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Saturday, 31 October 2020

Vice President U Myint Swe and wife cast their advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Myint Swe casts advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Myint Swe's wife Daw Khin Thet Htay casts advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay cast their advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. After signing the voter registration book at the election sub-commission office in Zeyatheiddi ward in Zabuthiri Township, they cast their ballot papers for the Hluttaw candidates who will represent the Zabuthiri constituency in the 2020 General Election.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

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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



Colour light shines on Shwedagon, Botahtaung Pagodas on eve of Full Moon Day of Thadingyut

THE famous pagodas in Yangon have been temporarily closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Full Moon Day of Thadingyut falls on 31 October this year.

Picturesque scenes of Shwedagon Pagoda and Botahtaung Kyaik De Att Pagoda can be seen with shining colour light in the evening of October 30, the eve of the full moon day. —Ko Ko Zaw

(Translated by Khaing Thazin Han)



Colour light seen on Shwedagon Pagoda on the eve of the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT, TIN TUN KHAING

Tatmadaw extends a halt in military activities until 30 Nov

OFFICE of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services issued a statement on the ceasefire and eternal peace, dated 30 October 2020, to extend the military suspension of the Tatmadaw until 30 November 2020.

The new statement is to extend the suspension of military movements with

the effective period from 1 to 31 October 2020 in the areas except for the areas of the terrorist groups declared by the State meeting the international standard so as to accelerate the momentum of prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019-COVID-19 and effectively and successfully imple-

ment eternal peace process in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It also mentioned the Myanmar Tatmadaw is taking part in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 and holding the free and fair election for serving the interests of the State and the nation in its bit while the country is

experiencing the daily rises in infection of COVID-19 and number of deaths and preparing for the general election on 8 November, which is important for the State.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Notification for advance voters

1. Due to COVID-19 outbreak, the groups of advance voting officers formed by ward/village-tract election sub-commissions are collecting the advance ballots of the elderly aged 60 and above from 29 October to 5 November 2020.
2. In collecting the advance ballots, the votes with these errors -- the failure of sealing the voting envelopes securely, staining the envelopes while closing with glue and tears of the envelopes while officials open the envelopes -- will not be rejected.
3. Due to the large number of senior voters under home-based voting programme, the advance ballots that include the following conditions will not be rejected:
 - (a) the ballot papers ticked with the pen instead of using designated tick stamp,
 - (b) the ballot papers that include the signature of the head of polling station or the stamp mark of election sub-commission or signature and name of the in-charge issuer.
 - (c) the ballot papers with correct voting conditions except for mismatching of ballot papers and envelopes of different Hluttaws.
4. The Union Election Commission already ordered related election sub-commissions to transfer and put the advance ballots into the respective sealed advance ballot boxes at the ward/village-tract election sub-commission offices.
5. Relevant Hluttaw candidates, electoral representatives, polling station officers and their assistants and election observers can monitor the sealed advance ballot boxes at the polling stations of respective ward/village-tract election sub-commissions.

Union Election Commission

Union ministers, deputy ministers, their wives cast advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION ministers, deputy ministers and their wives cast their advance ballots for the Hluttaw candidates who will contest from Zabuthiri Constituency in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun and wife Daw Sanda Lwin, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and wife Daw Myint Myint Yi, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and wife Daw San San Yu, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife Daw



(From left to right) Union ministers U Thaug Tun, Dr Pe Myint and Thura U Aung Ko cast their advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



(From left to right) Union ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint cast their advance votes in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



(From left to right) Union Minister Dr Pe Myint's wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko's wife Daw Myint Myint Yi, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi's wife Daw San San Yu, Union Minister U Han Zaw's wife Daw Thwin Thwin Aye, and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun's wife Daw Khin Nyunt cast their advance ballots in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Thwin Thwin Aye, Deputy Ministers U Bharat Singh, U Aung Hla Tun, U Hla Kyaw, U Aung Htoo, U Hla Maw Oo, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint and their wives, abiding by COVID-19 guidelines, signed the voting record register and cast their advance

votes at the Zeyatheikdhi Ward Election Sub-commission Office at the Myoma Zay Dhamma Hall in Zabuthiri Township. Permanent Secretaries, departmental heads and the elderly aged 60 and above also cast votes at the Election Sub-commission Office of

Zeyatheikdhi Ward in Zabuthiri Township. At the three polling stations of the Zeyatheikdhi Ward Election Sub-commission Office in Zabuthiri Township, 2,137 voters cast ballots at Polling Station 1; 2,225 voters at Polling Station 2 and 2,134

voters at Polling Station 3. Advance voters also cast their ballots at the polling stations in Zabuthiri Township, Dekkhinathiri Township, Pinyinmana Township and Lewe Township.—MNA

28,167 in Dekkhinathiri Township, 134,603 in Pinyinmana Township and 218,671 in Lewe Township.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin-Tun)

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

CAMPAIGN speeches of Myanmar People's Democratic Party and Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 31 October for the second time. — MNA

Myanmar joins G-77 meeting to maintain lower carbon development

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win joined the Ministerial Level Meeting under the theme "Maintaining a Low Carbon Development Path towards the 2030 Agenda in the era of COVID-19" held virtually on 29 October.

The event was convened by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana as the current president of the G-77 and the President of Guyana, Foreign Affairs Minister of Chile, the alternative chair of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Secretary-General of UN respectively made an opening speech.

Then, Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed strict frameworks



Union Minister U Ohn Win participates in the virtual meeting on Maintaining a Low Carbon Development Path towards the 2030 Agenda in the era of COVID-19 on 29 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA



of the country for every development programme regarding the climate change, long-term goals to achieve low carbon society for the current and new generations, difficulties and challenges of developing countries amidst the serious climate changes like floods,

drought, storm and landslide, plans to reduce greenhouse gas emission in the long run, work plans to promote Nature-based Solutions and using more renewable energy like solar and wind in 2030 low carbon development plan. He also highlighted the

programmes that can stand the climate changes without affecting the natural environment in conducting economic recoveries in the post-COVID-19 period, achievements by complying with the promising green economy development programmes and

global cooperation to implement the Paris Agreement and to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

The representatives of ten G-77 member countries, including Myanmar, joined the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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.

Full text of Television and Broadcasting Bylaws available on MoI webpage

The Bylaws on Television and Broadcasting have been issued with the Order 104/2020 of Ministry of Information on 20 October 2020. Details of the bylaws are now available on MoI Webportal Myanmar which is the official webpage of the ministry.—MNA

Chinese COVID-19 protective gears arrive in Yangon, Mandalay

COVID-19 medical devices for 2020 General Election, purchased from the People's Republic of China, reached the Yangon International Airport and Mandalay International Airport by special flights yesterday.

