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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 163, 10th Waxing of Tawthalin 1382 ME

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

Saturday, 26 September 2020

State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation



AS of yesterday, there have been over 1,000 people who were tested positive with COVID-19. We understand that there would be a cause for anxiety and worries among the people because of this spike of 1,000 people within one day. Although it is natural that there would be anxieties and worries, the main thing is for us to be able to contain the infection spread as much as possible. The way to contain this virus is simple. I have said this repeatedly. Please follow the basic instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Avoid going out of the house. Not only should you avoid going outside the house; please don't accept visitors. If you need to go outside due to unavoidable circumstances, if you need to receive visitors, please ask the visitors to wear masks. You yourself need to wear masks. Wash your hands regularly. I would like to urge you to wear masks all the time with seriousness; these two fundamental things; to wear masks and to avoid having contact with people. If we

can do these two things, we would be in a situation to prevent this disease to a considerable extent. Please wash your hands regularly. As I have said before, if you wash your hands for 20 seconds it would be more effective. So we can understand that people are filled with anxiety and worries. We also understand that we need to use all possible methods to contain the rapid spread of this virus as much as possible.

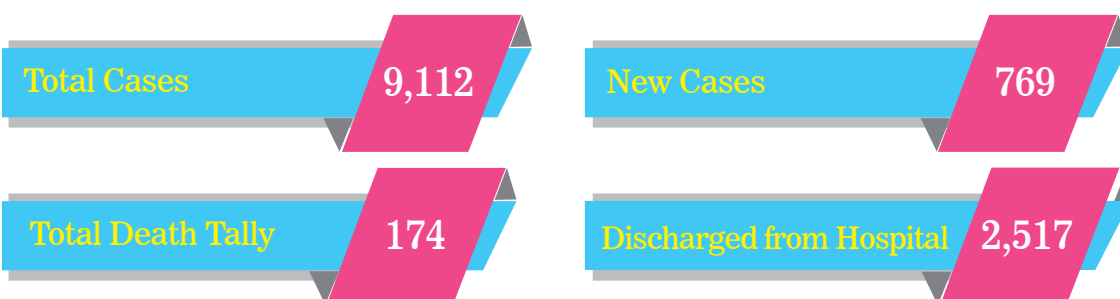
We can understand that there have been anxieties and worries because of the climbing rate of fatalities. Right now there have been 172 deaths. Therefore, this situation will not improve if we just feel concerned about this. What I wish to say is that we need to detect the virus early if we are to provide effective treatment. What we have seen is that some people try to use household remedies when they think that they have been infected and treat themselves in their own homes. They go to the hospital only when their home remedies fail.

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769 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 September, total figure rises to 9,112

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 9,112 after 769 new cases were reported on 25 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 9,112 confirmed cases, 174 died, 2,517 have been discharged from hospitals and 445 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 25 September 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 25 September 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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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.

Announcement of MoPFI to transfer General Reserve Fund to Natural Disaster Management Fund

1. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will transfer its K1,047.639 billion of General Reserve Fund (GRF) in 2019-2020FY to Natural Disaster Management Fund of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for ensuring sufficient State budget in conducting COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.
2. It is announced that the fund will be used in the COVID-19 related

matters with the approval of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, according to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

UEC passes advance ballot papers to MoFA for overseas citizen voters



THE Union Election Commission Director-General U Khin Maung Oo presented fourth batch of ballot papers and envelopes for 37,490 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 the first batch of the advance ballot papers and envelopes for 188 overseas eligible voters on 18 September, the second batch for 20,426 voters on 23 September and the third batch for 43,422 voters on 24 September.

Until now, the UEC has presented advance ballot papers and envelopes for a total of 101,526 overseas voters who will cast ballots at 45 Myanmar embassies, missions and consulates in foreign countries.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

UEC Director-General presents advance ballot papers and envelopes to the Director-General for the Planning and Administrative Department of MoFA at the UEC Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Notification of extension of temporary ban on international commercial passenger flights

THE Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel announced by Ministry of Health and Sports on 29 March 2020, was previously extended up to 23:59 Myanmar Standard Time on 30 September 2020, with

the approval of National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus.

As the suspension of inbound tourists by international flights plays crucial for containment of COVID-19 spread in Myanmar, the effective period of

this notification will be extended until 23:59 Myanmar Standard Time 31 October 2020, as approved by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

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



State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation

FROM PAGE-1

Then it is too late. It is too late to give effective treatment. That is why what is important is to receive treatment at an early stage.

With respect to this matter, I wish to discuss two things. The first thing is that a great majority of people wish to go to specialist hospitals. When they go to specialist hospitals, effective testing could not be done because there are so many patients at these hospitals. That is why we wish to urge people to go to the district and township hospitals. We are doing this not because we don't have a valid reason. At the moment, our Union Government has ordered one lakh Antigen test kits and medicines to conduct tests quickly from the Republic of Korea. The ROK government is also going to donate USD 500,000 worth of kits. These things will arrive in our country within days. We will distribute to our district and township hospitals. These hospitals will be able to conduct tests to see whether people are infected or not. Therefore I wish to request our GP doctors, health centres and private clinics to help these district and township hospitals as much as possible. This is because I want our people to go to the district and township hospitals to get properly tested for virus infection. We need adequate human resources at these hospitals. That is why I want the healthcare workers and doctors from the private sector to provide assistance. As we conduct these tests, if we find someone who is tested positive, we would send this person to the type of hospital where

treatment could be given. We would be able to give effective treatment to the patient only if the virus is detected early and the patient sent to the hospital early before the disease gets worse. If the patient is sent to the hospital only at a later stage of the infection, it would be difficult to contain the disease and to provide treatment. Another thing is that I have said this earlier on. People try to treat themselves in their own homes using household remedies. This matter of people trying to cure themselves using household remedies is related to the spread of news online. Some news is spread with good intentions; some people share what they have heard from others. I would say this is a bit irresponsible. Yes, we have to say this is irresponsible. These people spread the news from hearsay.

We understand that it is the spreading of ridiculous treatments. It will be wrong to follow such treatments because no one has a definite method to prevent COVID-19. Some countries are trying to produce vaccines. I understand they would be successful in producing the vaccine in two or three countries. However, if the World Health Organization approves the vaccine, we will try to get it as early as possible for our people. We are working on this. Actually, our people need to realize that there is no vaccine for this disease until now. It is not true that any food or drink can prevent the spread of COVID-19 at all. Therefore, it is required to stay away from others, to wear face mask near other persons even if we are 6-ft away from someone and

to wash hands regularly. These are the methods for self-protection.

There is also no drug for the treatment of COVID-19 until now. Therefore, if someone suspected himself to be infected with this disease, do not undergo ridiculous treatments. Don't believe that certain foods or drinks could relieve the disease. Get medical tests at the hospitals. Choose township and district hospitals in the first priority. The Union Government also wants to ease the worry of people as possible as we can because our people need to face against the disease confidently. Stability of mind is very crucial for recovery from the disease. This mental situation could help in overcoming any disease. Nervousness and anxiety could worsen the disease. So, we are finding all the possible ways to lessen the worries of people. Some veteran doctors are helping us. The health ministry and these experienced doctors will make a question-answer programme every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on the topic on COVID-19. Questions can be raised to this programme through the Facebook page of the health ministry. The questions will be scrutinized to avoid repeated ones. The questions will be answered from the programme, for example, the questions whether a certain food could relieve the disease. The veteran doctors will answer the questions more deeply. The programme will help the infected persons to face against the disease, and it will help in the prevention of disease for the other persons. We will also open more fever clinics outside the township

and district hospitals for ordinary illnesses depending on our workforces.

People should not feel nervous about the disease. Don't feel guilty and remorse for the recklessness of health awareness in the past. Instead, it is better to have more awareness. Don't have many worries about the situation of our country and the future of our country. For example, the death rate has increased a little bit from 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent. It was not a sharp rise. It is not surprising that confirmed cases have increased as swabs from more suspected persons were tested. However, a certain extent of worry is required for having awareness. Too much anxiety could reduce the immune system of the body. Too much stress caused by worries could lose immunity to the disease. So we don't want our people to have worries unnecessarily.

Another thing is that some citizens worry about the future. They worry about their businesses and about how they will have to make their living in the post-COVID-19 period. I said about it earlier. The government takes into account these matters.

