

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 184, 1st Waxing of Thadingyut 1382 ME

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

Saturday, 17 October 2020

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 27/2020

15th Waning of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
(16 October 2020)

Taking actions in line with existing laws

1. The Union Government has steadfastly determined to establish a Democratic Federal Union. A free and fair election is an essential step in this regard. Accordingly, the Union Election Commission has announced to hold the Multiparty Democracy General Election on 8 November 2020 (Sunday).
2. Therefore, political parties need to comply with the Political Parties Registration Law and its bylaws. Hluttaw candidates who will contest for respective parliamentary seats also need to follow the provisions of the respective Hluttaw elections laws and bylaws.
3. At present, the right to elections is facing injustices such as various forms of violence, threats, disturbances, campaigns in various guises based on religion and race, creating unrest and conspiracy to disrupt community peace and stability.
4. Therefore, the Union-level organizations, Union Ministries, region/state governments and the relevant departments under them need to take effective actions mainly to ensure the rule of law in line with the existing laws.

Sd/Win Myint

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Counsellor reports on containment measures against COVID-19



CHAIRPERSON of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reports to the people regarding the COVID-19 latest situation.

I think our people are following the news regarding the situation of rise and fall of COVID-19 infection rates on a daily basis inside our country. They are studying and trying to get the news. If they have been trying to get the news and studying, they will find out that a certain amount of control has been achieved during the past few days. The reason we have been able to maintain a certain amount of control is because of the cooperation of everyone. The healthcare workers are, of course on the front lines; however, what is most important is the

fact that each individual citizen has abided by the regulations.

At the moment, we have over 30,000 persons who have been infected with the COVID-19 disease in our country. Out of these 30,000 persons, 45 per cent have been discharged from hospital. They have recovered after receiving treatment. They have left the hospitals. However, there have been some fatalities among them. Since over 700 have died, we can say it is 2.4 per cent. When we look at the situation of the people who have died, about 95 per cent are those who have other underlying diseases. That is why it is extremely important to be fundamentally in good health. We have repeatedly been saying that those who have fundamental health problems and weaknesses need to be more careful.

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“People are the key”

UEC announces skipped constituencies for 2020 General Election

The Union Election Commission (UEC) has issued six notifications dated 16 October 2020 announcing the list of skipped constituencies in Kachin State, Kayin State, Bago Region, Mon State, Rakhine State and Shan State where 2020 General Election cannot be held.

Notification 192/2020 included the village-tracts of the townships in Kachin State: one village-tract in Khaunglanphu Township, 31 in Sumprabum, 15 in Machanbaw, 22 in Mansi, 21 in Momauk, 9 in Shwegu, 9 in Chipwe, 8 in Hsawlaw, 2 in Tanai, 13 in Waingmaw, and 61 in Ingyanyan.

Notification 193/2020 included the

village-tracts of the townships in Kayin State: 7 village-tracts in Kawkareik Township, 9 in Kya-in-Seikkyi, 25 in Papun, Pinyinma Seik Village-tract in Hpa-an, 8 in Thandaunggyi, and 3 in Myawady.

Notification 194/2020 included the village-tracts of the townships in Bago Region: 12 village-tracts in Kyaukkyi Township, and 30 village-tracts in Shwegyin Township.

Notification 195/2020 included Bawnawkhi Village-tract in Bilin Township, Mon State.

Notification 196/2020 included the whole townships of Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, Maungtaw, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, and

MraukU, 2 quarters and 52 village-tracts in Kyaukphyu Township, 3 quarters and 29 village-tracts in An Township, 4 village-tracts in Sittway Township, and 10 quarters and 52 village-tracts in Taungup Township.

Notification 197/2020 included the whole townships of Mongla, Panghsan, Narphant, Minemaw, Panwine and Mongkai, 12 village-tracts in Kayukme Township, Seikphu Village-tract in Nawngkhio Township, 3 village-tracts in Namhsan Township, 2 village-tracts in Mantung Township, 4 village-tracts in Mongkhat Township, 2 quarters and 13 village-tracts in Mongyan Township, Longkaunt Village-tract in Mongphyat

Township, 8 village-tracts in Mongyaung Township, 4 village-tracts in Kutkai Township, 1 quarter and 9 village-tracts in Muse Township, 17 village-tracts in Metmung Township, 3 village-tracts in Mongton Township, 11 village-tracts in Tangyan Township, 6 village-tracts in Lashio Township, Manbyein Village-tract in Kunlong Township, Honaik Village-tract in Kongyan Township, 5 quarters and 37 village-tracts in Hopan Township.

Further details about the names of the quarter/village-tract can be viewed on the website of the Union Election Commission, www.uec.gov.mm.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates rice to monasteries, nunneries in Nay Pyi Taw

A RICE donation to the monasteries and nunneries in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw was held with a ceremony at Mingalar Byuhar Sasana Monastery yesterday morning.

Five monks including Ovadacariya of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimala Bodhi, patron of Mingalar Zeyone Pali Takkattho Monastery in Pyinmana township of Nay

Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, the Permanent Secretary, the Director-General and officials of Religious Affairs Department attended the ceremony.

Union Minister and department heads took five precepts from Parton Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala Bodhi of Mingalar Zeyone Pali Takkattho Monastery and donated rice and offertories.

Then, the Union Minister



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents the offertory to a monk at the Mingalar Byuhar Sasana Monastery on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

and party also donated rice to monasteries and nunneries in Pobbathiri and Zeyathiri townships at the refectory of Aungsi Sasana Parirati Monastery in

Pobbathiri.

The Union Minister and party donated a total of 259 rice bags for the monasteries and nunneries in Pyinmana,

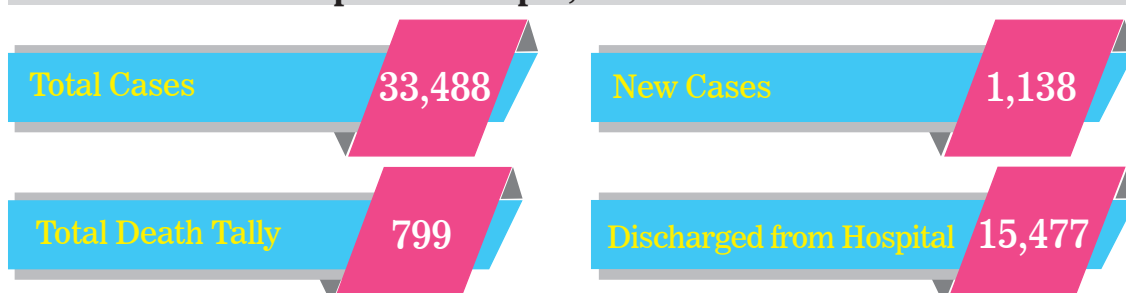
Pobbathiri and Zeyathiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

1,138 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 October, total figure rises to 33,488

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 33,488 after 1,138 new cases were reported on 16 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 33,488 confirmed cases, 799 died, 15,477 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 16-10-2020

34

Ministry of Health and Sports

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



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

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



State Counsellor reports on containment measures against COVID-19

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Another thing is that among those who died, 19 per cent were brought to the hospital after they have lost their lives. It was found out that these dead patients were infected with COVID-19 disease after they were tested upon arrival at the hospital. 19 per cent is not that small. Among those who died, since 19 per cent of the patients were dead on arrival at the hospital, I wish to remind again that it is very important to go to the hospital or the relevant Ministry of Health and Sports as soon as symptoms become visible at an early stage.

Our country will be strong only if each individual citizen is strong. At this time as we have been able to achieve a certain degree of control, I don't want you to slacken your vigilance. From being able to achieve a certain degree of control to arrive at a situation when we have total control would indeed require a great deal of effort. However, this is a good start, and it gives us strength. I want you all to continue making strenuous efforts with the belief that we can do it if we really make serious efforts; and that we can really be successful if there is a will. From the part of the Union Government, as we have said repeatedly, we will do whatever we can. We are working as much as possible to take care of the health, economic and social needs of the

people and also to give the people a feeling of comfort and security. From the side of the people, I want to request that each of you will try to stay healthy as much as possible.

With respect to providing treatment, we are using the latest and best treatment protocols being used at the international level. We also use medicines. No matter whatever medicines we use, no matter whatever treatment protocols we use, in the end, the most effective method is for each individual citizen to take care of his or her health. At this time, when we are facing the onslaught of COVID-19, we need to continue our efforts to make sure that essential parts of the governmental machinery are running. As I have said before; we have to keep our eyes on the economic situation. We have to view the situation with a long-term economic vision. That is why we have given permission for certain factories to resume operations if they can meet the rules and regulations. The reason we have given permission is that we are making efforts with the future economic situation in mind.

Another thing is that apart from the fact that we are looking after the people inside the country, we also have to look after our citizens who are living in foreign countries. That is why, although we are facing the second wave

of COVID-19 inside the country, we have not suspended our programme to accept our citizens who wish to return. They are continuing to return. If we look at the overall situation, more than 10,000 citizens have returned by air since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Over 200,000 returned from across the border. In total it would be about 250,000. These are our citizens returning; more will continue to come. We are making plans to bring them back by air, more and more, day by day, according to the requirements. We will never ignore and turn our backs to our citizens living abroad because we are having problems at home.

