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Friday, 27 November 2020

Govt holds Kathina-robe offering ceremony



President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, together with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and congregation, take Five Precepts at Kathina-Robe offering ceremony on 26 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

KATHINA-ROBE offering ceremony of the government took place at the Sasana Beikmandaw of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

President U Win Myint and the First Lady Daw Cho Cho, together with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, donated Kathina-ropes and offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Presiding Monk of Bhamo Monastery Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa officiated the ceremony which was attended by Vice-President U Myint Swe, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads and officials.

Before the ceremony, State

Counsellor Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi offered alms-food in an emerald bowl together with fruits, flowers and water to the Buddha Image in the Sasana Beikmandaw.

Then the congregation took the Five Precepts, and the Sangha recited the Metta sutta parita verses.

Next, the President and the

First Lady, the State Counsellor and the invited guests donated Kathina-ropes and offertories to members of the Sangha and shared merits before offering the day-meal.

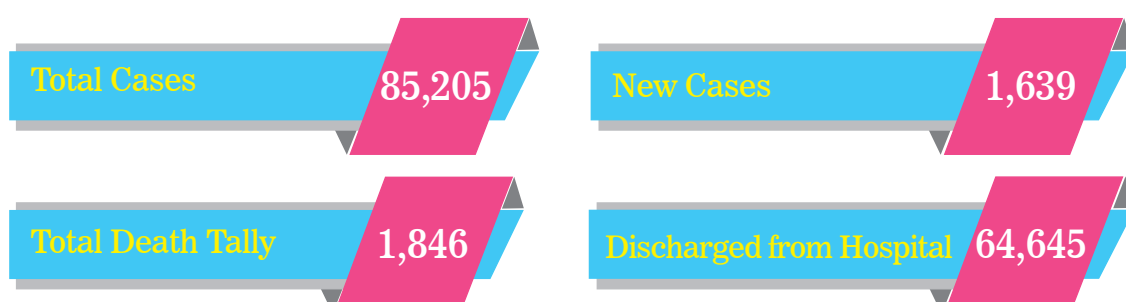
The Union Government donated K42.7 million together with Kathina-ropes and other items at the ceremony.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

1,639 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 November, total figure rises to 85,205

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 85,205 after 1,639 new cases were reported on 26 November according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 85,205 confirmed cases, 1,846 died, 64,645 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 26 November 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 26-11-2020

36

Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Govt holds Kathina-robe offering ceremony



President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho present Kathina-robe and offertories to Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents Kathina-robe and offertories to Dr Bhaddanta Candimabhivamsa, the presiding monk of Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery. **PHOTO: MNA**



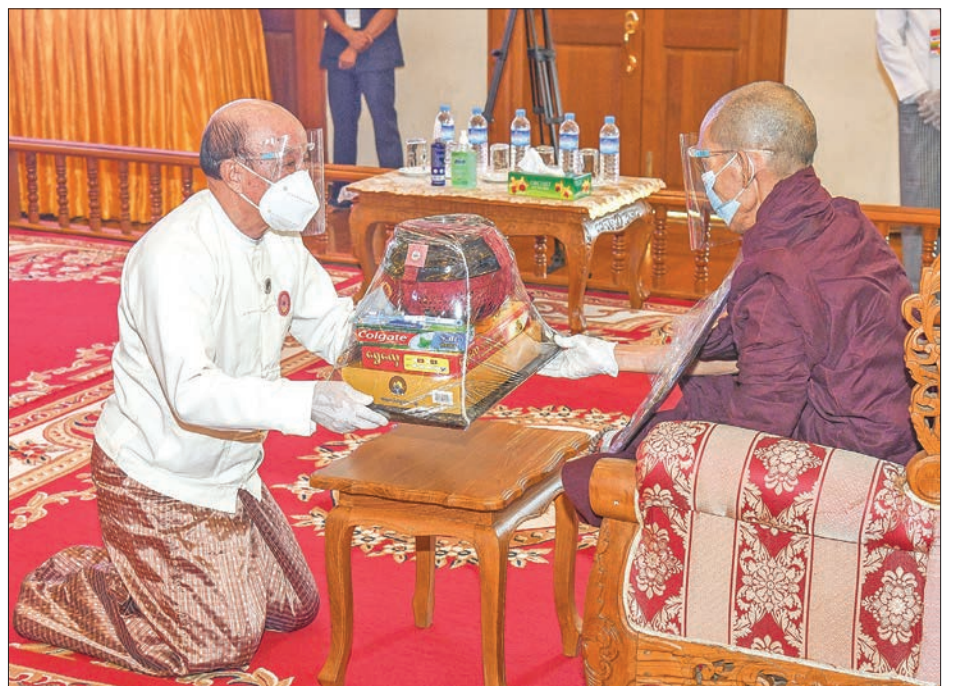
Vice-President U Myint Swe presents Kathina-robe and offertories to Paukmyaing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jininda. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo offers Kathina-robe and offertories to Maha Thihanada Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinna. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice-Senior General Soe Win donates Kathina-robe and offertories to a Sayadaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein donates Kathina-robe and offertories to a Sayadaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Govt holds Kathina-robe offering ceremony



President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and congregation share merits for the donations. **PHOTO: MNA**



A day-meal is donated to members of Sangha by President U Win Myint, wife Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung donates Kathina-robe and offertories to the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivers speech at China-ASEAN dialogue

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat made a speech at CPC Dialogue in Political Parties of Southeast Asian Countries via videoconference yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Speaker said that pandemic occurring for long-term was destructive to regional economic recovery and future developments.

He stressed the importance of considering every aspect that can foster development and success with 'new normal' lifestyle, expressing his views that the meeting would stimulate cooperation between PRC and ASEAN countries for pandemic response and sustainable socio-economic development.

China and ASEAN coun-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat joins CPC Dialogue in Political Parties of Southeast Asian Countries on 26 November. Photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

tries have the largest trading route in the world, and it is important to get equal access to vaccines with cheap price for developing together, he said, stressing the needs for

enduring health emergencies being experienced at present and in future.

He added that the sectors of investments, market value chains, and trading in regional

countries have to be prioritized for strengthening regional economic endurance. Development of China's Silk Road Project plays an important role in improving infrastructures

of the regional countries that will assist the elimination of poverty and sustainable development.

Success between ASEAN and PRC represents the success of the people of all regional countries, he added, pledging that Myanmar would cooperate with ASEAN partner countries, including PRC.

The dialogue was participated by Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Mr Song Tao, Secretary of the CPC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Lu Xingshe, ASEAN countries' Hluttaw Speakers and political parties' representatives. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoPFI discusses COVID-19 vaccine purchase plan with WB

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win held a videoconference with Ms Mariam Sherman, the World Bank Country Director for Myanmar, and officials yesterday.

At the meeting, the country director discussed the approval of World Bank on 13 October to give US\$12 billion additional financing aid to Myanmar for purchasing COVID-19 vaccine under the Global COVID-19 Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), possible means to acquire the vaccine, \$60 million for Myanmar under the IDA 19, and 3 ways to receive the vaccine for 20 per cent of the country's population.

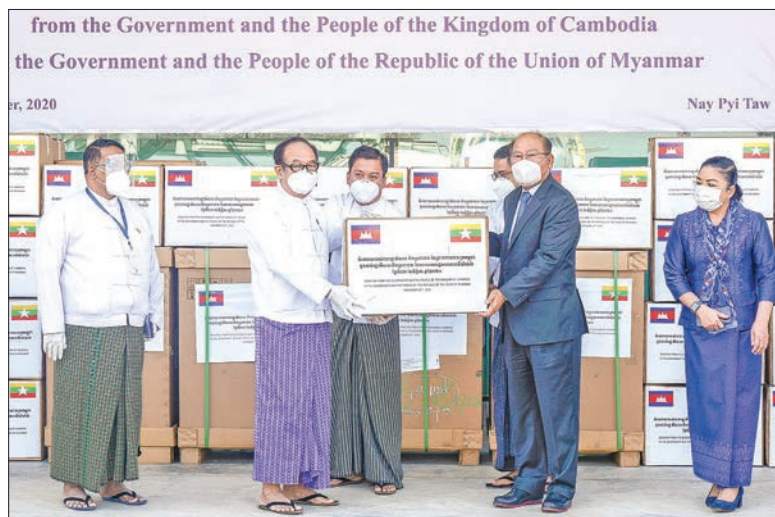
The Union Minister raised queries to the discussions. Deputy Minister U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, the permanent secretary and officials took part in the discussions. -MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Soe Win discusses with WB Country Director about US\$12 billion additional financing aid to Myanmar on 26 November. PHOTO: MNA

Cambodia donates COVID-19 medical devices



Donation of COVID-19 medical supplies from Cambodia to Myanmar is received at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 26 November. PHOTO: MNA

THE CAMBODIAN government and people donated COVID-19 medical supplies to Myanmar yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as the Secretary 2 of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention,

Control and Treatment of COVID-19, received the donations unloaded from the 3 special flights at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Cambodian Health Minister Professor Mam Bunheng delivered the greeting message from the Prime Minister

of Cambodia to the State Counsellor of Myanmar, and said that Cambodia and Myanmar had friendly relations for a long time and the two countries are cooperating for peace, security and sustainable development with multi-nations and ASEAN countries. He added the year

2020 marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Myanmar. He said the donations are a testament to Cambodia's friendship and solidarity with Myanmar when the world is facing unpredictable health and human

security challenges.