It is still September, but the investment volume has already been greater than the previous year's amount. What I would like to say is that despite the COVID-19 crisis, we could manage to prevent the economy from sharply contracting. We achieved success to some extent. Regarding trade, the volume in the nine months of this year still cannot catch up the volume in the 12 months of the previous year, but the volume

has almost caught up. And we still have three more months. I am just talking about the two leading figures, which is the most relevant figures in the economy. We all work hard so that the citizens will not need to worry too much for the future of our country. The citizens must also make huge efforts. The citizens must not be negligent. The disease spreads widely because of negligence. So, I want you to have the determination to be very careful.

There is a saying which means that one's mind must be pure for the sake of those who take care of the person. Now, I want you to try to be healthy for those who take care of you. By the way, I would like to express thanks to the citizens who worry about my health. If you want me to be healthy, you also should try to be healthy because if I hear that citizens are healthy, I will gain mental strength and consequently my health will be better.

If we support each other and work cooperatively, we will overcome this problem quickly. I believe that we will overcome it. But, if we need to take too much time to overcome this challenge, we will have to suffer more. If we can overcome it quickly, the difficulties that the citizens are facing will be reduced quickly. So, please cooperate with us. Don't worry too much, unnecessarily. Please do not have unnecessary worries. But, please keep in mind that caution can never be in excess.

I wish all our citizens good health and well-being. Thank you.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Maung Maung Swe)

Adherence to rules and practising healthcare guidelines

THE directives of our Union Government are basically not too much in this issue, even for individuals. The guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports include wearing face masks, washing hands at least 20 seconds, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, staying apart from others in unavoidable gatherings and staying at least 6-ft from each other. Adherence to these rules and practising healthcare guidelines would help in the control of COVID-19.

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



VP U Henry Van Thio celebrates World Tourism Day 2020 online



Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of National Tourism Development Central Committee, participates in World Tourism Day event via videoconference on 25 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE World Tourism Day 2020 was celebrated online with the discussions on its theme of 'Tourism and Rural Development' at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor honoured the annual event, which is normally held on 27 September every year, in her video message which was screened at the celebration.

(Video message of the State Counsellor is covered on page 5 of this newspaper.)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of National Tourism Development Central Committee, made a speech at the event through videoconferencing.

He said that Myanmar rejoined the United Nations World Tourism Organization in 2012, and since then the event was annually celebrated with the contests of travel photos, essay writing and debate and selection of the best performers in hotels

and tourism industry.

The Vice President talked about the impacts of international flight suspensions on the tourism industry and the estimation of experts on the recovery of this sector that will need 2 to 8 years at least.

The UNWTO adopted a theme "Tourism and Rural Development" for the World Tourism Day 2020 in accordance with the views of tourism experts who remarked that the international visitors would prefer social distancing, natural tourism, ethnic tourism and environmental tourism in the post COVID-19 outbreak.

The Community-Based Tourism project of Myanmar developed in 2016 is conformable to the theme of World Tourism Day this year. The objectives of CBT include to promote traditional cultures of ethnic people, to alleviate poverty and to conserve environment.

The Vice President highlighted the importance of 'con-

nectivity' and 'infrastructure' in managing natural resources for the development of tourism sector and the use of online and digital technologies to explore new possible tourist destinations in addition to the existing Bagan, Mandalay and other significant areas.

He also advised to apply e-commerce in building the competitive capacity of MSMEs in tourism sector after developing digital infrastructure and ordinary infrastructures such as roads, bridges, airports, electricity and drinking water.

He added after completing construction of two new airports in Chin State, the region would become a prominent tourist destination and enjoy the benefits from this business.

The Vice President also talked on the increasing number of visitors to Kayah and Kayin State thanks to better transportation, socioeconomic development of local people on these routes, and a coastal highway

project that will link Ayeyawady Region with Rakhine State.

He continued to say developments of more tourist destinations which are more familiar with natural environment in regions and states, preparations for international norms to fight against the pandemic, and the role of Destination Management Organizations in respective regions and states for safe and development of destinations.

The video message of UNWTO's Secretary-General Mr Zurab Pololikashvili was shown to the event.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung delivered a commemorative speech for the World Tourism Day, followed by the greetings of U Yan Win, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation via videoconferencing.

The development of Community-Based Tourism project in regions and states are presented by the video clips.

Offices under the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in

Shan State, Kayah State and Magway Region, and U Aung Min Naing, the head of social economic sector from the Action Aid Myanmar, made a videoconferencing on the Tourism and Rural Award-winning CBT project in Inn Yaung village-tract of Myaing Township of Magway Region.

The Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) was presented by Mr Paul Penfold and Daw Aye Aye Mar from the LuxDev.

In his concluding remark, the Vice President expressed thanks for giving assistance to organize the event, the increasing number of villages from 2 in 2016 to 41 with 19 tourist destinations under the CBT projects, future support to MSMEs with digitization, investments, human resources and technical assistance, guidelines for developing tourist destinations and cooperation of relevant ministries and private organizations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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.



State Counsellor honours World Tourism Day 2020 – Stresses “Tourism and Rural Development”

LET me extend my good wishes and Metta to all the distinguished participants for their good health and well-being.

1. Today's event is to mark the World Tourism Day, which has been organized by members of the World Tourism Organization every year on 27 September since 40 years ago. I attended the event at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II last year. However, this year the event is being held online all over the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The global tourism industry has been recognized as a sustainable business. According to the 2019 data of the WTO, the tourism industry has contributed 7 per cent of international trade and is creating job opportunities for 1 out of 10 people in the world. It is also a major source of employment for millions of people in developing countries, especially for women, youths, and rural communities.

3. The theme for World Tourism Day 2020 is 'Tourism and Rural Development'. It is in conformity with the consistent efforts of our Union Government for economic development, equality and establishment of a modern and prosperous Democratic Federal Republic. The theme also corresponds to the action plans 'to implement a comprehensive package of reforms focused on achieving a sustainable expansion of the tourism sector in ways that contribute to economic development and the socio-cultural life of our people', and 'to develop and protect innovative and cultural heritage promotion businesses such as cultural and eco-tourism and related value-added services industries'.

4. Suspensions of vacation packages, inbound trips, commercial passenger flights and trips to usual tourist desti-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers speech at the World Tourism Day event on 25 September 2020.

nations amid control measures of COVID-19 have wreaked havoc on the global tourism industry. The WTO estimates that even if the restrictions on tourism sector are relaxed for the tourists in early December, the reports said that the number of international tourists might decrease by 78 per cent this year.

5. Our country could contain the first wave of the pandemic due to control measures on travels and gatherings in April 2020. Later we allowed factories, industries, public transports, markets, restaurants and schools to reopen in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the practice of physical distancing. However, measures to control the second wave of COVID-19 by preventing non-essential travels have once again caused severe impacts on the tour agencies which were preparing for the resumption of local trips.

6. The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to recover from the negative impact

of the pandemic includes the tourism relief plan. Under the CERP, 100 billion kyats will be given out as one-year loans with 1 per cent interest rate to the CMP garment factories and SME businesses; the hotels and tourism businesses will get one-year exemption for licence fee and suspension of income tax and commercial tax; the rental fee for state-owned hotels has been reduced by 50 per cent for a specific period. Under the Cash for Training programme, online basic and advanced courses on tourism business are being conducted as well as mentoring classes of not more than 5 persons to generate income for the jobless employees from this industry and related businesses of slow-moving vehicles, roadside vendors, souvenir sellers and handicraft producers.

7. As no one can estimate the end of COVID-19, it is necessary to resume the businesses under preventive measures against the pandemic for the socio-economic survival of the people. Experts have estimated tourists would enter only in 2021, so it would be necessary for us to begin with domestic tours. In this situation, it is required to strictly follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent one more surge of the pandemic. Both employees from this industry and visitors need to make arrangements and learn the guidelines.

8. Tourism experts estimate that visitors would change their choice and opt for new destinations which are closer to the natural environment with free travel styles, rather than more popular destinations, in the post-COVID-19 period. In addition to the directives of the Union Government to develop new safe destinations across the country, local authorities, businesspersons and people need to form working groups to conserve these areas. The information must be given to the public to help their choice for appropriate hotels and tourism businesses which comply with the guidelines of COVID-19 measures. Their COVID-19 Safe Service must be recognized. Only if safe services could be given by these preparations, Myanmar will be ready for competing with other countries to attract foreign visitors when international tourism resumes.