At the same time, I need to talk about the elections. The reason is that I want to express my deep appreciation to our citizens abroad with respect to the elections. I have said that the general elections have begun. It started in foreign countries. Our citizens have been casting their advance ballots in foreign countries at our embassies, consulates and missions. The number of advance ballots cast is now over 60,000. I want to express my appreciation to our citizens from abroad for performing their duties as citizens dutifully with enthusiasm. We are also making plans to enable our citizens inside the country to cast their votes in security and with enthusiasm. On

the 13th, I went to inspect to see what kind of arrangements need to be made at the polling booths. This is a test run. What will we do on the real election day; we need to protect the health of the people; we also need to encourage the right to vote; we also need to ensure that the whole process runs smoothly. At that place, I found out ways for performing some of the processes in a smoother and quicker fashion. That is how we shall proceed.

The reason we wish to do these things quickly is to avoid the people from gathering; the way to protect ourselves from the COVID disease is to avoid people from gathering. People need to stay at a distance from each other. This is because we will be taking the temperatures of the voters who come to cast their votes on Election Day at the polling booths as soon as they arrive. We have also made arrangements from the health viewpoint for any person found to have a temperature higher than the prescribed temperature. However, the more we can avoid the crowding of people, the better. That is why we have made arrangements for the voters to stand in line six feet apart. We have studied in detail to determine what kind of rules and regulations need to be prescribed so that voters do not have to stand in line for long periods and so that they can leave the polling booths

quickly.

We will have another training session on this matter next week on the 20th. After the test run, we will examine our findings. After examination, we will issue the rules and regulations for the elections. This will be done by the Union Election Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Sports. When we do this, we are not going to do in the same manner for all places. We will carry out special programmes for stay-at-home townships and townships which have high infection rates of COVID. At townships, where the COVID infection rate is negligible, the normal procedure will be followed. However, we will make arrangements for masks to be worn and for cleansing of hands. We will carry out these operations in such a way so that in stay-at-home townships and townships which high infection rates of COVID, we will prescribe effective and reliable protocols such as wearing of face shields over the masks. That is why I want our citizens to participate with enthusiasm in the general elections and cast their votes. I want to request all of you to also participate enthusiastically in the COVID prevention efforts.

May all of you be able to stay in good health and in the peace of mind. Thank you.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

Union Minister U Soe Win receives MIGA through virtual meeting



Union Minister U Soe Win holds virtual meeting with Executive Vice President of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency-MIGA on 16 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Energy U Soe Win received Executive Vice President of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency-MIGA, an organization of the World Bank Group Mr Hiroshi Matano and

party through virtual meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks for the efforts of MIGA to support the increase of foreign investments in Myanmar and he said

the Ministry has set up a Project Bank to scrutinize projects such as Public-Private Partnership Project (PPP) and Loan Projects.

He called on MIGA to invest more in Myanmar's infrastruc-

ture development projects, particularly to support investment in renewable energy projects and he said he would continue to work with MIGA to attract more investment in infrastructure projects in Myanmar.

MIGA's Executive Vice President Mr Hiroshi Matano discussed further support to Myanmar and the implementation of the 225 MW gas-fired combined cycle power station project in Taungtha Township by Sembicomp Myingyan Power Company Limited with MIGA Guarantee. He also said MIGA would encourage organizations to invest in two solar energy projects being implemented by the Myanmar Government.

The World Bank Group established MIGA in April 1988 with the aim of providing increased international investment by issuing guarantee, in

large scale high-risk foreign investment projects, including political risk in developing countries. Currently, 25 industrialized countries and 157 developing countries, totalling 182 countries, have already joined MIGA.

Myanmar joined the MIGA as its 180th member on 17 December 2013 and Myanmar's power generation, telecommunications and five projects in the SMEs and microfinance sectors are being implemented with the support of MIGA.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and departmental officials.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister U Thaung Tun delivers Keynote Address on Investment and Economic Reform Priorities

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations delivered a keynote address during a Friday afternoon "Elections 2020: Key Issues for Business" webinar, co-organized by AustCham Myanmar, in collaboration with EuroCham Myanmar.

Attended by over 300 representatives from Myanmar's domestic and international private sector, together with development partners, media and civil society, the Union Minister provided participants with an overview of what the future may hold for business and the economy as the country heads toward elections. The Union Minister also provided an overview of measures taken by the government to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19, guided by the 'Together as One' COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), which seeks to leave no one behind.

The Union Minister paid particular attention several large-scale government fiscal

stimulus measures and social assistance programmes, including the LIFT Fund's partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, providing cash transfers to over 175,000 pensioners and close to 250,000 pregnant women and children, and the European Union-funded 'Myan Ku' Fund providing over 5.4 billion Kyat in cash support payments to over 70,000 garment and footwear factory workers.

"In sum, we calculate that the government has thus far mobilized over 4 trillion Kyat in fiscal stimulus measures – now topping 3.4% of Gross Domestic Product. Despite constrained capacities and limited resources, this figure is in keeping with emerging market and developing economy averages – and is set to increase."

The Union Minister went on to note several advances Myanmar has made despite challenges faced by COVID-19, including this year's launch of

a new online Yangon Building Permit System, and the recent transition to an online tax payment system. The Union Minister proceeded to highlight the new Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) currently under development, describing how this and other initiatives will further strengthen Myanmar's investment enabling environment over the coming year.

"We will continue taking

bold steps to ensure that our investors can secure an even greater number of permits and approvals online, via single-digital-windows. And this is just a small indication of what we have planned. Even as we speak, my team is conducting workshops considering these and other ambitious initiatives, and I look forward to providing further details in due course."

The Union Minister was joined by an expert panel con-

sisting of Dr Sean Turnell, Economist, Ms Michelle Grady, Country Head of Woodside Energy, Ms Rebecca Mohr, Group General Counsel of City Holdings, Mr Ben Koo, Head of Yoma Financial Services of Yoma Strategic Holdings, Mr Alex Nyi Nyi Aung, Head of Communications & External Affairs of Unilever Myanmar, and Mr Thomas Kean, Editor-in-Chief of Frontier Myanmar.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun participates in the "Elections 2020: Key Issues for Business" webinar on 16 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Bamar People's Party and National League for Democracy (NLD) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 17 October for the second time. — MNA



For ensuring the voters not to lose their voting rights

We can make arrangements for doing advance voting at home for those who are not able to go to the polling stations because of their health condition. Advance voting can also be cast at the hospitals and quarantine centres for ensuring the voters not to lose their voting rights. Therefore, eligible voters can cast their votes under these programmes as it is important for the future of our country,

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation, on 13 October 2020)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin discusses with United Nations Special Representative of Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict via videoconference

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin held discussions with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Ms Virginia Gamba on 16 October 2020 via videoconference.

During the meeting, Union Minister briefed the United Nations Special Representative on matters pertaining to the accelerated measures taken by Myanmar for the prevention of recruitment and use of children, following the delisting of Tatmadaw from the list of parties that recruit and use children in the UN Secretary-General's Annual

Report. They exchanged views on feasibility of forming an oversight mechanism for sustainably preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers, progress of the implementation of the National Action Plan for the prevention of incidents on killing, maiming and sexual violence against children in armed conflicts, and enhancing cooperation with the United Nations in protection of children in armed conflicts—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin (L) holds talks with UN Special Representative Ms Virginia Gamba online on 16 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



MoI, MoE hold virtual meeting on schoolbook printing

THE School Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee held its 4/2020 coordination meeting on the printing and distribution of quality schoolbooks in time for 2021-2022 academic year via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister for Information

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, departmental heads and committee members joined the meeting.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, in his capacity as Chairman of committee, Chairmen of the School Textbook Printing Sub-committee and School Textbook Distribution Sub-Committee—Deputy

Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun discussed quality schoolbook printing works for 2020-2021 academic year in former meetings and some facts and decisions of these meetings will be revised during the present meeting.

Then, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed words of thanks, on behalf of

his ministry, to the Union Minister for Information and other officials for their supports in printing and distributing quality schoolbooks in time according to the procedures and he also discussed compiling syllabus for school textbooks for 2021-2022 academic year, cooperation works to complete in time and timely work process to print new schoolbooks after getting

approval from the National Curriculum Committee.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, in his capacity as Vice-Chair of School Textbook Printing Sub-Committee continuously explained work condition of committee and facts to make decisions during this 4/2020 coordination meeting.

