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Wednesday, 21 October 2020

President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to Myanmar ambassadors to Japan, Malaysia



President U Win Myint receives two newly-appointed Myanmar ambassadors to Japan and Malaysia at his office on 20 October for giving policy guidance before their duties. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint gave policy guidance to the two newly-appointed Myanmar ambassadors, U Soe Han to Japan and U Aung Soe Win to Malaysia, at his office in the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.—MNA

State Counsellor inspects third voting demonstration in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks into voting demonstration in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected the third voting practical demonstration in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

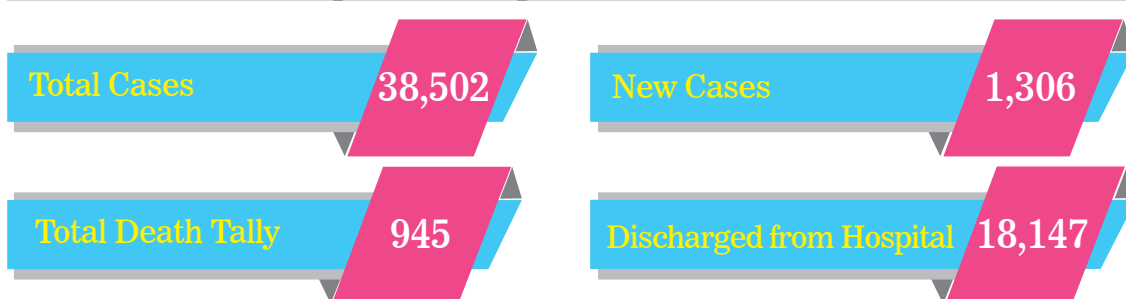
The demonstrations were organized to ensure the voting process

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1,306 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 October, total figure rises to 38,502

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 38,502 after 1,306 new cases were reported on 20 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 38,502 confirmed cases, 945 died, 18,147 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 20 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 20-10-2020

31

Ministry of Health and Sports

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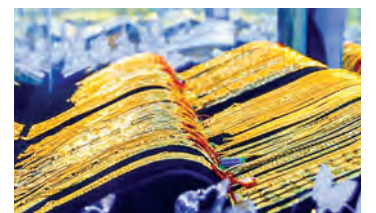
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Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

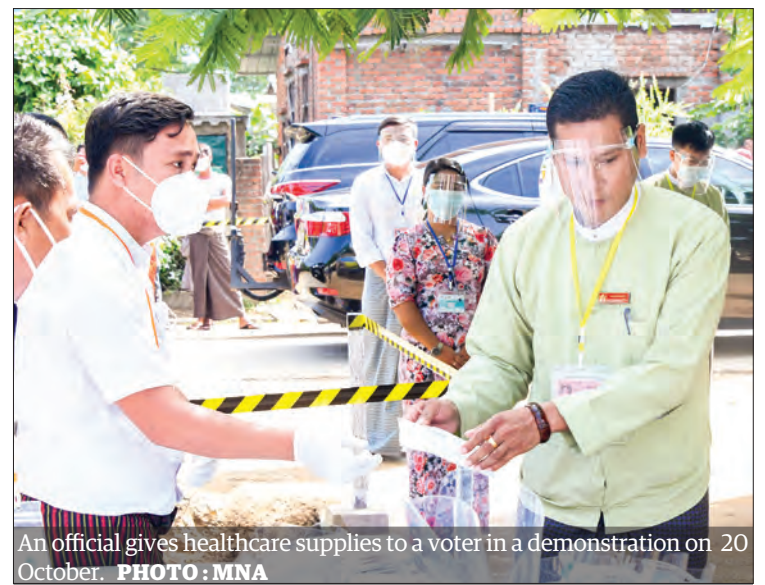
State Counsellor inspects third voting demonstration in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects voting demonstration of civil service staff at No. 1 polling station in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Civil service staff perform voting demonstration on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



An official gives healthcare supplies to a voter in a demonstration on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Cleaning the hands of voters with hand sanitizer in demonstration outside polling station on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**



Voting demonstration taken part by officials on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

adhere to healthcare guidelines of COVID-19 containment measures during the 2020 General Election.

On arrival at the primary school in Chin Village in Ottarathiri Township in the morning, the State Counsellor and party were welcomed by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Minister for Office of the Union Government 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 third demonstration, the number of expected voters on election day, assignment of duties for 13 officers inside and 5 officers outside polling stations, physical safety and feeling of security of voters during voting processes in

accordance with the guidelines of the State Counsellor on the first and second demonstrations under rules and regulations of the elections and distributions of COVID-19 preventive supplies to the voters in line with the guidelines of the COVID-19 national-level central committee.

The primary school in Chin Village will be used as the polling station No.1 of the Ottarathiri Township, and the practical demonstration was organized for

distribution of N95 masks, taking body temperature, helping to use alcohol 85% hand sanitizer, and completion of voting processes during the prescribed voting hour.

The State Counsellor then gave the advice to prepare for the convenience of voters and to erect information and education signboards for the safety of voters inside the polling stations.

The No.1 polling station at the primary school will be used

for 1,526 voters.

The UEC has updated that the number of voters in respective townships of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory is recorded as 89,816 in Zabuthiri Township, 28,167 in Dekkhnathiri Township, 134,603 in Pynmana Township, 218,671 in Lewe Township, 81,750 in Zeyathiri Township, 178,844 in Tatkon, 94,116 in Pubathiri Township and 52,469 in Ottarathiri Township.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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

18

MoHS organizes National Launching on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Introduction

THE Ministry of Health and Sports organized the National Launching on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Introduction yesterday.

The launching ceremony for central-level was organized at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw, and those present at the event were Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win and department heads.

Meanwhile, it was also virtually participated by Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and Dr Win Myat Aye, chief ministers of states/regions, deputy ministers, government members of states/regions, directors-general, managing directors, superin-



Ministry of Health and Sports organizes National Launching on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Introduction on 20 October. PHOTO: MNA



Union Ministers Dr Myint Htwe and Dr Myo Thein Gyi inspect samples of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) on 20 October. PHOTO: MNA

tendents of the hospitals, state/regional heads of Public Health and Medical Services Department, those from the relevant departments, Gavi, the vaccine alliance, officials from WHO and UNICEF, donor organizations, chairperson and members of National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, medical organizations, officials from NGO/INGOs and health experts.

A video message of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was screened at the ceremony.

(Video message of State Counsellor is covered on page 4).

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe talked on the ministry's ongoing works not only in containment measures against COVID-19 but also in other healthcare services, including the vaccination programme

among over 40 health projects of the country.

The HPV for prevention of cervical disease is the 13th vaccination programme of the ministry, and it was launched on 20 October. The vaccination will be given to over 450,000 girls ages 9-10 years. Although the programme will be skipped in the areas under stay-at-home order at present, it will begin as soon as the order was removed in these areas. The vaccination programme will be conducted at the schools when the academic year is resumed. The HPV that will be used in Myanmar is a quadrivalent vaccine which was supplied by Gavi, the vaccine alliance, at a special price of US\$4.5 for one dose to one person and the second and final dose will be injected in the alternative year.

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Speech of State Counsellor at National Launching on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Introduction

(20 October 2020)

TODAY is a historic and milestone day for our health sector in our country.

The reason I can say this is because beginning from October 2020, HPV vaccine (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine) has been included as the 13th vaccine in the regular vaccination programme of the Ministry of Health and Sports and 450,000 young girls between the ages of 9 to 10 years will be vaccinated on a nationwide scale in the wards and villages of regions, states and townships.

