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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## MoI presents National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and National Literary Awards for 2019



President U Win Myint delivers a video speech on presenting National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and the National Literary Awards for 2019, on 15 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE Ministry of Information organized a ceremony to present the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and the National Literary Awards for 2019 at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday.

President U Win Myint delivered a video speech to the ceremony which was held under the COVID-19 healthcare guidelines.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Government's Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung

Tun, members of Yangon regional government, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, winners of National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, members of award selection committee, award winners, literary scholars and the invited guests.

Before the award presenting ceremony, the Union Minister

and party viewed the display of documentary photos of the 2019 literary award winners and their books published from 2001 to 2019.

The video speech of President U Win Myint was screened at the ceremony.

**(The speech of President U Win Myint is covered on page 3).**

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered a speech at the ceremony, saying that Myanmar has a long tradition of honouring great literary figures and a decision was made in 1944 (ME1306) to honour the literary figures with the annual celebrations.

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### 1,155 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 December, total figure rises to 110,667

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **110,667** after **1,155** new cases were reported on 15 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **110,667** confirmed cases, **2,319** died, **89,418** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 15 December 2020

Total Cases

110,667

New Cases

1,155

Total Death Tally

2,319

Discharged from Hospital

89,418

Daily death toll until 8 pm 15-12-2020

27

Ministry of Health and Sports



## Benefits from working together

If we want the whole country to develop, we need to combine all our human, financial and material resources and work strenuously together. Only then shall we benefit. It will be of no benefit if the Bamars, the Karens, the Shans, the Kachins and the Chins are divided, each going their own way. We will enjoy benefits only if we work together. And you will find that out only if you try it out.

*(Extract from a speech delivered by General Aung San on 11 February 1947 in Panglong at a dinner with Sawbwas)*



Shwe-Kyet-Yet and Shwe-Kyet-Kya Pagoda. PHOTO BY: THANT ZAW OO

## Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 December 2020

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 15 December 2020 by the Ministry's announcement dated 29 November 2020.
  - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
  - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
  - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
  - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 31 December 2020.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Myanmar nationals return back home from ROK by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul landed at Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 89 Myanmar nationals after they were stranded in the Republic of Korea due to the suspension of international flights yesterday evening. Among them, 71 people were 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 USA.

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

Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

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

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## 46<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day celebrated in Sittway



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu reads out the Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

THE 46<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day was held in Sittway Township yesterday morning.

The state government organized the ceremony at its office in accordance with the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

During the event, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu read out the message on the occasion of 46<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day

sent by President U Win Myint.

Then, Minister for Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Than read out the message sent by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Chief Minister also warmly greeted the attendees.

Chief Justice of the Rakhine State High Court Daw Wah Wah Tun, Chairperson of State

Election Sub-Commission Daw Tin Hlaing, State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Than, State Ministers, State Auditor-General Daw Yin Hla, Heads of Regional Control Command (Sittway) and military personnel, departmental officials, representatives of political parties and town elders also attended the event. —Tin Tun (IPRD) *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*



## President U Win Myint's speech on National Literary Awards Ceremony for 2019

### Mingalaba everyone,

FIRST of all let me extend my good wishes to all those who are present at this National Literary Awards ceremony to be blessed with auspiciousness – the Union Minister for the Ministry of Information, the chief minister of Yangon region and ministers of the regional government, Hluttaw representatives, committee members of the literary awards selection committee, winners of the literary awards, literary fans and invited guests.

Every year on the first waxing day of Nadaw, we have been celebrating the Sarsodaw Day in Myanmar to honour the literary contributions of the literary professionals and writers who have worked hard for the interests of the country and the people. It is now 76 years. I take pride in the fact that we have been able to celebrate Sarsodaw Day as a unique tradition of Myanmar culture, throughout these years without interruption all over the country. Let me tell you at the outset that I have been especially delighted to have this opportunity to speak at this auspicious event because my hobby is reading and because I have high regard for literary professionals. I regret very much the fact that I would not have the opportunity to present the awards personally like I did last year.

Every year at this time we use to organize with great fanfare all over the length and breadth of the country ceremonies to pay respects to elderly literary figures, literary

Literature can be a great tool to promote good democratic practices and knowledge of the citizens, to appreciate democracy, to understand and appreciate diversity, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among ethnic people.

awards ceremonies, literary talks and literary festivals. As literature represents for each individual country a national cultural heritage which could be a source of pride, it is customary to study literature as a basis for determining the level of culture of a country and its people. As our Myanmar literature is now nearly 1,000 years, we can say that Myanmar literature now stands tall as the main pillar of Myanmar culture and fine arts.

Throughout the history of literature, Myanmar literature and Myanmar language changed and developed with many forms of innovation throughout the ages. In the world of Myanmar literature, we may find many works by learned monks and lay literary figures who have contributed literary works that give us knowledge and good character; literary works which instil in our hearts love for our people and our country; and literary works which keep us abreast of world events and promote our development. It is a good tradition of our country to select from among the aesthetic literary works of literary figures and to select and award national literary awards annually on every Sarsodaw Day.

### Dear Literary Scholars and Guests,

The Myanmar Translation Association which was established under the guidance of the architect of Myanmar's independence General Aung San in August 1947, became "Sarpei Beikman" in May 1948 as a well-known literary enterprise. Sarpei Beikman produced many translated works for the promotion of general knowledge about the world at large for the citizens of Myanmar; it also started to award the "Sarpei Beikman Contemporary Novel Award" beginning from 1948 to promote Myanmar literature.

Beginning from the "Sarpei Beikman Contemporary Novel Award", the names of the awards have been changed as "Sarpei Beikman Award", "Fine Arts Literary Award", "National Literary Award", as well as the nature of the award in accordance with the passage of time. The variety



of the award subjects and the amount of cash awards were also increased. As of this year, we have awarded over 70 awards. We have also increased the number of award subjects; for the national literary awards for 2019, there will be 18 award subjects.

Apart from that, we have been awarding the "National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement" since 2001 annually to show the recognition of the State for the lifetime outstanding and excellent contributions in the interest of the State and the people with Myanmar literary skills. During 2001 and 2012, the "National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement" has been presented either to one person or two persons. Beginning from 2018, we have awarded the lifetime award to one literary figure who has contributed literary works which provide general knowledge and works of aesthetic literature continuously. We have also given this award to a literary figure who has contributed to the development of Myanmar literature and who has worked continuously on the promotion of literature and knowledge. I am very pleased that this year also we will be presenting the "National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement" to one famous writer and one literary figure.

