

NATIONAL

Mon Unity Party, New Democracy Party (Kachin) and Public Contribute Students Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Indian Delegation led by Foreign Secretary of India



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla and delegates at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, received the Indian delegation led by Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, at 9:30 am on 5 October 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present at the courtesy call were U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Kyaw Tin,

Union Minister for International Cooperation, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. The Indian delegates also include General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of Army Staff, Mr Saurabh Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar and responsible officials from India.

At the courtesy call, they cordially exchanged views on the matters pertaining to the further advancement of bilater-

al relations and strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and India in various areas including trade and investment, connectivity, transport, energy, development projects, capacity building and people to people linkages as well as issues of mutual interest. They also discussed the possibility of joint production of COVID-19 vaccine which India is currently developing, with partner countries including Myanmar, operationalization of the

Sittway Port in the early part of 2021, conducting vocational training programmes for youths in Rakhine State and exchange of visits of parliamentarians and the youths.

After the call, the State Counsellor accepted a total of 3,000 vials of Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, donated by the Government of India to the Government of Myanmar.

During the visit of the Indi-

an delegation to Myanmar, the Project Agreement for upgrading of Agricultural Mechanization Sub-station to promote custom hiring services under Rakhine State Development Programme was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar and the Embassy of India in Yangon and the Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) in Myitkyina, Kachin State was inaugurated.—MNA

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"People are the key"

C-in-C of Defence Services receives Indian Chief of Army Staff

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC at Zayarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, officers from Commander-in-Chief Office (Army), Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Major General Phone Myat, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Saurabh Kumar, India's Defence Attaché Col Ketan Arun Mohite, and other relevant officers.

During the meeting, the leaders highlighted deep friendship between the two nations, and time-tested friendship between the two Tatmadaws. They cordially and openly discussed matters concerning cooperation between the two Tatmadaws in making peace in the border areas, security measures, military training and other issues.

The Myanmar side also discussed matters related to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence; the Independent, Active and Non-aligned Foreign



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC at Zayarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October 2020. **PHOTO: C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICE**

Policy; ASEAN policies; and creating a better equipped Tatmadaw for Myanmar.

The two sides agreed that the main objective of Tatmad-

aws of all countries is to protect the country and the citizens; no Tatmadaw wants armed conflicts; so they will resolve various issues by peaceful means. The

two sides also discussed promotion of ties between the two sides, improving road communications in the border areas, and development matters, according

to a statement of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Office.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Announcement for voters

1. The Union Election Commission has announced that the eligible voters who have been living outside their constituencies at least 90 days can fill and submit Form (3-A) at the sub-election commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts from 17-9-2020 to 10-10-2020 so that they can cast vote for the candidates in the respective constituency where they are living if they do not want to go back to their original constituencies.
2. These voters are informed again that the Form (3-A) can be submitted to the sub-election commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts, not later than the 10-10-2020 deadline.

Union Election Commission

Elections are the foundation of democracy.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports Order 113/2020

4th Waning of Tawthalin, 1382
(5 October 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports is exercising the rights in Article 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law to issue this order.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 107/2020 dated 20-9-2020 for the Stay-at-Home programme which covers people in all townships, except for Cocogyun Township, in Yangon Region as a part of real-time measures against prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
2. The paragraph 3(c) of that order has stipulated that the workers at the factories and workplaces under the raw material and cut-make-pack(CMP) were not allowed for going to the works from 24-9-2020 to 7-10-2020.
3. However, the above-mentioned period will be extended from 8-10-2020 to 21-10-2020 for those businesses as the number of confirmed cases remains high in Yangon Region at present, and containment measure is still needed to prevent infection from the positive cases with no symptoms of COVID-19 in public areas.
4. Failure to comply with this order will have action taken in accordance with existing laws.

*Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister*

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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State Counsellor reports to people regarding COVID-19 situation

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a televised speech regarding the latest COVID-19 situation yesterday.

Today as I report to the people, I want to talk about something related to the COVID-19 disease. I want to talk about something important to the country as COVID-19. It is about our general elections. The reason is that our general elections have already started. The reason why I said "it has already started" is because our citizens residing abroad have already started casting their advance ballots at the embassies in foreign countries.

We could say that we are very proud of the fact that they are casting their advance ballots. Why? This is because our citizens are carrying out their duties as citizens. They are casting their advance ballots in great numbers. Right now, the casting of advance ballots has been completed in 10 diplomatic missions. Let me talk about Form-15. In foreign countries, the number of citizens who have completed Form-15 is over 109,000. Right now, the number of advance ballots which were cast beginning from on Saturday and Sunday is over 15,000. I think it is 15,971. Therefore it is learnt that our citizens are casting their advance ballots speedily and enthusiastically. That's why I wish to say I am grateful. I am also thanking on behalf of the country. This is very good for the dignity of our country. It gives us a great boost in morale to know that our citizens perform their duties in full



measure no matter where they are in spite of difficulties.

At this time, all of us should unite our strength to overcome COVID and also conduct the elections successfully. I always think about these two things together: How do we consider this matter? We have made preparations so that our people would be able to vote in the general elections in a safe and secure manner from the health point of view. We conduct detailed training courses for this matter. For example, tomorrow for the first time, we will conduct a test

run of what will happen on Election Day at the polling stations. A rehearsal will be carried out to see how the people will cast their ballots in a safe and secure manner from the health point of view. We will train and then do the testing systematically. We will establish the procedures after asking questions such as "how should we do it?", "What should we do to get the best outcome?", "How should we plan the process so that the people have a sense of security and also to ensure their security?" We will conduct this type of training exercise for three

times before the elections. Based on these three exercises we will think very carefully what kind of rules and regulations should be established. Then the UEC (Union Election Commission) will take the lead and implement the plans.

Furthermore I want our citizens to understand that voting in the general elections is their duty; in the same way, abiding by the health rules and regulations to protect themselves of COVID-19 is also their duty as citizens. As everyone knows, the number of positive cases is over

1,000 every day. Some are very worried and anxious because it is over 1,000. When you feel worried, you need to feel worried only to a certain extent. I don't want all of you to be too worried or anxious. This is because we reminded all of you last week. We will detect more positive cases because we have started using Antigen test kits which can give us results quickly. We will discover more positive cases quickly. This means we will be able to provide treatment quickly. At the moment we have begun using Antigen test kits not only in Yangon Region but also in other regions and states. Therefore we will find more positive cases quickly. If we can give treatment early, the recovery rate will be higher. Also, more patients will recover quicker. I think our people know about this already.

The important thing is to go to the respective hospital as soon as symptoms are detected. Some people go. When they go to hospitals, they say that there are not enough beds. This is true in some places. I ask for your forgiveness for this matter. However, we are making arrangements so that there are enough beds in hospitals and other facilities set up by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the treatment of COVID-19. These arrangements have been quite effective. I want to express my profound thanks to all our citizens, entrepreneurs, associations, and individuals, from home and abroad who have been joining hands to help us in all possible manner.

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State Counsellor reports to people regarding COVID-19 situation

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COVID-19 has proven that in our country, we are capable of uniting when faced with daunting challenges. Our citizens can unite in trying times. This gives us strength. As there are many business persons, organizations and individuals who have been contributing in this crisis, it is beyond the time allotted for me to mention each of their names here in gratitude for their donations. However, the list of highest contributors will be published in the state-owned newspapers. Does that mean that I am only grateful to those who were able to donate? No, not at all. In addition to these persons, I am really grateful to every individual citizen who is living healthily. No one wants to get the disease. However, having this intention is not enough. However, it is most important to live so as not to become infected with the disease.

This is something I have repeatedly been saying. Not to get infected, the fundamental requirements are not that many. Avoid going to crowded places and don't go outside of the house. This is not because I don't want you to go outside. When you go outside the house, there may be others who have not taken the necessary precautions. To give an easy example, those who have not put on masks; I don't want you to go out of the house because you might meet some persons who have not put on their masks. You might be in danger. Stay inside the house as much as possible. When going to the markets for necessary reasons, only one person should go to the market and should be

accompanied by another family member only when it is required. Whenever going to the market, it is better to wear a mask and a pair of gloves. After coming back from the market, hands must be washed carefully, and clothes must be changed for washing.

It has been decided to impose cash fine for negligence on wearing masks, especially in Yangon Region where the number of confirmed cases is increasing, and many people do not wear masks when going to the markets or crowded places. The cash fine is not to cause trouble for the people. We understand that our country also has economic problems like other countries. In this awkward situation, we do not want to put extra burdens on the people. However, it is important to understand the cash fine. They will be asked to buy a mask. The amount would be 200 kyats— 150 kyats for cash fine and 50 kyats for a mask. The mask must be worn immediately.