The HPV vaccine can prevent cervical cancer caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

Cervical cancer affects women all over the world, and it is the fourth most prevalent cancer, and this type of cancer afflicts Myanmar women the most.

According to available data, in 2018, a total of 849,569 women all over the world were afflicted with cervical cancer and 365,311 women lost their lives.

It is learnt that in Myanmar, 6,472 women were afflicted with cervical cancer and 3,856 women lost their lives.

It is learnt that in Myanmar, 21 women out of every 100,000 women were afflicted with cervical cancer, and Myanmar ranks second among South-East Asian countries.

Among the viruses that cause cervical cancer, 70 per cent are caused by HPV 16 and 18; among women who have normal immunity level, cervical cancer may develop only after a period of 15 to 20 years after being infected by this virus. However, among women with low immunity level (e.g. those who have HIV), cancer can develop with 5 to 10 years.

We can prevent HPV infection, which causes cervical cancer by having HPV vaccination while young.

By vaccinating young women as early as possible before 15 years before they are exposed to the HPV virus, sufficient time could be given for protection; this is why the WHO – World Health Organization has urged member countries to include the HPV vaccination the regular vaccination programme as a priority.

There are now 100 countries which have included HPV vaccination in their regular vaccination programmes up to August 2019.

Rich countries have been able to provide HPV



vaccinations as a result of which they have been able to reduce the rate of cervical cancer occurrence. However, we have seen that poor countries have not been able to make use of this vaccine for a disease which is quite prevalent.

By including the HPV vaccination in the regular vaccination programme in Myanmar, we would be able to effectively reduce the occurrence/fatalities caused by cervical cancer; furthermore, we can reduce the expenses needed for medical treatment and human resources.

From the part of the people, they will become to have more confidence in vaccination programmes because of the availability of additional potent and valuable vaccines as well as trust and acceptance; they will thus have more enthusiastic cooperation and participation to improve the coverage of current vaccinations and dispensation of medicines.

This year during October and November, we will be including the HPV vaccination in the regular vaccination programme to cover the targeted age group for young girls who were born between September 2010 and August 2011; they will be vaccinated two times with a spacing of 12 months.

Every year, we will collect data and provide vaccination against HPV to all the girls aged between 9 and 10.

HPV vaccine price for a girl is USD4.5 per dose. The government will pay 20 per cent of the expenses while an international organization named “Gavi, the

Vaccine Alliance” will pay 80 per cent. But after 2025, the government will have to pay all of the expenses.

The Central Expanded Immunization Programme section, operated under the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports, have already made advance preparations systematically on a real-time basis, to give the vaccination to all children of the targeted age group, leaving no one behind, at the national, regional, township-level up to the rural health divisions.

Similar to this central-level opening ceremony marking the vaccination period, Region/State level, and township level opening ceremonies marking the vaccination period will be held in their areas to coincide with the actual commencement of vaccination.

The objective is that all officials from the central government and regional governments, all level of public administrators, relevant departments, NGOs, local and foreign civil society organizations, and all the citizens need to know about the introduction of HPV vaccination programmes, the targeted age-group, and all other diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations; the intention is that all of them will willingly participate in the vaccination programme, and all children of the targeted age-group will receive all the vaccines they need.

Moreover, we will be able to urge women between the ages of 30 and 49 to have regular cervical cancer screening and to receive necessary treatments early enough, so that the fatality rate of cervical cancer will be sharply reduced.

In conclusion, the introduction of the HPV vaccination, as 13th vaccine, in the regular vaccination programmes of the Ministry of Health and Sports is a huge investment that will bring effective benefits for the country; so I would like to urge all relevant ministries, region/state governments, administrative units, civil society organizations and all citizens to cooperate in the programme so that all children of the targeted age-group, leaving no child behind, can be vaccinated.

Thank you all. May you have good health and well-being.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)



MoHS organizes National Launching on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Introduction

FROM PAGE-3

Gavi, the vaccine alliance, has contributed 80 per cent value of vaccine, while the government will cost for the remaining 20 per cent and other services.

Myanmar has been the 5th country of WHO in Southeast Asia and the 6th country of ASEAN member countries for the

A girl is being vaccinated at the national launching ceremony of the HPV vaccine on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

HPV vaccination programme.

The programme will also reach to far-flung areas, self-administered zones and ethnic areas with the cooperation of state/region governments.

The Union Minister also quoted the study of Johns Hopkins University, conducted in 94 countries during the Decade of Vaccines from 2011 to 2020. The findings showed that for every dollar invested in immunization over this period, there is a US\$16 return for the health sector and \$44 for the social sector.

Gavi, the vaccine alliance,

will also assist in receiving COVID-19 vaccine for 20 per cent population of Myanmar after it has been developed.

Myanmar is working to meet the objective of the WHO to lower the elimination target of 4 cases per 100,000 women per year.

He also discussed the awareness programme to prevent this disease at all levels of the community.

After screening the HPV programme video, the three girls were vaccinated before the ceremony was concluded. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers speech at virtual event marking World Statistics Day

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Central Committee for Accurate and High-Quality Statistics, delivered an opening speech at a virtual event marking the World Statistics Day 2020 hosted at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The committee Secretary U San Myint (Director-General), the Deputy Director-General, and other officials attended the event in the ministry.

The virtual event was also participated via videoconferencing by Union Ministers Lieutenant General Soe Htut, U Soe Win, U Kyaw Tin, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Winn, U Win Khaing, U Thein Swe, Dr Than Myint, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, U Han Zaw, Dr Win Myat Aye and U Ohn Maung; Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, U Maung Maung Win, U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein; the Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor, regional Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Managing Directors, and officials from development partner organizations, civil society organizations and private sector.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/282, in which it designated 20 October as the World Statistics Day and decided to celebrate the Day every five years on that date. Myanmar also celebrated



Vice President U Henry Van Thio makes the speech via videoconferencing on the event of World Statistics Day 2020 on 20 October.

PHOTO: MNA

the Day in 2010 and 2015, according to the Vice President. This year's event was held online because of COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of World Statistics Day 2020 is “Connecting the world with data we can trust”. Myanmar has aimed to strengthen the national statistics system that the citizens trust, according to the Vice President.

The Vice President stressed that trustable data is needed to know the changes in the world, and statistics also have a crucial role in responding to the global COVID-19 crisis.

The virtual event is also intended to promote cooperation between all stakeholders to create Myanmar's comprehensive national statistics system that can acquire trustable socio-economic data and reliable indicators, and to develop trustable data between the people and the government and among the global countries, according to the Vice President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Statistics Law on 22 January 2018 and, it has been applied starting from 22 January 2019. The Central Committee for Accurate and High-Quality Statistics held ten meetings from 2016 to 2020, said the Vice President.

Myanmar has already drafted the Statistical Policy Brief and the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) Implementation Action Plan (2018-19~2022-23) to produce accurate statistics.

The Vice President said that

like other countries, Myanmar has made efforts to formulate Code of Practice for statistics. He also pointed out that “data culture” needs to be developed in government departments, private sectors and the general public.

The Vice President claimed that investing in the statistics sector is the only way to assess the results related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

The Vice President also called on all stakeholders to effectively cooperate in preparing reliable statistics to connect the international community with trustable data.

During the event, a message of the UN Secretary-General was read by UN Resident

and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Ola Almgren.

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Director Mr Stefan Schweinfest also sent a video message to the virtual event.

A documentary video featuring the development of Myanmar statistics sector was also screened in the event.

The committee's Secretary U San Myint explained Myanmar's statistics system.

