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Wednesday, 9 December 2020

President U Win Myint sends message on occasion of 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day Celebrations

9 December 2020

Dear Esteemed Nationals of Myanmar,

Today, the 10th Waning Day of Tazaungmon, ME 1382 (9 December 2020), is the Centenary Anniversary of National Victory Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On this auspicious occasion of National Victory Day celebrations, I would like to send my message of greetings to all the nationals dwelling in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, praying that all of you will be safe from the COVID-19 pandemic and

be blessed with good health and prosperity.

Today is the Centennial Anniversary of National Victory Day, which reveals the nationalistic spirit that the entire nation can take pride in. The year 2020 is full of essence for Myanmar in that it is the year of the centennial anniversaries of the Myanmar Film Industry, the University of Yangon, the National Victory Day that falls today, and the Myoma Myanmar National School.

The National Victory Day is a significant, his-

toric day for the independence movements and the education journey of Myanmar, which deeply reveals the nationalistic spirit of the entire nation. After Myanmar had become a colony, the colonial government introduced the colonial education system in Myanmar. The colonial education system, whose sole aim was to produce the subordinate staff required for the colonial mechanism to serve the colonial government, was the education system for producing servants.

SEE PAGE-2

National Committee on Rights of PWDs holds 2nd meeting for this year



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio presides over the 2/2020 meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 8 December. PHOTO: MNA

THE National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, chaired by Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, held its second meeting this year yesterday.

Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council member and departmental heads attended the meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Those who joined the meeting via videoconferencing were Chief Minister of Kachin State, Deputy Minister for Education, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights

Commission, social affairs ministers from regions/states and officials, permanent secretaries, directors-general, chairman of Myanmar Federation of PWDs and its mem-

bers, associations of PWDs, civil society organizations, representatives of volunteer associations and officials.

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A Great Honour for 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day

Objectives for 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day 2020

- Rights to basic education for all school-age children
- Rights to life-long learning of practical and useful subjects for socio-economics
- More education investment in ethnic areas for multi-sectoral development of the Union
- Technological and infrastructural inputs for education development
- Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union with the collective strength of all the nationals

Motto of 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day 2020

- “Let’s build union peace with unity and cooperation of all national races starting from the 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day Celebrations”.

10th Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME
(9-12-2020)

President U Win Myint sends message on occasion of 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day Celebrations

FROM PAGE-1

The Rangoon University Act, which was promulgated on 1 December 1920 by the colonial government, had a great number of restrictions – restrictions on the right of Myanmar students to university education; restrictions on the right of students from remote areas to university education; the privileged students only had access to university education while impoverished students lost opportunities to university education; and if a student was considered unqualified by the university authority, he/ she lost the right to continue university education. Therefore, a group of patriotic Myanmar university students started the Rangoon University Boycott on the 10th Waning Day of Tazaungmon, ME 1282 (5 December 1920) in order to abolish the colonial education system. Owing to the students’ strike, the nationalistic spirit was enormously aroused for Myanmar education, Myanmar independence, and Myanmar politics, and political insights were awakened in Myanmar people. The day on which the first students’ strike began and the nationalistic spirit was raised was designated as National Victory Day, which is celebrated every year and today is its 100th anniversary.

Owing to this students’ strike, the Myoma national high school emerged in Rangoon (Yangon) on the 7th Waxing Day of Nadaw, ME 1282 (17 December 1920), which led to the emergence of national schools all over Myanmar and the emergence of the national education system. These national schools produced patriotic national leaders, which became a driving force to regain Myanmar’s independence. The national leader General Aung San graduated from the Yenangaung National High School, Prime Minister U Nu from the Wakema National High School, Secretary-General of the United Nations U Thant from the Pantanaw and

Myoma National High Schools are the proof of the success of the national schools.

Since such visionary youths have been produced by national schools, it is the first priority of the government to provide all school-going-age children with access to basic education. It is a national duty to bring up visionary and intellectual youths in the future democratic federal union.

For the socio-economic development of the citizens, it is crucial for the government to create more opportunities for vocational education that can be applied in everyday life, to create more job opportunities, and to nurture highly skilled human resources and so the government will lay emphasis on these tasks.

Since education is the major investment for the development of the nation, investment in education will be increased in every corner of the country, and more education investment will be particularly made in the areas where national races live. Moreover, all aspects of education such as human resources, infrastructure, technologies, etc. will be upgraded nationwide in order to upgrade the standard of education.

We strongly believe that more investment in the education sector means carrying out sustainable development of good human resources and society, which are essential in building a nation. Natural resources will get less and less and finally run out because of extraction and consumption. It is human resources that grow forever and the power of human resources is a driving force of the nation-building mechanism. Therefore, the government is striving for the all-round development of the education sector in order to uplift the knowledge, skills, ideology, insights, and personality of all the citizens.

In addition, the government is continuously endeavouring for the peace and stability processes,

which are the most important in nation-building. The Union Peace Conference - the 21st Century Panglong has been successfully convened four times with the aim of national reconciliation and peace. Important agreements have been made for the emergence of a democratic federal union, and the future plans to be implemented in post-2020 have been laid down.

Therefore, the state and the entire nation are putting all-out efforts for securing national peace and for the emergence of a genuine democratic federal union in accord with the motto of the Centennial Anniversary of the National Victory Day “Let’s build union peace with unity and cooperation of all national races starting from the 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day Celebrations”. Grasping the fruit of victories, all the national brethren will have to successfully overcome obstacles and challenges on the road to democracy with the power of unity.

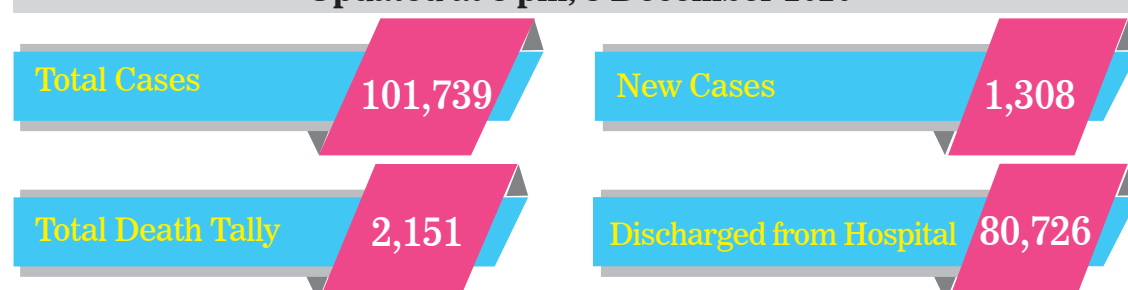
Hence, on this auspicious occasion of the Centenary of National Victory Day Celebrations, I would like to urge the state government and the entire nation to unitedly endeavour to follow the five national objectives of the Centennial National Victory Day:

- (1) To ensure that all school-going-age children have the right to basic education;
- (2) To create life-long learning opportunities for vocational school subjects and disciplines that practically contribute to socio-economic sectors;
- (3) To invest more in education in the areas where the national races live for all-round development of the union;
- (4) To provide technology and infrastructure for educational development, and
- (5) To build a democratic federal union with the concerted efforts of all nationals.