The Cambodia Minister handed over the donated 2 million masks, 100,000 fabric face masks, 20,000 N95 masks, 20,000 goggles, 20,000 PPE 500 sets of Infrared Temperature Manual Check, 20,000 face shields, 20 ventilator machines for ICU, 20 patient monitors and accessories, 500 buckets of Chlorine powder, 1,000 protective boots and 2,000 hand sanitizers to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks and said the donation items will be useful for the public campaign to wear face masks in every state and region in Myanmar. -MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Yunnan friendship association donates medical vehicle, ventilator for Yangon

THE Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries donated 1 medical vehicle and 1 ventilator for Yangon for the effective response to COVID-19 yesterday.

The donation ceremony was held at the Consulate Office of Kunming in Kunming city, China,

Director-General for Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan and Chairperson of the association Mme Pu Hong hand-

ed over the donated materials to U Tun Aung Kyaw, Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming.

Mme Pu Hong briefed the donation and Consul-General U Tun Aung Kyaw presented the certificate of honour in return.

The donated medical vehicle and ventilator will be sent to Yangon Region via Muse border. -MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Mme Pu Hong presents a model key of the medical vehicle for Yangon Region on 26 November. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung participates in ASEAN Information Harbour Forum

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung yesterday participated in the 4th China-ASEAN Information Harbour Forum hosted in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, via videoconferencing. The forum was jointly sponsored by Cyberspace Administration of China, National Development and Reform Commission of China, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China and the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

During the forum, the Union Minister said via video message that the China - ASEAN Information Harbour Forum has become a platform to discuss important issues related to the digital econ-



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung participates in the 4th China-ASEAN Information Harbor Forum via videoconference on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

omy in the ASEAN region and share the views. He added that he believes China and ASEAN will have mutually beneficial results from the forum.

The Union Minister added that Myanmar is making efforts to accelerate its digital transformation efforts at the national level. He

continued that Myanmar has considerable success in creating relevant infrastructure, and is drafting the Cyber-Legal Framework.

The Union Minister stressed that China provides much assistance to ASEAN and Myanmar.

He concluded that the forum is a major breakthrough in

strengthening regional cooperation and will have become a collaborative effort to jointly create a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific region.

China organized the first, second and third editions China - ASEAN Information Harbour Forum in 2015, 2016 and

2018, respectively. The theme of the forum this year is "Digital Technology Connects ASEAN: Intelligence Creates the Future". The forum was participated by Ministers from China and ASEAN countries, and e-commerce experts.—MNA(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held online

Viet Nam hosted the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime through videoconferencing from 25 to 26 November.

Together with the ASEAN ministers, the meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and police officers from the Myanmar Police Force, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials.

The Minister for Public Security of Viet Nam delivered the opening speech, and the ASEAN Secretary-General explained the work on the AMMTC process and ASEAN frameworks.

During the discussion on transnational crime with ASE-



Myanmar delegates participate in the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime via videoconference on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

AN ministers, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing said the root causes of crime in the fight against transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, that are

changing in various forms in the ASEAN region, could be fought effectively with the cooperation of the members and high technology and capacity skills.

He continued Myanmar discussed at the 13th AMMTC meeting in 2019 to identify the underlying reasons for the problem through a multi-sectoral perspective and constructive cooperation.

The Deputy Minister added Myanmar is working to control narcotic drugs which are related to political issues, economic and sectors, as well as criminal gangs, and the number of drug seizures in 2019-2020 was 6.5 times higher than in previous years in Myanmar.

He said that the problem of terrorism is closely linked to drug trafficking; the country could achieve stability and sustainable development only when

terrorism could be defeated.

He added Myanmar has been putting effort to promote justice and harmony between communities and also cooperating with the ASEAN community.

The 14th AMMTC meeting approved the areas of cooperation between TORs related to the implementation of the regional counter-terrorism action plan and the fight against human trafficking, with the joint statement of the Ministerial Meeting and the record of each nation's discussion. The meeting also agreed to hold the 15th AMMTC in Brunei Darussalam in 2021.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

289 Myanmar nationals abroad arrive back home by relief flights

A total of 289 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and Crew Change Supporting Committee-Myanmar jointly organized the relief flight of Myanmar Airways International to bring back 121 Myanmar citizens home - 62 from the Republic of Korea, 25 from Japan, 13 from Malaysia, 3 from the United Arab Emirates, 3 from Bangladesh, 1 from Qatar, 12 from Singapore, 1 from the United States and 1 from France.

The flight that brought the citizens from Incheon International Airport landed at Yangon International Airport in the late

evening.

Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh also organized the relief of Myanmar Airways International to repatriate 168 Myanmar nationals- 3 from Bahrain, 1 from Oman, 86 from the UAE, 2 from Kuwait, 1 from Japan, 2 from Iran, 4 from Bangladesh, 10 from Egypt, 2 from Congo, 6 from Sudan, 18 from Panama, 6 from South Africa, 10 from Israel, 2 from Pakistan, 4 from Azerbaijan, 4 from Norway, 5 from Singapore, 1 from Turkey and 1 from Somalia.

The flight bringing the citizens from Dubai landed at Yangon International Airport in the late evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports



Myanmar returns line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries, local ministries and shipping companies/organizations to bring back Myanmar

citizens stranded abroad in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

106,283-tonne LNG arrives at Thilawa port for power supply project

THE 106,283 tonne V-Power Energy (Mother Vessel) of China National Technical Import & Export Corporation (CNTIC) arrived at No (14) Dolphin Jetty of Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa Port yesterday morning.

It is the very first and very large vessel in the history of Yangon Port under the Myanmar Port Authority.

“The vessel will anchor at the port for five years for V-Power Energy Project to supply the liquefied national gas for 400MW Thaketa power plant and 350MW for Thilawa power plant. The project will supply the LNG for Yangon starting in December, and we can electrify 100 per cent, including the rural areas. According to the limited capacity of Yangon River, we set 200 metres for length and 30,000 GRT,” said U Win Myint Aung, Harbour Master of Myanmar Port Authority.

The vessel is 272 metres in length with 106,283 GRT. This is the very first large vessel to the country. It was anchored with tugboats and took about 40 minutes.

There will not be any diffi-



Harbour Master of Myanmar Port Authority U Win Myint Aung.



Chairman and Group CEO of RGK+Z&A Group U Zeya Thura Mon.



V-Power Energy (Mother Vessel) of China National Technical Import & Export Corporation (CNTIC) is seen in the Yangon River on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

culties if the tugboat knows how to manage the vessel. Currently, the water current is in a good situation and becomes wider.

The LNG-fuelled power pro-

ject is the very first project in Myanmar and it was set up in Thilawa. The government implemented a 350MW power project in Thilawa and a 400MW project

in Thaketa to fulfil the power demand for the summer of 2020.

The CNTIC V-Power Group won the tender in 2019 and carried out Floating Storage Unit

(FSU) and jetty for V-Power Energy Vessel at Thilawa Port. Although it was estimated to operate the businesses in mid-2020, the construction work was delayed by COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Port Authority organized online meetings with the stakeholders to meet the country’s power needs and decided to adopt Mobile Filling Platform (MFP).

“I am very proud of my country as it successfully builds the LNG carrier today. This is the first LNG to power project in Myanmar. It will support the hydro-power plants, power generation enterprises and boost the energy security,” said U Zeya Thura Mon, Chairman and Group CEO of RGK+Z&A Group.

The project was successfully implemented by the coordination efforts among the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Yangon Region Government.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Awards given to winners in arts, literary competitions to mark Yangon University centenary celebration



Rector of Yangon University Dr Phoe Kaung speaks at the award-given ceremony for the arts and literary competition entitled “Yangon Tet Ka Thol Mya Kyun Nyo” at Film Development Centre in Bahan on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Rector of Yangon University Dr Phoe Kaung and officials pose for a picture together with award winners at the award-given ceremony for the arts and literary competition entitled “Yangon Tet Ka Thol Mya Kyun Nyo” on 26 November 2020. PHOTO: MNA

AN award-given ceremony for the arts and literary competition entitled “Yangon Tet Ka Thol Mya Kyun Nyo” (Yangon University: An Emerald Island) was held at Film Development Centre of Motion Picture Promotion Division, under the Information and Public Relations Department of the Min-

istry of Information yesterday. The competition for photo, painting, poem, articles, novels and cartoon contests was marked for the 100th Anniversary of Yangon University.