Some countries, especially rich nations, are reconsidering about their economy although they have not fully controlled the disease. Their first action to prevent long-term economic decline is to develop a practice of wearing a mask. It is not a very difficult step. The value of the mask has significantly lowered. Therefore, I would like to suggest people wear the mask in going outside and develop the habit of handwashing after coming back from outside, and after touching something outside. Don't host any guest for unnecessary matters. Ask the guests to wear a mask for essential visits. Give them the hand sanitizer for cleaning their hands, if necessary.

Such practices should become part of our way of life. Some people have asked how long the outbreak of COVID-19 would last. I have already mentioned that we need to exercise these practices until the vaccine has been developed. It is expected that the vaccine would come out at the end of this year. We have approached to the countries which are trying to develop the vaccine and have discussed with them to put in the list of prioritized country for giving the vaccine to us as a donation or allowing us to buy from them.

We will not be stingy with the cost of the health of people. However, we cannot imagine what kind of vaccine we would receive, whether annual vaccination or lifetime one. It is commonly estimated that the lifetime vaccination would not be possible in this pandemic. We will need to wait and see it. In fact, our people need to be extremely vigilant until we receive the vaccine. I want to tell people again to be vigilant.

Commodity transport is important for us as in other countries, and that we also consider the health of truck drivers and their mates. The Antigen test kits are being used for them to prevent the spread of disease from one area to another. We will try our best in the treatment. I have frequently said that people with poor health conditions are most vulnerable to COVID-19. Therefore, these persons need to undergo medical treatment immediately as soon as they feel infected with the disease. Some people said that it is useless. It is not true. There might be some difficulties in some places. They would not get treatment as the

centres immediately. Some hospitals do not have sufficient beds for patients. We could overcome such problems. Therefore, it is advised to undergo medical treatment. We will arrange medical treatments for the people, and people need to cooperate with us.

We are taking measures to protect people from the disease during the election period. While training courses are being conducted for the election special police, the Antigen test kits are used for them. So, we are doing our work step by step by taking a holistic approach for the health of the people, their security, and to ensure they perform their responsibilities and also enjoy their rights. Therefore, we don't want people to get depressed because of COVID-19. It should be kept in mind that serious fear or worry will not be good, while vigilance will never be in excess.

People need to believe that the Union government is doing its best. For example, arrangements are underway for the voting of quarantined persons and for people at the hospitals. Only then, all the people could fully enjoy their citizen rights. The Stay-at-Home order is imposed in some townships and almost all the townships in Yangon Region. People previously considered to vote in their respective home towns. They have understood that it is not easy for them to do so, especially to the Yangon Region, due to the rule for quarantine.

The Union Election Commission has also made an announcement regarding this matter. I want to make the public know that application for voting can be submitted

by Form 3 before 10 October. For example, an eligible voter who is now in a township of Magway Region can submit the Form 3 before 10 October for the voting in that area and do not need to go back to Yangon. Therefore, I would like to advise people to use their rights with responsibility.

It was learnt that there are some difficulties with the voter lists online. We will try to make this process smoother. The programme might not be enough for a large number of online users. We are working to solve this problem as best as we can. We have told you not to worry too much, but do keep awareness as our government is working for the people to be able to fully enjoy the healthcare services and their citizen rights. We are gaining success due to the contribution of the people. You are not helping the Union government if you are neglecting your health. I have pointed out frequently that every citizen needs to take care of their health. The government will take responsibility for the remaining issues. We believe that the active participation of the people could control the pandemic to a certain degree. I am grateful for this. I would like to conclude my report with these words of gratitude. I thank all the people who are working their best in the containment of COVID, and those living abroad who are casting their advance votes for the 2020 General Elections in performance of their duties as citizens for dignity of the country.

May you all be able to live in good health and well-being! Please live healthy lives. *(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)*

MoC organizes meeting on smooth flow, stable price for commodities

THE Ministry of Commerce held a videoconference with the Yangon Region government, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its associate organizations yesterday for the smooth flow and stable prices of commodities.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint confirmed sufficient fundamental commodities such as rice, cooking oil, beans and onion for the whole country during COVID-19 crisis, based on the data collected by the ministry.

He also said that the commodities are still flowing in and out of the Yangon Region despite some difficulties in the processes, and the ministry is coordinating



MoC meets Yangon Region government, UMFCCI and its associate organizations on smooth flow of commodities on 5 October. PHOTO: MNA

with the Yangon Region government for the regular flow of goods and the stability of prices.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained

the coordination of his government and relevant organizations in transportation of goods for 44 townships in the region, stability of prices, using COVID-19 test

kits for truck drivers and their mates, the use of Yangon-Mandalay highway in line with the directives of Ministry of Construction, the government-to-government

discussions for using test kits and the trade between the business-to-businesses.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoE organizes virtual event marking World Teachers' Day

THE Ministry of Education yesterday morning organized a virtual event celebrating the World Teachers' Day, which falls on 5 October.

During the event, the Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that the development of a country largely depends on the development of the education sector of that country, so the role of teachers is very significant.

He stressed that teachers can also provide leadership in trying to overcome various problems of the world, including the impacts of pandemic, by sharing knowledge. Teachers can shape the future of a country, he said.

Nowadays, the world faces various challenges such as economic issues, rapid changes of technology, uncertainties, climate changes and other natural disasters. One of the greatest challenges that the world is facing now is COVID-19 pandemic, which severely affected people's health, economies and the entire society. During the event, the Union Minister pointed out that the COVID-19 crisis also affected educational systems worldwide.

He said that teachers from various fields in Myanmar will have to lead in responding to the COVID-19 related impacts on the education sector, and in shaping the future. He also highlighted

the theme of 2020 World Teachers' Day "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future" and said that teachers' efforts can be good examples to the people.

He said that education will have a crucial role in rehabilitating various sectors of the country in the post COVID-19 period. He said that teachers, who will shape the country, need to be healthy and have great capabilities.

During the event, he also reiterated what State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in a forum on educational development in December 2018 by saying that teachers, who perform a key role in education, need to be very knowledgeable about their relevant fields and need to have goodwill.

Regarding showing good examples and providing effective leadership, the Union Minister said that teachers should be mentors for students not only in schools but also outside classrooms. He said that the Ministry will help all stakeholders to arrange various learning systems including "face-to-face learning, online learning, offline learning, and blended learning" systems.

The Union Minister said that the Ministry's Education Channel will broadcast TV lessons and Myanmar Digital Education Platform will provide online lessons.



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in World Teachers' Day Event via videoconference on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Those who cannot access the Internet will be given DBE Boxes, which consists of teaching and learning contents in various formats such as videos, short stories, poems and illustrated materials, according to the Union Minister, who added that the Ministry will also cooperate with MRTV and privately-owned TV stations to deliver TV lecturers, in which teachers will have a key role.

He also highlighted the need to provide 21st Century skills to

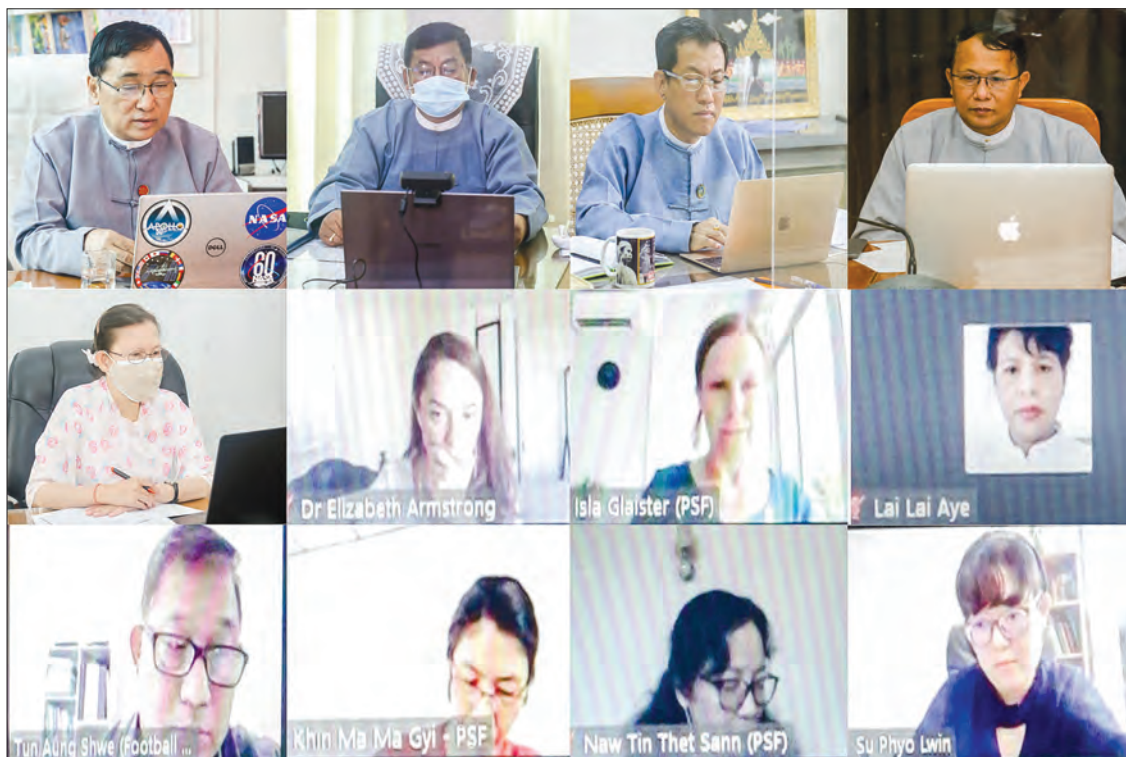
students, the need to nurture them and the need to create jobs for them.