It is a blessing to pay tribute to great writers who created great literary works for the sake of the country and the citizens. We need to maintain this good tradition and pass it on to next generations.

### Dear Literary Scholars and Guests,

It is important to be transparent in selecting winners of literary prizes and to award books that are truly worthy. So, we formed a 54-member National Literary Award Selection Committee, which comprises literary experts. There are three stages in selecting the winners: preliminary selection stage, shortlist-stage and final selection stage. And the literary scholars freely selected the award winners.

Three were 1,653 books published for the first time in 2019. Award winners for 10 out of the 18 subjects have been selected for the National Literary Award, and we will present the awards to the winners at today's ceremony. The two winners of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Award devoted themselves to development of Myanmar literature and creation of good literary works. One of the two winners is a great writer who devoted himself to the creation of aesthetic literary works, and the other winner is a researcher who devoted

himself to the creation of non-fiction works which provide general knowledge. The two winners are in their 90s, and I would like to express my sincere respect for their age, virtue and wisdom.

The writers and books that won the National Literary Award can reflect contemporary thinking and views of this era. The winning aesthetic literary works can promote good mindset and sympathy, and the non-fiction works about various subjects can assist the development of the country, according to the remark of the National Literary Award Selection Committee. Congratulations to all the literary award winners. I wish you all the best in your literary efforts for the sake of the country and the citizens.

### Dear Literary Scholars and Guests,

Only if there is a balanced development in the political, economic and social sectors of the country, will the literary and art sector be also developed. Conversely, if the literary and art industry is developed, we will have highly educated human resources, and our country will prosper. Currently, the government is doing its best to help writers from various fields of literature, to create their aesthetic works freely. In 2019, a literary and artistic copyright law was enacted to protect the literary works. Systematic protection of intellectual property rights will also contribute to the socio-economic development and cultural development of the country.

In the world of Myanmar literature, we may find many works by learned monks and lay literary figures who have contributed literary works that give us knowledge and good character; literary works which instil in our hearts love for our people and our country; and literary works which keep us abreast of world events and promote our development.

The participation of the people is very important for the development of the Union, nationwide peace, and creation of a genuine democratic federal union. Literature can be a great tool to promote good democratic practices and knowledge of the citizens, to appreciate democracy, to understand and appreciate diversity, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among the ethnic people.

Literature can contribute to the development of individuals and society. It can encourage wisdom and rational thinking. Moreover, good literary works are timeless and literary influence has no geographical boundaries. So, I would like to call on writers to create books that will enhance the public's ability to distinguish between right and wrong. I think that writers need to guide their readers in the right direction to gain genuine wisdom and develop a great mindset.

It is a blessing to pay tribute to great writers who created great literary works for the sake of the country and the citizens. We need to maintain this good tradition and pass it on to future generations. I believe that new generations will also be able to maintain literary ethics and write appropriate literary works for the benefit of the nation.

I would like to express thanks to literary scholars and writers who attended today's ceremony, the literary award winners, and the Chairperson and members of the National Literary Award Selection Committee, who organized meetings in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. In conclusion, I would like to call on all stakeholders to continue contributing to the development of Myanmar literature.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Maung Maung Swe)



# MoI presents National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and ...



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Ministers of Yangon Region Government pose for a documentary photo together with winners of National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

**FROM PAGE-1**

The first Waxing of Nadaw was designated as the Sarsodaw Day of the country, with the celebrations of respect-paying to the

veteran writers, book exhibition, literary contests, literary talks and publishing books and publications.

The National Literary Award was created in 1948, and it is the

most prestigious literary award in the country. Cash prize for this award at the beginning was K1,000 and has been gradually increased to K2.5 million to date.

The National Lifetime

Award for Literary Achievement was introduced in 2001 to honour great literary figures for their deep devotion to this profession. This award has been presented to a total of 31 veteran literary

figures until this year, and the cash prize of this award has been K5 million this year.

The National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement for 2019 went to U Earnt Maung (pseudonym Earnt Maung) and U Nyunt Maung (pseudonym Maung Maung Nyunt-Mandalay University) for the Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, while the other 10 writers achieved the National Literary Award for 10 genres of literary.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint then presented the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement to the two veteran writers.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, and Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region government U Zaw Aye Maung presented the National Literary Award to the writers.

U Nyunt Maung (pseudonym Maung Maung Nyunt-Mandalay University), the winner of National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, and Sayamagyi Natmauk Ani Cho who won the National Literary Award expressed thanks for the awards.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister and party posted for a documentary photo with the literary award winners.

The Ministry of Information formed the National Literary Award Selection Committee comprised with 54 experienced personnel from literary works and printing and publishing sector for presenting the awards.

—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents the National Lifetime Literary Award to U Nyunt Maung (Maung Maung Nyunt – Mandalay University). **PHOTO:MNA**



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presents award to author Sayarmagyi Natmauk Ani Cho who won National Literary Award of 2019 for short story genre. **PHOTO:MNA**



Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun presents the National Literary Award for translation ( non-fiction ) to Boe Hlaing. **PHOTO:MNA**



Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region government U Zaw Aye Maung presents the National Literary Award for Political Literature to Sin Phyukeyun Than Tun. **PHOTO:MNA**



# We hope to end the COVID fight successfully



Economic recovery is very important for our country because we will have to compete with other countries to achieve economic recovery. We have to do this. All the countries of the world are doing this.

In this regard, we need full work capacity for the competition. It is very important for our people to be able to compete with full capacity in this competition. Therefore at this time, stay healthy, be tolerant, maintain discipline, protect yourself from the disease and don't cause disease transmission. Just like I said last week, the more the infection spreads, the more state revenues we need to spend. Therefore we will have less financial resources for economic recovery. If we spend more on one side, we will have less on the other side. This is something all of you can understand easily. Therefore, we hope to end the COVID fight successfully; we do not wish to end in a state of disorder and chaos.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 containment measures, on 8 December 2020)*

## Defence Minister holds virtual meeting with UN Special Representative

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win held a virtual meeting with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Ms Virginia Gamba yesterday.

