

NATIONAL

People's Pioneer Party, Shan-ni Solidarity Party, Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party, Public of Labour Party and Women Party (Mon) present their policies, stances and work programmes

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Wednesday, 7 October 2020

State Counsellor inspects demonstration of voting process under COVID-19 guidelines in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks into demonstration of polling station officers on 6 October for voting during prescribed hours on the election day. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited and observed a practical demonstration of the voting process under the COVID-19 prevention guidelines for the 2020 General Election.

A practical demonstration was conducted at the No. 5 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to simulate the voting process at the No. 1 Polling Station at Ward 1 of Yankin Township

in Yangon Region.

On arrival at the demonstration site, she was welcomed by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, UEC members, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials.

Director-General of UEC

office, U Khin Maung Oo, gave a briefing on the practical demonstration in accordance with preventive measures against COVID-19 on the voting day, preparations for health care guidelines for voting at the polling stations of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and other regions/states, and duty assignment of polling station officer, deputy polling station officer and other polling station staff. He also briefed about checking voters

lists, giving out ballots to voters, and arrangements on how to manage the people outside the polling station.

Later the State Counsellor and party observed the practical demonstration conducted at polling station number 1 of Zeya Theikdhi ward, Zabuthiri Township. The demonstrations included taking body temperatures of voters queuing outside the polling stations, giving out facemasks, cleansing of hands using hand

sanitizers, management of voters outside the polling station and the casting of votes during the prescribed voting hours.

The State Counsellor gave advice on social distancing in the queue, systematic handwashing and other necessary matters.

The State Counsellor warmly greeted the staff members who participated in the practical demonstration of the voting process from the Office of the President, the Union Election Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, and the Ministry of Union Government Office, and asked them to report on difficulties during the practical demonstration and to submit suggestions to the relevant departments.

The No. 1 polling station of Zeya Theikdi Ward in Zabuthiri will be used for 2,103 voters, while there are 811 eligible voters for the No.1 Polling Station in Ward 1 of Yankin Township in Yangon which was selected as a polling station for the practical demonstration in the simulation exercise.

According to the latest reports, the numbers of eligible voters in the respective townships of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory are 85,513 in Zabuthiri Township, 27,786 in Dekkhinathiri Township, 132,457 in Pinyinmana Township, 217,620 in Lewe Township, 79,029 in Zeyathiri Township, 178,844 in Tatkon Township, 92,869 in Pubbathiri Township and 52,469 in Ottarathiri Township respectively.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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"People are the key"

Advance voting continues at 7 Myanmar embassies abroad

MYANMAR citizens living abroad cast their advance voting at the seven embassies in respective countries yesterday.

In accordance with the

healthcare guidelines, 773 voters in Thailand, 20 voters in Egypt, 7 voters in Nepal, over 1,700 voters in Singapore, 2 voters in Israel, 69 voters in the Republic of Ko-

rea and 418 voters in Japan cast their votes respectively.

The advance voting has been closed in 7 countries until now, with the latest voting in

Nepal.

The Myanmar missions in Brazil and Nanning city of the People's Republic of China will organize advance voting on 7

October, and those in India and Kunming city of PRC on 8 October.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar citizens come to polling station at the embassy in Singapore for their advance votes on 6 October. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar citizens cast their advance votes in Cairo on 6 October. PHOTO: MNA

25th relief flight from ROK brings back 109 Myanmar nationals

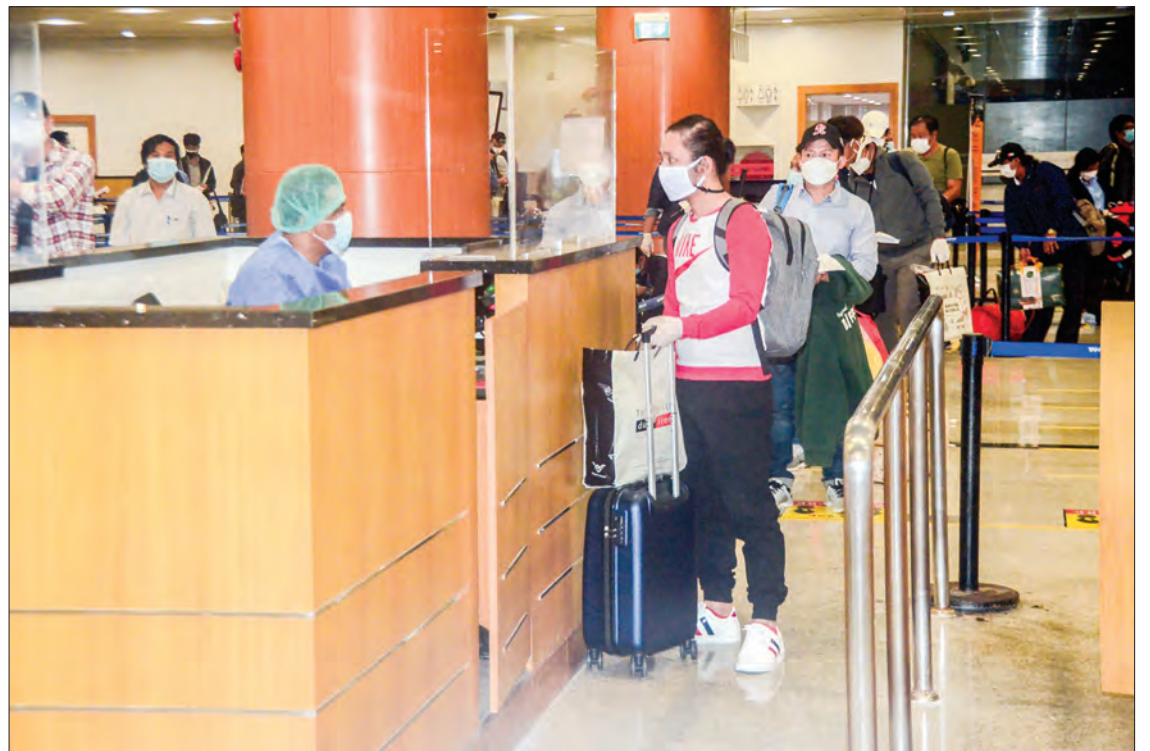
THE 25th relief flight landed at Yangon International Airport bringing 109 Myanmar nationals via Incheon International Airport yesterday.

Among them, 100 Myanmar nationals were from Korea while 6 from the Russian Federation, 2 from Germany and 1 from New Zealand.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quaran-

tine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working with the relevant ministries and its missions in foreign countries for the repatriation of citizens abroad in accordance with the guidelines of the National-Level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, and has brought back 18,183 citizens to date.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

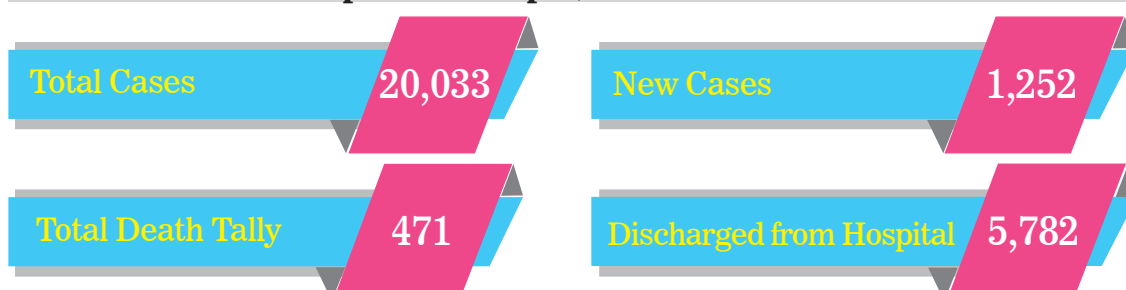


Myanmar returnees arrived back home by the 25th relief flight from Republic of Korea seen at the Yangon International Airport on 6 October. PHOTO: MNA

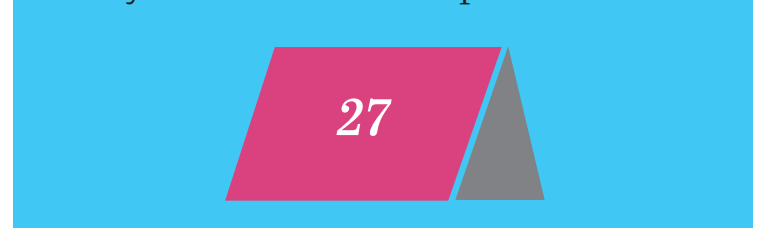
1,252 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 October, total figure rises to **20,033**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **20,033** after **1,252** new cases were reported on 6 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **20,033** confirmed cases, **471** died, **5,782** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 6 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 6-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

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National tripartite pre-coordination meeting for 13th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour held online

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the International Labour Organization jointly held virtual meeting for the opening ceremony of the National tripartite pre-coordination meeting for the 13th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing, Australian Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner, Head of Cooperation for the Embassy of Canada Ms Eileen Stewart and Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li of ILO office in Yangon, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, heads of department concerned and the representatives of UN/INGO/NGO, Trade Union, employers and civil organizations joined the virtual meeting.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the meeting was held to study the progress in implementing the suggestions of former ASEAN forums on migrant workers, to discuss the theme of 13th ASEAN Forum “Supporting Migrant Workers during the Pandemic for a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community” and to draft or formulate the suggestions for the Myanmar delegations to the forum.