During the ceremony, Secretary General of Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO Dr Kyi Shwin read the joint message sent by five UN organizations, and Myanmar Teachers' Federation chairperson Dr Sai Khaing Myo Tun read the message of his federation.

On World Teachers' Day, the Ministry of Education annually presents awards for honourable

teachers, those who took no leave for 25 years and above, and those who had worked in difficult locations. As for this year, Education Research, Planning and Training Department Director-General Dr Win Tun presented the activities of the 14 honourable teachers, and announced the names of the six teachers who took no leave for 25 years and the 55 teachers who had worked in difficult locations in the Rakhine State.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

MoSWRR organizes virtual meeting on framework for social harmony



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (left top) joins virtual meeting with Paung Sie Facility and Australia's Football United on framework for social harmony on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, other officials of the ministry, Paung Sie Facility and Australia's Football United yesterday morning participated in an online meeting on setting a framework for social harmony.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that Myanmar is working on for strengthening the rule of law, socio-economic development, national reconciliation, peace and creating a Democratic Federal Union. He stressed that social harmony is essential in trying to eradicate conflicts in the country.

The Ministry occasionally holds social harmony workshops and meetings with organizations and residents from the relevant areas, according to the Union Minister, who pointed out that his ministry alone cannot pro-

mote social harmony. He highlighted the need for negotiations, trust building and cooperation among government departments, groups, civil society organizations and different communities to foster intercommunal harmony.

He said that the long process to establish social harmony needs a framework and welcomed the cooperation by Paung Sie Facility and Australia's Football United in the process

Paung Sie Facility and Australia's Football United explained about the detailed plans, and then the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Permanent Secretary and the Directors-General made necessary suggestions and said that COVID-19 preventive measures must be taken in working for social harmony.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives cash donation for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (R) receives the cash presented by a donor at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A donation ceremony for measures against COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

Firstly, Daw Lwin Lwin Mhan, wife of Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, said that Myanmar is

now conducting COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and so the Asia Pacific Women's Association (APWA) in Brussels of Belgium, which

was organized with the wives of diplomats in Brussels, donated cash for COVID-19 measures. She also extended her best wishes for health workers who are at the front line in fight against COVID-19

Then, a representative of Myanmar Gurkha Federation and Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Religious Association explained that it is the second-time donation of the association to COVID-19 central committee and their further donations for COVID-19 measures across the nation.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said that such donations are very effective for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and the infection rate can raise during the resurgence of COVID-19. The public need to follow the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the infection rate would be controlled when the effective vaccine is developed and the people receive vaccinations. It is absolutely essential to stay

at home during COVID-19 pandemic. If the people need to go outside, they must wear masks. Those who with chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes and kidney should stay at home and avoid sleeping together or coming into close contact with others. Such facts are the best ways during COVID-19.

The Union Minister also called for the attendees to share such knowledge to others.

During the event, Asia Pacific Women's Association (APWA), Brussels donated Euro2,357 while Myanmar Gurkha Federation and Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Religious Association K50million, U Thit Lwin Lay + Daw Khin Thet Oo from Alar K2million, CSA students (Upper Myanmar) K1million.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein received the cash donation and gave the certificates of honour in return.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Indian Liaison Office inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE inauguration ceremony of the Liaison Office of the Embassy of the Republic of India was held yesterday at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw during the visit of Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, to Myanmar.

The ceremony was attended by U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Mr Saurabh Kumar, Ambassador of the Republic of India to My-

anmar, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and members of the Indian delegation.

At the ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ambassador of India to Myanmar delivered opening remarks. Then, they formally opened the Liaison Office of the Embassy of the Republic of India by cutting a ceremonial ribbon and toured around the Liaison Office.—MNA

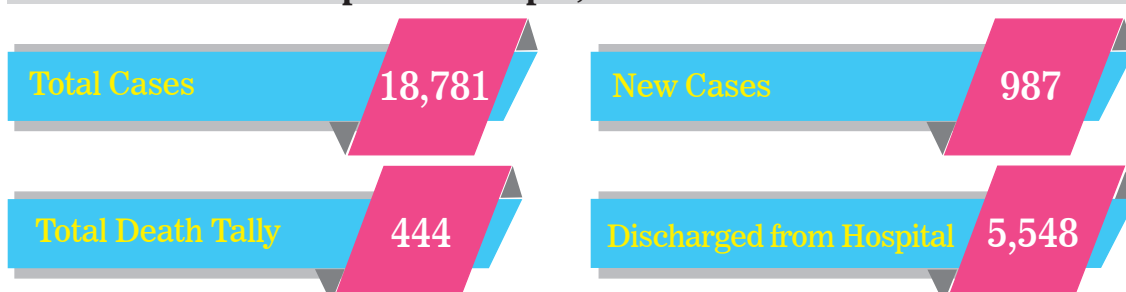


The inauguration ceremony of the Liaison Office of the Embassy of the Republic of India is held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

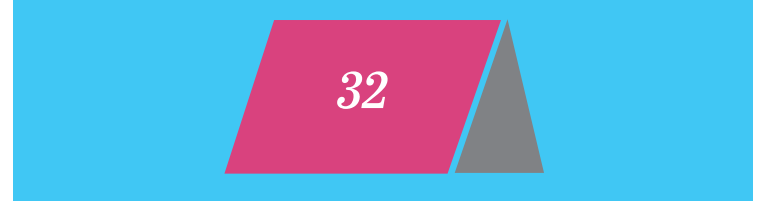
987 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 October, total figure rises to **18,781**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **18,781** after **987** new cases were reported on 5 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **18,781** confirmed cases, **444** died, **5,548** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 5 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 5-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports



The best and simplest way to control COVID-19 is social distancing

The best and simplest way to control COVID-19 is social distancing. Therefore, stay at home, avoid going outside unnecessarily, and don't receive guests unnecessarily. I have talked about these guidelines, but I would like to remind you again. Hosting the guests at home is not different from going outside. Wear a mask when going outside if necessary, and put on gloves, otherwise wash your hands at least 20 seconds. There are so many small hand sanitizer bottles. Keep a hand sanitizer bottle with you when you go outside for frequent hand cleaning.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people regarding COVID-19 situation, on 3 October 2020)

Myanmar nationals begin advance voting in Nepal, Israel

MYANMAR eligible voters began their advance voting in Nepal and Israel yesterday.

Three Myanmar citizens in Nepal cast their ballots at the Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu, and four nationals at their embassy of Tel Aviv in Israel.

Myanmar eligible voters in five countries continued advance voting for the 2020 General Election.

Five hundred and thirty-six citizens cast their ballots in Thailand while 20 in Cairo, more than 1,700 in Singapore, 150 in Seoul and 402 in Tokyo at the embassies of respective countries.

Moreover, the Myanmar Em-

bassy in London opened polling station for Myanmar nationals living in Ireland, Denmark and Sweden on 3 and 4 October and a total of 52 Myanmar nationals cast their advance votes—16 from Ireland and 18 each from Denmark and Sweden. The Myanmar citizens can cast their ballots at the embassy in London from 9 to 12 October. Seven Myanmar embassies opened polling stations for advance votes and Myanmar nationals living in Bangladesh, Brunei, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and Eswatini finished their advance votes yesterday.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Four Myanmar citizens cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel on 5 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Mural paintings in ancient Inwa city attract visitors



Picture shows a mural painting found in ancient city Inwa. PHOTO: NWENADI

PEOPLE who study ancient mural paintings in Inwa usually focus on a mural painting which depicts a foreigner picture near the Lawka Htake Oo Pagoda in Old Inwa. There are five ancient monuments that possess mural paintings in Old Inwa, including this stupa with a foreigner picture in the mural. They are the front of the Mahar Mingalar Mann Aung stupa's eastern wall, ancient building numbers 193,233,243 in the southern side of the town and ancient building number 445 within the wall of Lawka Tharaphu.

