materials provided by Social Security Board."

However, the new announcement of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued yesterday said if the workers of the factories who contributed social security fee to the Social Security Department contributed up to June, 2020 and if the factories are running until 23 September, 2020, they are eligible to enjoy 40 per cent of salary as social security benefits.

In the announcement, the ministry guaranteed that the eligible workers can apply for their social security benefits starting from 24 September, 2020 the day the ministry announced the order.

This is not the first time the government took necessary measures to reduce the negative repercussions from the pandemic.

In May, the Union Government has extended the duration for contributing social security fees for employers and employees to three months after the set date, instead of 15 days.

After evaluating the impact of the pandemic on the country's businesses, the government has also reduced tax and interest rates so that people will not suffer, and to help in preventing unemployment, to continue operating factories and to have the smallest impact on the nation's economy.

Myanmar survived many hardships through collaborative efforts between the government and the people.

We need to be in this together and show some compassion during this very important time in our lives. We are confident that we can get through this together.

COVID-19 pandemic: countries urged to take stronger action to stop spread of harmful information

THE World Health Organization (WHO) together with the UN, specialised agencies and partners on 23 September called on countries to develop and implement action plans to promote the timely dissemination of science-based information and prevent the spread of false information while respecting freedom of expression.

WHO, the UN, UNICEF, UN-AIDS, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN Global Pulse initiative and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), together with the governments of Indonesia, Thailand and Uruguay held a webinar on the margins of the 75th UN General Assembly to draw attention to the harm being done by the spread of misinformation and disinformation, the latter being deliberate misinformation to advance an agenda.

"As soon as the virus spread across the globe, inaccurate and even dangerous messages proliferated wildly over social media, leaving people confused, misled and ill-advised", said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "Our initiative, called "Verified", is fighting misinformation with truth.

However, the new announcement of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued yesterday said if the workers of the factories who contributed social security fee to the Social Security Department contributed up to June, 2020 and if the factories are running until 23 September, 2020, they are eligible to enjoy 40 per cent of salary as social security benefits.

COVID-19 vaccines. We need a 'people's vaccine' that is affordable and available to all."

"Misinformation and disinformation put health and lives at risk, and undermine trust in science, in institutions and in health systems," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "To fight the pandemic we need trust and solidarity and when there is mistrust, there is much less solidarity. False information is hindering the response to the pandemic so we must join forces to fight it and to promote science-based public health advice. The same principles that apply to responding to COVID-19 apply to managing the infodemic. We need to prevent, detect and respond to it, together and in solidarity."

"On top of the immediate impact on pandemic responses, disinformation is undermining public trust in democratic processes and institutions and exacerbating social divides", said UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner. "It's one of the most concerning governance challenges of our time. UNDP is actively collaborating with Member States, fellow UN agencies, and other partners to find holistic responses which respect human rights."

"Misinformation is one of the fastest growing challenges facing children today," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. "It takes advantage of the cracks in trust in societies and institutions and deepens them further, undermines confidence in science and medicine, and divides communi-

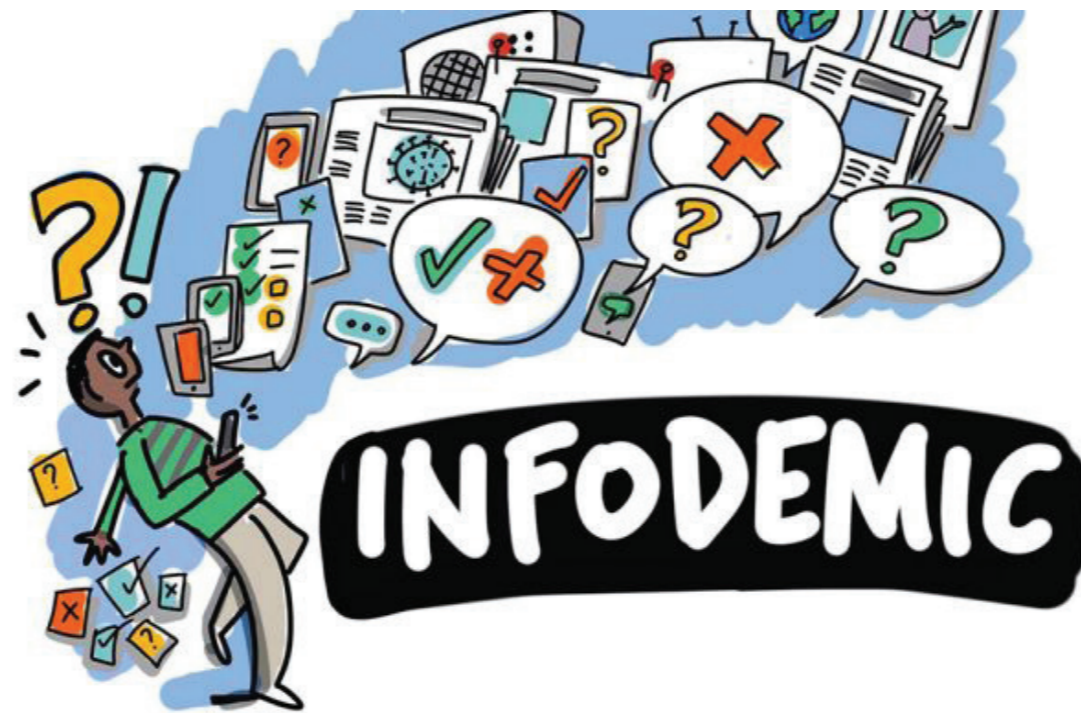


Illustration used for the 1st WHO Infodemiology Conference and the webinar on Infodemic Management of 23 September. CREDIT: WHO - SAM BRADD

ties. In its most pernicious forms, such as when it convinces parents not to vaccinate their children, it can even be fatal. Because misinformation is more a symptom than a sickness, countering it requires more than just providing truth. It also requires trust between leaders, communities and individuals."

"We can beat COVID-19 only with facts, science and community solidarity," said Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima. "Misinformation is perpetuating stigma and discrimination and must not come in the way of ensuring that human rights are protected and people at risk and those marginalized have access to health and social protection services."