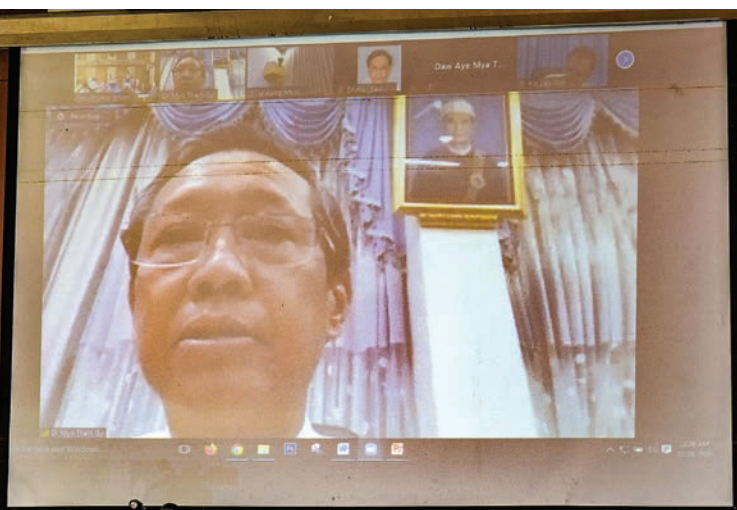
Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Win Maw Tun later briefed work conditions of each sub-committee while other committee members presented work programmes for respective sector in printing schoolbooks.

Then, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung took record on decisions of 4/2020 coordination meeting of the School Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made a concluding remark on the meeting after the discussions of Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi hold online meeting on schoolbook printing and distribution on 16 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Ministries hold coordination meeting online to organize celebrations for centenary of Yangon University

THE Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education held a coordination meeting via videoconferencing yesterday to organize the celebrations for 100th anniversary of Yangon University.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint discussed plans of his office to take part in celebrations of the anniversary, production of TV programmes, plans of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, and activities of Information and Public Relations Department.

He offered contributions of MoI to cooperate with the MoE.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi explained plans for organizing the centenary of Yangon University which was first established on 1 December 1920, and he sought advice for the event in line with containment measures against COVID-19.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and



Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education hold coordination meeting on celebrations of 100th anniversary of Yangon University via videoconference on 16 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun presented their suggestions on the event.

Director-General U Ye Naing from MRTV and Director-General Dr Thein Win from

Department of Higher Education reported the programmes for the event.

Rector of Yangon University Dr Phoe Kaung and Acting Director-General from IPRD U

Aye Kywe presented organizing contests for novels, poems, articles and cartoons to mark the centenary event.

Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and Dr Myo Thein Gyi made

concluding remarks after discussions of officials from the two ministries.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

World Food Day 2020 held online

A WORLD Food Day 2020 ceremony was held via web conferencing yesterday morning and attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Winn, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Ministers, FAO Representative Ms Xiaojie Fan, Representatives of UN, regions and states governments officials and members of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu said that being a FAO member country, it successfully carried out for the development of farming sector in the past decades but there are still adverse conditions in many sectors like starvation, obesity, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and food security, weaknesses of labour in food supply chain including food system during COVID-19.

According to the data of FAO, about 2 billion of world



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu (R) participates in 2020 World Food Day event via videoconference on 16 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

population do not have access to safe and nutritious food and 135 million people of 55 countries are suffering from hunger and so the digits can be double during COVID-19 pandemic and the safe, nutritious and sufficient food are urgently needed during this situation. On the other hand, the world population is expected to reach 10 billion in 2050 and so if the food system cannot be changed, the malnutrition will be the major problem in 2050.

The Union Minister continued saying that the world countries have been facing global warming and climate changes for many decades and also striving for safe and nutritious food and this year, all are facing COVID-19 pandemic which threatens all of humanity.

He also talked about the goal to be free from hunger and malnutrition during this crisis and to establish solid food system by cooperation with all people worldwide. This year's

theme is "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our actions are our future".

The Union Minister said the ministry is drafting policies for farming sector, strategy for agriculture including long-and-short term plan to be able to produce safe and nutritious food for the public and issues GAP Guidelines for the development of Good Agricultural Practice and organic system in accordance with ASEAN GAP and also adopts Good Animal Husbandry

Practice (GAHP) and Good Aquaculture Practice (GAQP) in livestock breeding sector.

The ministry also conducted educating programmes regarding COVID-19 pandemic for the breeders and farmers and also provided with COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) by implementing Village Revolving Fund Project, Cash For Work Project, granting loans for SMEs with the use of K92.61 billion budget, said the Union Minister, adding that it will also serve three main duties like food security, food safety and rural development in line with the directives of the Union Government and also cooperates with other international organizations including FAO.

FAO Representative Ms Xiaojie Fan later read the message of the Director-General of FAO and officially introduced Agriculture Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (AAP-DRR) book while Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator Mr Reda Lebtahi briefed further action plans. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister U Thein Swe holds meeting with labour organizations

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe attended the coordination meeting with representatives of labour organizations to discuss the situation of the opening factories and workplaces during the COVID-19 crisis and the situation of the continuous provision of social security benefits to employees in social security covered factories, workplaces and business departments, yesterday afternoon through video-conferencing.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing, Minister for Yangon Region Daw Moe Moe Su Kyi, the Directors-General and Departmental officials.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the labour sector is being prioritized during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and from 12 October, A-level factories designated by the Ministry of Health and Sports have been allowed to operate under the Yangon Region government programme in accordance with

the set rules and regulations and it is important that all stakeholders need to work together for the economic recovery on post-COVID-19 period.

He said to the Workplace Coordination Committee (WCC) to make sure the employers and employees cooperate for the prevention of COVID-19 in their workplaces and to precisely follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports while working.

He added that the respective authority is also inspecting the workplaces that are not considered to be in compliance with the submitted specifications.

The Union Minister explained the social security benefits to the workers, pregnant women and workers in quarantine centres that the government has provided during the unemployment period.

During the first wave of COVID-19 crisis, the government provided 19,640.636 million kyats for the 800,260 employees and workers from 6,429 workplaces that were closed from 20



Union Minister U Thein Swe (L) holds virtual meeting with representatives of labour organizations on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



April to 15 May 2020 and 863,900 employees who included in the stay-at-home programmes during the second wave of COVID-19 crisis were provided with 60,146 million kyats.

The government also provided medical treatment to PUI patients with two ICU beds and 18 isolation beds and there were 1,859 inpatients and 403,972 outpatients during the first wave of COVID-19 period and 934 inpatients and 172,522 outpatients from 1 August to 14 October. Seven hundred and sev-

enty-two insured workers were COVID-19 positive and they are being treated at relevant COVID-19 hospitals.

The Union Minister continued that the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is giving priority to the interest of employers and workers and he urged the workers to strictly abide by the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports and cooperate with the relevant authorities.

The Labour organizations presented the difficulties en-

countered in opening workplaces and factories and the cooperation of workers and employers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease.

After they had suggested to inspect the factories and workplaces which break the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister, Yangon Region Minister and responsible persons discussed the suggestions.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over weekly meeting on COVID-19 treatment, public healthcare services in Yangon

MINISTRY of Health and Sports organized weekly meeting online to review the ongoing COVID-19 treatment and public healthcare services in Yangon Region.

During the meeting, Union Minister talked about reviews for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, contact tracing, plans to respond to the disease in a

timely and effective manner to slow down the infection rate, daily research of Central Epidemiology Unit, discussions of Yangon Region Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, travel restrictions, matters fulfilled by the ministry, healthcare for the patients with chronic diseases.

He also discussed the importance of primary and private healthcare services for all kinds of diseases in addition to COVID-19, cooperation work between private hospitals and clinics in offering such services, the duties of Public Health Department officials to conduct analysis on the infection rate and epidemiologi-

cal characteristics.

Then, the Union Minister called on the attendees to share their experiences and challenges in conducting health checks on truckers with Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits and matters to be fulfilled by the ministry and he expressed thanks to the Yangon Region government for their support in work processes of the ministry like the establishment of hospitals and COVID-19 clinical centres including imposing lockdown.

Then, Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint from the Public Health and Medical Services Department in Yangon Region discussed health checks on truckers with Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits while Rector Professor Dr Zaw Wai Soe from University of Medicine (1) briefed extension of beds, installing of oxygen pipeline at the hospitals and COVID-19 treatment centres, preparations for High

Dependency Unit and Intensive Care Unit, cooperation work with private companies not to occur oxygen shortage problems, installing of oxygen plant and generator and further action plans to place the COVID-19 patients at private hospitals.

Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun of Department of Medical Research later explained Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kit training for 80 lab staff in respective townships of Yangon, ventilator training for 40 staff at Yangon General Hospitals, and installation of five haemodialysis for COVID-19 patients with kidney disease and other senior officers of health sectors respectively presented their performances in fight against COVID-19.

Then, Union Minister coordinated the discussions and gave effective instructions to overcome the pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the weekly meeting on COVID-19 situation in Yangon Region on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Strictly following health guidelines key to reopening factories without risking lives of workers

AS the Union Government has granted permission since 12 October to reopen the factories which meet mandatory health guidelines after inspections for complying with health guidelines, thousands of workers are set to return to work. Meanwhile, workers are worried that reopening the factories at the height of a pandemic will lead to chaos and catastrophic consequences.