9. Although the World Tourism Day event for this year had to be conducted online, I conclude this speech by making a wish that we would be able to resume international tourism next year and hope to meet all the attendees here again at the forthcoming World Tourism Day next year.

Thank you all. May you all be blessed with good health and well-being.



MoTC celebrates World Maritime Day online

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung delivered a speech at the World Maritime Day online event yesterday morning.

During the event, he said that the International Maritime Organization leads member nations in celebration of the World Maritime Day every year to help improve maritime safety, reduce water pollution and effectively use modern technology for sustainable development in the maritime industry.

The theme for World Maritime Day 2020 is 'Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet', which provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. All member nations have to undertake to achieve the targets.



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung joins World Maritime Day via videoconference on 25 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

The Union Minister also highlighted the UN's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the maritime transport sector. He said that the event also intended to raise awareness about climate changes and proper management of oceans and seas.

He also talked about the implementation of Myanmar

Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), which has five targets. He added that Myanmar National Transport Master Plan, which is eco-friendly, has also been implemented to promote the entire transport sector of Myanmar.

He said that the government and Department of Marine Administration has provided nec-



essary services and assistance to Myanmar seamen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the event, the message sent by the Secretary-General of IMO was presented. Then PowerPoint presentations on activities of Myanmar maritime sector and maritime training in Myanmar.

The online event was also participated by Hluttaw representatives, government officials, representatives from the International Maritime Organization, international partner organizations, maritime associations, maritime training schools, and other officials.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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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.

MoC to accept online applications for auto imports on 1 October

THE Ministry of Commerce will accept the online applications for vehicle imports from auto showrooms starting from 1 October, according to the third meeting of Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Importing held online yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint said that Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Importing has allowed 143 sales centres and 62 showrooms to open till August 2020. The committee issued Notification 1/2020 on 31 August 2020 for specification of the model years of imported vehicles with the remarks of its members.

The notification permitted



Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Importing organizes meeting online on 25 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

the imports of the vehicles earlier than three years for private vehicles, old vehicles, vehicles for donation and passenger vehicles

and the vehicles earlier than five years for commercial vehicles, he said.

He added that the ministry

was processing for accepting vehicle import licences applications fully online starting from 1 October to facilitate trading during COVID-19.

Applications of vehicle import licences from showrooms will be first trailed fully online. During the online import application trailed period, their vehicle purchase permits will be issued manually. Applications of vehicle import licences and purchase permits from sales centres will be then processed fully online, he added. The meeting was concluded following a round of discussions of the attendees. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MRCS Central Council organizes virtual meeting

THE opening ceremony of the 83rd meeting of Central Council of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as Patron of Myanmar Red Cross Society, called on the council members to work hard in accordance with the Myanmar Red Cross Law, which was approved in 2015. He also urged them to apply innovative thinking in their works.

Recently, Myanmar has experienced a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and related deaths. The Union Minister said he wanted Red Cross members to systematically participate more in COVID-19 response efforts supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports. He called on Red Cross members to hold videoconferences to effectively collaborate in COVID-19 response efforts.

The Union Minister said that



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the meeting of MRCS Central Council on 25 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Red Cross officials and members need to be ready for unexpected situations. He added that the Ministry of Health and Sports, in cooperation with Yangon Region government, are working to create more quarantine centres and spaces to receive the increasing number of COVID-19 patients. He said that he wanted Red Cross members to provide assistance in the new centres.

The Union Minister also urged the participants to con-

duct necessary reviews in order to make the works of the MRCS more effective. He said that the MRCS can help the Ministry by trying the local humanitarian institution to be stronger. He also urged the members to work unitedly.

He stressed that the MRCS should inform the general public about their activities and action plans via social networks and media. The Union Minister said that every task will be successful

if all the members work unitedly, and the Ministry will cooperate with the MRCS.

During the event, MRCS President Dr Maung Maung Myint presented the activities of the local institution.

In the meeting, MRCS Vice President Dr Amaya Maw Naing explained the implementation of the resolutions made by the 82nd meeting of the central council. MRCS executive member Dr Mya Thu explained the works and activities carried out by the MRCS headquarters from July 2019 to June 2020, and future plans. Another MRCS executive member Dr Tin Nyunt presented their executive committee's report. Daw Kyu Kyu Win, another MRCS executive member, explained the executive committee's financial report for 2019 and the works of auditors. The second day of the meeting will be held on 26 September via videoconferencing. —MNA
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Yangon-Mandalay express and Kyimyindine-Pyay mail trains suspended

By Nyein Nyein

Yangon-Mandalay express train and Kyimyindine-Pyay mail trains have been stopped temporarily, according to the Myanma Railways (MR) Division 7 Yangon.

Yangon-Mandalay 3 up and 4 down express train and Kyimyindine-Pyay 63 up and 64 down mail train have been suspended starting from 25 September.

On 12 September, MR Division 7 Yangon released an

announcement that MR would suspend all the trains except the six main routes because of the declining number of passengers at the railway stations. The decline can be attributed to the travelling restrictions imposed by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 to enable the control of spreading of coronavirus disease.

The main six routes and trains are Yangon-Mandalay 3 up

and 4 down, Mandalay-Myitkyina 41 up and 42 down, Yangon-Pyay 63 up and 64 down, Nay Pyi Taw-Chauk 101 up and 102 down, Patheingyi-Kyankhin 185 up and 186 down and Mandalay-Lashio 131 up and 132 down.

The mail trains and cargo trains will run as usual on Yangon-Mandalay route and Mandalay-Myitkyina route.

Moreover, the circular trains on Yangon-Hlawga route, Yangon-Mingalardon route and Yan-

gon-Ywarthagy route will run as usual with two trains each in the morning office hours and the evening office hours. The circular train B/3 and B/4 and A/4 and A/5 have stopped starting from 21 September.

Previously, Yangon circular trains were operated with 54 trains daily. Now, the operation of the trains has been reduced to control spreading of COVID-19.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 110/2020

9th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
(25 September 2020)

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

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time. Due to the increasing number of positive cases and the number of patients who have neither travel history nor close contacts with COVID-19 patients in Mon State and Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, people residing in some townships of the four state and regions are required for “Stay-at-Home” in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.
2. It is hereby announced that people residing in the following townships in state and regions are included in the Stay-at-Home programme:

- (a) Mon State
 - (1) Mawlamyine
 - (2) Bilin
- (b) Mandalay Region
 - (1) Mahaangmye
 - (2) Chanayethazan
 - (3) Amarapura
- (c) Bago Region
 - (1) Kawa
 - (2) Bago
 - (3) Thanatpin
- (d) Ayeyawady Region
 - (1) Patheingyi
 - (2) Pyaw O
 - (3) Maubin

3. People from the above-mentioned 11 townships, who are included in the Stay-at-Home programme shall follow the following rules:

- (a) Stay only at home.
 - (1) Relating to the stay-at-home order (for government departments in accordance with Letter No. 2354/264/COVID-19/Committee(2020) issued on 14-9-2020 by the National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Containment and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), to follow the directive for civil servants to rotate on a 2-week for office attendance and 2-week on work-from-home basis.
 - (2) In private sector, those who are working in banking and financial services, filling stations, food productions, cold-storage facilities for meat and fish, production and distribution of medicines, medical supplies and drinking water, factories of daily personal hygiene products and related businesses are excluded.
 - (3) Those who are working at private-run ports which are providing services for international cargo vessels at the International Terminals in Yangon Port, representative offices of shipping lines, freight forwarder companies, Custom services agencies, container carrying vehicles, trucks for export/import goods at the port, vessels, inland container depots and dry ports are also excluded.
 - (4) Those who are working in communications businesses such as post office services, landline and mobile phone communication services, internet services (not including the vendors of selling mobile phones and internet data), and services for tower and fibre networks are also excluded.
- (b) Raw materials and cut-make-pack (CMP) facto-

ries and workplaces have to be closed on 26-9-2020 and 27-9-2020 until the relevant region/state governments, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Health and Sports, issue orders on 28-9-2020.