During the event, the Economist and Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet led the discussions on “Connecting the international communities with the data we can trust”.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Election Commission holds a press conference on preparation for 2020 General Election. PHOTO: MNA

UEC holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Election Commission held a press conference on election-related matters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The conference was held in accordance with the COVID-19 control and prevention guidelines.

Members of press release team U Myint Naing, U Than Htay, U Swe Tint Lwin and officials from the UEC office answered the questions of 34 foreign and local media organizations.

They detailed about the preparation for the 2020 General Election, measures to enable all eligible voters to cast their ballots, matters relating to advance voting and declaration of non-electoral areas and preparation for the voting process in accordance with the COVID-19 control and prevention guidelines.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Hong Kong investors eye new opportunities in Myanmar

HONG KONG business and those already present in Myanmar expressed a keen interest in Myanmar's significant investment potential including areas as diverse as energy, transport, banking and finance, retail and services during a recent webinar organized by the Myanmar-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

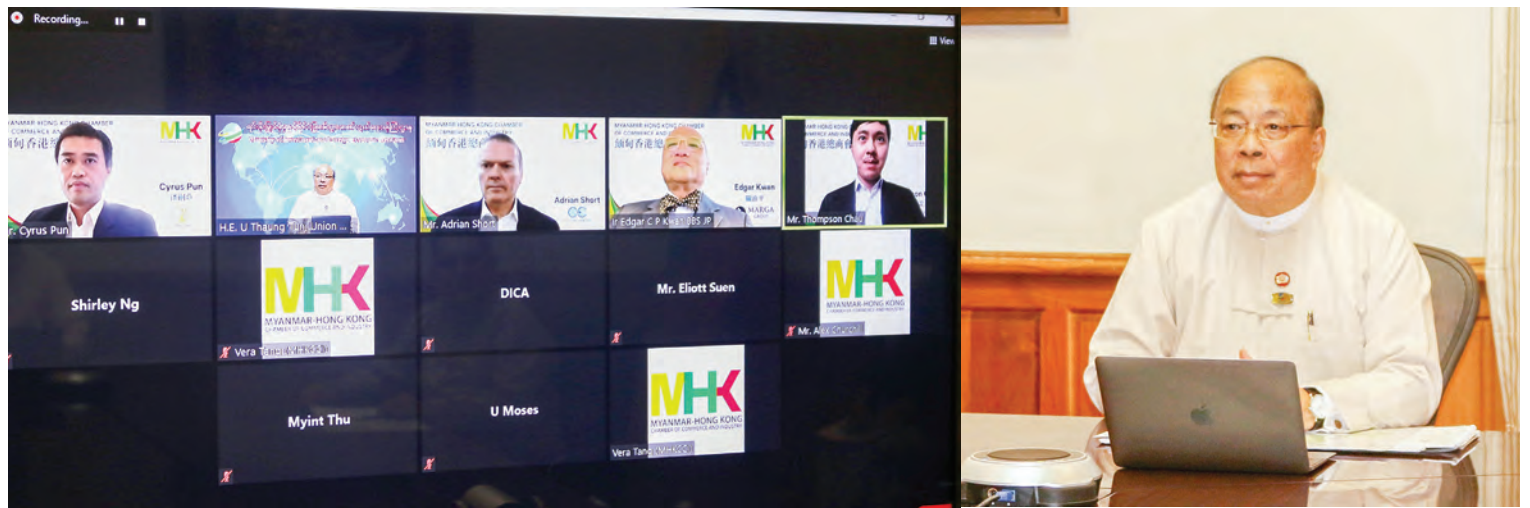
As a guest of honour delivering a keynote address, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, highlighted Myanmar's enviable geographic position as:

"...a strategic land bridge, connecting two of the world's largest regional economies, those of South and South East Asia, we also wish to play a greater connecting role – connecting East and West – from the Mid-East to the Mekong!"

The Union Minister also referred to ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19 noting that:

"...today the IMF forecasts Myanmar's growth at closer to 2 per cent – still placing us amongst a small handful of nations who will post positive growth this year. Thankfully, most forecasts suggest our rapid return to pre-crisis growth of 6 per cent plus in 2021."

The Union Minister together with panellists, including Memories Group CEO Mr Cyrus Pun, Cycle & Carriage



Union Minister U Thaung Tun joins the webinar organized by Myanmar-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar General Manager Mr Adrian Short, and Mr Edgar C P Kwan, Marga Group Chief Development Officer were in firm agreement that such growth could be achieved via increased and diversified investment in maritime infrastructure, roads, rail, urban housing, border cooperation zones, agriculture, technology, cyber and clean energy projects amongst many others.

Despite current sluggish global growth and general uncertainty, Mr Edgar C P Kwan expressed optimism that the coming year will bring forth further opportunities for Myanmar, highlighting in particular, investment opportunities in Myanmar's energy, real estate and manufacturing services sector, while noting that the continued

expansion of a world-class services industry will also help to further facilitate Myanmar's broad-based and inclusive development.

Memories Group CEO Mr Cyrus Pun enquired as to what steps had been taken to cut through red tape and to lower administrative hurdles faced by investors, to which the Minister replied noting the launch of the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCo) company registration platform, the recent launch of an online tax payment system in Yangon, as well as the continued development of Standard Operating Procedures across all administrative units within the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations as clear signs of progress being made.

With examples on offer such as the recent successful West Yangon Industrial Park competitive tender launch, the successful conclusion of international tendering for 30 solar power projects, and the recent approval (Notice to Proceed) of a new Thilawa LNG-to-Power project – amongst Myanmar's largest and equal to one-fifth of the country's current power generation capacity - the Minister noted how continued investment in Myanmar's energy sector will unlock further flow-on investment in other sectors, generating new jobs for a young population while ensuring the government keeps its commitment to electrifying the nation by 2030.

The Union Minister also drew attention to the upcoming

launch of the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP), clarifying its role as an interim reform-oriented measure, a natural successor to the shorter-term COVID-19 Economic Reform Plan (CERP), that will be used to ensure remains on track toward achieving the MSDP once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Noting the reputation Hong Kong investment has garnered as responsible and of high quality, the Minister emphasized that Myanmar welcomes responsible, quality investment from wherever it may come and remains committed to providing a level playing field for all responsible investors seeking to do business, or to explore greener pastures in Myanmar.—MNA

Union Minister U Thein Swe attends pre-coordination meeting of 26th ALMM



Union Minister U Thein Swe chairs the pre-coordination meeting on 16th ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting and related meetings on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Labour, Immigration and Population held a pre-coordination meeting on 16th ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting and related meetings to be held by video conferencing in Indonesia on 26 and 27 October, ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting and the 11th ASEAN +3 Labour Ministers' Meeting to be held on 28 October.

Union Minister U Thein Swe

said that the meetings of ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting, ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN +3 Labour Ministers' Meeting aimed to implement the guidelines set by the ASEAN leaders in their respective sectors.

The Union Minister continued that the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Action Plan 2021-2025 and related work programmes

will be submitted to the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting with the approval of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting and the ASEAN Labour Guidelines and Roadmap, which have been officially approved by the ASEAN Labour Ministers will be reaffirmed at the meeting.

He called for preparation and coordination with relevant departments to make effective

participation in video conferencing meetings from 26 to 28 October; participants should prepare information and requirements in advance and ensure that there is no internet or power outage and to prepare the necessary information related to the discussions at previous meetings and information to be approved at this meeting.

The Union Minister said it is necessary to study and prepare for the main purpose of the 26th ALMM "Competitiveness of ASEAN Workers for Future Careers; Improving resilience and mobility".