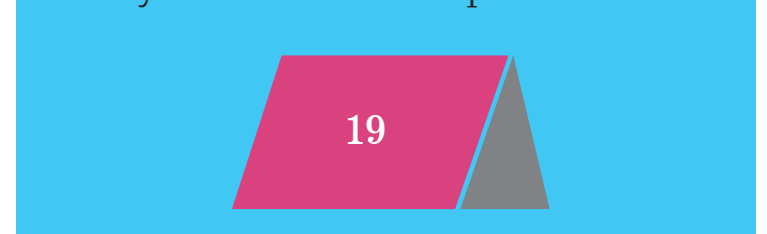
1,308 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 December, total figure rises to 101,739

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 101,739 after 1,308 new cases were reported on 8 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 101,739 confirmed cases, 2,151 died, 80,726 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 8 December 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 8-12-2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

Build a Union with a diversity of strength

The word Union is such a beautiful word. It is imbued with grace. It is very important for all of us to value, love and cherish this word. A Union means something which has been established collectively. A country which has been established collectively, a great country which has been established collectively is not the same as those countries which have not been established collectively. We will be able to establish a Union only after transforming our diversity and differences into strength.

(Extract from a Message of Greetings delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 15 January 2020 at the ceremony to celebrate Kayah State Day)



Myanmar Folk Dance - U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe. PHOTO: ZAW MG MG OO (SANDAKU)

National Committee on Rights of PWDs holds 2nd meeting for this year

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice-President discussed the government's 'Leaving no one behind' policy especially during the COVID-19 crisis, taking immediate actions in coordination with the COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee and the Myanmar Federation of PWDs, and development plans for the PWDs in carrying out rehabilitation works in the post-COVID-19.

He also highlighted the importance of disability identification and registration to cover all the persons with various levels of disability and the initiation of human rights and social model techniques in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region, Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region, Hpa-an and Kya-in-Seikkyi townships of Kayah State implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and relevant organizations in regions and states.

He also talked about the courses of training of trainers, registration supervisors in villages and wards, implementation of the Remote Assessment Methodology and the Management Information System in Kayah State,

and the works of the technical core group and 9 sub-committees to draft the National Strategic Plan (2020-2025) for the medium term.

The Vice-President also asked for conducting suitable vocational training courses in respective areas for the livelihood of PWDs based on their impairments, cooperation with



Over 87,000 PWDs cast their votes in the 2020 multi-party democracy general elections....

microfinance institutions in the post-COVID-19, establishment of barrier-free communities in respective regions and states like at Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and Myoma Market and simultaneous implementation of the Myanmar Barrier-Free Pilot Project developed by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in the post COVID-19 period.

He also talked about the need to produce the 2020 annual

report of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the committee led by the Deputy Minister for Information to report on activities of the national committee up to December 2019 after it was formed in 2017.

Myanmar will form a team to produce a report on simplified reporting procedure in accord-

ance with the List of Issues by the UN's Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 January 2024 which will be one-year ahead to submit the implementation report on recommendations in the concluding observation of the UN committee.

According to the interim census in 2019, there are 6.3 per cent of visually-impaired persons with eyeglasses, 2.4 per cent of hearing-impaired persons with

hearing aid, 5.4 per cent with difficulties in walking/climbing steps, 4.4 per cent with difficulties in memory/learning, 1.9 per cent with problems in personal cleaning and taking clothes, and 1.6 per cent with difficulties in communications with others among the population in Myanmar.

Over 87,000 PWDs cast their votes in the 2020 multiparty democracy general elections thanks to the special arrangements and facilities made for them.

The Vice-President concluded his speech with the theme for the 2020 International Day of Persons with Disabilities "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 World", and urged for the constant implementation of PWD rights in the post-COVID-19 period.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Vice-Chairman (1) of National Committee and Chairman of Work Committee on PWD rights, reported on organizational matters and progress of works of the national committee and sub-committees.

Vice-Chairman (2) and

Chairman of Myanmar Federation of PWDs U Aung Ko Myint, Secretary of National Committee and Deputy Minister for MoS-WRR U Soe Aung briefed on the works of their committee.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin discussed works of his office on the decisions of 1/2020 the National Committee meeting and submitting the report through simplified reporting procedures to the UN's Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Participants at the meeting also discussed coordination with associations of PWDs, legal action on crimes against PWDs, facilities for PWDs in prisons, awareness campaigns, training courses, the status of work done on producing the annual report, granting rights for PWDs under the new normal lifestyle, supplying devices for PWDs, relief assistance to the PWDs under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, requirements of health, education and employment opportunities for PWDs and the works of relevant departments.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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

The cost for a patient who gets infected with COVID-19



In order to drive home the point to our people, I wish to quote some facts and figures. We have to give medical treatment in the case of a citizen or even a foreigner who is visiting our country. If a person gets infected with the disease, if we have to provide medical treatment, the cost is between K15 to K20 lakhs. This represents the direct costs as well as indirect costs. This is for one person. If the situation gets critical, the cost is between K25 to K50 lakhs. This is the total cost when we add up direct costs as well as indirect costs. So please think about this. In our country as the number of infected persons is now over 90,000 and getting near the 100,000 figure, you can imagine how much money we have spent on medical costs; as we have said earlier, if we had to spend between K15 to K20 lakhs for a normal patient, this is equivalent to the amount of money we would have to spend to provide vaccines to 300 patients when we get these vaccines.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 containment measures, on 5 December 2020)

MoTC joins G2G Meetings of 8th GICC 2020

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung joined the online High-Level Bilateral Talks (G2G Meetings) of the 8th Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC 2020) yesterday at the invitation of Ms Kim Hyun-mee, Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea.

The meeting focussed on the upgrade of 54.6km long Gyohtuang-Me-za section and Mawhan-Kardu section on Mandalay-Myitkyina railway route with \$125 million loan from EDCF of Korea EXIM Bank, further EDCF loan for installation of signalling system for Mandalay-Myitkyina route, the tender invitation for Korean

companies for Insein railway station development project in Yangon Circular Railway section, human resource development, technical aids and loan of ROK for Myanmar's transport sector development.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant, departmental personnel and Assistant Minister for Infrastructure Affairs Mr Kwon Hyuck-Jin of ROK. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung participates in online G2G Meetings of the 8th GICC 2020 on 8 December. **PHOTO: MNA**



Political dialogue framework amendment meeting concluded

THE second-day meeting on amendment of political dialogue framework was concluded yesterday afternoon, with making common plans of government side participated by the administrative sector, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw.

The meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre was attended by Vice Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Secretary of Peace Commission Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win

Aung, Members of Advisory Body from Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General of Ministry of State Counsellor Office.

They held talks on emergence of a realistic political dialogue framework, formation of implementing mechanism on agreements, and carrying out phase by phase agreements and step by step implementation. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Second-day meeting on amendment of political dialogue framework in progress on 8 December. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**



“People are the key”

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses COVID-19 response efforts with Yangon Region government

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held a virtual meeting with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Yangon Region government officials via video-conferencing on 7 December to discuss plans to make the general public adhere to the COVID-19 preventive measures.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and health workers are working day and night for COVID-19 response efforts, so they have become tired. The Union Minister pointed out that it is imperative to enhance the percentage of compliance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines in order to control the outbreak to some extent effectively. The Union Minister called on the Regions/States governments to effectively oversee the implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures and take appropriate actions in order to make the general public adhere to the measures.

The Union Minister stressed that the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is also taking into account the socio-economic situations of the people, so it has to ease some COVID-19-related

restrictions. After easing some restrictions, it is still vital to continue adhering to the COVID-19 preventive rules in doing businesses, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister also highlighted the need to raise public awareness for full compliance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines, provide effective supervisions and take appropriate legal actions against violators. Otherwise, the outbreak will continue, said the Union Minister.