- (c) Organizations and companies are to work from home.
 - (d) Only one person per household can go outside to purchase essentials.
 - (e) Only two persons per household may go outside for hospital or clinical visits.
 - (f) Always wear facemasks/masks when going outside.
 - (g) Allow only vehicles transporting working people and permitted vehicles may enter any township.
 - (h) Within the ward, only the driver and one other person are permitted to go shopping and only the driver and two other persons are permitted to go to the hospital.
4. If the number of people exceeds the limitations mentioned in Paragraph 3-(d), (e) and (h), or for any other emergency reasons, prior notice should be given to the relevant ward administrator and they in turn must only permit the people going from and returning to the ward and not allow people from outside the ward to enter or other people within the ward to leave.
 5. Failure to comply with this order will have action taken in accordance with existing laws.
 6. This order takes effect as of 8 am on 26-9-2020.

Sd/ Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister for Health and Sports

India likely to extend Myanmar's bean export deadline, driven by demand

By Nyein Nyein

INDIA is likely to extend Myanmar's bean export deadline because of its growing domestic demand, said an official from Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

On 22 May, India abruptly moved forward the import period for 400,000 tonnes of black beans by three months, i.e. 31 August 2020 from the earlier set deadline of March 2021, as per India official notice letter.

Although the bean association asked to extend the August

deadline, India still has not responded to the request.

“Our association and the Ministry of Commerce have requested India to extend the deadline so that we can export the remaining quota by the end of March 2021, set by India for the first time. Also, we heard that India bean traders have also requested their Ministry to push back the deadline. However, we still haven't heard any response from the Indian government. We hope to hear something from them sooner or later,” said U Min Ko Oo, the association secretary.

At present, Myanmar, a major grower of black bean, has exported about 100,000 tonnes of black beans to India, out of 400,000 tonnes target, according to the association. The price of bean has risen in the local market because India is buying Myanmar beans by giving the money in advance these days as India is badly in need of the beans.

Current price of black bean is K1,070,000 per tonne while the pigeon pea fetches K830,000 per tonne in the local market, MPBSSMA said.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Merchants evaluate the quality of beans and pulses at a wholesale market in Mandalay in February 2019. PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW (MANDALAY)

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

Safe and responsible COVID-19 services called key to revitalizing tourism

WITH the resurgence of the coronavirus infection, the second wave has been a cudgel to the back of the knees of the people relying on the hotel and tourism sector for their livelihoods.

We imposed the travel restrictions with social distancing in April, 2020 and could control the first wave of the global pandemic. With success in containing the coronavirus infection, the UN

Government relaxed restrictions step-by-step, allowing restaurants and high schools to reopen, and public transportation to resume their services in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines. Streets, restaurants and supermarkets were filled with people and local travellers. Human traffic was almost back to pre-virus levels in towns.

Now, no local visitors to travel destinations, restaurants, hotels and guests houses has become a second blow to the hospitality-sector which was hard hit by the global pandemic since its outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our tourism industry, shuttered restaurants and hotels, and sent hundreds of thousands of hospitality-sector employees to the unemployment line.

Though nobody can predict when this pandemic will end, we must revitalize our tourism industry with safe and responsible COVID-19 services, which can guarantee the highest levels of safety from our tourism industry.

our tourism industry.

Those who are involved in the hospitality sector: from business owners to their employees: need to set an example by adopting safety principles themselves. They must not only help visitors by explaining local rules and expectations and encouraging compliance but also communicate the rules of health orders clearly to visitors and residents.

While maintaining the new normal by following health safety practices, we need to ease into safely reopening our tourism industry.

To ensure no crowds at the travel destinations in the post-COVID-19 period, we must discover cultural and natural attractions which are different from current destinations which attract local and foreign visitors.

Ensuring safe, responsible behavior and discovering new natural destinations is a shared responsibility between visitors, residents, business owners and employees and local governments.

This is especially important in areas with high visitation, where the economic livelihoods of residents and businesses depend heavily on tourism.

If there is a will, there is a way to balance the safety of residents and the careful reopening of the tourism industry to welcome the local and foreign travellers back when they feel comfortable.

Though nobody can predict when this pandemic will end, we must revitalize our tourism industry with safe and responsible COVID-19 services, which can guarantee the highest levels of safety from our tourism industry.

'SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET'

UN and partners press for seafarers to be designated 'key workers' during COVID pandemic

The UN Secretary-General has again appealed for governments to act on behalf of hundreds of thousands of seafarers and other maritime workers stuck at sea for endless months, in some cases more than a year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANTÓNIO Guterres on 25 September pressed authorities to formally designate these personnel as "key workers" to facilitate safe crew changes, allowing fatigued seafarers to be repatriated and replaced by colleagues who are awaiting deployment.

"Despite the unprecedented conditions brought about by the pandemic, seafarers have continued to tirelessly support the often invisible global logistics chain", the UN chief said, in his message for World Maritime Day, observed annually on 24 September.

This year, the focus is on 'Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet' which underlines how the industry will play a central role in both post-pandemic recovery and future economic growth.

Seafarers critical to global trade

As Mr Guterres pointed out, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the professionalism and sacrifice of the more than one million men and women who serve in the world's merchant fleet.

Seafarers play a critical role in shipping, which accounts for the movement of more than 80 per cent of global trade including food, basic goods and vital medical supplies needed during the pandemic.

The UN and partners estimate that more than 300,000



Seafarers are on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic, playing an essential role in maintaining the flow of vital goods, such as food and medical supplies. PHOTO: IMO

members of this hidden workforce currently are trapped at sea due to travel restrictions, border closures and other measures implemented by governments to contain COVID-19 spread.

They said the situation is unfolding into an urgent humanitarian, safety and economic crisis.

'The show had to go on'

Captain Hedi Marzougui, was commanding a merchant vessel in the Far East when the pandemic broke out. Life on board immediately became difficult. Crew changes, shore leaves and medical leaves were

suspended, and it was hard to get vital supplies or technical support to the ship.

"Port nations changed regulations on a daily, if not hourly, basis. Severe strains began to show amongst my crew almost immediately," he said, speaking at a virtual event to mark World Maritime Day, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

"Not knowing when, or if, we would be returning home took a severe mental toll on my crew and myself. We felt we were being treated as second-class citizens, with no input or control on our lives. However, even under these stressing conditions,

the show had to go on."

'Collateral victims' of the pandemic?

For some seafarers, the show appears to have no end. The Secretary-General noted that some tours of duty have now stretched more than 17 months: far beyond international standards.

Besides renewing his appeal for Governments to declare seafarers as essential workers, Mr Guterres urged authorities to implement protocols developed by UN agencies, alongside the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers' Federation, that would

facilitate crew rotations.

The protocols also call for no new work extensions beyond 11 months, diverting vessels to ports where crew changes can take place, and recognition of internationally-designated seafarers' documents.

Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and a former seafarer himself, stressed that it is high time for action. "We all depend on seafarers," he said. "They should not be the collateral victims of the pandemic."

impacts at sea and on land

The head of the International

Labour Organization (ILO) warned that failure to resolve the crisis would not only be "catastrophic" for seafarers and compromise maritime safety, it could potentially lead to a breakdown of global supply chains.

"We have a plan of action, and I think our next steps must simply be... to increase the pressures on governments so that the perfectly feasible action is taken", said Guy Ryder, the ILO Director-General.

He reported that Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from 30 major companies wrote to the Secretary-General this week, requesting action.

Some 12,000 companies worldwide have joined the UN Global Compact, which supports businesses in aligning their operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, the environment and ending corruption.

CEO and Executive Director Sanda Ojiambo pressed for political action, stating that without seafarers, global supply chains would simply cease functioning.

"Truly, for the sake of men and women like Captain Marzougui and his crew, and in the interest of safe and orderly shipping and trade, let us all make our national authorities know that we stand with the seafarers," she said.

SOURCE: UN News

A BLUEPRINT FOR "A NEW GAMES, FIT FOR A POST-CORONA WORLD"

Olympic organizers unveil scaled-back pandemic Games plan

ATHLETE welcome ceremonies will be scrapped and flashy spectacles axed at a scaled-back Tokyo 2020 Games, organizers said Friday, but a senior Olympic official insisted the event "has to happen".

Fewer free tickets and savings on banners, mascots and fireworks are among more than 50 cost-cutting measures agreed by organizers and Olympic officials, less than a year before the virus-postponed event begins.

Despite the complications and extra costs of the delay, and continued uncertainty about how the massive international event can be held safely, International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates said cancellation was not an option.