Rector of the University of Yangon Dr Phoe Kaung firstly said, “The Yangon University

was established on 1 December 1920 and will be 100 years old on 1 December 2020. The main aims of holding these competitions are to conserve the tradition and sustainable development of the university. These artworks will reveal the dignity of the university for all, including the new genera-

tions. I also thank the officials of the Ministry of Information for organizing such competitions.”

Dr Tin Win, Rector for the Yangon University of Economics, in his capacity as Chairman of Organizing Committee made a remark and the Rector of Yangon University, Chairman of Organiz-

ing Committee and the officials of Information presented awards to the winners of competitions.

U Min Thein Mon (Aung Hait) expressed words of thanks on behalf of award winners and took commemorative photos with all attendees.—MNA (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

MPF, UNODC hold equipment handover event to disrupt illicit drug production, precursor chemical trafficking

MYANMAR Police Force met with officials from UNODC to complete the handover of four portable drug and chemical detection devices.

The state of the art equipment will be utilized by front-line law enforcement officers to disrupt flows of precursor chemicals required for the illicit manufacture of drugs from neighbouring countries into Myanmar.

In the coming weeks, the devices will also be accompanied by associated training for

Myanmar Police officers as well as field test kits for methamphetamine and chemicals. These devices will be placed along major trafficking routes across the country. — GNLM

Pol. Lt.-Col. Moe Aung of Drugs Enforcement Division hands over portable drug and chemical detection devices to UNODC Country Manager Mr Benedikt Hofmann.

PHOTO: UNODC



Muse land border sees almost 50pc drop amid COVID-19 resurgence



(FILES) Trucks are seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse in northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWA**

THE value of Myanmar-China border trade through Muse land border as of 13 November has dropped by almost 50 per cent compared with a year-ago period, the trade data issued by the Ministry of Commerce showed.

The trade value plunged to US\$337.57 million between 1 October and 13 November of the current financial year 2020-2021 owing to the impacts caused by the COVID-19 resurgence. The figures reflected a decrease of \$335.94 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous budget year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports through Muse border were worth over \$164 million, while imports were valued at \$173.4 million over a month. During a year-ago period, Muse border post witnessed trade worth \$673.5 million. Muse is an essential border checkpoint in Myanmar and handles the most massive volume of trade. But at times, it has experienced a sharp drop in business on account of

China clamping down on illegal goods, resulting in a halt in the trade of agricultural products. Moreover, the COVID-19 impacts slow the border trading this year.

Following the COVID-19 consequences, trading via Muse did not reach a monthly target of above \$400 million in the previous months this year.

Myanmar intended to reach the trade target of over \$5 billion through Muse for the last FY. However, only \$4.8 billion worth of goods were traded. Border trade values at Muse stood at \$5.4 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$5.8 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$4.9 billion in the 2018-2019FY respectively, as per data of the Commerce's Ministry.

At present, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19. Therefore, Chinese buyers do not come to Myanmar border checkpoint in light of COVID-19 fears, forcing Myanmar truck drivers to leave for Wanding area to sell the goods.

Following the detection of COVID-19 cases in Ruili (Shweli), China shut down its customs gate from 15 September, and the gate was reopened on 22 September, said U Min Thein, vice president of Muse rice depot.

On 9 November, some people tested positive for COVID-19 were found. The traders are worried about the possible lockdown and the closure of crucial Customs office in China like before. The trading is still open for now. Yet, the temporary trade suspension will harm the traders a lot during the meantime, the traders stressed.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab and prawn. Furthermore, Myanmar's natural gas export to China is also conducted through Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliance and consumer goods are imported into the country. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Magway region suffers over 1,800 natural disasters in 5 years

Magway Region has suffered 1,865 natural disasters in five years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, according to the Magway Region Disaster Management Department.

The government provided a K2,714.847 million fund to the residents who are adversely affected by the outbreaks of the natural disaster.

"The outbreak of the natural disaster has been increasing year by year. The regional government relaxed the rules and regulations as part of decentralization to be able to assist the residents immediately," said U Myint Soe, the regional head of Magway Region Disaster Management Department.

In the past five years, a total of 580,214 locals from the Magway Region have suffered great woes from the outbreaks

of fire, flood, hurricane and tornado, landslide, earthquakes, lightning and other geological processes. Among them, 394 religious edifices have collapsed with 208 people killed, according to the department.

Floods and landslides mostly occurred in the Magway region. Within five years, the government-supported K2309.936 million funds and provided K404.911 million worth rescue items to the suffering residents.

According to the official records of the department, Magway region was faced with 72 occurrences of natural disaster in 2015-2016, 221 in 2016-2017, 320 in 2017-2018, 812 in 2018-2019 and 440 in 2019-2020, according to the Magway region Disaster Management Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Residents rebuild the house damaged by strong winds at a village in Magway Region. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

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Tackling transnational crime is everybody's concern

WHILE facing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, regional countries including Myanmar are dealing with the growing transnational crimes.

In order to tackle increasing transnational crimes, it is very important to tackle the root of the problems.

The drugs seized in the 2019-2020 financial year is 6.5 per cent higher than in previous years. It is found that terrorism is deeply connected with the drug trafficking in our country.

These facts have alerted us to the need for enforcing measures to fight against offenses related to terrorism and financing of terrorism, trafficking in humans and smuggling of migrants, illicit

trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, illicit drugs trafficking, trafficking of stolen and other illicit goods, corruption, fraud, counterfeit money, counterfeit goods, murder or causing grievous bodily harm, kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking, robbery or theft, smuggling, extortion, forgery, converting or transferring any money and property known, or believed, to have been obtained through the commission of an offence.

Myanmar is facing drug problems that are more associated with geographical and political situations and also connected with terrorism.

The remote and under-developed regions of our country are suffering from illicit opium cultivation, heroin and methamphetamine production, as well as drug use problems.

Terrorism along with cross-border migration, poverty, lack of the rule of law and security are all connected with

the Rakhine State issue.

Complex cross-border crimes such as human-trafficking, drug trafficking, and illicit trade are impediments to the development of human society in all countries. The mechanics of these interconnected crimes and their linkage to the formal economy should be well-managed.

Besides, Target 16.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda calls for substantial reduction of corruption and bribery in all their forms and the development of effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

To reach this target, we must significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crimes by 2030.

Our anti-pandemic measures should not lead to stagnation in fighting transnational crimes including terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and an increase in unemployment, which has triggered crimes.

Dealing with evolving emerging threats, in the current and post pandemic world is everybody's concern.



New Developments in China and a New Era of China-Myanmar Relations

The New Achievements of China's Development

WHEN it comes to the new achievements of China's development, I want to share a story that happened in China border area.

Pan Gui, a 56-year-old villager from the Yao ethnic group in Jinping County, Yunnan Province, had been struggling with poverty for more than 30 years with his wife who worked in a small town on the China-Myanmar border. By this past May, the roughly 120,000 people in 27,000 households in Jinping County had all been lifted out of poverty, which brought tremendous changes to the lives of Pan Gui and his wife. They used to endure living under a leaky roof made of thin bamboo strips. To procure drinking water, they had to walk more than one hour into the mountains and bring down a heavy load. Today, support from the Chinese government has enabled Pan Gui and his family to move into a modern brick house and earn an annual income of nearly 50,000 yuan (US\$7,695) by cultivating bananas and rubber and breeding pigs and chicken. Jinping County was paired with my organization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for targeted poverty alleviation. So I am especially proud of everything the county has achieved.

The changes in Jinping County are epitomes of the cause of poverty reduction in Yunnan Province and China at large. From 2015 to 2019, a total of 1.65 million people were lifted out of poverty in Yunnan. This year, the entire province will be free from poverty for the first time in history, after record-setting poverty alleviation. Across China, 55.75 million impoverished rural people were lifted out of poverty from 2016 to 2020. China will achieve the poverty reduction goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule and win its battle against poverty.