He also said to send the necessary information related to the department accurately and completely in time; to submit in time if there are any issues to be submitted to the higher authorities for decision before the meeting; to assign English skills experts and to prepare for the

new generation; to send the mid-term report in a timely manner related to the decisions made at previous ASEAN meetings; to constantly monitor the activities of other ASEAN countries as Myanmar has the largest number of migrant workers in ASEAN and to take in-depth study of ASEAN labour issues.

Afterwards, the Directors of the Department of Labour and the Social Security Board explained their participation in the 13th SLOM-WG meeting. After the Directors-General discussed the attendance at previous ASEAN meetings related to each department, implementation of meeting decisions, preparation, completion and continuous working to participate in the 26th ALMM, the Union Minister coordinated the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 37/2020
3rd Waxing of Thadingyut 1382 ME
(19 October 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. 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.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 17 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 Than Lwin who lives in Yay Kyaw Village in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 October 2020, police searched the house of Than Lwin, 65, son of U Hme, who lives in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and arrested him together with WY stimulant drugs. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Thawutthi) MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Ko Kyaw Hlaing Win who lives in Tar Law Gyi Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 October 2020, police arrested Cho Cho Win, 35, daughter of U Win Hla, who lives in Tar Law Gyi Village, Myitkyina Township together with heroin on the Tar Law Gyi-Shwe Nyaung Pin Road. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (TarLawGyi) MaYa(Pa)35/2020 under Section 16(c)/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to the further investigation, she bought the heroin from Kyaw Hlaing Win(a) La Maung, 39, son of U Aung Win who lives in the same village. Police searched the house of Kyaw Hlaing Win and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(TarLawGyi) MaYa(Pa)36/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of cultivating marijuana plant, on a forest road, near the Thae Phyu Chaung-Lay Kay Kaw road, in Kyaut Khat Village, Myawady Township, Kayin State, exporting illegally to the other country.	On 15 October 2020, police searched the forest road near Thae Phyu Chaung-Lay Kay Kaw road, near Kyaut Khat Village, Myawady Township and destroyed 3 acres of marijuana including seedlings. A case has been opened against the Vietnamese owner (Canadian citizen) who illegally stayed and is now fleeing, with MaMaSa (Myawady) MaYa(P)145/2020 under Section 16(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Thein Aung who lives in Tha Yat Kone Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 October 2020, police stopped the motorbikes of Thein Aung, 40, son of U Tin Phe, who lives in Tha Yat Kone Village, Mawlaik Township and of Rambo(a)Sanny, 31, son of U Phe San, and Kyaw Min, 34, son of U Maung Myint, who live in Wayonethar Village in the same township and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Mawlaik) MaYa(Pa) 78/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

5.	Information received of Pyar Pone who lives in Yamonenar Village, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 October 2020, police searched the house of Win Htay(a) Pyar Pone, 47, son of U Soe Myaing, who lives in Yamonenar Village, Kawthoung Township, and arrested him together with speciosa. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(Pa) 193/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of many people under Aung Ze Ya bridge, Insein Township, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 16 October 2020, police stopped the motorbike of Thant Zin Tun, 36, son of U Mya Than and Naing Htet Aung, 26, son of U Soe Hlaing, who live in Talout Htaw Village and arrested them under Aung Ze Ya bridge, Kann Nar ward (middle), Insein Township, together with WY stimulant drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa (Pa) 160/2020 under Section 19 (a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,377 cases have been opened files as of 17 October 2020. A total of 2,101 people, including 1,750 men and 351 women had been arrested with 10,463.5394 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, 54,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 681,468 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.
4. 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

115 Myanmar nationals return home by relief flight

THE Embassy of Myanmar in Seoul managed to send 115 Myanmar nationals back home by a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) from Incheon Airport, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

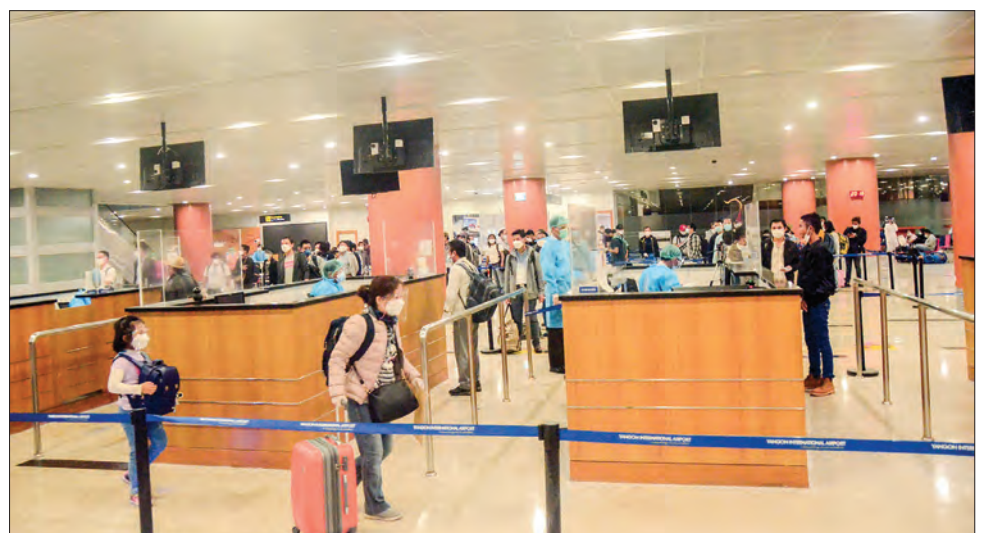
Among these returnees, 6 Myanmar nationals were from Brazil while 3 each from Canada, Italy and Norway, 1 each from Germany and Russia, 5 from Indonesia, 2 from Israel, 78 from ROK, 4 from UK and 9 from US.

As they arrived in Yangon, the officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government

helped for immigration process, medical tests, and arrangement for their 7-day quarantine at the specific areas or the designated hotels, and 7-day quarantine at home.

For the repatriation of Myanmar seamen who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries, and has organized 27 relief flights from the ROK.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar returnees from abroad are queuing at immigration counters at Yangon International Airport on 20 October. PHOTO: MNA

Keep up fight against preventable diseases by vaccination amidst pandemic

DESPITE tacking challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Government has started the nationwide (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine-HPV) vaccination campaign yesterday.

It reflects that the Union Government is committed to keeping the country's battle against cervical cancer under the nationwide Expanded Programme on Immunization which aims to prevent 12 diseases through vaccination.

The importance of continuing vaccination must not be forgotten in the COVID-19 pandemic because our girls and women can be immunized against the deadly disease with this vaccination.

At this time, it is crucial that all those involved in the national immunization project to fight against twelve diseases keep abreast of the changes affecting our work and be willing to quickly introduce alternative practices so we can continue to move forward.

To make the 2025 Expanded Programme on Immunization a success, we need to find out the possible challenges ahead and find ways to tackle them.

With these efforts, we can mitigate the impact this pandemic could have on our fight against cervical cancer and other preventable diseases through vaccination.

Under the HPV vaccination programme launched yesterday, over 450,000 girls aged between 8 and 10 years will be administered the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is the 13th vaccine on the immunization list.

The girls in townships which are under the Stay-At-Home order would receive the vaccination when the townships are removed from the order.

Besides, a school-based vaccination programme will launch nationwide when the schools reopen.

The cost of vaccinating a child against cervical cancer is about four dollars. Twenty per cent of the total funds required for the nationwide immunization programme will be paid by the Union government, while Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has donated 80 per cent of the funds. The government will have to fund the entire immunization programme after 2025.