"Since the start of the pandemic, UNESCO has mobilised its

international networks of media partners, journalists, fact-checkers, community radio stations, and experts, to give citizens the means to fight against false information and rumours — phenomena that have been exacerbated by the pandemic," said Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General. "Collective mobilisation to promote quality and reliable information, while strictly ensuring respect for freedom of expression, is essential. A free, independent and pluralistic press is more necessary than ever."

"Trust is a cornerstone of our digital world," said Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. "Building on the long-standing WHO-ITU BeHe@lthy BeMobile

initiative, ITU has been working with national ministries of telecommunications and health and mobile network operators since the beginning of this crisis to text people who may not have access to the internet, providing them with science- and evidence-based COVID-19 health advice directly on their mobile phones."

WHO and partners urged countries to engage and listen to their communities as they develop their national action plans, and to empower communities to build trust and resilience against false information.

"Engaging communities on how they perceive the disease and response is critical to building trust and ending outbreaks," said Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Sec-

retary General. "If our response does not reflect the communities' concerns and perceptions, we will not be seen as relevant or trusted by affected populations, and the epidemic response risks failure. More than ever, local responders are at the forefront of this crisis. We need to recognize the incredible role they play in understanding and acting on local knowledge and community feedback."

The co-hosts also called on the media, social media platforms, civil society leaders and influencers to strengthen their actions to disseminate accurate information and prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation. Access to accurate information and the free exchange of ideas online and offline are key to enabling effective and credible public health responses.

"UN Global Pulse was set up a decade ago inside the UN System to pioneer the use of real-time and predictive insights to protect vulnerable communities in times of crisis", said Robert Kirkpatrick, Director of UN Global Pulse, the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative on big data and artificial intelligence (AI). "During this pandemic we have seen a tremendous increase in requests for advanced analytics from across the UN System and Member States. We will continue to work with WHO and other partners to help identify and combat mis- and disinformation."

SOURCE: WHO

INCOMES CUT BY 15 PER CENT

Impact on workers of COVID-19 is 'catastrophic': ILO

COVID-19 has had a "catastrophic" impact on workers, the head of the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Wednesday, with lost working hours higher than originally forecast, and equivalent to 495 million full-time jobs globally in the second quarter of the year.

The bleak news from ILO Director-General Guy Ryder coincided with an updated mid-year forecast from the UN body.

Lower and middle-income countries have suffered most,

with an estimated 23.3 per cent drop in working hours - equivalent to 240 million jobs - in the second quarter.

Previously, the ILO had suggested a 14 per cent average drop in global working time, equivalent to the loss of 400 million jobs, relative to the fourth quarter of 2019.

Workers in developing nations had also seen their income drop more than 15 per cent, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder told journalists in Geneva.

"On top of this, these are the places where there are the weakest social protection systems, so there are very few resources or protections for working people to fall back upon", he said. "If you look at it regionally, the Americas were worst-affected, with losses of 12.1 per cent."

Mr. Ryder highlighted that while the Governments of richer countries had shored up their economies with hundreds of billions of dollars, poorer nations had been unable to do the same.

Without such fiscal stimulus, working hours losses would have been 28 per cent between April and June, instead of 17.3 per cent, he insisted.

Poles apart on financial aid

Nonetheless, State financial support has led to the emergence of an extremely worrying "fiscal stimulus gap" between wealthy economies and the developing world, amounting to \$982 billion, Mr. Ryder warned.

"It runs a risk of leading

us to post-COVID world with greater inequalities between regions, countries, sectors and social groups," he said. "It's a polar opposite to the better world that we want to build back, and it reminds us all, that unless we are all able to overcome and get out of this pandemic, none of us will."

Although the \$982 billion global stimulus package was a staggering sum, the ILO Director-General noted that low-income countries needed a frac-

tion of this figure - \$45 billion - to support workers in the same way as wealthier nations had done, while lower-middle-income countries required the remaining \$937 billion.

Other data from the ILO Monitor indicates that for the third fiscal quarter covering July to September, 12.1 per cent of global working time will be lost, which is equivalent to 345 million full-time jobs.

SOURCE: UN News



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 4:00 pm Thursday 24th September, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 25th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Southern Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th September, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th September, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Arakan National Party (ANP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Arakan National Party (ANP) Chairman U Thar Tun Hla presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 24 September.



Esteemed voters and people

I wish for your good health in body and mind and to be safe from all dangers. I am U Thar Tun Hla, Chairman of the Arakan National Party (ANP).

ANP represents the Rakhine ethnic group and believes its national duty to promote the political, economic, education and social objectives of Rakhine people and other ethnic groups in Rakhine State.

ANP was formed by combining the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP), which won 35 Hluttaw seats in the 2010 election, and the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD), which won 11 seats in the 1990 election and re-registered as a political party in 2012, with the aim at achieving the interests of Rakhine people through their unity.

ANP's four main objectives are:

- Development of Rakhine State and Rakhine people.
- Equality for all ethnic groups.
- Proliferating democracy.
- Emergence of genuine federal Union.

Esteemed voters and people

Our nation has been suffering various unfortunate circumstances for over 70 years due to armed conflicts and bad management since gaining independence. And it's still to this day. They are suffering, such as the loss of innocent lives, mutilation, and leaving their homes and jobs to seek refuge in IDP camps. We believe this and the numerous armed conflicts are a result of lacking equality among ethnic people, the choice to make one's own destiny, and self-determination. That is why we all need to cooperate to create a Constitution that guarantees a genuine federal Union with democratic values based on self-determination.

Esteemed voters and people

ANP is not based solely on Rakhine ethnic

groups. We include other ethnic groups living in Rakhine State to become a member of our political party. Our party will actively stand for all the ethnic groups in Rakhine State and all of the Union.

We have clearly outlined the 18 action plans of our party in our charter and are practically implementing it. In summarizing, the plans concern creating opportunities for education, healthcare, social, economy, culture through labour unions and farmer unions with projects funded by foreign investments and participation of Rakhine entrepreneurs, full rights to economic benefits from international investments and natural resources in Rakhine State for the Rakhine people, helping displaced Rakhine people return home and find jobs, and ensuring the full rights and protection of women, children, the elderly and people living with disabilities.