Yangon is a business capital city and has a large population, a large number of factories, the international and domestic airport, and crowded public transport systems, and because of those different circumstances, it is impossible for the Yangon Region to follow the methods used in other Regions/States, said the Union Minister, who urged the Yangon Region government to use the appropriate ways to make the general public adhere to the COVID-19 related instructions.

He said that no matter how good the rules and regulations are if they are not followed by the general public, the rules will be useless.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that the regional government is trying to balance COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds talks on COVID-19 response measures in Yangon Region on 7 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

preventive measures with socio-economic needs of the general public.

He said that awareness-raising campaigns are being carried out in order that the communities in Yangon will effectively support COVID-19 patients and their families in constructive ways.

Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Rector of the University of Medicine (1) Yangon, said that they are working hard for COVID-19 response efforts, and preparing for the “community-based prevention and control of COVID-19 special

project”.

Dr Tun Myint, Deputy Director-General for the Public Health and Medical Services Department (Yangon Region), explained COVID-19 response works in the Yangon Region and implementation of the Mask and Face Shield Campaign.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lin also participated in the discussion.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein and Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win discussed their

plans to promote cooperation with the Yangon Region government in COVID-19 response efforts.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivered a closing speech by saying that the length of the period of the second wave of COVID-19 will largely depend on the fact whether the general public adheres to the rules or not. He said that the impacts would be reduced only if the people follow the rules.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

MoC minister attends 8th GICC 2020 online



Union Minister U Han Zaw joins 8th Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference online on 8 December **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw attended the 8th Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC2020) organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea yesterday.

During the meeting, Chairman Mr Lee Kun-Ki of International Contractors Association of Korea made an opening speech and Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport of ROK Ms Kim Hyun-mee and other senior officials coordinated the meeting.

Then, Union Minister U Han Zaw discussed the support of Korea to Myanmar, Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (Dala)

Project which currently completes 20 per cent and Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) Project with EDCF loan, Dala New City Project, K City Programme and further cooperation work between Korea-Myanmar including preventive measures for COVID-19 released by National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and efforts of Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC 2020) which is one of the largest events of ROK held every year since 2013.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 42/2020
8th Waning of Tasaungmon 1382 ME
(7 December 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 5 December 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Win Tun who lives in Pinnbaw Village in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 1 December 2020, police searched the house of Zeya Naing (a) Phoe Tuu, 49, son of U Maung Yar, who lives in Pinnbaw Village in Mogaung Township and arrested him and Win Tun, 48, son of U Maung Nyo, who lives in the same village together with stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Pinnbaw) MaYa (pa) 32/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Min Nyi who lives in Botae ward in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 22 October 2020, police searched the house of Min Nyi, 46, son of U Bar Oo who lives in Botae ward in Kawlin Township and arrested him together with opium. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin) MaYa (Pa) 199/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Khin Maung Than (a) Aethay who lives in Thatat Pinlae Village, Mawlaik Township in Sagain Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 23 November, 2020 police searched the tent of Khin Maung Than (a) Aethay, 43, son of U Bone Maung, who lives in Thatat Pinlae Village in Mawlaik Township and arrested Pyuu Tin, 43, son of U Kyaw Khin together with heroin and opium. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik) MaYa (Pa) 85/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of people near Kalay People's Hospital in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, using illegal drugs.	On 25 November 2020, police arrested Min Htike Maung, 25, son of U Maung Maung Myint Sein, together with heroin on Bayint Naung road near Township People's Hospital in Kalay Township and a case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa (Pa) 172/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also arrested Goshaman, 26, son of U Go Zanan, who lives in Chan Myay Aung Si ward and Aung Kyaw Moe, 30, son of U Chit Lwin, who lives in Aung Myay Man ward near the township hospital together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa (Pa) 173/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, Police arrested Yan Min San (a) Ko Min (a) Ko Yan, 38, son of U San together with heroin on Shwe Taung Gyar road near the township hospital and a case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa (Pa) 174/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Soe Khine Oo and Daw Sein Than, who lives in Wai Thuki Village in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 30 November 2020, police searched the house of Soe Khine Oo, 48, son of U Chit Khaing and wife Daw Sein Than, 55, daughter of U Kyaw and arrested them and Soe Wai Aung, 29, son of U Aung Soe, who lives in Myoma (2) ward, in Pinlebu Township, together with stimulant drugs and heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mansigyi) MaYa (Pa) 105/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Ae Pauk Sa who lives in Tharsi Village in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 3 December 2020, near Ywar Lae bridge, police arrested Ae Pauk Sa (a) Aung Tin Win, 38, son of U Bo Kyu, who lives in Tharsi Village in Kalay Township and arrested him together with heroin and a gas gun. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa (Pa) 177/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and MaMaSa (Kalay) (Pa) 875/2020 under the Section 19 (f) of the Arms Act.
7	Information received of Naing Nge who lives in Kyane Mae Taung Village in Bokpyin Township in Taninthayi Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 22 November, 2020, police searched the house of Naing Nge, 40, son of U Soe Thin, who lives in Kyane Mae Taung Village in Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets and speciosa. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Karathuri) MaYa (Pa) 9/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ko Aung Pu and Ma Aye Yeik San who live in Myo Ma (West) ward in Pyu Township in Bago Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 24 November 2020, police arrested Pyae Phyoo Aung, 28, son of U Ko Ko Naing, who lives in Hospital ward in Pyu Township together with WY stimulant tablets and a case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Pyu) MaYa (Pa) 11/2020 of the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Ma Aye Yeik San (a) Aye Ei San, 25, daughter of U Hla Soe, who lives in the same ward and arrested her and mother Daw Mu Mu, 50, daughter of U Tin Aung together with WY stimulant tablets. The further investigation stated that those tablets were bought from Aung Pu (a) Yan Naing Htwe, 28, son of U Myint Thein and husband of Ma Aye Yeik San. Police searched the house of Aung Pu but didn't find anything related to the drugs. A case has been opened against three of them with MaMaSa (Pyu) MaYa (Pa) 12/2020 of the 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of people in War Phyu Taung Village in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 27 November 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Swar Win, 33, son of U Tin Shwe, who lives in War Phyu Taung Village in Yamethin Township and arrested him together with 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yamethin) MaYa (Pa) 37/2020 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of people in Pyinsi Village in Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 30 November 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Myo Lin, 33, son of U Aung Thein, who lives in Pyinsi Village in Natogyi Township and arrested him together with MaMaSa (Natogyi) MaYa (Pa) 7/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also arrested San Thu Aung, 30, son of U Maung Ko, who lives in the same village together with stimulant tablets in his motorbike workshop and a case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Natogyi) MaYa (Pa) 8/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of people on Abis-Khalae Tagontaing Village road in Mudon Township in Mon State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, 24 cases have been identified and 41 male suspects have been charged with possession of illegal drugs. On 22 November 2020 on Abis-Khalae Tagontaing Village road, according to a series of previous arrests, police investigated the motorbike ridden by Aung Thu Rein Oo, 21, son of U Aung Soe, who lives in Phaung Sein ward in Thanbyuzayat Township and arrested him and Soe Win, 35, son of U Naing, who lives in the same ward together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwat) MaYa (Pa) 55/ 2020 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, on the same road, police arrested Zaw Oo, 39, son of U Phe, who lives in Nhee Padaw Village and Myint Oo, 40, son of U Htein, who lives in the same village, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwat) MaYa (Pa) 56/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 28 November 2020, on the same road, by the time police asked to stop the D-Max vehicle ridden by Aung Swe, 42, son of U Ne Win, who lives in Kalaw Thaw Village in the same township, he tried to escape and finally he was arrested with speciosa. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Kamarwat) MaYa (Pa) 57/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of people under Aung Zeya Bridge in Insein Township in Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 23 November 2020, under Aung Zeya Bridge in Insein Township, police arrested Thet Oo Maung (a) Akyi Kaung, 19, son of U Kyaw Win, who lives in ward (1) in Mayangon Township together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa (Pa) 164/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