Hence, it is important that the funds allocated for the programme are used effectively.

Meanwhile, the Union Government is keeping on watch the trial results of COVID-19 vaccine in the world, and so far, no country has yet finalized the phase-3 clinical trial.

It is worth noting that Gavi, the vaccine alliance, would provide the COVID-19 vaccine for 20 per cent of our population once the vaccine is approved by the World Health Organization, and the Union Government has made necessary arrangements to prepare for COVID-19 vaccinations.

We believe that the Ministry of Health and Sports and its health workers would leave no stone unturned to make the nationwide immunization programmes a success despite COVID-19 challenges.

Relation between climate change and COVID-19

THE COVID-19 has spread rapidly and exponentially all over the world. It is affecting the lives of millions of people and, also, the environment. The effects are detrimental not only for human health but also for the economy, industries, tourism, social and politics. The Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions and human mobility have been reduced, which improves air quality and encourages wild animals to come out and explore the cities. With drastic reduction in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions since the outbreak of the pandemic the climate conditions are visibly improving, the only beneficiary is our planet.

Positive effects of the COVID-19

With many factories shut-down, major construction works ceased, most traffics at standstill and less people are out and about on the streets due to the stay home and the lockdown orders, the air, the noise and the plastic pollutions markedly decreased across the globe. I first noticed those conditions in Yangon at the beginning of the pandemic in our country. During my morning walks, I came to notice the surrounding vistas looking clean, pristine and the air fresh and pure with clear blue skies above and the streets, roads and sidewalks devoid of plastic wastes

– a sight rarely seen in Yangon for years.

In China, notorious for air pollutions, where the present pandemic originated, the CO2 emissions have decreased by a quarter. Similarly, in Italy and Spain, COVID-19 has substantially reduced air pollution as the emissions of the greenhouse gases have been reduced drastically during the first two and a half months of 2020. Some experts are of the opinion that the COVID-19 pandemic is linked to the climatic conditions.

Only a few months into the outbreak of the disease, the reports from around the world widely acclaimed the great improvements in the climate conditions. One interesting news was about the sighting of a distant snow-capped peak in the Himalayan Range from a place inside India for the first time in thirty years. These incited in me an urge to mention about the positive impacts of the COVID-19 on the climate change, which I duly did in one of my articles. These are the bright sides of the COVID-19 pandemic, but how sustainable is this positive effect in the long term?

Adverse effects of the COVID-19

It is learnt that the opposite effects are also taking place; the climate change is impacting the humans adversely during the pandemic. Many had written about

the impacts of the pandemic on the economy, social, ways of life and some other aspects. I may be wrong or missed them, but only a few or none have written about how the worsening climate change can affect the pandemic, in our news media.

In this discussion the scientifically complicated matters will be avoided and will be done generally and simply. First and the most important impact of the climate change on the pandemic is how the natural disasters, such as, the storms and floods are expediting the spread of the disease. When there are dangers of an eminent storm and possibilities of flooding, residents are usually required to evacuate to safe and higher grounds. Such actions taken under pandemic conditions will expose the populace to the disease, as they will have to cram into crowded transport and stay in confined and overcrowded shelters. No one can know who among those evacuees are infected or who are silent carriers of the disease.

In support of the above statement, allow me to cite some evidences of the impact that the climate change has on the spread of the disease. In late May 2020, as COVID-19 was spreading rapidly around the globe, one of the most powerful storms in decades ravaged the east coast of India. In anticipation, some 3 million people

were evacuated into crowded cyclone shelters. Many refused to go there out of fear of contracting the virus. An unknown number of whom were killed as the cyclone ripped through their ramshackle coastal villages. The extent to which the virus was able to spread due to the evacuations has yet to be assessed, but surely those evacuations were not without undesirable consequences.

Another example worth mentioning is the one that took place almost about the same time as the one in India. Halfway around the world, two dams on the Tittabawassee River in the US state of Michigan were failing after record flooding from intense rains. As the waters rose a state of emergency was declared and the authorities pleaded with the residents in the floodplain to evacuate immediately. Michigan, at the time, was being particularly hard hit by COVID-19 and the state had, despite considerable opposition, implemented far-reaching lockdown and quarantine measures. Just imagine how difficult and risky those moves would be during a pandemic. There are many similar examples, but these two cases will suffice.

The basic logic of the risks in an overlap between the pandemic and extreme weather events is straightforward. During a pandemic, the urgent displacement of millions of people during a storm

increases the risk of exposure to the virus as maintaining adequate precautionary measures becomes difficult, if not impossible; so does the effective contact tracing of new cases among the evacuees.

Once the storm has passed, residents face the grueling task of cleanup and repair, made more difficult because of necessary virus protection measures. Storm-battered health-care facilities, if fortunately they remain operational will face the challenge of accommodating an influx of storm-related cases. On top of the pandemic caseload, storm victims must be kept separated to reduce the risk of transmission. In the event of widespread storm disaster, like the one sustained during the Cyclone Nargis, the state healthcare systems could quickly be overwhelmed, seriously increasing the toll of both the pandemic and the storm.

Basically, the climate change helps create conditions for the emergence of new pandemics and for increasing their lethality. Thus, the climate change can be called a pandemic enabler, a pandemic accelerator and a multi-pathway crisis engine. COVID-19 is pointing out to us that our health and our planet's health are inseparably entwined. The same conditions that contribute to climate change

also contribute to the pandemics. Investing in the mitigation of these conditions will yield a double reward. So, it's needless to say that failure to invest will lead to an exponential increase in the risk.

Conclusion

As some climate change experts are predicting, the worsening of the climate, which is the result of human activities, will definitely return to its old conditions as before the pandemic, once all these are over. People will start polluting the environs as ever before. This collision of the climate change and the pandemic is a very loud and clear alarm siren for us to be aware of the challenges ahead if the climate change is not reined in. So, now that we know the climate change and the pandemics are inseparably entwined, all of us, humans should endeavour to fight the worsening climatic conditions. Our efforts will not go to waste, but contribute greatly to the control of the spread of the pandemics, in case we are unfortunate to encounter in the future again.

Reference:-

COVID-19 and Climate Change – Centre for International Governance Innovation.

NATIONS TO CONTINUE CORONAVIRUS MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Focus on fundamentals as COVID-19 caseloads rise: WHO

As COVID-19 cases continue to accelerate, particularly in Europe and North America, the World Health Organization (WHO) is advising governments and people everywhere not to let their guard down, for the benefit of those hospitalized, or working on the front line of the battle to end the pandemic.

"I know there's fatigue but the virus has shown that when we let our guard down, it can surge back at breakneck speed and threaten hospitals and health systems", agency chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists on Monday.

Last week, WHO reported that the pandemic has entered a worrying phase as the northern hemisphere winter season approaches.

At the time, the caseload in Europe was almost three times higher than during the first peak of the pandemic in March.

Break transmission chains

Tedros said he was encouraged to see many leaders communicating with their populations about targeted measures necessary to slow coronavirus spread and protect health workers and health systems.

He pointed out that as cases rise, the number of people needing hospital beds and intensive care also increases. And although nurses and doctors now have a much better understanding of how best to treat people with the virus, the situation could put them and patients at risk.

"So, it's important that all governments focus on the fundamentals that help to break the chains of transmission and save both lives and livelihoods", he said.

"This means active case finding, cluster investigations, isolating all cases, quarantining health workers and protecting the vulnerable." Tedros underlined that



London, UK, Covid-19 restrictions in place in Soho, an area of the City of Westminster. PHOTO: IMF/JEFF MOORE

isolating all cases, quarantining health workers and protecting the vulnerable." Tedros underlined that

everyone also has a role to play through practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, avoiding crowds and other recommended measures.