Union Minister U Thein Swe delivers an opening speech during virtual meeting for the opening ceremony of the National tripartite pre-coordination meeting for the 13th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour. **PHOTO: MNA**

The world is facing the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic which change the living styles.

Although most of the countries conducted visa extension for immigration, it was convenient only for some of the labourers as most of the workers face expiration of employment contract, reduction of labour force and factory closures.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar diplomats for the respective ministries cooperated with the relevant Myanmar embassies and provided the official or undocumented migrant workers who want to return home including their accommodation and meals.

They also released information widely like the needed facts for the returnees to do in line with the COVID-19 measures of the respective countries via social network.

The Union Minister continued saying that as the migrant workers do not have certain social protection during the crisis and so it needs to negotiate as quickly as possible with the destination countries for the migrant workers to have certain guarantee in the long run.

COVID-19 has affected all sectors including labour market across the world. So, it seems to urge the migrant workers to return to their countries. But the

workers face travel restrictions as the official routes are closed. So, the government to government cooperation is needed in such cases and the civil organizations and private sectors need to do as well.

Meanwhile, some of the returnees want to settle in the country and so the officials should consider for labour market of the country. It is important to appreciate or recognize their skills that they will be accepted by the job seeking agencies, the employers, companies and other organizations.

In improving the skills of the returning workers, the officials need to give special fo-

cus on their soft skills, said the Union Minister, adding that it should adopt unusual methods in conducting training during COVID-19 crisis.

Then, Australian Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner, Head of Cooperation for the Embassy of Canada Ms Eileen Stewart and Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li of ILO respectively delivered an opening speech.

The reviews, findings and suggestions made by the attendees to the meeting will be applied at the 13th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour to be held in Viet Nam.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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



The free living style must be controlled at the moment

COVID-19 is giving us lessons on how to live in daily life with rules and disciplines. The situation has imposed very severe restrictions on us. The free living style must be controlled at the moment.

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

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses with health officials from 6 regions/states

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held an online meeting with health officials from Yangon, Mandalay, Rakhine, Mon, Bago and Ayeyawady yesterday to take control measures against COVID-19.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the important role of primary health officials for the people, sharing experiences on control measures of the pandemic, awareness programme, risks of communicable and non-communicable diseases and access to the medical supplies at the stayhome areas.

The respective health officers and public health authorities presented their experiences in contact tracing, difficulties, medical treatments for the suspected cases, the needs of vehicles for transportation, better management in stayhome areas, awareness programme and using

communication tools.

They also discussed the needs of oxygen producing machines, pulse oximeter and blood pressure monitors, protective gears, contribution of well-wishers and more public participation.

After the discussions from the Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win and Dr Thar Tun Kyaw, the Director-General from the Union Minister's office, and Dr Soe Oo, the Director-General from Public Health Department, the Union Minister coordinated the discussions.

He also remarked on the better supports of control and emergency response committee, improving management at the lockdown area, the adjustment to guidelines of the ministry, adopting the necessary guidelines, using Rapid Antigen Diag-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds meeting with health officials from 6 regions/states on 6 October.
PHOTO: MNA

nostic Test kits at the township level, providing more protective items including N95 masks, and providing protective gears to the

volunteers.

The Union Minister concluded his discussions with enforcement of public health department

to prevent other infections and appreciated the public health officers.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar chairs 19th ASEAN senior law officials meeting online

THE 19th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) and Working Group meeting, chaired by Myanmar, are being held through videoconferencing

from 5 to 7 October.

The meeting is participated by Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Permanent Secretary Dr Thida Oo, Director-General Dr

Thi Thi Myint and the high-ranking law officials from the ASEAN countries.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney-General thanked the

members of the ASLOM and the ASEAN Secretary General office for facilitating the meeting online amid the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar.

He said that the role of the ASLOM is important in developing a better legal environment for each member state as ASEAN aims to enhance mutual assistance and active cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, social, science, technology and management.

He continued that the exchange of knowledge and experience of legal professions in the ASEAN region plays a key role in the development of legal issues and ASLOM is involving in legal matters such as mutual assistance and in criminal matters such as human trafficking.

The Union Attorney-General remarked that the ASLOM meeting is a key pillar to promote

legal cooperation in the region since the legal aid in criminal matters is important not only for the regional legal cooperation but also for the international legal cooperation. He commended the efforts of ASLOM leaders for the emergence of the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and the ASEAN Extradition Treaty.

The Permanent Secretary of the Union Attorney-General office serves as the chair of the meeting and the meeting will continue to discuss the developments in the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and the ASEAN Extradition Treaty in criminal matters, the development of the ASEAN Trade Law, crime prevention and criminal justice, Judicial cooperation, mutual legal aid in civil suit and trade issues and legal matters in the ASEAN region.—MNA *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and senior law officials join the online meeting of 19th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting on 6 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends 71st Session of UNHCR Executive Committee

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye joined the opening session of 71st Session of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Executive Committee held in Geneva of Switzerland via online on 5 October.

The member states of UNHCR, observers of UN member states or non-UN member states, other observing organizations, UN organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations joined the meeting.

The opening ceremony was held on 5 October and during the event, the High Commissioner of UNHCR Mr Filippo Grandi and Executive Director of UNICEF Ms Henrietta Fore respectively made a remark.

Then, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye made a speech at the event, saying that the country is conducting COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities without leaving one behind and serving especially for the internally displaced persons and others in vulnerable group. The government also implemented plans to execute COVID-19 by



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye makes the video speech at the opening session of UNHCR Executive Committee meeting on 5 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

using K2.1 billion and beefed up the measures against COVID-19 since Sittway Township of Rakhine State reported local transmissions in mid August.

As eight townships in Rakhine State imposed travel restrictions, the government cooperated with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food to those in these areas.

The Union Minister continued saying that COVID-19 prevention and control activities are being conducted in Rakhine State while the humanitarian aids are

also provided. It also serves 24 hours phone services to settle gender-based abuses.

Social protection assistance is also provided to the expectant mothers, elderly persons and the people with disabilities including the internally displaced persons at IDP camps.

Although there are some restrictions during COVID-19, the government keeps carrying out the procedures in accordance with the National Strategy on closing IDP camps and resettlement of IDPs. It also negotiated

with the local and foreign experts to draft the plans regarding with these cases.

Moreover, the country keeps carrying out peace processes which play a key role in ending conflicts, and the fourth session of Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong was held successfully and achieved the principles for the establishment of federal democratic union and accords to implement in the post-2020.

The Union Minister pledged that Myanmar will make efforts

for transition to democracy system, national reconciliation, peace process, ending of conflicts, promoting of human rights, socio-economic growth and sustainable development although the country has many challenges.

Then, High Commissioner Mr Filippo Grandi said that UNHCR provides the needed assistance to Myanmar for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities and it also knows about the performance of government for the internally displaced persons. Such news is very important for the IDPs and improving the situation of IDPs will have a good impact to restart the programme of accepting the returnees from Bangladesh.

He continued saying that he would like to urge the government to find ways to give information about the performance of government to the IDPs and extended his best wishes to be able to hold free and fair elections and urged to continue making efforts for the internally displaced persons in the post-election period.

The session will be held until 9 October.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

UNOPS, WHO and ICRC visit Ayeyarwady Foundation's Covid Centre to step up their joint fight against COVID-19 in Myanmar



Representatives from UNOPS, WHO, and ICRC visit Ayeyarwady Foundation's Covid Centre at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 6 October. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

REPRESENTATIVES from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the Ayeyarwady Foundation's Covid Centre (Ayeyarwady Centre) located at Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon, yesterday to observe the soon to be opened ICU-HDU facilities construction and installation.