The KN95 masks, protective face masks and PPE medical protective clothing will be distributed to voters, polling station staff and volunteers, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease, in the Multiparty General Election on November 2020. —MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Yangon International Airport on 30 October. PHOTO: MNA

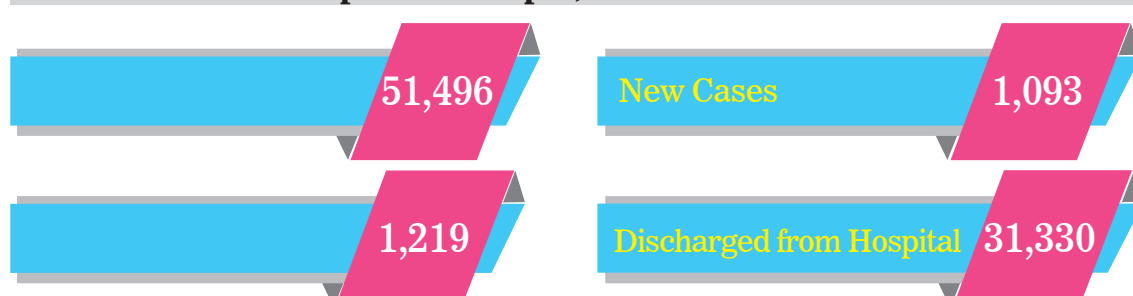


Workers unload COVID-19 protective gears imported from China at the Mandalay International Airport on 30 October. PHOTO: MNA

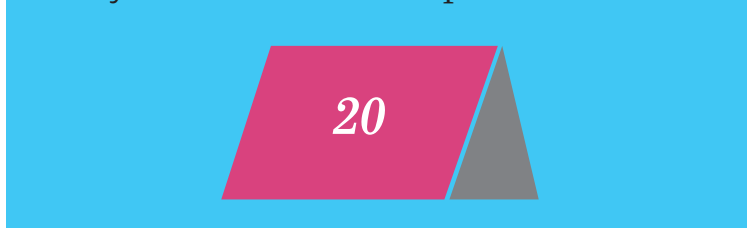
1,093 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 October, total figure rises to 51,496

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 51,496 after 1,093 new cases were reported on 30 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 51,496 confirmed cases, 1,219 died, 31,330 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 30 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 30-10-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

We need to be patient. We need to steel ourselves and stand firm

When I said we need to continue our efforts, I don't know if some of our people might feel stressed out. But we need to be patient. We need to steel ourselves and stand firm. This is the same all over the world. In some countries, they are even saying it is the third wave because the infections have spread far and wide. The situation in our country is not in the worst situation. But we are also not in the best situation. Before August, we could say that we were among the countries with the best situation. Now, we cannot say anymore. However, because we have been able to control the disease, as a start, we can say that this is great progress.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports on containment measures against COVID-19, on 24 October 2020)



Myanmar to celebrate World Cities Day 2020 today

THE World Cities Day 2020 will be celebrated with more than 500 events around the world on October 31, and so the Ministry of Construction, Urban and Housing Development Department and UN-Habitat jointly celebrated the event virtually yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Union Minister U Han Zaw said the ministry has been working together with UN-Habitat for a decade, and it will keep cooperating in the future to promote the urbanization in Myanmar. The ceremony for World Cities Day of 2020 is just a pledge to create fine and sustainable cities.

He also discussed the concerted efforts to be made by cooperating with the civil society organizations and international organizations for the establishment of cities and villages while Myanmar people are struggling to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of cities for the development of urban areas as well as for democracy system, innovation, economy and culture.



Union Minister U Han Zaw participates in the virtual event welcoming World Cities Day 2020 on 30 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

In urban life, the people at the grassroots level and the vulnerable community were mainly affected in past years. The theme of World Cities Day is "Reflection on Informal Settlements", and housings related matters will be discussed for all including the squatters, the Union Minister said.

He also talked about drafting policies for the development of

economy and social affairs in respective regions, programmes for proportionate development of urban cities as well as villages, a national urban policy which includes housing sector and highlights illegal squatters and the needs of housings for basic urban people jointly drafted with UN-Habitat, completed housings for the grassroots in Dagon Seikkan Township, public rental housings of

government, 2-day workshop to solve the informal settlements in Yangon by cooperating with UHDD in 2019, prioritize sectors in UN Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda and plans to implement for leaving no one behind.

Then, the World Cities Day 2020 video message of Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres was played, and Country

Programme Manager Mr Bijay Karmacharya of UN-Habitat Myanmar delivered a welcome message while Country Director Ms Marie Cecile Thirion of French Agency for Development made a remark.

The UN-Habitat Field Programme Manager Mr Vishnu Prasad read the paper under the topic of "Housing for All & the New Urban Agenda," while Green Lotus Country Director Mr Thibaut Bara about "Informal Settlements in Myanmar: Current dynamics and new strategies," Senior Researcher Ms Helene Maria Kyed of Danish Institute for International Studies about "Informal Settlements and Migrant Challenges in Yangon," and Post-Doctoral Fellow Ms Elizabeth Rhoads about "Housing Lessons from the Past: Urban Planning, Evictions and Alternatives in Yangon."

After that, the attendees to the ceremony coordinated the discussion regarding the papers.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar seamen, nationals fly back home from Egypt, ROK, Singapore by relief flights



Myanmar returnees queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 30 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE relief flight of Myanmar National Airway organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Cairo landed at the Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 140 Myanmar seamen after they were stranded in Egypt due to the suspension of international flights, yesterday morning.

Another MNA relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Myanmar Seafarers' Federation also brought back a total of 130 Myanmar seamen from the Republic of Korea yesterday evening.

Moreover, a total of 148 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Singapore also flew back home by a relief flight of Myanmar National

Airway (MNA) yesterday evening.

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

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

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

400 vials of Remdesivir donated from India reach Magway Region

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is distributing the Remdesivir injections donated by India to states and regions to treat COVID-19 patients. Now, 400 Remdesivir vials reached Magway region on 29 October evening.

"These injections reached the region this evening. There are a total of 400 Remdesivir

injections for the whole region. We will distribute the injections mainly to above 200-bed hospitals," said Dr Khin Maung Than, Deputy Director of the Magway Region Public Health Department.

Above 200-bed hospitals in Magway region are Magway People's Hospital, Magway Medical Teaching Hospital, Minbu

District People's Hospital and Pakokku District People's Hospital. Magway People's Hospital has been permitted to upgrade to a 500-bed hospital. Now, we are arranging to distribute Remdesivir injections after having discussions.

"The treatment will be given to the patients who need to be vaccinated with the permission

of the doctors," he explained.

There are a total of 632 confirmed patients in Magway region as of 29 October, and the patients need to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, said an official from the Magway Region Public Health and Treatment Department. — Zayyatu (Magway) (Translated by Hay Mar)

YGN mobile market to sell dry ration goods at special price in Thadingyut Festival

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON farmers' mobile market cars (Taungthu Zaykar) will sell goods at a special price for dry ration offering ceremony in Thadingyut Festival, according to Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

The Taungthu Zaykar will sell goods for K1,000 if buyers pick up any three favourite vegetables from among other vegetables such as Naungtayar potato, Naungtayar tomato, Naungtayar chayote and Kayan pickled bamboos shoot.

Besides, the Zaykar will give one Naungtayar cabbage or five chayotes as present to anyone who buys one basket of Naungtayar potato and Naungtayar tomato. The Zaykar are selling Naungtayar potato and Naungtayar tomato for K10,000 per basket as a requirement of the consumers who wish to buy the vegetables for a week or ten days during Thadingyut Festival.

"MFVP is also arranging for those who contact them to



Women wearing face masks buy vegetables and fruits at a mobile market in Yangon on 30 October 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

buy and donate Shan goods," said U Kyaw Thu, secretary of the MFVP.

The brother associations are also selling with Taungthu Zaykar around the wards in townships under the supervision of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and the Union of Myanmar Federa-

tion of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCD).

Moreover, those interested to sell the vegetables at the retail market in their wards can contact the following numbers 0943034894 and 098038884 of the MFVP.

Although Taungthu Zaykar will be closed on 31 October

(Thadingyut Full Moon), they will resume on 1 November as usual. On 1 November, the Taungthu Zaykar will go around in such townships as Lanmadaw, Tamway, North Dagon, East Dagon and Mingalardon while they will go around in Pabedan, Yankin, South Dagon, Dagon Seikkan and Shwepyitha townships on 2 November.