The paintings are of Buddhist depictions and golden florals. Among the paintings is a rare mural depicting a foreign couple at the ancient monument number 193 near the Lawka Htake Oo Pagoda which is different from other pagodas' mural paintings.

The murals tell the story of the times and reflect the culture

of that time. By studying ancient murals, one can also predict the cultural, artistic, social and economic activities of the time. Paintings have been painted on cave walls since many years ago. It has evolved from painting in ochre yellow and red to modern oil painting.

In studying the ancient historical monuments, we can find out the year of the pagoda built by studying the mural paintings on it. Most of the Ancient Myanmar traditional artists painted the outlines of a line drawing. On the other hand, scholars have concluded that Myanmar art began to be drawn in the late Bagan period around 1300 AD, focusing on the line drawing method.

Murals are of great historical value. According to archaeologists, the methods of painting murals are very interesting. First of all, the wall was painted with

tamarind leaves to remove the vapour of the lime. One or two months after the vapour of lime was gone, ochre white, ochre yellow and the red were applied to the walls as a base coat.

Then, natural paints were used to paint the masterpieces. The black colour was obtained from charcoal, kerosene, and oil. The white colour was from talc and copper sulphate crystal. The green colour was obtained by mixing indigo and yellow orpiment. The red colour was obtained from red ochre and Mercuric Sulfide and mixed with neem resin and fish gall.

At present, we can study the murals which are supposed to be the pictures of foreigners at an ancient pagoda near the Lawka Htake Oo Stupa in Old Inwa.—NweNadi, MyitNgae
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Ensuring safe elections when voting in a pandemic

WITH advanced voting by our nationals in foreign countries these days, our country's general elections can be said to be already underway.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be the most challenging election year in our country. However, it's crucial that everyone be able to vote safely.

To ensure the safety of casting a ballot at the polling stations on election day, the Union Election Commission will rehearse in-person voting for three times. After reviewing the rehearsals, the UEC will set safety rules and guidelines for voting on November 8, election day.

The UEC will take this important step today to make sure people are protected at the polls.

The incumbent government is gearing up the election process, step by step, to ensure the mechanics of casting ballots, counting ballots and reporting results, including for those who remain in facility quarantine and hospitals.

Voting is the right of every citizen in a democratic country, and our people should also understand that it is their responsibility to follow health rules and guidelines to prevent infection of the disease and not to spread it to others.

The public health crisis poses unforeseen challenges to this year's elections because of the highly contagious nature of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, since we use Antigen test kits which can produce results much quicker than current tests, over 100 positive cases are found daily.

The more we see the results earlier, the better treatment we can provide to the patients. It is essential to make sure that anyone who tests positive, and all

their recent contacts, be immediately isolated and given tests to discover their COVID-19 status with certainty.

In this situation, detecting positive cases before they become most contagious is also essential to fight the pandemic.

The government understands what it needs to do better in response to the pandemic and is taking necessary measures keeping a close watch on the pandemic rules which are changing every day in the world. Hence, so much angst round the voting process is not necessary. But, it is best to be vigilant and cautious. Not to panic.

"Be Calm, Wash Your Hands, Wear Face Masks and Maintain Social Distancing." It should become part of our culture if we venture outside of our homes. This culture would also be helpful for our economy to be on the road to recovery.

Inaccurate Infodemics can be greatly harmful

Khin Maung Myint

A FEW days ago there was a very interesting piece in the GNLM daily that was related to inaccurate infodemics. It was titled "COVID-19 pandemic: countries urged to take stronger action to stop spread of harmful information". Its source was quoted as the World Health Organization (WHO).

It was the outcome of the webinar held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. Those involved in that webinar were the WHO, the UN, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN Global Pulse initiative and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), together with the governments of Indonesia, Thailand and Uruguay.

Webinar is a seminar or other presentation that takes place on the Internet, allowing participants in different locations to see and hear the presenter, ask questions, and sometimes answer polls. It was a very thoughtful move to be taken by the organizations involved in formulating that initiative.

Today, with the ease and freedom of access to the social media, where restrictions or supervisions are very slack or in some cases non-existent, the threat and the dangers of the false informations or rumours are greatly undermining the governance, pandemic control endeavours, social integrity and national unity in most countries. The WHO, in the said paper pointed out that as soon as the virus spread across the globe, inaccurate and even dangerous messages proliferated wildly over



social media, leaving people confused, misled and ill-advised. The WHO gave warnings of the spread of misinformations and disinformations and advised the authorities to address those problems in time.

What is infodemic?

The Internet or the social media have provided opportunities for infodemics to become more rampant. Infodemic is a blend of information and epidemic. The Oxford dictionary defined it as: "An excessive amount of information about a problem that is typically unreliable, spreads rapidly, and makes a solution more difficult to achieve". The infodemics may be accurate, but mostly inaccurate. While the accurate informations about the pandemic are desirable, inaccurate ones could be detrimental and harmful to the public health and also undermine the management of the disease control, so they are despicable. Thus timely disseminations of the truths to counter them are urgent-ly needed.

These days the social media, especially the Facebook, which

most Myanmar used, are overwhelmed by inaccurate infodemics. Unscrupulous people are posting or sharing unconfirmed, uncredible and most outrageously falsified and faked news related to the COVID-19 pandemics. The most harmful are the false informations about the disease and the alternative and herbal medicines purported to cure the disease.

One example was that the leaves of the neem tree can be used to cure the disease. This inaccurate infodemic emerged since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Few neem trees along the routes where I used to go for my early morning walks were almost barren as they were plucked clean of leaves. In the street markets in Yangon, people scrambled to get hold of those leaves put on sale. Another misinformation was that, consuming betel quid can keep the coronavirus at bay and yet another was that turmeric can kill the coronavirus.

All these are false beliefs that have no concrete or scientific proof. There are many such examples of misinformations about the cures, which some desperate

people fell for as they are either gullible, ignorant or have no access to the truth.

While the authorities are instructing and urging the public to seek the help of the fever clinics if they suspect themselves of contracting the disease and not to secretly treat themselves at home, some young Myanmar doctors, locals and some from abroad are giving advices as to how this disease can be cured at home.

The worst are some patients who had recovered and got discharged from the hospitals are also freely giving advices about the disease on the Facebook. I don't blame them if they only share their experiences about their stays at the hospitals, but they are overstepping by discussing matters that are beyond their field as though they were experts. In my opinion, most of them are doing for their popularity and some had even achieved to become online celebrities overnight. There are some people joining them in their live broadcasts and asking questions and requesting for advice. Such activities should be strictly put on hold.

The doctors who are advising people about treating themselves at home should be aware that the recent increases in the number of deaths were because those people didn't report to the hospital in time. This can be deduced from the facts that most died immediately arrival or the next day after arriving at the hospitals. This also indicates that people tried to treat themselves at home until the last moment when they can no longer cope with the disease and went to the hospitals too late.

The reasons behind the infodemics

There may be various reasons behind the spreading of infodemics, both accurate and inaccurate. However, if they are done with bad intentions they shouldn't be allowed to carry on. Timely dissemination of the true informations should be done to counter them with the truths.

As the general elections are drawing near, some infodemics are becoming somewhat politically motivated too. Those are the worst types of infodemics. Falsified informations about the pandemics shouldn't be used as a tool in the political play. Such politically motivated infodemics are false informations of the shortages of doctors and nurses, medicines, medical equipments, shoddy services at the quarantine facilities, and etc.

Of course when the second wave struck, there was a sudden surge in the numbers of deaths, infected persons and those placed under facility quarantines, those may be true but they were rapidly corrected. Although the authorities took rapid actions to correct those deficiencies in a very short period, that didn't stop those who are always finding fault, from posting them on the social media as though they are still going on. Such

things are disinformations aimed at discrediting the incumbent government.

Also some irresponsible entrepreneurs are exploiting the pandemic to promote their businesses. One even made false claims that their product, an indigenous or traditional medicine can cure the COVID-19 infections. This could be very misleading and dangerous. Some are citing the threats of the prevailing situations disguised as advices or warnings to stay home, in their advertisements to get their commodities sold or their services sought after.

Misinformations and disinformations are putting health and lives at risk. They are also undermining trust in science, in the institutions and in the health systems as the WHO paper mentioned. Thus they should not be allowed to be circulating on the social media. Drastic actions, such as timely dissemination of science-based informations must be carried out to prevent them from spreading. Besides the immediate impact on the pandemic responses, they are also undermining public trust in the democratic processes and the institutions and exacerbating social divides. Such things shouldn't be allowed to go on.

