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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 181, 13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1382 ME

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

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

## State Counsellor inspects second voting demonstration under COVID-19 guidelines in Nay Pyi Taw

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected the second voting demonstration in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

The demonstrations were prepared for ensuring health-care guidelines of COVID-19 containment measures during the 2020 General Election on 8 November.

The State Counsellor arrived at the No. 5 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, where she was welcomed by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Minister for Union Government Office U Min Thu, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, members of UEC, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials.

Director-General of UEC Office U Khin Maung Oo reported on the implementation of guidelines recommended by the State Counsellor during the first voting demonstration, duty assignments outside the polling booth with public service personnel for taking body temperature first, distribution of N95 masks

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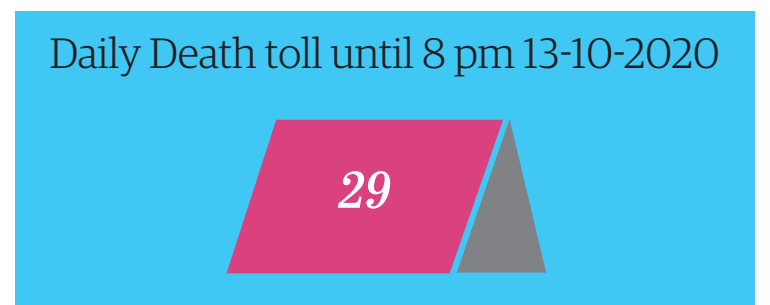
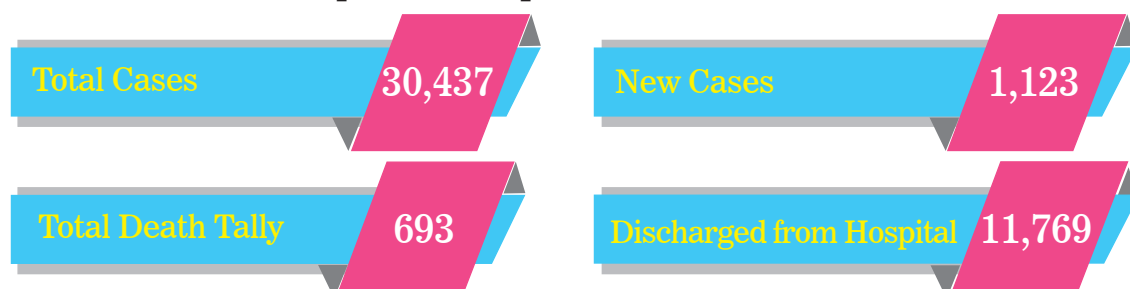


State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi views voting demonstration at No. 1 polling booth in Zeyartheikdi ward in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

**1,123** more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 October, total figure rises to **30,437**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **30,437** after **1,123** new cases were reported on 13 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **30,437** confirmed cases, **693** died, **11,769** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 13 October 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

## 2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



## Who is eligible to vote?

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

## Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020

General Election  
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

25

## State Counsellor inspects second voting demonstration under COVID-19 guidelines in Nay Pyi Taw

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and spray of 85 per cent alcohol sanitizer and two volunteers to assist them, in addition to the three polling station staff members.

He also presented the distribution of surgical gloves for the polling station staff members, the place to discard voter identity cards, preparations for good ventilation and sufficient space at the temporary polling booths, 6-ft social distancing at the voter queuing line, and distribution of holders and lanyards for national scrutiny cards.

The State Counsellor and party visited No. 1 polling station in Zeyartheikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Township for inspecting demonstrations on healthcare measures, and preparations of voting station officers for completion of their work during the prescribed voting hour.

At the model polling station in No. 5 Basic Education High School of Zabuthiri Township set up for the No. 1 polling booth in Yankin Township in Yangon, the State Counsellor inspected the demonstrations of staff members

at the voting station.

During the inspections, the State Counsellor advised on timely completion of the processes during the prescribed voting hours in line with COVID-19 containment guidelines, distribution of N95 masks for voters in advance, easy and smooth process for voting inside the booths, erecting awareness signboards for voting in line with the healthcare guidelines and other suggestions.

The State Counsellor then greeted in a warm and friendly manner all the office staff who

participated in the demonstrations from UEC office, the Ministry of State Counsellor Office, and the Ministry of Union Government Office, and asked them about difficulties encountered and voting processes which were causing delays. She then instructed responsible officials to make advance corrective measures for processes that need to be corrected. Polling booth No. 1 in Zeyartheikdi Ward at No. 5 Basic Education High School in Zeyartheikdi Township is the voting station for 2,103 voters, and No. 1

polling booth in Ward 1 of Yankin Township in Yangon Region is prepared for 811 eligible voters.

According to the updated data, the number of voters in respective townships of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory will be 85,513 in Zabuthiri Township, 27,786 in Dekkhinathiri Township, 132,457 in Pyinmana Township, 217,620 in Lewe Township, 79,029 in Zeyathiri Township, 178,844 in Tatkon, 92,869 in Pubbathiri Township and 52,469 in Ottarathiri Township.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## 107 Myanmar nationals return home by relief flight

THE Myanmar Airways International relief flight landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday bringing back a total of 107 Myanmar nationals via Incheon airport of the Republic of Korea.

Among these returnees, 4 Myanmar nationals were from Canada while 1 from Germany, 4 from Hong Kong 6 from Indonesia, 3 from Italy, 74 from ROK, 1 from Norway, 7 from Russian Federation, 4 from Sri Lanka and 3 from the US.

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

In accordance with the direc-



Myanmar returnees are queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 13 October. PHOTO: MNA

tives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Myanmar

embassies abroad and other relevant ministries in Myanmar, has organized 26<sup>th</sup> relief flights from the ROK.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## MRTV to broadcast interviews with those who recovered from COVID-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Information jointly organized in order for MRTV to broadcast COVID-19 Q&A session from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm on every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting from 29 September.

Now, interviews with those who fully recovered from COVID-19 will be aired at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. On 14 October, the MRTV will present interviews with U Aye Thein from Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region, Daw Khin Khin Oo from Tamway Township and U Aung Khin (a) Nita from Insein Township on how they overcame COVID-19 infection.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speech of National Democratic Party for Development for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 14 October for the second time. — MNA

# Centenary anniversary celebrations of Myanmar film industry held virtually



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Patron of MMPO Bogale Tint Aung and Chairman of MMPO U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin cut ceremonial ribbon virtually to open 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar film industry celebrations on 13 October . PHOTO: MNA

THE 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Myanmar film industry was celebrated virtually using digital technology yesterday.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent a congratulatory video message to the event before the opening ceremony with the centenary commemorative song for Myanmar motion picture industry entitled 'Fine image of Myanmar motion picture'.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Patron of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Sithu Bogale Tint Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin cut a ceremonial ribbon virtually to mark the ceremony.

The State Counsellor sent a congratulatory video message to the ceremony. (The message is separately covered on page 5).

Sithu Bogale Tint Aung, Patron of the MMPO, gave some brief remarks at the centenary event, saying that Myanmar started producing a movie within one or two years after movies were first created in the world; and that the Myanmar film industry has reached its 100<sup>th</sup> year

anniversary in October 2020.

He continued to say that it was planned to organize the anniversary in joyous celebrations with entertainments, souvenir shops, closer participation of common people and artistes; however, the expectations faded away due to the outbreak of the pandemic, causing to limit the activities unavoidably.

The patron added the centenary celebrations are likely to happen in October 2021 as it is included in the centenary.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said in his congratulatory remark that the centenary celebration is a rare occasion; it was expected to organize the event in a large scale, and that preparations have been made since 2019 with the participations of leading persons of MMPO, those in the film industry, the Ministry of Information and Yangon Region government.

The objective for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar film industry are: (1) To promote the journey of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar motion picture which emerged together with the struggle for independence of Myanmar, (2) To strive for the development of the Myanmar film industry by imitating and be-

ing inspired by the artistic talents and technical skills of veteran Myanmar film artistes who had become prominent in successive eras, and (3) To serve the country and people with unity and artistic creation of professionals in the film industry.

Celebrations of the Silver Jubilee for the Myanmar movie industry were attended by Bogoyoke Aung San in 1947, and arrangements were made to invite state leaders of the country to the 100<sup>th</sup>-anniversary event.

A committee on organizing the centenary celebrations of the Myanmar film industry was formed by order of Office of the President on 13 February this year, with the patronage of the State Counsellor and Sithu Bogale Tint Aung in the leading committee on organizing the event.