FROM PAGE-6

13	Information received of Soe Min, who lives in (13) ward in Thakayta Township in Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 25 November 2020, police searched the house of Soe Min, 41, son of U Hla Shwe, who lives in (13) ward in Thakayta Township and arrested him and his wife Ma Phyu Phyu Win (a) Phyu Gyi, 40, daughter of U Khway and son Khant Win, 19, together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Thakayta) MaYa (Pa) 43/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of Zaw Zaw Aung who lives in (1) ward in North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 4 December 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Zaw Aung, 27, son of U Khin Aung, who lives in (1) ward in North Okkalapa Township and arrested him and Win Htet, 19, son of U Aung Myo Win, who lives in (5) ward in Mayangon Township and Tun Tun Oo, 15, son of U Myint Thein, who lives in the same ward, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Northokkalapa) MaYa (Pa) 93/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of Aung Myo, who lives in (Nya) ward in North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 4 December 2020, police searched the house of Aung Myo (a) Aung Myo Win (a) Tharti Phoe, 40, son of U Bo Ni, who lives in (Nya) ward in North Okkalapa and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (waibargi) MaYa (Pa) 63/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
16	Information received of people in (5) ward in Lashio Township in northern Shan State, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, 20 cases have been identified and 21 male suspects and 5 females, altogether 26 suspects have been charged with possession of illegal drugs. On 25 November 2020, according to a series of previous arrests, police arrested Myo Myint (a) Husein, 39, son of U Than, who lives in (7) ward in Lashio Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa (Pa) 161/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, on 3 December 2020, police arrested Daw Aung Mein, 60, daughter of U Ywat Sine, who lives in the same ward, together with stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa (Pa) 163/2020 under the Section 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

17	Information received of people near Daw Hla Hla's compound in Taung Ni Village, Taunggyi Township in southern Shan State, selling, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 3 December 2020, police investigated Kyauk Khae, 27, son of U Win Maung, who lives in Taung Ni Village near Daw Hla Hla's compound in Taunggyi Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (ShweN-yaung) MaYa (Pa) 51/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also investigated Phoe Hlaing (a) Tun Aung Naing, 23, son of U Nay Myo, who lives in Yay Pu Village and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (ShweN-yaung) MaYa (Pa) 52/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
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3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,407 cases have been opened files as of 5 December 2020. A total of 2,205 people, including 1,839 men and 366 women had been arrested with 10,988.0504 g of heroin, 1,489.42 g of ICE, 47,995.17886 g of opium, 1,408.96 g of low-quality opium, 54,934.40 g of speciosa powder, 558,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 697,882 stimulant tablets, 14883.20 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 640.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 29 firearms, different kinds of 669 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200
 Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
 Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

MoHT minister discusses tourism development in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung received Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member (2) U Min Thu, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for Pinyinana Township U Than Soe Aung and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Hotelier Association U Kyaw Min Tun in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed Community-Based Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw areas for local and foreign travellers and plans to follow the criteria of ministry in implementing the Community-Based Tour-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung discusses the development of the tourism sector in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ism to promote the social and economic status of the local populace.

They also exchanged views on the exploration of new tourist destinations, including proper functions for ecotourism.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Tin Latt, Director-General for Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Kyaw and other responsible persons of ministry.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar nationals brought back home from ROK by relief flight



A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by Myanmar Embassy in Seoul brought 93 Myanmar nationals via Incheon International Airport yesterday.

The returnees on the flight

Myanmar returnees queue at immigration counter in Yangon International Airport on 8 December. PHOTO: MNA

were 73 from the Republic of Korea, 2 from Switzerland, 4 from Indonesia, 1 from South Africa, 2 from Belgium, 5 from Qatar, 1 from Canada and 5 from the US.

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

The Ministry of Foreign

Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries 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, and it has organized 34 relief flights from the ROK to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Stitch in time to save nine

AS the Ministry of Health and Sports is relaxing COVID-19 restrictions step by step to ease the socio-economic life of the people, the governments of the regions and states are to take strict measures to control community transmission.

Though the rules are relaxed, the operation of the businesses will not be on the right track to recovery if people fail to abide by the mandatory rules and health guidelines.

We are annoyed over reports of crowds in parks, recreation areas, at markets and violations by people these days, especially in Yangon.

After the COVID-19 cases rose in recent weeks following crowds defying social distancing during their November-8 elections celebrations, the case numbers remain at an average of 1300 and over 20 deaths daily these days.

Many parts of the country saw crowds taking to the street to celebrate the election victory and they are now seeing increases in new cases.

Among the regions and states which are hit by the virus, Yangon Region which is a metropolitan city with a dense population, higher numbers of factories than other regions and public transportations, should have a different approach from other parts to control the transmission.

Yangon Region authorities are urged to have to resort to the carrot and stick approach as soon as possible with those people who have flouted mandatory rules such as wearing masks and gathering without maintaining social distancing.

Yangon has suffered the highest death tolls, positive cases and heaviest economic blows from the pandemic.

Under the current rules, people would be required to

stay at home unless their workplaces, such as factories or construction sites, need them.

One person from each family can go outside for a few other reasons, like buying food or seeking medical attention. But non-essential shops would be closed, people are urged not to travel, and restaurants would only be allowed to serve takeout food.

Legal action has been initiated against those who do not abide by orders and do not comply with mandatory quarantine regulations.

The measures to control community transmission in Yangon Region might be draconian, but they are necessary. It is worth noting that the coronavirus will be with us for some time.

What Yangon Region needs is to work out a strategy urgently - "stitch in time to save nine."

We need to act it now as we fear that the infection rate will rise after increases in the number of gatherings during Christmas and the New Year celebrations.

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Hailing 100th Anniversary of National Day

National Day and historical lessons

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaza
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THIS year National Day အမျိုးသားနေ့ or National Victory Day (အမျိုးသားအောင်ပွဲနေ့) falls in December.

If you visit Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, you will meet under a big Banyan Tree at the south west corner a big stone pillar on which the following inscription is found.

"This is the venue where on the waning moon 8th Myanmar Era 1282 eleven Yangon University students met to decide to boycott the Yangon University Act.

The names of eleven Yangon University students are as follows:-

- 1. Ba Khin, 2. PhoKun, 3. Ba U, 4. Aung Din, 5. Htun Win, 6. PeThein, 7. Ba Shin (Thandwe), 8. BaShin

in this day by teachers, and writers or politicians.

Golden Jubilee of this Day was celebrated on November 28, 1970. This year 9th December 2020 would be also celebrated National Day.

All students, especially history major students should know the history and historian lessons of this red letter Day in December Tazaungmon.

In our long struggle for national independence from British Colonial Rule (also Japanese Fascist Rule in World War II occupation) this National Day or National Victory Day was the first stage of success by peaceful means of education.

