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State Counsellor reports current situation of COVID-19 to public

This is to report to the people the latest situation regarding COVID-19. The latest situation is what everybody knows already. The rate of positives discovered has not gone down immediately. This is because we have Test Kits that enable us to test quickly. Now we can do these tests on a wide scale. When we do the tests on a wide scale what we have found out is the fact that we found infections among those who do not exhibit any symptoms of the disease. This is what we have reminded the people right from the beginning. About two or three months ago, we said that about 70 per cent of the positive cases do not show symptoms of the disease. This we have reminded more than once; in fact, many times. However, I don't know if the majority of the people took any note of this. Only now those who look perfectly healthy turn out to be infected and people became really surprised. However, the number of people who get infected from people who don't show any symptoms of the disease is now increasing. The reason is that everybody thinks that coming into contact with these people would not result in getting infected.

That is why we need to take the view that we can get infected from anybody. This



does not mean that we need to look at everyone with suspicion. What I mean is to look with vigilance. Now we are gradually coming to know how to handle this disease to protect ourselves. At the same time, we are finding out more what needs to be done on a wide scale. For example, we have come to know that we need to establish rules and regulations from transport vehicles

and what kind of agreements need to be established between regions and states. When these transport vehicles travel from one place to the other, there is fear among our people that the disease could be carried by the drivers and the persons accompanying these drivers. There can be spread of infections of course. Why? The reason is that we have found out positive cases among

some of them when tests were carried out.

However, what I want our people to take note is not to get over-anxious and worried if you find out that you are positive. I want to say that your immunity level can go down if you worry too much. I want to remind you about this. The reason is that yesterday I had a discussion with someone who had recovered from COVID

disease. The patient was not that young; 66 years old. This patient also had underlying diseases. This person had diabetes, and the kidney was not that good; the basic health condition was not good; not very young anymore. If we look at this person from all angles, we have to categorize that this person would be in a precarious position if this person became infected with COVID. However, this person recovered quite quickly. There were no signs of worry or anxiety. So I asked. How did you face the disease? How did you overcome the challenge? I liked your answer very much. The answer was quite simple and straight forward. "You need to devise your own plan". This person told me that once you become infected, you need to know what attitude to take and how to change your lifestyle. I liked this answer; furthermore, I was quite interested. That is why I am thinking of making a few changes in the educational programmes regarding COVID. Now we have programmes three times a week. Beginning from next week, Q and A sessions with veteran specialist doctors will be for two sessions and one session will be reserved for interviews with our people who have recovered from COVID disease.

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"People are the key"

State Counsellor reports current situation of COVID-19 to public

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How did these patients face the disease; how did they overcome the disease; and what was the best way to overcome this disease? Once our people know this, then they would not become overly worried if a family member became infected, if a friend got infected or even if they themselves go infected. No matter what, if you know how to live your daily life, if you had followed the rules and regulations in the first place, you would not become infected. However, if for any reason you become infected with the disease, there are ways to overcome this disease. In addition to what the Ministry of Health and the Union Government are doing to help, there are ways that you yourself can do. So we have decided to initiate this new programme because we want our people to know this fact. I think people would be interested. Another thing is the fact that those patients who have recovered from the disease can help in a certain way; there is one method of treatment available whereby the blood plasma from a recovered patient could be used for treatment. The recovered patient must be willing to donate the blood plasma. It is like donating blood. If this could be done, there could be a realization that becoming infected with the disease could turn out to be beneficial for others. That is why I want to urge all of you to help in any way you can.

I think plasma donation is not only good for one's health; one could get a great deal of satisfaction by donating for the health of others. So, make contributions whenever possible. The Union Government is taking care of people's health as much as possible. It seems to be a boast to say that the medicine we are using for our people is the medicine for the US President in the treatment

of COVID-19. I am not confident of pronouncing the name of this Remdesivir. We have bought this medicine from India, and its government has also donated the medicines.

It is used for patients with serious conditions due to some limitations. At this moment, we are not in a position to use it for all patients. We will purchase more stocks of this medicine for more patients. We will use this medicine for patients who are in need. While we are working for containment and treatment of this disease, we have to carry out economic recovery plans like

rules and regulations play the most crucial role in containment of this disease.

The number of cases is highest in Yangon Region. Its dense population has led to widespread infections of the disease. Infection rate is rising in some townships of other regions. Actually, the disease is under control in most of the townships in different regions and states. We need to maintain this situation.

I have already reported that this is the time of our General Elections. Our citizens abroad have begun advance voting.

... plasma donation is not only good for one's health; one could get a great deal of satisfaction by donating for the health of others.

in the disease.

We are trying to control impacts on the economy and treatment for recovery in the business sector. The government has to consider the reopening of factories and industries because it is important not only for the owners and workers of the firms but also for the country's economy.

In addition, we have adopted the list of priority for the business sector during COVID-19 outbreak. For example, the government is encouraging the construction sector as it is required for the long term infrastructural development of the country. It can also employ many people. Moreover, it is easier for construction workers to adhere to healthcare guidelines compared to other workplaces. After all,

The figures from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs show that 109,470 Myanmar people have filed Form 15 application forms for advance voting in foreign countries. To date, 27,917 persons have cast their votes, and the process is ongoing. Advance voting will begin at Myanmar missions in foreign countries this weekend. The process is going smoothly, although we have encountered some difficulties.

One of the difficulties for overseas voters is the rules of respective countries, especially in countries with no Myanmar missions. We have to solve their problems as much as we could by conducting negotiations with the respective governments so that our people would not lose their voting rights.

Plans are also being made

at home for free and safe voting of our people. We think a plan submitted by the Union Election Commission will ensure safety and satisfaction for our voters. We have planned the advance voting for people over 60-year of age in the areas under Stay-at-Home order. There are two benefits of this plan. The first one is for the health of these elderly persons as they are more vulnerable to the COVID-19 due to their age. Therefore, we are going to implement this plan for elderly persons.

The second benefit of this plan will help to reduce the number of voters at the polling stations on election day. The social distancing of 6-ft apart from each other could be practised to avoid close contacts among the voters. It will be safe for all. The government will distribute masks and face shields to the voters.

The UEC has agreed to this plan for the townships under the Stay-at-Home order. It will ensure the safety of elderly voters. I could also cast my advance vote under this plan. We are discussing advance voting of elderly persons in townships with large populations, in addition to the townships that are not included in the Stay-at-Home order. We will have to discuss the conditions for this plan, for example, the range of the population in these townships. We will announce to the public once we have decided.

Therefore, the Union Government is trying to make the process smooth and convenient. We invite public participation. Whenever we are talking about COVID-19, we need to express thanks to the health workers. Some health workers from states/regions with lower infection rates are being invited to places with a higher number of cases. We thank all of them and those in the areas with

many cases. Our people already know that some of these health workers have been infected. I also pray for their immediate recovery. I believe our people would make similar best wishes for their health, just like me.

The Union Government will issue the required rules and regulations as needed. Such rules are not to restrict the freedom of the people, but to control the spread of the disease. If the disease is believed to be under control, the relevant ministry will inspect the factories and workplaces for reopening. Resumption will be allowed for the factories and workplaces which follow the rules and directives.

Therefore, I urge our people to have the firm resolve and constant vigilance. Don't be too anxious. I want you to believe that you can overcome this disease even if you get infected. In next week programme, people who have recovered from this disease will recount their experiences of infection and recovery. So, when people hear about how this huge challenge has been overcome, people who are feeling anxious and worried about this disease and people who are infected with this disease, their relatives and their friends - all of them will feel a sense of relief. I believe this would be of practical help and support.

I want to repeat again. Don't be over-anxious. Be extremely vigilant. We are thinking about this disease every day, continuously, all the time, for the safety of our people. I want to say that we are making strenuous efforts for the people's health, economic well-being, and politics, the elections are, of course related to politics. We are working hard to be able to fulfil all of these needs.

I pray for your good health, well-being and success.

(Translated by
Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

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.



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.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

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State Counsellor gives guidance on smooth flow of commodities nationwide

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), participated in a virtual meeting on smooth flow of commodities nationwide yesterday.

The meeting discussed the importance of smooth flow of commodities which is directly related to price stability and the public's livelihoods; difficulties in testing truck drivers and their mates for COVID-19, plans to test them with COVID-19 rapid test kits, collecting fair prices for testing with the rapid test kits and cooperation between regions and states.

After the discussions, State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in the virtual meeting on the smooth flow of commodities nationwide on 9 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Counsellor Daw Aung Suu Kyi gave guidance and necessary decisions.