While grasping for victory in this battle, China never forgot its Pauk-Phaw brother Myanmar: Yunnan Province has been taking the lead in implementing a China-aided pilot project for poverty reduction in Aye Chan Thar Village and Min Pyin Village in Nay Pyi Taw. Last October, I made a visit to Aye Chan Thar Village. A year later, the village looks completely different. I



was pleased to receive pictures from colleagues showing that the mud road in the village had been paved with cement. The villagers have access to clean drinking water, a community service center, a clinic, more promising income streams, and better healthcare. I was informed that Aung Soe Win, a local villager who was formerly a migrant worker, successfully rented a plot to cultivate fresh vegetables as part of a courtyard economy project. In Min Pyin Village, five female villagers received technical training and secured employment at a garment factory, enabling them to earn a salary for the first time in their lives. China's poverty reduction experience such as people-centered philosophy, targeted measures, combination of development-oriented strategies with reinforced social security is producing benefits for the people of Myanmar. Building prosperous communities together is a prerequisite for a China-Myanmar community of shared future for the two countries.

2020 is the year China vowed to secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Facing the huge impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying complex and severe domestic and international environment, the entire country coordinated a fight against the virus in concert with efforts to maintain economic and social development, which effectively ensured an orderly economic recovery. Economic growth in the first three quarters flipped from negative to positive. China's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to surpass 100 trillion yuan (US\$15 trillion) this year.

Many people would like to learn the formula for China's success. If you ask me, it's the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CPC has persisted with a people-centered philosophy. Creating better lives

for the people has always been the aspiration and mission of the Party since the beginning. When the People's Republic was founded in 1949, the country was in an abyss of suffering and backwardness. Over the 70 years since, the CPC has devoted strenuous efforts to lead the Chinese people to a moderately prosperous society. Shenzhen, previously a small fishing village on the east coast of Guangdong Province, has transformed into a modern international metropolis in only 40 years. A few days ago, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the development and opening-up of Shanghai's Pudong New Area, which has developed into a modern new town and world-class financial center. Both are typical examples of China's rapid development, from which the Chinese people have undoubtedly benefited the most. In the process, the CPC has enhanced its capacity to improve and reform while committed to zero tolerance for corruption. It has strengthened its ability to purify and reform itself and made efforts to foster closer ties with the people, which is unleashing enormous energy invigorating the whole nation. In the fight against the pandemic, China has always kept the people's interests first and held firm the belief that nothing is more precious than human life. Major strategic results were achieved in this fight. During the recent eight-day National Day holiday, 637 million Chinese passengers traveled around the country at ea se, which reflects China's success in this battle. Chinese people's trust and support for Party leadership has thus further increased. I believe the CPC will write new chapters and win new victories along the journey to national rejuvenation with the support of the Chinese people.

New Patterns of China's Development

A popular saying in Myanmar goes: "Mango among fruits, pork among meats, tea among leaves." Mango is the most popular fruit in Myanmar. The famous brand Sein Ta Lone is well-known to many Chinese fans because of its unique fragrance and taste. Chinese consumers affectionately dub it "the mango king." From April to June each year, truckloads of Sein Ta Lone mangos reach ordinary Chinese consumers through Wanding Port in Dehong Prefecture of Yun-

nan Province. This year, despite the pandemic, a huge volume of Sein Ta Lone mangoes were exported to China. The mango trade represents a microcosm of agricultural products trade between China and Myanmar. Ever-growing Chinese domestic demand offers attractive prospects for Myanmar agricultural products.

The story of mango trade between China and Myanmar also provides a unique perspective to understand China's new development pattern. The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee that convened at the end of October agreed on a comprehensive plan for the development in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) that provided clear vision for China's long-range development through the year 2035—to lift China's per capita GDP to be on par with moderately developed countries through an expanding middle-income population and more substantial progress in prosperity for all. To achieve this goal, China will build a new development pattern with the domestic market as the mainstay and domestic and international markets reinforcing each other. Making domestic market as the mainstay does not mean pursuing development behind closed doors. Instead, we have to make better use of both the domestic and international markets and resources to better connect markets. China is expected to import more than US\$22 trillion over the next 10 years. China's door will only open wider, which will offer even more opportunities for China-Myanmar cooperation.

China and Myanmar have strong complementary traits in economics that create tremendous potential for cooperation. Agriculture is the pillar industry of Myanmar. China has a population of 1.4 billion people with more than 400 million in the middle-income group, which provides a huge consumer market for agricultural product exports from Myanmar such as rice, soybean, fruit, and coffee. China's garment and other labor-intensive companies have been transferring production capacity to Myanmar, which aligns with Myanmar's development needs. The Myanmar government is vigorously developing special economic zones, industrial parks, and industrial new cities as well as the digital

economy. China is actively participating in relevant cooperation, which will help Myanmar create jobs, improve living standards, and develop the economy. Under the guidance of the new development pattern, China will further open its market to Myanmar, share its reform and development dividends with Myanmar, and provide new momentum for Myanmar's exports to China. China-Myanmar cooperation in trade, production capacity, infrastructure, and other areas will be further upgraded as an interdependent two-way market gradually forms, which will create tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

New Era of China-Myanmar Relations

China and Myanmar are connected by mountains and rivers. China is the largest trading partner of Myanmar. We have great potential and bright prospects for bilateral cooperation. At the beginning of this year, President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to Myanmar, which has achieved historic outcomes. The leaders of the two countries reached consensus on building the Belt and Road, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, and the China-Myanmar community of shared future. Since then, China and Myanmar have pulled together and supported each other through the COVID-19 pandemic, which vividly reflects the meaning of a community of shared future. The major projects of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor are now well underway. China-Myanmar cooperation in areas of power supply, transportation infrastructure connectivity, agriculture, and manufacturing is making steady progress, creating tangible benefits for the peoples of both countries.

We were pleased to witness Myanmar's successful general election not long ago and we congratulate Myanmar for it. Myanmar is about to enter a new period of development with new opportunities to maintain peace and stability and promote economic growth. China will implement the 14th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development starting next year, and Myanmar is about to form a new government for the next five years of work. China and

Myanmar will continue to work together on fighting the pandemic, deepening cooperation, promoting national development, and creating benefits for the people.

Next, China and Myanmar will continue to strengthen anti-pandemic cooperation, especially joint prevention and control in the border areas, in the spirit of mutual assistance. The two sides will also strengthen cooperation in preventative supplies and vaccines to secure an early victory in the fight against the pandemic. At the same time, we are ready to implement pandemic prevention and control measures in tandem with pragmatic cooperation, carry out the agreements reached during President Xi Jinping's visit to Myanmar, strengthen synergy between China's 14th Five-Year Plan and Myanmar's development strategy, deepen pragmatic cooperation in all areas, promote common development, and create more benefits for peoples of both countries. China is ready to work with Myanmar to support each other on issues involving our core interests and major concerns. Based on Myanmar's interests, we will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the peace and national reconciliation of Myanmar.

This year, China helped Myanmar with the digital restoration of NgaBa, an old Myanmar film, which will have a revival run in Myanmar as an important gift celebrating the 100th anniversary of Myanmar's film industry. This is an example of China-Myanmar cultural exchange and cooperation. We stand ready to continue to strengthen exchange and cooperation with Myanmar in fields of education, culture, tourism, religion, and media to boost mutual understanding and amity between the peoples.

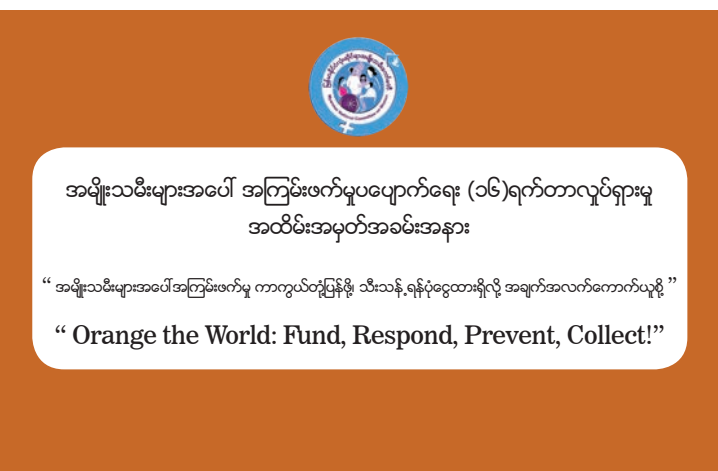
A Chinese saying goes, "A good partner on a journey is as important as a good neighbour at home." We are willing to work with Myanmar to seize development opportunities, overcome difficulties and challenges, promote greater development of bilateral relations in the new era, and work hand in hand for a better future.

(The views expressed in this article are those of the author, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organizations confirmed, appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Thet Tin Nyunt as Director-General of the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Explorer under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation on the expiry of one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hlaing Oo, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, as Director-General of the same office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Chubb Life Insurance Myanmar donates PPE to We Love Yangon to support COVID-19 response

CHUBB Life Insurance Myanmar donated US\$50,000 worth of personal protective equipment-PPEs to We Love Yangon philanthropic organization in Yangon on 24 November in support of Myanmar's COVID-19 response.