Esteemed voters and people

ANP secured the most seats in Rakhine State during the 2015 election, but we did not get the opportunity to form our state government yet we pushed on with our national political trek through managing the state Hluttaw.

Our party representatives have worked hard in the Rakhine State Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the benefit of Rakhine people and all ethnic people and citizens of the nation. However, we hope you understand when we were unable to fulfil the wishes and needs of the Rakhine people and all residents in Rakhine State.

We are using the best of our abilities in politics within and outside the Hluttaw.

The people are well aware that ANP has been there when difficulty rises for the Rakhine people either through our own effort or in collaboration with parties working for Rakhine interests. We are currently working hard to assist within the legal framework, to fulfil basic needs and humanitarian assistance to the troubled citizens of armed conflicts in Rakhine State, and we will continue to do so.

Esteemed voters and people

In the coming General Election on 8 November 2020, ANP will contest in 33 seats in the Rakhine State Hluttaw, 17 seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw, 12 seats in Amyotha Hluttaw, a seat for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region each, two seats for Ngaputaw Township in the Regional Hluttaw, and a seat in Pyithu Hluttaw for a total of 67 seats.

The people are aware that ANP is working closely with organizations working for Rakhine interests to resolve difficulties for Rakhine people together with the people. We have also formed the Youth Wing in our party to pass over to the next generation. We have appointed capable young women and those of middle age in essential roles in party conferences. And we have selected talented youths and women as candidates for the upcoming election.

All Rakhine people stood with RNDP for the 2010 election and won 35 Hluttaw seats, standing as the third winning political party in Myanmar. Similarly, ANP won 45 seats in the 2015 election and became the third winning political party. That is why the government of Myanmar, ethnic leaders, international governments and organizations have made acknowledgements of our representation of Rakhine.

The effects of armed conflicts in Rakhine State have caused casualties to nearly 200,000 people and facing unthinkable hardships in IDP camps.

Nearly 20,000 acres of farmland are in disuse, and providing sufficient food has become a considerable difficulty in Rakhine State. ANP firmly believes it is our political duty to find political and legal solutions for the numerous issues faced by the people such as harsh weather, inadequate assistance, children unable to pursue education, and the elderly and children facing hardships.

We firmly believe the Rakhine people will vote for our party as the national duty on 8 November 2020 to resolve the challenges in Rakhine State and to preserve our integrity as Rakhine.

Esteemed voters and people

ANP will continue to implement genuine federal Union and emergence of a Union built on self-determination highlighted in our four objectives. We have submitted and read our genuine federal Union paper at the first session of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

We respectfully request Rakhine people to vote for our party representatives who will be competing for Hluttaw seats to continue the unending national duty to the fullest abilities.

In conclusion, we wish all voters and people to be free from danger and for all misfortunes to come to an end.



Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Danu National Democracy Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Danu National Democracy Party Chairperson U Khin Maung Cho presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Esteemed citizens of the Union of Myanmar

I wish you good health and happiness.

I am Danu National Democracy Party Chairperson U Khin Maung Cho. I will talk about Danu National Democracy Party.

Danu National Democracy Party is based on six townships -- Ywangan, Pindaya, Kalaw, Nawngkhio, Lawksawk, and Taunggyi -- where the majority of ethnic Danu people live. The headquarters of the party is located in Ywangan town in Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone.

Danu National Democracy Party was formed on 3 July 2012, and the party registration number is at 57. The party was re-organized with new Executive Committee members on 12 September 2019.

Esteemed citizens of the Union of Myanmar and ethnic Danu people

The flag of Danu National Democracy Party consists of a red field, and there is a white circle in the middle of the red field. Fourteen same-sized golden-yellow stars encircle the white circle bearing a Danu traditional drum. The flag represents "Danu in the Union".

Our party's emblem consists of a red-coloured square, and on that background, there is a white circle bearing the Myanmar word 'Danu' and a Danu traditional drum. Our slogan is "Wake Up, Danu! Danu, Wake Up!".

I would like to talk about the history of the Danu people. Since before the Union of Myanmar was collectively founded, since a very long time, Danu people live independently in accordance with their own traditions and cultures. British seized Rakhine and Taninthayi in 1824; Lower Myanmar in 1852; Upper Myanmar in 1885; and entire Shan State in 1890. In the colonial era, then the British government separately ruled the areas by creating Frontier Area Administration.

British introduced Shan State Act to rule all ethnic groups in Shan State. They established Western Sub-Division to oversee Shan State's midland area where Danu people live. Hsamonghkam hereditary chieftain Sao Tun Aye ruled the Shan State's midland area, Pway Hla hereditary chieftain (Saopha) Sao Tun Sein, Pindaya hereditary chieftain Sao Win Kyi, Ywangan hereditary Sao Khun Yi, Baw area's hereditary chieftain Sao Khun Aung, Pin Mhi Kya Mong hereditary chieftain Sao Khun Oo, Kyone hereditary chieftain Sao Khun Saung until 1959 when they gave up hereditary rights. Although the names of Saophas start with 'Sao', they are ethnic Danu people.

The Danu hereditary chieftains, as mentioned above, helped General Aung San when he visited Shan State on 25 December 1946 for matters related to seeking independence for Myanmar. 12 February 1947, Hsamonghkam hereditary chief Sao Tun Aye signed the historic Panglong agreement as a representative of Shan hereditary chieftains. Similarly, U Khun Saw (Pindaya) signed the agreement as a representative of Shan people.

I am speaking about this history to emphasize peace processes discussed in the Union Peace Conference -- 21st Century Panglong, the matters related to drafting constitutions for states, and the federal system.

Esteemed citizens of the Union of Myanmar and ethnic Danu people

I would like to talk about the objectives of Danu National Democracy Party. The party's goals are as follows:

1. To cooperative with all stakeholders in creating a federal union that will ensure national equality, autonomy and democracy;
2. To establish mutual trust, respect, friendship and unity between various national, ethnic groups in the Union, and create situations in which different ethnic groups can co-exist peacefully;
3. To protect and preserve the languages, literature, culture and tradition of ethnic groups in Danu area;
4. To take collaborative efforts to achieve lasting peace, to combat dictatorship and chauvinism, to take measures to establish a federal democratic system;
5. To promote the standard of living of people in Danu area, to encourage high tech businesses, to help make the education system to be modern, to enhance the healthcare sector, to promote tourism.