While relevant committees were carrying out their works, the COVID-19 outbreak occurred, and the decision was finally made to organize the event virtually.

The Union Minister added that the celebrations would be held on a large scale after the pandemic is under control.

The virtual event was held together with celebrations of

contests for articles, knowledge quiz and short documentaries, with some other programmes of the paper reading session, issuing postage stamps by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, screening 100 movies, weekly live programmes for 100 film songs, and talks with veteran film artistes. The 13 items of souvenirs to mark the centenary were produced, and 128 films were digitized during this period. The magazine for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Myanmar movie industry will be published soon.

Many Myanmar movies can be watched in mobile applications as an online film festival with the participations of film and broadcast media organizations in following control measures against COVID-19.

The Union Minister also made a brief comment on the ongoing situations and possible trend of Myanmar film industry based on his experiences in working with the professionals in film industry, talking about the onset of foreign movies in Yangon after a few years later of global film culture emergence.

Yangon was one of the major port cities of Asia over 100 years

ago. Since then, cinema halls emerged in the former capital, along with the film business, after a few years in other global cities. Moreover, outstanding Myanmar young people could produce movies among foreign films and film businesses owned by foreigners.

The first Myanmar film was 'Metta and Thu Yar' (Love and Liquor) produced in 1920, followed by other Myanmar movies produced by the national-owned film companies. In 1935 before the Second World War, Myanmar artistes created a film entitled 'Offspring of Japan' in Japan.

During that period, many foreign films were screened in Yangon, Mandalay and other townships. However, the Myanmar film industry and the artistes could survive in their profession and were popular among the Myanmar audience.

However, the Myanmar film industry has declined in a certain period due to a political system that controlled artistic creations in literature, Thabin and music, while the country suffered an economic downturn at the same time, impeding the inflows of updated knowledge and modern technologies.

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## Centenary anniversary celebrations of Myanmar film industry held virtually



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint makes a speech at 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Myanmar film industry on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

### FROM PAGE-3

It was impossible to import modern film equipment, and there were some difficulties to purchase films for the production of movies, leading to a decline in the industry before the situation improved in recent years.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint remarked that the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization was reformed into an independent body comprising members elected from this industry, and that film production has increased in the last 4 or 5 years, and more cinemas appeared in this period.

He added that film production quality has improved with a new idea, modern technologies and new creations of younger

generations with a passionate enthusiasm for quality movies. In contrast, capital investments have surged in this industry due to trust in possible benefit from good quality movies. In conclusion, the Union Minister said that the Myanmar film industry had possessed fundamental requirements; although COVID-19 outbreak has hindered the uptrend of this industry, it will surely improve again due to existing good fundamentals and capacity of artistes.

Then, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chairman of MMPO U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin also gave their congratulatory remarks at the event.

Prizes were then awarded to the winners of the article contest

and knowledge quiz contests.

Then, honorary certificates were presented to Patron of MMPO Director Sithu Kyi Soe Tun for organizing contests of articles, knowledge quiz and short documentary; to Patron of MMPO Director Sithu Aung Myint Myat for creating video clip of

Myanmar film history museum; to Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint Aung and Vice-Chairman of MMPO U Aye Kyu Lay from MRTV for the video clip of 100 movies; and to Director-General U Ye Naing and U Zaw Win Htut from Emperor Band for the video clip of 100 movie songs.

The event was concluded with the commemorative song for the centenary, written by Sithu Bogale Tint Aung.

The celebrations were broadcast live with pre-recorded programmes of MRTV and the use of digital technologies.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

### Award-winners in contests for commemoration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar film industry

Sr	Contesting person/ team	Contest	Award
1	Ko Tu (Thar Yar Myaing)	Article	First Prize
2	Thet Wai Hmu	Article	Second Prize
3	Thitsar Wadi U Myint Aung	Article	Third Prize
4	Khin Aye Aye Han	Article	Special Prize
5	Min Bay Dar (Pwint Phyu)	Article	Special Prize
6	Mg Than Win (YU)	Article	Special Prize
7	Hla Toe (Psychology)	Article	Special Prize
8	Min Thway Ngae (Yar Ma Nya Myae)	Article	Special Prize
9	Shwe Ngwe Hetin Team	TV knowledge quiz	First Prize
10	Triangle Team	TV knowledge quiz	Second Prize
11	Movie Lovers Team	TV knowledge quiz	Third Prize
12	Three Stars Team	TV knowledge quiz	Consolation Prize
13	Min Thwin Khant	Short Film	Honorary certificate
14	Hein Thway	Short Film	Honorary certificate
15	Chit Chit Chaw	Short Film	Honorary certificate
16	Soe Pyae (a) Ko Sai	Short Film	Honorary certificate
17	Aung Phyo Oo+ Pyae Phyo Maung	Short Film	Honorary certificate
18	Amra San	Short Film	Honorary certificate
19	Ye Mahn Aung	Short Film	Honorary certificate
20	Aung Aung	Documentary Film	Honorary certificate
21	Judy Cole	Animation Film	Honorary certificate

## Myanmar nationals abroad continue casting advance votes

ABOUT 2,580 Myanmar nationals cast advance votes in Bangkok while 1,097 voters in Singapore, 62 voters in Tokyo, 231 voters at Consulate-General Office in Chiang Mai and 118, who cannot come to the Myanmar embassies and Consulate-General Office, cast their vote at the extra polling station in Melbourne of Victoria yesterday according to the standard time of their countries.

According to the data for 11 and 12 October, 29 Myanmar nationals cast vote in Berlin while 128 in London, 127 in New York, 28 in Geneva and 43 at the Consulate-General Office in Los Angeles.

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

There is a total of 4,415 voters —4088 voters at 4 Myanmar Embassies, 1 Consulate-General Office and 1 extra polling station on 13 October and 327 voters on 11 and 12 October.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Advance voting of Myanmar citizens in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Advance voting of Myanmar citizens in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Advance voting of Myanmar citizens in Los Angeles, the United States, on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Advance voting of Myanmar citizens in New York, the United States, on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Congratulatory message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Centenary Anniversary celebrations of Myanmar film industry

MAY I extend greetings, metta and good wishes good health and well-being of all those who are present here today at this event – Union level responsible officials, members of the Yangon Region government, and artistes of the motion picture industry and technicians led by the distinguished patrons of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

First of all let me say that I am very pleased to have this opportunity to deliver a speech at the Centenary Anniversary celebrations of the Myanmar Motion Picture industry, an occasion of great pride and value for all Myanmar citizens.

If we look back at the 100-year history of the Myanmar Motion Picture industry, we may see that our veteran motion picture professionals endeavoured for the survival of their fine arts and artistic techniques during different political systems, difficulties and many types of restrictions.

In the early period, during the Second World War, our Myanmar motion picture industry had to cease its operations. Since film rolls could not be imported, many difficulties had to be encountered not only for the motion picture industry but also for the livelihoods of the artistes of this industry.

Our artistes from the motion picture industry had to experience a period during which they found it difficult to develop and present their artistic talents because they had to take up temporary jobs for their livelihoods.

For making these strenuous efforts for the development and preservation of Myanmar motion picture know-how, skills and techniques to prevent its gradual deterioration and loss, during these difficult times, all of us should give these valiant veteran artistes due to recognition and take pride in

their efforts.

In other words, as written by Sayar Min Thu Wun, in one of his poems:

“This old pyinma stump witnessed war, ravaged by termites, notched by the blade, scorched by the sun, unbending to the storm. Shedding old leaves after the summer, in full bloom with new leaves”.

I feel that Myanmar film artistes have tried to survive through successive eras through the vicissitudes of life holding onto their beliefs, their dreams and aspirations.

It is widely understood that a movie is a fascinating subject, a blending of emotions and feelings with technology. Every genre of the movie can captivate all types of audiences from its early age until now. So, I believe that more creative efforts are needed constantly in the film industry than any other sector so as to be able to convey good and creative messages full of the essence for humanity.

The first movie appeared in the world in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Myanmar could produce its first film in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We might even say that the early age of the Myanmar film industry was not too late in comparing with the global movies.

The first Myanmar feature film ‘Metta and Thu Yar’ directed by London Art U Ohn Maung was first screened at the cinema.

Today, the history of Myanmar motion picture industry has reached one-hundred years. The movies have given us various feelings and messages during this period. These films were created by the use of literature, arts, machines, technology and idea. We want these creations to be valuable for the whole world.

There have been many good



movies that captivated the hearts of our audiences throughout the 100-year history of Myanmar motion pictures. In other words, there have been many artistes who served the country and people with their artistic skills and contributed their services. I want to urge the new generation of artistes to be inspired by these good traditions and follow their example and serve the interests of the country and people with determination.