Conclusion

Allow me conclude this article by quoting the WHO paper: "To fight the pandemic we need trust and solidarity and when there is mistrust, there is much less solidarity. False information is hindering the response to the pandemic, so we must join forces to fight it and to promote science-based public health advice. The same principles that apply to responding to COVID-19 apply to managing the infodemic. We need to prevent, detect and respond to it, together and in solidarity".

2020 Theme: Housing For All – A Better Urban Future

HAVING an adequate home is now, more than ever, a matter of life and death. As COVID-19 continues to spread, people have been told to stay at home, but this simple measure is impossible for people who do not have adequate housing.

At the same time, COVID-19 has reminded us that home is

much more than just a roof. To make us feel safe and enable us to continue living, working and learning, a home needs to be secure, to allow us to access basic services and infrastructure for hygiene measures and to have enough room for physical distancing. It should also be located in a place that enables residents to access public green and open

spaces, employment opportunities, healthcare services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities.

An estimated 1.8 billion people were already living in slums and informal settlements, inadequate housing or in homelessness in our cities worldwide before the pandemic began. Some 3 billion people lack basic hand-washing

facilities. This means millions of people worldwide are more likely to experience poor health due to the absence of basic services and exposure to multiple socio-economic and environmental hazards.

Structural inequalities have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, showing how people from minorities, indige-

nous peoples and migrants are disproportionately affected by housing precarity, overcrowding and homelessness.

COVID-19 has spread in areas where people lack adequate housing, and are faced with inequalities and poverty. Residents in these areas are also often not recognized by the authorities or protected and face the risk of be-

ing evicted and relocated, particularly in times of crisis. According to ILO, 55 per cent of the world's population – about 4 billion people – do not benefit from any form of social protection.

Housing is a human right and a catalyst for all other fundamental rights. It is the only way to ensure the "Right to the City for All".—UN

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Khin Maung Sint, the Pro Rector (Academic) from the University of Forestry and Environmental Science, Yezin under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as the Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Flood Warning (Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 5-10-2020)

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun Township to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning (Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 5-10-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU is observed as about (½) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at NyaungU Township to take precaution measure.

Advertisement for Global New Light of Myanmar, including contact information for circulation orders and printing services.

Mon Unity Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Mon Unity Party Central Executive Committee Member Nai Kyaw Win in Mon Language and Yangon Region Joint Secretary Mi Kyaik Saw in Myanmar Language, presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 5 October.



Esteemed Mon ethnic people, Mon State and nationwide voters

I would like to send loving-kindness wishing all of you physical and mental wellbeing. I am Mi Kyaik Saw, Yangon Region Joint Secretary of Mon Unity Party. Our party will contest 65 constituencies in Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region and Yangon Region in the November 8 General Election.

Esteemed Mon ethnic people and voters

Our party's political policies are:

1. To establish a Federal Democratic Union that guarantees equality and self-determination while ending internal conflicts and making peace.
2. To make efforts to enhance a robust multiparty democracy system and to establish a democratic nation endowed with Three Laws of the World – Justice, Liberty and Equality.
3. To promote multifaceted development across the entire Mon State and to participate in the all-round development process across the nation.
4. To build a society in which individuals can enjoy full rights of democracy while acknowledging the individual characteristics relating to each group of all national races.
5. To provide full human rights of all national races and independent social lives.
6. To ensure the rule of law while combatting corruption nationwide.

7. To fight against dictatorship, chauvinism and narrow-minded racialism.

Esteemed voters and citizens

Our action plans that will be implemented based on the above seven political policies are as follows:

Politics

1. We shall actively participate in the process of ending internal conflicts, building peace and national reconciliation by employing various ways and means.
2. We, together with all national races, shall fully participate in the process of democratic transition and its development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
3. We shall make an effort to strengthen an ideology that will promote the welfare of all national races.

Economy

1. We shall make efforts to the emerging of the market economy while preventing monopoly.
2. We shall try to develop local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) while receiving investment and technical assistance domestically and abroad.
3. We shall promote regional economic development and shall create more job opportunities.
4. We shall make efforts to export high-quality products based on agriculture.

5. We shall design the right economic environment for emerging big multinational companies and for increasing domestic investment.
6. We shall try to make Mon State a significant hub for both domestic and international trading.



Education

1. We shall implement a system in which all are literate.
2. We shall carry out a free and compulsory primary education system.
3. We shall encourage the standard private education system under the supervision of the Union Government.
4. We shall implement higher education and vocational education that can compete with international standards.
5. While implementing mother tongue-based education system, we shall try to combine with the central education system of the Union in the end.
6. We shall implement teaching a subject of related ethnic literature at the schools of respective ethnic regions. We shall also work on the sectors of agriculture, labour, culture, health, youth, women, foreign affairs and alliance.

Esteemed voters and citizens

We would like to urge you to vote for our Mon Unity Party because we are working under the aforementioned political policies and work programmes. We also acknowledge the rights of all national races, including not only Mon national races in Mon State but also other nationalities in all regions and states. Let me conclude this.

May all voters and citizens be free from dangers.

Let us march towards the Federal Democratic Union.

WORLD NEWS

Public investment key to Covid-19 recovery: IMF

WASHINGTON (United States) — Public investment should play a “central role” in the recovery of both emerging and advanced economies from the coronavirus downturn, the IMF said Monday ahead of its fall meetings.

Stepping up such spending with interest rates low globally could “create millions of jobs directly in the short term and

millions more indirectly over a longer period,” officials with the International Monetary Fund wrote in a blog post.

Assuming investments are of “high quality,” the Washington-based crisis lender said increasing public investment by one per cent of GDP could raise private investment by 10 per cent, employment by 1.2 per cent, GDP

by 2.7 per cent along with overall confidence in the recovery.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a sharp economic downturn globally, but even before the pandemic the IMF said public investment “had been weak for over a decade, despite crumbling roads and bridges in some advanced economies and massive infrastructure needs for

transportation, clean water, sanitation” in poorer nations.

The time to invest is now, officials said, with many countries still fighting off Covid-19 and people who lost their job amid the downturn looking for work.

The IMF estimates two to eight jobs are created for every \$1 million spent on traditional infrastructure, and 5 to 14 for every

\$1 million spent on research, development and green technology.

While encouraging countries to maintain existing infrastructure, the IMF encouraged governments to take a second look at projects that had been delayed in the past and plan new ones focused on their needs after the pandemic is over. —AFP

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

New Democracy Party (Kachin) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

New Democracy Party (Kachin) Chairman U Tein Saung presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 5 October.



Esteemed citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish the peace of mind and sound health to all of you.

I am Chairman U Tein Saung of the New Democracy Party (Kachin). Our party has registered as a political party and been approved at registration number 119 on 29 August 2019.

Esteemed people

Our nation is independent, and sovereignty flows in our air, our water and our land. The hundreds of ethnic groups living together in our country are the original possessors of the State power.

The residents of the townships of Waingmaw, Chipwe, Hsawlaw and Ingyanyan included in the 18 municipalities of Kachin State have been peacefully working and living on their own from the time Myanmar gained independence from the English colonialist in 1948 to 1960.

Armed conflicts arose all over Kachin State to rebel against the government after 1960. Every person from villages to towns was affected by war without exception.

Soon, the leadership of the wise ethnic leaders of what would become Kachin Special Region-1 was able to sign an agreement for peace with the military government on 15 January 1990 and designated Waingmaw, Chipwe and Hsawlaw townships as Kachin Special Region-1 as peace regions. We have also defined Ingyanyan Township as our campaign

region.

Our party is based on the local nationalities of the aforementioned regions, and pledge to work together with them to benefit the area and elevate their living standards, ensure basic needs are met. Human rights and democratic rights are also guaranteed.

Party policy and work programmes
Esteemed people

Our party's objectives are:

- To work together with the people to establish genuine and lasting peace.
- To establish an eternal society free of armed conflicts.
- To ensure equal rights and balanced development for all ethnic groups.
- To perpetuate a democratic union based on federalism.

Our party believes in upholding the three national causes of 'non-disintegration of the union, ethnic solidarity and lasting sovereignty' as a national duty. We believe practising self-determination in a federal system will allow proper management for regional development and successful implementation of the three national responsibilities.

Esteemed people

Our party's basic policies are:

We will work for the benefit the party's designated campaign locations of Waingmaw, Chipwe, Sawlaw and Ingyanyan townships whose residents our party is based on.

We will implement democratic practices to benefit the region, the people and the nation.

We will work together with the people for lasting peace.