Seven candidates of Danu National Democracy Party will stand for the general elections on 8 November 2020, in Pindaya and Ywangan townships; three candidates in Nawngkhio; two in Kalaw. So, a total of 12 candidates -- one for Amyotha Hluttaw, three for Pyithu Hluttaw and eight for Shan State Hluttaw -- of our party will contest the general elections. Among them, three are women, so it is 25 per cent of the total candidates of our party.

If candidates of our party are elected, we will carry out the following tasks.

1. We will work hard to achieve a federal union that can ensure national equality based on the great love of the Union, autonomy and democracy.

2. In the parliament, we will cooperate with any party that is working for democracy and the creation of a federal union.

3. We will cooperate with all relevant organizations in seeking nationwide peace by political means.

4. We will also protect the rights of other ethnic groups in the area.

5. In cooperation with the citizens, we will promote transparency in natural resources production and management and environmental conservation.

6. We will discuss with experts and relevant officials to remedy the effects of deforestation, landslides, creek and lake vanishing, and climate changes and work cooperatively in the protection of the natural environment.

7. We will cooperate with the officials concerned in anti-drug activities because it is one of the biggest problems in Myanmar.

Esteemed voters and people

Candidates of ethnic political parties need to be elected for the parliament to participate in the Union Peace Conference -- 21st Century Panglong.

Danu National Democracy Party is a member of the UNA (United Nationalities Alliance), which comprises 13 ethnic parties. Its member parties from Shan State are Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, and Danu National Democracy Party.

As a member party of UNA, we, alongside other UNA members, will adhere to the principle of the UNA.

Esteemed voters and people

We would like to call on all of you to vote for the candidates of our party, Danu National Democracy Party, in our constituencies in the general elections on 8 November 2020.

In conclusion, we, alongside with other national, ethnic groups, can participate in building a federal union, which national, ethnic groups are keen to achieve. Please stamp next to Danu traditional drum, which is the emblem of our Danu National Democracy Party, in the general elections on 8 November 2020.

Thanks to all.



Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 25-26 September

CAMPAIGN speech of Karen National Party (KNP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 25 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 26 September. However, that of Mro National Democracy Party will only be published on 26 September.— MNA

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Israel toughens second lockdown as virus cases surge

JERUSALEM — Israel toughened its coronavirus measures on Thursday as a second nationwide lockdown now nearing its second week failed to bring down the world's highest infection rate.

The new rules will close the vast majority of workplaces, shutter markets and further limit prayers and demonstrations.

“Over the past two days, we’ve heard from experts that if we don’t take immediate and harsh measures, we’ll reach an abyss,” Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said late Wednesday, at the start of a cabinet meeting to thrash out the new measures.

The government’s latest move comes as the country is poised to enter the second week of a three-week lockdown imposed last Friday, which included the closure of schools and restrictions on work and leisure.

Under the new measures set to be approved in parliament later Thursday, synagogues will only be allowed to open on Yom Kippur, a Jewish holiday which



Technicians set up an overflow intensive care ward for coronavirus patients in the underground car park of the Rambam Health Care Campus in Israel's third largest city Haifa. **PHOTO: AFP**

begins Sunday afternoon.

At other times, only outdoor prayer will be allowed with a maximum of

20 people attending. The same restrictions have been applied to demonstrations.

“To save the lives of Israel’s citizens we need to impose a full lockdown now for two weeks,” Netanyahu said.

“This is also necessary for the economy. Whoever thinks we can work with a raging pandemic, with death and infections rising, without it affecting the economy, is wrong.”

A decision on whether to close Ben Gurion international airport outside Tel Aviv will be made later on Thursday, the government said.

Israel has the world’s highest coronavirus infec-

tion rate as a proportion of its population, according to an AFP tally of the past fortnight.

More than 200,000 coronavirus cases have been recorded, with 1,335 deaths, out of a population of nine million. Netanyahu has faced fierce criticism from opposition politicians, who accuse him of tightening the rules to put an end to weeks of protest outside his Jerusalem residence.

Ayelet Shaked, a lawmaker with the far-right Yamina party, said the new rules are “destructive and unreasonable”.—AFP

Notice for change of distributor

We, **XUZHOU FENGWEI CHEMICAL FACTORY**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Friends Helper Co., Ltd** to **MYANMAR GOLDEN SUN CROP SCIENCE COMPANY LIMITED**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Tan Kho Shin 240 SC	Chlorfenapyr 240 g/l SC	Provisional	P2020-4959

MYANMAR GOLDEN SUN CROP SCIENCE COMPANY LIMITED
(Address : Block -7 No. (10), Nawaday Housing, Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09403723854)

Notice for change of distributor

We, **XUZHOU FENGWEI CHEMICAL FACTORY**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Friends Helper Co., Ltd** to **GRAND AGRO CARE COMPANY LIMITED**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary , Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Golden Blue 20 EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	Provisional	P2020-5021

GRAND AGRO CARE COMPANY LIMITED
(Address: No.93, Thura Street, (9) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09403723854, 09773674447)

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **LIER CHEMICAL CO., LTD** has registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**AGRO GREEN LAND CHEMICAL CO.,LTD**”, to new distributor name “**TAW WIN DAR CO.,LTD**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **TAW WIN DAR CO., LTD. Ph-09401646617**

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Foison Weedoff	Bensulfuron-methyl 5%+ Quinclorac 25% WP	P2020-4859
2.	Cropstar 30 EC	Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC	P2020-3560

Notice for change of distributor

We, **HEXTAR CHEMICALS SDN BHD**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Friends Helper Co., Ltd** to **ZABU HTATE TAN MYANMAR AGRO GROUP CO., LTD**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration number
1	Odyssey 75 WP	Chlorothalonil 75% WP	Provisional	P2020 - 4848
2	Synopsis 40 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 6% + Quinclorac 34% WP	Provisional	P2020 - 4993
3	Ricer 6.9 EW	Fenoxaprop -P-ethyl 6.9% EW	Provisional	P2020 - 4994
4	Pipertox 84 WP	Copper Oxychloride 84% WP	Provisional	P2019 - 4665

ZABU HTATE TAN MYANMAR AGRO GROUP CO., LTD.
(AungThiri Street No.(844) 28-Quarter, North Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 09403723854)



ကိုရီးယားတေရကျောင်း အစားအစာများ မိတ်ဆက်ပွဲ

Korean Temple Food Cooking Class

Learn how to cook three healthy Korean Temple Food online!