"It would have been very easy for you to say 'this isn't possible',"

he said via videolink after a meeting of organizers and Olympic officials in Tokyo and elsewhere.

"But I think we all share the view that this has to be possible, this has to happen, because we cannot disregard a generation of Olympic athletes."

Documents released by organizers painted a picture of a less-than-opulent event, with the size of behind-the-scenes delega-

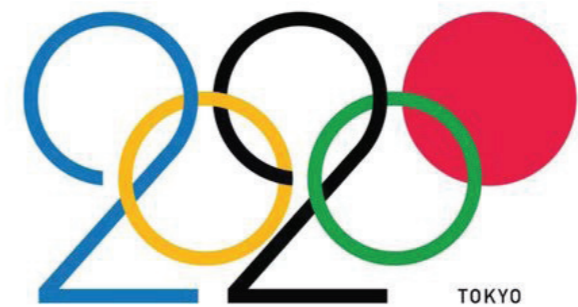
tions reduced by 10 to 15 per cent, and perks cut back.

The number of athletes will not be reduced, organizers pledged.

But officials, press and others involved with the Games will be given fewer complimentary tickets to the opening and closing ceremonies - with changes to the usually dazzling contents of the events themselves under review.

"What was initially proposed (for the ceremonies) has been drastically changing," acknowl-

edged Yoshiro Mori, president of the Tokyo organizing committee. SOURCE: AFP



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများနေ့
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

"သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုကားကွယ်၍ သက်ရွယ်မရွေးပေးမိလို့ ကပ်ရောဂါကို တိုက်ထုတ်ဖို့"
"Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?"

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14th World Rabies Day
28 September 2020

ခွေးရူးရောဂါအဆုံးသတ်ရေး
ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးကာ ပူးပေါင်းပေး
END RABIES: COLLABORATE, VACCINATE

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 25th September, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Naypyitaw and Chin State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin 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 thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th September, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th September, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, widespread in Yangon Region and isolated in Mandalay Region.

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Karen National Party (KNP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Karen National Party (KNP) Joint Secretary 1, Mahn Myint Soe (aka) Mahn Min Ye Htwe presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 25 September.



Esteemed nationalities

I wish you all Mingalaba!

I am Mahn Myint Soe (aka) Mahn Min Ye Htwe, Joint Secretary 1 of the Karen National Party (KNP).

The vision of our party is as follows:

1. To express the desires of Karen people through democratic means;
2. To install the rule of law that guarantees social security for all nationalities;
3. To assure equality and self-determination for all the nationalities
4. To consolidate national unity that covers and represents the entire Karen people;
5. The emergence of a federal democratic Union, aspired by the national races;

Esteemed people

The following four points were adopted in drafting the Constitution at the first conference of the parliament on 16 June 1947:

1. Independent nation
2. Sovereign nation
3. Democratic nation
4. Union nation

But the Constitution that was promulgated on 24 September 1947 deviated from the Union system, as it adopted the unilateral system.

The civil strife that broke out as a result of the then AFPFL government's use of military means in solving the political disputes the constitutional crisis had triggered has lasted for nearly a century.

Because of the civil strife, the nation lost its human resources and wealth and fell from one of the rich countries of Southeast Asia to a least developed country (LDC). But the worst is the spiritual deterioration caused by the loss of trust among the nationalities that may be unrecoverable for an immeasurable length of time.

Esteemed nationalities

At the conference on the constitutional amendment of Chapter 11 of the 1947 Constitution held on 1 March 1962, the united group of states suggested the modification of the Constitution through the use of the federal policy that represented a genuine Union.

U Ba Swe, leader of AFPFL (Stable) and Widura Thakin Chit Maung, leader of Pa-ma-nya-ta of the opposition group discussed against the idea of a federal Union. U Ba Swe insisted on the unilateral system, while Widura Thakin Chit Maung pointed out socialism as a means of social improvement for the entire people.

During the federal seminar three local dailies -- Bama Khit, Ahtauktaw and The Nation -- distributed false information saying that ethnic races were going to secede from the Union.

When only the military strength of a battalion and a half was left, and when Prime Minister U Nu's administration was also dubbed "Yangon Government", ethnic leaders, Sao Khun Cho and Sao Wunna, defended the Union with the military force formed with Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan. So, the issue of the federal Union was raised at the meeting, without any intention to leave the Union under the Chapter 10 of the 1947 Constitution.

Esteemed national people

The main requirement of Myanmar is:

1. Formation of the nationality states and the federal Union
2. The solving of the problem of internal strife through political means

The global situation proves that the acts to dominate one ethnic race by another leads to instability and a political breakdown in multi nation-states.

For example:

1. The breaking up of Czechoslovakia into Czech and Slovak republics
2. The secession of Croatia and Slovenia from Yugoslavia
3. The disintegration of the Soviet Union

On the other hand, the genuine federal Unions, including:

1. Switzerland
2. Australia
3. The United States of America continues to grow with political stability.

When we analyze the countries that broke up,

we can find that they are:

1. authoritarian states
2. unions in name only
3. unions where the division of power between the central and the states is unequal

As Myanmar is a multi-nation-state, it must embrace the global culture of unity in diversity while acknowledging diversity as an objective condition.

A genuine Union is like a voluntary association, formed with unity and equality. In fact, a union does not exist by itself, only its units exist. So a union is a formation of the states.

The area of a state does not matter in establishing a union.

In the United States, the State of Georgia is much larger than the State of Rhode Island, and in Switzerland, the area of Zurich and Bern cantons are much larger than that of Basel-Stadt canton. Likewise, during the Soviet era, the size of Russia was many times larger than Estonia.

Moreover, the population does not matter in a federal Union. Nevada State in the US has a population of three million and Wyoming and Delaware states have a population of 900,000 each. Some of the breakaway states of the former Soviet Union have large or small Russian people. In 1998, Barcelona proclaimed self-determination that must be observed by global countries.

The benefits of a federal Union are:

1. A check and balance system between self-rule in the states and the shared-rule in the centre is protecting a federal Union from disintegration;
2. There is no racial problem thanks to the mutual recognition between the majority and minority;
3. In the federal system, all the citizens have equal voting rights, and all the units that form the Union also have equal voting rights regardless of their area. In this way, it embraces equality.

Military coups are impossible in a federal Union as it opposes Authoritarianism.

Esteemed national people

Let us build an unbreakable Union, and we pray for the soonest emergence of a genuine Union.

Mingalaba! May you all enjoy health and prosperity and may all your wishes be fulfilled. Thank you.



Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 26-27 September

CAMPAIGN speech of People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 26 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 27 September. However, that of Daingnet National Development Party will only be published on 27 September.— MNA

Elections are the foundation of democracy.

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

Mro National Democracy Party Vice-Chairperson U Maung San Aung presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Esteemed people

Mingalaba! Mro National Democracy Party will contest four seats at the request of Mro people. The party's emblem is a giant gong.

Esteemed people

According to Rakhine history, Mro people live in the area since before "King Marayu" established the first Danyawady city in 3325 BC. In our hearts, we presume that ethnic Rakhine people and ethnic Chin people, who live together with us through thick and thin, are our close relatives.

Mro people live in the Rakhine State and Paletwa Township (Chin State). In the Myanmar Census 2014, the ethnic Rakhine groups are categorized as Rakhine groups (701-Rakhine, 702-Kaman, 703-Khamwee, 704-Daingnet, 705-Mayamagi, 706-Mro and 707 Thet). In addition to it, ethnic Mro people are also included in Chin groups (446-Wakim/Mro).

The National Convention of Myanmar in 1994 compiled a list of the 35 national, ethnic groups, each of which as a population of more than 10,000.

Number (22) – Mro – a population of 36,000 (until 31 March 1992), which is a total population of Mro people in the two states.

Esteemed people

After Myanmar achieved Independence, in (previous) parliament democratic era, after elections on (28-2-1960), Rakhine State Mro National League party was founded at the house of Captain Kya Hla Aung (a revolutionary leader who fought Japan) at 7 am on 4th Waning of Nayon, 1323 ME (1-6-1961). It has been about 60 years, so to nurture a new generation that wants democracy, we founded "Mro National Democracy Party".

We would like to mention the list of 19 Mro national political leaders (committee members) who planted "seeds of democracy".