Well-known in those days



On 5 December, 1920, the unpopular new British regulations led the students at Yangon University to protest. Marble stone slab inscribed the names of the eleven students. PHOTO: SOE MIN

(Dawei), 9. K. Nyi Peik, 10. Hla Tin, 11. Maung Aye

On other three faces of an elongated sagyin (marble) stone slab are inscribed the names of the eleven students in Burmese, English, French and Slavonic languages.

All students know National Victory Day အမျိုးသားအောင်ပွဲနေ့ is the red letter in Tazaungmon month (December). But not all students of old and new generations know its history let alone entire Myanmar people. Perhaps many or some have attended public talks



Marble stone slab inscribed the names of the eleven students at the Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: SOE MIN

as Yangon University Boycott of British Colonial Education. (Even Boycott was used as Myanmar word (ဘိုက်ကော့) instead of strike (သပိတ်မှောက်). Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing composed a long Boycott Dekar (အိုင်ကော့ဇီကာ)

The British colonial education nurtured only slavish mentality to produce English educated "Black English men to serve British colonial rule faithfully from lower Division Clerk to select IC.C.S. highly anglicized administration who entirely forgot that they were Burmese with their own culture and the entire people and country was under Myanmar kings over a thousand years.

The boycotter set up the Council of National Education by which they set up National Colleges and National schools where Myanmar language literature, culture were introduced. English language literature and history were maintained as they were useful.

Boycotters' taught at National College and National Schools. B.A. (Nat) B.Sc. (Nat) were conferred. After the fashion of English Degree were combined they made B.A. (Nat) for National colleges. Volunteers (senior boycotters and college students taught a National Schools without salary. Students raised fund to give their teachers' support.

The British colonial government seeing the success of Boycott residential as well as non-residential Myanmar history, language and literature, pali and Myanmar culture were introduced into curricula and syllabuses.

The prime movers of national education at Yangon University were Saya Gyi U Pe Maung Tin, Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing, and many Thakhins (men) and Thak-ingmas (women). With General Council of Burmese Association (G.C.B.A) national education gradually progress and prosper giving with the renaissance of old Burmese literature and literature and

culture birth of new experimental Burmese literature properly called Khit San Sarpay (ခေတ်စမ်းစာပေ) "Bricks are fallen down. But we shall re-build with hewn stones" မြေအုတ်များ ပြိုလေရာ၊ ကျောက်အုတ်များဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်အံ့" is the well know motto of Yangon University of those days.

Especially new generations such as school students or Myanmar public of today should know the significance of this red letter day National Victory Day. အမျိုးသားအောင်ပွဲနေ့

Due to space limit the writer begs to stop here.

Objectives for 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day 2020

- Rights to basic education for all school-age children
- Rights to life-long learning of practical and useful subjects for socio-economics
- More education investment in ethnic areas for multi-sectoral development of the Union
- Technological and infrastructural inputs for education development
- Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union with the collective strength of all the nationals

Motto of 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day 2020

• "Let's build union peace with unity and cooperation of all national races starting from the 100th Anniversary of National Victory Day Celebrations".
10th Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME (9-12-2020)

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး (၁၆)ရက်တာလှုပ်ရှားမှု အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 8 December, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 09th December, 2020: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December, 2020: fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December, 2020: fair weather.

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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.

Myanmar to receive new carriages under Japan's ODA



Myanmar will receive 246 new carriages for Yangon circular railway and Yangon-Mandalay Railway Project between 2023 and 2025.. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE Japanese government provides its assistance to Myanmar under the Official Development Assistance (ODA), including the upgrade of railway projects in coordination

with the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Myanmar will receive 246 new carriages for Yangon circular railway and Yangon-Mandalay Railway Project between

2023 and 2025. Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) signed two contracts with Myanma Railways on 7 December. By using the Japanese components, the carriages

will be assembled by Spain's railway vehicle manufactures CAF Group. The carriages could run at the maximum speed of 60 km/hr on Yangon circular railway, and reduce the time for one circular route from the present 170 minutes to 110 minutes. The maximum speed on 620-km long Yangon-Mandalay route is expected at 100 km/hr, and the route will pass Nay Pyi Taw capital. The time taken on this route will decrease from 15 hours to 8 hours. Such rail projects will provide Myanmar citizens with more convenient public transport and accelerate the economic development of Myanmar. The Japanese government will keep cooperating to provide high-quality infrastructure system for Myanmar. -MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Elephants sent back to village camps as COVID impacts tourism

THE elephants from the city camps were sent to the bases in the villages because of the suspension of the elephant camps, said U Kyaw Htaik, deputy general manager of the Myanma Timber Enterprise. The tourism businesses were halted because of COVID-19 outbreak and the elephant camps related to the tourism industry were also suspended, he added.

The elephants from Bodhi Ta Htaung camp and Wingabaw camp opened in the cities were sent to the elephant camps in the villages. Besides, the government and other charities organizations donated the funds to buy the foods for elephants, which are not sent to the bases in the villages.

People are not allowed

to enter the elephant camps starting from 24 March. During the suspension period, the elephants from the city camps are taken care through regular activities such as being released in the forest, watching and showing under the instruction of the Myanma Timber Enterprise. When we are permitted to reopen the elephant camp, we have prepared to provide better services in line with the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

MTE operates 22 elephant camps in Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Magway and Bago regions and Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. The enterprise conserved around 200 elephants nationwide. —Aung Thura

(Translated by Hay Mar)



File Photo

Myanmar Yutani (Mirai Holding Co., Ltd.) donates K1 mln and medical supplies



Myanmar Yutani (Mirai Holding Co., Ltd.), Medical Equipment Supplier in Yangon, donated K1 million and Handy type Transfer stretchers worth K400000 at the Hlinethaya General Hospital on 5 December. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

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CMP garment exports plummet by 50 per cent in 2 months

MYANMAR'S garment export has dropped by 50 per cent for now on the back of a slump in demand by European Union market, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US\$214 million in the past two months (Oct-Nov) in the current budget year 2020-2021, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures plunged from \$450 million in the corresponding period of last FY.

The CMP garment sector in Myanmar has been hit hard by the coronavirus impacts amid the global demand slump. The market is expected to recover after the COVID-19 vaccine success in Europe, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association stated.

Myanmar's manufacturing



A garment worker sews clothes at a workplace in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

sector is primarily concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it con-

tributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Supply chain disruptions and cancelling customer or-

ders following the coronavirus outbreak hurt the global textile industry. Similarly, the CMP garment sector which contributes to

30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is bracing for downward trend owing to cancel of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down due to the COVID-19 negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. The Covid-19 badly batters the labour-intensive enterprises, explained the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 400,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.—Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ADB approves \$171-mln loan to expand electricity access in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a US\$171.27-million loan to expand electricity access in Myanmar.

ADB provided \$171.27-million loan to help Myanmar construct 44 medium-voltage substations and 1,006 kilometres of distribution lines across Kayin state and the Ayeyarwady, East Bago, and Magway regions.

The Accelerated Rural Electrification Project will expand the electric grid to enable electrification of 400,300 households in 2,815 villages. Besides, it will also set up Myanmar's first computerized distribution automation system, which will optimize power distribution through real-time monitoring and the management of network faults.

The project includes a \$1-million technical assistance grant to help the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Electricity Supply Enterprise develop recruitment tools to boost the share of women working at both the township and village levels.

"The project will help the government provide stable and reliable electricity in rural areas, supporting inclusive economic growth, creating jobs, and contributing to Myanmar's as-

piration of achieving universal electricity access by 2030," said ADB Principal Energy Economist Duy-Thanh Bui.

"The project will also lessen the economic and social impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by improving people's access to healthcare, education, and job opportunities."