The online meeting was

joined by 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, Regions/States Chief Ministers, and Secretaries of the COVID-19

national committee U Zaw Than Thin and Dr Thet Khaing Win. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

152 Myanmar nationals from Singapore return home by relief flight



Myanmar returnees from Singapore are seen at the immigration counters of the Yangon International Airport on 9 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE MNA relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday bringing back a total of 152 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Singapore due to the suspension of commercial flights.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and there were 21 relief flights from Singapore to date. — MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Campaign speeches of two political parties for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speeches of Rakhine State National United Party and Kayin People's Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 10 October for the second time. — MNA

VP U Myint Swe discusses preparations for 73rd Independence Day celebrations

THE Central Committee on Organizing 73rd Independence Day on 4 January 2021 held the first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the Chairman of committee, presided over the meeting which was attended by Union Ministers and officials from the Union-level organizations at the headquarters of Union Government Office.

In his opening remark, the Vice President explained the formation of organizing committee with 27 members for the successful holding of the annual event.

The five national objectives for 73rd Independence Day are:

- to safeguard and protect the Non-disintegration of the Union and the Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty by collective strength of all ethnic people
- to ensure equal rights for all citizens in social relations, economy, politics, social status, opportunity and rights for protection of law
- to work for amendment of State Constitution in developing a genuine Democratic Federal



Vice President U Myint Swe presides over the first coordination meeting of Central Committee on Organizing 73rd Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union

- to establish a developed Democratic Federal Union by nurturing Union spirit for continued existence of the Union
- to strive for multisectoral development of the country in overcoming challenges of people with the collaboration efforts of the government and citizens.

The Vice President added that the events related to the Independence Day will be held this time in line with the rules and directives of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of

COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports at Union level and region/state levels.

He also discussed organizing contests of essay writing, poem composing and general knowledge quiz, sport events at all levels under healthcare guidelines, and preparations for erecting the event promotion campaign posters.

The work plans of relevant sub-committees were reported by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win, Nay Pyi Taw

Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Major-Gen Thaung Htike Shwe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Min Thein, Director of Ordnance Services Maj-Gen Win Lwin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun,

Director-General of Department of Sports and Physical Education U Myo Hlaing and Permanent Secretary from Office of Auditor-General of the Union Daw Naing Thet Oo.

Deputy Minister for Union Government Office U Tin Myint, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn presented the reports on relevant departments.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Pyithu Hluttaw donates cash to COVID-19 national committee

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat donated cash to National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the donation ceremony, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that the collective cash donation of the officials and staff from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw offices were made to honour the officials and staff of the Ministry of Health and Sports and volunteers who are selflessly working on the front-line of prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.

Despite a small amount of donated cash, Hluttaw officials and staff are standing together with the Ministry of Health and Sports that is responding the COVID-19 on the frontline, he said.

On behalf of Hluttaw representatives, he expressed thanks to the Ministry of Health and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat (R) presents donated cash to Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sports for providing healthcare during the Hluttaw meetings in May, July and August, and presented the donated cash of K10 million to Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint

Htwe who returned certificate of honour.

The Union Minister, on behalf of the healthcare representatives nationwide, expressed thanks to the Hluttaw

Speaker and officials and staff from the two Hluttaws for the donation.

He added that it is delighted to have an opportunity of cooperation in COVID-19

healthcare measures during 16th and 17th regular sessions of Second Hluttaws which are crucial for the country.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness and can be widely and fast infected. There may be next infection waves after the second wave. Therefore, it is important to abide by the preventive guidelines not to the COVID-19 problems be bigger, he said.

He advised the persons with chronic diseases to only stay at home distancing other people and eating and sleeping separately.

He further said that testing of COVID-19 would be more effective confirming additional positive cases as testing with rapid antigen diagnostic test kits has been increased during these days.

The event was attended by officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office and Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu joins coordination meeting on rural development

A coordination meeting on rural development was held via videoconference yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Min Oo, Director-General for Department of Planning U Kyaw Swe Linn, Director-General for Agriculture Department Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General for the Department of Rural Development U Khant Zaw, deputy directors-general and directors of respective ministries and heads of regions, districts and townships.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu talked about the CERP Action Plan 2.17 conducted by the ministry under the CERP of government, plans to further development, preparations to meet the set standards in carrying out the rural development projects,



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu participates in the meeting on rural development via videoconference on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

less corruption, greater transparency and cooperation works of the participants in rural development processes.

Director-General U Khant Zaw later briefed the progress in projects and further action plans while the heads of regions and states explained the ongoing projects and the ground situation.

The Department of Rural Development implemented water distribution project in 11,769 villages, electrification projects in 8,568 villages and making 1,054 miles long village roads during five-year term from 2016-2017FY to 2019-2020FY.

Moreover, in 2019-2020FY, it benefits about 3.6million of people by implementing 4,479

rural water distribution projects while about 6,240,000 of people via urban water distribution projects in 11 cities. It also benefits about 4,960,000 of people by making 741 mile and 3.2 furlong long rural roads and 1,102 rural bridges, about 5.01 million of people by implementing community based project in 6,001 villages, about 500,000 people

by contributing 570 units of Mya Sein Yaung project. Moreover, it also carried out for the sake of about 1.23 million of people by implementing village development project in 3,450 villages, about 1,040 people by constructing 297 houses and 16,557 people by conducting vocational training for 673 times.

The department also launched 4,402 Cash for Work projects under CERP and it provided jobs for 2.8 million of people in 2,505 villages. Meanwhile, the Village Revolving Fund Project was implemented in 1,710 villages and granted loans to more than 1,340,000 of households depending on their industries. A total of 4,063 basins were installed at 3,186 villages and urban areas as preventive measures against COVID-19 and such move benefited about 4.7 million of people. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body organizes fifth meeting

THE fifth meeting of Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body was held at the Union Attorney-General Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said that the fifth meeting was held later than its regular meeting date because of COVID-19. However, the task force of the body and the Myanmar Police Force was continuously cooperating on monthly tasks, improvement and reports.

Myanmar Police Force, after visiting the villages of the crimes occurred and investigating the village leaders, villagers and witnesses, was prosecuting the prioritized cases in accordance

with the decisions made during the fourth meeting.

Some suspects are under investigation, and some investigated cases are wanted persons. The body will have to conduct investigation of criminals and prosecute them at the court, he said.

Rule of law and judiciary will be more effective by investigating and prosecuting the criminals of the cases included in the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, he added.

The meeting was attended by the Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body's deputy chair and members and invited guests.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Body holds its fifth meeting on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

UEC, Korea election commission share experiences online



Union Election Commission holds talks with the South Korea's National Election Commission via videoconference on 7 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Union Election Commission discussed electoral experience with the South Korea's National Election Commission online on 7 October.

UEC member U Saw Daniel Kyi, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Secretary-General of the South Korea's National Election Commission (NEC) Cho Joon-ki, officials from the UEC and the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs attended the online discussion.

The Deputy Secretary-General of NEC shared experiences on the successful completion of elections in their country in accordance with the disease prevention and control measures during the COVID-19 outbreak, arrangement of polling stations, voting procedures, safety arrangements for polling station

staff and voters.

UEC member U Saw Daniel Kyi and Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein explained the preparations for the 2020 General Election in Myanmar in line with COVID-19 prevention and control measures and the arrangements to ensure that all eligible voters have the rights to vote.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoSWRR provides cash assistance for IDPs in Kyaukme, Shan State

MINISTRY of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement organized a virtual meeting on providing cash assistance for internally displaced persons in Kyaukme Township, Shan State yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing, Directors-General, officials of Shan State Disaster Management Department, head and officials of Kyaukme District General Administration Department and representatives of civil society organizations.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the government was working with priority on ethnic affairs and internal peace and on the developments of the states and regions depending on the development index.

He further said that development depends on peace and expressed empathy for the difficul-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye participates in the virtual meeting on provision of cash assistance for IDPs in Kyaukme Township, Shan State on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ties of the IDPs during COVID-19.

Although the government was working hard on equality, making fundamental policies and laws for self-administration, building a Federal Democratic Union and establishing eternal

peace, armed conflicts still exist, he added.

The ministry is implementing provision of assistance, rehabilitation and resettlement for the IDPs. If the Union government, state governments, civil organ-

izations and participants in the peace process work together, the assistance towards peace will be more effective, he said.