The protective equipment to keep healthcare workers safe includes 3,650 protective coveralls with boot covers and 2,600 surgical gowns.

The essential supplies will be distributed to frontline healthcare workers and volunteers in hospitals, quarantine centres and emergency services.

At the ceremony to hand over the lifesaving equipment, officials of the Chubb Life Insurance Myanmar said they are grateful to all frontline heroes who have worked so hard to keep the people in Myanmar safe and protected.—GNLM



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ROK donates 600 tonnes of rice to Myanmar under Tier 3 of APTERR



ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and party (L) and officials from Department of Agriculture (R) pose for a picture at the rice handover ceremony in Yangon on 9 November 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The Republic of Korea donated 600 tonnes of rice for the COVID-19 affected Myanmar through Tier 3 programme of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). "Our donation aims for the difficulties of Myanmar during

COVID-19 pandemic. When I became a Korean ambassador to Myanmar, I donated rice to Rakhine in 2018, to Bago in 2019 and now 600 tonnes of rice in Yangon," said Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa. The ASEAN Emergency

Rice Reserve programme was cooperated by the People's Republic of China, Japan and ROK and the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve programme was initiated in 2014. According to the agreement, if some member countries need rice, the other

countries have to provide rice under three programmes- rice reserve in business purpose, with the long-term loan and stockpiled rice. Rice will be provided to over 60,000 persons in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Magway, Mon, Shan and Ayeyawady affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Each family of these persons will receive a 40-kg rice bag under this programme. The relief rice is currently stored at the warehouses of Department of Agriculture in Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region, and it will be distributed to respective regions and states. According to the Tier 3 of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve, the ROK donated rice worth \$38 million to Myanmar in 2018, 500 tonnes of rice in 2019 and 600 tonnes of rice in 2020. (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MPC to keep providing rice, oil to journalists

BY Nyein Nyein

Myanmar Press Council (MPC) will provide rice and oil continuously to those journalists who are lowly paid or terminated during the COVID-19 period. MPC has already provided rice and oil to a total of 181 journalists from across the country

as of today including six from the regions and 25 from Yangon region on 12 May, four from the regions and 68 from Yangon on 20 May and four from regions and 32 from Yangon region on 27 May. The council is planning to provide the foodstuffs as soon as possible to 120 journalists depending upon the donations

received. Each person will receive six baskets of rice and 1.9 litres of oil. The journalists, who wish to receive the foodstuffs provided by the MPC, need to contact MPC via phone: 09448026326 and email: mmpresscouncil@gmail.com by telling name, phone number, news agency

department, position, the termination date if terminated, editor's name of the person's assigned department, editor's phone number and current address for the convenience of the distribution of the foodstuffs not later than 30 November, according to the MPC. (Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival to be suspended for one year due to pandemic

Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival aimed to promote the ethnics' culture and tourism will not be celebrated in 2021 for the third time because of the pandemic, according to the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA). "Myanmar confirmed its first case in late March after the festival. The festival is usually celebrated in January and February. "We skipped the celebration of the festival this year. Yangon also could not control the disease till November. However, the COVID-19 prevention vaccines will be available next year. "Then, we can launch the festival if we get permission from the government. Even though we could not launch



(FILES) A Myanmar ethnic dance troupe performs at the Myanmar Ethnic Cultural Festival 2020 in Yangon. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

the festival, we are planning to sell ethnic products online. Our association is making arrangements to change the federation into the association," said Min Banya San, the general secretary of the MEEA. The first Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival was organized

by Kachin State Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association from 25 to 30 January 2019 while the second Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival was organized by Kayah State Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association from 1 to 7 February 2020. The festival kicks off at the Kyaikkasan

Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, annually, with more than 1.2 million visitors. The First Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival was launched with spending of K1.3 billion, including capital among K50 million from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs' Union Fund and other financial donations of MEEA, 14 Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Associations, Culture and Literature Associations and State government fund. In contrast, the Second Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival was launched with a spending of over K1.1 billion from Kayah State government and Kayah State Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association. —Thant Zin Win (Translated by Hay Mar)

Pineapple growers call for legitimate trade channel for export

Myanmar's pineapple exports are blockaded due to the lack of the Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) issued by Myanmar's Agriculture Department which is required for export to China, according to northern Shan State Pineapple Producers and Exporters Association.

"Myanmar's pineapple has penetrated to China market. Yet, the trade halted as there is no G-to-G agreement between Myanmar and China. Myanmar has sent samples of avocado and its products to 40 countries. Thailand's buyers also eyed Myanmar's pineapples. However, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) matters in international trade to ease the trade barrier. MyanTrade under the Ministry of Commerce officially linked with buyers. The Agriculture Department is responsible for issuing the PC. It is two years that the association asked the department to issue the PC. We have not received any reply to it yet. I feel pity for it that we cannot export the pineapples to external markets even if we have foreign buyers," said U San Lin, Managing Director of Shwe Nanat Company, who is also treasurer of the association.

Furthermore, we need investors to set up the factory for value-added production. There is potential crop production as opium poppy substitution in the

northern Shan State area. It will bring job opportunities for the local people. About 60,000 tonnes of pineapples are yearly produced from over 20,000 acres in the north of Shan State. For now, the growers are experiencing financial hardships as they cannot sell them out of the country during the COVID-19 crisis. Myanmar's pineapples have reached markets of Beijing and Shanghai, China, for seven years. China daily demanded around 2,000 tonnes of pineapples. Earlier, they directly came to the farm to buy the pineapples.

A tonne of pineapple fetched K240,000. We do not even need to go to Muse to seek buyers. So, we are desperate for the legal trade pact. Hsipaw and Lashio mainly produce corn, watermelon and pineapples. Watermelon has both legal and illegal trading routes. If the government do not initiate the move for pineapple exports within three years, the growers will shift from pineapples to other crops for sure. At present, the growers are interested in pineapples as the sample of pineapples to five international markets reaped the excellent results. The dehydrated pineapple also attracts the buyers. However, capital is necessary as our factory can produce only



A man is packing pineapples at a warehouse. A tonne of pineapple fetch K240,000. PHOTO: SANDAR MYO

the sample and still cannot manage a commercial scale.

Additionally, the northern Shan State is referred to as the brown area of the country owing to the armed groups. We do not see any NGO in the area. Only the US Agency for International Development (USAID) visited the place, he continued.

"Once, an Australian company wanted to make a joint

venture with us. They agreed to invest in installing machine and equipment.

However, financial fraud was involved in this case," U San Lin stressed.

The pineapple is grown across the country. The northern Shan State area produces the quality pineapple. The samples of dehydrated pineapple have been sent to the US, Dubai, Singapore,

Germany and Japan. They gave good feedback. A tonne of dehydrated pineapple is worth K12 million.

China is the leading buyer of Myanmar's pineapples, and it has banned importation since 16 June 2019, for the lack of PC.

Earlier, 50 per cent of pineapple production is consumed locally, and the remaining goes to China.

Myanmar yearly exports nearly 40,000 tonnes of pineapples to China. Last year, pineapple grower groups from northern Shan State lost over K700 million worth 25,000 tonnes.

This year, there are about 35,000 acres of pineapples across the country; with 55 per cent in Hsipaw Township, 17 in Lashio, nine in Tangyan, six in Hsihseng, and 13 in Namsang and other townships.

The pineapples are abundant during its harvest season (July and August). If the trade channel is still suspended this year, growers will suffer more losses, the association stated.

Furthermore, pineapple growers want this sector to be listed on the priority sector of the COVID-19 Fund of the government. Also, the government's long-term loan for pineapple paste, juice and vinegar businesses are required. — Thant Zin Win/ Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Depot owners disagree with raw sesame, peanut import

By Nyein Nyein

THE owners of the respective depots raised the objection to the raw sesame and peanut importation, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants

Association.

The association has asked for the opinions of the owners of the respective depots where sesame and peanut are primarily traded.

Maha Nyi Ahko Company sought import permit for 10,500

tonnes of raw sesame and 32,000 tonnes of peanuts under zero tariff with the contract manufacturing process. The Ministry of Commerce asked the opinions of the association whether there is trade balance in gross and value-added terms depending on the locally sourced materials against materials purchased from overseas suppliers.

The association was asked opinions on sesame raw material importation three years ago and responded that the peanut and sesame are locally produced, and it should not be allowed for importation, he said.

"This year, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) asked for the points of views from the Commerce Ministry. The Ministry again forwarded it to the association. So, we requested the owners of depots from Sagaing and Magway regions to give their opinions on it. They

strongly showed their disapproval on the import as it can harm the interest of the growers," he pointed out.

Nevertheless, the association cannot afford to do anything as the raw materials can be imported to produce value-added items for exports under the existing law, he continued.