Myanmar's economy grew at an average annual rate of 6.4% from 2015-2019, buoyed by the growth of manufacturing, construction, tourism, and services sectors, as well as increased foreign investment. The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to slow down the progress. ADB forecasts a 1.8% growth rate for Myanmar in 2020.

In response to the pandemic, the government is implementing a comprehensive socio-economic assistance programme. Reliable, affordable electricity supply plays a critical role in creating jobs, promoting investment, and improving human capital to accelerate the country's economic recovery.

The project areas have higher poverty and lower electrification rates than the national average. The poverty rate in Magway was 35.6% in 2017, compared with the national average of 24.8%. Just 17.0% of Ayeyawady's

households have access to the electric grid, compared with the national average of 49.0%. The project will help supply more than 310 gigawatt-hours of electricity from the grid, enough to support necessary power consumption by target beneficiaries. It will also expand the electric grid to thousands of schools, clinics, hospitals, and libraries.

Since 2012, ADB has provided more than \$500 million in loans and technical assistance to support Myanmar's energy sector, including the government's energy policy reforms and infrastructure development. ADB's sovereign lending has focused on transmission and distribution infrastructure, and ADB's no sovereign investments and services have financed efforts to boost the country's generation capacity. ADB also provided technical assistance in regional cooperation on issues such as electricity grid code harmonization and cross-border power trade.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. ADB, established in 1966, is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. (Translated by Hay Mar Tin Win)

Domestic investments top K69 bln in 2 months, decreasing over K555 bln against last FY

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTMENTS by Myanmar citizens in the country touched a low of K69 billion in the past two months (Oct-Nov) of the current financial year 2020-2021. It indicated a tremendous drop of over K555 billion compared to the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to the data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

During the Oct-Nov period of current FY, domestic investors pumped K69.86 billion into 17 projects, permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission and endorsed by the state and region investment committees, as per the DICA's data.

Twenty-four local enterprises were given the go-ahead in the corresponding period

of the 2019-2020 financial year, and the domestic investments of K625.38 billion, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, were brought into the country.

This FY, the number of enterprises permitted was seven less than the previous year. Also, the quantum of investment was drastically K555 billion lower than the year-ago period, the DICA stated.

During the past two months, the manufacturing sector attracted the largest investment, followed by other service sector and the real estate development sector. The domestic assets also flow into livestock and fisheries, hotel and tourism and agriculture industries, the DICA's data showed.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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SPECIAL WAIVER

Biden picks General Lloyd Austin as first Black Pentagon chief



Retired army general Lloyd Austin, shown here in 2016 when he was still in the service, has been chosen by President-elect Joe Biden to be secretary of defence, US media reported. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has chosen Lloyd Austin, who led US troops into Baghdad in 2003 and rose to head the US Central Command, as the first

African-American secretary of defence, US media reported Monday.

A veteran of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the retired four-

star army general, 67, beat out the favourite for the job, former under-secretary of defence Michele Flournoy, amid pressure on Biden to nominate more minorities for positions in his cabinet.

CNN, Politico and The New York Times cited unnamed sources familiar with the decision, after Biden said earlier Monday that he had made his choice and would announce it on Friday.

Austin would require Senate confirmation to take up the post. He would also require a special waiver from the Senate due to federal law that requires military officers to wait seven years after retirement before serving as the Pentagon chief.

The rule is rooted in the view that only a civilian should serve as defence secretary.

The waiver has happened

twice – most recently for General Jim Mattis in 2017, President Donald Trump's first defence secretary.

But members of the Senate agreed begrudgingly, and several said at the time that they wouldn't want to do it again.

Middle East commander

Austin spent four decades in the army, graduating from West Point Military Academy and following a career with a wide range of assignments, from leading platoons to running logistics groups and overseeing recruiting, to senior Pentagon jobs.

In March 2003, he was the assistant division commander of the 3rd Infantry Division when it marched from Kuwait into Baghdad in the US invasion of Iraq.

SOURCE: AFP

CALLING FOR RESIGNATION

Armenia opposition launches 'disobedience' drive to unseat PM

ARMENIAN protesters on Tuesday blocked streets in the capital Yerevan, launching a "civil disobedience" campaign to force Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to quit over a controversial peace agreement with Azerbaijan.

Shouting "Armenia without Nikol" and "Traitor", opposition supporters blocked traffic across the capital and paralyzed the city's subway. Police detained dozens of demonstrators.

In a fresh blow to the embattled premier, the influential head of Armenia's Apostolic Church, Catholicos Garegin, on Tuesday called for Pashinyan's resignation "to avoid tragic developments" and pointed to "mounting tensions in society".

Last week, 17 opposition parties said Pashinyan had until Monday to step down and proposed that former prime minister Vazgen Manukyan take over his duties. Pashinyan, 45, has been under huge pressure since agreeing on November 9

to a Moscow-brokered deal with Azerbaijan that ended six weeks of fierce fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Several thousand people have died in the conflict. Under the agreement, Yerevan ceded to Baku parts of the disputed en-

clave and seven adjacent districts of Azerbaijan controlled by Armenian separatists since the 1990s.

SOURCE: AFP



Protesters have since staged near daily demonstrations in Yerevan, urging the resignation of Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

US military rejects 'one-sided' report on Afghan civilian deaths

THE US military in Afghanistan on Tuesday rejected a "one-sided" report that found civilian casualties caused by American and coalition air strikes soared after Washington relaxed its rules of engagement.

The number of civilians killed annually in the strikes increased by 330 per cent from 2016 to 2019 as the US escalated attacks on the Taliban, according to the Costs of War Project at Brown University.

The report linked the increase to Washington loosening the criteria for strikes as it reduced the number of US troops on the ground.

Airstrikes killed 700 civilians last year – the highest toll since

the war began in 2001-2002 – with the Afghan Air Force now "harming more Afghan civilians than at any time in its history", said Neta C. Crawford, co-director of the project.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS
IN BRIEF

MINISTRY UPHEAVAL

Peru president hit by resignation of second interior minister

PERU'S new President Francisco Sagasti suffered the second resignation of an interior minister in a week as Fernando Aliaga quit shortly after questioning the dismissal of the police leadership over a deadly crackdown on protests.

Aliaga had presented his letter of resignation, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers said late Monday, without giving further details.

His resignation came after just five days in the post, following the resignation of his predecessor Ruben Vargas, who himself spent only 14 days heading the interior ministry.

Later Monday Sagasti appointed Jose Manuel Elice Navarro as minister in a ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

SOURCE: AFP

CHRISTCHURCH
MASSACRE

Christchurch mosque shooter could not have been stopped, inquiry concludes

NEW Zealand police and intelligence services made a string of errors ahead of last year's Christchurch mosques attack, but may not have been able to prevent the massacre of 51 Muslim worshippers, an inquiry found Tuesday.

The royal commission -- the most powerful judicial probe available under New Zealand law -- called for sweeping changes to counter-terrorism operations in response to the white supremacist attack by lone-wolf gunman Brenton Tarrant.

The 800-page report said spy agencies had placed an "inappropriate" focus on Islamist extremism before the attack without giving due weight to the threat of right-wing terrorism.

SOURCE: AFP

JAPAN REVISES UP GDP GROWTH



Japan's economy in the July-September period grew an annualized real 22.9 per cent from the previous quarter, the government said in a report on Tuesday.
PHOTO: KYODO

Japan's GDP growth upgraded to annualized 22.9 pct in July-September

JAPAN'S economy in the July-September period grew an annualized real 22.9 per cent from the previous quarter, the government said in a report on Tuesday.