The conflicts that started on 3 October in Kyaukme Township, Shan State forced a total of 1,243

people of 404 households from 9 villages of 5 village tracts flee their homes and shelter at the monasteries.

The ministry, as an initial assistance, provided K5. 212 million for purchasing two weeks of rice ration to the Kyaukme District Administrator and will continue providing assistance.

Then, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung reported on provision of assistance for all IDPs nationwide and cooperation with the relevant general administration departments and civil organizations in conducting rehabilitation processes including providing emergency fund for education, healthcare and vocational trainings.

The Permanent Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing detailed about the situation of IDPs, assistance for IDPs and further action plans. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Advance voting begins in Malaysia, UK

ADVANCE voting of Myanmar citizens for 2020 General Election started in Malaysia yesterday.

A total of 1,692 eligible voters cast their votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and 240 voted in London of the UK.

The advance voting continued in five Myanmar embassies, with 1,036 voters in Bangkok, 13 in Cairo, over 1,700 in Singapore,



Myanmar citizens line up outside the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore to cast votes on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



A total of 218 Myanmar citizens cast votes in Tokyo on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Advance voting of Myanmar citizens in London begins on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar nationals in South Korea continue advance voting in Seoul on 9 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

662 in Seoul and 218 in Tokyo.

Due to nationwide lockdown in Israel, officials of Myanmar Embassy in Tel Aviv arranged polling stations in Arraba and Nighat. A total of 65 Myanmar students cast their votes yesterday.

Moreover, Myanmar citizens continued advance voting in seven embassies yesterday.

The Myanmar citizens finished casting votes at five embassies of Brunei, Bangladesh, Nepal and Israel and at two Myanmar Consulate-General offices in Nanning of China.

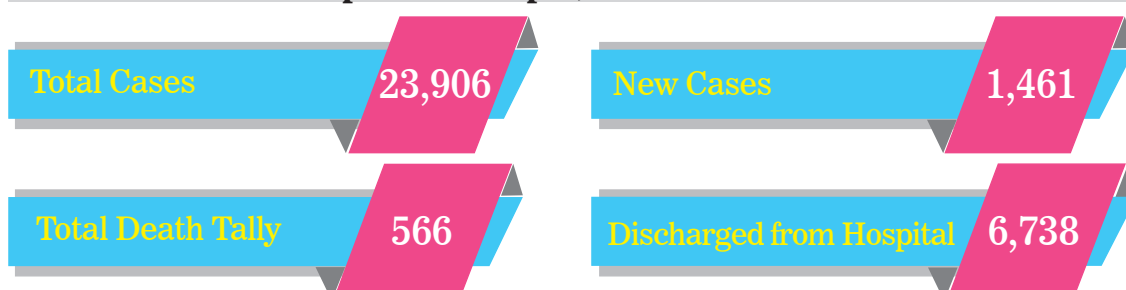
The Myanmar nationals cast their advance vote in accordance with the COVID-19 measures of their respective countries.—MNA

(Translate by Khine Thazin Han)

1,461 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 October, total figure rises to 23,906

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 23,906 after 1,461 new cases were reported on 9 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 23,906 confirmed cases, 566 died, 6,738 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 9 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 9-10-2020

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Ministry of Health and Sports

Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

1. The Union Election Commission, in accordance with 2008 Constitution, already announced that the multiparty democracy general elections will be held nationwide on 8 November 2020 to elect MPs for third term of three Hluttaws.
2. The election process includes setting up of polling stations, coming of voters to the stations and voting at the stations. Similarly, it also includes preparations for voting in the general elections of those who are under quarantine due to COVID-19 infections, advance voting of those who are unable to come to polling stations on the election day at relevant ward/village-tract election sub-commissions on designated dates, counting votes at respective township election sub-commissions and polling stations, collecting of election results and announcing the names of elected candidates by region/state election sub-commissions.
3. Due to present COVID-19 situation, polling station heads, deputy heads and members who will perform duties at the polling stations of different levels of relevant election sub-commissions, those who will manage outside the polling stations and voters need to be careful of the successful holding of the general election not to be infected by COVID-19.
4. The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the standard operation procedure Part-I about campaigning in accordance with COVID-19 preventive and control measures for Hluttaw candidates who will compete in the general election on 7-9-2020.
5. Therefore, it is hereby announced that those who are involved in the election works according to paragraph-2 will have to abide by the directives included in standard operation procedure Part-II that are to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures during the general election and health guidelines issued by relevant officials depending on situations.
6. The standard operation procedure Part-II which are to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures in holding the general election can be viewed at the website of the Union Election Commission, www.uec.gov.mm, and UEC Facebook.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Announcement for voters

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

Union Election Commission

Centenary celebrations of Myanmar film industry to be held virtually

CELEBRATIONS for the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry will be held virtually at Studio 1 of Myanmar Radio and Television in Yangon on 13 October.

The event will be live-streamed on MRTV Facebook page and MRTV Live at 5 pm.

It can also be watched on MOI Webportal Myanmar Facebook page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook page.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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

Myanmar endangered star tortoises at Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary

PEOPLE can study the star tortoises conserved at the Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary in Ngahtogyi Township, Myingyan District of Mandalay Region.

The Natural Environment and Wildlife Conservation of the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation save the endangered species and wild animals.

The sanctuary conserves more than 3,000 rare star tortoises to date and so people can study about the star tortoises there.

The conserved Myanmar star tortoises are released at the Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary and the officials released a total of 750 star tortoises — 150 tortoises in 2013 and another 300 in 2015 and 2017 respectively. They also released the star tortoises in 2018.

The tortoises are the oldest reptiles that appeared before di-

nosaurus about 2,000 years ago. There are 31 species of tortoises in Myanmar including 5 species of sea turtle, 22 species of freshwater turtles and 4 species of land turtles. 8 species out of 26 freshwater turtles and land turtles are on the verge of extinction. The star tortoises are facing such situation as well.

The Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary conserved the star tortoises systematically and collected data of the tortoises yearly since the tortoises laid their eggs.

The Myanmar star tortoise, scientifically known as *Geochelone platyonta*, is a critically endangered species endemic to the dry zone in central Myanmar's Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions. They are also locally called as star tortoises, spider tortoises, flatback tortoises, and so on.

They feed mushrooms, vegetables in addition to earth-



PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYIT NGE)

worm and snails. They mostly eat all kinds of food. The star tortoises lay eggs 1 to 4 clutches a year. The tortoise population declines due to the wildfire and illegal trade. So, they are now conserved systematically

at Lawkanada sanctuary in Bagan, Shwe Set Taw sanctuary in Minbu, Minzontaung sanctuary in Ngahtogyi and Mya Late Taung near Kywenapha village in PyinOoLwin.

Currently, the visitors to

Ngahtogyi township should not miss the Minzontaung Wildlife Sanctuary to study the Myanmar star tortoises.—Nway Nadi (Myit Nge)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Ensuring voting rights with safety

WITH the November-8 general elections approaching, the Union Election Commission is considering for allowing people aged over 60 years in the townships under stay-at-home order and in townships with dense population to cast advance voting for their safety.

The election commission has been working to make arrangements for a free and fair poll due to the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, COVID-19 is extremely dangerous for older persons and others who have chronic diseases. These people should take precautions at all times to limit their exposure to others who may be ill. The first precaution listed is that they should stay at home as much as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to recognize the older persons' rights guaranteed by law, we must ensure that essential support services for communities do not put older persons and their care providers at risk. Older persons as well as persons with disabilities are among the eligible.

In order to recognize the older persons' rights guaranteed by law, we must ensure that essential support services for communities do not put older persons and their care providers at risk.

When it comes to holding general elections in the midst of a global pandemic, election administrators must do much more to help the eligible citizens cast their ballots without placing themselves in danger. We believe that they will do everything possible to protect the health of poll workers and voters.

Voters should not have to choose between their health and exercising their constitutional rights, and poll workers should feel safe as they make sure our elections run smoothly.

A vote is a right, not a privilege, regardless of whether you cast an advance vote or an in-person ballot.

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EFFORTS OF THE WFP FAMILY TO COMBAT HUNGER

UN World Food Programme wins 2020 Nobel Peace Prize

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), which provides lifesaving food assistance to millions across the world - often in extremely dangerous and hard-to-access conditions - has been awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

THE agency was recognized "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict", said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization in the world. Last year, it assisted 97 million people in 88 countries. Its efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. Two-thirds of the work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries

without conflict.