When : 26(Sat) September, 2-4pm

How to watch : Eleven Broadcasting Facebook Live 

<https://www.facebook.com/elevenbroadcasting/>



Fried stuffed Tofu



Noodle in cold bean soup



Cilantro(Coriander) salad

for detail Eleven Broadcasting Live URL







Embassy of the Republic of Korea
주미안마 대한민국대사관



대한불교 조계종
한국불교문화사업단
Cultural Corps of Korean Buddhism

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (12 / 2020)

Open tenders are invited for service of the following operations in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001(20-21)	24" Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline Freespan Rectification	Kyats

Tender Closing Date & Time - 11-11-2020, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23rd September, 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Building No.(44), Nay Pyi Taw (OR) Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Yangon), No. (47) Sein Lae May Yeik Tha Lane, Yankin Township, Yangon.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67-411331 / +951-657671 / +95 67-411097

Japan gov't maintains economic view in Sept., recovery seen intact

TOKYO—The Japanese government kept its economic assessment unchanged in September for the third straight month on Thursday, saying activity is continuing to show signs of “picking up” from the coronavirus-triggered slump. Upticks in exports and production are making up for a slowing recovery in consumption, the Cabinet Office said in its monthly report for September. “The Japanese economy is still in a severe situation due to the novel coronavirus,” but has been “showing movements of picking up recently,” it said, repeating the wording used

in the July and August assessments.

By component, the government downgraded its evaluations of private consumption for the first time since April, when Japan declared a state of emergency over the virus spread. The report said private consumption is “picking up,” the same expression used in August, but added that “weakness can be seen in some sectors.” A government official said a “standstill” was seen in consumer spending especially in travel and food services following a resurgence in coronavirus infections.—Kyodo ■

Sri Lanka scraps \$1.5 billion Japan-funded light rail system

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka’s president has ordered the termination of a \$1.5-billion Japanese-funded light rail project, saying it is not a “cost-effective solution” for the congested capital Colombo, officials said Thursday.

The deal signed under the previous government is the largest single foreign-funded infrastructure project in Sri Lanka, and was seen as a sign of the island nation reducing its dependence on China.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, elected last year, told the transport ministry to “terminate this project and close the project office with immediate effect”, top aide P.B. Jayasundara said in a letter to the ministry.

There was no immediate comment from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which in March last year loaned 30 billion yen (\$285 million) to finance the first phase of the Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Japanese technology including rolling stock was to be used on the rail system, which included 16 stations over 15.7 kilometres (9.8 miles).

Detailed planning and land acquisition for the project in Colombo, which has some of the worst traffic congestion in South Asia, had already been completed and initial construction was under way.—AFP ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (006N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (006N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

REQUEST for EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST PROCUREMENT of CONSULTANCY SERVICES

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS (DOH) UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE EMERGENCY RECOVERY PROJECT (FLERP)**

Credit No.: 5889-MM

Contact Title: Consulting Services for Technical Assistance to Department of Highways for development of: Design Standards, Strategic Maintenance Framework for Road Assets, Emergency Response Plan for Road Sector, and Training & Capacity Building
Reference No.: C4-DOH-TA04

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the FLERP project. The Department of Highways (DOH) intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the consultancy services for Technical Assistance. This Scope of the Technical Assistance consultancy is:

Task 1. Assist the MOC/DOH in reviewing and improving the current Design Standards for Road and Bridges (Bridges up to 50 ft length) under the climate change context to prepare complete Design Manuals for Roads, Drainages structures, Bridges (Bridges up to 50 ft length) and Slope protections.

Task 2. Development of a Strategic Maintenance Framework for Roads and Bridges (Bridges up to 50 ft length), to help the MOC/DOH strengthen the maintenance operations under the country's limited resources.

Task 3. Development of a decentralization action plan and an emergency response plan for the road sector.

Task 4. Training and capacity building will be provided on the use of these standards, guidelines and frameworks, through workshops and seminars involving both the central and local level of DOH.

The Department of Highways invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the Services. In submitting their expressions of interest, firms are kindly requested to indicate the following reference: C4-DOH-TA04. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among permanent staff, etc.). If Consultants choose to associate, they should specify in their EOI response whether the association will be in the form a joint venture or sub-consultancy arrangement.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines of the World Bank. The shortlist criteria are:

- at least 15 years of experience in similar projects in locations comparable to Myanmar
- substantial experience (i.e., two similar projects) in working with and/or advising clients on climate resilient standards for design and maintenance framework for Roads, Bridges, Drainage structures, and Slope protection, development of Standards and Manual
- substantial experience (i.e., two similar projects) in development of road sector strategies
- substantial experience (i.e., two similar projects) in preparing Action Plans, Operational Manuals and Procedures for Emergency response in the road sector
- substantial experience in Training and capacity building on the use of Design standards, guidelines and frameworks.

In the expression of interest, the respondent must clearly identify projects with which the consulting firm has been involved, the responsibility for those tasks, period of involvement and references from the clients, either written and/or contact details to permit the Government of Myanmar to confirm the Respondent's experience and competence. Interested firms may obtain copies of the detailed Terms of Reference (in English) by submitting a request to the attention of U Myint Oo, Project Director, at the email addresses as below. Expressions of interest must be submitted to the postal address below or by email no later than October 20, 2020 (before 16:00 hours Myanmar Standard Time).