We Are Family

WHO announced that one of the biggest anthems from the disco era is being refashioned as a "clarion call" for the COVID-19 pandemic.

'We Are Family', by the American group Sister Sledge, will be featured in a new campaign to promote global solidarity, unity and collaboration in the face of the disease.

SOURCE: UN News



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 20 October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area over Central Bay of Bengal still persists. It is forecast to move initially Northwestwards then North-Northeastwards. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTILNOON OF THE 21 October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Northern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan (South and East) and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yagon and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 October, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers.

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Announcement related to ballot papers with Hluttaw candidates of United Democratic Party (terminated)

1. The Union Election Commission announced the dissolution of United Democratic Party in line with Section 12-(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law as the party failed to comply with provisions in Section 12, Sub-section a-iv of the Political Parties Registration Law and Section 15, Sub-section b, c, and f of the Political Parties Registration Act.
2. UDP candidates have also lost their rights to be elected as Hluttaw candidates in 2020 General Election as they failed to comply with the provisions of the Sub-section (h) of the Section 10 of the Hluttaw Election Law. The UEC has also instructed the sub-commissions to remove their names from the list of Hluttaw candidates in line with respective Hluttaw election bylaws and bylaw 36 (c and d).
3. It is now 19 days ahead of the General Election, and the ballot papers printed at the Ministry of Information are being transported to the various levels of election sub-commissions through the sub-commissions of states, regions and the Union Territory.
4. It is not enough time to reprint the ballot papers without the name of UDP candidates at the Ministry of Information, and transport the papers to the respective sub-commissions. Moreover, the respective election sub-commissions have no sufficient time to draw a red line over the name of candidates, party logo and marking place for vote to cancel them. The respective sub-commissions will not also remove/delete the name of candidates of this party from the ballot papers.
5. Therefore, the voters, either for advance voting or for polling station vote on the Election Day, shall not vote for the terminated candidates of United Democratic Party. Otherwise, such votes will be determined as rejected ballots.
6. The announcement will also be published at the sub-commission offices and polling stations. And that, it is informed to the voters to prevent the rejected ballot in line with this announcement.

Union Election Commission

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Myanmar Farmers' Development Party, United National Congress Party and Democracy and Human Rights Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 21 October for the second time. — MNA

Wa Special Region-2 donates K200 mln to Peace Commission for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities

WA Special Region-2 donated K200 million for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities to Peace Commission at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) yesterday morning.

Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win made an opening speech at the ceremony, saying that "I would like to thank for the donation of Wa Special Region-2 during this hard time. Time is important in healthcare industry and the next one is medicine. We lose lives and properties and also have to solve all the social affairs during the second wave of COVID-19. We need all medical supplies like oxygen, PPEs, masks and even gloves. So, today donation is such a supportive measure for us during the virulent wave of COVID-19."

U Aik San Shwe, representative of Wa Special Region

-2 handed over K200 million for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities to Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win and received the certificate of honour.

The representative of Wa Special Region-2 U Aik San Shwe briefed the donation that, "We donated K200 million by connecting with Peace Commission Deputy Chair U Thein Zaw as the numbers of positive cases continuously rising in Myanmar. Although the cash amount is not large, it is the genuine goodwill of our Wa Special Region-2. We will keep supporting Myanmar regarding the forthcoming disasters and pandemic as much as we can."

Secretary of the Peace Commission Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Rtd) expressed words of thanks by saying the Committee for Coordination with Ethnic Armed Organizations



Wa Special Region-2 donates K200 million to Peace Commission for COVID-19 containment measures on 20 October. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

in measures against COVID-19 was organized by the government and provided the EAOs for three times by using K190 million. The Peace Commission is still arranging to provide the needed aids. Wa Special Region-2 also donated for

flood victims in 2018 and such doings were very supportive in peace processes.

The Peace Commission donated a total of K190 million for COVID-19 protection measures between July and October.

Wa Special Region-2 donat-

ed to Peace Commission K440 million for flood victims in August 2018 and now K200 million for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. —Nyunt Ko Ko

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy Drafting Committee holds its 1st online meeting

THE National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy Drafting Committee held its first online meeting on formulation of National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chair U Aung Kyi, in his capacity as Committee Chair made an opening remark, saying that the National Level Anti-Corruption Strategy is absolutely essential for the country and some priority facts should be added in the strategy.

Committee Deputy Chair U San Win, in his capacity as ACC Secretary later discussed for-

mation of committee on public organizations, committee on private sectors and civil organizations, committee on technology for National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy Drafting Committee to implement successfully in accordance with the duties of President's Office.

Then, Secretary for strategy drafting committee Daw Myat Myat Soe, member of ACC briefed 8 facts of basic principles in drafting the Anti-Corruption Strategy and National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy (draft) of Myanmar by referencing the anti-corruption strategy of the neighbouring countries while

the other attendees coordinated the meeting regarding formation of two committees and criteria.

The ACC Chair concluded the meeting by saying that the officials of private sectors and civilian groups will be invited in forming the committee on private sectors and civil organizations in line with the set criteria, the ToR (Terms of References) will be drafted for the committees and the decisions will be sought at the 2nd committee meeting to be held on 20 November 2020.

—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



U Aung Kyi participates in its first online meeting on formulation of National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy on 20 October 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar citizens begin advance voting in Cuba



A Myanmar eligible voter casts advance vote in Havana of Cuba on 19 October. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Embassy in Havana of Cuba opened a polling station for the advance voting of the expatriate Myanmar citizens for the 2020 General Election, on 19 October and a total of 3 Myanmar citizens in Cuba casted their advance ballots.

The Myanmar Embassy organized the advance voting in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention rules set by the host country and the voters followed the rules systematically.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Merchants sell stocked beans to India to meet its purchase target

MOST variety beans exporting merchants are selling the beans, which were bought at high prices and stocked in the warehouses, to India that will buy 400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, said General Secretary U Zaw Moe of the Monywa Commodity Depot.

“Now, the price of pigeon peas is rising in the market because India has set up the import quota of pigeon peas and black beans for Myanmar. The price of pigeon peas rose by K3,000 or K4,000 per basket. The market price of pigeon peas is K30,300 per viss. The retail shops are selling a viss of the pea for K30,300. The price is rising as India set up the import quota for Myanmar. Recently, the bean bags are being loaded onto the ship at Yangon jetty,” he added.

Now, Monywa town is sending around 3,000 bags of bean daily to Yangon via land route. The pigeon pea bags in Yangon are also selling well.

“India highly demanded the black beans and pigeon peas from Myanmar. We can also sell those beans as long as India demands,” said U Tin Ko Ko, the officer in charge of the Monywa Commodity Depot. The exported pigeon peas to India are harvested in 2020 as well as those which were harvested in 2018 and 2019. The local merchants are selling them, which are stocked in their warehouses.

“Most of the traders are selling the beans which were stocked in their warehouses. Some are still waiting expecting the extended deadline of India. I think, 75 per cent of the merchants are selling their stocked beans,” said the general secretary of the Monywa Commodity Depot.

There are around 70,000 or 100,000 bags of pigeon peas in Sagaing Region. Twenty bags of pigeon peas weigh one tonne. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YGN region tops \$308.768 mln from 137 foreign firms last FY

YANGON Region Investment Committee endorsed 137 enterprises in the past financial year 2019-2020, bringing in estimated capital of US\$308.768 million, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October and 30 September of the FY2019-2020, Yangon Region stood at the first place with 137 foreign enterprises (with a capital of \$308.768 million), followed by Bago Region with 18 foreign projects (\$72.645 million) at the second place and Ayeyawady, with nine at the third place (\$19.614 million).