Global food insecurity aggravated by COVID-19

Praising the work of the UN agency, the Nobel Committee chair highlighted its role in boosting resilience and sustainability among communities by helping them to feed themselves.

The COVID-19 crisis has also added to global food insecurity, she added, highlighting that there will likely be 265 million "starving people within a year".

Only the international community can tackle such a challenge, she insisted, before highlighting the fact that WFP had helped millions of people in extremely dangerous and hard-to-reach countries affected by conflict and natural disaster, including

Yemen, Syria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

'Braving danger to deliver life-saving sustenance'

Hailing the WFP's as the the world's first responder" on the frontlines of food insecurity, Secretary-General António Guterres lauded the UN agency on winning the coveted award.

"The women and men of the WFP brave danger and distance to deliver life-saving sustenance to those devastated by conflict,

to people suffering because of disaster, to children and families uncertain about their next meal," Mr Guterres said in a statement.

He drew attention to the plight of millions of people going hungry around the world, amid fears that the COVID-19 pandem-

ic could worsen food security for millions more.

"There is also a hunger in our world for international cooperation," said the Secretary-General, adding that WFP "feeds that need, too", operating above the realm of politics, with humanitarian need driving its operations.

The UN chief also called on everyone for greater solidarity, to address not only the pandemic, but other global challenges.

"We know that existential threats such as the climate change will make the hunger crisis even worse," he said.

'A humbling, moving recognition'

The announcement by the Norwegian Nobel Committee "turned the global spotlight" on

the 690 million people suffering hunger globally, David Beasley, WFP Executive Director, said after the announcement.

"Every one of [them] has the right to live peacefully and without hunger", he said, adding that climate shocks and economic pressures have further compounded their plight.

"And now, a global pandemic with its brutal impact on economies and communities, is pushing millions more to the brink of starvation." Mr Beasley highlighted that the Nobel Peace Prize was not WFP's alone, noting that the UN agency works closely with government, organizations and private sector partners whose passion for helping the hungry and vulnerable equals ours.

"We could not possibly help anyone without them. We are an operational agency and the daily work of our staff each day is driven by our core values of integrity, humanity and inclusion."

The head of WHP added that the award was a "humbling, moving recognition."

"The Nobel Peace Prize ... is a humbling, moving recognition of the work of WFP staff who lay their lives on the line every day to bring food and assistance for close to 100 million hungry children, women and men across the world", he said, "people whose lives are often brutally torn apart by instability, insecurity and conflict."

Headquartered in Rome, WFP was established in 1961.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

PATH TO ZERO HUNGER

Exclusive interview with WFP Myanmar Country Director

THE 2020 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Upon this occasion, the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) made an exclusive interview with Mr Stephen Anderson, Country Director and Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) Myanmar.

Q: Please can you tell us a brief account of the WFP Myanmar background?

A: The World Food Programme (WFP) established its country office in Myanmar in 1994. Since that date, WFP has been working with the Government of Myanmar and other national and international partners to develop innovative solutions to meet food and nutrition needs across the country with a focus on relief assistance, school feeding, asset creation and nutrition programmes. WFP also provides logistics and common service support to the humanitarian community.

Q: What are the WFP efforts to combat hunger worldwide

as well as in Myanmar?(as the WFP received the Nobel Peace Prize 2020 in this regard.)

A: Globally, WFP is providing food and assistance for close to 100 million hungry children, women and men across the world in 88 countries. WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. Two-thirds of WFP's work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict. On any given day, WFP has 5,600 trucks, 30 ships and nearly 100 planes on the move, delivering food and other assistance to those in most need. Every year, we distribute more than 15 billion rations at an estimated average cost per ration of US\$ 0.61.

In Myanmar, WFP combines the direct implementation of food assistance in areas of conflict, with increasing capacity strengthening activities, with a view to laying the groundwork for government ownership of food and nutrition security programmes by 2030. We assist over 550,000 people every month, through food and nutrition assistance,



tance, school meals programme, and asset creation and livelihood activities.

Q: What will the WFP's future programmes be for Myanmar?

A: For the time-being, WFP is closely focused on supporting the government's COVID-19 response, providing food assistance to people in health facilities and quarantine

centres in Yangon and Rakhine. We are also using our procurement and supply chain capacity to procure vital PPE equipment to ensure frontline staff in the fight against COVID-19 are properly protected and able to continue their essential work.

We will, of course, continue our regular operations to provide assistance to people affected by conflict and natural disasters across the country, especially in Rakhine, southern Chin, Shan and Kachin states - at the same time seeking more sustainable solutions to help ensure communities can provide for their own needs. In this work, we seek not only to provide people with an adequate amount of food but also emphasize the importance of a healthy and nutritious diet to the overall well-being and prosperity of the

nation. This nutrition-sensitive approach begins in the schools which we assist with schools' meals, and is sewn into all our programming across Myanmar and around the world. We are also very aware that the impact of COVID-19 is not just an immediate one on health, but also a longer-term blow to the country's economic development. As such, WFP is already closely engaged in monitoring the impact of the pandemic on food and nutrition security across the country, and especially in the areas where we work. We are adding some of the poorest informal settlements of Yangon to the parts of the country we have under close watch at this time. In due course, we expect to expand our programming in these areas to protect the health and livelihoods of those left furthest behind, and it is my hope that this wonderful recognition of our work today by the Nobel Committee will refocus the minds of the world on the long road we must still travel to reach Zero Hunger, and help ensure we have the resources we need to do our vital work here in Myanmar. — GNLM

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (2020)
It's All About Governance
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Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 9-10-2020)
Flood condition of Ayeyarwady River
According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Hinthada has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2) Inches during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.
It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada Township to take precaution measure.

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

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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.

WFP donates PPE sets for Yangon Region



Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin (L) accepts the PPE suits donated by WFP. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

WORLD Food Programme donated over 110 million kyats worth of personal protective equipment sets to the Yangon Region government for the COVID-19 response programmes in Yangon on 8 October.

The WFP donated the personal protective equipment sets with EU funding to be used by health workers and volunteers involved in the fight against COVID-19 disease.

The officials from the WFP handed over the donation and Social Affairs Minister for the Yangon Region government U Naing Ngan Lin received the donation.

WFP Deputy Country Di-

rector Mr Walid Ibrahim said, "We can all be healthy if the health workers and volunteers are safe. They are constantly facing the growing COVID-19 outbreak in Yangon. We hope that the donated PPE sets will help them to win and end this battle." Similarly, WFP donated 20 million Kyats worth of personal protective equipment sets and disinfection equipment to Phaunggyi COVID-19 Medical Centre in Yangon Region on 20 September.

WFP is also providing rice and food at quarantine centres in 11 regions and states. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Ayeyarwady Centre prepared for 1,000 COVID patients

TEMPORARY medical centres of Ayeyarwady Centre in Thuwuna Football Stadium and the National Football Academy (Yangon) have been prepared for accommodating 1,000 COVID-19 patients.

The Centre has set up temporary facility A and B for 875 patients since it was first established in early September, and its ICU/HDU could hold 125 patients, with the installation of modern medical equipment.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation is accommodating doctors, nurses and volunteers who are in the front-line of COVID-19 measures, while well-wishers are making their contributions.



Picture shows preparations for accommodating COVID-19 patients at Ayeyawady Centre. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

The foundation has also planned to set up the COVID-19 centres until the disease could be controlled. —Ye Yint Hline (Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar-Korea Joint Cultural Performance aired to mark 45th anniversary diplomatic relations

EMBASSY of the Republic of Korea and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture jointly arranged a cultural performance commemorating 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations and aired it yesterday amidst COVID-19.

The event was opened with pre-recorded video congratulatory remarks by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa.

In her remarks, the State Counsellor called the joint performance a good example where

it utilized technology to overcome many challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed hope that the two countries could keep holding that kind of performance in the future based on the close friendship, wishing the two countries' friendly relation lasts forever.

Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa also expressed his hope that the creative movement of the performance would bring together the melody of each performing team to become a friendly harmony of the two countries.

In the performance, Kore-



an side performed folk dances with UNESCO intangible heritage songs: Gangang Sullae and Pyeong Taek Nong Ak while Myanmar performers entertained Graceful Nine Gems Dance.

Korean folk music band played Myanmar song "Latti" in Korean style.

Myanmar's boy idol group Project K visited Korea this year. —GNLM

Locals revive Inn Lay floating market in October

THE Inn Lay floating market has returned to a revival after missing for more than a decade, starting from the first week of October during the pandemic period, according to the locals.