During the visit, U Zaw Zaw,

Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation, met the officials to discuss the formation of a long-term multilateral relationship to jointly support efforts to increase the treatment and testing capacity of COVID-19 at the Ayeyarwady Centre and enhance containment of the "second wave" in Myanmar. Furthermore, they explored ways to increase staff technical expertise in operating the ICU/HDU Critical Care section of the Aye-

yarwady Centre. In a show of support, UNOPS agreed to source idle or redundant equipment and allocate, including ventilators, to the Ayeyarwady Centre for emergency use.

Prior to the visit, U Zaw Zaw, who is also the Chairman of Max Myanmar Group, held virtual meetings on October 3 with experts from UNOPS and WHO to share information around COVID-19 healthcare

treatment best practices. The WHO may provide online training and human resources support in the form of healthcare specialists in ICU, anesthetic and radiology; UNOPS may support with guidance on procurement logistics and infrastructure and coordination with international donors; and the ICRC could provide assistance in the form of ICU specialists and healthcare professionals.

U Zaw Zaw said of the cooperation, "The Ayeyarwady Centre is not only the work of the Ayeyarwady Foundation and Max Myanmar, but a collective effort with necessary guidance and support of the MOHS and Yangon Regional Government to support the Myanmar people. We are humbled to act as a bridge between the great work UNOPS and WHO are doing at the global level, and the amazing effort of our community here in Myanmar to fight this virus."

The Ayeyarwady Centre, a joint-cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and the Ayeyarwady

Foundation was established as a temporary treatment centre for COVID-19 infected patients. It started off as a 425-bed temporary treatment centre on September 19 and expanded into 575-bed temporary treatment centre on September 29 and 875-bedded temporary treatment center on October 3. 75-bedded ICU/HDU Critical Care Unit will be opened in the coming days.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation, through the Ayeyarwady Centre, has been actively seeking collaborative opportunities with the wider global healthcare community and volunteers to come to Myanmar and provide their knowledge and skills to combat the pandemic. The need is especially acute for intensive care units (ICU) and high dependency units (HDU), where there is a critical shortage in highly trained and experienced human resources. The Foundation also welcomes partners for key support areas such as accommodation, logistics, and other expertise from international volunteers.—GNLM

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Myanmar football academy to house COVID-19 quarantined personsPreparations are underway to use the Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay for temporary quarantine centre. **PHOTO: YE YINT SHINE**

THE Ayeyarwaddy Foundation has prepared the Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay

to be used as a quarantine centre for the COVID-19 patients. Mandalay Region Chief

Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung inspected the academy under the supervision of the Manda-

lay Regional government on 5 October and provided necessary assistance.

Mandalay Region has been speeding up the COVID-19 emergency response to ensure the disease under control and the Ayeyarwaddy Foundation is supporting the COVID-19 disease prevention and treatment programme.

The academy in Mandalay will be able to accommodate 100 patients and 25 volunteers and the foundation has arranged to provide food four times a day and other necessary items.—Ye Yint Shine

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)***Ferries run only with over 600 commuters aboard per day**

THREE Cherry ferries are running daily for the people from Dala and its surrounding townships to reach the commercial hub of Yangon City. With the declining number of passengers during COVID-19 outbreak, the ferry vessels are operating with only a few passengers.

People are not going outside after the regional government has declared a stay-at-home announcement to contain the spreading of coronavirus. This is the reason why the ferry and Z-craft vessels have reduced their routes to ensure the convenience of the passengers and preserving the flow of the cargos. Depending upon the availability of passengers, the ferry vessels are still running along their routes without suspension of the transport service, accord-

ing to the Delta Division of Inland Water Transport (IWT).

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the three ferry boats have been running 46 times per day for 30,000 commuters approximately. Now, the ferries are operating 16 times a day on weekdays and 12 times a day on weekends. However, the number of passengers has also dropped to over 600 commuters, a dramatical drop, said Daw Ti Ti Myint, manager of Yangon Pansodan ticket office.

Likewise, Yangon Wahdan (Keighley)-Dala Z-craft, carrying cargoes and vehicles, has also reduced its routes during COVID-19 period. Now, Z-craft is running seven courses per day to take 12 tonnes of freight and 80 cars. Previously, nearly 600 vehicles containing cargos

Ferries between Dala and Yangon ply 16 times each day during COVID-19 outbreak. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

and passengers are travelling daily. Now, food vehicles, house-owned vehicles and emergency vehicles are using the Z-craft.

The Yangon Pansodan-Dala jetty, Yangon Wahdan (Keighley)-Dala Z-craft jetty and Dala Township highway terminals are crowded with the passengers daily before COVID-19

outbreak. With the rise of the COVID-19 confirmed cases in Yangon Region, Yangon is now in thunderous silence. The people should cooperate to contain the spreading of the pandemic, following the government's rules and regulations.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***COVID test kits totalling 9,000 to be distributed in Magway**

ABOUT 9,000 test kits will be distributed to Public Health Departments in 25 townships of Magway Region to conduct COVID tests, according to the Magway Region Public Health Department.

"At present, some 4,000 test kits were distributed already to some Health Departments in the townships for the first time. The remaining 5,000 test kits will be delivered soon," said Dr Khin Maung Than, Assistant Director of the Magway Region Public Health Department.

The test kits first started detecting on 5 October a total of 31 truck drivers and conductors, entering from Rakhine State. They were tested in Ngaphe Township

Pyin Wa checkpoint, and two of them were found COVID-19 positive.

Similarly, about 50 trucks drivers and conductors were tested at Minbu Township vehicle terminal and three of them were found COVID-19 positive, said U San Htay, the Administrator from Minbu District.

"The health staff and the people who had contact with the suspected patients a started undergoing detecting with the use of test kits. The truck drives and conductors who are crossing on board the trucks to ensure the smooth flow the goods in line with the guidance of the ministry of health and sports are also be-

A health worker is taking swab from a man in Magway. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

ing tested recently with the test kits," said Dr Khin Maung Than.

On 6 October, one truck driver was found COVID-19 positive when he was tested with the use of the test kits. The report of confirmed patients has increased

these days after experimenting with the test kits, which can give the results in 30 minutes, according to Magway Region Public Health Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fishery exports soar to over \$847 mln in 2019-2020FY

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 25 September in the financial year 2019-2020 reached US\$847.5 million, an increase of \$125.65 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The figures stood at just \$721.865 million during a-year ago period.

During the current financial year, the fishery exports are expected to reach a record high. Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) expected to earn more than \$800 million from fishery exports in the FY2019-2020, and it got a target.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and

countries in the European Union.

Myanmar's fishery exports have slightly declined over the past three months, owing to the COVID-19 impacts. However, Myanmar witnessed a large volume of exports in the post-pandemic period.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

To ensure food safety, the foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates.

To meet international market standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAQP.



A file photo shows workers select shrimps in Kyauktan, Yangon Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480

million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

An MFF official said the federation had asked

the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production, including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish, is far better than the regional countries. If the state can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy and earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LAN HA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LAN HA VOY. NO. (10/20)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (103N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (103N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GLODEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (102N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (102N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (919N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (919N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (040W/041E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (040W/041E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (038S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (038S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

IDPs are not left behind in response to COVID-19

SINCE the COVID-19 outbreak began in Myanmar, the Union Government has pledged that it would leave no stone unturned in fighting the disease and no one would be left behind in response to the global pandemic.

Especially, the needs of vulnerable communities such as displaced people have been given priority in response to the pandemic.

The government's policy: "No one would be left behind," means that women, children and vulnerable communities would also receive assistance from the government's COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP.

The Union Government is implementing a plan to prevent, contain and respond to the COVID-19 disease in IDP camps by spending K2.1 billion in efforts to provide care to the people displaced by armed conflicts and terrorist attacks.

The second wave of COVID-19 broke out in the second week of August in Rakhine and the authorities imposed restrictions on travel and stay-at-home orders in eight townships in Rakhine State in response to the second wave of COVID-19. Understanding that it not easy for the IDPs to follow the rules and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the disease unless they are provided with sufficient basic daily needs such as water, soap and food, the Union Government and the World Food Programme are providing humanitarian aid to the IDPs.

Despite limitations caused by the global pandemic, the Union Government is making efforts for resettlement of IDPs and closing of IDP camps nationwide.

Since the second wave in Rakhine State, the authorities have enforced rules at the camps to ensure that they do not go to a neighbouring country of their own volition and the IDPs understand that they would face legal action if they do not abide by orders and do not comply with mandatory COVID-19 regulations. Similarly, those who illegally return from neighbouring countries and enter an IDP camp would face legal action under the communicable diseases law.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is our latest wake-up call for greater cooperation and solidarity among the government, INGOs and people to address the economic and social repercussions for the livelihood of the people.