According to the Cabinet Office, the latest reading is an upgrade from the initially reported 21.4 per cent growth and is owing to an uptick in private consumption.

The latest expansion, which beat economists' forecasts, in terms of real gross domestic product (GDP), equates to a 5.3 per cent increase on a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis, the Cabinet Office said.

The office also said that the figure marked the fastest growth since comparable data became available in the April-June quarter of 1980, with real GDP, which is the total value of goods and services produced in the country adjusted for inflation, increasing for the first time in four quarters.

Private consumption, meanwhile, which accounts for more than half of Japan's GDP, jumped 5.1 per cent and was upwardly revised from the 4.7 per cent drop logged in the preliminary report released on Nov. 16.

SOURCE: XINHUA

MARKETS WOBBLE

Equities mixed with focus on vaccine, virus, stimulus and Brexit

STOCK markets swung Tuesday as investors weighed the rollout of vaccines and hopes for US stimulus talks against soaring virus cases and China-US tensions, while the pound dipped with post-Brexit trade talks on a knife-edge.

While Britain started its mass vaccination programme and the US is preparing to approve inoculations soon, the disease continues to run rampant across the United States and Europe while also flaring up again in parts of Asia.

Its resurgence has already forced govern-

ments to reimpose lockdowns or strict containment measures, putting fresh pressure on the global economy, which has been ravaged this year.

After a blockbuster November, traders are now taking stock ahead of what many predict will be a bright 2021 that could see a strong economic rebound and market rally.

On Wall Street, the Dow and S&P 500 retreated from records, though the Nasdaq hit another all-time high with tech firms the main beneficiaries of stay-at-home orders.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL PROTESTS

India farmers block railway tracks, roads in national action against new laws

RAILWAY tracks and highways were blocked across India as farmers launched a national day of action Tuesday against reforms deregulating the agriculture sector, upping the stakes after 10 days blockading the capital.

Tens of thousands of farmers have set up barricades on roads into New Delhi since November 26, vowing not to move until the laws are repealed in one of the biggest challenges to the Hindu nationalist government since it was re-elected in a landslide in 2019.

"We are worried, extremely worried. Our children will starve, what could be a bigger worry than this?," farmer Ved Singh told AFP ahead of the strike, echoing fears of his peers that large corporations would lower prices and destroy their livelihoods.

"There would be nothing to eat... How will we earn money? This is the

biggest worry for us." Authorities put on extra police in Delhi and boosted security in the rest of the country in a bid to head off any trouble.

The farmers were supported in their call for action on Tuesday by railway workers, truck drivers, teachers and other unions.

In many eastern and western states, protesters blocked railway tracks, roads and halted trains.

"We want to support the farmers' cause," a senior leader from the Communist Party of India told AFP in eastern West Bengal state.

The blockade and strike have taken on a political dimension with the national ruling Bharatiya Janata Party accusing opposition parties of opportunism by rejecting measures they had called for when in power.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Common Man Party said he had



Workers have mobilized across India in protest against the reforms. PHOTO: AFP

been placed "under house arrest" since Monday by Delhi Police, which is controlled by the national gov-

ernment, after he visited the farmers' blockade site. Police denied the claim.

SOURCE: AFP

FIRST LARGE-SCALE MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT

Sri Lanka gets \$300mn Chinese factory near key port

SRI Lanka announced Tuesday the first large-scale Chinese investment in manufacturing in the country, a \$300-million tyre factory near a strategic deep-sea port.

Western nations, as well as regional power

India, have long been concerned about Chinese influence in Sri Lanka through projects under its gargantuan Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

The factory will be adjacent to the Hambantota port, which was leased to

a Chinese company in 2017 after Sri Lanka failed to service the \$1.4-billion debt from Beijing used to build it. Sri Lanka's cabinet approved the setting up of the tyre plant under legislation that allows generous tax concessions, Media Minis-

ter Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters in Colombo.

He said Shandong Haohua Tire Co Limited will export at least 80 per cent of production, with the option of selling the rest on the local market.

SOURCE: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WIDSOM VOY. NO. (1130S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WIDSOM VOY. NO. (1130S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2020 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (698 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (698 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2020 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE



Super Hotel in Thilawa SEZ.

Myanmar-Japan bilateral trade hits nearly US\$2 bln in 2019-2020FY

By Kyaw Htike
Soe

PHOTOS: YE HTUT
TIN (NLM)

MYANMAR'S bilateral trade with Japan reached almost US\$2 billion in the financial year 2019-2020, with exports surpassing imports, according to figures updated by the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce in the second week of November. Myanmar transported commodities worth about US\$1.355 billion to Japan in the financial year 2019-2020, a decrease of some US\$75 million when compared to the same period last year.

The Southeast Asian nation imported goods valued at about US\$574 million from the East Asian country in the same period, earning over US\$780 million trade surplus. Myanmar's exports to Japan in 2019 saw US\$1.43 billion and imports from Japan were valued

at US\$502 million. Myanmar mainly freights clothing, footwear, marine and agricultural products to Japan and imports car, electronic equipment, iron, steel, medical apparatus, and machinery from the East Asian country. In terms of foreign investments in Myanmar, Japan ranks the 10th place with nearly US\$2 billion invested in Myanmar, according to the government's data. So far, total investments by over 400 Japanese companies in 150 businesses in Myanmar amounted to around US\$2 billion.

In recent years, Japanese investment in Myanmar has been on the rise in many areas ranging from trade and industry to agricultural sector. Japanese companies are increasingly looking for investment opportunities in the Southeast Asian country. Surge

in investment inflow to Myanmar from Japan attributes to the government's steps to ease regulations in an attempt to attract more foreign direct investment into the country. There is still a lot of room for growth in Myanmar for foreign investors as FDI is a key part of the country's growth strategy. The Myanmar Investment Law enacted in late 2016 is making the country a more attractive destination for foreign investors. Foreign developers and investors have been invited to inject capital investment in construction of roads, industrial zones, new towns, and beach resort projects as well hotels and tourism industry in Myanmar.

Located on outskirts of Yangon City, Thilawa SEZ is Myanmar's first special economic zone and had become

fully operational since September 2015. The governments of Myanmar and Japan have agreed to jointly create the special economic zone covering an area of approximately 2,400 hectares of land. At least 115 foreign enterprises have been permitted to operate their businesses in Thilawa SEZ, with around 40 businesses came from Japan and 27 firms from Singapore. Most of the investment came to industrial, transport, real estate and hotels and tourism sectors. Japan topped the list of foreign investors in Thilawa SEZ, accounting for around 37 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. Majority of foreign firms in Thilawa SEZ are from South Korea, Hong Kong, UK, Australia, Malaysia, and China.

Since Myanmar, coupled



Myanmar Ajinomoto Foods CO., LTD.



FUJIFILM MYANMAR INVESTMENT CO., LTD.



FOSTER ELECTRIC (THILAWA) CO., LTD.

with social and economic reforms, opened its door and paved the way for foreign investment in 2010, Japan has been actively involved in infrastructural projects in the country ranging from industrial sector to railway and road networks. Japanese government and private firms are keen to invest in Myanmar and help boost Myanmar's SMEs and agricultural sector. Japan's direct investment in Myanmar has been steadily rising in recent years. The

Japanese government has been strongly pushing Japanese companies to invest in Myanmar which is considered by many countries as the last frontier economy in Southeast Asia region. Japan has been one of the largest providers of development assistance to Myanmar for decades and one of Myanmar's main foreign investors over the years.