Concern is warranted. But, vigilance is required to fighting against the pandemic.

For the long-term interests, employers and employees need to cooperate in following the COVID-19 safety guidelines which would be enforced by the Ministry of Health and Sports through its surprise inspections.

The regional health and administrative authorities will conduct surprise inspections at factories, which have reopened after receiving permission from the government, to reduce the risk from the spread of COVID-19.

Understanding that Social security benefits are the key to making workers' finances resilient to COVID-19, the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population has provided 40 percent of workers' salaries where factories have been closed since April 20 for COVID-19 inspections.

The ministry sets aside over K60 billion to provide social security benefits to 863,900 workers at factories in Yangon Region, and so far, 155,822 have been provided with the benefits.

If factory workers contributed social security fees to the Social Security Department for June, 2020, and if the factories are running until 23 September, 2020, then they will be eligible to enjoy 40 per cent of their salaries as social security benefits.

While balancing public health considerations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy of the country and livelihoods of the workers, the authorities made the decision to grant reopening to factories which meet A-Grade health guidelines.

In fact, the number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in our country is rising, having reached over 1000 and over 30 deaths daily. The vast majority of cases are in the Yangon Region.

It underscores the fact that we are not out of the woods yet, and people should not be negligent in protecting themselves from contracting the infection.

People, employers and employees are urged to strictly follow all health guidelines.



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY MONITORING IS A CRUCIAL BUT CHALLENGING TASK

Understanding Earth: Biodiversity & Ecological Forecasting

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

NATIONAL Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center in USA, published Understanding Earth books which is including The Journey of Dust, Biomass Burning, The Icy Arctic, Biodiversity & Ecological Forecasting, Our Ocean and What's Up with Precipitation. This article is one of them and explained to understand the Earth's biodiversity and ecological forecasting by using the evolution of post-modern space technology.

What is Biodiversity?

Earth supports a diverse spectrum of life. Over billions of years, life has evolved into a variety of forms, from microorganisms to our own species, reflecting the rich array of environmental conditions present on our changing planet.

Biological diversity, biodiversity, refers to the variety of all life on Earth, on all levels, from genes to species, ecosystems, and biomes. While it is believed that Earth supports approximately 3 to 10 million species, only about 1.5 million have been given a scientific name. Biodiversity is critical for maintaining balanced ecosystems and provides a plethora of ecosystem goods and services such as clean air, fresh water, waste removal, food, fiber, and medicines.

Earth's biodiversity is not evenly distributed. Regions near the equator for example, tend to be more biodiverse than high-latitude colder regions. Environmental parameters such as temperature, precipitation, elevation, nutrient availability, and salinity influence the number and type of species found in a region.

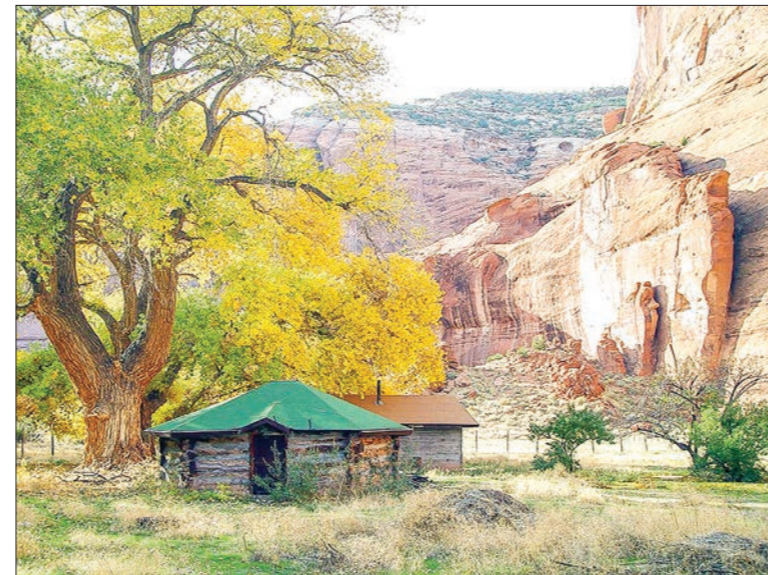
Humans also impact biodiversity.

More than seven billion people share our planet and place ever-increasing demands on its resources. To meet our needs, humans are altering environments and extracting resources from terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems.

Over the last several decades, research has shown that global diversity has been on the decline. While both natural and human-induced disturbances influence biodiversity, most contemporary biodiversity loss stems from the impact human activities have on the environment. Habitat changes resulting from these human activities are the key driver of biodiversity loss. Looking broadly, the causes of biodiversity loss include the conversion of natural habitats, increasing resources extraction, pollution, invasive species, and a changing climate.

Observing Environmental Changes that Impact Biodiversity

The vantage point of space provides a unique perspective to observe Earth's surfaces at local, regional, and global scales, as well as over time. For decades, satellite and airborne remote sensing instruments have been observing environmental changes that impact biodiversity including: increases in deforestation, increases in urban growth, a rise in global temperature, and a decline in Arctic sea ice extent. Environmental changes are interrelated and have positive and negative, as well as short- and long-term effects on Earth's biodiversity. Furthermore, changes in Earth's climate can accelerate and amplify other environmental changes, causing subsequent changes in biodiversity.



Phenology relates to the timing of periodic plant and animal life cycle events, such as leaves changing color in the fall in Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona. CREDIT: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Satellite observations often combine with other measurements taken on the ground or from aircraft - can also provide information relevant to the distribution of ecosystems and their resident species. Scientists use this information to understand patterns of biodiversity, how biodiversity is changing, the drivers of the changes, and to predict the impacts of environmental changes on biodiversity in the future.

Using Earth Observations to Understand Biodiversity

NASA is working in collaboration with experts from other federal agencies, universities, private companies, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions to study patterns of biodiversity and understand how biodiversity is changing. In particular, they are using both passive and active satellite and airborne remote sensing technologies to directly observe and identify biodiversity patterns, such as the distribution of ecosystems and

vegetation structure, as well as the environmental parameters that influence them such as topography and climate conditions. Together, these observations strengthen our understanding of ecosystem function and Earth's biodiversity.

Passive remote sensors detect natural energy that is reflected or emitted from the Earth. Scientists use a variety of passive remote sensors including radiometers, spectrometers, and spectroradiometers to observe and monitor biodiversity. These sensors record electromagnetic energy at different wavelengths, often outside the visible light range. This allows scientists to "see" beyond what our human eyes alone can see and "tune in" to various characteristics of the Earth's surface.

Passive remote sensing measurement can be used to identify different communities and ecosystems in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Different vegetation types for example, have distinct reflection "signatures" in the electromagnetic spectrum that

scientists observe and analyze to classify plant groups. Likewise, scientists use passive remote sensors to observe and monitor environmental parameters that influence biodiversity such as soil type, surface temperature, levels of ocean surface chlorophyll a, and sea ice concentrations.

Active remote sensors emit energy to illuminate the object or scene they observe. They send a pulse of electromagnetic energy from the sensor to the object and then receive the electromagnetic radiation that is reflected or backscattered from that object. Among these active remote sensors are radars (i.e., radio detection and ranging), lidars (i.e., light detection and ranging), scatterometers, and laser altimeters. Scientists often use these sensors to observe three-dimensional structure that directly affects biodiversity, such as canopy height and distribution of vegetation in the canopy and the understory. In aquatic environments, active sensors can measure characteristics such as suspended sediment concentrations and ocean surface wind speeds.

By combining satellite and airborne measurements from both passive and active sensors with ground-based measurements, scientists can estimate the distribution of and changes in biodiversity at all levels and on all scales.

Conserving Biodiversity through Ecological Forecasts

Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet. To conserve our planet's rich biodiversity the scientific community must observe our world as one large, interactive, connected system.

At NASA, scientists use environmental models to combine various Earth observations, such as land cover, precipitation, and/or sea surface temperature with a variety of ground-based measurements such as animal population data to generate ecological forecasts.

Ecological forecasting allows scientists to project the future impacts of environmental changes. The goal is to develop reliable, science-based information that allow decision makers to proactively plan effective resource management strategies as well as explore the anticipated outcomes of alternative strategies. In particular, decision makers use ecological forecasts to actively address issues related to biodiversity conservation, protected area management, and marine fisheries. Management actions can reduce or eliminate the impacts of environmental change on biodiversity, which in turn has significant socio-economic implications.

The NASA Applied Sciences Programme's Ecological Forecasting applications area promotes the development of innovative decision-support tools that use Earth Observations. These projects are developed with and transitioned to partner agencies and organizations such as United States Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Appalachian Trial Conservancy, with the objectives of better managing and conserving biodiversity today and in the future.

Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), USA.

SALIVA TEST FOR COVID-19, OPENING DOOR TO WIDER TESTING

Belgian university trials saliva tests to track coronavirus spread

AT THE university of Liege in Belgium, a steady stream of students pick up saliva tests in white boxes from a desk at the entrance of the main building, a scheme creators hope will simplify tracking the spread of the coronavirus.