Additionally, foreign direct investments also flow into Taninthayi Region from two projects worth \$1.397 million, Magway Region from two worth \$0.991 million, Mon State from two worth \$1.664 million, Mandalay Region from one business valued \$4.6 million, Sagaing Re-

gion from one worth \$3 million, Kachin State from one worth \$1 million, Shan State from one worth \$4.13 million and Nay Pyi Taw Council from one valued \$5.862 million.

In the last FY, the respective investment committees of Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin states did not endorse foreign enterprise at all, the DICA stated.

The region and state investment committees endorsed a total of 175 foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of \$423.671 million last financial year.

The endorsed enterprises are to be engaged in the manufacturing, hotels and tourism, other services, power and agricultural sector.

Of them, the majority of the investment goes into the manufacturing sector, followed by other service sector and hotels

and tourism sector.

The manufacturing sector has also attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.—Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

REPUBLIC of THE UNION of MYANMAR

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to PREPARE and IMPLEMENT A LARGE-SCALE HYDROPOWER PLANTS REHABILITATION PROJECT

CONSULTING SERVICES Expressions of Interest

The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar has received a financing from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD"), and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the following project : Rehabilitation of Hydro Power Plants. The Services of the consultant shall consist of an approximative 3 years mission to provide Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Electricity (MoEE), in charge of the project execution :

- preparation of the works (reviewing of workstream, planning, revision of the operational manual ...),
- assistance to EPGE for the procurement of materials and equipment (terms of reference, support during procurement procedures ...),
- supervision of works, and enforcement of AFD's E&S guidelines,
- along the project: coordination of the various stakeholders, reporting, ad hoc assistance to the EPGE project team.

The planned budget is 700kEUR.
The MoEE hereby invites Applicants to show their interest in delivering the Services described above.
This Request for Expressions of Interest is open to:

- Consulting firms Individual consultants
- NGOs Joint Venture between NGO(s) and consulting firm(s)

Eligibility criteria to AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Subconsultant may participate in several applications. If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members, or
- a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal.

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Subconsultants.

Experiences and qualifications of Subconsultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size;
- The nature of the Services: technical specifications review, capacity reinforcement, works supervision, project management;
- The technical area and expertise:
 - hydroelectricity,
 - hydropower plant rehabilitation,
 - hydromechanical and electrical equipment,
 - hydraulic gate refurbishment,
 - HSES expertise;
- The location : in the south east asian region and particularly in Myanmar.

The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- Taking into account the Covid sanitary situation, and consequent travel restrictions, it will be essential to count with local representatives and partners with strong expertise;
- Skills and availability of in-house technical back-up experts provided to the on-site experts.
- Quality assurance procedures and certifications of the Applicant

In case of JV or Consortium, the maximum numbers in Consortium shall be limited to three (3) members.

Among the submitted applications, MoEE will shortlist a maximum of six (6) Applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

MOEE specifically reserves the right to accept or reject applications if two or fewer applications are received and moreover, the proposals of those applicant(s) are acceptable, it will directly negotiate with the applicant(s) and continue the Bid process.

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted by e-mail to the address below no later than 19/11/2020.

**Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Electric Power Generation Enterprise**

**Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Telephone: +95-067-8104292, +95-9-250345339
Email: epge.afd@gmail.com**

Interested Applicants may obtain further information and Appendix to the Request for Expression of Interest by sending the official request via e-mail at the address above during office hours: From 9:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

"GO TO TRAVEL"

Over 25 mil. overnight stays covered by Japan travel subsidy campaign



A commercial street leading to Zenkoji temple in Nagano, central Japan, is crowded with tourists on Oct. 4, 2020, the first weekend after the Japanese capital was added to the "Go To Travel" government subsidy programme to shore up domestic tourism that has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Japanese government's "Go To Travel" subsidy campaign covered 25.18 million domestic overnight stays for about two months since its launch through the end of September, the tourist

ministry's preliminary figures showed Tuesday.

During that period, the government funded a total of 109.9 billion yen (\$1 billion) in discounts under the programme, which is aimed at boost-

ing the tourism sector hit by the novel coronavirus pandemic. The scheme will last through the end of January. Guests took advantage of the initiative which offered a 35 per cent discount for hotels

and package tour costs, paying on average 12,000 yen per person in lodging expenses.

Although some have pointed out that bookings are skewed toward luxury hotels rather than cheap ones, as guests find the scheme allows higher returns at expensive accommodations, tourism minister Kazuyoshi Akaba told reporters Tuesday that travelers are using the campaign for "every price range."

Around 16.89 million domestic overnight stays were covered by the programme between July 22 and Sept. 15, with the government shouldering a total of 73.5 billion yen in discounts, according to the data from hotels and travel agencies across the country.

SOURCE: KYODO

BLEAK GROWTH FORECASTS

New virus restrictions deal fresh blow to Spain economy

FRESH virus restrictions imposed in Spain's two regional economic powerhouses, Catalonia and Madrid, have darkened the country's already bleak growth forecasts and angered business leaders.

The two regions together account for around 40 percent of Spain's economic output and are home to most of the country's big

firms, as well as the pillars of its economy such as tourism and the manufacturing sector.

"We will die of hunger," hundreds of restaurant operators chanted during a protest Friday in Catalan capital Barcelona against a 15-day shutdown of bars and restaurants to contain a surge in cases in the northeastern region.

The measure was introduced shortly after a partial lockdown was imposed in Madrid and several of its satellite towns early October to curb a second wave of the virus in Spain, where nearly 34,000 people have died and about 975,000 have been infected.

Madrid residents can only leave city limits for essential reasons linked to

work, school or healthcare, while opening hours and the capacity of bars and restaurants have been reduced. If the restrictions are maintained for long in the two regions, it will have "a very negative impact" on the economy, Inigo Fernandez de Mesa, the deputy chief of business lobby group CEOE, told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0219-016N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0219-016N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2020** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (008N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (008N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

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Yangon Chief Minister encourages volunteers at COVID-19 treatment centres

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein encouraged the volunteers at COVID-19 treatment centres on 20 October.

The Chief Minister went to the COVID-19 treatment centres at the Yangon General Hospital, Botahtaung treatment centre, Thuwunna 300-bed treatment centre (Ayeyarwady centre) and Yankin Education College treatment centre.

The chief minister spoke words of encouragement, saying that he appreciated on behalf of Yangon regional government all the young health staff from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the volunteers from many different organizations, and youth volunteers who are fighting COVID-19 in the front line. Also, he was proud of their contribution to controlling COVID-19, he stressed.

When the Chief Minister reached 300-bed Ayeyarwady treatment centre, U Zaw Zaw, Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation, explained the preparations for ICU and



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein encourages the volunteers at COVID-19 treatment centre of Yankin Education College. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

HDI.

Then, City Love and Hope Foundation donated K200 million to Yankin Education College treatment centre and K53 million for the accommodation of the health staff. The Regional Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lin and Regional

Minister for Immigration and Human Resources Daw Moe Moe Suu Kyi received the donations and gave the thankful speeches.