They discussed the Country

Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) and further cooperation including one-year term roadmap after Myanmar Tatmadaw was removed from the list of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the annex of 2019 Report of UN Sec-

retary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

The meeting was also attended by the military personnel of Office of Adjutant-General, Judge Advocate-General office, Office of Director for Recruitment and Resettlement Unit,

Defence Services Records Office and members of Committee for Prevention of Military Recruitment of Underage Children, the Permanent Secretary of Defence Services, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Ola Almgren

and UNICEF Representative of Myanmar Ms June Kunugi, in their capacities as co-chairs of the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) in Myanmar.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

## Union Minister U Thein Swe receives UNHCR Resident Representative of

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Resident Representative of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Ms Hai Kyung Jun and Deputy Resident Representative Ms Yukiko Iriyama yesterday.

The meeting discussed the 27 years of bilateral cooperation between the ministry and UNHCR, plans carried out for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State between 1993 and 1997, MoU with Bangladesh

for displaced persons returned of their own volition, the formation of Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State led by State Counsellor, MoU between the ministry and UNDP/UNHCR for the returnees in June 2018, Exchange of Letters, extension of MoU, formation of Joint Working Group (JWG), cooperation works with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inspect the data of displaced persons sent by Bangladesh, 75 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), supports

of UNHCR to relocate the people from Kachin IDPs and Thailand in addition to Rakhine State issue.

The leaders also exchanged views on the programmes in MoU, the current situation of Myanmar and further close cooperation.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

Union Minister U Thein Swe holds meeting with UNHCR officials on 15 December. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss drug control measures



The 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar-Bangladesh Director-General Level Meeting on Narcotics Drug Control is in progress on 15 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

BANGLADESHI government hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar-Bangladesh Director-General Level Meeting on Narcotics Drug Control via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Myanmar delegation led by Police Brigadier-General Win Naing (Joint Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Commander of Drug Enforcement Division) and Bangladeshi delegation led by Mr Muhammed Ahsanul Jabber (Director-General of the Department of Narcotics Control) participated in the virtual meeting.

During the meeting, Police Brigadier-General Win Naing said that the narcotics drug prob-

lem is a global problem and many nations are fighting it in various ways. He added that with the advancement of technology, the technological transformations of drug gangs had become a significant challenge.

He said that opium poppy cultivation and heroin production are major problems in the region. At present, drug seizures show that the manufacture of synthetic drugs and trades of precursor chemicals are on the rise.

Information exchange and effective cooperation between border guard police of the two nations are essential to prevent drug trafficking along the border, said Police Brigadier-General

Win Naing, who also urged the two countries to promote cooperation in hunting fugitives.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged information about drug traffickers' methods and other relevant information.

The two sides also discussed ways to prevent maritime drug trafficking along the Bay of Bengal and highlighted the need to hold meetings of lower-level anti-drug officers of the two nations.

The meeting also selected the location to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Myanmar-Bangladesh Director-General Level Meeting.—MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*



## Union Minister Dr Than Myint joins Partnership Summit 2020

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint virtually addressed the opening ceremony of Partnership Summit 2020 hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister said that the purpose of the ceremony, "Partnerships for Lives, Livelihood and Growth", reflects the current state of the global community with the inclusion of trade, investment, development, technology and other vital sectors. He said he believes that there will be opportunities for more assertive communication and business connectivity between the partner business communities.

He urged to share experiences with the digital economy and the more innovative and competitive development models for the new normal in the current context of the COVID-19 crisis when digital technology is increasingly being used in the

commercial sectors.

He continued there is a need to increase the cooperation for a stronger economic recovery and to streamline production processes with modern digital technologies by enhancing the involvement of the private sector especially in developing countries and emerging markets that are facing more challenges.

He added Myanmar is also developing the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) in conjunction with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) to respond to the impact of COVID-19 and to revitalize the Myanmar economy in the long run.

He said Myanmar, as an agricultural country, has great potential for trade and investment in agriculture and food production including other important sectors such as fisheries, energy, tourism, manufacturing, handicraft processing (CMP), infrastructure and information



Union Minister Dr Than Myint joins opening ceremony of Partnership Summit 2020 on 15 December. PHOTO: MNA

technology.

At the ceremony, ministers from Finland, Sri Lanka, the UAE and India, also delivered opening remarks.

The Partnership Summit 2020 will be held from December 15 to 18 for 40 sessions over

four days. Ministers from 16 countries, more than 60 heads of international organizations, more than 30 CEOs from global companies and more than 6,000 representatives from over 100 countries will attend the online discussion.

The opening ceremony was attended online by the Myanmar Ambassador to India, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general and officials.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## MoE continues NESP (2021-2030) drafting seminar



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi makes discussions on second-day seminar for drafting National Education Strategic Plan(2021-2030). PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Education held the second day of National Education Strategic Plan(2021-

2030) drafting online seminar yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myo

Thein Gyi made discussions on the betterment of successful sectors in the NESP (2016-2021)

and reviewing the challenges in this plan through Annual Performance Review and the Mid-term Review Report produced by a third-party organization under the My-EQIP supported by the Australian government.

The NESP (2021-2030) was adopted on the basis of findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review Report to develop quality education in the country.

The Union Minister also explained the classification of 7 education levels under the National Qualification Framework from primary classes to the doctoral degree.

He also discussed the need for high-tech learning for ensuring the 'learning continuity' and 'no learning loss' through digital learning amid COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister also recommended capacity-building of teachers, development of technology and basic infrastructure, the implementation of 'Blended Learning' which is a combination of 'High-tech learning' and 'High-touch learning'.

He also highlighted the importance of academic performance, and right perspective as both IQ and EQ are crucial for the quality education in accordance with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Competencies.

Permanent Secretary Dr Zaw Myint explained the progress in drafting NESP (2021-2030), Director-General Dr Thein Win discussed the Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Chapter 7 of the national strategic plan.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Union Attorney-General holds 8<sup>th</sup> seminar with advocates-general, law officers

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo held an online seminar with the advocates-general and law officers of the region and state offices yesterday.

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of this meeting was held at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw. In his opening speech, the Union Attorney-General said that the Union Attorney-General's Of-

fice has drafted and implemented "Towards Rule of Law" 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, and at present, "Legal Service for Justice" 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

The strategic plan covers law counselling, prosecution process and five goals for the development of the judiciary, according to the Union Attorney-General.

In 2019-2020, the Union Attor-

ney-General's Office was able to coordinate with the Department of Rule of Law and the Coordinating Committee for Justice.

The guidebook on drafting bills has already been distributed to help regional Advocate-General Offices in scrutinizing and suggesting for bills, said the Union Attorney-General, who added that arrangements have been

made for adding the facts related to corruption in scrutinizing and suggesting for the bill.