As everyone knows, we are building and fashioning our country into a Democratic Federal Union. In other words, we are marching along the path of a union, towards the goal of a federal union, with determination and indomitable spirit, which has been the inspiration of our forefathers.

Today, at this time, the most important thing our country needs is “peace”. Why is “peace” important? We need it for our environment, for our country, for all humanity. We want to create a

new peaceful world.

We have set our objective as the creation of a new world; just as our citizens need peace, all of us can have peace only if there is world peace. Therefore I wish to urge all of you to participate and join in to use the power of fine arts and artistic talents so that beginning with our citizens, all the people of the world would want peace and desire to walk towards peace.

Only then would we be able to develop our artistic creations, presentation of entertainment events, the ability to enjoy and to understand, our thoughts and ideas for the benefit of humanity and the world in freedom.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I fully believe that the history of all artistes remains alive in our country with their contribution in the chronicles of the Myanmar film industry since its early years to this date.

I wish to honour and recognize the contributions made

by all the esteemed and veteran artistes who created the art of motion pictures and produced movies during the past 100 years. I am grateful to all the persons concerned for organizing the centenary celebrations of the Myanmar motion picture industry amid the control measures imposed for prevention of COVID-19.

Today, at this time, all of us should strive to become artistes who can work for the country and people, not only in the present but also in the future, as a way of repaying the gratitude of all the veteran artistes who had served the country and the people with their artistic abilities and skills. I request all of you to create good high-quality films. I conclude by urging all of you to participate and strive for the perpetuation of Myanmar motion pictures for hundreds and thousands of years.

Thank you. I pray for your well-being, good health.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)



POSCO International Corporation donates RT-PCR Test Kits and Rapid Antigen Test Kits to Ministry of Health and Sports on 13 October.  
PHOTO: MNA

## POSCO Int'l Corporation donates COVID-19 test kits to MoHS

The POSCO International Corporation, a joint venture with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy donated Korean-made RT-PCR Test Kits and Rapid Antigen Test Kits to the Ministry of Health and Sports at the Department of Medical Research in Yangon yesterday.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Thakayta Offshore Oil Base Manager U Tin Tun Naing and Managing

Director of POSCO International Corporation Mr Jung Hwan Lee handed over the COVID-19 test kits to Director-General of the Department of Medical Research Dr Zaw Than Tun.

POSCO International Corporation is a joint venture with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise for oil and gas exploration and production in Myanmar.

The Corporation donated 10,000 RT-PCR Test Kits worth of US\$110,000 to the Department of Medical Research of the

Ministry of Health and Sports in April, RT-PCR (QIA CubeHI (QIAGEN)) worth of \$150,000 and 7,200 RT-PCR Test Kits in August, 15,000 RT-PCR Test Kits worth of \$100,000 in September. As the fourth time donation yesterday, the corporation donated \$100,000 worth of 13,625 Rapid Antigen Test Kit and it has donated a total of \$460,000 worth of medical equipment to the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

# “People are the key”

## VP U Henry Van Thio delivers speech at 2020 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction online event

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairperson of National Disaster Management Committee, delivered an opening speech via videoconferencing at the ceremony marking 2020 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction held at the meeting room of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by National Disaster Management Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing, the Directors-General, the Deputy Directors-General and other relevant officials.

The ceremony was also participated via videoconferencing by Union Ministers Lieutenant-General Soe Htut, U Soe Win, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Han Zaw and Dr Win Myat Aye; Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, regional ministers who are members of the Regions and States Disaster Management Committee, government officials, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN officials, INGO officials, and the Directors-General and representatives from civil society organizations.

In 2009, the UN General Assembly decided to designate October 13 as the official date for International Day for Disaster Reduction. In 2019, the UN officially changed its name to International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to better reflect its name.

During the ceremony, the Vice President talked about the matters on implementation of the Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which is related to the development of actionable national and regional



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presides over 2020 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction event via videoconferencing on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



disaster risk reduction strategies; management for natural disaster risk; and the inclusion of measures for biological risks such as communicable diseases in the current risk management strategies and projects.

The Vice President pointed out that COVID-19 pandemic is an obvious example of the need to prepare not only for natural disaster risks but also for other risks related to public health.

The Vice President also called on the people to take the COVID-19 related challenges as an opportunity to learn lessons from it. He said that the ceremony became more meaningful because it was held in the time when people were trying to resolve COVID-19 related problems.

The Vice President said that Myanmar's Disaster Management Law drafted in 2013 mentions that natural disasters include outbreak of contagious diseases of humans or animals. He continued that only managements for risks of floods, landslides and storms are usually needed, but COVID-19 has become the first communicable disease that disaster management officials are facing in these years. The government and all the citizens are trying their best to control the COVID-19 outbreak, he said.

The Vice President said



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and UN Coordinator Mr Ola Almgren join 2020 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction event via videoconferencing on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



that natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, gales and droughts made adverse impacts on the people and economy of Myanmar.

On average, more than 1 million people in Myanmar annually face floods and cyclones. According to forecasts related to climate changes, rainfalls and water-levels of the rivers in Myanmar are likely to increase. Moreover, climate experts warned about possible tidal surges caused by cyclones.

The Vice President called on all people to adequately prepare for those possible natural disasters and possible outbreaks of contagious diseases of humans or animals.

The Vice President said that the COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge, and the theme of the IDDRR is “It’s All

About Governance”. He said that all the nations need to efficiently cooperate to respond to the challenges and achieve good results in disaster management.

The Vice President said that having strategies and projects for disaster management will help implement short-term and long-term disaster management tasks.

The Vice President said that the types of disasters and their impacts have changed. Ignoring ecosystem in previous decades made devastating environmental impacts in the world, according to the Vice President. He pointed out that the ecosystem needs to be restored and the disaster management works must be efficiently carried out in order for next generations to have a safe and sustained society.

During the ceremony, United Nations Resident Coordinator

and Humanitarian Coordination Mr Ola Almgren read out the message of the UN Secretary-General.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Committee, also delivered a speech.

A video footage marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) was also screened in the ceremony.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, in his capacity as Secretary of the National Disaster Management Committee presented a certificate of honour to the Department of Disaster Management for organizing the ceremony marking 2020 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

### 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.



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release 36/2020  
11<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1382 ME  
(12 October 2020)

## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 10 October 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Daw Chaw Sein who lives in Nyaung Pin Tha Village in Sinbo Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 October 2020, police searched the house of Daw Chaw Sein, 41, daughter of U Kyaw Khaing, who lives in Nyaung Pin Tha Village, Sinbo Township in Kachin State and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Sinbo) MaYa(pa)14/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Daw Ma Khine who lives in Ka Gyi Ward in Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 October 2020, police searched the house of Daw Ma Khine, 49, daughter of U Thein Kyi, who lives in Ka Gyi Ward, Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State and arrested her together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Hlaingbwe) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Tin Maung Lwin who lives in Chaung Yoe Village in Taze Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 September 2020, police searched the house of Tin Maung Lwin, 47, son of U Tin Myint, who lives in Chaung Yoe Village in Taze Township and arrested him together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(Pa) 16/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Tin Tun Oo who lives in Wuntho Township in Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 1 October 2020, police searched the house of Tin Tun Oo, 30, son of U Min Aung, who lives in Wuntho Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho) MaYa(pa)119/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Maung Wae who lives in Sinnaing Village, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	There were 4 cases opened against 5 people (male) who were arrested together with opium drugs and heroin previous weeks. On 2 October 2020, according to a series of previous arrests, police searched the house of Maung Wae, 36, son of U Tun Shwe, who lives in Sinnaing Village, Homalin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Htamathi) MaYa (Pa) 28/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Pauk Kyin (a) Than Zaw Oo and Daw Shwe Thay who live in Kyo Kone Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 4 October 2020, police searched the house of Pauk Kyin (a) Than Zaw Lin, 45, son of U Tin Tun, who lives in Kyo Kone Village, Htigyaing Township and arrested him and his wife Daw Shwe Thay (a) Hnin Htwae, 43, daughter of U Ba Chan together with heroin. The cases have been opened against them with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa (Pa) 151/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Pho Thar Htoo who lives in Zin Village, Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, distribution and selling illegal drugs.	On 6 October 2020, police stopped the motorbike of Pho Wa (a) Pho Thar Htoo, 25, son of U Soe Myint (a) Maung Soe on the road of Shwebo-Myitkyina in Kanbalu Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kanbalu) MaYa(Pa)15/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Pyin Daung Lay Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region.	On 6 October 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Htoo, 42, son of U Nyein Maung who lives in Pyin Daung Lay Village in Katha Township and arrested him and his brother Wai Phyo Hlaing, 27, son of U Nyein Maung and Thein Win, 41, son of U San Ngwe who lives in Kyaw Pin Village together with WY stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Innywa) MaYa(Pa) 31/2020 under Section 19(a) 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Khin Maung Tun who lives in Tha Nga Village, Phaungpyin Township, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 8 October 2020, police searched the house of Khin Maung Tun, 47, son of U Tun Oo who lives in Tha Nga Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 189/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Ae Soe (a) Than Soe who lives in Ywama Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 October 2020, police stopped the motorbike ridden by Than Soe, 34, son of U Tin Saung who lives in Ywama Village and Htay Aung, 43, son of U Maung Saw who lives in West Myin Thar Village and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 187/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of Daw Kyu who lives in Pauk Taw Village (East), Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 8 October 2020, police arrested Daw Kyu, 37, daughter of U Khin Maung who lives in Pauk Taw Village (East), Kalay Township together with heroin on the Pauk Taw-Indin Village Road. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa(Kalay) MaYa(Pa) 147/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Htay Lwin who lives in Kyaung Kone Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 October 2020, police searched the field guard tent of Htay Lwin, 46, son of U Win Maung, who lives in Kyaung Kone Village, Indaw Township and arrested him and Pho Pu, 46, son of U Aung Nyunt, who lives in the same village together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Indaw) MaYa(Pa) 176/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13.	Information received of Tun Oo who lives in Kyane Mae Taung Village, Karathuri Town, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 2 October 2020, police searched the house of Tun Oo, 48, son of U San Tin, who lives in Kyane Mae Taung Village, Karathuri Town, Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with stimulant drugs and speciosa powder. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa ( Karathuri) MaYa(Pa) 7/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14.	Information received of Aung Phone who lives in Kyat Mee Village, Karathuri Town, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 October 2020, police searched the house of Aung Phone (a) Aung Tun, 58, son of U San Tin who lives in Kyat Mee Village, Karathuri Town, Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with speciosa powder. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Karathuri) MaYa(Pa)8/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15.	Information received of Ma San Mu who lives in Chaung Ka Phee Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 6 October 2020, police searched the house of Ma San Mu, 38, daughter of U Kalar Mae and arrested her together with WY stimulant tablets. According to the information that she bought those drugs from Ma Zin Mar Latt, 32, daughter of U Kyaw Shein , who lives in the same village, Although there were no drugs found during the police search in her house, a case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 38/2020 under the Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
16.	Information received of U Bo Bo who lives in Maputae Village in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 October 2020, police searched the house of U Bo Bo, 36, son of U Yan Aung, who lives in Maputae Village in Kawthoung Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant drugs. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(Pa) 190/2020 under the Section 19(a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
17.	Information received of Aeik Yan and his wife who live in Thamine Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 October 2020, police searched the house of Aeik Yan (a) Sai Kyaw Khan Oo, 26, son of U Than Oo Chit and his wife Daw Zin Mar Lwin, 33, daughter of U Maung Maung Lwin, who live in Thamine Ward, Mayangon Township and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Bayintnaung) MaYa (Pa) 27/2020 under the Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18.	Information received of Daw Nu who lives in Hway Village, Yaksawk Township, Southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 October 2020, police searched the house of Daw Nu who lives in Hway Village, Yaksawk Township but didn't find her and arrested her son Tun Ngwe, 23, son of U Aeik Ye together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(Pa) 56/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
19.	Information received of Aeik San who lives in Nar Khae Gyi Village, Yaksawk Township, Southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 October 2020, police searched the house of Aeik San who lives in Nar Khae Gyi Village, Yaksawk Township but didn't find him. Police arrested his wife Daw Nyunt, 48, daughter of U San and son Kyaw Htoo (a) Kalar, 20, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(Pa) 57/2020 under the Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,370 cases have been opened files as of 10 October 2020. A total of 2,092 people, including 1,742 men and 350 women had been arrested with 10,435.5394 g of heroin, 1,489.42 g of ICE, 47,934.17886 g of opium, 1,407.96 g of low-quality opium, 54,901.74 g of speciosa powder, 53,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 681,245 stimulant tablets, 14859.88 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 640.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 28 firearms, different kinds of 669 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

**Contacts:**  
Landline No. — 067-590200  
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233  
Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

# Effective COVID-19 policy response is called key to tackling rural economy challenges

**A**s the ongoing travel restrictions coincides with the rice harvesting season, farmers across the country look up to the Government to ensure uninterrupted harvesting of the crops, smooth procurement operations and fetching the base price for 2020.

Meanwhile, the market prices in some areas are declining, lower than the set base price of K520,000 for 100 baskets for 2020. To help the farmers in those areas, the Ministry of Commerce said the Agricultural Products Management Body would buy paddy at the base price there after seeking a K20 billion revolving fund from the State.

It's worth noting that the ministry has taken measures to buy the paddy in accordance with the tender system as the State approved the revolving fund it sought.

A base price is a very basic price, and the market price must not fall below it.

A base price for rice is one of the five essential aims in the farmer's law, which has made provisions for helping farmers find suitable loans, assistance during production, investment and technology to increase production, suitable prices for their agricultural products in the market, protecting the rights and interests of farmers who own small plots, and offers support for grievances and losses caused by natural disasters as far as possible.

Now, one challenge faced by the farmers in certain areas during the pandemic crisis has been solved by the government.

Some challenges are ahead of us. To ensure uninterrupted harvesting of the crops in the coming weeks, the government's systems must prioritize movements of laborers, their safety from COVID-19 infection, welfare, as well as harvesting and related farm machines.

In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected not only farming and the supply chain sector in our country but also farming sectors in other countries in Southeast Asia in many ways including access to credit, capital inputs, remittance income, and safe food and water.

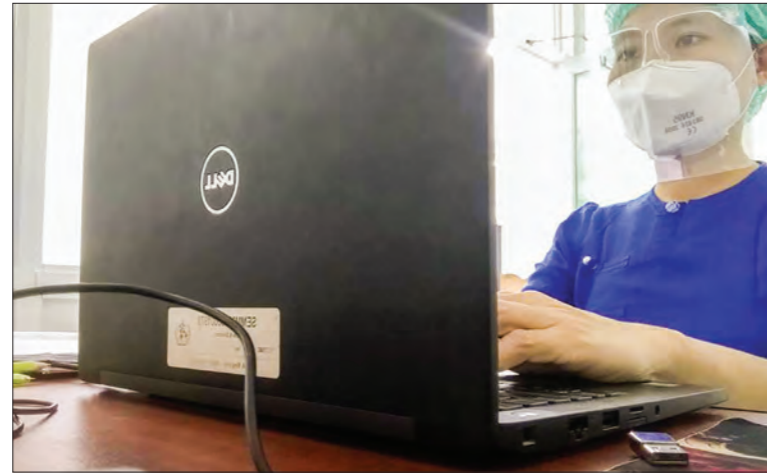
The small and medium enterprises, running with raw materials from the agriculture and allied sector or otherwise, also need special attention so that the rural economy doesn't collapse.

To sustain the demand for agricultural commodities, investments in key logistics must be enhanced. Moreover, e-commerce and delivery companies and start-ups need to be encouraged with suitable policies and incentives.

## THE WHO IN MYANMAR TURNS TO ITS VIRUS EXPERTS TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

# Courage in the eye of the storm

*The United Nations in Myanmar has more than 20 agencies working on the COVID-19 response. They have come together as one to support every aspect of the Government's plan to protect lives and support livelihoods.*



Myat Mon Yee collects data on COVID-19 infections at the South Okkalapa Hospital in Yangon.

**Y**ANGON: It's a lonely, dangerous place, the eye of the hurricane.

But that's where 32 year old Yangon computer studies graduate Myat Mon Yee has been for the past six months.

Every day since March, when she was hired by the UN health agency WHO, Myat Mon Yee has been working at the South Okkalapa Hospital in Yangon, which was planned to be the Women's and Children's Hospital but has been transformed to a COVID treatment centre.

Front line health workers throughout the world have been contracting COVID-19 at a higher rate than almost any other group, except perhaps the elderly. Many doctors, nurses and administrative staff have died.

Not surprisingly Myat Mon Yee was initially quite concerned about working with an infectious disease about which very little was known - except it was killing people and making others very sick.

"I was concerned that I might also get infected. Everyone was afraid," 32 year old Myat Mon Yee from South Dagon Township in Yangon says.