The pandemic is rising in Myanmar starting from late August, with highly reported cases in Yangon Region. So, the

treatment centres supervised by the regional government are running in cooperation with the donors. The doctors, nurses and volunteers are playing an essential role at the COVID-19 treatment centres. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Authorities inspect factories in Insein Township

IN a bid to prevent spreading of COVID-19 and contain it in Insein Township, authorities inspected industrial zones 3, and 4 reopened in the township on 20 October to see whether they followed the COVID rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

A combined team led by Dr Naw Thandar Swe, head of Public Health Department in Insein Township, Dr Moe Moe Myint, deputy head of the Township Public Health Department, the Ward Administrators and the officials from the industries inspected the factories in zones 3, and 4 in Insein Township to check whether the factories are following the rules and regulations adopted by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Then, they gave advice and negotiated the necessary matters.

Insein Township COV-



A combined team inspects one of the reopened factories. **PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)**

ID-19 control and emergency response committee is acceler-

ating the prevention measures to contain COVID-19. —Zwe Htet

Ko (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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

External trade touches \$473 mln as of 9 October in 2020-2021FY

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 and 9 October in the current financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$473.89 million, a sharp drop of \$473 million compared with the corresponding period of the FY2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$947 million, according to data released by the ministry.

The decrease in Myanmar's foreign trade was attributed to the drop in exports and imports in the first nine days of the current FY amid the COVID-19 crisis. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Myanmar external trade between FY2016-2017 and FY2019-2020 (as of 21 August) under the incumbent government period touched a high of US\$149.67 billion, comprising exports worth \$68.53 billion and imports valued \$81.1 billion, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar foreign trade has shown a 10-per cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government. Myanmar has already surpassed the total trade value target of \$34 billion for the last FY, said an official from the ministry.

The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export, enhance value-added production, reduce export barriers

and provide trade financing services.

Myanmar's top export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK. In contrast, it primarily imports from China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export, enhance value-added production, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services.

Under the National Planning Law for the Financial Year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach an export target at US\$16 billion and import at \$18 billion. —Ko Htet

(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon gold market to reopen on 22 October

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON gold market, which has suspended due to the COVID-19 resurgences, will be officially reopened on 22 October, said U Myo Myint, chair of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

"Restriction has been imposed on the businesses, except essential enterprises, regarding passing from one township to another by 21 October. Consequently, the gold shops will reopen on 22 October. Also, the trading can start resuming at YGEA's office on 22 October," he said.

Starting from 12 October, the members of YGEA, who are located at the same township with YGEA



Gold jewellery displayed at a shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

office in Shwebontha Road, started trading the gold at the office.

Yangon gold market was temporarily closed on 15 September amid the coronavirus crisis, and the price of yellow metal stood at over K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) then. Some shops were open at over

K1.3 million on 12 October as well.

The pure gold fetched K1,313,500 per tical on 20 October, while global gold price stood at US\$1,901 per ounce.

Despite the closure of Yangon gold market, small shops, which are operating at their own houses, are still running in Yangon Region. They

like to get selling rather than buying, he continued.

There are more than 10,000 gold shops in the region and about 50 vises of gold were traded earlier. During the first wave of COVID-19, Yangon gold market was closed between 29 March and 18 May. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Ajax -- What remains of the team that took Champions League by storm?

AMSTERDAM — Ajax host Liverpool in the Champions League on Wednesday, 18 months after being denied the chance to play the Anfield club in the final by a stunning Tottenham Hotspur comeback in the semi-final in Amsterdam.

The Dutch side wowed Europe on that run to the last four, before many of their best players were unsurprisingly picked off by wealthier clubs elsewhere.

AFP Sport looks at what remains of that Ajax team:

Moved on

The two big names to leave in the summer of 2019 were the Dutch international duo of Matthijs de Ligt and Frenkie de Jong.

Centre-back De Ligt, who captained Ajax in that campaign aged 19, scored the win-



Matthijs de Ligt (C) with teammates after Ajax beat Juventus in the Champions League quarter-finals in 2019. De Ligt went on to sign for Juve that summer **PHOTO: MARCO BERTORELLO AFP/FILE**

ner against Juventus in the quarter-finals and also scored

against Tottenham in the semi-

final. He moved to Juve for 75 million euros (\$84.2 million) plus 10.5 million euros of add-ons, a

world-record fee for a defender. Meanwhile midfielder De Jong, now 23, was sold to Barcelona in a deal worth a total of 86 million euros that was agreed midway through the 2018-19 season.

Kasper Dolberg was really only a bit-part player in that Champions League campaign, but Ajax still cashed in on the Danish striker, selling him to French club Nice for 20.5 million euros. Another Dane, veteran midfielder Lasse Schone, left for Genoa in Italy.

After failing to progress beyond the group stage of last season's competition, Ajax allowed another mainstay of their side to go, with supremely gifted Moroccan international attacking midfielder Hakim Ziyech joining Chelsea for 40 million euros. —AFP

Arrested Czech deputy FA head steps down

PRAGUE — Czech Football Association (FACR) deputy head Roman Berbr stepped down Monday after being put in custody the day before over suspected match-fixing, the FACR said in a

statement.

Berbr is one of 19 people detained by police last Friday as part of an organized group. A club director, a former player and a former referee have ended up in

custody too.

The FACR said it had also dismissed its referee department and that it would boost control over match-fixing and hire new referees.

"This is the beginning of a long journey on which Czech football must win back the trust of fans, partners, and the broader public," FACR head Martin Malik said in a statement.

"We are all guilty," he added.

On Friday, police raided the FACR's Prague headquarters and other places linked to football across the country.

Berbr, a 66-year-old former referee, has held his post since 2013 and according to local media has been pulling the strings in Czech football for years.—AFP



Local media (pictured) said those detained included Berbr, a controversial deputy chairman of the Czech Football Association **PHOTO: MICHAL CIZEK/AFP**

Liverpool must stay in trophy hunt for injured Van Dijk, says Henderson

LONDON — Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson says the loss of Virgil van Dijk is a "big blow" but he wants the Premier League champions to use his absence as an added incentive to stay in the trophy hunt.

Defensive talisman Van Dijk requires surgery after suffering knee ligament damage during Saturday's Merseyside derby with Everton.

Manager Jurgen Klopp is reluctant to put a timescale on the Dutchman's return but ad-

mits he faces a lengthy absence after being clattered by Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the 2-2 draw. Henderson is confident Liverpool can cope in Van Dijk's absence, even though he has been a pivotal player since he joined the club in 2018.

"It's a tough one. It's a big blow for us," Henderson told the club website. "For him personally, obviously. But for us as a team, a massive blow.

"I'm just gutted for him. It's a difficult moment, but that's

when you need to be there for each other."

The skipper said it was up to the team to "win as many games as we can for him".

"That's down to us as players to make sure that when he is back and he is fit that we're still fighting to be successful and fighting for trophies," said Henderson.

"You've got to use times like this to be stronger and to be even more together than we already are. And use it as a positive in some way."—AFP



Nadal has never won the Paris Masters. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Nadal to play Paris Masters next month

PARIS — Rafael Nadal announced on Tuesday that he will compete in the Paris Masters next month, despite previously saying he might not play again this season.

The 34-year-old won a record-extending 13th French Open title earlier this month with a one-sided final victory over world number one Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros.

"It's indoor season time... this picture was earlier today practising at rnodalacademy," he posted on Twitter alongside a photo of him training.

"And yes... getting ready for ParisBercy."

The Paris Masters is scheduled to run from November 2-8.

Any health rules to be implemented for the event due to the coronavirus are yet to be announced.

After moving level with Roger Federer on a men's record 20 Grand Slam titles, Nadal said: "I don't know what I'm going to do after Roland Garros.

"I can't tell you if I'm going to play again or not in the next two months."

Nadal has never won the Paris Masters in his career.

He pulled out before a scheduled semi-final against Denis Shapovalov at Bercy in 2019.—AFP