The farmers' trucks will sell the vegetables in the restricted areas in those townships and arrange for those who wish 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, and they are sold 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 Taungthu Zaykar was started in July by MFVP, and the service was stopped in September because of COVID-19 resurgence.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Highway buses to run if passengers need to travel with health certificates

By Nyein Nyein

THERE is no announcement for suspension of the highway buses. So, the highway buses will run if the passengers need to travel, bringing along with them the health certificates, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"To be able to run the passenger buses, the passengers need to bring along with them the health certificates in case of emergency. For those passengers, they need to inform our YRTA in Aung Mingalar

Highway Terminal," he added.

YRTA is not suspending the highway buses' operation until today in Aung Mingalar Highway Terminal, Dagon Ayeyar Highway Terminal and Dala Highway Terminal.

"The implementation of COVID-19 prevention and control in states and regions is different. We want to operate our passenger buses. But, some states and regions do not allow our passenger buses to enter when the passengers are on board. Some states and regions ask the passengers for quarantine. Even if the passengers are

holding the health certificates, they have to answer several questions. So, the passengers are not willing to travel with our highway buses. Our bus lines do not want to stop the operation because if we stop, we will suffer from great losses, and our workers will be in great trouble. But how can we run our buses if there are no passengers," he explained. At present, we are transporting the passengers with over 20 buses as of today if they abide by the covid rules and regulations issued by the Health Department, according to YRT.

Although the highway bus-

es have suspended the transport of the passengers starting from last August, some highway buses are still transporting the cargoes, he continued.

The highway buses are transporting the passengers and cargoes leaving the highway terminal after undergoing scrutiny by the related inspection team at the highway terminal.

There are more than 400 bus lines at Aung Mingalar highway terminal, Dagon Ayeyar highway terminal and Dala highway terminal that are running to 14 states and regions.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Eligible voters for advance voting cast their ballots for 2020 General Election



Advance voting for 2020 General Election begins in Kangyidaunt Township in Ayeyawady Region on 29 October.



Over 19,000 voters are registered for advance voting of 2020 General Election in Budalin Township, Sagaing Region.



Early voting in Chinshwehaw Township, Shan State, for 8 November General Election.



Voters aged 60 years and above cast their advance ballots in Khamaukkyi Township of Kawthoung district in Taninthayi Region beginning from 29 October.



Election commission officials help early voting of elderly persons and eligible voters in their advance voting in Mongyawng in Shan State.



An elderly person casts advance vote in Hsadone Township in Kachin State starting from 29 October.



Polling stations in Taunggyi Township start to run from 29 October for advance voters of elderly persons and electoral officials.



Polling booths begin running in Mongphyat Township in Shan State on 29 October.



Early voting begins in Mongnai Township in Shan State on 29 October.



Voters aged 60 years and above in Langkho Township begin their advance voting on 29 October.



Advance voters in Hopan Township in Wa Self-Administered Division begin casting their ballots on 29 October.



Advance voting started in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, on 29 October.

Voters cast their early ballots in Pyay ahead of 8 Nov General Election

Eligible voters in Pyay Township in Bago Region cast their advance votes for 2020 General Election at the respective election sub-commissions in wards and villages on the second day of advance voting yesterday.

Advance voting at Kyaunggyi O

Dan Ward Election Sub-commission Office began yesterday.

Under the systematic management of local election commissions in accordance with the healthcare guidelines for COVID-19, the voters cast their ballot papers for the Hlut-

law candidates of next parliament.

The 2020 General Election in Myanmar will be held on 8 November in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.— Shwe Win (Pyay)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Nature-based solutions are answer to achieving climate goals

Globally, emissions have dropped, and the demand for coal and oil is lower than it has been in a long time, due in large part to the decline in demand from transport and slowdown in manufacturing.

With the slogan "Build Back Better", some governments in the world want to go further by harnessing their economic recovery plans to boost low-carbon industries.

Any post-pandemic recovery must be green and it must be sustainable.

Myanmar has adopted precise and decisive frameworks since 2019 to carry out every development programme, in accordance with policies and strategies that are harmonized to combat climate change. Also, the country is making efforts

for mitigating and adapting to climate change to ensure that our present and future generations are resilient and can adapt to changing circumstances resulting from climate change.

It is important to include environmental friendly and climate change resilient plans in post-COVID economic recovery plans.

In keeping with this government's intention to scale-up investment in renewable energy, we successfully launched a fast-track international competitive bidding process for no less than 30 solar power projects.

These solar projects send a clear message that Myanmar is brimming with opportunities and those with teams present in-country place themselves in an advantageous position to secure these opportunities.

In April this year, within weeks of Myanmar's first confirmed case, we launched our COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) - paving the way for a raft of measures

intended to mitigate the COVID-19's economic impact while setting in place the foundations for a rapid economic recovery.

We fully understand that accelerating investment in renewable energy can drive economic recovery from COVID-19, while simultaneously increasing the number of jobs in the sector and meeting climate change targets at the same time.

As such, we seek to capitalize upon Myanmar's potential for green investment in sectors such as energy and infrastructure, taking full advantage of this opportunity to build back better.

We are confident that our government has the ability to ensure that its policies will put the country on track to achieve the climate related goals of the 2030 agenda by implementing the targeted policies.



Let us light oil lamps to welcome Lord Buddha back to earth

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu

THADINGYUT is the 7th month of Myanmar twelve-month Luna calendar, corresponding to October. Like other months, this month has the following characteristics:

Its astrological name is Tula with the symbol of a man holding a balance.

The flower designated traditionally of this month is lotus ("Kya"). In almost all the aquatic bodies in the country, five different kinds of lotus bloom profusely. They are (1) white lotus (2) red lotus (3) dark blue lotus (4) Padonma kya (5) Kya Ponnayeik Kya Moke seik. Of them, Padonma Kya is regarded as very sacred. Though they grow in muddy water, they are as clean and pure as they are fragrant and beautiful.

Four Padonma Kya

Four Padonma Kya with one budding Padonma kya bud in the middle symbolize the four Buddhas already enlightened: (1) Kakusandha (2) Konagamana (3) Kasyapa (4) Gotama. The bud represents the upcoming Buddha Ari Maitreya in our world of five Buddha circle.

The literal meaning of Thadingyut is being liberated from the Wah vows of religious rain retreat of three months of wet cultivation monks are bound by their Wah vows to stay inside their residential monasteries to devote themselves to teaching, practising, meditating. They may formally apply for leave of absence for emerging such as to attend a funeral of their father, mother, relative or to help people in their urgent need.

In Thadingyut monks are free to go about. Buddhist monks are peripetite. They are religious bound by three vows: (1) celibacy (2) poverty and (3) obedience. They have to be celibate. They have to be poor, i.e., owning not more than three sets of yellow robe. They have to obey the order of their senior monks to go anywhere, home or abroad, to propagate Buddhism and missionary works. Satupiytsaya or four basic needs (1) food (2) clothing (3) shelter and (4) medicine are provided by the king or state and public.

Thadingyut Light Festival is also known as Tavimsa Pwe or Semi Myint Mo Pwe. Lord Buddha who went up to Tavatimsa the kingdom of devas on the summit



Monks and novices light candles on the night of the Thadingyut Full Moon at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 13 October, 2019. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR/FILE

of Mt. Meru to preach Abidhamma to Sundusitha Deva, who was his mother Maha Maya in the previous life. He owed infinite debt of gratitude for his birth and breastfeed to his mother. So his soul went up to Tavatimsa and preached Abidhamma to Sundusitha Deva and all devas, including Sakka Deva and Brahmas. Human Buddha remained on earth.