Of Global Flu Pandemics and the Corona Virus-19 Outbreak in Myanmar

By Lokethar

SPEAKING of the "Flu Pandemics" that happened around the world over the past centuries, "the Flu Pandemic of 1889/90 in just a few months spanned the globe, killing 1 million people. It took just five weeks to reach it's "peak mortality" according to a Google website. From the same source it is learned that "In the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918/20 about 500 million people across the globe were infected out of which one fifth died". Then again "the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957/58 which was a global pandemic with it's roots in China, claimed more than one million lives". The 2009 swine flu caused by a new strain of H1N1 virus, in one year infected as many as 1.4 billion people across the globe and killed between 151,700 and 575,400 people.

The pandemics afore-mentioned are gone but probably not the viruses that caused them. Perhaps the viruses will never "go away". The human genome may have somehow developed immu-

nity to the virus. If so it may attack only those whose immune system against the virus is still weak and it can overpower such persons and not others. My apologies to the Immunologists and the medical profession people if the "opinion" just expressed is judged as being "wild speculation". Any way the "track records" seem to give it some credence.

Sars-Cov-2, the virus that caused Covid-19 Pandemic originated in China, and so far has caused millions of deaths world wide. The Corona Virus however is not a Flu virus as is asserted by Immunologists around the world. Hence it's future "behaviour" could be less predictable than the virulent "Flu" viruses. As it is a new virus no one has immunity against it. Efforts to develop a vaccine for Covid-19 is still on-going.

Helpless against Covid-19
Regarding the Covid-19 Virus, no matter where it came from, it took the world by surprise. Even the most advanced Nations have been helpless against it because there just didn't exist the precise "technology" shall we say, to con-

front it. It had to be put together in haste, sometimes with much groping around. Of course the safe bet was "isolating" those who contracted the virus and taking other measures to "contain" the epidemic. Gradually "isolation" extended to every sphere of life so that social and business interactions came to be severely curtailed. This has caused trade and commerce

an ASEAN Country, is between 3% to 4%. (For Myanmar, as of 5th October 8.00PM it is reckoned to be at around 2.4%). From the 13th of March 2020 when the WHO declared it to be a Pandemic, up until the present time there has been over 2 million recorded deaths world wide. According to a report on the incidence of the disease about 80% recover from

course and toll. However it can be said with a degree of certainty that like the "Flu" viruses it may never "go away".

Even if an effective vaccine is found, it may be quite some time before the entire population of the world can be "vaccinated".

the disease without any special treatment. About 1 in every 5 people who are infected with the Covid 19 Virus develop difficulty in breathing and need hospital care. People over 60 years of age with underlying medical conditions are more at risk of infection by the virus. The Covid 19 virus will, hopefully, with the development of an effective vaccine, be "contained". In the meantime it will take it's

Containment measures

Other constraints like containment measures will have to be imposed as required. However, if such measures continue for any length of time, economic life will be disrupted. Businesses will have to shut down and distribution of commodities may be entirely "on line" which may not be widespread or sustainable due to technological constraints and cost of such measures. Unless the imposed constraints are slowly faded out humanity may risk economic disasters probably far more serious than the affects of Covid 19 Virus itself.

Hence it is suggested that the control measures now in place be gradually relaxed, of course without compromising safety and health of the people. Such relaxation would also be beneficial for the economy. And of course all the people must willingly cooperate to abide by the measures like washing hands, using face masks in public and trying their best to keep a safe distance between one another as best as they can.

With charity to all and malice to none.

Steel the COVID-19 response to save lives and build a stronger recovery

Evidence-based action and investments are needed to strengthen the COVID-19 response and build a healthier, more health-secure recovery and future for all

By Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region

FOR more than nine months now WHO and its Member States in the South-East Asia Region have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with speed, scale and solidarity. Speed, in efforts to control local outbreaks by acting on epidemiological evidence. Scale, in the whole-of-government, whole-of-society buy-in leaders have mobilized to help people stay safe, healthy and well amid our "new normal". And solidarity, because from the beginning of the outbreak countries have reinforced each other's defences, whether by sharing key resources or identifying and communicating best practices.

To strengthen the response and save lives, national and local authorities must continue to apply WHO's transmission classification model while learning from each

other's successes in preventing and controlling hot-spots and clusters, which account for the majority of new cases. Fast and frugal innovations - for example universal mask wearing, the provision of hand hygiene resources and safe water to all communities, and the delivery of high-quality information, including locally tailored risk communication - have proven especially valuable, and should be leveraged to maximum effect.

Member State resolve to control COVID-19 remains steadfast, as it must be. In early September, at WHO's annual governing body meeting in the Region, countries issued the Declaration on the Collective Response to COVID-19, highlighting their commitment to build on the Region's many strengths in responding to the pandemic. Of particular focus was securing

the occupational safety of health workers, strengthening health information systems and the uptake of digital health technologies, and advancing health policy and systems research on COVID-19. Crucially, the Region reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen and maintain essential health services, which is a core pillar of WHO's strategic preparedness and response plan and has been one of the Region's key points of focus. Across the world, the emergence and spread of COVID-19 has caused significant disruptions to essential health services, risking increased morbidity and mortality from non-COVID health issues. Our Region is no exception.

To overcome such disruptions, countries have applied a range of measures that address demand and supply-side barriers, for example task-shifting among health workers, leveraging the potential of telemedicine, developing novel supply chains and medicine

dispensary options, and better engaging the private sector. These and other solutions must continue to be applied to ensure all people can access the services they need to stay healthy, well and productive throughout the pandemic. But more than nine months into the response, additional investments in health are needed, not only to strengthen the response and save lives, but to also enhance health system resilience into the recovery and beyond. Countries face hard choices amid intense fiscal pressures. The latest projections from global financial institutions suggest that in 2020 most countries in Asia Pacific face a decrease in GDP, which could exceed 10%.

But investing in health is proven to promote the sustainable social and economic development upon which progress in all policy areas relies. In ordinary times every dollar invested in health yields an average return of between US\$ 2-4, which can be up to 20 times higher in low- and middle-income countries. That return is multiplied many times over when one considers how investments in common goods for health can protect against acute public health events, the impact of which is now clear to all.

WHO will continue to provide Member States its full technical, operational and material support, including by mobilizing international and global partners. Despite a near-global shutdown WHO has rapidly procured and delivered critical personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies to all countries in the Region and continues to bring countries and partners together via the WHO-supported partners platform and central supply portal.

Through its Solidarity trials WHO is facilitating Member State participation in global research and development efforts, and through the Access to COVID-19



Next Generation Supplement be suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic

Dear students and contributors:

We, the Global New Light of Myanmar daily, will suspend our Next Generation Supplement pull-out, which comes out every Sunday, beginning from Sunday 11th October due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will announce one week ahead of schedule when we again begin publishing the section.

With Best Wishes,
Editorial Team

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 6 October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7 October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in (Eastern and Southern)Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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People's Pioneer Party (PPP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

People's Pioneer Party (PPP) Chairperson Dr Thet Thet Khine presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 6 October.



Greetings esteemed people

The People's Pioneer Party (PPP) is programmatic and will implement its motto of 'People's Lives Matter' to build a brighter future for the people, and I will explain the policies for this in three parts.

Myanmar and the rest of the world are facing the spread of COVID-19. We have seen a drop in economic growth from over 6% to a mere 0.5% and unemployment has risen as well. A lot of migrant workers have returned to Myanmar; the youth and younger generation are lost in the differing opinions on social media and armed conflicts, and there is a sense of embarrassment on the global stage. We will firmly grasp our slogan of "Income for Everybody, Jobs for Everybody, Future for Everybody" to implement an inclusive policy for socio-economic development.

First, everyone wishes to increase income for their household, and our party will prioritize economic and social policies that will improve individual income. If our party were able to implement them at the legislative and executive branches, we would aim to increase the income of farmers, workers and SMEs and national income by 20% per year.

Developing the socio-economy will create suitable jobs for every person, and every graduate should be able to find a job within two years of graduating. The 5 million young migrant workers that exist should have secure jobs at home and abroad that offer a degree of integrity. They should be able to return home with a stable position in a short time, and the State should bear the task of ensuring all youths who could not complete education can learn vocational skills.

We will implement the following economic and social policies in the Hluttaw to create a better future for the younger generations.