Although the local and foreign travellers are interested in the floating market located in Hae Yar Ywar Ma village, Inn Lay Lake, the sellers from the floating market have moved their shops onto the land because there is no water in summer.

Previously, the local people brought their traditional foods, vegetables and other local products in the boats and sold them. Now, there are many souvenir shops carrying boats on Inn Lay waters because they can rely upon tourism, according to the

residents.

During the pandemic period, the on-land shops are closed temporarily. The local people are selling their traditional foods and vegetables on the floating market as in those days. Now, the locals started reviving the floating market.

“The market will be in the water in monsoon season and on the land in summer. We will maintain the floating market. We want to urge both the visitors and sellers to wear the masks during this pandemic period. I am delighted to see the floating market again after ten years, said U Soe Myint Oo, a resident from Hae Yar Ywar Ma village. —Nay Myo Thurein (Translated by Hay Mar) ■



Vendors and customers on boats are seen at the Inn Lay floating market. PHOTO: NAY MYO THUREIN

Some online shopping pages cheating customers: Customer Affairs Dept.

By Nyein Nyein

SOME online shopping pages are cheating the customers, making falsified receipts of the cargo transport service, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has warned in an announcement.

“As the online shopping business is booming, customers are conveniently purchasing goods and services online, using internet technology,” said the announcement by the

Consumer Affairs Department.

It warned: “Certain individual online shopping pages are cheating the customers, using fraudulent sale methods, taking advantage of the customers’ limited knowledge of online shopping techniques.”

“Moreover, some online shopping pages are asking the customers to transfer the money in advance, showing counterfeit receipts of the government and private shipping ser-

vices and cargo transport service,” the announcement added, urging online customers to exercise utmost caution whenever doing online shopping.

On the other hand, it is learnt that the Ministry of Health and Sports also announced in the first week of October that the people are prohibited from buying the COVID-19 prevention vaccines advertised on the online market and social media. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Local, foreign investments create over 670,000 jobs during incumbent govt

By Nyein Nyein

DURING the four and a half years of the new government’s tenure, more than 670,000 job opportunities were created in the foreign and local investment sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The job opportunities were created in foreign direct investment and domestic investment

enterprises and, Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZs), permitted and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) annually.

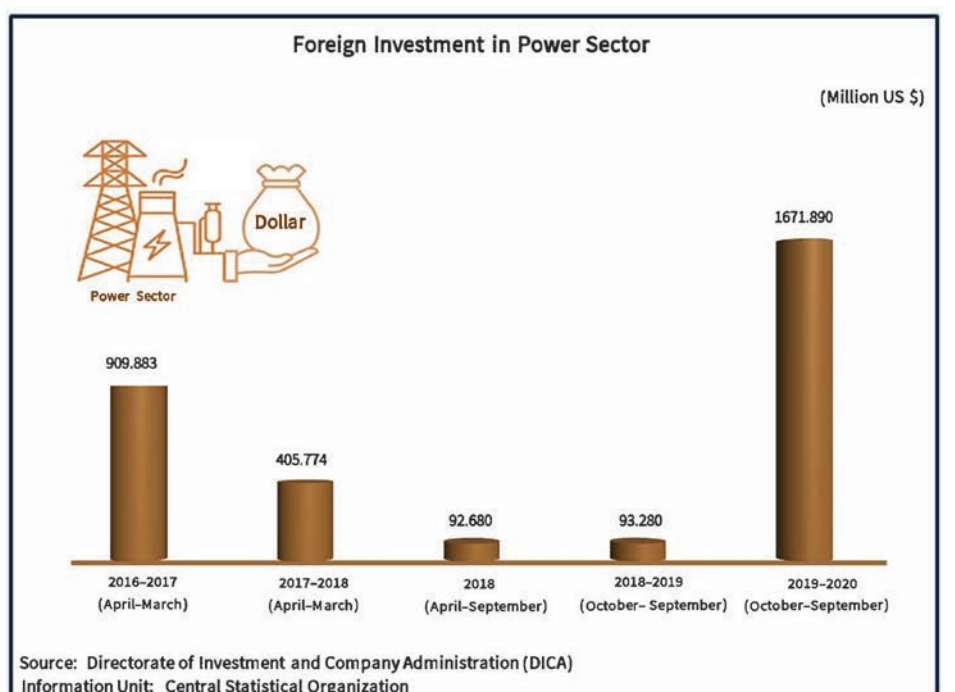
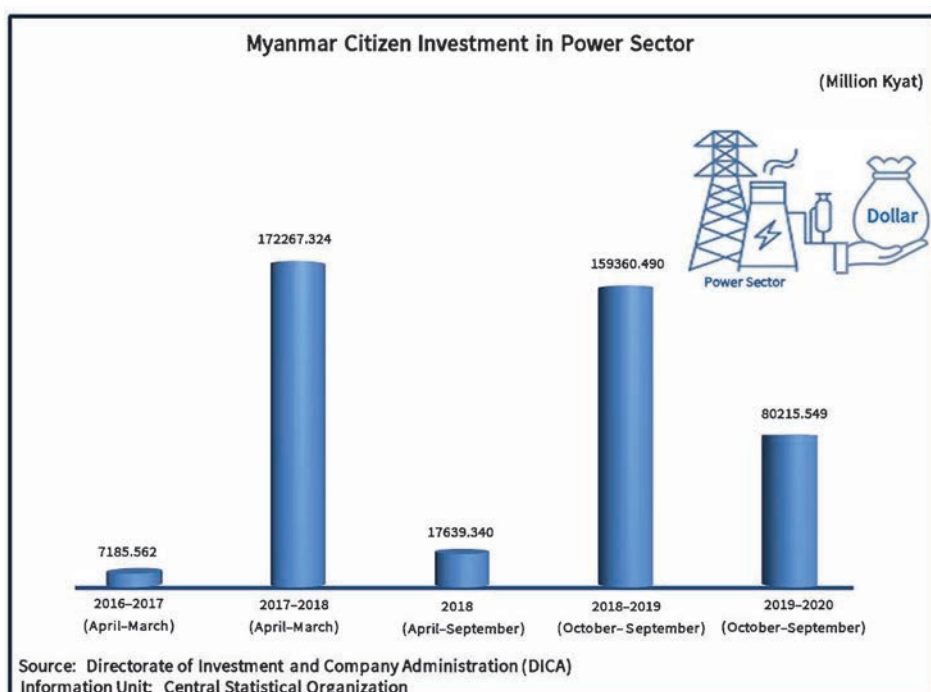
The country has created over 96,000 job opportunities for the local people in 2016-2017FY, over 110,000 jobs in 2017-2018FY, over 53,000 positions in 2018 mini-budget year (April-September), over 180,000 jobs in 2018-2019FY, over 210,000 jobs in 2019-2020FY in the lo-

cal and foreign investment sectors.

Additionally, the domestic and foreign investment businesses employed over 18,000 expatriate workers in Myanmar in the new government period, according to DICA.

MIC has permitted licences, giving priority to the labour-intensive investment among the proposals submitted. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



NEWS
IN BRIEF

Police clear Berlin squat, symbol of city's radicalism

LONDON—Police cleared one of Berlin's few remaining squats on Friday, as a symbol of the German capital's free-spirited ideals faces the reality of soaring rents and gentrification.

Berlin mobilized hundreds of law enforcement officials to evict residents of the "Liebig34" site in Friedrichshain, a hip part of former East Berlin where property prices have risen sharply.

But far from the street battles feared by Berlin authorities, the evictions were relatively peaceful. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, blocks of abandoned houses in the east of the capital were taken over by students, young people, artists and activists. Some of the squats were subsequently legalized as housing projects.—AFP ■

Putin invites Armenia, Azerbaijan foreign ministers for peace talks

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin invited the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan to visit Moscow for peace talks Friday and said fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh should be halted for humanitarian reasons. Putin's invitation came as there appeared to be no end in sight for nearly two weeks of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian separatists that has claimed hundreds of lives.

"The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia are being invited to Moscow on October 9," Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin. "The President of Russia is issuing a call to halt the fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh on humanitarian grounds in order to exchange dead bodies and prisoners," the Kremlin added. Yerevan has so far ruled out any talks between the two countries' top diplomats as long as clashes are ongoing.—AFP ■

UN food agency wins 2020 Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO—The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the World Food Programme today for feeding millions of people from Yemen to North Korea, with the coronavirus pandemic pushing millions more into hunger.