On finishing his Abidhamma, preaching at the end of Lent, he told Sakka Deva that he would return to Earth. Whereupon Sakka Deva created three stairways, namely ruby stairway upon which the Buddha was to descend to earth (2) on the right was a gold stairway for devas to descend and the one on the left was a silver stairway for Sakka Deva to descend upon.

Several deities joined the great occasion

Several deities joined the great occasion by holding celestial regalia. Pancha Theinkha Deva with five hair knots playing the harp 'Veluva' singing songs of praise and devotion to honour Lord Buddha Matali Deva on the left carried flowers and fragrances to honour Lord Buddha. Suria Yama Deva carried Yak tail fly whisk Santussita Deva held the ruby-studded gold fan and Sakka Deva blew the Vizayttara conch shell to celebrate the occasion. All deities dwelling in the whole of universe also gathered to pay homage to Lord Buddha as best

Mural paintings

Thadingyut light festival was

(as) they could. Three stairways being illuminated by the lights radiated from the deities led to the gateway of the capital city of Sankassa Nagana on earth.

When the Lord Buddha set foot upon Earth, the crowd that awaited at the city gate all paid obeisance to Lord Buddha and a grand ceremony was held to welcome and honour by lighting oil lamps while full slowly rose in the east.

To commemorate this great event in the life of Lord Buddha which took place on the full moon day of Thadingyut, Myanmar people hold the Tavatimsa Festival or Myint Moe Festival. Tavatimsa is said to be on the summit of Mount Myint Moe (Mt. Meru).

To commemorate this great event in the life of the Lord Buddha which took place on the fullmoon day of Thadingyut the Myanmar people hold Tawedeintha (Tavatimsa=Celestial abode) festival or Myint Mo festival because Tavatimsa is said to be on the summit of Mt. Myint Mo (Mt. Meru). Fantastic replica of Myint Mo is constructed artistically with the three stairways, and in the evening lights are lit on it. The event of the descent of the Lord Buddha accompanied by the deities is depicted with the statues and devotees pay reverence to the image of the Buddha in a descending posture on the middle stairway.

Thadingyut light festival was

ings and puppet stage at four Royal Yards, temporary palace on the rightside of Myay Nantaw and East Maze, Myint Mo and Maze on both sides of Western Somok Saung Taw, mechanically operated Parsee Theatre in front of the Southern Royal Theatre Hall, a puppet stage on wheel in front of it, puppet stages at 16 Pagodas, one life elephant fully caprisoned, four gold elephant dummies and one red elephant dummy to be made by the officers in charge of the workshops. Officers in charge of royal elephant stables were to keep in readiness the white and the red elephants and their attendants. Officers in charge of royal steeds were to keep in readiness the State Coaches. Officers in charge of royal flotilla were to keep in readiness royal rafts, boats, ships and sampans. Officers in charge of royal granary (were to keep themselves in readiness for distributing paddy ration to the monasteries). Chinese, Indian, Siamese, and Linzin (Laotian) Officers in charge of illumination, set up rows of lights of different colours at 16 Pagodas, with candles along the road between the Palace and Maha Muni Shrine.

Two serious ceremonies of Thadingyut are Pawa rana and Puja. The former is the ceremony performed by the monks. It is held at the end of the Buddhist Lent where a monk has to ask other monks to reprimand him for any sin he may have committed. This ceremony takes place every year on the full moon day of Thadingyut in the ordination hall of the monastery precincts. Before the ceremony takes place, the junior monks sweep the floor, clean the place, and fill the pots with drinking water. They also prepare seats for the monks to sit on. Then the monks led by the most senior monk assemble to perform the ceremony.

Pawa rana and Puja

The origin of Pawa rana dates back to the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. While the Lord Buddha was residing in Jetavana vihara at Savatthi. Some monks observed their lent at a village in Kosala. These monks believed that unity and happiness among them could be achieved by not talking to one another because talking could cause argument and dispute. So they kept mum

throughout the lent period. When the Lent was over they visited the Lord Buddha and paid homage to him. The Lord Buddha greeted them by asking after their health, happiness and unity during Lent. The monks exclaimed how they kept silent so as to gain unity and happiness.

The Lord Buddha objected to their method, saying that keeping mum was like a dumb and that kind of behaviour was disrespectful to the donors and supporters of Sangha. The monk who behaves like a dumb is sinful. The best way to achieve unity and happiness among monks was by means of Pawa rana - by inviting the monks to assemble and letting each monk by turn ask other monks to point out if he has been seen, heard or suspected of committing any sin, and if so, letting other monks reprimand the sinful monk. By so doing the sinful monk will be repented and pardoned and the monks will live in harmony, unity and happiness.

Making a devotional offering

The latter ceremony is performed by the laymen. "Puja" means worship or making a devotional offering. According to Buddhism there are five infinite debts of gratitude, the gratitude owed to the Buddha, the gratitude owed to the Dhamma (his teaching), the gratitude owed to the Sangha (the monks), the gratitude owed to the teachers, the gratitude owed to the parents. It is a religious obligation to worship and make devotional offering to them. In addition those who are senior in age, rank, and position, and those who have helped you while you are in difficulty should be respected worshipped and given due Puja. The full moon day of Thadingyut is an auspicious occasion for Myanmar Buddhists to visit the aged, the seniors, the teachers and true friends to pay them reverence and give them devotional gifts. In return they receive blessings and loving kindness from them. To the minors some pocket money may be given by the aged for their enjoyment of the Thadingyut festival.

The festival of light in Thadingyut is an occasion for rejoicing and merry-making, but in essence it is an auspicious occasion for spiritual delight and merit-making

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355 09974424848



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 30th October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 31st October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st October, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and fairly widespread in Yangon Region.

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REDUCED VIRAL LOAD WITH RGN-COV2

Regeneron announces more positive results for COVID-19 treatment

REGENERON, the US biotech firm that supplied synthetic antibodies to treat President Donald Trump's COVID-19, announced Wednesday it had more positive results to show from an ongoing clinical trial. The company had previously announced results for 275 people in its late-stage study of non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients on REGN-COV2, and said data from an additional 524 people bore out the trend. It has already applied for an emergency use authorization for its drug.

"Today's analysis, involving more than 500 additional patients, prospectively confirms that REGN-COV2 can indeed significantly reduce viral load and further shows that these



A health worker takes a drop of blood for the COVID-19 antibody test after at the Diagnostic and Wellness Centre on May 5, 2020, in Torrance, California. **PHOTO: VALERIE MACON/AFP**

viral reductions are associated with a significant decrease in the need for further medical attention," said the company's

president George Yancopoulos. The trial found no significant difference in results between high dose (8 grams) and

low dose (2.4 grams). The rate of COVID-19 related medical visits was 2.8 per cent in the treatment groups and 6.5 per cent in the placebo arm, a relative risk reduction of 57 per cent.

It also reduced COVID-19 related medical visits by 72 per cent in patients with one or more underlying conditions, including being over 50 years old, obesity, having heart, lung or kidney disease or being immunocompromised. REGN-COV2 is a combination of two antibodies, one harvested from a recovered patient and the other from a mouse with a human-like immune system.

In related news, an antibody treatment developed by the

pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly showed positive results from a mid-stage clinical trial, whose findings were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. But only one of the three studied dose groups, 2.8 grams, was found to be effective, and only moderately.

Though these results were modest, the company later modified its study and reported more positive results, which haven't yet been published formally. The US government said Wednesday it was purchasing 300,000 doses of Lilly's drug, called bamlanivab, at the lowest dose level (0.7 gram).