Myanmar's peanut and sesame are of high quality with the use of natural fertilizer. They are offered fair price by China, Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

Additionally, Myanmar grants tax-exempt on raw material import if the goods are exported with a few exceptions. It has a direct impact on the interest of the local growers.

Myanmar has liberalized the trade and Mandalay depot sent 70 per cent of agricultural products to China through the land border. It generated the country's revenue and brought benefits to the

growers and traders. The border trade has halted during the early outbreak of COVID-19 and has resumed for now.

As a result of this, the import of individual company can harm the local market. Otherwise, foreign buyers can confuse outsourcing materials with locally produced materials. Market manipulation may arise later on.

We are welcome with the trade openness. Yet, it will harm the interest of the country, local growers and traders. Mandalay depot suggested that the import is not allowed.

The depot showed the further opinion that vacant, fallow and virgin land should be treated and the contract farming system is required to be conducted to boost the production and offer guaranteed pricing to motivate the farmers to produce the quality crop.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Women harvest sesame at a farm in Myingyan Township. PHOTO: KYAWSWAR (MYINGYAN)

SOBERING CALCULATION

\$169 bn for 29,000 lives? Study calculates cost of US shutdowns

There's little doubt that government-ordered business shutdowns to stop the spread of Covid-19 damaged the US economy, but the exact cost has not been clear.

Researchers from HEC Paris business school and Bocconi University in Milan have reached a sobering calculation: the closures beginning at the pandemic's onset in March through May saved 29,000 lives -- at a cost of \$169 billion, or around \$6 million per person.

"Governors saved lives on the one hand, but reduced economic activity on the other," Jean-Noel Barrot, a professor at



Next week's Thanksgiving weekend poses a particular concern. Americans traditionally travel home to be with loved ones, taking part in meals, parades and shopping sprees. US President Donald Trump pardons a Thanksgiving turkey at the White House. PHOTO: AFP

HEC Paris and member of France's National Assembly, told AFP.

How to address the

world's largest coronavirus outbreak has become a vexing, politically charged question in the

United States, where the virus has infected more than 12.2 million people and killed nearly 257,000.

Virus cases are surging nationwide, prompting many states to again implement restrictions on businesses.

But Barrot warns that changes in Americans' behaviour may make renewed business restrictions less effective.

"As people become, perhaps, more responsible, as they wear more masks and so on, the effect that we're seeing on infection is going to probably go down," he said.

SOURCE: AFP

FEARS OF THIRD WAVE

South Korea virus cases hit highest level since March

South Korea reported its highest daily number of coronavirus cases since March on Thursday, with a surge of new infections sparking fears of a major third wave.

Officials announced 583 new cases after several weeks of fresh infections ranging between around 100 and 300.

The latest cases have mostly been clusters at offices, schools, gyms and small gatherings in the greater Seoul area, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said.

New infections also emerged within the military, including dozens of

newly enlisted soldiers at a boot camp -- prompting the defence ministry to bolster its virus measures.

"We are now in a situation where virus outbreaks can happen at any place," health minister Park Neung-hoo said.

The government tightened social distancing rules in the capital and the surrounding regions this week as authorities scrambled to contain the spread of the virus.

The measures include closing nightclubs and bars and restricting the number of visitors at weddings and funerals to 100.

SOURCE: AFP



The government tightened social distancing measures this week, including closing bars and nightclubs. PHOTO: AFP

US to distribute 6.4 million Covid vaccine doses in first tranche

THE United States plans to distribute 6.4 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in the first week after it is cleared for emergency use, which is likely next month, officials said Tuesday.

A committee of the Food and Drug Administration meets on December 10 to decide whether to green light the medicine, with the US confronted by soaring numbers of deaths and new cases.

Latest figures on Tuesday showed that the country had recorded a total of 259,600 Covid deaths and 12.5 million

cases -- with over 2,000 deaths and 167,000 new cases in just the last 24 hours.

General Gustavo Perna, chief operations officer for the government's Operation Warp Speed, told reporters some 40 million doses of vaccine would be available by the end of December.

That figure includes another vaccine developed by Moderna and the National Institutes for Health, which announced some preliminary efficacy results last week and is also close to applying for emergency approval.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1037 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1037 W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (047W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (047W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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.

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Myanma Port Authority

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

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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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

DIGITAL TAXATION

France risks US ire with vow to impose digital tax this year

FRANCE will enforce a new digital levy for online technology giants this year, breaking a truce with Washington over the long-running tax fight that could prompt a round of punitive US tariffs on French goods. "The companies subject to this tax have been notified," a French finance ministry official said Wednesday, referring in particular to Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple, collectively referred to as the "GAFA" in France.

A deposit on the estimated taxes owed will be required in December, with the remainder due next

year, the official said.

US President Donald Trump has assailed the tax as unfairly targeting American tech heavyweights, and last year threatened import duties of 25 per cent on \$1.3 billion worth of French products, including cosmetics and handbags by renowned brands.

The US Trade Representative did not respond to a request for comment from AFP.

France and other European countries are taking action after intense public pressure to make US multinationals pay a larger share of their revenues

in taxes in the countries where they operate.

Under EU law, companies in the United States can declare profits from across the bloc in a single member state – and most pick low-tax jurisdictions such as Ireland or the Netherlands.

In 2019, President Emmanuel Macron's government enacted a three-per cent levy on the profits from providing online sales for third-party retailers – such as Amazon's Marketplace – as well as on digital advertising and the sale of private data.

SOURCE: AFP



French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire addresses journalists at his ministry in Paris on July 27, 2019, a day after US President vowed "substantial" retaliation against France for a tax targeting US tech giants. PHOTO: AFP - FRANCOIS GUILLOT

RECENT AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

Indian farmers clash with police over farm reforms

INDIAN police fired tear gas and water cannon on Thursday in clashes with several thousand farmers marching to New Delhi to protest against recent agricultural reforms. The confrontation happened when police tried to stop the farmers, from the northern state of Punjab, crossing a bridge about 200 kilometres (120 miles) from Delhi. Armed with sticks and rocks, some of the farmers threw police barriers into the river below. The police opened fire with water cannon and tear gas, further enraging the protestors. After a two-hour stand-off, police eventually allowed the marchers to



The plight of farmers is a major political issue in India, with about 70 per cent of rural households depending primarily on agriculture. PHOTO: AFP

continue towards the capital. The plight of farmers is a major political issue in India, with about 70 per

cent of rural households depending primarily on agriculture. Issues such as drought and mounting

debt have been blamed for the suicides of thousands of farmers in recent years.

SOURCE: AFP

HOPES FADE

U.S. personal income drops, consumer spending rises in October

U.S. personal income decreased 0.7 per cent in October month on month as fiscal support fades, while personal consumption expenditures (PCE) rose 0.5 per cent, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. "Federal economic recovery payments slowed as pandemic-related assistance programmes continued to wind down," according to the report released by the department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The extra 600-dollar weekly unemployment benefits from the federal government, as well as some other relief measures approved in late March, expired at the end of July, but Congress and the White House remain deadlocked over the next round of fiscal support. "Recovery is showing signs of weakening as we move from summer into fall," Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, a major accounting firm, wrote in a blog Wednesday. "Cooler temperatures, which shuttered outdoor venues, a drop in unemployment benefits and a jump in COVID cases put a damper on spending and confidence," Swonk said. SOURCE: Xinhua

Information Disclosure of Environmental Impact Assessment- EIA Report on Hantharwaddy New International Airport Project

The Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar (DCA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications is planning to develop, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a new airport in the west side of Bago City. JICA has dispatched a study team (JICA Study Team and a local consulting firm by the name of Total Business Solution Co., Ltd.) to support DCA in carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the project so that it is in accordance with relevant laws and regulations in Myanmar and the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration (2010). The draft final EIA report had been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in November 2020. The EIA report including comment sheets are available on the following places for public review, comments, opinions and suggestions.

1. Civil Aviation Department, ASSD Office, Yangon Airport Road, Yangon Region
2. Township General Administration Department Office, Bago, Bago Township
3. General Administration Department Office, Innadagaw Township
4. General Administration Department Office, Phayargyi Township
5. Public Library, Information and Public Relations Department, Bago Township
6. Total Business Solution Co., Ltd., No.54, Room No.704 Waizayantar Road, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Myanmar.

The report is also available on the following websites and link.

1. <https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarDCA>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/tbs.myanmar>
3. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PkPb5MnHPXg_1-ABxWikKAHQy-VWP7t8/view?usp=sharing

Remark -The comment sheets can get from the above-mentioned places, give comments and/ or suggestion within one month starting from advertisement date.