No.	Names	Position
1	U Pyinnya Wuntha	Chairperson
2	U Ka Chay	Vice-Chairperson (1)
3	U Tun Aung	Vice-Chairperson (2)
4	U Kyaw Zaw Hla	General Secretary
5	U Shwe Khaing	Deputy General Secretary (1)
6	U San Hla Oo	Deputy General Secretary (2)
7	U Thauk Kya Oo	Finance Officer
8	U Oo Tha Zan	Auditor
9	U Maung Phoe Tha	Campaigner
10	U San Tun Phyu	member
11	U Mya Tha Zan	member
12	U San Hla Phyu	member
13	U Htwee Hla Aung	member
14	U Inga Aung	member
15	U Shwe Hla	member
16	U Ni Tun Aung	member
17	U Maung Sein Hla	member
18	U Maung Kya Oo	member
19	U Kyaw Nyunt	member

Esteemed people

I would like to present the policy, stance and action plans of the Mro National Democracy Party. Our party's policies are

1. Our party will cooperate with other political parties and social organizations (which have the same stance) in working for the benefits of the country, the state and national interests.
2. By using transparent national policies which ensure equality for ethnic minorities of the Union of Myanmar, we will try to achieve genuine democracy and a genuine federal union.
3. We feel deep gratitude towards the citizens, so we will always return the favour.
4. We will work side by side with other nation-

al, ethnic people, who are like our brothers and live together with us in the state through thick and thin so that the citizens can live "secure and peaceful lives."



Esteemed people

I would like to present action plans of Mro National Democracy Party. They are

1. With the consent of the majority, we will choose suitable ways to carry out tasks and set good common objectives that we will try to fulfil.
 2. We will always welcome constructive criticisms, suggestions, negotiations and discussions for the sake of national interests.
 3. We will encourage the young generation to participate in national politics actively. We will find innovative ways to promote the standard of living of young people who do not get good job opportunities.
 4. We will resolve the difficulties that peasants and workers, the grassroots, encountered.
 5. We will safeguard women rights.
 6. We will make efforts to open schools and clinics in rural areas so that children of poor parents can receive education.
 7. The history of ethnic Mro people will be brought into the light, and we will preserve the culture and tradition of Mro people.
- In conclusion, I would like to say that the founding of Mro National Democracy Party is not for making unrealistic demand. But I would like to call on (the current government and President) and (the upcoming government and President after the 2020 General Elections) to introduce ethnic Mro language into the curriculum of Basic Education Schools in Rakhine State and to rapidly appoint Mro language teachers.
- Thanks to all.
- * * * * *

Rio scraps famed carnival as virus surges across globe

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil has postponed Rio de Janeiro's famed carnival for next year, the latest spectacle hit by the pandemic as governments across the globe struggle to contain a surge in coronavirus infections.

Rio's carnival, famous for its gyrating Samba dancers, drummers and dancing crowds, draws millions for all night parties in packed streets, making social distancing all but impossible.

Brazil now has the world's second highest death toll after the United States -- nearly 140,000 fatalities -- and is still battling to bring the virus under control.

Rio's samba schools had

already warned in July that without certainty of a vaccine this year it would be difficult to organize the February 2021 festival.

"It's not a cancellation, it's a postponement," said Jorge Castanheira, president of the group that organises the parades. "We are looking for an alternative solution, something we can do when it's safe to contribute to the city." It was the first time the carnival had been postponed since 1912, joining a growing list of major entertainment and sporting events disrupted by the pandemic with the virus showing no signs of slowing its track across the globe.—AFP

Israel restricts outgoing flights to bolster virus lockdown

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government slapped restrictions on outgoing flights on Friday as part of a slew of measures to bolster a second virus lockdown imposed last week.

"The arrangement agreed upon enables leaving the country for whoever bought an airplane ticket prior to the beginning of the lockdown, i.e. today,

the 25th, at 1400," Transport Minister Miri Regev said in a statement.

"People who buy a ticket beyond then won't be able to use it," she said, noting Israelis would be able to return to the country "without limitations".

From 1100 GMT, Israel was set to tighten its second virus lockdown, after the first week

failed to bring down the world's highest coronavirus infection rate.

The new rules, which will close workplaces, shutter markets and further limit prayers and demonstrations, had yet to be finalised in parliament just hours before they were due to come into force.—AFP

North Korea's Kim apologizes over 'defector' shooting: Seoul

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologized Friday over the killing of a South Korean at sea, calling it an "unexpected and disgraceful event", Seoul's presidential office said.

The fisheries official was shot dead on Tuesday by North

Korean soldiers, and Seoul says his body was set on fire while still in the water, apparently as a precaution against coronavirus infection.

It was the first killing of a Southern citizen by North Korean forces for a decade, and

provoked outrage in the South.

Kim apologized "for disappointing President Moon and South Koreans" rather than helping them in the face of the "malicious coronavirus", said Suh Hoon, the South's National Security Adviser.—AFP

Union Construction Minister discusses development of transport infrastructure

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw discussed the construction progress of building, road, bridge and urban and housing development in resurgence of COVID-19 during the virtual coordination meeting with the ministry's officials yesterday.

Firstly, the Union Minister said that the ministry is working to facilitate the transport for the public while accelerating the projects in the respective regions and states. All the engineers in the project sites across the nation need

to follow the health guidelines of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports and to conduct prevent measures for natural disaster like storm, said the Union Minister, urging that to follow the terms and conditions of the tenders and to present the progress in each financial year.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin also discussed the completion of projects in time in accordance with the rules and regulations



Union Minister U Han Zaw discusses development of transport infrastructure with the ministry's officials in regions and states on 25 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

during the end of budget year and it needs to make efforts to complete the pledged projects, to follow

the terms and conditions of tender system and to cooperate with the relevant regions and states

government to have good drive in implementing the projects by following the instructions released by

the Ministry of Health and Sports while facing the resurgence of COVID19. The Directors of Road Management Department respectively presented about the progresses in construction sectors including road and bridge construction works in each FY via video clip. The Union Minister and his Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn coordinated the discussions, and instructed to make concerted efforts to complete in time and to ensure quality of AC roads.— MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Cash for Work Project under CERP creates 2.8 million jobs

THE Department of Rural Development has implemented the Cash for Work Project which could create 2.8 million job opportunities for rural people in 2,505 villages in 259 townships from July to September.

The project was fully completed. The government carried out the project under COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to allow people living in rural areas to work for rural development themselves and receive income at the same time.

The project, which was undertaken with 4,402 subprojects in 2,505 villages of 259 townships in regions/states, provided K 10 million cash assistance each to the

villages.

Under the project, the department carried out digging up sewers and canals, cleaning dirty water, paving roads in the village, maintaining bridges, removing debris that can cause landslides, fencing water tanks and reservoirs and building them, linking water pipes, building and maintaining harbour bridges, building small-scale dams, retaining walls, sports grounds, school buildings, clinics, community halls, markets, and planting trees near water bodies and recreational areas.

Some 2.8 million rural people from 390,000 households secured jobs and earned incomes

from the labour intensive project.

Although the project planned to use only 60 percent of the cash assistance as wages for the labours, on the ground up to 70 percent amounted nearly K 17 billion could be provided.

For ensuring transparency in project implementation, a feedback mechanism was established to address challenges in time.