Inside are simple saliva tests that people can administer themselves, simply spitting into a tube fitted with a funnel - rather than going to a test centre where a

medical professional would administer a nasal swab.

"I come and pick one up on Wednesdays and get the result by Friday evening. It's not compulsory, but it's important, so I do it every week," says 20-year-old translation and interpretation student Ruben Ponton.

"If I'm positive, I don't come to class."

Two of his fellow students behind the desk check their peers'

ID cards, handing out more than 560 tests on Wednesday morning alone, and offer tips to those taking their first.

They must be taken "in the morning, on an empty stomach and before brushing your teeth".

Backers hope the saliva tests developed at the university can help wipe out backlogs at testing centres bucking under coronavirus demand.

Nurses and carers -

The aim of giving the tests to students is to "demonstrate that these self-testing kits can be useful and allow us to throttle the spread of the epidemic in a university of 30,000 people," says professor Fabrice Bureau, an immunologist and vice-rector of research.

"The idea is that we then make them available to a larger number of people," Bureau adds.

In the second week of the

free, anonymous tests, some 3.6 per cent of the students and 0.9 per cent of university staff came back positive, roughly double the figures for the first week.

Those testing positive are urged to self-isolate and are given leave to miss lessons.

At around 60 per cent accuracy, the saliva testing kits fall short of the 80-90 per cent achieved with nasal swabs.

"There's less virus present

in saliva," says virologist Laurent Gillet, who helped develop the process.

Nevertheless, for people with a very high viral load, the accuracy is "above 95 per cent," he adds.

And given how much easier the saliva test is than the nasal swab, people can take multiple tests, which "makes up for the lack of sensitivity," Gillet argues.

SOURCE: AFP

World Statistics Day
20-10-2020
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 16 October, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan (South and East) State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Magway and Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-8) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 October, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Work Committee on Drafting National Land Law organizes virtual meeting



Work Committee on Drafting National Land Law holds virtual meeting on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Work Committee on Drafting the National Land Law organized its second meeting yesterday morning via videoconferencing.

During the meeting, the Work Committee on Drafting the National Land Law Chairperson Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint said that the committee's meeting was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main duty of the committee is to draft National Land Law in accordance with the National Land Use Policy.

The committee chairperson said that the committee members need to observe the existing laws related to land man-

agement and to identify sections that need to be amended. He also urged relevant ministries, civil society organizations, experts, Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General of the relevant ministries to work cooperatively in order to implement the plans.

The participants discussed various issues and the committee chairperson made necessary suggestions.

The virtual meeting was participated by committee members, which include MPs, ministry officials and representatives from civil society organizations. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe) ■

FRC renewal process to be conducted on 16 November

FOREIGNERS residing in Myanmar for more than 90 days with various visas have to present their Foreigners' Registration Certificates (FRC) of Yangon Region according to 1948 Registration of Foreigners Rules paragraph 6 (1) (b) (c). The FRC annually expire on every 30 November and they need to be renewed with 30 days of expired date according to 1948 Registration of Foreigners Rules paragraph 7 (2) (b).

The renewal can be done on the 1st of December to 31st December by paying \$9 and the amount will be \$18 in January. The rate will be doubled if renewal is done over the fixed period according to Registration of Foreigners Rules paragraph 17 (3).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FRC cards holders in Myanmar can renew their FRC starting 16 November 2020 (excluding public holidays) at Stay and Re-entry Division Office under Immigration Department located at Pansodan street in Kyauktada township of Yangon Region.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han) ■

Senior officials of Myanmar-India Joint Trade Committee hold 7th meeting

Senior Officials of Myanmar-India Joint Trade Committee organized 7th meeting online yesterday.

The meeting was chaired by Director-General of the Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce U Min Min and Joint Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Industry of India Mr Anant Swarup.

The meeting discussed the review of the bilateral trade in the previous years and increase bilateral trade; areas of greater cooperation to raise Myanmar's exports to India, including pulses, and to boost trade between Myanmar and India; to attract more India investment in Myanmar and India's participation in supporting Myanmar's textile sector to penetrate the world market; accelerate the flow of goods along the Myanmar-India trade route and upgrade roads and bridges along the trade route.



Myanmar and India hold the Senior Officials' Meeting of the 7th Joint Trade Committee via videoconference on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

They also discussed the capacity building of departmental staff and the provision of technology from India in the agricultural sector.

The meeting was a mutually beneficial and successful senior

officials' meeting which discussed the ways to improve trade and cooperation between the two nations based on the strong friendship between Myanmar and India.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

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Myanmar seamen line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar seamen return home by relief flight on 16 Oct

A total of 492 Myanmar seamen who were stranded in foreign countries because of suspension of commercial flights – 242 from Berlin, 100 from Hanoi and 150 from Singapore – came back home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Berlin organized a relief flight of Condor Airlines, Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi organized a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International, and Myanmar Embassy in Singapore organ-

ized a relief flight of Myanmar National Airways in bringing back the Myanmar seamen. The three relief flights all landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

At the airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 7-day quarantine, followed by 7-day home quar-

antine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Hanlin villagers awarded for handing over of antique objects

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture presented cash awards and certificate of honour to the villagers for handing over of Pyu pagoda and ancient artifacts at the Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum in Pyu Ancient City on 15 October.

U Myo Win, U Maung Myint, U Zaw and U Kyat Taw from Hanlin Village, Wetlet Township, Shwebo District in Sagaing Region found parts of a bell-shaped pagodas and few ancient artifacts including two silver coins while they were clearing farmland. At the awarding ceremony, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing expressed thanks to the villagers for handing over of the Pyu pagoda and ancient artifacts.

Earlier this month, six persons including U Bo Myint from Par Hae (North) Village, Khone Gyi Village-tract in Kani Township, Sagaing Region were also awarded K997,479 for handing over of 25 artifacts from Bronze Age and Iron Age, he added.

The Chief Minister presented K11.903 million cash awards to five persons who found the artifacts and owner of the farm. On behalf of the villagers, village elder U Khin Thaung expressed thanks.

He presented K2.6 million in advance while providing the artifacts to him on 20 September, and then handed over the ancient objects to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. The ministry presented the cash awards after calculating the



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing presents cash awards to the villagers who handed over antique objects on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

original gold and silver values, historical value and arts works values.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's Department of Archaeological Research and

National Museum is protecting and preserving the antique objects in accordance with the Protection and Preservation of Antique Objects Law, and cooperation from the public also plays

a crucial role.

This is the first finding of Pyu pagoda in World Heritage Pyu Ancient City-Hanlin and its historical value is high.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Singapore donates COVID-19 medical supplies to Myanmar



SINGAPORE Government and its people contributed COVID-19 test kits and medical equipment to Myanmar for the fight against COVID-19 at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and Singapore Embassy in Myanmar welcomed the flight that carried the medical supplies from Singapore at the Yangon airport.

Ambassador of Singapore Ms Chan Yuen Ying Vanessa Elisabeth handed over 25,000 sets of COVID-19 RT-PCR Tests, 1 million masks, and 200,000 hand sanitizers to Director-General of Medi-

cal Research Department Prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun at the airport.

Regarding to the donation, the Singapore's Ambassador said, "Singapore notices the second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar. The donation was made after the telephone conversation between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan a few weeks ago".

"Facemasks were also donated earlier. This will reflect the friendships between Singapore and Myanmar," she added.—Zaw Gyi/Photo: Pe Zaw
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Ambassador of Singapore Ms Chan Yuen Ying Vanessa Elisabeth (L) and Director-General Prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun (R) pose for a picture with medical supplies at the Yangon International Airport on 16 October 2020.

Yunnan province contributes ¥ 1.5mnl for COVID-19 containment measures in Myanmar



Yunnan donates ¥ 1.5 million to Myanmar on 16 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

AUTHORITIES in Yunnan province of China donated 1.5 million yuan yesterday for control measures against COVID-19 in Myanmar, especially in Kachin, Mandalay, Rakhine (Kyaukphyu), Yangon and Shan.

The donation ceremony was held at the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan People's Government, and it was attended

by its Director-General Mme Pu Hong.

U Htun Aung Kyaw, Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming, received the donation which will be handed over the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Shweli Red Cross Society donates COVID-19 test kits to Muse



Shweli Red Cross Society in China donates COVID-19 diagnostic kits to Muse on 14 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

SHWELI (Ruili) Red Cross Society in China contributed COVID-19 diagnostic kits worth Chinese Yuan 2,017,600 (nearly K 390 million) to Muse in Myanmar on 14 October.

The donation ceremony was attended by Ruili Mayor Mr Xie Dapeng, Muse District Deputy Administrator U Okkar, and officials from the two sides' foreign affairs

departments, Red Cross Societies, health and disease control organizations.