"But I thought about other

health personnel and charity workers who were willing to work, and even volunteer, and that took some of my fear away.

"And when I started work I found that the facilities were very well taken care of which allayed my fears.

"The doctors at the hospital are very caring and WHO has given me great support, including allowing me to get taxis to work."

Myat Mon Yee is a data collector.

Since the coronavirus outbreak was first reported in China in late December 2019, Myanmar's Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has successfully led the country's national response to keep its citizens safe from the deadly virus.

Working alongside the MoHS, multiple UN agencies in Myanmar, including WHO and partners, have remained key allies since day one. The WHO and UN took a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to fight COVID-19.

This UN interagency partnership has to date supported the central committee to establish response systems and processes to contain the spread of the virus

in Myanmar.

In any national health emergency Government and health workers must have highly reliable, data.

The Team Leader of the WHO HIV, Viral Hepatitis and TB teams in Myanmar, Dr Fabio Caldas de Mesquita says: "Data is the light at the end of the tunnel."

"We need to know how many people are being treated and how many beds are available for new patients. We need to know a little about the patients' gender; age; the state of their illness, and of course where they live and who they had been meeting.

"We also need to know how

many tests are being done, and how many test kits remain available.

"We need to know what drugs are being used by the patient; what protective equipment is needed for health care staff; and how many staff are working on treatment and response.

"These apparently are just "numbers" but they are key to decision-making during the crisis," Dr de Mesquita says.

In February it quickly became apparent that the Ministry of Health and Sports did not have enough people to undertake this technical role.

Although it had many experi-



Myat Mon Yee, with her 95 year-old grandmother, 70 year old mother, younger sister and niece.

enced staff undertaking treatment and case management, it had very few people to manage data in hospitals. So WHO hired three people immediately to work in hospitals - including Myat Mon Yee, from South Dagon Township in Yangon.

"You need to be brave to work in infectious diseases," says Dr de Mesquita.

"Many applicants for jobs in Myanmar refused the work when they discovered they were going to be working on COVID-19 at hospitals.

"This was the same in 1987 when I began working with HIV and we didn't know exactly how it infected people."

Myat Mon Yee has become more comfortable working in the COVID-safe environment. At work she wears a mask and face shield and carries sanitizer and frequently washes her hands.

She is provided with protective clothing including a cap and gown and the facilities are regularly disinfected.

But at home, where Myat

Mon Yee lives with her 95 year old grandmother; her 70 year old mother; and her sister and niece, it's also extremely important to ensure the virus doesn't spread.

"When I get home, I don't talk to anyone. I immediately shower and soak my clothes in soapy water.

"I spray disinfectant on all my things with a disinfectant bottle kept at the entrance.

"I stay isolated for an hour and in fact have become used to staying away from my family," Myat Mon Yee says. She leaves home only to work and shop.

"I don't see my friends much." WHO has been working with epidemics and infectious diseases in Myanmar for many years.

At the beginning of 2020 it had about 200 seconded staff working in all regions of Myanmar and almost all of them were working on different types of infectious diseases. These people are paid and supervised by the WHO but are seconded to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

WHO has been working on HIV-Aids; Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Malaria, vaccines of preventable diseases and other health initiatives.

Dr Fabio says the HIV pro-



Dr de Mesquita.

gram targets to control the Aids epidemic is completely on track, with a great commitment from the Myanmar Government with allocation of drugs (antiretrovirals) for treatment of HIV/AIDS.

"It has also funded a Hepatitis C project since 2017 and it has treated nearly 7000 patients.

"The viral hepatitis illness is transmitted mostly by people who use drugs who share dirty needles, but treatment can completely cure the patient," he says.

There's no cure for COVID-19, and the second wave in Myanmar is very worrying for Myat Mon Yee.

"The recent increases in the infection rates have made me very anxious.

"I am happy to be able to contribute to the Government and WHO's response, and am grateful for this opportunity.

"But I worry about other health workers.

"They are becoming fatigued. "We just hope the patients will recover quickly from COVID.

"I want the pandemic to be over soon and that everyone can be safe."

SOURCE: WHO IN MYANMAR

## LETTING THE VIRUS CIRCULATE UNCHECKED MEANS ALLOWING UNNECESSARY INFECTIONS

# Letting virus 'run free' with eye to herd immunity 'unethical': WHO

**T**HE World Health Organization chief warned Monday against just allowing the novel coronavirus to spread in the hope of achieving so-called herd immuni-

ty, saying it was "unethical".

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned against calls in some countries to let COVID-19 run its course until enough people develop the immunity needed to

naturally halt its spread.

"Herd immunity is a concept used for vaccination, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached," he pointed

out during a virtual press briefing.

For measles, for instance, it is estimated that if 95 per cent of the population is vaccinated, the remaining 5 per cent will also be protected from the spread of the

virus. For polio, the threshold is estimated at 80 per cent.

"Herd immunity is achieved by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it," Tedros said.

"Never in the history of public health has herd immunity been used as a strategy for responding to an outbreak, let alone a pandemic," he insisted.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Heads of service organizations transferred and confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Director-General U Chan Aye of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Director General of the Union Minister's Office of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Ko of Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on expiry of the one-year probationary period.



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 13 October, 2020)

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

**SPECIAL FEATURE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the tropical storm "Nangka" over the South China Sea is crossing Hainan and move to west Northwestwards. It is forecast to reach Tonkin Bay.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 October, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. **OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the Southern Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October, 2020:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October, 2020:** Partly cloudy



## MoC organizes zoom meeting on export promotion, trade status

THE Ministry of Commerce held meeting on export promotion and trade status via zoom application yesterday morning.

During the Meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint said the country earned more than \$36 billion from trade sector in 2019-2020FY and could implement 109.73pc of the estimated amount of \$33billion. If the economy develops, it will create more job opportunities for the public and be a supportive measure in poverty reduction.

The Union Minister continued saying that the ministry is cooperating with the relevant ministries and private organizations to inform the merchants and farmers about the production rate, export volume, potential market prices, trade policies of other countries, demand and supply, climate situation for cultivation and harvesting and market



Union Minister Dr Than Myint chairs export and trade promotion meeting on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

status and is also making efforts to promote the export volumes by implementing National Export

Strategy (NES).

He also said the ministry holds trade fairs to develop the

local production rate and provides the potential goods to join the international trade expos. It

cooperates with Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association to stabilize the local fruit market and to expand new market during COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, Myanmar Online Expo Park was established and conducted Myanmar International Expo of Organic and Natural Products from August 24 to 30 via online. It will be a very supportive platform for the Myanmar products to link with the international market and it can also promote the export sector, he added.

Then, the attendees to the meeting briefed export promotions, trade volume in 2019-2020FY, work plans to promote export sector in 2020-2021FY and challenges of farmers, business persons and factories.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

## APMC holds coordination meeting on monsoon paddy purchases

THE Agricultural Products Management Committee held coordination meeting via zoom application at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, in his capacity as chairperson of APMC said the meeting was held to discuss purchasing of monsoon paddy in 2020 through tender system, plans to purchase paddy and rice, terms and conditions of tender system and agreements in purchasing paddy.

According to the Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Law, the Agricultural Products Management Committee sought



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo presides over Agricultural Products Management Committee meeting on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

K20 billion budget from the government to purchase paddy from the farmers at K520,000 for every

100 baskets and received approval of economy committee and also submitted to the Union Gov-

ernment, said Deputy Minister, adding that if the government grants K20 billion, the committee will advertise the tender invitation for paddy purchases at minimum basic prices on 12 and 14 October issues of Myanmar Alinn newspaper.

The Deputy Minister also discussed plans to purchase monsoon paddy in 2020 drafted by tender regulatory and contract (bill) making team, terms and conditions of tender system, contract for importing paddy, further action plans to carry out in line with the plans and regulations after getting approval of the officials, conditions of warehouses in the respective regions and states and the rental fees for

warehouse if there is not enough warehouses to store the paddy.

He also called on the respective paddy and rice purchasing supervisory committees of regions and states to carry out systematically in purchasing monsoon paddy in 2020 under tender system and to give suggestions regarding forthcoming difficulties.

Then, the Permanent Secretary, the Directors-General, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Directors-General, the committee members and officials of department concerned coordinated the meeting.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

## Foreign ambassadors in Myanmar visit Ayeyarwady Centre

AMBASSADORS and officials from the embassies of Japan, Israel and Italy visited the Ayeyarwady Centre, set up by the Ayeyarwady Foundation, where medical treatments are provided to COVID-19 patients under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

During the visit, Japanese Ambassador Mr Maruyama Ichiro, the Ayeyarwady Foundation Chairman U Zaw Zaw and officials explained the centre. The ambassador said he would do his best to support the treatment of

COVID-19 disease in Myanmar.