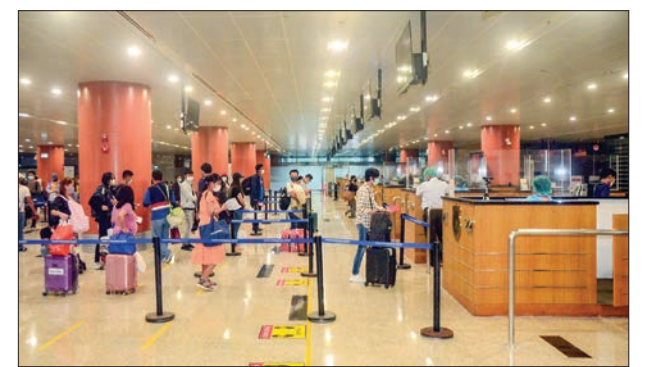
For ensuring gender equality, the project supported equal participation of males and females at all levels, and ensured equal rights for all people including disabled persons.— MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

191 overseas Myanmar citizens fly back home on 25 September

A total of 191 overseas Myanmar citizens; 150 from Singapore and 41 from Thailand, who were stranded abroad due to the suspension of commercial flights, returned home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar National Airways (MNA)'s relief flight that carried the Myanmar nationals from Singapore and Myanmar Airways International (MAD)'s flight that brought back the nationals from Thailand landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening. Yesterday's flights are nineteenth batch of repatriation from Singapore and ninth batch of repatriation from Thailand.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and



Myanmar returnees from foreign countries line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 25 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back

citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. Until now a total of 16,651 Myanmar nationals abroad were repatriated by relief flight and special flight.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (050N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (050N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (101N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (101N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PAGONA V.06/20

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PAGONA VOY. NO. (06/20)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-7** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

Japan to ease entry restrictions for all countries in October

TOKYO—Japan will reopen borders for all foreign visitors with permits to stay in the country for some time, including students but excluding tourists, from October, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Friday, in a major easing of entry restrictions imposed to tackle the novel coronavirus



Japanese economic revitalization minister Yasutoshi Nishimura (R, front row) speaks during a government taskforce meeting on anti-coronavirus measures in Tokyo on Sept. 25, 2020. Shigeru Omi who heads the task force (C) and Health, Labour and Welfare Minister Norihisa Tamura (L) also attended the meeting. PHOTO: KYODO

pandemic. "To revitalize the economy, it is indispensable to resume international travel," Suga told a government taskforce on coronavirus response. Japan will take the measure as the number of new virus cases has been trending downward in recent weeks and testing capacity at airports has been

boosted. The relaxation roughly coincides with the start of the fall semester at Japanese universities and comes ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, which were supposed to be held this summer but have been postponed to next year due to the global pandemic.—Kyodo ■

Vietnam exports 850 mln masks in 8 months

HANOI—Vietnamese businesses exported nearly 850 million medical masks in the first eight months of this year, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. More than 70 enterprises exported over 135 million medical masks in August alone, local daily newspaper Vietnam News cited the department's data as reporting on Thursday. The largest importers included Japan, South Korea, Germany and the United States. Masks were also exported to Australia, China, Laos, Poland and Singapore, said the report. Masks have been a highlight of Vietnamese exports during the COVID-19 pandemic. Textile and garment enterprises have also quickly adapted machinery and raw materials to make medical masks, anti-bacterial fabric masks and protective goods to fill the gaps when processing orders were delayed, according to Vietnam News.—Xinhua ■

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)

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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:
 - 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.
 - 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
 - To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.
 - 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.
 - Electronic Submission is not allowed.**
 - 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.
 - 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

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Agriculture
Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project

Invitation for Bids

- Date: 26 September 2020
Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan 3724- & Grant 617-MYA; Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project (CFAVC)
Contract No. and Title: GD-03; Supply of Farm Equipment and Associated Services (Lots 1 to 4)
Deadline for Submission of Bids: 12 November 2020, 2:00 PM
- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
The Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation ("the Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for GD03; Farm Equipment and Associated Services (Lots 1 to 4) with nature, and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The supplier shall have service centers located in Myanmar and provide written confirmation of spare parts availability for seven (7) years from date of supply. More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.
 - International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as described in the Bidding Documents.
 - Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
Financial: The Bidder shall have a minimum average annual turnover of:
 - For Lot 1 USD 245,000
 - For Lot 2 USD 1,000,000
 - For Lot 3 USD 60,000
 - For Lot 4 USD 270,000
 calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (3) years.
Experience: The Bidder shall have successful completion as main supplier within the last three (3) years, of at least two (2) contracts each valued at:
 - For Lot 1 USD 100,000
 - For Lot 2 USD 425,000
 - For Lot 3 USD 25,000
 - For Lot 4 USD 110,000
 with nature, and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The supplier shall have service centers located in Myanmar and provide written confirmation of spare parts availability for seven (7) years from date of supply.
 - To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, Bidder should contact:
Dr. Khin Zar Kyaw (Project Manager), U Soe Moe (Dy Director & Procurement Officer)
Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains (CFAVC) Sector Project Project Management Unit (PMU), Office No.43,
Department of Agriculture, MOALI
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel # +95 67 3410199, +9567 3410623
E-mail: cfavc.pmu.doa@gmail.com, zarkyaw@gmail.com, soemoemas@gmail.com
 - To obtain the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for Seed Farm Equipment. The document will be sent by email. Since the procurement is planned to proceed in 2020-2021 fiscal year. Eligible bidders can request Bidding Documents starting from 1st October, 2020.
 - Deliver your bid:
 - to the address above
 - on or before the deadline: 12 November 2020 at 2:00 PM
 - together with a Bid-Securing Declaration as described in the Bidding Document.
 - Online submission of the Bid also eligible due to Covid-19 related restrictions
 Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
 - The Employer will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0217-014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0217-014N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2020** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1143W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1143W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Maha Muni Buddha Image and two holy bells

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

MAHA MUNI BUDDHA IMAGE, the symbol of Mandalay City, takes a position in Kyunlon Okshaung Ward of Chanmyathazi Township. The Buddha image is named Maha Myat Muni as well as Phayagyi. Actual title of the image is Maha Muni. The image arrived in Mandalay in 1784 in the reign of King Bodaw who established Amarapura City.

The image is 12 feet and seven inches in height, 9.5 feet in diameter at waist, four feet and 11 inches in diameter at arm and six feet and one inch in width between the two shoulders. The sitting image cast of 6.5 tonnes of bronze is in Bhumi Phassa Mudra.

Maha Muni

King Bodaw constructed a golden building on which nine tiers were hoisted on the plain for the image, 1,000 tars north of Amarapura Royal Palace. Kings, queens, royal families and court officials had donated gold forehead,

gold headdress, golden stairways and golden public rest houses in successive eras. The Maha Muni Buddha image, stairways and tier-roofed building were ablaze on 7 April 1884.

The fire destroyed a gold headdress, gold earring, gold sash and gold foils but the image structure escaped from burning. Gold melting from the structure of the image was collected and it weighed 5,450 but its unit was not mentioned in the record. New headdress was offered to the image on 23 June 1884.

King Thibaw offered the gold plates weighing 60 viss made of the melt gold foil from the fire to the Buddha image on 16 January 1885.

The new tier-roofed building was constructed of brick and concrete in 1260 ME. The umbrella hoisted atop in the building fell down on the ground in strong wind in 1278 ME. So, Yaksawk Saopha hoisted new umbrella atop the building.

Taungtaw Sangharaja Sayadaw,



Maha Myat Muni Pagoda.

Sudhamma Sayadaws and Kinwun Mingyi took responsibilities for management of the Buddha image. The key of Gandakuti Chamber was handed over to Shweyay Hall Sayadaw U Nanda for washing the face of the image in 1248 ME. As of 1st waxing of Tabaung, 1349 ME, Bhaddanta Pannavamsa of Pitakataik Monastery from South Htilin Building started washing the face of image every morning.

The first financial board of trustees was formed for the Buddha image in 1891. On 27 June 1894, the Commissioner of Engineering, the Assistant Engineer and Clerk U Yaw laid cornerstone for construction of Gandakuti Chamber. It was built by Kinwun Mingyi and European engineers in 1896.

On 12 February 1900, U Phe repaired the throne for the Buddha image and backdrops. He also repaired the headdress donated by King Thibaw on 20 February 1902 and offered new headdress decorated with 940 pieces of jewellery to the image. On 12 July 1908, a gold sash decorated with nine kinds of jewellery weighing 13 viss and 60 ticals was offered to the image. A diamond orb made of gold weighing 19 ticals was hoisted atop the building by Nyaungshwe Saopha Sir Sao Maung in 1918.

As number of pilgrims to the Buddha image was on the increase, hermit U Khanti built a brick stairway between Maha Muni Buddha image and Ananda

ordination hall on 29 January 1931. As a gesture of hailing the 2500th anniversary of the Buddha Sasana, Sankin Sayadaw, Nyaungyan Sayadaw, Khemathiwun Sayadaw and Hanthawady Sayadaw laid cornerstones for Yadana Beikman building in 1956 and it was commissioned into service on 14 April 1957. The wooden backdrop of the image was donated in 1932-33.

The prayer hall of the image was built from 1942 to 1948, and more than 30 members of the Sangha led by U Jotika maintained objects of the image. The statue of crown prince who conveyed the image was kept on the platform between southern and eastern archways in 1948.