The WFP was "a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict", Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said on unveiling the winner in Oslo. "This is a powerful reminder to the world that peace and ZeroHunger go hand-in-hand," the Rome-based organization said on Twitter.

Founded in 1961, the UN body helped 97 million people last year, distributing 15 billion rations to people in 88 countries last year. Whether delivering food by helicopter or on the back of an elephant or a camel, the WFP prides itself on being "the leading humanitarian organi-



The chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen poses with a tablet to announce the laureate of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize 'World Food Programme' in the Nobel Institute in Oslo on October 9, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

zation" in a world where, by its own estimates, some 690 million people — one in 11 — go to bed on an empty stomach.

"With this year's award, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to turn the eyes of the

world towards the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger," Reiss-Andersen said.

"The link between hunger and armed conflict is a vicious circle: war and conflict can cause

food insecurity and hunger, just as hunger and food insecurity can cause latent conflicts to flare up and trigger the use of violence. "We will never achieve the goal of zero hunger unless we also put an end to war and armed conflict." WFP spokesman Tomson Phiri described the win as "humbling" and a "proud moment".

Yemen worries

Despite making progress over the past three decades, the UN's goal to eradicate hunger by 2030 appears out of reach if current trends continue, according to experts. Women and children are generally most at risk.

War can be caused by hunger, but hunger is also a consequence of war, with people living in areas of conflict three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries at peace, the WFP says.—AFP ■

Democrats want panel to investigate Trump capacity to govern

WASHINGTON—US Democrats on Thursday proposed a commission to investigate whether Donald Trump is mentally fit for office -- and look at the constitutional options for his removal if necessary.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, told reporters that on Friday she and other Democrats would introduce a measure relating to the US Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows for the vice president to take over should it be determined that the president "is unable" to fulfill his duties.

Pelosi's office said Friday's bill would "help ensure effective and uninterrupted leadership

in the highest office in the executive branch of government".

The move comes at a moment of crisis in the White House, with Trump being treated for a Covid-19 infection that sent him to the hospital for three nights.

The 74-year-old leader has fired off a stream of erratic tweets this week and raised eyebrows with a stream-of-consciousness interview early Thursday on Fox Business in which he said he beat the coronavirus because "I am a perfect physical specimen and I'm extremely young."

Pelosi warned Trump is suffering from a "disassocia-



US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is set to introduce a bill that would create a commission to evaluate whether Donald Trump or other presidents have the capacity to discharge the duties of their office. PHOTO: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP

tion from reality (that) would be funny if it weren't so deadly."

The Pelosi effort would renew debate about what steps

might be taken in the event the president becomes disabled to such a degree he cannot fulfill his responsibilities.—AFP ■

13 charged in plot to kidnap US governor, start 'civil war'

WASHINGTON—Thirteen men, including members of two right-wing militias, have been arrested for plotting to kidnap the Democratic governor of the US state of Michigan and "instigate a civil war", officials said.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer thanked law enforcement for thwarting the kidnap plot and rebuked President Donald Trump for failing to condemn hate groups.

Announcing the arrests, Michigan Attorney-General Dana Nessel described the conspiracy to kidnap the 49-year-old Whitmer as a "serious and credible threat."



Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer thanked law enforcement for thwarting the kidnap plot and rebuked President Donald Trump for failing to condemn hate groups. PHOTO: AFP/JEFF KOWALSKY

Andrew Birge, US attorney for the western district of Michigan, said six men were facing federal charges for conspiring to kidnap Whitmer from her vacation home.

Birge said they had conducted surveillance of her residence and even tested a home-made bomb they intended to use to divert law enforcement away from her home.

FBI agents and Michigan police arrested them on Wednesday as they met to "pool funds for explosives and exchange tactical gear," the Justice Department said.—AFP ■

Saudi setback over EU push to downgrade G20 presence

BRUSSELS — A push to downgrade the EU's attendance at next month's G20 summit in Riyadh over human rights concerns marks another setback for Saudi plans to host a coming-out party on the world stage. The European Parliament passed a wide-ranging resolution on Thursday calling for the European Union (EU) and its member states to downgrade their representation at the virtual summit in order to "avoid legitimizing impunity for human rights

violations and ongoing illegal and arbitrary detentions in Saudi Arabia".

The resolution, which coincides with the two-year anniversary of the brutal murder in Istanbul of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents, sends what a source at the parliament called a "strong political message" to the kingdom.

The resolution implies European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the president of the European Council, Charles Michel, will not

attend the summit if they heed the call of lawmakers, the source said.

Further piling pressure on them, members of the European Parliament are carrying out an internal signature campaign calling for "downgrading the level of the EU participation to a senior official level", according to a document seen by AFP.

"The Saudi government has a long record of silencing the very voices that are necessary for a meaningful global con-



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan (top L) addressing a September 3 virtual meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers to discuss enhancing international cooperation to recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: G20 PRESS OFFICE/AFP

versation regarding the challenges we collectively face, which challenges the appropriateness of their hosting the 2020 G20 summit," said the document addressed to Michel and von der Leyen.

"We should not legitimize a government committing egregious human rights violations as host of one of the most important summit meetings in the world." Saudi authorities did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.—AFP

BOJ to start feasibility study on digital currency in FY 2021

TOKYO — The Bank of Japan said Friday it will start a feasibility study on digital currency in fiscal 2021 beginning in April as the expansion of cashless payments and cryptocurrencies has forced central banks to consider their response to technological innovations in recent years.

The BOJ currently has no plan to issue digital currency. But it will collaborate with other central banks and fintech firms in the study.

The BOJ "will explore general purpose CBDC in a more concrete and practical way by conducting experiments, rather than confining itself to conceptual research as before," it said in a statement, refer-

ring to central bank digital currency.

"The bank considers it important to prepare thoroughly to respond to changes in circumstances in an appropriate manner."

So far, no major central banks have officially decided to issue CBDC. However, Peoples' Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said in May that the Chinese central bank has started trial payments of digital yuan in some cities, a move seen as an apparent challenge to the international currency system based on the U.S. dollar.

The BOJ said demand for cash in circulation will not drop significantly for the time being. But the

central bank said it "might provide general purpose CBDC as a payment instrument alongside cash" if public demand for cash weakens and "if private digital money will not substitute for the functions of cash sufficiently."

Following the feasibility study, the BOJ plans to go into further trials that would also involve payment service providers and end users.

In the private sector, three Japanese megabanks and companies providing cashless payment established a consortium in June to study interoperable electronic money that could lead to the introduction of the "digital yen."—Kyodo

'Ghost island' Phuket hunkers down in tourist-free Thailand

PHUKET — The Thai tourist island of Phuket is reeling from the ravages of the pandemic.

Phuket's go-go dancers sit playing on their phones in empty bars lining deserted streets as the Thai tourist island reels from the ravages of the pandemic with little sign of any

recovery soon.

Swimming pools are empty, chairs are stacked high in deserted restaurants and normally packed beaches are so quiet they are even seeing rare species of sea turtle arriving to nest.

Last year, more than nine million tourists visited Phuket, the kingdom's

second most popular destination after Bangkok.

Today, nearly all the island's 3,000 hotels are closed and the main town of Patong has become a "ghost town", says local tycoon Preechawut Keesin, who owns five nightclubs and around 600 hotel rooms.—AFP

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Optimus Agri-Tech Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Lam-Mec 7.2EC	Super Chlocype 7.2EC	Abamectin 3.6% + Lambda-cyhalothrin 3.6% EC	Provisional	P2018-2706

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- Myanmar Kaung Thu Kha Co., Ltd No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (201W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (201W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-10-2020** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IMARI

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IMARI VOY. NO. (58)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 NYK BLUK & PROJECTS CARRIERS LTD