1. We will ensure high-quality production for relevant markets and sectors through significant research as the 20 million farmers do not receive the necessary land, loans and other resources on time.
2. We will improve international trade by strengthening regional connectivity with special economic zones and border economic zones for the 2 million industrial workers.
3. We will ensure there is a guarantee for the next generations to conserve natural resources to set

- standards and production of high-end products.
4. We will implement industrial sector related policies to swiftly reach the modern industrial age for the 70,000 registered businesses and the un-registered ones so that they may catch up with the rest of the world.
5. We will open a joint office to offer services to improve public-private partnerships.
6. We will increase the basis for taxpayers and reduce tax rates to unburden the people yet not affect national revenue.
7. We will implement collaborative programmes to develop socio-economy, national reconciliation, and establish trust and peace.
8. We will offer appropriate entitlements, insurance, scholarships and incentives for civil servants based on their skills, education, expertise and experience.
9. We will implement long-term loans for civil servants to purchase houses, house rental systems for workers and long-term home loans for entrepreneurs to set up housing systems.
10. We will cooperate with all stakeholders to modernize industrial zones and urban projects.
11. We will ensure every citizen has access to electricity, drinking water and public services.
12. We will provide protection and social security for people with disabilities, vulnerable populations and marginalized people.

Esteemed people

Second, our party will cooperate with all affiliated organizations, supporters and ethnic political parties aiming for a genuine democratic federal system in line with the following socio-economic development policies below:

1. We will design regional development policies and strategies and incorporate them with union-level policies.
2. We will implement cooperative programmes for states' and regions' economic policy approaches in line with federal principles and the Constitution.
3. We will enforce policies for self-determination of all ethnic groups, equality, and the preservation of their unique literature, culture, and languages.
4. We will review public finance management to support regional development and self-determination by budget proposals, distribution of tax levied from border trade camps, and other financial policies.
5. We will collectively find solutions to the need for migrant workers, the dangers of illegal drugs, and environmental degradation.
6. We will implement strategies and plans in a balanced manner related to the Asian Highway project, China-Myanmar economic corridor and other related projects across the states and regions in an identical way for all ethnic groups.

7. We will implement suitable economic policies for the states and regions depending on their strengths and opportunities in a prioritized manner.

Esteemed people

Third, we will implement the policies as mentioned earlier well and cooperate with all stakeholders to amend the 2008 Constitution. The Constitutional Tribunal must review the three branches of government are in line with the Constitution, resolve constitutional disagreements between them, amend the relevant law in dispute and propose them at the Hluttaw.

We will amend the designated authority and responsibilities of the states and regions outlined in the Constitution to set up an excellent federal union system.

We will amend the tables 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the 2008 Constitution to give more authority to the State and regional governments and ensure they have appropriate self-determination in a genuine federal Union.

We will make the following changes based on the results of the peace process of the Defence Services' national political direction to make the military more modern and capable of protecting national sovereignty and border sustainability:

1. The candidates nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for ministers of defence, home affairs and border defence will transfer to civilian status after approval from the President to strengthen civil-military relations.
2. We will form Hluttaw affairs committees made of a fair number of Tatmadaw and elected representatives to discuss national security and defence specifically.
3. We will suggest a gradual reduction of Tatmadaw representatives based on the results of the peace process to ensure they Defence Services can carry out their initial duties to the fullest capacity.

Moreover, we will facilitate in enacting more substantial procedures for the organization of the Anti-Corruption Commission to enhance and develop a democratic system and clean governance.

We will clearly define and implement the leading role and responsibility of the State in the betterment of the market economy, higher income for our citizens, more employment opportunity, uplifting of future social status in line with the same standard as other regional countries.

We will proliferate fairness, freedom and equality across the nation and allow inherent rights and equal opportunities within reach of every citizen. We will implement the necessary changes to legislative, executive and judicial branches and initiate restorative justice. I conclude this with thanks.



Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) Central Committee General Secretary U Sai Naing Naing Kyaw presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 6 October.



I would like to first pray for the esteemed people, Shan-ni races, and national brethren to be free from the COVID-19 pandemic and secure peaceful social lives.

I am U Sai Naing Naing Kyaw, General Secretary of Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) Central Committee.

Esteemed people

We, Shan-ni (Tai Leng) and northern Shan races have settled in Myanmar since many centuries ago. Our ancestors established new settlements for their livings. Language, literature, customs and administration of Shan-ni people have well-developed since that time. Shan-ni (Tai Leng) and northern Shan races are living in Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Phaungpyin, Homalin, Khamti, Nanyun, Katha, Htigyaing, Indaw, Wuntho, Kawlin, Pinlebu and Bamauk townships of northern Sagaing Region; Mohnyin, Moegaung, Phakant, Waimaw, Myitkyina, Tanai, Bamaw, Shwegu, Moemauk and Mengzi townships in Kachin State; Moemauk and Mabein townships in northern Shan State.

Under the leadership of Wuntho Sawbwa U Aung Myat, Shan-ni people fought against colonies. Shan-ni ethnic people have received over 70 honorary awards for the anti-colonial and anti-fascist movements regardless of our blood and sweat.

During the early years after independence and the rebellion of multi-coloured insurgents, northern Shan races, including Shan-ni people, did not take part in the uprising against the government.

Esteemed people

Although Shan-ni people retained our loyalty towards the Union, we have not thoroughly enjoyed the equal political rights like other ethnic people.

Our party will try for the rights of Shan-ni people to achieve self-administration and to officially mention the real name of our ethnic race in the national scrutiny card as best as possible. We just need an opportunity to call for this to the government. Therefore, it is urged for cooperation with us by voting for us.

I will present the history, the policy and the work programmes of our party in line with the duties assigned by our party.

Esteemed people

Although Shan-ni people historically lived in an

undivided area, it was split and put into Kachin State and Sagaing Region by the decision of the parliament in 1948. Due to the various administration systems of successive governments in our region, we lost our livings in unity and cooperation among ethnic races due to the divided rules.

The armed conflicts have broken out since late 1960, and difficult transport links have separated the close relations among each other. We also lost ethnic rights, political rights and opportunities for self-governance for the Shan-ni and northern Shan races.

As a result, our people have suffered low situations in many sectors such as political, social, education, health, transport, economy, peace and stability of the region and ethnic rights. Our Shan-ni people are still facing lesser development, fear, insecurity, poverty, lack of knowledge and poor health conditions.

In brief, our SSP party was established to help our people liberate from these situations and cut the circle of dire circumstances.

Esteemed people

I will explain the objectives, policies and the work programmes of our party.

Objectives

1. Establishment of a democratic state by the federal Union system that can guarantee the fundamental rights of national people;
2. Participating in peace, development and stability of the country;
3. Cooperation in the interest of respective areas in co-existence with local ethnic people and implementation of national objectives;
4. Unveiling national characteristics of ethnic people on the verge of extinction and conserving cultural heritage, literature, culture and custom;
5. Recreating national unity with the reconciliation of our ethnic people under different names and at other regions;
6. Working for the national interests of Shan-ni and northern Shan national races concerning changing the political situation of the country;
7. Protection in political means from oppression, taking extortion money, illegal recruitment for forces and abuses resulted from the lack of peace and stability.

Policies

1. Believing that a nation with peace and development, justice and equality could be established only after the Democratic Federal Union;
2. Aiming for peace, stability and the rule of law in respective areas or the whole country;
3. Intending to regional and national interests standing on the principles of peaceful co-existence with one another, trust, equality and justice among national ethnics in the whole country or the

respective regions;

4. Ensuring a leading party with genuine volition for the ethnic affairs and conserve ethnic (minority) races;
5. Joining hands with ethnic parties, civil society organizations and groups of ethnic literature and culture in different regions for the welfare of Shan-ni and Shan races;
6. Cooperation with any political party and individuals in line with the party policies;
7. Accepting any person with any race and religion background to work for the affairs of Shan-ni and northern Shan state;
8. Exercising political alliance.

Esteemed people

Armed conflicts are still breaking out in the areas of Shan-ni (Tai Leng), and that we cannot expect freedom, justice and equality for our national races and local people. At the same time, we have fewer opportunities in implementing development programmes in businesses, trade, agriculture, exploration of natural resources, border trade and tourism sector for regional and national benefits. Moreover, we could not improve infrastructural sectors such as the construction of road networks, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, electrification and industries. For the development of these sectors, our party takes priority in the peace-making process for ensuring the stability of the region and ceasefire.

Therefore, the SSP party has adopted four national political plans.

The first plan emphasizes that peace is essential for social development of every Shan-ni people and co-existing ethnic persons and regional development. Therefore, our party will participate in peace-making efforts.

The second plan is to implement national political processes through high-level political culture discussions from ceasefire to the political dialogue.

The third plan is to carry out national interests for economic development in hotels and tourism sectors, conservation of forest and natural resources, livestock and trade; for the social development in education and health sectors.