Address for communications and for submission of EOI: U Myint Oo, Chief Engineer and Project Director, FLERP-DOH, Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
E-mail: myintoopakokku@gmail.com, flerp.moc@gmail.com, eieimyo.doh@gmail.com

Invitation for Bids

Date:	28, September, 2020
Bid No. and Title:	6(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2020-2021 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Waing Maw - Nabar Transmission Line (140) miles, 132 kV Wa Shawng - Waing Maw (11) miles and 230/132kV (2x125) MVA Waing Maw Substation Extension (Kyat)
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	12 November, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.
2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **“Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Waing Maw - Nabar Transmission Line (140) miles, 132 kV Wa Shawng - Waing Maw (11) miles and 230/132kV (2x125) MVA Waing Maw Substation Extension (“the Facilities”)”**. The Facilities are all located in Kachin State and Sagaing region.
3. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with Single - Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Participation in at least two (2) contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years, and that are transmission line and substation contracts, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds US\$ 72.0 million.
 - For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
 - a) two projects on turnkey basic successfully in operation for 3 years, b) 220 kV or above transmission line (180) km route length, c) 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above, d) each project shall be in outside Bidder's country for international Bidder. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.
 The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.
5. To obtain further information bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410282
Email: dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410282
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.
7. Bids must be submitted to the following address above **on or before the deadline: 12 November, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time)** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.
8. **Electronic Submission is not allowed.**
9. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 12/11/2020.
10. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410282

Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.05 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 3rd to October 5th, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Japan-S. Korea ties need mending, Suga tells Moon in phone talks

TOKYO—Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told South Korean President Moon Jae In in a phone call on Thursday that relations between the neighbouring countries -- which have been strained by a diplomatic feud over wartime labour -- need to be improved.

Speaking to reporters following his first conversation with Moon since taking office last week, Suga said Japan and South Korea are "extremely important neighbours" but that bilateral ties are in a "very difficult situation" and need mending.

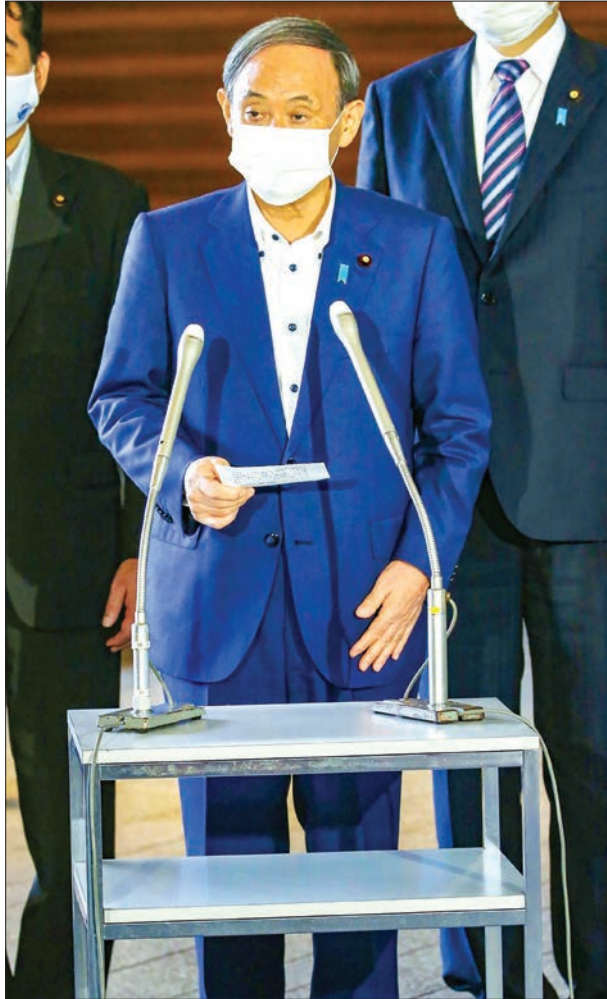
"I told President Moon that we cannot allow our relations to remain as they are," he said.

Bilateral ties have remained frayed since South Korea's top court in October 2018 ordered a Japanese steelmaker

to compensate four Koreans for labour during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula through the end of World War II.

Tokyo argues the court ruling violates a 1965 agreement under which Japan provided South Korea with financial aid on the understanding that the compensation issue was settled "completely and finally," and warned that selling off assets seized from the steelmaker, Nippon Steel Corp., will further aggravate the situation.

Suga told Moon that it was up to Seoul to create an opportunity for Japan and South Korea to "return to a constructive relationship," according to a Japanese official who briefed reporters, continuing the hardline stance taken by his predecessor Shinzo Abe.—Kyodo ■



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga speaks to reporters following his telephone conversation with South Korean President Moon Jae In. **PHOTO: KYODO**

S. Korea says missing official was shot dead by N. Korean troops



South Korean soldiers at a guard post near the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in the border city of Paju in August of last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SEOUL—South Korea said Thursday that North Korean soldiers shot dead a South Korean government employee who had gone missing in waters near the inter-Korean border earlier in the week,

condemning the alleged act as a brutal killing.

Separately, a military official said that it seems North Korean troops were questioning the government employee before an alleged order came down

for him to be shot.

This is the first known killing of a South Korean national by the North since Moon Jae In became president in 2017 and is likely to heighten tensions between the Ko-

reas.

Moon called the execution-like killing "shocking" and said it "cannot be tolerated for any reason," according to a presidential spokesman.

The Oceans and Fisheries Ministry employee was reported missing Monday while carrying out duties in waters off the western island of Yeonpyeong in the Yellow Sea.

"We have confirmed that North Korea has committed an act of brutality by shooting a South Korean and burning his dead body," the Defense Ministry said in a press briefing.

The ministry said North Korea is solely responsible for the episode, calling for an apology and explanation from the northern neighbor and punishment for those responsible for the man's death.—AFP ■

Nasa chief warns US Congress about Chinese space station

WASHINGTON—Nasa chief Jim Bridenstine told lawmakers on Wednesday it was crucial for the US to maintain a presence in Earth's orbit after the International Space Station is decommissioned so that China does not gain a strategic advantage.

The first parts of the ISS were launched in 1998 and it has been continuously lived in since 2000.

The station, which serves as a space science lab and is a partnership between the US, Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada, is currently expected to be operated until 2030.