အများသိစေရန်ကြေညာခြင်း

ကျွန်ုပ်၏မိတ်ဆွေဖြစ်သူ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ (၄၄) လမ်း၊ အမှတ် - ၃၆ (ပထမထပ်)နေ ဦးအောင်ဝင်းထွဋ်(ခ)အောင်ဟူစိန်ဘိုရာ (ဘ) ဦးတင်မြင့် မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ်-၈/မကန(နိုင်)၁၀၉၇၇၀ နှင့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ မင်္ဂလာတောင်ညွန့်မြို့နယ်၊ သပြေကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊ ၁၂၄လမ်း၊ အမှတ်-၈၆နေ ဒေါ်မင်းမင်းသက်(ခ)စလောမားဘီဘီ(ဘ) ဦးလှရွှေ မှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ် - ၁၂/မကတ(နိုင်)၀၈၇၁၅၅ တို့သည် အစ္စလာမ့်တရားတော် နှင့်အညီလက်ထပ်၍ အကြင်လင်မယားအဖြစ် ပေါင်းသင်းနေထိုင်လာခဲ့ရာမှ ဇနီးဖြစ်သူ ဒေါ်မင်းမင်းသက်(ခ)စလောမားဘီဘီ၏ သီးခံခွင့်လွတ်၍မရနိုင်သော အပြုအမူလုပ်ရပ်များကြောင့် ဆက်လက်ပေါင်းသင်းလိုသည့်ဆန္ဒမရှိတော့ သဖြင့် ဦးအောင်ဝင်းထွဋ်(ခ)အောင်ဟူစိန်ဘိုရာ က ဇနီးဖြစ်သူအား အစ္စလာမ့်တရားတော်နှင့်အညီ (ထွလာက်) (သုံး)ကြိမ်ပေးကြေညာ၍ ကွာရှင်းထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါကြောင်းနှင့် ဒေါ်မင်းမင်းသက်(ခ)စလောမားဘီဘီ၏ ပြုလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်မှုများသည် ဦးအောင်ဝင်းထွဋ်(ခ) အောင်ဟူစိန်ဘိုရာနှင့် မသက်ဆိုင်ပါကြောင်း အများသိစေရန် ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

လွှဲအပ်ညွှန်ကြားချက်များအရ-
ဦးမျိုးညွန့် LLB (ဖျာပုံ)
တရားလွှတ်တော်ရှေ့နေ
စဉ်-(၈၇၆/၂၄-၁-၂၀၁၃)

အမှတ်-၄၂ (၅)လွှာ၊ ၁၃၇လမ်း၊ မအူကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊ တာမွေမြို့နယ်၊
ဖုန်း-၀၉၄၅၀၀၁၂၇၀၆၊ ၀၉၇၈၈၂၀၄၁၂

Kawgun and Yathepyan Caves

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

IN Mon and Kayin states teeming with natural caves, Bayin Nyinaung, Saddan, Yatheyan, Kawgun and Wepyan caves are attractive destinations catching attention of local and foreign tourists. The largest number of cultural heritages can be seen at Kawgun Cave among natural limestone caves in Kayin State. Currently, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum takes responsibilities for conservation of Kawgun and Yathepyan caves.

Natural caves

Generally, caves home to early men, shelter of wildlife, residence of monks and cemetery of dead bodies had located at hillsides all over the world. Limestone caves emerged due to erosion of rainwater to the hills. Limestone hills near the seaside came out because of waves of the sea as well as erosion of underground water.

While in Thaton, I visited Kawgun and Yathepyan caves. On my way, I paid a visit at first to Bayintnyi called Bayin Nyinaung cave, 20 kilometres from Kawgun Cave. The cave was

crowded with local and foreign travellers. Visitors need to climb the mouth of the cave by steps of ladder. People prefer to wander inside the cave as well as take a bath in the hot spring lake. Men can take a bath at the natural hot spring lake, and a separate tank was built for women.

We did not take a bath there but kept our legs in the water. Water in the lake was not clean due to number of visitors who took a bath. If arrangements are made for travellers to take a bath of clean water after enjoying the hot spring, it will be the best. After a minute drive from Bayin Nyinaung Cave, we arrived at Hpa-an-Eindu road junction. The left route leads to Hpa-an and the right route to Yathepyan and Kawgun caves.

Kawgun Cave

Kawgun Cave is 28 miles from Mawlamyine and eight miles from Hpa-an. It also takes a position, about two miles from Barkat Village on the western bank of Thanlwin River. Kawgun Cave can be seen two furlongs west to Kawgun Village. Before arrival at the cave, we saw magnificent Buddha images and votive tablets on the walls of



the cave.

As soon as we entered Kawgun Cave, we saw a signboard bearing "Historic Ancient Kawgun Cave" being maintained by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture. An inscription was posted as 7th Century AD in Myanmar and English.

While strolling along the passage leading to the cave, we saw children who were sweeping the passage as sanitation.

It is 130 feet long, 70 feet wide and 25 feet high natural cave at the foot of a limestone hill. The cave takes a position east to Thanlwin River, west to Yathepyan Village and south to Barkat Village. Kawgun Hill is located at alone, where there are Kawgun, Kyar and Kywe caves, Kawgun Cave of which possesses ancient cultural heritages. The limestone hill where Kawgun Cave is located is 6,000 feet long ranging together with other four hills. The highest apex of the range is 1,000 feet high.

Kawgun is a one side closed cave. Many Buddha images can be seen at its hillside and entrance. Stalagmites emerge inside the cave. A small exist each are located on either side at the end of the cave. Facing the eastern ward, Kawgun Cave receives sun ray and heat sufficiently, reducing wetness inside the cave. The cave has been staying away from impacts of climatic conditions because its entrance takes a position in lower part of the hillside.

Heritages at Kawgun Cave

Although exact evidences in literature related to Kawgun Cave have not been found yet, most of the people noted Queen Mottama who escaped from troops of Bagan King Anawrahta who abducted King Manuha of Thaton to Bagan after attacking Thaton and hid herself in Kawgun Cave where she built Cetis and carved Buddha images and reliefs for her obeisance. Those who paid visits to Kawgun Cave carved and donated Buddha images and votive tablets on the walls of the cave of their own accord.

The ancient cultural heritages at Kawgun Cave mentioned that historians and archaeologists had conducted researches at Kawgun Cave since early 19th century and compiled reports on their field trips. According to these reports, British diplomat John Crawford visited Kawgun Cave on 27 January 1827, researcher Richard Temple in 1835 as well as Myanmar experts U Taw Sein Kho, U Lu Pe Win, U Po Latt and Major Ba Shin.

Various kinds of Buddha images in postures of sitting, standing and reclining are found in the cave in addition to earthen votive tablets, marble reliefs, stone in-



Scenic view from Yathepyan Cave.



Buddha Statues in the Kawgun Cave.

scriptions and ink inscriptions. Not only double and triple Buddha images but also 10 Buddha images in groups were carved there. A large number of votive tablets can be seen on the rock, walls and roof of the cave.

Among three stone reliefs in the cave, two reliefs represent Buddhism and the last one, Hinduism, according to the Myanmar

Encyclopaedia Year Book (2011). The first one may be representing Bohisatta flanked by two great disciples on both sides. The second one has just body without head and arms, losing lower parts of knee. The stone relief representing gods of Hinduism but its inscriptions cannot be seen. Such three reliefs are protected by wire mesh. Inscriptions on the



Stone Art in the Kawgun Cave.

gown are in Mon language.

Yathepyin Cave

After viewing round ancient cultural heritages in Kawgun Cave, we proceeded to Yathepyan Cave at an altitude of 116 feet. We stepped on the entrance to the cave by brick ladder. Number of votive tablets at Yathepyan Cave is less than that of Kawgun Cave.

Yathepyan Cave, a natural limestone one, takes a position near Yathepyan Village in Hpa-an Township, west of Thanlwin River. Buddha images with three to five feet high can be seen on eastern wall and interior wall of the cave. We have chance to pay homage to the Buddha images in original colours in the cave due to lack of impacts from direct sun-ray. A five-foot standing Buddha image and three sitting Buddha images are kept in the cave.

Significantly, heads of Buddha images were depicted with flames. Yathepyan Cave stone inscription mentioned that some Buddha images were carved in 13th century AD in Myanmar and English languages. Currently, the cave is under conservation of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum as of 1975.

Lighting falls inside the cave through a large hole on the roof of the cave. Some people said a hermit (called Yathe in Myanmar language) who took meditation levitated into the sky through the large hole. That was why the cave was named Yathepyan. Remaining works of laterite culture flourishing in Mottama and Inwa eras are put on display at a site of the cave.

Pleasant scene of the route to Yathepyan Cave can be seen from Yathepyan Cave. Some benches for travellers to take a relaxation are laid on both sides of the brick bridge crossing the square shaped lake. While we were enjoying scenic beauties, a foreigner was riding into the area by bicycle. In general, foreigners who paid visits to Hpa-an wonder around natural caves in Kayin State by bicycle.