Aerodrome Standards and Safety Division, Department of Civil Aviation, Yangon, Phone +95 1 533013, Email: mgshwedca@gmail.com
The Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar (DCA)
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Scoping of EIA for the development of Petroleum Terminal and Storage Project in Kyauk Tan Township (Near Thilawa SEZ) by Brighter Energy Company Ltd. (BE)

Brighter Energy Company Ltd. (BE) is developing the Petroleum Terminal and Storage Project located at the semi-urban in the Kyauktan Township to the south of Yangon and covers a total of approximately 112.5 acres. The project includes Jetty Terminal, Tank Farm (Diesel, Gasoline, LPG), and Interconnecting pipelines and advanced utilities.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, BE is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activities. On behalf of BE, Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource & Environment Myanmar (REM), are currently undertaking an EIA Study in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015), which includes Scoping Study that has been completed in July and August.

Information on the project is available at BE's webpage

<https://brighterenergy.com/news-press-releases/>. Any queries, comments, or suggestions on the Project and the EIA Study can be provided in writing to rathapon.p@brighterenergymm.com / saiyechan@brighterenergymm.com.

VOSTOK OIL PROJECT

Russian oil giant announces start of vast Arctic project



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (centre) and Rosneft chief Igor Sechin (front left) inspect production facilities at the Kondinsky group of oil fields in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District - Yugra, Russia, November 21, 2017. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER ASTAFYEV/AFP/FILE**

RUSSIAN oil giant Rosneft on Wednesday announced the start of operations for its giant Vostok oil project in the Arctic, part of the country's strategic energy plan which has been criticized by environmentalists. "It is with great pleasure that I inform you of the start of the practical implementation of the project," Rosneft chief executive Igor Sechin told President Vladimir Putin at a meeting in Moscow. He thanked Putin, with whom he has close relations, for the adoption of a law facilitating Russian investments in the Arctic. "The prospecting

and exploration work are now underway, in accordance with our timetable," Sechin said, adding that the design work for a 770-kilometre (480-mile) oil pipeline and a port had been completed. The strategic plan for Russia's mineral resources stretches to 2035 and is banking on growing global demand, though it does predict that natural gas will partially replace oil and coal. "Mineral resources will remain a competitive advantage of Russia's economy, and will determine the place and role of the country in the world," it says. Environmentalists urged

the Russian government last year to stop granting licences to exploit several Arctic deposits.

The Vostok project, the cornerstone of Russia's Arctic ambitions, brings together several Rosneft activities in the Russian Far North, near the northern sea route that the company intends to exploit to deliver to Europe and Asia. In February, Sechin promised Putin that the scheme would create a "new oil and gas province" on Siberia's Taymyr peninsula, the northernmost part of the Asian continent.

SOURCE: AFP

PARDON FOR FLYNN

Trump pardons Michael Flynn, who lied to FBI over Russia

PRESIDENT Donald Trump announced Wednesday he had pardoned Michael Flynn, the former security advisor whose lies about his Russian contacts spurred the troubling investigation into Trump campaign collusion with Moscow. The pardon, which was expected, came in the final weeks of Trump's presidency, two years of which was spent fighting the allegations that Trump had overseen and sought to cover up a dangerous scheme of cooperation with Russia. It was the first of several possible pardons that analysts think Trump could extend to political aides and allies before he steps down on January 20. Those could include former 2016 campaign chairman Paul Manafort, also convicted in the Russia collusion investigation, Trump personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, former advisor Steve Bannon, and Roger Stone, whose prison sentence for lying and witness tampering the president already commuted.

'Innocent man?'

Thursday's announcement helped Flynn avoid a potential prison sentence being weighed in a Washington federal court.

It also appeared to bring to a close the last case arising from special counsel Robert Mueller's sprawling 2017-2019 investigation of the Trump campaign, which saw six campaign associates plead guilty or be convicted at trial. "It is my Great Honour to announce that General Michael T. Flynn has been granted a Full Pardon," Trump tweeted. He wished the retired army lieutenant general a "truly fantastic Thanksgiving!" holiday.

SOURCE: AFP



General Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, and was forced to resign as Trump's national security advisor in February 2017, less than four weeks into the administration. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

'JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED'

Over 300 jailed for life in Turkey's 2016 coup trial

A Turkish court jailed 337 former pilots and other suspects for life in one of the largest trials stemming from the bloody 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim preacher who was once an Erdogan ally, is accused of ordering the failed putsch. Gulen, whose movement has been proscribed as a terrorist group by Ankara, strongly denies all charges. A total of 251 people died and more than 2,000 were injured in what has turned into the defining moment of Erdogan's rule and contemporary Turkish politics. The country's largest courtroom was packed with dozens of security personnel and lawyers and the presiding judge ordered one protesting defendant to "Sit down!" several times before reading the



Crowds and soldiers faced off in major Turkish cities including capital Ankara during the 2016 coup attempt. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

verdict.

He handed down multiple life sentences to disgruntled air force pilots who bombed the capital Ankara and civilians who

orchestrated the coup attempt from inside the Akinci military base near the capital. Court documents obtained by AFP showed 337 defendants handed

life sentences for murder, violating the constitutional order and attempting to assassinate Erdogan.

SOURCE: AFP

KYLIE MOORE-GILBERT

Australian-British lecturer freed in Iran prisoner swap

AN Australian-British academic jailed for spying by Iran has been released after two "traumatic" years behind bars, in a swap for three Iranians linked to a botched Bangkok bomb plot. Middle East scholar Kylie Moore-Gilbert said Thursday that departing Iran was "bittersweet" despite "injustices" endured during more than 800 days detained in the country's toughest prisons. "I came to Iran as a friend and with friendly intentions," she said, praising the "warm-hearted, generous and brave" Iranian people, despite what she called a "long and traumatic ordeal".

SOURCE: AFP

SIGNIFICANT HARDSHIPS

US economic suffering may rise without stimulus: Fed minutes

OFFICIALS at the Federal Reserve feared the US economy was on a course for renewed pain without Congress approving more stimulus to help its recovery from the pandemic, according to minutes of the central bank's latest policy meeting released Wednesday.

Members of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) also considered future changes in its strategy of buying Treasury assets and mortgage-backed securities, the minutes from the November 4-5 meeting said.

US central bankers including

Fed Chair Jerome Powell have been gently prodding Washington lawmakers for more stimulus spending to help dig the US economy out of the deep hole the coronavirus pandemic pushed it into.

But with Democrats and Republicans in Washington deadlocked over such a measure, FOMC staff said the lack of stimulus would cause "significant hardships for a number of households," according to the meeting minutes.

Congress's passage earlier in the year of the \$2.2 trillion

CARES Act rescue package helped Americans build up their savings during the worst of the downturn, which FOMC members said may see households through.

"The savings cushion accumulated by other households would be enough to allow total consumption to be largely maintained through year-end," staff noted. FOMC participants viewed the nationwide surge of Covid-19 cases as "a downside risk to the recovery," the minutes said, while "a few" noted that the worsening odds for new congressional stim-



Social distancing instructions are seen at the Westfield Santa Anita shopping mall in Arcadia, California, June 12, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/AFP

ulus "increased downside risks and added to uncertainty about the economic outlook." SOURCE: AFP

CHALLENGING AND COSTLY

LatAm governments facing vaccine distribution challenges



Getting vaccines to Amazon rainforest residents poses a special challenge for Brazilian healthworkers, who performed a rapid Covid test on Chief Domingos from the Arapuim tribe in July in Para state. PHOTO: TARSO SARRAF /AFP

Cash-strapped Latin American governments face severe geographical, economic and social challenges in trying to ensure life-saving Covid-19 vaccines are made available to vulnerable populations, experts say.

Megacities like Sao Paulo, mountain ranges like the Andes as well as the vast Amazon basin

pose just a few of the geographical problems for distributors, given the vital need to maintain the cold chain to preserve the vaccines. Transporting vaccines "to the most distant parts of the big cities and to peripheral neighbourhoods, with the need to conserve the cold chain, will be the first major challenge," Colombian

epidemiologist Carlos Trillos told AFP. Governments also face a race against time to provide training to those handling the doses throughout the cold chain, he said. Amazon basin countries had an early taste of the geographical challenges ahead for their vaccination campaigns, after health workers struggled to provide care for three million indigenous people scattered throughout the rainforest, an area almost seven times the size of Spain.

Vaccine campaigners also worry about rampant disinformation in the continent worst-affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Some 12.5 million of the 630 million Latin Americans have been infected with the coronavirus and at least 435,000 have died, a third of the total number of deaths worldwide, according to AFP figures based on official data.

SOURCE: AFP

FAKE NEWS AND MISINFORMATION

'Infodemic' risks jeopardizing virus vaccines

As early as February, with the global pandemic spreading fast, the World Health Organization issued a warning about an "infodemic", a wave of fake news and misinformation about the deadly new disease on social media.