Japanese investment in Myanmar recorded an all-time high of about US\$1.48 billion in the financial year 2016-2017.

Japan's investment in Myanmar was US\$280 million in the budget year 2015-2016 and US\$384 million in the financial year 2017-2018. Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Japan has registered US\$ 1.845 billion in 2015-2016FY, US\$2.032 billion in 2016-2017FY, US\$1.922 billion in 2017-2018 FY, US\$1.096 billion in the mini-budget (April to September 2018), and US\$1.887 billion in 2018-2019 FY.



INDONESIA AND MYANMAR: A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED

AMIDST difficult times with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon reaches out to several organizations and communities to seek ways of lessening the burden of Myanmar friends. Among them are the National Blood Center Myanmar, Muslim Free Hospital Yangon, Dawn Education Centre Yangon, communities in Hlinethaya, Sein Khan Thar and Kan Pyo Village, and Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association (MAWFA) that helps distribute medical aids from ASEAN friends to facility quarantine centers in Myanmar.

The Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, Prof. Dr Iza Fadri on 21 October 2020 handed over 500 boxes N95 masks and 640 boxes Ferofort tablet by Kalbe Farma Indonesia to the Deputy Director-General of National Blood Centre, Ministry of Health and Sports Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr Thida Aung. For the last several years, the Indonesian Embassy and the National Blood Centre co-organized various blood donation events. "As COVID-19 prevents us from holding any gathering, including for blood donation, we decide it would be best to contribute one of the current most needed items to the National Blood Centre. Face masks and health supplements," said the Indonesian Ambassador.

The Indonesian Embassy in cooperation with the Indonesian Community also directly reach out to the less fortunate communities in Myanmar. Apart from providing food donation to approximately 125 families in Sein Khan Thar and Kan Pyo Village, Indonesia

is arranging a group of eight families from Hlinethaya to get training on how to be independently acquire a source of income by selling food. Each one will receive food cart and cooking appliances to help them materialize their project. The programme lasts from December 2020 to February 2021.

On various occasions, the Indonesian Embassy donates as well to the Muslim Free Hospital Yangon and Dawn Education Centre, and orphanage in Yangon. To the hospital that provides free services the people in need regardless their religious backgrounds, the contribution is mostly in the form of medicines, such as the ones conveyed by the Indonesian Ambassador to the President of the hospital, Mr Moosa A. Madha on 13 November 2020. For the orphanage, the Embassy mostly donates food, medicine, and items that will help the children to study.

As the COVID-19 infections significantly increases in Myanmar, facility quarantine centres have been having difficulties in fulfilling their tasks. Thus, when the Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association (MAWFA) approached the Indonesian Embassy to assist them, Indonesia responded positively by seven sets of oxygen tanks through MAWFA as the items were in demand in the centers.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. The Indonesian Embassy in Yangon hopes that Indonesia and Myanmar will soon be able to overcome the pandemic and continue to cooperate for the prosperity of both nations.— GNLM / Indonesia Embassy



Deputy Director-General of the National Blood Centre Dr Thida Aung, the Indonesian Ambassador and officials have a group photo taken at the donation event in October 2020. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Gladbach out to wreck Real Madrid's last 16 hopes



Moenchengladbach forward Alassane Plea (C) has scored five Champions League goals in as many games this season. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BERLIN — Borussia Mönchengladbach are out to wreck Real Madrid's last 16 hopes in the Champions League on Wednesday with the German visitors chasing a place in the knock-out stages of Europe for the first time since the 70s.

Heading into the last round of matches, Gladbach are surprise leaders in Group B, a point ahead of both Shakhtar Donetsk and Real, who are third.

Real must beat the Germans in Madrid to guarantee a last 16 berth after home and away defeats to Donetsk in the group stages.

A home defeat would see Real lose their remarkable record as the only team to have always progressed from the group stages of the Champions League.

"We have the best starting position of all the teams in the group and we have earned it thanks to our efforts," Gladbach midfielder Christoph Kramer said Tuesday before flying to Spain.

Gladbach will qualify as group winners with a victory, but will also go through with a draw or even a defeat if Inter Milan and Shakhtar draw in Wednesday's other Group B game.

The Germans are chasing a first appearance in the knock-out stages since reaching the semi-finals of the old European Cup in 1977/78.

"We have a 'final' in front of us," said coach Marco Rose.

"We're all looking forward to it, but we know how difficult the task will be.—AFP ■

Qatar World Cup venue to open with COVID-recovered fans

AL-RAYYAN — Qatar will launch its latest completed World Cup stadium with a domestic fixture at which half of tickets will be reserved for fans who have recovered from coronavirus, the country's FA said Monday.

The Al-Rayyan Venue, the third new stadium to be completed ahead of 2022, will host the domestic Emir Cup final on December 18 and will welcome around half of its 40,000 capacity.

"Anyone who enters the stadium must return either a negative Covid-19 test or a positive Covid-19 antibodies

test," Abdul Wahab al-Musleh, Qatar's deputy chief medical officer, said in a statement issued by the QFA.

"About 50 per cent of the available seats will be allocated to people who have previously contracted the virus."

Fans will be required to undergo tests at one of three locations where their ticket application will be linked to their national identity cards and phone number.

Fans will then be eligible for a non-transferable ticket once they receive the required test result.—AFP ■



Qatar will inaugurate its latest completed World Cup stadium with a domestic fixture at which half of tickets will be reserved for fans who have recovered from coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Champions France handed awkward draw, England to face Poland in 2022 World Cup qualifiers

LONDON — Holders France were handed an awkward draw in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup on Monday, with Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina standing in their way on the road to the finals in Qatar, while England will face Poland in their group.

Gareth Southgate's England, semi-finalists at the 2018 tournament in Russia, will also take on Hungary and Albania as well as two of the minnows of international football, Andorra and San Marino, in Group I.

France will also face Finland — who recently beat Les Bleus in a friendly in Paris — in Group D, with Kazakhstan completing the group that was drawn in a virtual ceremony at FIFA's headquarters in Zurich due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Didier Deschamps' side are



Kylian Mbappé and Antoine Griezmann during the last game against Ukraine, October 7th 2020. **PHOTO: FRANCK FIFE AFP/ARCHIVES**

in a group of just five teams because they will be involved in the finals of the UEFA Nations League in Italy in October next year.

The European qualifying competition to reach the finals begins next March, with a total of 13 countries from the continent going through.

Only the winners of each of the 10 groups will qualify automatically for the finals, which are to take place in November and December of 2022.

The 10 runners-up will go into play-offs alongside the two best Nations League group winners who miss out on qualifying via the traditional path.—AFP ■

Breakdancing gets Olympic green light for Paris 2024

LAUSANNE — Breakdancing was one of four new sports along with skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing to get the Olympic green light on Monday for inclusion at the 2024 Paris Games.

The four sports were included as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board met to confirm the Paris 2024 programme.

Skateboarding, sport climb-

ing and surfing have already been added to the programme for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which will take place in 2021 after being postponed by a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The introduction of breakdancing was "one of the results of the Olympic Agenda 2020", Bach said. "We had a clear priority to introduce sports (that are)

particularly popular among the younger generation and taking into consideration the urbanization of sports."

Breakdancing, which grew up alongside hip hop in the South Bronx of New York in the 1970s and is officially known in sports terms as "breaking", appeared at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, in the form of head-to-head "battles".—AFP ■