The fourth plan is to work together with other political forces for the Union-level processes in the establishment of a federal democracy Union, the emergence of a strong Constitution beneficial to the entire people, the emergence of a clean government and reliable judicial system.

The speech is concluded with the pledges to work for developments in township level, regional level and Union level depending on the existing local situations if Shan-ni ethnic people and the co-existing national races.

Thank you.



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.



Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party (LNUDP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party Chairperson Dr La Kham Daung Kham presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 6 October.



Esteemed people and national brethren

I would like to express thanks to the Union Election Commission for allowing us to deliver this electoral speech on TV and radio.

I am Chairperson Dr La Kham Daung Kham of the Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party.

Lhaovo ethnic people were descended from their ancestors, who lived around the May Kha (aka) Laung Byit River. Lhaovo people live in Kachin and Shan states.

Lhaovo people live in rural areas. Most of them are uneducated and poor. Only a few Lhaovo people are interested in politics. Lhaovos are shy people. So, it was a struggle for Lhaovo people to form a political party.

Esteemed voters and people

Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party was formed on 29 June 2015, with party registration number 89.

Now, I would like to explain our party's flag and emblem. The party flag has three background colours. In the middle of the flag, there is a Lhaovo traditional sword (Da Bam Byaw). There is a white star at the top left corner of the flag. The top colour band of the flag is blue, which represents peace and prosperity. The middle colour band of the flag is black, which means integrity and loyalty. The bottom colour band is green, which represents greenness, survival and coolness. The traditional sword (Da Bam Byaw) represents Lhaovo ethnic people, and the red colour represents bravery, courage, and fierce determination, and eagerness. The white star at the top left corner of the flag represents the Republic of Union of Myanmar in which all national, ethnic people live unitedly. Having three bands of colours means that the party will give high priority to the Our Three Main National Causes.

The party's emblem consists of two red Lhaovo traditional swords, and there is a rooster between the swords.

Esteemed voters and people

The objectives of Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party are as follows:

1. We will adhere to the Our Three Main National Causes: Non-Disintegration of the Union, Non-Disintegration of the National Solidarity, and Perpetuation of Sovereignty.

2. To encourage Lhaovo people to gain political knowledge, and they, alongside other national, ethnic people, need to be effectively involved in doing duties of the country.

3. Our party will take efforts to secure human rights, including the fundamental rights of all national, ethnic people.

4. To achieve unity among Lhaovo people and unity will become a force for our country; to openly discuss with the government about Lhaovo ethnic affairs.

5. To take efforts as much as we can to improve the standard of living of farmers, peasants, workers and children, without racial and religious discrimination.

6. To promote languages, literature, cultures and traditions of Lhaovo ethnic people and other national, ethnic people to nurture genuine patriotism.

Esteemed voters and people

The party's policies are as follows:

(a) Political policy

1. We will work for "Non-Disintegration of the Union, Non-Disintegration of the National Solidarity, and Perpetuation of Sovereignty" and the development of multiparty democracy.

2. Our party will encourage freedom, but that must not bring harm to others. We will promote freedom of expression, freedom of thoughts, freedom of religious liberty, autonomy in creation to create a modern developed Republic of Union of Myanmar, which will use a multiparty democratic system.

(b) The party's policy on religion

1. All national, ethnic people must have the right to worship and practise any religion they like freely.

2. Our party will take efforts to secure freedom of religious liberty under the Constitution and without hurting other religions.

3. Our party will work hard to help achieve loving-kindness, mutual understanding and harmony between different religious groups.

(c) The party's foreign policy

1. Our party will employ active and independent foreign policy.

2. We will practise the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in international relations to protect the world's peace.

3. Our party will respect the UN treaties.

(d) The party's economic policy

1. We will use the modern free-market system.

2. Under the free market system, we will secure the rights of the national business persons, ethnic people or Myanmar citizens.

3. We will invite international business owners to be involved in the promotion of international investments.

4. We will put in a great deal of effort to develop the businesses of national, ethnic people and help them get into a healthy market.

5. Our economic policy is based on agriculture, and then we will try to promote industrialization.

6. Our party will work hard to eradicate poverty.

(e) Our party's education policy

1. We will encourage all to promote human resources.

2. We will try to make our education system meet international standards.

3. We will provide financial support to outstanding students for them to pursue their education ultimately.

4. Free mandatory education system will be implemented per international standards.

5. In state-run schools, we will make it compulsory to teach languages of ethnic minorities.

(f) Our party's health policy

1. We will take efforts to implement a free public healthcare system in state-run hospitals and clinics.

2. We will apply modern technology and equipment in public healthcare services.

3. We will try to increase the standards of privately-owned hospitals and clinics.

4. We will work to eradicate the gap between the quality of healthcare services in urban areas and the quality of healthcare services in rural areas.

(g) Our party's social policy

1. We will promote traditional cultures, literature, art, music and musical instruments of Lhaovo people and other ethnic people.

2. National ethnic people can demand their rights and opportunities under the Constitution; we will always work hard to secure freedom to choose and freedom of religious liberty.

3. We will focus on all the matters of national, ethnic people because they are important matters of the state.

Esteemed voters and people

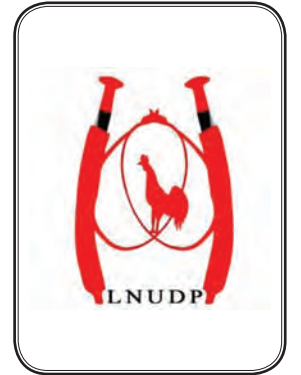
The citizens of Myanmar will elect leaders of the country again on 8 November 2020 when the Multiparty General Election will be held.

Esteemed voters and people

I would like to conclude my speech by calling on you to whole-heartedly vote for candidates of Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party.

- If you want to succeed, vote for the emblem "swords and rooster".

May all national, ethnic people and citizens stay safe, healthy and wealthy. Thanks to all.



Elections are the foundation of democracy.

Public of Labour Party (PLP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Public of Labour Party (PLP) Chairman U Kyaw Zin presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

I wish first to greet all the citizens of Myanmar to possess sound health and be free from all calamities.

I am Chairman U Kyaw Zin of the Public of Labour Party (PLP). Our party was formed on 8 September 2017 with permission from the Union Election Commission, and it is now three years into our journey.

Our party had the opportunity to participate in the 2018 by-elections and now in the 2020 General Election. I want first to explain the objective of our party's formation and our policy.

The main reason for our party's formation is to have a legal voice in the Hluttaw for united strength and to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people. The basic policy of our party is for every citizen to have equality, full inherit rights, ensure equality before the law as stipulated in Article 347 of the Constitution, and equal legal protection.

Our party will implement appropriate systems for the executive, legislative and judiciary branches that are suitable for our nation. If we were to copy the methods of other nations, then it will never be a perfect fit for our country. We need to carry out the three pillars in a balanced manner while basing upon our geography and characteristics of our citizens to ensure they can live in peace and security.

Our nation has 94 official political parties and numerous ethnic parties in there as well. We will cooperate with all parties and politicians that are loyal to the country. We have pledged to put the party's interest before our personal interest, and the interest of the nation before all of that.

We must prioritize national healthcare and education for the nation to develop. To assist national health sector, we must first emphasize the issue of illegal drugs and narcotics. Ensuring the youth are free from illicit drugs is essential. It's not enough to

simply speak about getting rid of illiteracy in the national education sector.

If we analyze our current education system, it will be disheartening to see that the majority of our citizens wave goodbye to education at the primary level. The consequence of that situation is that our country has no reason for development. That is why our party will be emphasizing national education and healthcare.

Out of the emergence of democratic governance in 2010 until the present moment, the two government administrations have been attempting to reduce poverty. But for various reasons, the individual income of all citizens has not improved as expected. It is also sad to see that our citizens who have come of age have to depend on businesses from neighbouring countries. This dependence has caused losses to the domestic workforce and significantly delays our national development.

Seventy per cent of our national population is living in rural areas and thus work in agriculture. That is why our party has decided to lead industrial development based on agriculture.

There need to be detailed policies on tax to contribute to developing living standards effectively. Income tax and other forms of taxation can disrupt the livelihood development of our people. So our party will strive to implement beneficial policies that will help the lives of taxpayers.

At the same time, the government must provide wages and necessary infrastructure relevant to present times so that civil servants and their families need not worry about their basic needs. There also need to be policies that guarantee their living standards and health when they retire. Only then will there be an administration free from corruption.

Achieving internal peace is paramount to

national development. We have been locked in armed conflicts since the nation gained independence so it's no surprise we are considerably lagging in all forms of development.