Similarly, Israeli Ambassador Mr Ronen Gilor visited the ICU and HDU places of the centre. He also said to provide the necessary assistance of the COVID-19 treatment.

Italian Ambassador Ms Alessandra Schiavo and Ayeyarwady Foundation Chairman U Zaw Zaw held an online meeting on 13 October.

The Ambassador expressed thanks for the visits of her embassy officials to the centre. She offered assistance in medical treat-

ment at ICU and HDU medical care rooms, shared the COVID-19 experience in her home country and proposed to conduct ICU and HDU training by Italian doctors and experts and provide necessary assistance.

Chairman U Zaw Zaw replied the need for approval of MoHS for the assistance of Italian doctors and medical experts, and he offered to provide accommodations for them during their stay in Myanmar.—Yae Yint Shine

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Maruyama Ichiro visits Ayeyarwady Centre on 13 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Export value down by \$66 mln in border trade during FY2019-2020

THE number of Myanmar's exports to the neighbouring countries through border trade showed a decrease of US\$66.57 million in the last financial year 2019-2020 compared with the FY2018-2019, resulted from the trade suspension and closure of border crossings as a precautionary restriction measure for the COVID-19.

The export through border trade reached \$7.152 billion in the FY2019-2020, which was slightly plunged from \$7.219 billion in the FY2018-2019, the Ministry of Commerce's trade data showed.

Myanmar's border trade totalled \$10.58 billion in the FY2019-2020. As usual, Myanmar's export outperformed import in border trade, with export worth \$7.15 billion and import valued \$3.42 million.

Myanmar has opened 18 border posts between Myanmar and the neighbouring countries; with China through Muse, Lwe-



Myanmar nationals are also returning through the Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw.

PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)

jel, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung, with Thailand through Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Tachilek, Mawtaung, Maese, with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaung, with Laos through Kyaiklat and with India through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang.

Of them, all Sino-Myanmar border trade posts showed a drop in trade value. Similarly, major trade post Hteekhee with Thailand has also registered the sharp drop while the trade with India via Tamu and Reed again fell. Only the border trade with Bangladesh through Sittway

and Maungtaung sharply rose, the trade data indicated.

Border trade stood at \$4.868 billion through Muse, \$140.7 million through Lwejel, \$541.48 million through Chinshwehaw, \$280.88 million through Kampaiti, \$5 million through Kengtung, \$142 million through Tachilek,

\$1.2 billion through Myawady, \$360.5 million through Kawthoung, \$141.7 million through Myeik, \$2.035 billion through Hteekhee, \$18.8 million through Mawtaung, \$2.78 million through Maese, \$736.8 million through Sittway, \$11.55 million through Maungtaung, \$41.5 million through Tamu, \$50.8 million through Reed and \$0.4 million through Kyaiklat respectively.

Myanmar primarily exports rice, various types of beans, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, natural gas, rubber, gem, animal products and spice to the neighbouring countries. At the same time, it imports capital goods such as machinery and motorbikes, raw industrial goods such as CMP raw materials, cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Mineral exports top \$1.87 bln in FY2019-2020

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have shown a marked increase, touching US\$1.87 billion in the past financial year 2019-2020, an increase of \$405.48 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the corresponding period of the FY2018-2019, mineral exports were pegged at just \$1.465 billion.

Both private and public sector mineral exports have recorded an increase in the current FY, with private sector exports valued at \$1.35 billion and public sector exports estimated at \$520.67 million.

So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to the limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had

dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry.

Within two years of the implementation of the Myanmar Mines Law, the Mines Department has approved more than 140 out of 3,000 proposed mining blocks, and many more blocks are to be granted the permit.

At present, evaluation teams in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, and Kayin states and Sagaing, Taninthayi, and Magway regions are screening mining applications, based on the opinions of the respective departments and the region and state governments.

The Myanmar Mines Law was enacted on 24 December 2015, but the law came into force when the rules were issued on 13 February 2018.

The ministry undertakes the screening process of the proposals for medium and large-scale mining blocks. At the same time, regional and state governments are allowed to process applications for small-scale mining blocks.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks which cover up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares), while local firms can invest in all kinds of partnerships. Investors can seek a permit to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The licences cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar's mineral products constitute 10 per cent of overall exports. About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Individual trades through land border exceed K43 bln in FY2019-2020

TRADE conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders touched a low of K43 billion through the land border in the last financial year 2019-2020, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade value plunged from K59 billion registered in the FY2018-2019 as both export and import sharply fell in the last FY2019-2020.

The Trade Department issued 88 cards in the October-September period of the FY2019-2020, and the cardholders conducted trade worth K43 billion. While imports exceeded K40 billion, exports were valued at just K3.25 billion.

The Myawady border recorded the highest trade value at K28 billion in the last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflected imports as individual trading cardholders did not export goods through the Myawady gate.

The value of trade carried out by individual cardholders stood at K450 million at Tamu, over K10.8 million at Muse, K188 million at Tachilek, K39.4 million at Lwejel, K488 million at Kampaiti, over K2 billion at

Kawthoung, K680.9 million at Reed, K7.7 billion at Mawtaung, K3.4 billion at Hteekhee, and K183 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the FY2013-2014; reached K9.37 billion in the FY2014-2015; stood at over K6.4 billion in the FY2015-2016; rose above K18.5 billion in the FY2016-2017; touched K45.9 billion in the FY2017-2018; K22.5 billion during the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September); and K59 billion in the FY2018-2019.

Trading with the use of ITC is based on local currency. Hundreds of exports and imports items have been allowed for individual trading at the border checkpoints.

The trade department has issued 1,775 cards so far intending to boost trade. People in business can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted trade of up to K15 million per day over five days.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trade Mark Ads

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

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**Over 400 COVID patients receive medical treatments at Inya centre**



Inya Centre is providing treatment to over 400 patients in Mayangon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 400 COVID-19 patients are receiving medical treatments in Inya centre constructed under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region government in Mayangon Township, according to an official from Inya Centre.

Under the guidelines of the

Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region government, the treatment centre was first constructed on 29 September with an initial fund of K1 billion -- K700 million by KBZ Bank and K300 million by Shwe Thanlwin Company.

The centre was handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports on 10 October, and about 210 COVID-19 patients

were admitted on the first day. On 11 October, about 20 more positive patients reached the centre and 183 patients, on 12 October.

The doctors and nurses from the Ministry are providing the necessary treatment to the patients who are at the centre while the volunteer staff are also assisting the patients. "Our volunteer staff are

supporting from behind the curtain to make sure that the patients can eat in time and enjoy a convenient stay. Those who are receiving treatment in the centre are Myanmar nationals. Now, we are taking good care of 150 males and 200 females. We will also admit more patients because some have already registered to undergo treatment in this centre," said U Thiha Sithu, the goalkeeper from Shan United Team and Myanmar National Team and a joint in charge of the Volunteer Control Team in Inya Centre.

The treatment centre will be equipped to conform to the status of a 500-bed hospital, including 16 high-dependency units (HDU).

Moreover, the centre has arranged for breakfast, lunch and dinner of nutritional value and necessary medicines for the patients. The centre includes separate buildings for the doctors, nurses and volunteers and also a 24-hour food court.

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

**QR pass registration stops: UMFCCI**

By Nyein Nyein

QR pass registration has been stopped starting from 12 October, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The UMFCCI released an announcement on 25 September saying that only the registered vehicles relating to the 27 essential businesses will be ex-

empted from the government's stay-home order. Thus they will be allowed to travel from one township to another in Yangon. The QR pass registration can be made online.

Moreover, UMFCCI conducted payroll processing QR pass system on 4 October to do the necessary calculations to pay the salary for the staff from the factories, workplaces, companies and other business-

es under the stay-home order.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports Order 124/2020 issued on 10 October, the CMP factories and SME businesses which have prepared enough to get grade-A regarding the COVID-19 prevention and control rules have been allowed to reopen starting from 12 October. Therefore, the QR pass registration system will be stopped.

However, those who are holding the QR pass can still use whenever they cross the townships.

Besides, the Yangon region government will introduce a system that will enable the people to travel to the factories, workplaces and companies that are allowed to open in the stay home period, according to UMFCCI.