He said that law officers need to continually study on the amendment, cancellation and enactment of laws. He called on all law officers to obey the code of conduct and continuously learn to increase their capacities.

The virtual meeting was

participated by the Deputy Attorney-General, advocates-general of regions and states, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Directors and law officers of region and state.

The seminar will be held for two days until 16 December.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release 43/2020  
15<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME  
(14 December 2020)

## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- 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.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 12 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 people in Hinthar Village, Htigyaing Township in Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 December 2020, on Hinthar Village Road, police arrested Thein Swe Oo, 41, son of U Kan Tun, who lives in Yinmarhlaing ward in Phaungpyin Township together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa (Pa) 170/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of U Than Aung who lives in Haedaung Village in Kalaywa Township, Sagaing Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 8 December 2020, police searched the house of U Than Aung, 60, son of U Thar Ei, who lives in Haedaung Village in Kalaywa Township, didn't find him and arrested his wife Daw Mya Aye, 60, daughter of U Ba Win, together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Masein) MaYa (Pa) 3/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Moe Aye, who lives in Tezit Village in Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 7 December 2020, on Danitaw creek road near Tezit Village, police arrested Moe Aye, 35, son off U Kyaw Myint, who lives in the same village, together with WY stimulant tablets. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Ma Moe (a) Thwe Thwe Moe, 37, daughter of U San Win. Although police didn't find anything related to illegal drugs, a case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Launglon) MaYa (Pa) 22/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of people in Aung Thukha ward in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, selling, using and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 25 cases have been identified and 25 male suspects and 4 female suspects were charged with possession of illegal drugs. On 10 December 2020, according to a series of previous arrests, police arrested Wai Yan Tun, 21, son of U Ebrahim, who lives in Aung Thukha ward in Kawthoung Township together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa (Pa) 223/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of people in Shwe Myaing Thiri ward, Mawlamyine Township, in Mon State, selling, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 7 December, 2020, police arrested Khin Zaw Latt (a) Gway Pone, 43, son of U Myo Lwin, who lives in Shwe Myaing Thiri ward, Mawlamyine Township, together with WY/R stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Zeyarthiri) MaYa (Pa) 33/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of people on Abis-Khalae Tagontaing Village road in Mudon Township in Mon State, selling and distributing illegal drugs	In recent weeks, a total of 27 cases have been identified and 46 male suspects were charged with possession of illegal drugs. According to a series of previous arrests, on 11 December 2020 on Abis-Khalae Tagontaing Village road, police arrested Tun Win, 23, son of U Aye Maung and Kyaw Min Aung (a) Ahnaung, 32, son of U Thein Win, who live in the same village, together with WY/R stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Kamawut) MaYa (Pa) 58/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

7	Information received of Daw Nilar Nilar Theint who lives in (Ta/15) ward in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 7 December, 2020, police searched the house of Daw Nilar Theint, 45, daughter of U Aung Than, who lives in (Ta/15) ward in Shwepyitha Township and arrested her together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Hlawgar) MaYa (Pa) 24/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of people in No. 2,3,4 wards in Yankin Township, Yangon Region, selling, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 11 December, 2020, on No.2 ward road in Yankin Township, police arrested Thura Win, 27, son of U Win Thein, who lives in Makyitan north/south ward, in Kyimyindine Township, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yankin) MaYa (Pa) 47/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Nan Shwe Eain who lives in Honaung Lon Village, in Laikha Township in Shan State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 9 December 2020, police searched the house of Nan Shwe Eain, 29, daughter of Honaung Lon Village in Laikha Township but didn't find her. Police arrested her father Aeik Aung, 59, son of U Aeik Yi at the house, together with WY stimulant tablets, heroin, 9mm pistol, cartridges and bullets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Laikha) MaYa (Pa) 8/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a), 21 and 22 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,453 cases have been opened files as of 12 December 2020. A total of 2,216 people, including 1,847 men and 369 women had been arrested with 10,988.1514 g of heroin, 1,489.42 g of ICE, 48,321.77886 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, 698,991 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, 30 firearms, different kinds of 698 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- 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](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

## Domestic flight passengers to test COVID at 2 YGN locations

COVID-19 will be detected in two locations for domestic flight passengers starting from 15 December, according to the Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department.

These two locations are Tourist Burma building in Kyauktada township and the health station in Aung Mingalar Bus Terminal. The COVID-19 will be tested in these two locations to promote the tourism sector. The charges of the COVID-19 testing will be

set as fairer as possible.

It will cost K10,000 if tested by RDT system, which will yield results in half an hour while it will cost K35,000 if tested by the PRC system, which yield results at least 24 hours.

The domestic flight passengers are allowed to enter if they can produce health certificates whose term is only 36 hours, the air tickets and the national identification cards, according to the announcement issued by the

Yangon International Airport on 14 December.

The domestic flight passengers are not allowed to take food onboard the plane, and the two rows of seats near the cabin crews' seats need to keep empty. As known to all, 44 townships from Yangon Region have already been declared home stay townships. If the passengers travel by flight to non-stay-at-home townships, they need to be quarantined.

After fulfilling the quarantine

rule requirements in non-stay-at-home towns, they will have to test by PCR system. If the people request to detect by RDT system, they can undergo COVID test within seven days. However, the passengers need to pay the COVID test and hotel quarantine charges. The passengers from the stay-at-home townships will travel to other stay-at-home townships by flight are not required to go through quarantine.

At present, the public health

department is detecting the test for domestic flight passengers. Later, private hospitals will provide medical treatment.

The domestic flight operations, which have been suspended for COVID-19, will be resumed starting from 16 December.

The international passengers' services have been suspended in Myanmar since 31 March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)



# Encouraging sustainable forest use key to benefiting people relying on forests

**W**ITH the support of Finland and the Food Agriculture Organization-FAO, we are implementing a five-year national-scale forest inventory project which is designed to allow for monitoring of forests in a manner that is sensitive to local conflicts and protects human rights.

The project is innovative in taking a conflict sensitive and human rights-based approach to forest monitoring.

This has global relevance as it will provide insights into how to bolster sustainable forests in other fragile countries affected by conflicts that are frequently exacerbated by disputes over tenure and access to natural resources.

In Myanmar, forests contribute to the livelihoods of around 80% of the population who live in the country's rural areas and rely on the country's estimated 29 million hectares of forests for basic needs and services. It also has a special focus on engaging the more than 100 different ethnic groups, each with its own history, culture and language or dialect, who living in the country.

Meanwhile, there are many conflicts or mixed governance land areas, which pose particular challenges in working and engaging ethnic peoples and stakeholders in the measurement of forests.