We will always prioritize non-disintegration of the union, ethnic solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

We will oppose all forms of terrorism and expansionism that affect the sovereignty, regional security and peace of the nation.

Our party will be free from the influence of any organization, individual or political party and create our own fate.

Our party's 12 policies:

1. Political policy
2. Economic policy
3. Education policy
4. Health policy
5. Ethnic affairs policy
6. Farmer affairs policy
7. Labour affairs policy
8. Youth policy
9. Women affairs policy
10. Civil servant policy
11. Religious affairs policy
12. Cultural policy

These policies are explained in detail in our party's manifesto.

Esteemed people

Our party will cooperate with all residents with no discrimination of race or religion for the benefit of the region by working hand-in-hand with the government and will strive for 100% success in the general election on 8 November 2020.

We kindly request the people of Kachin Special Region-1 in Waingmaw, Chipwe and Sawlaw townships and our campaign area of Ingyanyan township to use your valuable vote for our party, the New Democratic Party (Kachin), that ensures all-round regional development and practical implementation.

I wish for the people of our nation to be free from danger and possess peace of mind and good health.



WORLD NEWS

Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Trump 'improving'

President Donald Trump has "continued to improve" as he is treated for Covid-19 at a military hospital near Washington, his doctors say, adding that he could be discharged as early as Monday.

Trump's oxygen levels briefly dropped twice in recent days, they say, adding that the 74-year-old president is being treated with steroids.

Caseload nears 35 million

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,034,396 people since it emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT on Sunday.

At least 34,989,300 cases of coronavirus have been recorded. Of these, at least 24,127,400 are now considered recovered.

Partial new shutdown for New York

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio says he plans to put nine

neighbourhoods under tight shutdowns pending approval by state Governor Andrew Cuomo, in a major setback for the city since it was hit hard by the coronavirus in March.

The city has lost almost 24,000 people to the virus.

Fashion designer Kenzo dies

Japan's most famous fashion designer Kenzo Takada, founder of the global Kenzo brand, has died in Paris after contracting Covid-19, his spokesman says.

Takada, the first Japanese

designer to gain prominence in the highly competitive Paris fashion scene, was 81.

Iraq pilgrimage goes ahead

Tens of thousands of worshippers flood into Iraq's holy city of Karbala, including many foreigners despite the pandemic, for the Shiite Muslim pilgrimage of Arbæen, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings.

The Iraqi government has allowed 1,500 pilgrims to fly in per country for the event. More than 375,000 Iraqis have

contracted the coronavirus and nearly 9,500 have died.

Iceland tightens curbs

Iceland, up to now one of the countries to have fared better against the coronavirus, announces a tightening of restrictions after a spike in new cases since the middle of last month.

Starting from Monday, most sports facilities, bars and discotheques will be closed while gatherings will be limited to a maximum 20 people. —AFP

Public Contribute Students Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Public Contribute Students Party Vice-Chairperson Daw Khin San Mu presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Esteemed voters and people

I wish you all good health and happiness. I am Daw Khin San Mu, Vice-Chairperson of the Public Contribute Students Party. I will now present the background history of our party and its structure.

Our party is first founded by the people with political outlook or economic outlook and the persons who have the experience in their respective fields and who are desirous of serving the public interest, which is their primary concern in November 2014.

Our flag and logo bear a white fighting peacock circled by 14 stars. We adopted the fighting peacock, which is the symbol of students (initiated by General Aung San), as a gesture hailing the students who joined forces with the entire nation in expressing the desire for democracy. The colour of the past fighting peacock is red, representing patriotism during the anti-colonialist struggle, but we chose the white colour which signifies the peaceful democratization process. The circling 14 stars represent the regions and states which are the homes to our nationalities.

Esteemed voters and people

We will now present the policy and the stand of our party.

Political policy

Ours is an independent, non-aligned and just foreign policy. We are against unilateral domination as we are in favour of the policy of non-alignment. We will never commit any act of intrusion, intimidation or intervention as we will be adhering to the policy of peaceful co-existence.

They are the policy for the establishment of strong and modern Union armed forces for the country that is sharing common borders with the countries that are powerful or that have the military might.

Esteemed voters and people

Economic policy

We will support the businesses in which grassroots are the primary stakeholders. Our priority program involves the encouragement of manageable-scale micro-businesses that employ blue-collar workers and the emergence of public companies.

We will approve foreign investment in accord with the policy to generate employment opportu-

nities and will seek ways for the improvement of education.

We will extend the scope of the compulsory education system stage by stage until covering the primary education high school level, and our vocational education policy will focus on producing human resources for various occupations.

We will prioritize the opening of monastic education schools which are appreciated by the people as the pioneers of today's education.

As regards the health policy, we will pay attention to equipping the hospitals and clinics in the country with international level medical aids and opening centres where free medical treatment and healthcare services for the senior citizens are available.

We appreciate the reduction of maternal and infant mortality rates as a must-do campaign. We will insist on opening a station hospital in village-tract and dispensaries and delivery centres for the remaining villages in the areas far from towns and hill regions where grassroots live.

Now we will present our social policy.

We will support the religious freedom for Buddhist, Muslims, Christians and Hindus and every other faith in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. We promise freedom of association in accord with the law, and efforts for ensuring equality between all nationalities.

Our political policy

We will prioritize the work of establishing a consolidated federal Union through the discipline-flourishing democracy and demanding the equal distribution of administrative powers and rights to regions and states, which are the parts of the federal Union.

Esteemed voters and people

Our party was founded in the place which has a great majority of people at the primary level – farmers and workers. So, the task of protecting the rights of farmers is high on our agenda, and additionally, we promise the return to farmland to original owners through coordinated efforts. The area where our headquarters is located has a large population of workers employing at the many factories also set up in it. So, we will look after their

requirements as a priority task, and our unique mission is to ensure that they are enjoying their original rights.

Esteemed voters and people

We have presented our policies as we are worried that people might choose the wrong man in the coming general election. We have fielded candidates for the coming election by fully supporting the article 7 of the basic principles of the 2008 Constitution, which says, "The Union practises genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system." We assume that the selection of the path based on multiparty democracy, rather than approach under the leadership of a single association or a single group or a single party is a right deed.

Esteemed voters and people

As we are clean and independent, we will never be followers of any person. All the members of the party are the siblings of a single-family born and brought up in this country. We will never leave our home country because we are so attached to it. The voters indeed are noble Myanmars residing in the mother country from birth till death.

As the opportunity to express the difficulties the country has faced during the successive periods has come, we are desirous of shouldering the duties with the full spirit of a loyal citizen. People should denounce the party that makes simple promises, and vote the party that speaks the truth. They should make the correct choice, and never let the country falls into a quagmire. Please choose the white fighting peacock and the 14 circling stars in filling the box for our candidate with a supporting tick. We are not giving an eloquent speech, but just giving a bit of good advice.

Our slogan is:

Human rights and democracy
always for the people
working with might and main
the white peacock the people love
I wish voters and people peace and happiness.



Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 6-7 October

CAMPAIGN speeches of People's Pioneer Party (PPP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 6 October, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar —on 7 October. However, those of Public of Labour Party and Women Party (Mon) will only be published on 7 October.— MNA

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.



US-British trio win Nobel Medicine Prize for Hepatitis C discovery

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — Americans Harvey Alter and Charles Rice together with Briton Michael Houghton won the Nobel Medicine Prize on Monday for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus, paving the way for a cure, the Nobel jury said.