It's time to end all hatred between ethnic groups. We must understand the wants and needs of the ethnic groups to achieve internal peace.

I understand that democracy is about following the will of the majority, but we must also pay heed to the voice of the minority. We must heed the wish for federalism of the ethnic groups, which in my understanding concerns sharing. If we share the good and bad with each other, then we might achieve internal peace.

Our party has set strong political policies and separated them into party politics and national politics. Political parties like us are carrying out national interest to develop the nation and ensure prosperity to its citizens. The Defence Services is following the Constitution to lead national politics. Political parties and the Defence Services are political brethren. Suppose we work together and negotiate our differing views to emphasize the interests of the nation and its people. In that case, it is guaranteed we will achieve the modern developed country we all wish for.

Our party will steadfastly carry out the natural laws of fairness, freedom and equality in our nation's multi-party democratic system and increase it to carry out the interests of the country and its citizens. We pledge to follow this path and conclude our electoral speech.

I pray for all citizens of Myanmar to have their aspirations and their lives align for the better.



WORLD NEWS

North Korea's Kim orders 80-day 'battle' to boost economy

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered a nationwide drive to boost the ailing economy ahead of a key party congress in January, state media reported Tuesday.

The decision was made during a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party and comes as the coronavirus pandemic and recent floods have added yet more pressure on the isolated country's flagging economy.

Mandatory mass mobilisation drives, featuring extra-long work hours and additional duties, are commonplace in North Korea in the lead-up to major events.

The efforts have usually been dubbed "Battles" — the North often embraces militaristic terminology and notions of struggle — but while the official KCNA news agency described it as such in Korean, in its English version it used the more diplomatic term "campaign".

"We have performed historical feats with our costly efforts, boldly overcoming unprecedentedly grave trials and difficulties this year, but we should not rest on our laurels," it said.

"We still face the challenges that cannot be overlooked and there are many goals we have to attain within this year."—AFP

Paris cafes to shut as Europe confronts second virus wave

PARIS — A second wave of the coronavirus in Europe has forced Paris to shutter its iconic cafes Monday as the US presidential race was in disarray after Donald Trump checked himself out of hospital after Covid-19 treatment.

France reported nearly 17,000 new coronavirus cases on Saturday alone, the highest daily number since the country began widespread testing.

Tuesday's shuttering of bars and cafes — seen by many as the essence of Parisian life — were "braking measures because the epidemic is moving too fast," Paris police chief Didier Lallemand told journalists, adding that restaurants will remain open provided they respect new safety measures.

These will include providing sanitising hand gel, limiting patrons to six a table with at least a metre (about a yard) between seats, and allowing diners to remove their masks only for eating.

"It's not going to work for small restaurants," said the owner of a tiny Paris eatery that also operates as a cafe and a bar — depending on the time of day — as well as a tobacconist. "Everybody is going have to crunch numbers: Is it worth staying open or not?" the owner, who gave his name only as Michel, told AFP.

Trump, on the other hand, seemed unfazed by the virus when he checked out of hospital after four days of emergency treatment for Covid-19, pulling

off his mask the moment he reached the White House.

Before he left the Walter Reed military hospital, he tweeted that he would "be back on the Campaign Trail soon!!!"

He also told his supporters, "Don't be afraid of Covid," claiming to be feeling rejuvenated after his illness.

With the Republican's tough election campaign in its final month, he and his advisors have sought to project a sense of continuity.

But the coronavirus has continued to ravage the US: New York governor Andrew Cuomo announced Monday that schools would temporarily close in nine neighbourhoods experiencing an uptick in Covid-19 infections.—AFP

Women Party (Mon) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Women Party (Mon) Chairperson Mi La-Yai Man (a) Mi Than Shin and Ayeyawady Region representative Daw Aye Win presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Mingalaba

Please let me express my pleasure to speak on behalf of womenfolk at this auspicious time.

I am Mi La-Yai Man (a) Mi Than Shin, Chairperson of the Women Party (Mon). We founded our party on 8-10-2014, and it is now six years old.

Now the scope of the party's activities has reached Ayeyawady Region, in addition to Mon State, Bago Region, Taninthayi Region and Kayin State.

The emergence of our party has enhanced the dignity of the people and the country. It is a women-only party that ensures 100% participation of women in the political sector at the time when world countries are struggling for a 30% female involvement in politics. Moreover, the all-women party ensures gender equality.

It is an honour for the country as what we have done is still seen by others as impossible. But we understand that the noble spirit of our countrymen and the value they place on womenfolk is the foundation of our achievement.

The logo of our party signifies the mother's love, while its vision is a peaceful world.

Before ensuring global serenity, we would like to restore peace and stability in our own country. But the national tranquillity goes beyond peace as it involves a wide array of sectors including the basic needs of human. The fundamental needs of the grassroots have become an urgent issue of the country now. In our view, we need economic growth to address this issue.

The Women Party (Mon) will stand for the coming election with the slogan "Let's ensure security for fun-

damental needs of grassroots through the economic growth". So the economic sector is high on our agenda.

We see culture as another issue that needs attention, as notably, the women, infants and the older persons are feeling the heat of the ongoing cultural degradation of the country.

The deterioration of cultural traditions is followed by the vanishing of the adorable practice of having respect for the seniors, equality for peers, and kindness for juniors. We are now facing the ill consequences of the absence of respect for elders, fairness for peers and compassion for youngsters. Both the parents and the children have started ignoring their old ethics and duties. Tranquillity may become extinct if the loving-kindness is on the wane. Anyhow, a stitch in time saves nine.

As they too are of the human race, women are also desirous of serving the interest of the people and the country like their male counterparts. Gender discrimination is not our option, as we are founded to work for the benefit of the entire nation to a possible degree.

May the 2020 election be enjoyable and agreeable for all! With this, I conclude. Thank you.

Mingalaba

It's a pleasure for me to speak, on behalf of the womenfolk of Ayeyawady Region, at this auspicious time. I am Daw Aye Win, a retired teacher and a candidate of the Women Party (Mon) standing for the

Ngaputaw constituency (1) of Ayeyawady Region.

Nowadays, women represent over half of the global population. In many countries, gender equality has yet to be guaranteed until now, while female folks are sharing the family burden or national duty in equal with their male counterparts. As they are the weaker sex, many of them are subject to mistreatment.

We the women have a maternal instinct, but women in many countries and organizations are still losing their fundamental rights.

In this regard, our Women's Party (Mon) shall guarantee as follows:

- Full human rights for all women;
- Equality in diversity for all women;
- Networks between all the female communities and parties of the world;
- A peaceful, stable and prosperous human society.

Gender equality has become a must-do issue as women can also take the responsibility of shaping the world. Our logo bears the picture of the full moon on the blue backdrop. The image of mythical Hintha bird couple is placed inside the full moon representing the power of a mother's love. May the women protect the peaceful world with mother's love. Thank you all.



Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election on 7-8 October

CAMPAIGN speech of Inn National League Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 7 October, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 8 October. —MNA

WORLD NEWS

IMF chief says global economic outlook "less dire" than June estimate

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund said Tuesday the global economic picture amid the coronavirus pandemic has become "less dire" than before largely due to massive fiscal support and monetary policy actions, allowing a small upward revision to its forecast for this year.

Expecting the world economy to suffer its worst setback since the Great Depression in the 1930s, the IMF downgraded in June its global growth projection to a contraction of 4.9 per-

cent in 2020 from a year before, 1.9 percentage points below its April forecast.

In an effort to slow the spread of the highly contagious virus, about 85 per cent of the world economy was in a lockdown for several weeks earlier this year.

But governments have provided a total of around \$12 trillion in fiscal support to households and firms, while aggressive monetary actions by central banks have maintained the flow of credit, helping millions of firms to stay in busi-

ness, according to the Washington-based institution.

"The picture today is less dire," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a speech ahead of next week's meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, to be held virtually due to the pandemic.

"We now estimate that developments in the second and third quarters were somewhat better than expected," she said. The IMF is set to release its update of the World Economic Outlook next week. —Kyodo

Nuclear ban pact should not erode validity of NPT: confab chief

NEW YORK — Questioning the effectiveness of a U.N.-adopted nuclear ban treaty, which involves no nuclear powers, the president-designate of an upcoming non-proliferation conference has stressed that the pact should not be allowed to undermine the legitimacy of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"You can't have nuclear disarmament without the nuclear weapon states in that system. And that's why, for the time being, the only treat-

ty that has been accepted by at least five nuclear weapon states, that includes obligations on nuclear disarmament, is the NPT," Gustavo Zlauvinen said in a recent exclusive interview with Kyodo News.