There still remain Buddhist cultural heritages in Kawgun and Yathepyan caves being maintained by Myanmar people in successive eras. We returned from Yathepyan Cave while thinking about the inborn duty of new generations over safeguarding invaluable ancient heritages.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

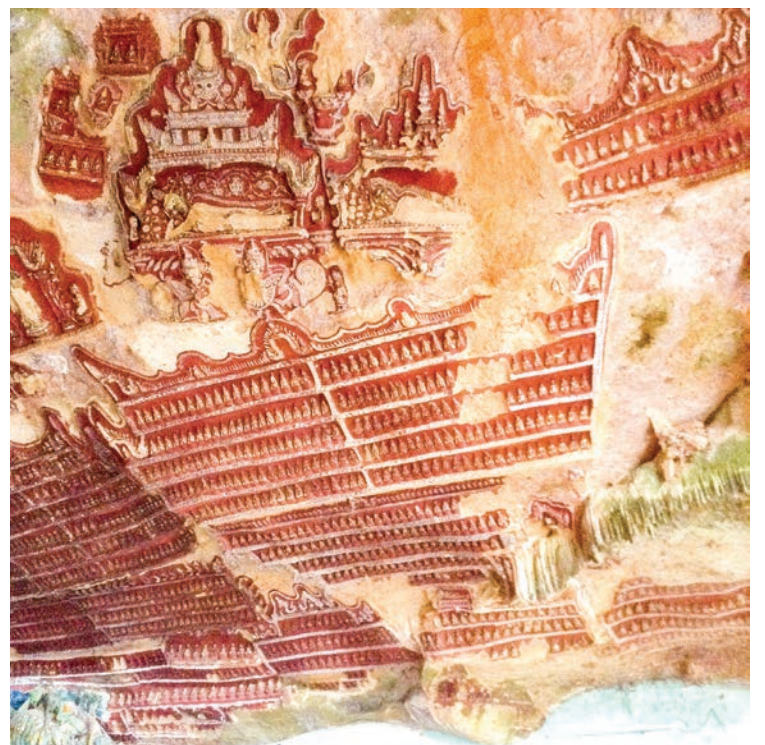
References:

Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book (2011)

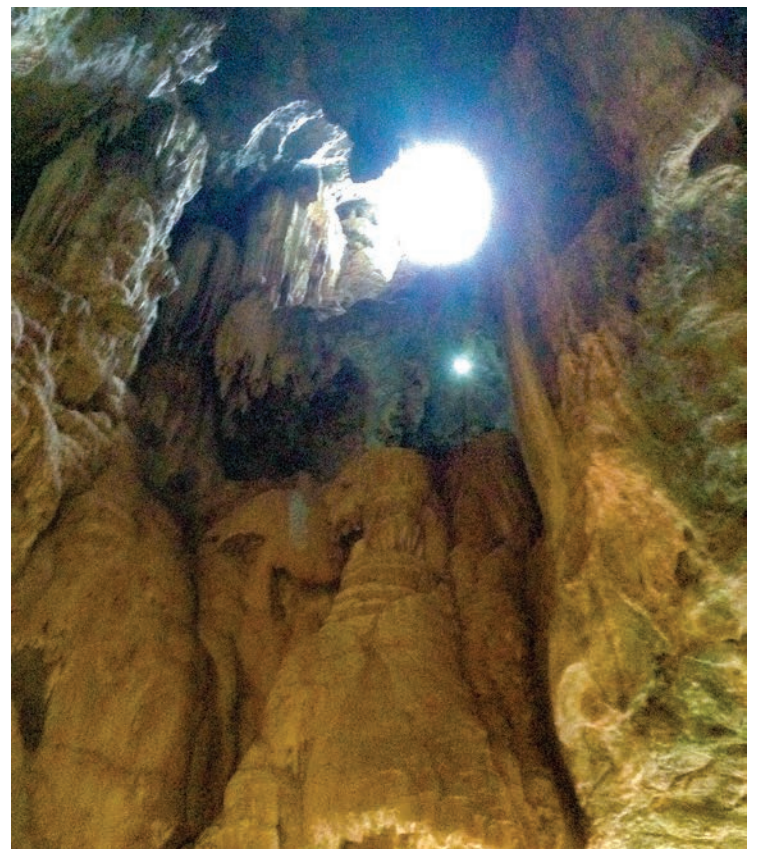
Ancient cultural heritages in Kawgun Cave (Maung Maung Nann Nwe)



Golden Buddha frescoes in the Kawgun Cave.



Golden Buddha Frescoes in Yathepyan Cave.



Yathepyan Cave.

Myanmar to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR will host the U-20 and U-17 versions of the 2022 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers, according to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The AFC has already announced the host countries for the first round of the AFC tournaments group stages.

Myanmar, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia Tajikistan and Viet Nam will host the first round of the Asian Cup U-17 Women's Qualifiers.

Similarly, the first round of the Asian Cup U-20 Women's Championship Qualifiers will be hosted by Myanmar, Australia.

China, Chinese (Taipei), Laos, Mongolia, Singapore and Tajikistan. Thirty-four teams will compete in each of the two tournaments, which will be divided into eight groups of four, six and five units. Due to the pandemic condition, all AFC level football tournaments have shifted to next year. Thus AFF football authorities will hold the tournaments next year, with the first round of the AFC U-20 Championship in March and the first round of the AFC U-17 Championship in April.

Remarkably, the Asian U-16 Championship will be transformed into the Asian U-17 Cham-



Myanmar junior women football team pose for their group photo before an international friendly match against Hong Kong team on 5 September 2019. PHOTO: MWF

pionship. Last year, Myanmar teams qualified the Asian U-19 Championship and second round

of the 2019 Asian U-16 Championship. Currently, training sessions for all the Myanmar football

teams have stopped due to the COVID-19 second wave. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Coronavirus failings could set back Asian football, union boss warns

HONG KONG—Asian football risks throwing away years of progress if leagues and clubs fail to look after their players during the coronavirus pandemic, the head of the global footballers'

union has warned.

Talent pools will dwindle and foreign imports will dry up if players continue to face pay cuts and instability, FIFPro general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoff-

mann told AFP. He highlighted the example of Indonesia, saying a "unilateral decision" to slash players' wages by three-quarters had caused "quite severe hardship".

"If it's not a sustainable career, people will simply stop. That's the reality," Baer-Hoffmann said in a phone interview.

"But also I think more broadly there's something at stake in terms of being a desired destination for foreign players," he added. "These are destinations that players may be fearful of going to if they can't be certain that they receive their wages, if they can't be certain about clubs respecting their contracts, if they can't be certain about the league operating effectively."—AFP ■



The coronavirus shutdown hit Asian football hard. PHOTO: AFP

US Open champ DeChambeau grabs PGA Vegas lead with 62

LAS VEGAS—Bryson DeChambeau, playing his first PGA event since winning last month's US Open, fired a nine-under-par 62 to seize the lead after Thursday's opening round of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

World number six DeChambeau matched his PGA career-low round, including a career-best run of five consecutive birdies, in surging to the top of the leaderboard at par-71 TPC Summerlin in suburban Las Vegas.

"It was a great day to play well," DeChambeau said. "There's no wind out here for the most part and you feel like you can bomb it everywhere and hit wedges close.

"And I was lucky enough to make a lot of putts to start off my day."

The 27-year-old American's strategy of blasting the ball as far as possible with little worry about landing in the rough brought his first major victory at Winged Foot and a bogey-free round on Thursday. "I'm playing well and I feel like I have my golf swing under control and putting well," DeChambeau said. "I feel like I can shoot low on a lot of golf courses and usually that wins tournaments."—AFP ■

Messi leads Argentina to victory over Ecuador

BUENOS AIRES—Lionel Messi converted a first-half penalty as Argentina beat Ecuador 1-0 in their opening South American zone World Cup qualifier on Thursday.

Messi put the hosts ahead in the 13th minute at La Bombonera after Lucas Ocampos was scythed down by Pervis Estupinan after a driving run into the penalty area. The 33-year-old now has 71 goals in 139 appearances for the Albiceleste.

The two-time World Cup winners looked comfortable thereafter - despite managing only two shots on target -- to ensure their

campaign started without a hitch.

Argentina will meet Bolivia in La Paz in their next qualifier on Tuesday while Ecuador will host Uruguay the same day.

Earlier on Thursday, Paraguay drew 2-2 at home to Peru and Uruguay beat Chile 2-1 in Montevideo.

The top four teams at the end of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) qualifying tournament will automatically earn a place at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The fifth-ranked team will advance to an inter-continental playoff over two legs.—Xinhua ■



Superstar Lionel Messi (centre) made no mistake from the penalty spot to fire Argentina to an opening World Cup qualifying victory over Ecuador. PHOTO: AFP