SOURCE: AFP

NEW PANDEMIC LOSSES

Airbus flies into red in third quarter



This computer-generated image released by the European multinational aeronautics company Airbus shows a prototype of zero-emission hydrogen-powered aircraft. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROPEAN aircraft maker Airbus said Thursday that one-off charges related to the deep job cuts announced earlier this year pushed it deep into the red in the third quarter.

Airbus said in a statement that it booked a net loss of 767 million euros (\$900 million) in the period from July to September, compared with profit of 989 million euros a year earlier.

Operating or underlying profit fell by 49 per cent to 820 million euros and revenues declined by 27 per cent to 11.2 billion euros, the statement said.

Earnings were hit by a restructuring charge of 1.2 billion euros related to the decision to axe 15,000 jobs.

And while Airbus said that uncertainty resulting from the coronavirus pandemic prevented it from issuing any earnings forecast for the

whole year, it was confident it had stopped the cash haemorrhage seen earlier this year.

"The company assumes no further disruptions to the world economy, air traffic, Airbus' internal operations, and to its ability to deliver products and services. On that basis, the company targets at least break-even free cash flow... and customer financing in the fourth quarter of 2020," it said.

Chief executive Guillaume Faury said that "after nine months of 2020 we now see the progress made on adapting our business to the new Covid-19 market environment.

"Despite the slower air travel recovery than anticipated, we converged commercial aircraft production and deliveries in the third quarter and we stopped cash consumption in line with our ambition," Faury said.

SOURCE: AFP

DOGS DETECTING COVID-19 INFECTIONS

Finland's Covid sniffer dog trial 'extremely positive': researchers

A pilot project using sniffer dogs to provide instant and pain-free coronavirus testing at Helsinki airport has shown promising early results and proven popular with travellers, researchers said on Wednesday.

Three dogs, named Kossi, ET and Miina, have sniffed swabs taken from 2,200 passengers in the month since the testing booth was set up at the airport's arrivals hall, and have found the virus in 0.6 per cent of travellers.

Although the research is not due for completion until December, the team say the initial findings appear broadly in line with detection rates of the nasal PCR tests also conducted on arriving travellers.

"We have done 16-17,000 PCR tests at the airport and less than one per cent are positive," Timo Aronkyto, deputy mayor of Vantaa, told reporters.

Compared to the results found by the dogs, "they are about the same, I don't think there is a statistical difference," Aronkyto said. The researchers are now analysing how closely the two sets of test results match each other—whether the dogs found coronavirus in passengers whose infection was confirmed by a PCR test—and hope to publicize their findings at the end of the year.

Preliminary experiments in the first major wave of infections earlier in the year suggested the dogs can detect the virus with

close to 100 per cent accuracy, up to five days earlier than a PCR test.

Feedback from arriving passengers, who take the free-of-charge test voluntarily, "has been exceptionally positive," project manager Soile Turunen said.

Around 100 travellers a day have been queuing up for the test, which involves wiping a swab onto the skin which is then put in front of the dog, who will quickly pass over a negative sample but will be attracted to a positive one.

"People don't complain about the queues, in fact it's the opposite," Turunen said. "They're coming up to us to say 'Hi' from morning until evening," she added.

SOURCE: AFP



The coronavirus sniffer dogs Valo (L) and E.T. sit near their trainers at the Helsinki airport in Vantaa, Finland, to detect the COVID-19 from the arriving passengers, on September 22, 2020. **PHOTO: ANTTI AIMO-KOIVISTO-LEHTIKUVA/AFP**

HUGE MARKET

Trump v Biden: the bookmakers' \$1 billion election

THE US presidential election is proving a boon for bookmakers, with estimates that more than \$1 billion has already been bet on the winner around the world even before polling day.

Matthew Shaddick, head of political betting at British sports betting and gambling firm GVC, said that is double the amount in 2016, when Donald Trump upset the odds and polls to beat Hillary Clinton.

Republican party candidate Trump is once again the outsider, with his Democratic challeng-

er Joe Biden the favourite with GVC's gaming brands, which include Labrokes, Coral and BWin.

Its rival, William Hill, also has former vice-president Biden tipped for victory.

"This is a huge market," Shaddick told AFP. "It is twice as big as 2016, easily making it the biggest political event ever."

"It might be the biggest ever market on anything pretty much and outstrip football worldwide. I guess a billion pounds (\$1.3 billion, 1.1 billion euros) is being bet."

William Hill said they also expect the election to be easily its biggest event of the year, given the cancellation of money-spinners such as the Grand National due to Covid-19.

"We are already over £3 million and expect to take £10 million," said Hill's international spokesman Rupert Adams.

"We predict that this will be the biggest wagering event of 2020. The figures are simply astounding and include all sporting events."

SOURCE: AFP



Punters piling on Donald Trump to win the presidential election prefer to glean their information from a social media bubble rather than the mainstream media. PHOTO: AFP

ANTI-SEMITISM

UK's Labour warns against 'civil war' after Corbyn suspension



The Jewish Labour Movement said the decision to suspend ex-party leader Corbyn was "brave and correct". PHOTO: POOL/AFP

Britain's main opposition Labour party on Friday urged shocked members to stand united against

anti-Semitism, appealing against a renewal of internecine "civil war" following the suspension of

its left-wing former leader.

Jeremy Corbyn was exiled pending investigation after he refused to accept all the findings of a report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which said his office had broken the law in its handling of complaints by Jewish members.

New leader Keir Starmer, calling the report a "day of shame" for Labour, said he was "deeply disappointed" in Corbyn for blaming party critics as well as the media for exaggerating the scale of anti-Semitism.

Starmer has won strong backing from Jewish groups which, in evidence to the EHRC, detailed a deluge of anti-Semitic

abuse online and in party meetings during Corbyn's leadership, including death threats at the hands of left-wingers.

Jewish Labour Movement chair Mike Katz said the decision to suspend Corbyn was "brave and correct", vowing to work with Starmer "and put this shameful period behind us".

But Starmer acknowledged on BBC TV that the suspension had overwhelmed his efforts to "recognize the hurt, draw a line and move on", even as he wages increasingly effective attacks on the Conservative government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives are trying

to exploit Labour's divisions, noting Starmer had continued to serve in Corbyn's shadow cabinet when anti-Semitic incidents were on the rise.

Veteran socialist Corbyn vowed to fight the suspension and his supporters are mobilizing, with the radical group Momentum planning an online rally later Friday against Starmer's "naked attack on the left".

Corbyn ally Len McCluskey, the head of the Unite union, one of Labour's biggest financial backers, said the suspension would "create chaos within the party and in doing so compromise Labour's chances of a general election victory".

SOURCE: AFP

RETURNED TO EVIN PRISON

Australian academic moved to notorious Tehran jail

AN Australian academic held in Iran for more than two years has been returned to Tehran's notorious Evin prison, friends said Friday, prompting fresh concern about her wellbeing.

Kylie Moore-Gilbert -- who is serving a 10-year sentence on charges of espionage -- had disappeared inside Iran's prison system a week ago, sparking frantic efforts to learn her whereabouts.

"I'm relieved that the Australian government has finally managed to locate Kylie six days after she went missing," friend and fellow Middle East expert

Dara Conduit told AFP. "But make no mistake: this is not a win for Kylie."

Conditions at Evin are believed to be marginally better than Moore-Gilbert's previous jail at Qarchak -- a women's facility that has been blacklisted under UN human rights sanctions and is notorious for the ill-treatment of political prisoners.