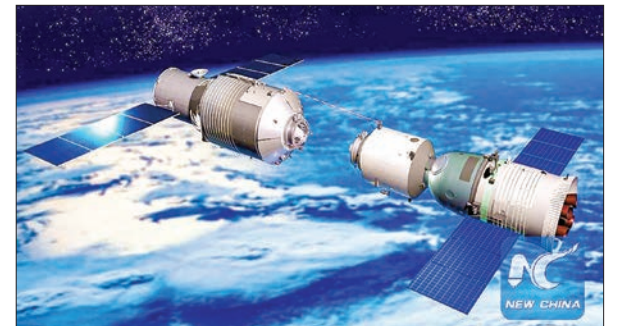
"I'll tell you one thing that has me very concerned – and that is that a day is coming when the International

Space Station comes to the end of its useful life," Bridenstine said.

"In order to be able to have the United States of America have a presence in low Earth orbit, we have to be prepared for what comes next," he added.

To that end, Nasa has requested US\$150 million for the 2021 financial year to help develop the commercialization of low Earth orbit, defined as 2,000km (1,200 miles) or less from the planet's surface.

"We want to see a public-private partnership where Nasa can deal with commercial space station providers, so that we can keep a permanent uninterrupted human presence in low Earth orbit," Bridenstine said.—AFP ■



File photo provided by China Academy of Space Science shows a simulated picture of the space lab Tiangong-1 docking with Shenzhou-8 spacecraft. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Malaysia's Mahathir says not running in next election

PUTRAJAYA—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Thursday he will not be contesting in the next election, but that will not stop him from fighting against corruption through his new party. "I want to stay a bit longer but I thought I will serve for a short period," he told Kyodo News in an interview in his office at the federal administrative capital, Putrajaya. "But I will not be contesting in the 15th election."

The 95-year old Mahathir held the record as the world's oldest head of government when he returned to the top job for a second run after leading a ragtag coalition to an unexpected win in the May 2018 election. He was the longest serving prime minister in his first turn, from 1981 to 2003.

Mahathir won the parliamentary seat for the northern constituency of Langkawi, a popular tourist island, in the 2018 election after staying out of office for 14 years.—AFP ■

Mexican protesters set up camp demanding president quits

MEXICO CITY—Opponents of Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador set up a protest camp Wednesday in front of the presidential palace, demanding he resign over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. The protesters erected dozens of small tents in the capital's central square, the Zocalo, vowing to stay until the left-wing populist known by his initials AMLO steps down.

"We will be here demonstrating in the Zocalo until Lopez (Obrador) leaves," protest leader Gilberto Lozano, a businessman from the northern city of Monterrey, told reporters. The movement, which calls itself the Anti-AMLO National Front, has held months of protests against Lopez Obrador's management of the pandemic and the economic fallout,



Protesters vowed to camp outside the presidential palace until Mexican leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador steps down. PHOTO: AFP

among other things.

"We have a dictator as president," said Guillermina Moreno, a flag-waving housewife. "He's corrupt. The people who work with him are corrupt," the 60-year-old added. Lopez

Obrador, who took office in 2018 vowing a pro-austerity and anti-graft drive, told reporters the protesters were welcome to stay. The country has reported nearly 75,000 coronavirus deaths -- one of the world's

highest tolls. Lopez Obrador enjoyed an approval rating of 58 per cent in August, although that was far below a peak of 81 per cent seen in February 2019, according to the polling firm Oraculus.—AFP ■

Swiss vote threatens free movement in heart of Europe

GENEVA—A Swiss vote Sunday on limiting EU immigration is not expected to pass, but fears abound that a shock "yes" could deal a fatal blow to relations with the bloc.

The initiative, backed by the populist right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP) -- Switzerland's largest party -- has seen dwindling public support in recent polls.

But SVP has eked out surprise victories in the past in its drawn-out war against tightening relations with the European Union, fueling concern that Switzerland's relationship with its biggest trading partner could be in jeopardy.

The initiative, put to a vote as part of Switzerland's direct democracy system, calls for the country to revise its constitution to ensure it can autonomously handle its immigration policy.

SVP, which has built its brand by condemning immigration and EU influence, warns that the wealthy Alpine country is facing "uncontrolled and excessive immigration" and that Swiss "jobs are threatened".

"We must retrieve the portion of sovereignty involving controlling immigration," Vincent Schaller, an SVP member of the Geneva municipal parliament, told AFP.

Speaking from a stand set up near a Geneva market for discussions with the public about the upcoming vote, he insisted that "SVP wants immigration of choice."—AFP ■

WORLD IN BRIEFS

France rolls out GPS trackers to curb domestic violence

PARIS—French judges will soon have the option of requiring electronic tracking ankle bracelets for domestic violence offenders, the government said Thursday, as the country grapples with a growing number of women killed by current or former partners. The measure, which has long been sought by rights advocates, was passed by parliament this year and will be gradually be rolled out starting Friday, according to a decree in France's government bulletin.—AFP ■

Volkswagen to compensate Brazil dictatorship victims

BERLIN—Volkswagen said Wednesday it had signed a deal with prosecutors to compensate former workers at the company's Brazil unit for rights violations committed during the South American country's military dictatorship. Former workers and their families sued the German carmaker five years ago, alleging its Brazilian security office had collaborated with the military regime (1964-1985) to identify suspected opponents, who were then detained and tortured.—AFP ■



Enough is enough say those who back an SVP initiative to limit EU immigration. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Two US police shot as protests erupt over Breonna Taylor case



Police officers stand in a taped-off area where a police officer was shot as protesters marched in Louisville, Kentucky. PHOTO: AFP

LOUISVILLE—Two police officers were shot as angry protests rippled across the United States after authorities announced no one would be charged with the killing of Breonna Taylor.

Taylor, who was shot dead in her apartment by plainclothes officers, has become a symbol for the Black Lives Matter movement and demonstrators' calls for an end to what they say is unjustified police violence. A grand jury charged one of the three officers involved in the raid with "wanton endangerment" over shots he fired into a neighboring home, but neither he nor his two colleagues will face charges over Taylor's death. The news sparked protests across the country -- including in New York, Boston, Washington and Los Angeles.

But the biggest demonstration was in Taylor's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, where two police officers were hospitalized after being shot late Wednesday.

"Both officers are currently undergoing treatment," interim police chief Robert Schroeder told reporters. "One is alert and stable. The other officer is currently undergoing surgery and stable," he said, adding that one person had been arrested.