The donated diagnostic equipment can test nearly 2,000 persons a day. A team of four technicians from Shweli also came to Muse and gave training on the use of the diagnostic machines.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar citizens continue advance voting in Bangkok, Singapore



A total of 2,083 Myanmar nationals – 443 in Bangkok and 1,640 in Singapore– cast their advance votes for 2020 General Election at the Myanmar embassies



in Bangkok and Singapore yesterday. After getting body temperature taken, washing hands with hand sanitizers, and wearing disposable gloves and face

masks, the voters cast their votes at the respective polling stations.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar nationals in Thailand cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on 16 October 2020.

Myanmar citizens queue outside the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore to cast advance votes on 16 October.

RARE PUBLIC CRITICISM

As 2020 campaign enters home stretch, Fauci pulled into fray

Anthony Fauci, America’s top infectious diseases expert, prides himself on steering clear of politics.

But with unrivalled credibility on the novel

coronavirus that both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are eager to associate with their campaigns, the scientist is being pulled into the closing stage of their

battle for the White House. Just weeks before election day, the Trump campaign released an ad portraying Fauci as praising his actions on the pandemic. This

prompted the 79-year-old doctor to issue rare public criticism of a move by the president that in turn was seized on by Biden, who has pledged to listen to his

advice if elected. Fauci, the longtime head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has become a revered figure on the left while facing

widespread criticism from the right this year. US politicians from both major parties sought to make use of his reputation.

SOURCE: AFP

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Dated 17th October 2020

STRUGGLING INDUSTRY

US book stores launch ‘Boxed Out’ campaign against Amazon



Solid State Books in Washington DC displaying material from the anti-Amazon campaign in its window. PHOTO: AFP

THE American Booksellers Association has launched an advertising campaign against Amazon to alert the public to what it calls the growing danger that book stores are under from the online goliath during the coronavirus pandemic.

The campaign, the first of its kind, was sparked by Amazon’s “Prime Day” on

Tuesday and Wednesday, during which Amazon offers bargains on products.

Since the pandemic began, 35 book stores belonging to the ABA have had to shut their doors for good, the association told AFP, adding that some 20 per cent of independent bookstores are under threat of closure.

“When these inde-

pendent bookstores close Covid will be listed as the cause of death, but the pre-existing condition for many may be listed as Amazon,” the association said in a statement.

Dubbed “Boxed Out,” the campaign plays on the delivery boxes that have become the hallmark of Amazon home deliveries.

SOURCE: AFP

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

S.Korea's consumption, jobs facing limited recovery on COVID-19 resurgence: gov't report

SOUTH KOREA'S consumption and employment was faced with a limited recovery amid the COVID-19 resurgence here, a government report said Friday.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance said in its monthly economic assessment report, called Green Book, that the COVID-19 resurgence here since mid-August restricted a recovery in domestic demand and employment.

The ministry noted that economic uncertainty continued despite an export recovery.

The COVID-19 resurged here in August and September due to cluster infections in the Seoul metropolitan area linked to church services and a massive rally in



South Korea's consumption and employment was faced with a limited recovery amid the COVID-19 resurgence. PHOTO:UNSPASH/CHINH LE DUC/AFP

central Seoul on Aug. 15. Credit card spending grew 6.4 per cent in September from a year earlier, but revenue in department stores declined 4.1 per cent in the month. Online shopping surged 27.5 per cent in September as people re-

frained from offline shopping amid the fear of the virus infection. Shopping in the cyberspace jumped 35.5 per cent in August. The consumer sentiment index (CSI) stood at 79.4 in September, marking the lowest since May. The number of those

employed reduced 392,000 in September from a year earlier, posting the fastest slide in four months since May. Production in the mining and manufacturing industry slipped 0.7 per cent in August from the previous month,

while output in the services sector shrank 1.0 per cent. Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, gained 7.6 per cent in September from a year ago thanks to a partial recovery in global demand.

A NEW STIMULUS PACKAGE

US stimulus deal 'hard' to accomplish before election: Mnuchin

GETTING a new stimulus spending package approved by Congress is unlikely before the November 3 presidential election but negotiations will continue nonetheless, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Thursday.

Lawmakers have tried fruitlessly for months to reach an agreement on a follow-up to the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act after key provisions of that rescue measure expired, depriving unemployed workers of needed support and sparking mass layoffs by US airlines.

SOURCE: AFP

BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS AT RISK

Johnson: UK ready to walk away from post-Brexit trade talks with 'no deal'

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday Britain was ready to walk away from post-Brexit trade talks with a "no-deal" unless the European Union shifted its position.

He accused the EU of failing to negotiate seriously and said on Britain should "get ready" to operate on stripped-down World Trade Organization rules from January, "unless there is a fundamental change of approach" from Brussels.

SOURCE: AFP

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Dated 17th October 2020 hh@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (104N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (104N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2020 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (103N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (103N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2020 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (1127S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (1127S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (040S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (040S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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Film, music, theatre, periodicals, media personnel to receive K15 bln loans

By Nyein Nyein

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations will provide K15 billion loans to the people engaged in the film, music, theatre, periodicals and media fields under separate programmes, said U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The Union Minister said so at the working committee meeting 10/2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on country's economy held through the videoconferencing system at the Invest-

ment and Foreign Economic Relations Office Room 1 on 14 October.

To provide the loans to the people engaged in the film, music, theatre, periodicals and media fields, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry set K15 billion under the separate programmes, said the Union Minister.

"The committee is making arrangements to provide the loans in time. Also, the committee will conduct the impact assessment over the remedy of the impact of COVID-19. Then, the committee will consider

how further treatment will have to carry out depending on the result of impact assessment," said U Thaung Tun.

Then, U Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry also discussed the working condition of the committee including advance salary loans of the civil servants, Myanmar economic bank's funding status to provide the loans to the people engaged in the film, music, theatre, periodicals and media fields and to the distribution of the loans to Myanmar Airways International under the procedures.

U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population discussed matters relating to the loans being provided through the private banks, the need to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 and the need to give the loans rapidly and accurately. Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for the Commerce, discussed the progress of evaluation of the entrepreneurs who use the loans for their businesses.

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Indawgyi Lake concrete ring road completed 77 per cent**

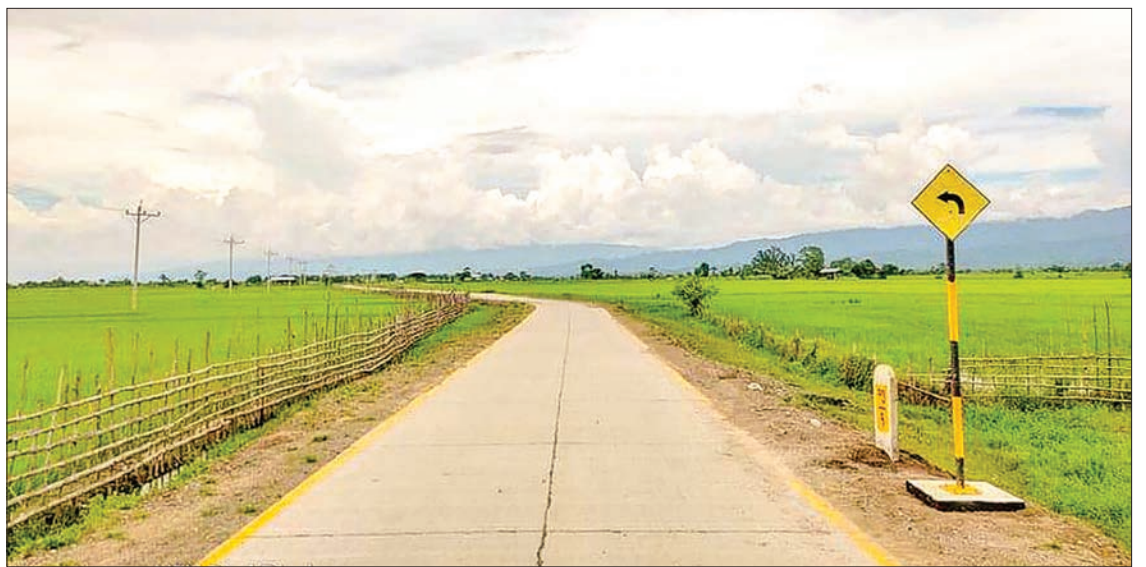
THE construction of 33-mile-long concrete ring road on Nam Mone-Chaung Wa-Nyaung Pin, located in the east part of freshwater Indawgyi Lake in Myanmar and concrete bridge on the road have been completed 77 per cent, said U Ye Mint Tun, the head of Township Rural Road Development Department (Urban).

Implementation of the project is set to complete in this financial year.

The estimated cost of the Nam Mone-Chaung Wa-Nyaung Pin project is K13,342.134 million.

The construction of 15-mile concrete road, 26 above 10-foot concrete bridges and 33 five-foot box culvert has been completed with spending of K6284.378 million from 2018-2019FY Kachin state government capital budget.