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

**CRIME NEWS**

**Narcotic drugs confiscated in Kengtung**

AUTHORITIES seized 110.95 kg of heroin worth of K1.66425 billion in Kengtung Township, Shan State, according to a news release of Myanmar Police Force.

At the COVID-19 checkpoint near Kengfoung Village on Taunggyi-Kengtung Road, in Kengtung Township, authorities tried to stop a motor vehicle from Mongpyin en route to Kengtung in the morning of 12 October but the vehicle did not stop and drove away. Authorities



Kyahe and Kya Sawne are seen with their heroin after confiscation. **PHOTO: MPF**

tried to catch and seized the vehicle together with Kyahe, 35, and Kya Sawne, 15, in No 1 Ward of Kengtung Township. A total of 110.95 kg of heroin worth of

K1.66425 billion were confiscated from the car.

Police filed a case against two suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psycho-



tropic Substances Law and further investigation is underway, according to the news release. — MNA

*(Translated by TTN)*

WEATHERING PANDEMIC

# G20 eyeing six-month debt relief extension: World Bank's Malpass

G20 countries may only approve a six-month debt relief extension amid lagging commitment to the pact meant to help poor nations weather the pandemic, World Bank President David Malpass said on Monday.



World Bank President David Malpass said both private creditors and major economies needed to step up debt relief efforts for poor countries. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The G20 group of largest economies is set to meet Wednesday after they pledged in April to suspend debt service from the world's poorest countries through the end of the year as they faced a sharp economic contraction caused by Covid-19.

However, Malpass said relief has been weaker than expected because "not all of the creditors are participating fully," with only \$5 billion granted under the expected \$8 to \$11 billion, and China among the countries that holding back.

Even with the pan-

demic still raging, he said another full year of debt suspension is unlikely.

"I think there will be compromise language (on) maybe a six-month extension that can be renewed depending on debt sustainability," he told reporters.

SOURCE: AFP

MALIGNED SCHEME

# Cyprus scraps 'golden passport' scheme over alleged abuse

CYPRUS said on Tuesday it will scrap its citizenship scheme for foreign investors next month over alleged abuses uncovered in a television programme.

Government spokesman Kyriakos Koushos said the cabinet had agreed in an emergency meeting to abolish the scheme as proposed by the finance and interior ministers.

"The proposal of the two ministers was based on long-standing weaknesses, abuse and exploitation of the provisions of the investment programme," Koushos told reporters. Koushos said the scheme -- which has generated seven billion euros (\$8.25 billion) -- would brought to an end on November 1, 2020. The government would "fully

examine its policy to encourage investment", he added, after the completion of an investigation into the so-called golden passports scheme.

The move came hours after Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera aired footage of officials allegedly trying to help a person acting as a client with a criminal record to acquire

a Cyprus passport.

"Posing as representatives of a fictitious criminal character, our undercover reporters were ushered through the application process for the Cyprus Investment Programme by lawyers, property agents, leading eventually to high ranking politicians," Al Jazeera reported on Monday.

SOURCE: AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1084)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1084)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2020** 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.  
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Agent For:  
**M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (081N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2020** 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 INTER ASIA LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TOYO STAR VOY. NO. (36)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TOYO STAR VOY. NO. (36)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MITSUI O.S.K KANKAI LTD**

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(15/2020-2021)**

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-002(20-21) CAP (Retender)	A 205 Rotary Table Complete Set(2)Nos	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **13 October 2020** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 13 November 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **13-11-2020, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

**Ministry of Planning Finance and Industry  
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise  
Open Tender Invitation**

1. The open tenders are invited to **local and international external audit firms** recognized by Myanmar Accountancy Council to review the annual performance, share contribution, capital injection and financial statements of the Joint Venture Company (JVC) **"Sagaing June Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industry Limited"** which was formed by the cooperation of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise (MPIE) and June Pharmaceutical Limited.

2. Start selling time and date of Tender Application Form  
- 9:30, 13 – 10 – 2020

Closing time and date of Tender Application Form  
- 16:00, 12 -11 -2020

Address for Tender Form submission

- Production Department, Myanma Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise, Office No, 37, Naypyitaw

3. Tender forms and further detail information can be available from the following address in the office hours.  
Production Department  
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise  
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry  
Office No, 37, Naypyitaw.  
Phone No – 0673 408186, 0673 408359

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# Daythasar -From Pa'O chillies to Kayah Khaung-Yay, how a husband and wife team is using Facebook to champion Myanmar's regional produce during COVID-19

**W**ITH the economic headwinds in the tourism sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic, husband and wife tour operating duo Ma Ohnmar and Ko Myo Han needed to find a new way to make ends meet. As people across the country were busy adapting to the “new normal”, the couple, both aged 43 were discovering the power of Facebook for small businesses. By making a diverse range of regional produce available to shoppers on Facebook, Daythasar is not only helping the entrepreneurial couple to get through these challenging times, but is also contributing to the livelihoods of small-scale local producers in off the beaten track areas of Shan, Chin and Kayah states. “We are creating employment opportunities as well as allowing people to enjoy quality local products from around Myanmar,” Ma Ohnmar says with a genuine smile. “In the past, we sold small amounts of local products to our friends and family. During the pandemic, we started to officially sell those products on Facebook to help local food producers,” she added. Since launching in March 2020, Daythasar has grown steadily and is now home to more than 30 different products ranging from fish paste and fermented tea leaves to Ma-Khar powder and tamarind paste. Daythasar has 400 regular

customers, some of whom share food recipes and photos which have been inspired by the local products. Key to the success of this business is the concept of “adding value”, a philosophy this husband and wife team has been very keen to share with their production partners. “Our first product was garlic from Pa’O villages. We ask the producers to pick out only the best quality garlic to sell on Daythasar. As we are receiving a higher quality product, we can offer a higher rate of payment than the villagers can get from the brokers at the market”, said Ma Ohnmar. Ma Ohnmar, however, admits that there is still some work to be done in this area. “Despite our efforts, producers are still surprised when they see the way their products look on our Facebook page. This is often due to the way the product appears in better packaging, or because of the price we can charge for a high quality, branded product to customers in the city.” The couple used contacts built up during their years in Myanmar’s tourism industry while setting up the new venture. Many of the products on offer are the same local delicacies the couple had been encouraging their tourism clients to try while on holiday. Reflecting on business in a pre-Facebook world, Ma Ohmar said, “Back in 2010, when we first started our tour company,

we had to rely on Government newspapers for advertising. It took hours and hours to queue up and submit the advertisement form. The advertising costs were also very high. Now, thanks to Facebook, we don’t face those difficulties anymore.”

“In my opinion, the tourism sector would not have grown this much without Facebook. And the same goes for Daythasar’s business. If we didn’t use Facebook, I’m not sure how many people would know about our business,” she added. For small business owners like Ma Ohmar, Facebook has become the enabler of opportunity for them to launch their

By Chilli Team  
Photo: Credit to Daythasar Facebook Page

dream business idea easily and in no stretch of time. Thanks to the platform’s free business tools, Daythasar unlocks the business opportunities and widens the local customer base for the food producers so as to continue their businesses and sustain their livelihoods. “Moving forward, we will keep expanding our operations and look to partner with even more authentic local producers. We are so happy to see them enjoying increasing incomes and



Harvesting tea leaves.



Variety of local products from Daythasar.



Production of Amara Coffee.

opportunities because of our Facebook page”, said Ma Ohnmar, full of energy and purpose.

### Best Practices for Myanmar SMEs: 7 Tips to Improve Page Visibility and Follower Engagement

Creating a Facebook Page allows the more than 2 billion people on Facebook to discover your business and 6 in 10 local businesses say having an online presence is important for their long-term success. (Source: Facebook IQ) After you create a Facebook Page for your business, it is important for people to find and follow your Page. Here are the top best practices to help your Page gain a following on Facebook.

- \* Select the categories that best describe your business. Categories help people find your business when they search for your services or products. You can select up to 3 categories in your Page Settings. Select

the most specific category for your business to maximize visibility in searches and make your Page easier to find.

- \* If you own a business with a physical location, add your address. People frequently search for nearby businesses. Make sure your address is accurate so people can find your business. If you don't have a location where people can visit your business, edit your Page info to hide your street address on computers and mobile devices.
- \* Add a profile picture and cover photo to your Page. People tend to see businesses with a cover photo and profile picture as more trustworthy.
- \* Profile photo: Use a simple visual representation of your business, such as a logo. Use a square image.
- \* Cover photo or video: Show a recognizable part of your business that will attract people.