To avoid conflicts related with forests and land management, including settlement in forest reserves, we would like to urge the stakeholders including local authorities and communities to cooperate with each other in this new project as it will ensure that the socio-political and cultural context is explicitly addressed through appropriate conflict sensitive and Rights based approaches.

When it comes to implementing the five-year project, it is required to discuss with those who are involved in the project, with respect to collecting forest resource data in a manner that will mitigate the socio-economic impacts, and to share the data with all concerned.

This new project comes at a time when we are in urgent need of better and updated data about the state of all the forests in our country. This data will help to better plan and evaluate sustainable forest use and conservation in our country together with all stakeholders, public and private and also in the land areas of our ethnic brothers and sisters.

At the same time, we should note that answering questions on openness of data and building trust between the local communities and forest authorities on the use of data is key to success of the first phase of the conflict sensitive and human rights-based approach to forest monitoring.

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## HAILING THE WRITERS' DAY

# Traditional Nat Festivals of the month Nattaw and the Writers' Day on its first waxing Moon

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

**S**INCE these two topics are far-flung in their text and context. They deserve two separate articles.

The Writers' Day [စာဆိုတော်များနေ့] being on the first waxing moon of Nattaw, its background history emergence and far-flung religions socio-cultural significance home and abroad are as follows:

Firstly, the Writers Day [စာဆိုတော်များနေ့] appeared during the Japanese occupation and the Government of Dr Ba Maw. Due to curfew and night clock out for fear of western allied bombings, all activities were carried out in day time.

Cultural performances included the performance of plays by playwrights such as U Ponnnya and U Kyin U. It was in the Japanese Period [Japanese Occupation of Myanmar in World War II] that the then Government of Myanmar headed by Dr Ba Maw, the Adipati [Head] of State organized a committee of distinguished writers, Professors and

historians to choose Writers' Day. The committee after research, and court archives decided to choose 1st Waxing Moon of Nattaw as the Writers Day [စာဆိုတော်များနေ့].

They found after research that Myanmar Kings used to honour and award cash and kind, and title men of letters and men of might in Nattaw. It was called Hpyin Htat Pwe [ဖျင်ထပ်ပွဲ]. Hpyin is a cloth woven by textile of homegrown cotton white or deep red colour. These clothes were presented to men of letters and might. So one day should be chosen for Sarsodaw Day in Nattaw.

Cloth pieces woven with Myanmar fine cotton [white or brown-red colour-ဝင်ဖြူ ဝင်နီ] were major items in the royal awards in addition to land, cash, jewellery and title. That event took place at the court in the early part of Nattaw month. Among many honorary titles bestowed upon distinguished Writers and Soldiers Nawade [နဝေး] was the highest. Headdress of gold, studded with rubies and letter "Nawade" on the plate was put on the heads of the awardees by Their Majesties at the grand ceremony at the palace in the month of Nattaw.

The recipients took the oath of allegiance to the King, the State and Buddhism that they would continue their service to the end of their lives. In Myanmar literary history there were only two "Nawade" awardees Nawade I and Nawade II. There mentioned 3 Nawade awardees who did not get that titles from the King Nawade I and Nawade II were not only outstanding in their literary achievements but also in bravery and military service to the Crown and State.

Here the writer wishes to present the reader a brief history of writing in Myanmar. Like the old countries, Myanmar passed through different forms of writings.

Besides writing materials are available across the country, slate, slate pencil, stone slab for inscribing, (ဝရုဂံ) for ink writing, palm leaves to inscribe on.

You can still see pictorial writings in Chin State.

Not only Myanmar language but also at least four languages were extant since the early days of Bagan Pyu, Mon, Myanmar and Pali.

Myazedi or Yazakymar Stone

Inscriptions are one outstanding evidence.

Besides, monastic education of Pariyatti school providers three Rs education (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) and religious education free of charge regardless of race and religion.

The Writers' Day on 1st Waxing of Nattaw was held by the Ministry of Information at the Town Hall downtown Yangon. Veteran writers (80 and above old) are invited for Pujas with cash and kind. Sarpay Beikman plays a leading role.

The Writers' Day events were held across the country, with literary talks in which the speaker and audience discuss literary topics.

Prominent writers and journalists give literary talks abroad and exchanged of writers and journalist took place between Myanmar and China, Russia, Japan, Thailand and other ASEAN country and India and western countries, even Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The writer never fails to catch the chance of such a literary journey home or abroad. Even in the early 90s he still has the stamina for such activities.



Nawade is a title given by the Burmese kings to the poet laureates of ancient Burma. Whereas there were at least five court poets who were given the title of Nawade only two are frequently discussed in academic circles.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE BIONTECH AND PFIZER BNT162B2 VACCINE

# EU regulator moves meeting on Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to 21 December



The European Medicines Agency said on Tuesday it had moved forward a meeting to decide on authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by more than a week to 21 December. PHOTO: AFP

THE Amsterdam-based agency said it had received "additional data" from the company on Monday that was requested by the EMA committee that examines medicines for human use.

"An exceptional meeting of the (committee) has now been scheduled for 21 December to conclude if possible," the EMA said in a statement.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the announcement, saying it meant vaccinations would likely start before the end of the year.

"Likely that the first Europeans will be vaccinated before end 2020," Ursula von der Leyen wrote on Twitter after a decision by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to hold an extraordinary

meeting on the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 21, before a previously planned meeting on Dec. 29.

After possible approval by the EU regulator, the European Commission is expected to formally approve the Pfizer vaccine within three days, after consultations with the 27 EU governments.

Commission decisions on approvals of medicines usually follow the EMA's recommendations. The approval of the Pfizer vaccine by the Commission is considered a formality if the EMA issues a positive recommendation.

"Every day counts - we work at full speed to authorise #COVID19 vaccines that are safe and effective," she said on Twitter. "I

welcome @EMA\_News bringing forward its meeting to discuss the @pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, before Christmas. Likely that the first Europeans will be vaccinated before end 2020!" Germany had earlier piled pressure on the EMA, saying it wanted it to approve the vaccine "before Christmas".

"The goal is to get approval before Christmas," German Health Minister Jens Spahn told a press conference in Berlin. "We want to start vaccinating in Germany before the end of the year."

European Union countries could begin coronavirus inoculations as soon as this year, the head of the European Commission said. SOURCE: AFP



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 15th December, 2020)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 16th December, 2020:** Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthay Region, isolated in Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Generally fair in the whole country.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2020:** Fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2020:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2020:** Fair weather.