The construction of 10-mile concrete road, seven above 10-foot concrete bridges and 26 five-foot box culverts and, the

Picture taken on 21 August shows Indawgyi Lake ring road. **PHOTO: KYAW KYAW HTWAY (IPRD)**

extension of eight five-foot box culverts are completed 95 per cent with spending of K 3617.764 million from 2019-2020 FY state government capital budget.

The Township Rural Road Development Department (Urban) targeted to complete construction of 7-mile concrete road, two above 180 feet above

concrete bridges and one above 20 feet concrete bridge with spending of K3,440 million from the state government capital budget in 2020-2021FY.

The project will be finished in the open season. The whole 33-mile road is 16 feet wide and seven feet thick.

The project is under implementation with the tender

system. Upon completion of the project, it will be beneficial to 27,270 people from 4,575 households from 15 villages on Indawgyi lake east side. Also, the road will be useful for the development of the region and safety for connecting with Phakant town. — Kyaw Kyaw Htway (IPRD)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Telenor Myanmar launches easy, convenient online shopping**

TELENOR Myanmar launched the Telenor Zay, a digital market place designed to bring seamless shopping experiences to Telenor customers on 15 October.

The application will present products and services to provide the different needs of their customers. The services are already available on Telenor Zay including groceries and food delivery from city mall online, Foodpanda and farm shop, healthcare services from Ar Yu international hospital

and Yin Thway Paediatric call centre offering online medical appointments and telemedical consultations. And vehicle insurance services from AYA SOMPO can also be bought via Telenor Zay.

Telenor Zay offers partnered businesses an opportunity to reach new target groups among Telenor's customers while making available a range of attractive offers just a click away through customers' mobile devices.

"The people of Myanmar

are embracing a digital lifestyle, accelerated by the current pandemic situation where digital interactions are seen as not only easier and more convenient, but also safer for both buyers and vendors. We believe online shopping will see significant growth in Myanmar going forward, especially as the digital ecosystem and the digital readiness of both customers and businesses continue to evolve. Telenor Myanmar wants to help facilitate and accelerate that development, and

that's why we're introducing Telenor Zay as a platform for innovation and experimentation together with customers and partners," said Amaresh Kumar, Chief Marketing Officer of Telenor Myanmar.

Telenor Zay will be available on the MyTelenor application starting from 14 October 2020. Customers need an active Telenor SIM card and the latest version (3.18) of the MyTelenor App, which is available for download on the App Store and Google Play. —GNLM

Yangon port handles more cargos this year despite pandemic

ALTHOUGH the flow of the trade via air route and land route dropped in pandemic period, the Yangon port took more cargos via sea route this year compared to last year, said an official from Myanmar Port Authority (MPA).

“Despite the coronavirus outbreak across the country, Yangon port handled over 1.5 million tonnes of cargos from March to September in 2020 compared to 2019. So, the sea route seems to have a better flow of goods,” said U Sein Win, assistant general manager from Agent Department, MPA.

From March to September 2020, there were a total of 6,900,040 tonnes of cargos in Yangon port, an increase of 1,578,843 tonnes compared to last year. In

the same period of 2019, there were a total of 5,321,197 tonnes of cargos in the port, according to the official data from MPA.

However, a total of 1,074 cargo ships were docked in 2020, a drop of 27 ships in 2020 compared to the previous year. In 2019, there were 1,101 cargo ships docked in Yangon port. “About 85 per cent of Myanmar’s export and import is mainly conducted by the sea route. During the pandemic period, the export and import via air route and land route are suspended, and the export and import are conducted only via sea route,” said U Win Myint Aung, deputy director-general of Myanmar Maritime Department, MPA. —Myint Maung Soe (Translated by Hay Mar)

Black bean price up over K60,000 per tonne due to high demand from India

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of black bean in the domestic market rose by over K60,000 per tonne in three weeks because of demand from India, according to the official data of Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

Although the price of the black bean was only K1,072,500 per tonne on 1 October, the black bean price rose to K1,135,000 per tonne on 16 October in three weeks. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India has issued to import 150,000 tonnes of black bean from Myanmar on 1 October to fulfil the need for bean in India. The notification stated that India’s companies

would get import licence for an equivalent amount of bean import. The import deadline will be on March-end 2021.

Earlier, India issued a notification to import 400,000 tonnes of black beans by March-end 2021. On 22 May, India rapidly changed the import period of black bean to three months by August-end 2020 from the earlier set deadline of March 2021. However, Myanmar cannot export the entire quota by August-end deadline. Consequently, Myanmar’s bean body asked to extend the August-end deadline, and India still has not responded to the request. Instead, India reissued a notification to buy 150,000 tonnes of black bean from Myanmar.

Myanmar exported only

about 100,000 tonnes of black bean out of 400,000 tonnes to India, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Some Myanmar traders assumed that India has planned to import black bean from the neighbouring countries although this is the time of yield of the black bean in India. They have a lower production of black bean caused by erratic weather.

Myanmar is the primary grower of black bean, which is highly demanded from India. Besides Myanmar, Australia and Africa grow other kinds of peas such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, according to the MPBSSMA.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Total border trade value drops by \$107 mln as of 9 October this FY

IN the first week of the new financial year 2020-2021, the total border trade value amounted to \$86.46 million, a decrease of \$107 million compared with the same period last year. This time last year, the border trade had registered at \$193 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value as of 9 October this FY included \$48.5 million in export and US\$37.9 million in import. Compared with the last FY, the export earnings dropped by \$69.1 million while the import value declined by \$37.8 million because of suspension of the trade and closure of the border in COVID-19 period. Myanmar has opened 18 border posts between Myanmar and the neighbouring countries; with China through Muse, Lweijel, Chinsh-

wehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung, with Thailand through Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Tachilek, Mawtaung, Maese, with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtau, with Laos through Kyaiklat and with India through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang. 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. —Zwe (Translated by Hay Mar)

Donors invited for distribution of Shan goods under MFVP arrangement

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) will arrange if anyone contacts them to buy and donate Shan goods, said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of MFVP.

“We will arrange for those who wish to donate Shan goods if they contact us. We will also calculate the transport costs and the amount to buy goods from Shan State. They can donate to any place and people. If they don’t know whom to donate where we will arrange for them as well,” he said.

Currently, the farmer trucks (Taungthu Zaykar) supervised by our MFVP are sell-

ing the crops and vegetables in four townships -- South Dagon, Hlinethaya, South Okkalapa and Thingangyun starting from 14 October, he added.

The two farmer trucks are selling various vegetables such as rosselle, spinach, gourd, water convolvulus, cauliflower and Chinese cabbage of the local farmers from Mawbi, Taikkyi and Mingalardon townships.

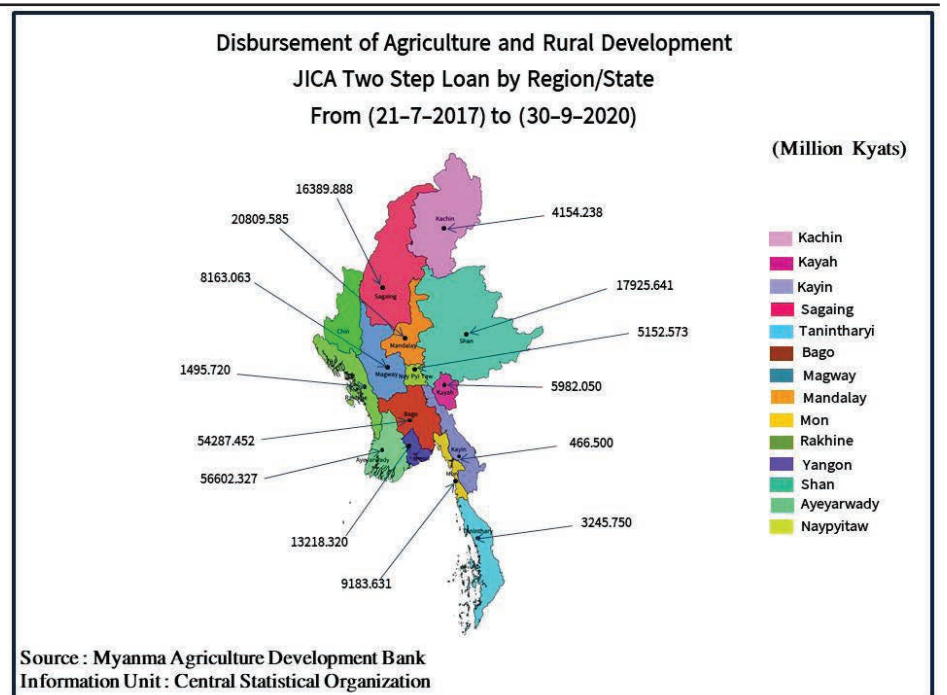
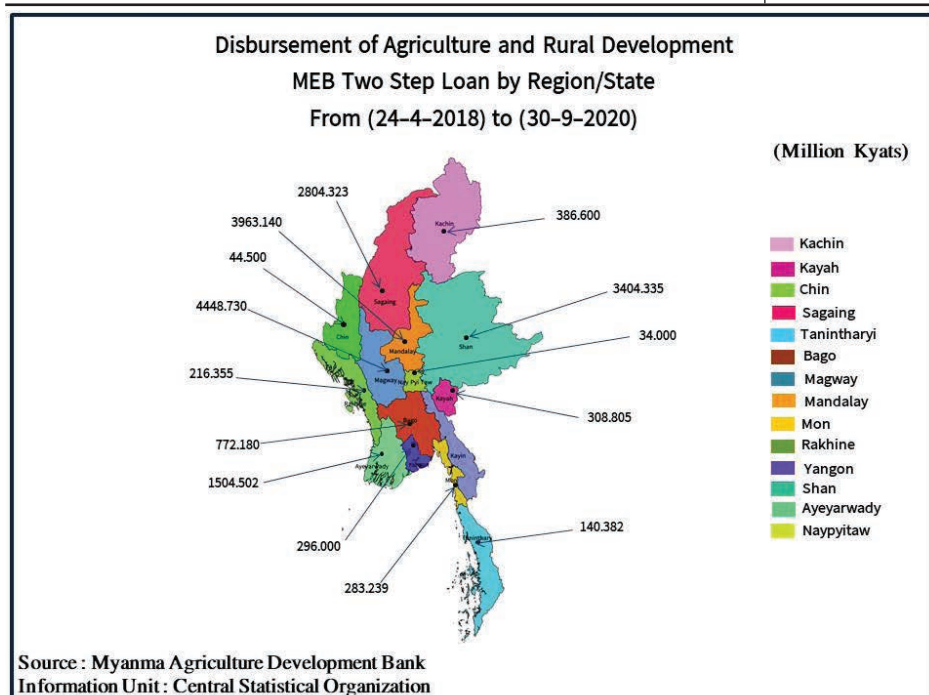
Moreover, they will sell tomato, potato, chilli, cabbage and onion from Shan State with the set price of local farmers.