# Myanmar attracts nearly US\$5.7 billion of FDI in 2019-2020FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe

**IN** the financial year 2019-2020 which ends on September 30, US\$5.689 billion of foreign direct investment has been pumped into Myanmar which is considered by many countries as the last frontier economy in South-east Asia region, an increase of more than US\$1 billion when compared to the same period last year, according to the latest figures updated by the country's Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) tasked with evaluating, assessing and permitting the investment projects proposed by foreign firms and domestic companies gave the nod to 11 foreign investment projects in industry and real estate sector on September 29. The foreign investment proposals approved by the MIC are valued at over US\$290 million and expected to create up to 8,744 job opportunities for Myanmar citizens. The foreign investment projects approved by the MIC from October 1 last year to September 30 this year under the Special Economic Zone Law were US\$163.27 million. The MIC also gave the green light to 130 Myanmar citizen-invested projects valued at more than Ks1,535,075 million and US\$267 million in the same period.

Investment projects by Myanmar citizens under the Special Economic Zone during the same period were US\$413.618 million and Ks1881459 million. The MIC

set a target to lure US\$5.8 billion of FDI set under the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) in the financial year 2019-2020. But the country has only received US\$5.689 billion of FDI, a decrease of around US\$110 million to meet its target. The Southeast Asian country received an average of US\$500 million per month in foreign direct investment in the current financial year. The foreign direct investment inflow into Myanmar attributes to the government's steps to ease regulations in an attempt to attract more foreign direct investment into the country. The MIFER is also inviting only responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar drew up the MIPP in order to attract US\$221 billion of FDI within 20 years from 2016-2017FY to 2035-2036FY to become a middle-income country by 2036. Foreign investor's interest in Myanmar's much-needed infrastructure projects such as construction, real estate, tourism, telecommunications, and industry sector is rising. Myanmar is believed to be a key overseas emerging investment market for foreign investors around the world due to its consumption trends, abundant young workforce and relaxed export & import related policies. Myanmar has great economic potential and several investment opportunities for local and foreign investors in various sectors. There is still a lot of room for growth in Myanmar for foreign investors and FDI is a key part of the country's growth strategy. The Myanmar Investment Law enacted in late 2016

is making the country a more attractive destination for foreign investors.

Myanmar offers a promising economic environment for foreign investors in many fields especially in construction and real estate sector. Business opportunities in Myanmar for foreign investors include agriculture, livestock breeding, real estate, tourism, manufacturing, energy, and industrial sectors. According to the ministry's data, Myanmar received FDI worth US\$24.7 billion in the time of incumbent government. Singapore topped the list of foreign investors in Myanmar during the period from October last year to date, and followed by China and Thailand. Singapore became the largest foreign investor in Myanmar, pouring over US\$22 billion into 312 projects in the country. The power sector topped the FDI line-up in the current financial year, with investments of almost US\$1.6 billion, followed by the manufacturing and the real estate sectors.

The largest sector of FDI flowed into oil and gas sector, accounting for 26.32 per cent of the total FDI, followed by oil and gas sector with 26.23 per cent and the manufacturing sector with 14.31 per cent. Myanmar attracted US\$ 9.4 billion of foreign direct investment in the financial year 2015-2016, US\$6.6 billion of FDI in 2016-2017FY, US\$6.11 billion of FDI in 2017-2018FY, and US\$4.52 billion in the financial year 2018-2019.

- \* If you have a website, add it to your Facebook Page. Make it easy for potential customers to learn more about your business.
- \* Update your hours. Customers want to know when your business will be open, particularly during holidays and special events. Update your business hours so that search results show your location is open.
- \* Turn on Recommendations: Let customers submit a

rating and review/recommendation for your Page. Visitors to your Page will find valuable information that will increase their trust in your business. Encourage people to follow your Page: Remind new and existing customers why they should follow your Page, such as regular updates, new products or services, easy communication and exclusive offers.



Ma Ohnmar, the founder of Daythasar.

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## Cristiano Ronaldo tests positive for Covid-19: Portuguese FA

LISBON — Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday. Ronaldo “is asymptomatic” and “will not play against Sweden” in Wednesday’s Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward, who has been voted the world’s top player five times, played in Portugal’s goalless Nations League draw against France on Sunday.

Ronaldo has scored 101

goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team against Sweden as they aim to hold on to top spot in their group.

The test result also means Ronaldo is a doubt for Juventus’ Champions League group match with Barcelona on October 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi.

Ronaldo, who has also starred for Manchester United and Real Madrid, is the highest-profile footballer to test positive for Covid-19, which has

killed over a million people since the start of the pandemic earlier this year.

Brazil forward Neymar, his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe and AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic have also tested positive for the virus in recent weeks.—AFP

Ronaldo is the highest profile footballer to catch Covid-19. PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND AFP/FILE



## ‘Nadal’s Paris record will never be beaten’, predicts Murray



Britain’s Andy Murray is looking to bounce back in Cologne from his first round defeat at the French Open. PHOTO: AFP

COLOGNE — Andy Murray predicts Rafael Nadal’s record of 13 French Open titles will never be beaten as the British former world number one looks to bounce back in Cologne this week from his own Roland Garros disappointment.

Murray, 33, the reigning Olympic champion, crashed out of last month’s French Open in straight sets with a lop-sided first round defeat to Stan Wawrinka as he works his way back from hip surgery.

On Sunday, the Scot watched in awe as Nadal, 34, demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the final at Roland Garros to win his 13th French Open title. The Spaniard has also equalled the all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles held by Roger Federer, who hailed Nadal’s victory as “one of sport’s greatest achievements”.

Murray echoed the Swiss legend and doubts anyone will

even get close to Nadal’s record in Paris.

“It’s an amazing achievement. I don’t think that what he has done at Roland Garros will ever be beaten. I just don’t see it being topped,” Murray said in Cologne.

“He is one short of winning the same amount of Grand Slams as (Pete) Sampras did just at one tournament. It’s incredible.

“I don’t think it’ll be repeated and I don’t think anyone will be close.”

Murray reached the second round of the US Open in his first Slam since hip resurfacing surgery and Roland Garros was his third tournament this year after rehab.

Having needed wildcards to play in Paris and Cologne, Murray hopes the back-to-back ATP indoor tournaments on the Rhine can help improve his current ranking of 97<sup>th</sup>.—AFP

## K-League fans back at 25 per cent capacity as virus controls ease

SEOUL — South Korean football fans will be allowed back into top-flight K-League matches from Friday at 25 per cent of stadium capacity following an easing of coronavirus restrictions, the Korean Football Association announced.

Baseball, the country’s most popular spectator sport, will see fans return for the first time in almost two months at five scheduled games on Tuesday with a maximum of “low-to-mid 20 per cent level” of capacity, the Korea Baseball Organization said.

Spectators had been allowed back in limited numbers in July, only for the doors to close again three weeks later after a spike in infections linked to anti-government rallies in Seoul.

The government eased the ban on spectators at the weekend after daily domestic infections stayed in double figures

for two weeks.

South Korea brought its initial outbreak broadly under control with extensive tracing and testing while never imposing a compulsory lockdown.

Baseball spectators will

have to follow the same strict safety guidelines as before: sitting at least one seat apart, wearing face masks at all times, drinks limited to water and non-alcoholic beverages and eating while seated banned.—AFP



Socially distanced fans at Incheon United’s K-League match against Gwangju in August before the doors were closed to spectators after a spike in Covid-19 cases in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

## Filipino UFC fighter follows Pacquiao’s mountain path to glory

ABU DHABI — Mark Striegl makes his UFC debut in Abu Dhabi this weekend having taken a path forged by centuries of feared Filipino warriors and followed by boxing great Manny Pacquiao.

Striegl based himself in the cool mountain climate of Baguio City and it paid off as he became the only Philippines-based fighter on the UFC’s books.

“There’s the high-altitude training but there’s also the history there,” said Filipino-American

Striegl. “Once I’d fought there, I couldn’t get myself to leave.”

Baguio City – on the northern Philippines island of Luzon – has in the past hosted eight-weight world champion Pacquiao’s training camps. The 32-year-old MMA bantamweight Striegl first visited Baguio a decade ago for a mixed martial arts bout. He met a local woman and fell in love both with her and the popular Filipino holiday destination, which offers welcome respite from the sticky heat of much of the sprawling

tropical archipelago.

The mountains are home to the indigenous Igorot people, legendary warriors who resisted colonial domination for hundreds of years. From 1565 to 1898 they successfully fought to keep the gold found on their lands out of the hands of Spanish colonial powers. They continued their defiance after Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States. They then fought against Japanese occupiers during World War Two.—AFP