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## West Yangon Technological University marks 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi launched on-line celebrations to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Yangon Technological University yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, after wishing the commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university, he said the university has been providing human resource development to 12,330 B.Tech graduates, 11,545 BE/B.Arch graduates and 619 ME/M.Arch from 2005 to date.

The West Yangon Technological University held the first international research paper reading with local and international experts to support the development of the science and technology sector in 2018 and the

second one in 2019. He said he is proud to see that the university established the Quality Management System in 2015 to provide quality assurance services to its engineers and architects and the university has become an AUN-QA Associate Member in 2018.

The Union Minister added the importance of school-industry partnership to provide job opportunities for graduate students and the 8-week internship programmes of the final year students of the West Yangon Technological University.

He also urged the alumni to discuss and suggest the need of stakeholders, technologies and modern equipment used in the workplace and lessons taught at the university and the require-



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins opening ceremony to celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Yangon Technological University on 15 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment for on-the-job training at their respective universities.

Afterwards, Chairman of the National Education Policy Commission Dr Myo Kywe

gave a speech. A video clip was showed commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the activities of the West Yangon Technological University, and Rector of the uni-

versity Dr Kyi Soe expressed his gratitude.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## MoSWRR discusses resettlement, closure of IDP camps in Kayin State

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a coordination meeting through videoconferencing yesterday on the resettlement of internally displaced persons and closure of their camps in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special region in Kayin State yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National-Level Committee on Resettlement and Closures of IDP Camps, said that the closure of the IDP camps and resettlement of the people staying in those camps in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special region in Kayin State in line with the National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Closure of IDP Camps, which was jointly adopted by the Union Government and the State government.

The strategy was initiated before it was approved in September 2019.

He said that in the social sector of the Union Accord adopted by the Union Peace



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses resettlement of internally displaced persons and closure of their camps in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Zone in Kayin State on 15 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, it calls for the systematic implementation of human rights in accordance with international standards without discrimination, and for the resettlement of IDPs in a safe and dignified manner in accordance with human dignity.

The Ministry and the Kay-

in State government conducted fieldwork on the resettlement of displaced persons at Myat Pan Wut Hmone and Aye Lin Myat Shin (Kyauk Sa Daing Kwin) camps in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special Zone on 8 February 2020 and initially coordinated the requirement for the strategic sector and provided necessary

support during the resettlement process.

Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, the Minister for the Kayin State Security and Border Affairs and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and attendees discussed the closure and resettlement of the

IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special region.

In September 2016, there were 675 households of 3,874 people at IDP camps in Myaing Gyi Ngu Special region, Kayin State. In early 2017, there were 332 households of 1,652 people. Starting from March 2017, there were 1,007 households of 5,526 people, and in February 2020, there were 871 households of 5,281 people. As of 15 December 2020, there are 724 households of 4,574 people in the IDP camps.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided over K217 million and Kayin State government contributed K55 million for the food and shelter for the displaced people, support for social protection, livelihoods and landmine injuries.

According to the coordination, there are 499 households to be resettled and will be implemented in accordance with the national strategy.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> April.—MNA



## MoHS meets online with heads of 14 treatment centres of COVID-19 in Yangon

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe met the head medical experts from the management sector of 14 treatment centres of COVID-19 in Yangon Region via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister appreciated the efforts of doctors in the management sector of COVID-19 treatment centres and doctors, nurses, experts and volunteers in treatment activities.

He stressed the preparations at the hospitals for COVID-19 patients, efforts of Yangon Region government in establishing the COVID-19 centres, infection rate and death rate across the world including Myanmar, the instruction for the people to follow the COVID-19 health rules while the specialist and nurses are hardly fighting the COVID-19, health



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds online meeting with head medical experts from 14 treatment centres of COVID-19 in Yangon Region. PHOTO: MNA

awareness for the those working in the markets and factories, procurement process of medicines by the ministry for 14 COVID-19 treatment centres, plans of ministry being conducted under the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, plan to release further

COVID-19 restrictions if necessary and mask-wearing campaigns across the nation.

He also discussed the exchange of information for proper work programme among the COVID-19 treatment centres, reviews on management sector of treatment centres, better information system for 14 COVID-19 treatment centres, health awareness programmes with wall posters and QR Codes at the ward and efforts of ministry in providing the medicines for the patients with non-communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS and TB.

Then, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein briefed the use of COVID-19 database management

system application developed by the ministry at COVID-19 treatment centres, labs and quarantine centres and other health officials coordinated the meeting.

In his concluding remark, the Union Minister suggested the cooperation of Yangon Region Public Health Department and University of Public Health (Yangon) to conduct a survey on COVID-19 treatment centres, home isolation system for COVID-19 patient without any underlying diseases, health check programmes on those patients under home isolation via video call and pilot project for such health checks via video calls by cooperating with the relevant township administrators and members of COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Dawei National Day held with celebrations

THE 3<sup>rd</sup> Dawei National Day was held in accordance with the COVID-19 protection directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday morning in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

Attendees first saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the national flag of Dawei, and the Presiding Monk of Pyawbwe Monastery, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wisondara, delivered an opening remark.

During his opening remark, Regional Chief Minister U Myint Maung said celebrating Dawei National Day in more than 30 places in Taninthayi Region in accordance with the health regulations of COVID-19 shows



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dawei National Day is in progress in capital city of Taninthayi Region on 15 December. PHOTO: MNA

the identity of Dawei people, and he said he wished to celebrate the National Day in more ways than now in coming years.

Honorary Chairman Re-

tired Lt-Col U Tin Mya, Chairman of Dawei National Unity Committee, explained celebrations of the event through videoconferencing. Dawei Nation-

al Day marked the successful Dawei National Convention in 2017.

The messages from the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun

Myat, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Dawei Association (Mawlamyine) and Dawei National Development Association (Thailand) were read out.

Chairman of the Dawei National Unity Committee U Aung Myo expressed words of thanks and Patron of the Committee U Aung Myint and wife handed over K100,000 for the celebration of Dawei National Day to Patron U Tun Kyi and received the certificate of honour.—Dawei District (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## Three gates on west side of MDY Royal Wall attract visitors to explore

IT is interesting that the gates of Mandalay Royal Palace Wall were named with respective meanings. There are three gates on the west side of the Royal Wall, namely as the Kyay Hmone gate, Se Shay gate and Htin Shar gate respectively.