During a previous stint at Evin, Moore-Gilbert reported being held in restrictive conditions and needing psychiatric medications for "gravely damaged" mental health.

Friends believe she is now

being held at the same ward as before, a facility controlled by Iran's hardline Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Australia's foreign ministry has said securing her release is an "absolute priority", but was forced to admit this week that her whereabouts were unknown.

"We do not accept the charges upon which Dr Moore-Gilbert was convicted, and want to see her returned to Australia as soon as possible," the ministry said after ambassador Lyndall Sachs was able to visit her in Qarchak Prison on October 19.

SOURCE: AFP

TANKER HIJACK

Nigerians in UK tanker 'hijack' bailed but still detained: police

SEVEN Nigerian men who were arrested on suspicion of attempting to hijack an oil tanker off the coast of southern England have been bailed, police said.

Hampshire Police said on Thursday night the men, who smuggled themselves onto the Nave Andromeda in Lagos, were released from custody pending further investigations.

But they "remain detained under Border Force powers", police said in a statement.

The men were arrested on suspicion of "seizing or exer-

cising control of a ship by use of threats or force" after a mayday call forced a special forces raid on the 43,000-tonne tanker.

Detectives have said they threatened the 22-member crew, forcing them to seek sanctuary in the ship's citadel, from where they raised the alarm.

The Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned vessel, which was six miles (10 kilometres) off the Isle of Wight on England's south coast at the time, was taken to the port of Southampton.

SOURCE: AFP

JOBS

German unemployment falls in October

GERMAN unemployment ticked down in October as the country bounced back from the initial shock of the pandemic, official data showed Thursday, but a fresh round of shutdowns threaten to halt the momentum.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate slipped to 6.2 per cent this month from 6.3 per cent in September, according to the BA federal labour agency, which called it a "noticeable improvement".

"Unemployment and underemployment fell sharply... However, the labour market is still showing clear signs of the

first wave of the corona pandemic," BA chairman Detlef Scheele said.

Pandemic-induced lockdowns in the spring shuttered businesses and factories, but sentiment improved as the economy opened up in the following months.

Government-backed short-time work schemes have softened the blow, saving hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The number of people in short-time work (Kurzarbeit) fell in October to 2.6 million from a peak in April of 5.95 million, the BA agency said, suggesting an upturn in business confidence.

SOURCE: AFP

COMMERCIAL DISPUTE

Hong Kong to take US to WTO over 'Made in China' label rule

HONG Kong authorities on Friday said they will launch proceedings at the World Trade Organization to challenge a demand by the United States to label imports from the financial hub as "Made in China".

Donald Trump issued an executive order in June declaring the city no longer sufficiently autonomous from the authoritarian mainland after Beijing launched a crackdown against democracy supporters.

The decision, which came as China imposed a sweeping new security law on the business centre, reflected Washington's belief that Hong Kong is now "just another Chinese city" and does not deserve special trade privileges.



The United States no longer deems Hong Kong sufficiently autonomous from China to grant it special trading status. PHOTO: AFP

The new rules state that products from the city -- which used to be allowed to carry a "Made in Hong Kong" label -- now needed to say "Made in China".

On Friday, Hong Kong officials confirmed they would bring the dispute to the WTO's settlement mechanism.

"The US' unilateral and irresponsible attempt

to weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory is highly inappropriate," secretary for commerce Edward Yau told reporters.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (009N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (009N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (203W/E)

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (043S/044N)

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HAI PHUONG SEA VOY. NO. (09/2020)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAI PHUONG SEA VOY. NO. (09/2020)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
TUG:ANGGUN SARI & BARGE:TROPICAL ISLAND

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG:ANGGUN SARI & BARGE:TROPICAL ISLAND** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MSTL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CEA PROJECT LOGISTICS (MALAYSIA)

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Brazil's Petrobras reports less loss in Q3

BRAZIL'S state-run oil company Petrobras on Wednesday unveiled a net loss of 236 million U.S. dollars in the third quarter of this year, well below the figure in the previous quarter. The company posted a loss of 417 million dollars in the second quarter and a loss of 9.7 billion dollars in the first quarter, but it gained a profit of 2.3 billion dollars in the third quarter of 2019.

According to the Rio de Janeiro-based company, it sold more oil and oil by-products in the third quarter amid higher market prices, and its loss in the period was due to financial expenses. The company also said that the domestic demand for oil derivatives recovered in the third quarter of this year, and its sales of the products grew by 18 per cent compared with the previous quarter. *SOURCE: Kyodo*



Gas tanks of Brazilian state-owned oil giant Petrobras are seen along the Negro river in Manaus, state of Amazonas, Brazil, on November 23, 2013. **PHOTO: AFP / YASUYOSHI CHIBA/FILE**

SUPPLY OF VACCINES

Takeda to supply 50 mil. coronavirus vaccine doses in Japan in 2021



Takeda Pharmaceutical Co.'s headquarters in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Co. said Thursday it plans to supply 50 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine, developed by U.S. drug-maker Moderna Inc., in

Japan from the first half of next year.

The Japanese drug-maker said it will provide the vaccine based on a three-way agreement with

Moderna and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare once the vaccine has been approved.

Takeda said Moderna's Phase 3 clinical trial

has completed enrolment of 30,000 participants in the United States. The health ministry said the doses of the vaccine to be distributed by Takeda will cover 25 million people in Japan, as two shots are needed for it to be effective against the novel coronavirus.

The Japanese government has already agreed with British drugmaker AstraZeneca Plc and U.S. pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. to receive 120 million doses of any successfully developed vaccine from each company.

Takeda is also preparing to produce and sell in Japan a COVID-19 vaccine being developed by U.S. biotechnology firm Novavax Inc.

SOURCE: Kyodo

TAKING A PAUSE

M'bishi Heavy freezes SpaceJet development as virus clouds outlook

MITSUBISHI Heavy Industries Ltd. said Friday it will freeze its development of Japan's first domestically manufactured passenger jet, hit by repeated delays and the global coronavirus pandemic.

The freeze comes as the pandemic has changed the aviation industry landscape with air travel demand almost evaporating.

It also deals a serious blow to the country's long-held desire to build a commercial airplane for the first time in half a century since making turboprop planes.

"We are taking a pause" in the development of the Mitsubishi SpaceJet, President Seiji Izumisawa said during an online press briefing as he unveiled a business plan for three years from fiscal 2021.

"Taking a pause means we will neither spend huge amounts of money nor develop with a

specific schedule in mind for the time being," Izumisawa said.

Mitsubishi Heavy will continue work to obtain a type certificate, which is necessary for commercial aircraft, based on data collected from over 3,900 hours of test flights.

SOURCE: Kyodo

OWN SEARCH TOOLS

Apple developing search engine to compete with Google: report

APPLE has accelerated work to develop its own search engine that would allow the iPhone maker to offer an alternative to Google, a Financial Times report said Wednesday. The report, citing unnamed sources, said signs of the search engine technology have begun

to appeal in its iOS 14 operating system. The move comes amid increased scrutiny by antitrust enforcers, who sued Google in the United States over its dominance in search technology. As part of the lawsuit, the Department of Justice noted that Google pays Apple

billions of dollars to be the principal search engine on iOS devices. Apple did not immediately respond to an AFP query. Reports in the past have said Apple had begun some in-house research on creating a search engine.

SOURCE: AFP

INCOME FALLS

Oil giant Total says profits sink on low crude price

FRENCH oil and gas giant Total said Friday it sustained a steep drop in profits in the third quarter as a result of the falling price of crude, but it still managed to remain in the black.