The farmer trucks will sell those vegetables in the restricted areas of those townships and arrange for people to buy the vegetables safely.

People are not allowed to purchase the vegetables if they do not wear masks, according to MFVP.

Moreover, the vegetables have already been packed for K500 or K1,000. The price will be clearly displayed. The buyers need to drop the money in the cash box, and there will be no change. The vegetable products will be brought back daily to the storage. Then, the remaining vegetables will be donated or sold at a discount price in the outskirts in the evening.

The Taungthu Zaykar was started in July by MFVP, and the service was stopped in September because of COVID-19. (Translated by Hay Mar)



Golf's Australian Open cancelled for first time in 75 years

SYDNEY—Australia's three biggest golf tournaments fell victim to the coronavirus pandemic Friday in an "unprecedented blow" to the sport.

The men's and women's Australian Open and the PGA Championship, all due to be played in February, will now no longer take place. It will be the first time since 1945 that the men's Open, won previously by the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and Rory McIlroy, will not tee off.

"It's unprecedented and a real blow for Australian golf and its fans," said PGA of Australia chief executive Gavin Kirkman after what he called "months of exhaustive consultations".

Australia has closed its international borders to most travellers as part of its effort to suppress the coronavirus pandemic, and even people moving between some of the country's different states and regions can be subject to a mandatory two-week quarantine.

PGA officials considered a raft of options to deal with the restrictions, including players entering a hub and competing while serving a strict quarantine period, as well as restricting crowd numbers and movement. But ultimately none proved viable.

"Even with multiple contingency plans, it has reached a point where decisions have to be made and this, regrettably, is the one we've had to take," said Kirkman.—AFP ■



Australian Matt Jones is the current Australian Open title holder. **PHOTO: PETER PARKS/ AFP**

I love to be with Hantharwady: Shwe Hlaing Win



Hantharwady United key player Shwe Hlaing Win who is still happy to be with his home club. **PHOTO: MNL**

HANTHARWADY United left defender Shwe Hlaing Win, has expressed his excellent feeling about playing in Hantharwady United of Myanmar National League, according to the statement with the MNL.

Most of his senior teammates have retired from football, but he has the blood of football in his heart.

He also had a successful season with Hantharwady team representing Bago Region.

The left defender said, "The 2020 season is a successful year for our team. Both seniors and youngsters tried to use all-out efforts, and it was a year when

we all came together.

Myo Min Tun is our new head coach for 2020 season, and he gave space to youth players. In their debut, they were able to build a team that could challenge for the runners up title.

The team's goal was achieved. It is a pleasure to work with him.

"As for now, there are no competitions, but I exercise regularly because I love playing football. If possible, I love to continue playing for this team. I have an idea to coach, but I intend to keep playing as long as I can.

Our audience is always ready to cheer. Every time we played at home, they came to

support our team before the COVID-19 outbreak. Due to the pandemic, they were not allowed to enter football stadiums. I'm sorry about that. I hope all my fans enjoy the result", the defender added.

Shwe Hlaing Win, a native of Taunggyi, played in the early days of the Myanmar National League. He played for Yangon United in the 2010 season. He also has a professional football career at Ayeyawady United.

Shwe Hlaing Win also assisted Myanmar National Team to win the bronze medal at the 2011 Indonesia SEA Games.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Ronaldo 'violated' Covid protocol, says Italy's sports minister

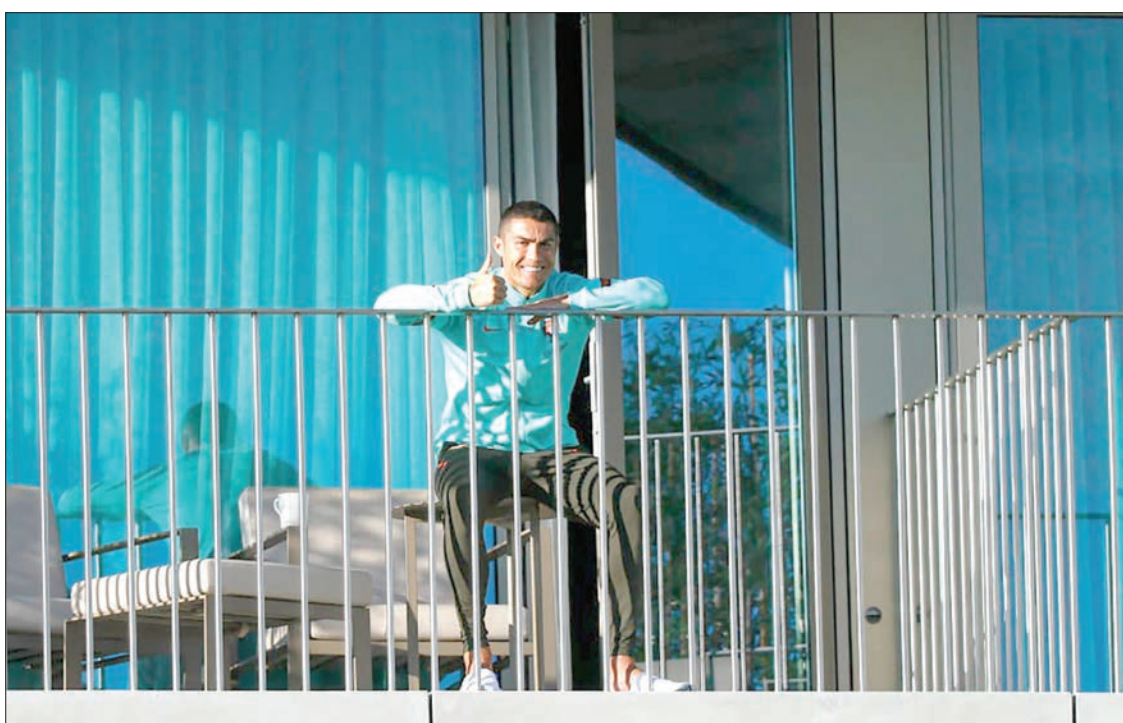
MILAN—Cristiano Ronaldo could have violated Italian coronavirus measures by returning to Turin from Portugal after testing positive, Italy's sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora said on Thursday.

"Yes, I think so, if there were no specific authorizations from the health authority," Spadafora told Radio Uno when asked whether the 35-year-old Portuguese star's return had breached COVID-19 rules.

Ronaldo left the Portuguese team camp near Lisbon on Wednesday to fly back to Northern Italy on his private jet.

Returned to Italy

"Cristiano Ronaldo returned to Italy with a medical flight authorized by the compe-



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo returned from Lisbon to Turin to quarantine. Diogo PINTO Portuguese Football Federation. **PHOTO: (FPF)/AFP**

tent health authorities at the request of the player and will continue his isolation at his home," Juventus said.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was "asymptomatic" after testing positive on Monday, the day after Portugal drew 0-0 with France in Paris.

However, the incident renewed controversy over his departure from Turin the previous week, which local health authorities said breached virus protocols after two Juventus staff members tested positive.

"I think that, at the moment, the protocols in force for the sports championships, both for Serie A football and for the sports associations and clubs are valid as long as they are respected," said Spadafora.—AFP ■