There is a "huge difference" between the NPT and the pact, Zlauvinen said, adding that it is necessary to make distinctions between the two treaties and "try not to erode the validity and the legitimacy of the NPT." —Kyodo

Singapore PM's defamation suit against blogger begins



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong defended his decision to sue a blogger over allegations of corruption. **PHOTO: AFP**

SINGAPORE — Singapore's prime minister testified in court Tuesday at the start of his defamation suit against a blogger who shared an article on Facebook linking the leader to a corruption scandal.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong accuses Leong Sze Hian of spreading false claims about him over the article relating to the money-laundering scandal at state fund 1MDB in neighbouring Malaysia.

Critics say the case is the latest example of the tightly-regulated city-state's government being heavy-handed and seeking to silence dissent online.

Singapore's leaders have frequently turned to the courts to take on critics, ranging from political opponents to foreign media outlets, and insist such action is necessary to protect their reputations. Taking the stand at the start of the trial, Lee accused Leong of making "malicious and baseless" allegations, which had undermined the government's "integrity and honesty".—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Report shines light on right-wing extremism in German police

BERLIN — Right-wing extremism is not a systemic problem in the German police despite hundreds of examples documented in a new report, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said Tuesday.

The much-anticipated report, compiled by the BfV domestic intelligence agency, identified 377 suspected cases of far-right extremism in the German police and intelligence services between January 2017 and March 2020.

It follows a string of scandals in Germany in recent months over far-right networks in the police and military, with pressure mounting on the government to address the issue.—AFP ■

Illicit drug trade at Belgian port fuels crime wave

ANTWERP — Bomb explosions, shootings and even kidnapping of children: drug trafficking around Antwerp in northern Belgium is generating increasingly violent crime, which the authorities are struggling to tackle.

Antwerp is Europe's second largest goods port after Rotterdam, but is the number one gateway for cocaine to the continent, thanks to its closer trade links with South America.

The drug often arrives concealed in cargos of fruit or in the walls of shipping containers, mainly from Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia.

With almost 40 tonnes of cocaine seized by the end of September, 2020 is on course to beat the annual record of 61.8 tonnes.

To this figure should be added another 70 or so tonnes intercepted in Latin America on their way to Antwerp.

Even then, according to UN estimates, seizures represent only 10 per cent of what enters the country, Kristian Vanderwaeren, Belgium's customs administrator general, told AFP.—AFP ■

Top diplomats of Japan, U.S., Australia, India meet on Indo-Pacific

TOKYO — The foreign ministers of Japan, the United States, Australia and India met in Tokyo on Tuesday to affirm their close cooperation in realizing stability in the Indo-Pacific region and in responding to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Motegi, U.S. Secretary of

State Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and their Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, meeting together for the second time, aim to formalize the quadrilateral gathering of the four nation's foreign ministers on an annual basis, Japanese

officials said.

The talks between the representatives of the four major Indo-Pacific democracies, collectively known as "the Quad," is the first ministerial-level multi-party conference hosted by Tokyo in person since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

It is also the highest-profile diplomatic event since Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga took office in mid-September, in the first leadership change in nearly eight years. Suga has already affirmed in telephone talks his cooperation with the leaders of the three countries.—Kyodo ■

Google vs French media: Paris court rules on negotiations order

PARIS — A Paris appeals court will rule Thursday on whether France's competition authority overstepped its jurisdiction in ordering Google to negotiate with media groups in a dispute about digital copyright.

The keenly awaited ruling will be the latest chapter in a long-running fight with European news companies demanding payment for content displayed in Google search results.

The outcome could have huge repercussions for the future of the press as it grapples with the decline in traditional print sales.

The US internet giant is in a standoff with European media groups, including Agence France-Presse, over its refusal

to comply with a new European Union "neighbouring rights" law.

The law seeks to give a form of copyright protection to media firms when their content is used on websites, search engines and social media platforms.

But Google, which dominates internet searches, says that articles, pictures and videos will be shown in search results only if media groups consent to let the tech giant use them for free.

The juggernaut insists it should not have to pay to display items produced by news companies since they benefit from seeing hundreds of millions of visits to their websites.

If media companies insist-



Google does not want to remunerate publishers for the extracts and thumbnails it includes on its search results page, arguing that this generates enormous traffic for publishers, enough in its view to pay them. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

ed on payment, only a headline and a bare link to their content would appear, Google said, al-

most certainly resulting in a loss of visibility and potential ad revenue.—AFP ■

One Championship vows strict bio-safety for Singapore MMA

SINGAPORE — Asia's biggest mixed martial arts promotion, One Championship, pledged Tuesday to implement strict bio-safety measures this week for its first major international event following a months-long coronavirus shutdown.

The Singapore-based organization, which promotes cards across Asia in mixed martial arts, Muay Thai and kickboxing, was unable to stage fights for almost four months because of the pandemic.

They resumed in China in June but Friday's "Reign of Dynasties" in Singapore will be the outfit's first international event since the restart.

Six fights will take place behind closed doors in a stadium, with only athletes, officials and crew on site.

Fighters flying in from Australia, Malaysia and China have been granted special visas and will not be subject to quarantine on arrival, One's CEO Chatri Sityodtong told a virtual press conference.

They will be tested for the virus before departure, on arrival and throughout their stay, and will remain in a bio-secure "bubble".

"We created a bubble with the hotel and transportation from the airport, and we have security at every floor so that protocols (are followed) and that athletes remain in their rooms at all times," he said.

Singapore has recorded more than 57,000 coronavirus cases and 27 deaths, but its outbreak has slowed markedly in recent weeks.—AFP



One Championship is set to hold its first international fight night since the coronavirus pandemic.
PHOTO: AFP/NOEL CELIS

Barcelona blame coronavirus for €97m loss



The club decided to cut their expenses and they saved around €74m by lowering the salaries of the players, staff members and other employees of the club. Nevertheless they suffered a massive €97m loss. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA — FC Barcelona have announced that they have suffered a hefty €97m loss for the 2019-20 economic year and they have blamed the coronavirus pandemic for a decrease in revenue of €203m. The Catalan club announced their financial report of the 2019-20 season and that showed their massive

losses due to the impact of the lockdown of the coronavirus.

After the global outbreak of the virus in February the organization of the LaLiga decided to put the entire league on lockdown. In June the 20 teams started to play football again but they have been doing so behind closed doors. Clubs

have been suffering massively as they have been missing out on millions in revenue.

Barcelona announced that they have finished the financial year with a revenue of €885m, which could have passed the €1 billion mark according to Barcelona. The club decided to cut their expenses and they saved around €74m by lowering the salaries of the players, staff members and other employees of the club. Nevertheless they suffered a massive €97m loss.

And this report shows the finances until June, while the football season went beyond June. This means Barcelona have transferred a large part of the expenses and income towards the 2020-21 season. This could lead to even greater losses for the club if the decision to block supporters from attending football matches is continued for much longer.—AFP

Premier League defies virus crisis to flex financial muscle

LONDON — The spectre of empty stands and uncertainty over future broadcast and commercial contracts failed to halt the Premier League's arms race as clubs again splashed out more than £1 billion in the transfer window.

English top-flight clubs committed to deals worth a reported £1.2 billion (\$1.5 billion), the lowest spend for a summer transfer window since 2015.

However, the impact of the

coronavirus pandemic was more marked when it came to player sales as Europe's other major leagues tightened their belts.

Outgoings of around £400 million mean the £800 million net spend is the second-highest on record in a single window.

"The sensible way to look at it was that maybe the transfer market is not going to be as buoyant as in previous years," John Purcell of football finance specialists Vysyble told AFP.—AFP



(From left) Donny van de Beek, Timo Werner and Kai Havertz were three of the big-money signings as Premier League clubs spent £1.2 billion during the transfer window. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Bayern Munich complete signing of ex-PSG forward Choupo-Moting

BERLIN — Bayern Munich confirmed 5 October the signing of former Paris Saint Germain forward Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting with more signings reportedly

expected in the last few hours before the transfer window closes.

Having already completed the transfer of Espanyol midfielder Marc Roca on Sunday on a

five-year contract, Bayern also added Choupo-Moting on a one-year deal as back-up to Robert Lewandowski.

Choupo-Moting, 31, was out

of contract after his PSG deal expired and returns to the Bundesliga after stints with Hamburg, Nuremberg, Mainz and Schalke.

"It's a great feeling to come

back to the Bundesliga — and then to the biggest clubs in Germany," said Choupo-Moting, a Cameroon international, in a statement.— AFP