Total said in a statement that its bottom-line net profit plummeted 93 per cent to \$202 million in the three months to the end of September.

Adjusted for a number of one-off

items, after-tax earnings were down 72 per cent at \$849 million, it said.

"After a second quarter in which we faced exceptional circumstances with oil prices falling below \$20 per barrel and a very strong slowdown of global activity linked to the health crisis, Total benefited during the third quarter from a more favourable environment," said chief executive Patrick Pouyanne.

Oil prices moved back above \$40 thanks to OPEC countries and other oil producing nations sticking to their agreement to curb output and another positive factor was a recovery in demand for petroleum products for road transportation, he said.

SOURCE: AFP

Ministry of Transport and Communications Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Invitation for open tender for installation of automatic water level and rain gauge and related enterprises

1. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology is implementing on the project "Installation of automatic water level and rainfall monitoring system in border areas of Myanmar on Mekong River for flood early warning system" in the 2020-2021 budget years with the support of the Mekong-Lanchang Cooperation Special Fund (2020). An open tender is invited for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Automatic Water Level and Rainfall Monitoring System and related services in 10 places of the Mekong region of eastern Shan State with Myanmar Kyats.

Date of sale of tender forms	- From (31 -10-2020) to (30-11-2020) During the office working hours
Tender closing date and time	- 30-11-2020 (16:00 M.S.T)
Tender Opening Date and time	- Within one week after the tender closing date
Venue of opening tender	- Office No.5, Ministry of Transport and Communications Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Nay Pyi Taw
Eligibility criteria of bidders	- Must have performed at least two for similar activities - Must be able to submit Audit Report and Bank Statement - Must have 5 years working experience in Installation of automatic water level and rainfall monitoring system with international standards - Must be able to support other requirements in the tender documents - Must be able to submit the certificates of Income tax and commercial tax for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 budget years

2. For more information, please contact the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. Telephone number 067-411032 and 067-411446 during the office working hours.

Tender Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
Office No.5, Nay Pyi Taw

Bagan Monument in front of Bagan Archaeological Museum



Shin Dispramuk stone inscription

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

IN MYANMAR history, Sayadaw Shin Dispramuk who held peace talks with Mongol King Kublai Khan in the late Bagan era was recognized as the most outstanding diplomat. After negotiating peace talks with the Mongol King who prepared marching to launch military operations to Bagan, the central Myanmar, the Sayadaw on his arrival back

in Myanmar expressed stone inscriptions mentioning his successful diplomatic mission and posted the stone inscription on the platform of Mingala Pagoda in Bagan. At present, the stone inscription is showcased as stone post No 110 at Bagan Archaeological Museum for public observation.

Shin Dispramuk stone inscription is 166 centimetres high, 64.5 centimetres wide and

19 centimetres thick containing 52 lines of inscriptions. It has been famous as Shin Dithapamauk stone inscription. The stone inscription mentioned its date in 647 Myeikkatho year, starting the sentences on residing of Bagan king in Hlekya area, west of Pyay.

Myanmar Encyclopaedia mentioned Dispramuk was written in Pali related Sanskrit which means chief of teachers in four corners. The name Dispramuk was firstly found in No 33 stone inscription at Bagan museum, mentioning that the abbot paid homage by King Tayokpyay who evaded from danger of Chinese.

In late 13th century AD, Mongol troops attempted to invade the central Myanmar along Ayeyawady River. So, Bagan King Narathihapatae sent Sayadaw Shin Dispramuk to Dadu (now Beijing) of China to hold talks with Mongol King Kublai Khan. The diplomatic mission successfully negotiated peace between the two countries.

Background history

Two wars happened between Myanmar and China in 1277 AD. In the second war, Mongol troops marched into Ngahsaungchan and Kaungton and returned home in summer of 1278. In next six years, Mongol troops attacked Ngahsaungchan and Kaungsin again. On 9 December 1283, Kaungsin fell under Mongol troops. Mongol General Yuan Shih-an guarded Kaungsin to stockpile rations. He sent geographical maps and military reports to King Kublai Khan.

After winning over Ngahsaungchan-Kaungsin war, Mongol troops sent two diplomats and summoned Myanmar side to surrender. Myanmar did not reply and then streamed down to Tagaung from Kaungsin along the Ayeyawady River and stationed in Tagaung (Thintwe). Mongol sent a monk to Myanmar for surrendering but Myanmar killed such monk. Senior Researcher U Yi Sein reviewed that killing the monk by Myanmar might be based on doubt that the person who ar-

rived at Myanmar troops could not be identified as genuine monk or spy during the war.

Massive troops of Mongol attacked Myanmar troops in Tagaung, so Tagaung fell under Mongol on 5 February 1284. Mongol troops marched to Malei and occupied Tagaung and Malei where Mongol General Qadai and Major-General Butuman guarded the area with 5,000 troops.

It was seemed that Mongol troops might reach Ngasingu and formed the area from Kaungsin to Ngasingu as Mien (country) marching area called a branch of Yunnan Province. On 1 December 1284, Chang Wan was appointed as rebel summoning and combat officer of Mien (country) marching area. They targeted to march into the central Myanmar but delayed one year because they attacked Mao Shan troops who rebelled in Myanmar-China border.

During the period when King Narathihapatae resided in Hlekya area for about two years, Mongol troops did not



Clarifications of Shin Dispramuk



Bagan Archaeological Museum

attack Bagan. But, the king forecast they would surely attack Bagan at a time. So, King Narathihapatae decided to negotiate with Mongol King and sent Counsellor Ananta Pisi and Maha Po to Tagaung in November and December 1285. They sent a diplomatic letter to Mongol for suspending sending of Mongol troops to lower part of Myanmar from Tagaung before negotiating them.

Two Myanmar diplomats preliminarily held a negotiation with Mongol. They agreed to talk in Kaungsin in next two months. Ananta Pisi proposed that if King Kublai Khan agreed to the negotiation, a high ranking official from Myanmar would be sent to China.

Trip of Shin Dispramuk to China

When time was getting near to negotiation between Ananta Pisi and Maha Po of Myanmar and Mongol, 20,000 troops led by Susuttaki based in Tagaung for marching to the central Myanmar together with 70 members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Ponnadhammika and Siri Dhammika. Some assumed that 70 monks would leave for Bagan for missionary. At that time, King Kublai Khan formed Mien chung area and appointed Prince Susuttaki as governor on 3 March 1286. Mien chung was centre of Myanmar at Bagan.

So, Ananta Pisi and Maha

Po were seemed to submit a report to King Narathihapatae to send Shin Dispramuk to be able to ensure better negotiation with Mongol King, according to the research paper of U Yi Sein.

Sayadaw Shin Dispramuk and party left for Tagaung via Thitseint and Hanlin. It was seemed that Mongol arrested the Sayadaw and party because they would be a team sent by the counsellors, not assigned by the king. Hence, King Narathihapatae sent a certificate of appointment for diplomat to Mongol. The word spoken by King Narathihapatae "it shall not arrest diplomats" is still famous in diplomatic field till today. Such sentence was impressed on stone inscription of Shin Dispramuk.

Members of the Sangha who also based in Tagaung together with Mongol for their missionary to Bagan requested Shin Dispramuk to urge King Kublai Khan not to send Mongol troops to Bagan.

In monsoon, the diplomatic team arrived in the city of Yunnan Province from Tagaung. They stayed in Yase during the Buddhist lent and then proceeded to China. They arrived in Dadu (Beijing) in late 1286. King Kublai Khan warmly welcomed the diplomatic team and disclosed the diplomatic teams had to be religious affairs, not be military

affairs.