Now with hopes hanging on Covid-19 vaccines, the WHO and experts are warning those same phenomena may jeopardize roll-out of immunization programmes meant to bring an end to the suffering.

"The coronavirus disease is the first pandemic in history in which technology and social media are being used on a massive scale to keep people safe, informed, productive and connected," the WHO said.

"At the same time, the technology we rely on to keep connected and informed is enabling and amplifying an infodemic that continues to undermine the global response and jeopardizes measures to control the pandemic." More than 1.4 million people have died since the pandemic emerged in China late last year, but three developers are already applying for approval for their vaccines to be used as early as December.

Beyond logistics, though, governments must also contend with scepticism over vaccines developed with record speed at a time when social media has been both a tool for information and falsehood about the virus.

The WHO defined an infodemic as an overabundance of information, both online and offline, including "deliberate attempts to disseminate wrong information". Last month, a study from Cornell University in the United States found that US President Donald Trump has been the world's biggest driver of Covid-19 misinformation during the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP

SEROPREVALENCE STUDIES

Covid-19 antibody surveys underestimate infections: study

Covid-19 prevalence surveys that detect levels of antibodies to determine whether people were infected in the past might be unreliable given how quickly these infection-fighting proteins fade, a US government study said Wednesday. Whether the decline in antibodies increases the risk of reinfection remains uncertain. It is thought likely that if re-exposed to the virus, most people's im-

mune systems will produce new antibodies, as well as immune cells that target and destroy cells that have been infected.

But the new study highlights an important limitation of "seroprevalence studies" that are being carried out around the world in an attempt to better understand the true number of people who have been infected by a virus that often causes no symptoms.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention collected blood serum samples from frontline health care personnel at 13 hospitals between April 3- June 19 2020, and followed up approximately two months later. Overall, 194 of 3,248 participants (six percent) had detectable antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 the first time they were tested.

SOURCE: AFP



WHO and experts warn misinformation could jeopardize any roll-out of immunization programmes. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD/AFP

MNL stands fifth in ASEAN-level winning prize range

THE winning prize money for the Myanmar National League (MNL) is currently standing fifth in ASEAN level domestic leagues in the 2019-2020 years, according to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF).

Myanmar National League football authorities give USD 78,000 prize money to the winning team of the MNL.

The prize money for the winner of Thailand League is currently the biggest with USD319,000.

Malaysia Super League is second with their prize money of USD240,000, and Singapore Premier League is third with USD150,000.

Viet Nam League is currently fourth with their award of USD 129,450 for the winning team.

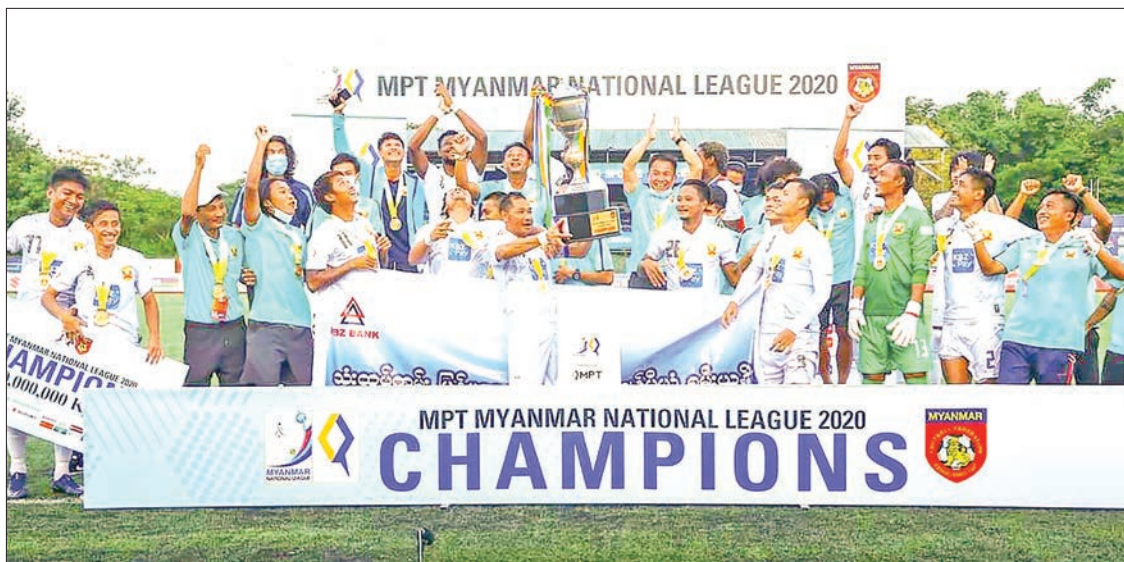
Following the fifth place Myanmar, Liga Indonesia is sixth with USD68,000 award.

Next, Cambodia League is seventh with USD36,170 prize money and Laos League is eighth with USD32,000 award for the winning team.

Liga Timor Leste is ninth with USD15,000 award and Brunei Super League is tenth with prize money of USD10,000 for the winning team.

Currently some ASEAN Domestic Competitions are postponed amidst the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020.

Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore hosted their National League matches, but the countries postponed other Championship Cup competitions in 2020.



Shan United FC, defending champions of the Myanmar National League 2020, gets USD78,000 prize money for winning the MNL season. **PHOTO: MNL**

Meanwhile, Brunei and Indonesia could not start both of their League and Cup matches due to the pandemic safety.

Though, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos held both of their national league and cup matches.

Timor Leste launched their Cup matches but postponed national league matches in 2020.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Death of 'eternal' Maradona plunges football world into mourning



Chased in vain by Terry Butcher, Diego Maradona prepares to go around Peter Shilton and score arguably the greatest goal in World Cup history in 1986. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BUENOS AIRES — The football world united to pay tribute to one of the game's greatest-ever players after Argentine legend Diego Maradona died at the age of 60 on Wednesday.

Renowned for inspiring Argentina to win the World Cup in

1986, he was most loved at club level for his spells with Boca Juniors in his homeland and Napoli in Italy, where he won the club's only two Serie A titles. "You are eternal in every heart in world football," the Twitter account of the Argentina national team posted

alongside a picture of Maradona holding the World Cup. Napoli's Twitter feed said: "Always in our hearts, Ciao Diego." Boca posted: "Eternal thanks. Eternal Diego."

Maradona also played for Barcelona and Sevilla in Europe and Argentinos Juniors and Newell's Old Boys in Argentina before embarking on a far less successful managerial career.

"Thank you for everything Diego. FC Barcelona expresses its deepest condolences regarding the death of Diego Armando Maradona, a player for our club (1982-84) and an icon of world football," Barcelona said in a statement. Maradona is remembered for his masterly composure on the ball, but he was also famous for his frequent lack of control both on the field and off.— AFP

HOLDERS Bayern, Man City through to Champions League last 16 as Liverpool beaten

PARIS — Robert Lewandowski set Bayern Munich on the way to a 3-1 Champions League win over Salzburg on Wednesday as the holders joined Manchester City in qualifying for the last 16 with two group games to spare, while Liverpool went down to defeat and Marseille are now the owners of an unwanted record.

On a night when clubs marked news of the death of Diego Maradona by holding a minute's silence in memory of the Argentine before all Champions League games, Bayern eased to a record-extending 15th straight win in the competition.

Lewandowski scored the opener just before half-time at an empty Allianz Arena, his

14th goal of the season and also his 71st altogether in the Champions League, leaving him level with Real Madrid great Raul in third place on the all-time list behind Cristiano Ronaldo (131) and Lionel Messi (118).

Kingsley Coman scored Bayern's second and then crossed for Leroy Sane to head in their third, before Mergim Berisha pulled a goal back for the Austrian champions.

Marc Roca was sent off for Bayern, but they have a maximum 12 points and are guaranteed to advance as Group A winners, while Atletico Madrid sit second but continue to toil in Europe this season after being held 0-0 at home by Lokomotiv Moscow. — AFP



Manchester City's players celebrate their victory. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tyson says 'kid' under control as he prepares for Jones bout

LONDON: Boxing great Mike Tyson says he has learned to protect that "kid always in me" as he prepares to return to the ring for an exhibition bout with Roy Jones Jr. on Saturday.

The 54-year-old former world heavyweight champion is due to fight for the first time in 15 years

when he meets the four-division world champion, 51, at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles. "Iron Mike," speaking to boxing promoter Eddie Hearn on his BBC podcast "No Passion, No Point", said he did not want to think about where he would be without the sport.

The American, jailed in 1992 for rape, also paid tribute to his late trainer Cus D'Amato for giving him moral guidance. "That kid is always in me," he said. "Now I know how to treat him, how to protect him. I wasn't protecting him when I was going to jail and all this crazy stuff.— AFP