President Donald Trump, who is campaigning for reelection on a "law-and-order" platform, tweeted that he was "praying for the two police officers that were shot tonight in Louisville, Kentucky. The Federal Government stands behind you and is ready to help." Thousands of demonstrators had flooded the streets of Louisville in the afternoon.—AFP ■

Shan United shapes 2-1 win over Ayeyawady United



Shan United's Djedje Maximin (No. 10) vies the ball with Ayeyawady United's Than Htet Aung (No. 27) during their MNL Week-18 match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 24 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

DEFENDING Champions Shan United made a 2-1 win over their big competitor Ayeyawady United in the Myanmar National League Week-18 match played yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

With the result, the defending champions could handle three straight wins over big competitors within this month.

Head coach U Aung Naing's Shan United lined up with star players Captain David Htan, Nanda Kyaw, keeper Myo Min Latt, Zwe Thet Paing, Hein Thiha Zaw and Abubakar.

In the meantime, head coach U Myo Hlaing Win's Ayeyawady United used key players captain and keeper Kyaw Zin Phyo, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Soe Moe Kyaw, Thi Ha Zaw, Than Htet Aung, Win Naing Tun, Nan Htike Zaw and Lwin Moe Aung.

Shan United showed their best at the start with accurate attacks plus effective midfield de-

fence and the team's first goal has found even at 3-minute mark.

After 1-0, Shan United converted to the defence-style play while Ayeyawady United launched their turbo-attack.

Shan United made some errors in the defence line and that caused some goal chances for the Ayeyawady but the team could not change their chances into goal results.

The first half was ended with single goal of Shan United.

Ayeyawady United played better at the second half and Shan United again relied on their massive defence.

By taking opportunity over hesitating defenders of Shan United, Ayeyawady's Thiha Zaw found an equalizer for his team at the 59-minute mark.

After 1-1, the match changes as a hot one and Shan United again mounted their maximum attack.

At 63 minute, Zin Min Tun made a leading goal for Shan United with his header supported by his teammate.

After 2-1, Shan United cleverly cleared every goal chances of opponents till the final whistle to celebrate their victory.

The win made Shan United staying on their championship path against another two teams: Ayeyawady and Hantharwady.

Defending champions Shan United is now standing in the third place with 38 points while Ayeyawady seen in second with 39 points.

Meanwhile, Hantharwady United is standing first with 40 points.

On 27 September, Shan United will take on Southern Myanmar FC at Yangon United Sports Complex and Ayeyawady United will face Yangon United at Pandonmar Stadium.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

French lawmakers move to allow larger crowds into stadiums

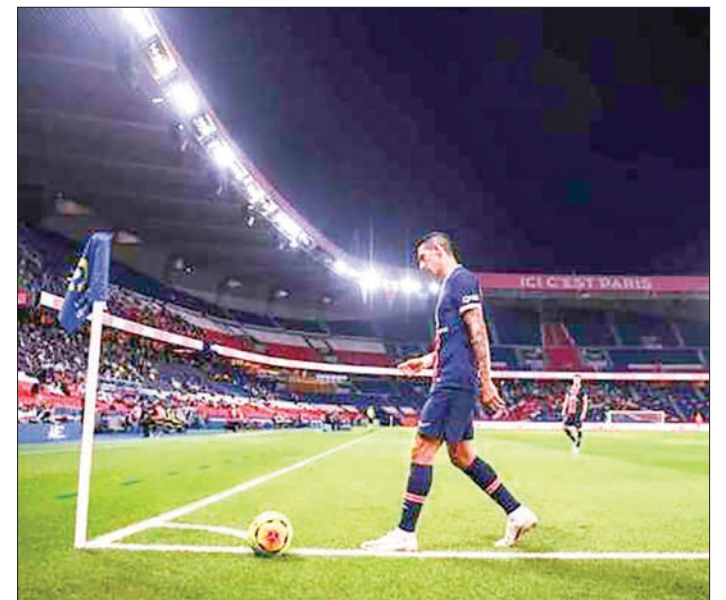
PARIS—Lawmakers in France have agreed in principle to allow larger crowds into stadiums in areas where the coronavirus is less prevalent and if venues are big enough, in what has been called a “common sense” move.

At the moment attendances at sports events are capped at 5,000, but are limited to 1,000 in areas where there are larger outbreaks of COVID-19, such as in the Mediterranean city of Marseille.

Currently, no allowances are made for the capacity of venues, and the existing rules meant no more than 1,000 spectators were able to attend Marseille's Ligue 1 game against Lille last weekend, despite their Stade Velodrome home having a capacity of 67,000.

Sacha Houllie, an MP from the same La Republique en Marche party as President Emmanuel Macron, said before a committee at France's National Assembly that adapting the rules was a “common sense” move as he pointed out that currently 1,000 people could also pack into a smaller venue where “health guidelines cannot be respected”.

An amendment to the current law was put to a vote and passed, with lawmakers stressing the economic importance to clubs of having spectators in stadiums.—AFP ■



Stadiums in France are currently allowed to admit a maximum of 5,000 spectators, but that could change in the coming weeks. **(AFP/FRANCK FIFE)**

Frank de Boer appointed Dutch national team coach

THE HAGUE—Frank de Boer has been appointed as the Netherlands' new coach, the Royal Dutch Football Federation (KNVB) announced on Wednesday.

The third-most capped Dutch player of all time, De Boer replaces Ronald Koeman who resigned earlier this year to take the reins at Barcelona, and caretaker coach Dwight Lodeweges.

“The 50-year-old former international will be at the helm of the Oranje until the World Cup in 2022,” the KNVB said in a statement.

De Boer “is to start immediately,” it added, saying he “will already be on the bench in the upcoming practice match against Mexico and the Nations League duels with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Italy”.

De Boer, a talented left-footed defender while playing for the Oranje between 1990 and 2004, has had a mixed career as a coach.

He first took up coaching at Amsterdam powerhouse Ajax in 2007 and assisted Bert van Marwijk, together with retired player Phillip Cocu to help the Dutch team reach the final of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, where they were beaten by Spain.—AFP ■



Former Inter Milan's coach from Netherland Frank De Boer gestures during the Italian Serie A football match Inter Milan vs Torino at “San Siro” Stadium in Milan on October 26, 2016. **PHOTO: GIUSEPPE CACACE / AFP/FILE**