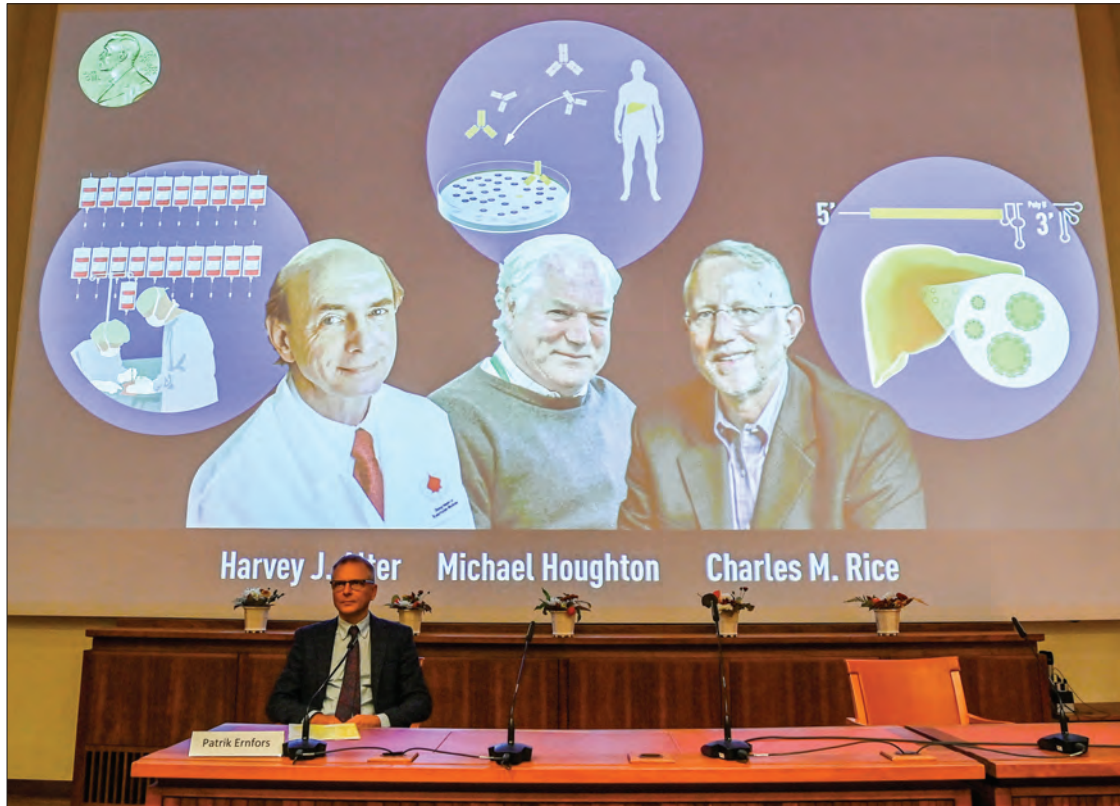
The three were honoured for their “decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people around the world,” the jury said.

The World Health Organization estimates there are around 70 million Hepatitis C infections globally, causing around 400,000 deaths each year. It is characterized by poor appetite, vomiting, fatigue and jaundice.

Thanks to the trio’s discoveries, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have “essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health”, the Nobel committee said.

Their discoveries allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at Hepatitis C.

“For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating Hepatitis C virus from the world



Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors sits in front of a screen displaying the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, (L-R) American Harvey Alter, Briton Michael Houghton and American Charles Rice, during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 5, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

population,” the jury said.

Alter, 85, told the Nobel Foundation he was stunned to receive an early-morning call from the committee, saying he didn’t answer the first two times.

“The third time I got up angrily to answer it... and it was Stockholm,” he said, adding that he was “in shock”.

“To see so many people

get cured, and nobody getting post-transfusion hepatitis, that’s astounding (and) nothing I’ve ever thought would happen,” he said. Prior to the trio’s work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward -- the discovery of Hepatitis B won the Nobel Medicine Prize in 1976 -- but the majority of blood-borne hepatitis

cases remained unexplained.

The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis, and “made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives”, the Nobel committee said.

Alter was credited for his pioneering work studying the occurrence of hepatitis in pa-

tients who had received blood transfusions, determining that their illness was neither Hepatitis A or B.

Houghton built on Alter’s work to isolate the genetic sequence of the new virus.

Rice, 68, subsequently completed the puzzle by using genetic engineering to prove that it was the new strain alone -- Hepatitis C -- that was causing patients to get sick.

The trio will share the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million, 950,000 euros).

In 2013, Houghton reportedly declined Canada’s Gairdner International Award because two of his key collaborators who worked with him at pharmaceutical group Chiron Corp were not included. Houghton, Alter and Rice would normally receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his will.

But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic and replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.—AFP ■

US stocks rise in pre-market amid Trump Covid-19 uncertainty

NEW YORK (United States) — Wall Street futures climbed in pre-market trading on Monday, with investors seemingly unperturbed by US President Donald Trump’s hospitalization after an-

nouncing he’d tested positive for coronavirus last week.

About an hour before trading was to begin, the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.7 per cent at 27,769.00.

The broad-based S&P 500 had risen 0.6 per cent at 3,360.50, while the tech-rich Nasdaq had climbed 0.7 per cent to 11,313.75. Trump announced his Covid-19 diagnosis on Friday, and markets

closed lower, rattled by that news as well as a weak September US employment report. After the close, Trump was flown to Walter Reed military medical center near Washington, where

he spent the weekend for treatment but released videos and photos of himself as well as made a drive-by appearance to supporters gathered outside the facility.—AFP ■

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(14/2020-2021)**

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-201(20-21)	Stationery Materials (18) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 5 October 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 5 November 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **5-11-2020, 12:00 pm**
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 – 411206

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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MTG DC Company Ltd (“**MTG**”) has entered into a Tower Transfer Agreement with Irrawaddy Green Towers Ltd (“**IGT**”), whereby MTG has agreed to sell and IGT has agreed to buy 45 telecommunication towers owned by MTG (“**Towers**”).

The effect of this is that rent for the premises which are taken on lease by MTG in which the Towers are erected will in future be paid by IGT.

IGT confirms and undertakes that they will honor all the leases (and associated lease payments) agreed with between MTG and landlords. The commercial terms of the ground lease agreements (including rental amount, tenure and time of payment) shall remain exactly the same.

If anyone has any objections to the transaction between MTG and IGT, please contact U Tun Myint with related facts within 14 days’ starting from the date of this advertisement at 01 202093 or alternatively at tun.myint@igt.com.mm or by post at Irrawaddy Green Towers Ltd, International Commercial Center, No. 422/426, 7th floor, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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Ayeyarwady Foundation to produce, distribute 5 mln masks

Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation U Zaw Zaw (L) inspects a face mask making machine on 5 October 2020 as the foundation is working on donating five million masks for the public. **PHOTO: YE YINT SHINE**

THE Ayeyarwady Foundation Health and Sports to produce be distributed free of charge is working with the Ministry of 5 millions masks which will as part of measures against

COVID-19.

The foundation ordered the mask-making machines over six months ago in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and global air pollution. The machines recently arrived and the foreign experts installed the machines. Now the machines run properly and it can produce 5,000 masks in one hour and it can also produce up to 50,000 masks per day.

The foundation will produce 5 million masks and will distribute them to the needy and low-income people for free.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation has been participating in measures against COVID-19 since March together with the Ministry of Health and Sports. It constructed temporary treatment centres and provided transportation services and daily meals for the patients including the doctors and nurses.—Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Over 140 people trafficked in Jan-Sept, including 36 young girls

BY Nyein Nyein

Ninety-four human trafficking cases, involving over 140 victims, have been reported in the nine months this year (January-September). Among them, 36 are young girls, according to the Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force.

The task force's record showed 15 reported human trafficking cases in January, seven in February, nine in

March, six each in April and May, 15 in June, 14 in July, 16 in August and six in September.

The cases involve 253 suspects and 142 victims, and forced marriage, forced sexual service and labour exploitation are reported. The trafficking cases were reported in China, Thailand, Malaysia and the domestic labour market, with the majority of victims sent to China for forced marriage, Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force re-

ported.

Of 94 cases, 68 cases of forced marriages were reported in China, while the other two issues of forced marriage also happened in the domestic labour market. Twelve cases of forced sexual service and seven cases of labour exploitation occurred in the country. Two cases of labour exploitation in Malaysia and one each in Thailand and China, one surrogacy in China were reported.

Among the regions and

states, Shan State witnessed 29 cases of human trafficking, followed by Yangon with 27 cases. Nine trafficking cases were registered in Mandalay Region, eight in Kachin State, seven in Ayeyarwady Region, six in Bago Region, two each in Magway and Taninthayi regions, and one each in Rakhine State, Kayin State, Sagaing Region and Nay Pyi Taw in January and September.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI inflows in Myanmar reach over \$5.68 bln in 2019-2020FY

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has only reached near to its foreign direct investment (FDI) target of US\$5.8 billion for the financial year 2019-2020, said Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investments of more than \$5.68 billion between

1 October and 30 September in FY2019-2020, and over \$100 million is required to meet FDI target.

"Myanmar Investment Commission set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the FY2019-2020, and the country received investments of \$5.68 billion. Power sector drew the largest foreign investments this year, accounting for 30.26 per cent. Manufacturing sector consti-

tuted 20.42pc of overall FDIs, while real estate sector comprised 20.19pc. FDI inflows have almost reached the target," he highlighted.

During the FY2018-2019 (1 Oct-30 Sept), Myanmar pulls only \$4.52 billion investments. Consequently, it showed an increase of \$1.16 billion in the FY2019-2020.

Singapore topped the foreign investment line-up, fol-

lowed by China and Thailand. Also, the investments flowed into Hong Kong (SAR), the UK, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Japan, the DICA stated.