Clarifications of the Sayadaw

The record of senior researcher U Yi Sein mentioned the speech of the Sayadaw in meeting with King Kublai Khan.

Maharaja,

With regard to this war, will soldiers and monks (in central Myanmar) be alive only when they eat rice. Rice is source for prosperity of country, isn't it? But, members of the Sangha left Nay Pyi Taw due to impact of war. There is no rice in the lack of growers. If soldiers eat toddy instead of rice, they will die of cholera. Members of the Sangha will not dare to enter Nay Pyi Taw and will move away and pass away when they see deaths of soldiers. If so, will Your Majesty king's purpose meet the target?

Gardener pours water at trees for growth but not cut plumules. They aim to eat fruits. Please water Bagan called Tampadipa. Its Buddhism is noble although the country is small. Are you a man praying for Buddha as reward? If so, you should not destroy Sasana of Lord Gotama Buddha.

Your Majesty has occupied many countries small and large. Bagan called Tampadipa is a small one. Buddhists to be adore Bagan due to flourishing of Buddhism. Your Majesty,

please don't send your troops to Bagan. We will grow crops. After that, you come.

King Kublai Khan, accepting the speech of Sayadaw, said the speech of Pandit was inclusive of my interest. So, you return home. Gather the people fleeing away to grow crops. When you finish, you send a messenger to me. That is why mission of the Sayadaw accomplished.

Round the trip took about one year. Sayadaw left Dadu in January 1286 and arrived back in Hlekyia in April-May the same year.

King Narathihapatae donated 800 pei of paddy farmlands, slaves and cows to the Sayadaw with satisfaction for the mission. The Sayadaw offered the donations of the king to Panputyat Pagoda dedicating to the three Noblest Gems of the Virtue World. The stone inscription also mentioned that the queen donated timber and cash for nine prerequisites to the Sayadaw when the prayer hall of the pagoda was completed but monastery was not finished. Panputyat Pagoda is Bagan Mingala Pagoda, and the queen was assumed as Queen Saw, according to the researcher paper.

King Narathihapatae was assassinated by his son

governor of Pyay in 1287. So, Mongol from Yunnan region sought approval from King Kublai Khan to attack the central Myanmar but the King did not approve. However, Yunnan prince Asan Tamur and other princes attacked Bagan. A total of 7,000 Mongol soldiers died in the battle.

The diplomatic trip of Sayadaw Shin Dispramuk was documented as peace trip in both Myanmar and Chinese sides. Chinese side recorded preliminary meetings while Myanmar mentioned stone inscriptions on formal negotiation of discussions.

Likewise, excellent diplomatic affairs and the best speeches of the Sayadaw mentioned in the Shin Dispramuk stone inscription become a record of Myanmar-China relations in which the researchers are especially interested.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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Shin Dispramuk Stone Inscriptions



Photo taken in Tokyo on Jan. 15, 2020, shows the ticket designs for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (2 on L) and Paralympics unveiled the same day. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Olympics: Tokyo Games' ticket refund process to start in November

TOKYO—Ticket holders in Japan unable to attend next year's postponed Tokyo Olympics will be able to apply for refunds for tickets from Nov. 10 to Nov. 30, the local organizing committee said Friday.

Ticket refund applications for the Paralympics, also postponed for a year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, will be accepted from Dec. 1-21, the organizers said.

Tickets that have already been purchased remain valid in principle for the corresponding events. Refunds for tickets purchased in Japan will be made starting in late December for Olympic tickets and from mid-January for Paralympic tickets.

The Tokyo organizing committee has sold roughly 4.48 million tickets for the Olympics and around 970,000 for the Paralympics through the official website.—Kyodo

Pirlo's faltering Juve look for Ronaldo return, Lukaku blow for Inter



Andrea Pirlo's Juventus have nine points from five games, three of which were awarded after Napoli refused to travel to Turin over coronavirus cases. **PHOTO: AFP**

MILAN—Andrea Pirlo's Juventus head to promoted Spezia on Sunday hoping to have coronavirus-hit Cristiano Ronaldo back to boost their campaign days after their Champions League flop against Barcelona. But rivals Inter Milan will be without star striker Romelu Lukaku against Parma after the Belgian picked up a thigh strain which also puts him at risk for next week's Champions League game at Real Madrid.

Ronaldo missed Juventus' 2-0 defeat against Lionel Messi's Barcelona, more than two weeks after testing positive for Covid-19, as Pirlo fell to his first coaching defeat.

The champions have had a stuttering start to a campaign they hope will reap a 10th consecutive league title, and a first elite European title in quarter of a century.

The Turin giants are fifth -- four points behind Zlatan Ibrahimovic's AC Milan -- and take on the minnows from Liguria, who are 14th in the table.—AFP

Aung La N Sang faces shock loss to De Ridder, loses ONE Middleweight title

THE BURMESE Python Aung La N Sang lost his ONE Middleweight World title after facing a shock loss to Netherland's undefeated Reinier De Ridder in the first round at 3:26 minutes by knockout decision in the main bout of the ONE Championship: Inside the Matrix in Singapore yesterday night.

Both fighters started their fight with immediate reactions from the limited number of spectators in attendance.

As Aung La N Sang has tested COVID-19 positive in the previous month, he seemed to start with a weak action, and that made opponents' strength to overcome

him. Aung La N Sang tried to use his unrivalled punches firstly, but De Ridder relied on his Judo and Jiu-Jitsu skills to take down Aung La onto the ground.

After a quick scramble, Di Ridder took the back and got both hooks in while Aung La tried to respond with punches.

Aung La tried to get up to power up his fight but De Ridder still on his back and choked on Aung La. Finally, with a vear neck choke, Aung La couldn't breathe properly and referee announced the win for De Ridder.

With the victory, Reinier de Ridder became the new ONE Middleweight Champion with

a win over ONE championship two-division champion Aung La N Sang.

Also, in the co-main event, ONE Lightweight World Champion Christian Lee defended his championship belt against undefeated Luri Lopicus.

In the ONE Featherweight World Championship fight, Martin Nguyen alias "The Situ-Asian" lost Thanh Le by knockout decision. In the ONE Women's Strawweight World Championship bout, "The Panda" or Xiong Jing Nan successfully defended her belt in a rematch with Tiffany Teo by unanimous decision.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuchel expects injured Neymar to return end of November

PARIS (France)—Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel said on Friday he expects Neymar to be sidelined until the international break after injuring his thigh in Wednesday's Champions League win in Istanbul.

The Brazil forward came off just 25 minutes into PSG's 2-0 victory over Turkish champions Istanbul Basaksehir and will likely miss his team's next three games.

"I don't think it's possible he will play" for the national team, said Tuchel.

"If he plays that means he's not injured, and that's a bad mes-

sage. The news for me is that he will return after the break."

Neymar has been called up to his country's squad for 2022 World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Uruguay on November 14 and 17. He scored a hat-trick in a 4-2 win over Peru earlier this month.

He will miss Saturday's trip to Nantes in Ligue 1, the Champions League clash with RB Leipzig next week and the visit of third-placed Rennes on November 7.

PSG go to Monaco on November 20 following the international break.

"With Ney, we're sad because he has a small adductor injury," said Tuchel, who is already without a number of key players.

Mauro Icardi, Julian Draxler and Leandro Paredes are unavailable for the match against Nantes, while Angel Di Maria is still suspended.

Tuchel is hopeful Icardi and Paredes can return on Wednesday for the RB Leipzig game.

"I really hope they're with us at training on Monday. We have to accept they can play with just one session before," he said.—AFP