The central tower was constructed at the northeast corner of the image on 28 May 1959 in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of Yadana-bon Mandalay City. Then, Nyeinchan Thayar triangular bronze gong weighing 3,264 viss was cast on 31 December 1965 and Chanaye Pyitha bronze gong weighing 2,156 viss cast in 1972.

In the precinct, two man statues, three lion statues and an Ayeyawun elephant statue with three heads made of bronze were taken by King Bayintnaung from Yodaya. A war happened between King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, and the governor of Toungoo. After conquering King Nanda, the governor of Toungoo gave these bronze



Crown Prince Bell donated by Crown Prince Thiha Thura.



Bells at the westwall of the precinct of the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda.

statues as gifts to Rakhine King for compensation of reinforcements. So, these statues were taken to Rakhine State, according to Myanmar Encyclopaedia.

King Bayintnaung arrived back in Bago on 18 May 1564 after conquering Yodaya, according to Twinthin New History Volume II. The statues taken by King Bayintnaung went to Rakhine when Hanthawady royal palace deteriorated. In Konbaung era, these statues reached Amarapura.

Thirty bronze statues conveyed along with Maha Muni Buddha image were kept at the ordination hall built by Thiri Thusanda Devi, wife of Yintaung governor, southeast of Maha Muni Buddha image precinct. These statues were stored in the tier-roofed building of Ananda Temple called red ordination hall but collapse of the building caused damage to the statues.

People said that these statues came from Angkor city of Cambodia and two human statues were King Pyatha Dhipati and queen of Yodaya but some said these statues depicted gods from Yodaya. These statues are displayed in the precinct of the image. Some people believe if one gives a message to or push the statues, one would have good health. As the statues were damaged in touch of the people, these statues were kept in the glass chamber. Maha Muni in Pali means great

Lord Buddha in English. As the image is an ancient one related to Buddhism, successive preservation of Myanmar people has been undertaken for public obeisance till today.

Holy bells at Maha Muni Buddha Image

Once, bells were kept in a row along the west wall of the precinct. In casting the great triangular gong and god statues, these bells were smelt. As such, invaluable historical records lost. Currently, there remain 24 bells on the platform of the image, 18 of which were impressed bell inscriptions. Most of the bells are weighing 100-150 viss of bronze. Among them, 12 bells were impressed records on dates of casting.

Among these bells, the Crown Prince bell located on the northwest platform and Tapintaing bell on the eastern bell are very famous.

The Crown Prince bell was cast by Crown Prince Thiha Thura. In 1811 after the Crown Prince passed away, one of his wives Nanda Devi donated the bell to Maha Muni Buddha Image. Mingun Bell was hung in 1810. One year later, the Crown Prince bell was hung.

Cracks of the bell were welt and it was rapped with an iron strap for long term existence. The bell weighed more than 1,500 viss, and its mouth was six feet and eight inches in width. The

surface area of the bell with six feet in length and one foot and four inches in width was impressed with 17 lines of inscriptions.

The bell inscription mentioned

records of its casting and praying. It mentioned the title of King Alaungmintaya who established Konbaung Dynasty as donor of Sasana Lawkadhpati. The full text of the bell inscription can be seen in the book on history of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image compiled by U Maung Maung Tin.

The bell kept near the eastern archway of the platform is not similar to other bells hung at the bar. It was linked at a post, called Tapintaing bell. Nine lines of inscriptions on the bell mentioned the date of casting it with the use of 600 viss of bronze on 11th waxing of Pyatho, 1253 ME, Saturday.

Under the supervision of Sayadaw U Culara residing in Yalin Myothit Village of Taungpaing District, the bell was cast by spending K1,500 contributed by members of the Sangha from Taungpaing City, Saopha cum city governor counsellor Hein, merchants and disciples.

Two holy bronze bells, called Crown Prince bell and Tapintaing Bell on the platform of Maha Muni Buddha Image bearing invaluable historical records are intangible cultural heritages for Myanmar, so it is necessary to preserve these objects for observation of new generations.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)



Reference:

Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume VIII
History of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image (U Maung Maung Tin)
Myanmar's Date History of Konbaung Era (U Tikkhadhammalankara, Dr Than Tun)



Tapintaing Bell.



Ayeyawady United's Than Htet Aung launches a strong kick during previous MNL match against Shan United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 24 September 2020. PHOTO: MNL

MNL Week-19 matches to be shown live on free-to-air channels

MYANMAR National League Week-19 matches to be played starting from today will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels: MRTV and MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo application, according to the yesterday's statement with the Myanmar National League.

Hantharwady United will play against Magway FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 26 September (today), and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo mobile application starting from 3:30 pm.

Next, on the same day, Sagaing United will take on Yadanarbon FC at Yangon United Sports Complex, and the derby match will be broadcast live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application at

3:30 pm.

On 27 September, defending champions Shan United will play with Southern Myanmar FC at Yangon United Sports Complex, and the match will be shown live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application at 3:30 pm.

Next, on the same day, Rakhine United will face ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium at 3:30 pm and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo application. In the meantime, Yangon United will play against Ayeyawady United at Pandonmar Stadium at 3:30 pm, and the match will be streamed live on MyCujoo application, according to the Myanmar National League.

Currently, three teams: defending

MPT MYANMAR NATIONAL LEAGUE 2020			
Week-19 Fixture			
Hantharwady Utd	VS	Magwe	26.9.2020/3:30pm/Thuwunna Stadium
Sagaing Utd	VS	Yadanarbon	26.9.2020/3:30pm/Y.U.S.C
Southern Myanmar	VS	Shan Utd	27.9.2020/3:30pm/Y.U.S.C
I.S.P.E	VS	Rakhine Utd	27.9.2020/3:30pm/Thuwunna Stadium
Yangon Utd	VS	Ayeyawady Utd	27.9.2020/3:30pm/Pandonmar Stadium

champion Shan United, Hantharwady United and Ayeyawady United are struggling for a champion position of the tourney with a point difference each.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Man Utd aim to bounce back as Arsenal face acid test at Liverpool



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer needs a swift response to Manchester United's 3-1 defeat to Crystal Palace. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

LONDON—Manchester United and Chelsea need a swift response to their title credentials being damaged by home defeats last weekend, while one or both of Liverpool and Arsenal's perfect records will come to an end when they face off at Anfield on Monday night.

Crystal Palace and Everton also have the chance to claim top spot when they meet at Selhurst Park on Saturday, while the other side with maximum points from the opening two weekends, Leicester, face a daunting trip to Manchester City.

Gareth Bale will not be fit to feature to Tottenham when they host Newcastle on Sunday, but Harry Kane and Son Heung-min are enough for the Magpies to fear after the England captain set up the South Korean to score four at Southampton.

Chelsea travel to bottom-of-the-table West Brom, who are still seeking their first point back in the top-flight.

AFP Sport looks at some of the main talking points ahead of this weekend's action.

Mayday for Man Utd?

Optimism that United could return to challenging for the title after a 14-game unbeaten run to end last season was washed away with that unbeaten record as Palace were good value for their 3-1 win at Old Trafford.—AFP ■

Martinez hands Bayern 'dream' UEFA Super Cup win in front of 15,000 fans

BUDAPEST—Veteran midfielder Javi Martinez admitted it was "a dream" to be able to write more UEFA Super Cup history for Bayern Munich on Thursday as his header in extra time sealed a 2-1 win over Sevilla in Budapest.

Having equalized with a crucial 120th-minute goal seven years ago when Bayern won the 2013 Super Cup on penalties against Chelsea in Prague, Martinez struck on 104 minutes at the Puskas Arena to hand the Champions League winners a fourth title in 2020.

There were a smattering of travelling Bayern and Sevilla fans among the 15,180 crowd in Budapest as both clubs played for the first time in front of spectators since the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Europe in March.

After Lucas Ocampos con-



Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer lifts the trophy with his teammates as they celebrate after winning the UEFA Super Cup match against Sevilla, in Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 24, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

verted an early penalty for Sevilla, Leon Goretzka equalized for Bayern, who had two second-half goals disallowed before substitute Martinez, 32, struck from a late corner.

Bayern head coach Hansi Flick praised his team for "pulling through with their mentality. In the end, my players went through the pain barrier to win."

Having replaced Goretzka

on 99 minutes, it was Martinez - linked to a return to Spain after losing his first-team place - whose header extends Bayern's winning streak to 23 games dating back to February.—AFP ■