The Kyay Hmone gate, the southwestern entrance, was built under the supervision of Min Kyaw Min Hla Sithu. The word. The word “Kyay Hmone” was used to name the gate to remind people of the death since the gate was used to take out the dead body.

The Se Shay gate, the Mid-

west gate, was built under the supervision of Mya Taung Minister Thatoe Mingyi Mahar Min Hla Kyaw Thu. The name was chosen because of its auspiciousness that would be sustainable forever.

The northwestern gate, the Htin Shar gate, was built under the supervision of Yenangyoung Minister. The name ‘Htin Shar’ was chosen to mean the prominence. It can be seen that each gate was named with respective meaning, and they were used for different purposes.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Picture shows a gate of Mandalay Royal Palace. PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYITNGE)



A KEY PLAYER IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

## UK's Johnson to visit India in first major trip as PM

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson will travel to India next month in his first major bilateral visit to another country since taking power last year, his office said Tuesday.

During the trip, Johnson will invite India to join next year's G7 summit, which Britain is hosting, as one of three guest countries, alongside South Korea and Australia.

The Indian trip is aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties and investment, and cooperation in various areas including defence, security, health and climate change.

The visit, to coincide with India's annual Republic Day celebrations on January 26, will also come just weeks after the

UK leaves the European Union single market on December 31, and as it seeks new trade deals post-Brexit.

"I am absolutely delighted to be visiting India next year at the start of an exciting year for Global Britain, and look forward to delivering the quantum leap in our bilateral relationship that Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and I have pledged to achieve," Johnson said in a statement.

"As a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, India is an increasingly indispensable partner for the United Kingdom as we work to boost jobs and growth, confront shared threats to our security and protect our planet."

SOURCE: AFP

A SERIES OF PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

## Macron plans referendum to add climate clause to constitution

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Monday he plans to call a referendum on changing the constitution to include a commitment to fight against climate change and for the protection of the environment.

Speaking to members of a Citizen's Convention on Climate, Macron said that the referendum would propose adding a clause to the first article of the constitution which lays out the foundational principles of the republic.

"Constitutionally it (the referendum proposal) must first go to the National Assembly and then the Senate and be voted in identical terms," Macron said.

The Citizen's Convention is composed of 150 randomly picked members of the public who were tasked by Macron's centrist government with proposing ways in which France could cut its emissions.

They made a series of practical proposals from reducing speed limits to improving home insu-



Macron's referendum plan comes from a citizens' convention he called in response to pressure for more "direct democracy". The photo shows the Merdelou-Fontanelles wind farm in southern France. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

lation, but changing the constitution to include the climate commitment and making destroying nature a crime – so-called "ecocide" – topped their list of ideas in June.

Macron formed the council in response to demands for greater "direct democracy" in the wave of the "yellow vest" anti-government protests that rocked the country in 2018 and 2019.

The unexpected fierce rebellion was sparked by a planned fuel

tax hike aimed at funding the climate-change fight, which critics said unfairly targeted people who have no choice but to rely on their cars.

The last referendum in France was in 2005 when voters were asked to back the creation of a European constitution. They rejected the proposal in a humiliating defeat for then-president Jacques Chirac.

Although the referendum proposal should easily clear the lower-house National Assembly, where

Macron's Republic on the Move party commands a majority, it may face opposition or delay in the Senate.

Presidential elections are scheduled for the first half of 2022.

Macron, a 42-year-old centrist, has sought to sustain momentum internationally to cut carbon emissions as laid out in the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord, which was hit by the US withdrawal under President Donald Trump.

SOURCE: AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (682 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (682 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2023E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2023E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

SILENCING THE TRUTH

## Record number of journalists jailed in 2020, says watchdog



A record number of reporters were in jail in 2020, the Committee to Protect Journalists said. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A record number of journalists were behind bars this year, a US-based watchdog said Tuesday, accusing governments worldwide of suppressing the media and fuelling the misinformation amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The annual report by the Committee to Protect

Journalists found that 274 journalists were imprisoned in 2020 – the highest number since the non-profit organization began its survey in the 1990s. The report also found that 26 journalists and media workers had been murdered this year, with Mexico listed as the world's most dangerous

country for the press.

"It's shocking and appalling," CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon said in a statement.

"This wave of repression is a form of censorship that is disrupting the flow of information and fuelling the infodemic," he added.

The worst offender was China for the second consecutive year; the survey found, with 47 reporters behind bars and where authorities only last week detained a Bloomberg employee on suspicion of endangering national security. Other top jailers were Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, with Belarus and Ethiopia – where popular unrest and armed conflict flared this year – also seeing sharp increases in the

number of reporters behind bars.

While the US had no reporters in jail as of the report's release, the survey noted an "unprecedented" 110 had been arrested or detained through the course of the year.

The CPJ said the outgoing Trump administration bore some of the blame for the worsening global press freedom – not only for the US president's lack of global leadership on human rights, but also his emboldening of authoritarians abroad with his hostility towards the media.

"The incoming Biden administration must work as part of a global coalition to bring the number down," CPJ CEO Simon said.

SOURCE: AFP



CHANCE REMAIN UNCLEAR

## Lawmakers push bipartisan US stimulus plan to break stubborn deadlock

US lawmakers on Monday introduced a pair of stimulus proposals costing \$908 billion that have the support of Democratic and Republican lawmakers and represent a final push to get new aid for the pandemic-ravaged economy approved before Congress heads home for the holidays.

The bills would fund programmes to help the unemployed, small businesses and state and local governments while offering liability to some employers, but their chances for passage in the final weeks of President Donald Trump's

term remain unclear.

"We have people hurting right now. We have an emergency, so let's do what we need to do to take care of the emergency," Republican Senator Mitt Romney said in a press conference announcing the plans.

The proposal would follow up on the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act rescue package passed in the Covid-19 pandemic's early days, which was credited with keeping the US economy from a more severe downturn. But its main provisions expired in recent months, and as the United States faces skyrocketing



The \$908 billion relief proposal backed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers faces uncertain prospects. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Covid-19 cases, lawmakers from both parties as well as the Trump administration have been unable to agree on how much to spend in a

new stimulus measure, and what to spend it on.

"Let's not go home for Christmas, without passing this much-needed relief for

the American people," said Republican Senator Susan Collins, who is part of the 50-member bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus that backs the measures.