Myanmar has attracted \$25.186 billion from 1,032 enterprises between the FY2016-2017 and the FY2019-2020 under the incumbent government period.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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YSX trade volume drops to lowest in September

THE volume of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in September sank to the lowest level of 85,237 shares, yet the value slightly rose to K838.6 million against August's rate due to the increase in share prices, according to YSX's monthly report.

The trading volume last month plunged from 118,850 shares registered in August, the statistics indicated.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their largest declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

Moreover, Myanmar people like to invest in property, currency and gold market. Most of the local people are accustomed to investing in the gold market rather than the stock market. They will buy them if they have extra money. The cash out was when they need. At present, people are putting money in savings, rather than investing the COVID-19 crisis, he added.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR) are being traded on the exchange.

In January 2020, 196,836 shares worth K1.25 billion were traded on the exchange while 188,919 shares, with estimated value of K1.48 billion were traded on the business in February and 228,913 shares valued K1.42 billion were traded in March respectively. It touched the lowest of



Two women take picture of the screen of Yangon Stock Exchange.
PHOTO: PHOEHKWAR

K902 million with 173,808 shares in April. It rose to K1.2 billion with 200,416 shares being traded in May. The share volumes traded on the exchange surged to 221,682 in June, with estimated value K1.3 billion and then, it fell to \$1 billion with 125,137 shares in July. In August, the exchange witnessed the lowest level of stock trading value at K747.5 million, with 118,850 shares traded, the exchange's monthly report showed.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market in March 2020. Foreigners have held 53,850 shares in the equity market as of 2 October.

In September, the share prices of the listed companies on the exchange, except EFR, also showed an increase compared with August's prices. The share prices of FMI were closed at K10,000 per unit, MTSH at K3,700, MCB at K8,000, FPB at K22,5000, TMH at K2,700 and EFR at K3,000

respectively.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading even for one day is symbolic of the efforts of all market participants, Mr Koichiro Miyahara, President and Chief Executive Officer of Tokyo Stock Exchange, gave a remark to YSX EXPO 2020 online event on 12 September.

Furthermore, YSX is carrying out necessary actions to establish the new Pre-Listing Board, in addition to the existing market (Main Board), intending to increase the number of listed companies, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar delivered the remark to YSX EXPO 2020 online event on 12 September.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding

the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

To boost the trading, the YSX had doubled its stock trade matching time from two to four per day last year. The exchange launched seven times matching per day on 26 March 2020.

Since 2017, it has held promotional events to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

A total of 2.4 million shares worth K13.39 billion were traded on the YSX in 2019, a significant increase compared to the previous year, according to the annual report released by the exchange. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Thilawa SEZ attracts over US\$163 mln in 2019-2020FY; down by \$200 mln against previous FY

By Nyein Nyein

FOREIGN investments of over US\$163 million have flowed into Thilawa Special Economic Zone under the Special Economic Zone Law in the financial year 2019-2020 (October-September), and FDI inflows were down by \$200 million compared with the previous FY2018-2019., the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

Between 1 October and 30 September of the FY2019-2020, eight foreign enterprises were given the green light, ploughing in capitals of \$163.277 million. During a-year ago period, 16 enterprises with an estimated capital of \$362.28 million were given the go-ahead in the zone.

The number of permitted or endorsed enterprises this year was eight lower than last year. Similarly, the investment value fell by \$199.003 million compared to the previous FY, the DICA stated.

Over the four years of the incumbent government, Thilawa SEZ attracted over US\$1 billion from 60 enterprises, the DICA's data showed.

The FDIs flowed into the manufacturing, trading, other services, transportation and logistics, real estate development, and hotel sectors.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic goat market experiencing downward trend due to COVID-19 crisis



A woman drives a herd of goats at a village in Upper Myanmar. PHOTO: AUNG HTAY, HTET MYAT

MYANMAR'S goat market is on falling trade trend as the neighbouring countries China and Thailand stopped purchasing the goat amid the COVID-19 crisis, said traders from Mahlaing.

It was about two months that there is no demand by neighbouring countries, and the breeders are facing financial hardships.

The trade suspension caused the price to plunge by K15,000 per head of a goat. Besides the live goat export, the meat market is not going well either.

The prices of lamb and mutton are falling owing to the COVID-19 negative impacts, and the breeders are not finan-

cially doing well.

"Earlier, the lamb and mutton fetched a good price. During the COVID-19 outbreak, mutton is priced around K5,000-5,500 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6kg) while the prevailing price of lamb is about K4,000-4,500 per viss. The mutton price drastically plummeted from over K10,000 per viss," said U Maung Sein, a breeder from Mandalay Region.

Last year, a head of live goat was priced K60,000-120,000 depending on size. At present, the price is down by K15,000 per head compared to the previous year's rate.—Aung Htay, Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Review of 2020 MPT Myanmar National League

THE MPT Myanmar National League 2020, with the participation of a total of 12 football teams, took place from 10 January 2020 to 1 October 2020.

This is 11th season of the Myanmar National League and the top Myanmar professional football league for association football clubs.

Winners of the season is Shan United FC with 44 points, followed by Hantharwady United in the second place with 41 points and Ayeyawady United in the third place with 40 points.

A total of 110 matches were played throughout the tournament, and there were a total of

284 scored goals.

Top scorer of the season was Raphael Success of Ayeyawady United with 16 goals, followed by Edubat Patrick of Sagaing United with 14 goals, and Emeka Ndubuisi of Hantharwady United with 13 goals.

The biggest home wins were Hantharwady United against Southern Myanmar FC and Hantharwady United against ISPE with 5-0 respectively.

The biggest away win was Magway United against Yangon United with 0-6.

The longest winning run was Shan United with 11 games, the longest unbeaten

run was Ayeyawady United with 15 games, and the longest winless run was Magwe FC with 11 matches.

The cleanest sheet was obtained by Ko Ko Naing of Hantharwady United with nine matches. The two relegated teams from the season are Chin United FC and Zwegapin United FC.

The winner Shan United qualified for AFC Champions League play-offs, first runner-up Hantharwady United qualified for AF Cup play-off round, and Ayeyawady United became a standby team for AFC Cup group stage. —Kyaw Khin



PHOTO: MNL

Premier League pacesetters Everton sign Norwich defender Godfrey



Norwich City's English midfielder Ben Godfrey reacts after scoring an own goal during the English Premier League football match between Norwich City and Burnley at Carrow Road stadium in Norwich, eastern England on 18 July 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Everton have signed defender Ben Godfrey from Norwich on a five-year contract for an initial fee reported to be around £25 million (\$32 million) in the first major move of transfer deadline day.

The Canaries announced on Monday they had received a club-record fee for the 22-year-old, whose new deal ties him to Carlo Ancelotti's side until 2025.

Godfrey made 30 appearances for relegated Norwich in the Premier League last season, and had been linked with a number of top-flight clubs during transfer window.

"It is an honour to sign for Everton and to be part of a huge club," Godfrey told the club

website. "I am very thankful for the opportunity and I can't wait to get started.

"The aim for me at Everton is to win trophies and win games. I like to win. I wear my heart on my sleeve. I care and I am a passionate lad."

The centre-back completed a medical with the Premier League leaders over the weekend.

He is Everton's fifth signing of the summer after the arrivals of midfielders Allan and Abdoulaye Doucoure, playmaker James Rodriguez and left-back Niels Nkounkou.

Ancelotti's team are top of the Premier League after winning all four of their opening matches.—AFP

England's Abraham, Sancho 'flout' virus rules at party

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Chelsea's Tammy Abraham has apologized after footage emerged of him attending a party with England teammates Ben Chilwell and Jadon Sancho in an apparent breach of national coronavirus rules.

The Sun newspaper published the video, which appears to show the three players at a gathering in London with more than six people present on Saturday.

It comes a month after Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood were sent home for breaching

Covid-19 protocols while with Gareth Southgate's England squad in Iceland.

The Sun reports that the FA has seen footage of the party and quotes a spokesman as saying: "There will be no change to the England team at this stage."

The England squad is due to assemble this week ahead of a friendly against Wales on Thursday and Nations League matches against Belgium and Denmark.

Chelsea pair Abraham and Chilwell and Borussia Dortmund's Sancho are all in the 30-man group.

It was reported the party was organized as a surprise gathering for Abraham's 23rd birthday.

The forward has apologized, telling the newspaper: "I arrived home to find a small surprise gathering.

"Though I was totally unaware this was planned, I would like to wholeheartedly apologize for the naivety shown for the organization and attending of this gathering.

"All I can do now is learn from it, apologise to everyone and ensure it never happens again."—AFP



England's midfielder Jadon Sancho (L) and England's striker Tammy Abraham applaud supporters after the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying first round Group A football match between England and Montenegro at Wembley Stadium in London on 14 November 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**