The proposal's support within the Trump administration and from Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is unclear. But Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in statement that "Congress must come together and reach bipartisan agreement this week on coronavirus legislation to save the lives and livelihoods of the American people."—SOURCE: AFP

CONTAINMENT MEASURES

## Bank of Portugal forecasts 8.1 pct drop in GDP in 2020

THE Bank of Portugal said on Monday that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 would plummet 8.1 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures that depressed economic activities in the past months.

The forecast from the central bank of Portugal is more optimistic than that of the International Monetary Fund, which expects a 10 per cent contraction of Portuguese national GDP, and the European Commission, which expects a 9.3 per cent economic activity retraction in the country, as well as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which points to a drop of 8.4 per cent.—SOURCE: XINHUA

### Transferred Distributor for Registration Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of below pesticides registered by Fertiagro Pte Ltd will have been transferred from Farmer's GOAL Company Ltd. to S&Z Interantional Co.,Ltd.. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division. Gyogone (West), Insein Township within (14) days starting from this announcement.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1.	Ferti-Azote 32.5% SC	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenconazole 12.5% SC	Provisional	P2019-4786
2.	Ferti-Quinpyra	Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 3% + Quinlorac 47% WP	Provisional	P2020-4981
3.	Ferti-Cloben	Bensulfuron-methyl 6% + Quinlorac 34% WP	Provisional	P2020-4982
4.	Ferti-Xo 20% WP	Bismethiazol 20% WP	Provisional	P2020-5009
5.	Ferti-Snail 70% WP	Niclosamide-olamine 70% WP	Provisional	P2020-5039
6.	Ferti-Sulfan 20% EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	Provisional	P2020-5076
7.	Ferti-Fenofuron	Ethoxysulfuron 2.1% + Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 6.9% OD	Provisional	P2020-5107

S&Z International Co., Ltd.  
Tel: 09 43142882

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) to Farm Link Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg	Reg No
1.	TRACOMIX 760WP	Cymoxanil 60g/kg + Propineb 700g/kg WP	Provisional	P2020 - 2779

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch).  
Room 209, Rangoun Business Center, No.97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road. Tele: 09-5145328

### MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following item in Euro:

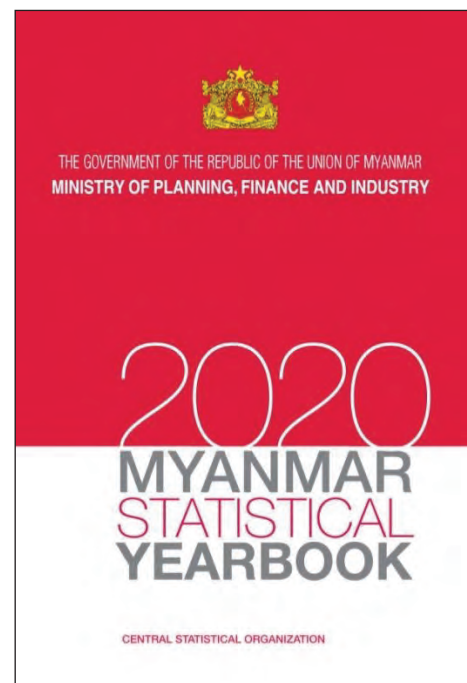
Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)24/MR(ISN) 20-21	Wheel Monobloc Rolled Steel (Rough)-120 Nos

Closing Date & Time-14-1-2021 (Thursday) (14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14.12.2020 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020 (Christmas day), 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021 (New Year Holiday) and 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 (Independence day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.



Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2020 has been published, just as international statistical bulletins, which includes 16 chapters and over 300 tables with an updated compendium of statistics, technical notes, glossary and the data from many surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Organization. It can be purchased at 22,000/-Kyats for both Hard Copy & CD-Rom, and at 12,000/- Kyats for only CD-Rom. Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2020 is available at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, No(4/6), 3rd Floor (Right), Byamaso Road, Corner of Thila Street, Su Paung Office Compound, Ward (4), South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Eastern District, Yangon Region, and SarPayBeikMan Store (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon) respectively. Phone : +95 673 406328, 673 406329, 673 406468, 01-8500887

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (25/2020-2021)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-193(20-21) (Retender)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Hlaw Gar GCS (1) Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-196(20-21) (Retender)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Thaton GCS (1) Lot	Ks
- The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 15 December 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 15 January 2021.
- Tender Closing Date & Time – 15-1-2021, 12:00 pm  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206



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Lagunpyin water supply project targeted to complete by 2022



A bird's eye view of the Lagunpyin water supply project is seen under implementation. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON City Development Committee has targeted the completion of Lagunpyin water supply project by March 2022.

The project will supply water to four Dagon Myothit townships, Thakayta Township and Dawbon township.

Upon completion of the project, Lagunpyin water supply project can distribute about 40 million gallons of water daily including 13 million gallons to water supply Zone 7 in Dagon Myothit (North) and (East), 14 million gallons to water supply Zone 8 in Dagon Myothit (South) and (Seikkan), three million gallons to water supply Zone 2 in Thakayta and Dawbon and 10 million gallons to Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The project involves the construction of service reservoirs and pumping stations in each zone. Besides, the water will be supplied to each zone from the service reservoir. Regarding the water supply to each zone, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will be practised to supply water pressure equally of District Meter Area (DMA).

Moreover, the service reservoir and pumping station of water supply Zone 7 are constructed in Ward 131, Dagon Myothit (East) Township. The service reservoir can accommodate 4.6 million gallons, and the pumping station can distribute 700,000 gallons of water per hour. And, the service reservoir and the pumping station of water supply Zone 8 is constructed in Ward 69, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. Its service reservoir can accommodate 6 million gallons, and the pumping station can distribute 1.1 million gallons of water per hour for its township and 380,000 gallons of water per hour for Thilawa SEZ.

The water for Thilawa SEZ will be transmitted from the service reservoir from Zone 8. So far, the construction of service reservoir and the pumping station are completed in water supply Zones 7 & 8. The electric power substation is being constructed to access electricity to generate the pumping station. The electricity can be accessed from Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) very soon,

and the pumping station can be generated.

YCDC carries out the water purification plant, which is part of the project. Now, it has already generated on a trial basis. The plant is located near the junction of No 2 and No 7 roads. The plant will refine the water from Lagunpyin Dam. That is the reason why we called it the Lagunpyin water supply project. Other parts of the project are carried out with the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), according to the announcement.

To be able to implement the Lagunpyin water supply project, YCDC has negotiated the detailed plans to access the loan from JICA Appraisal Mission and conducted the field inspection in early 2013. On 5 September 2014, Myanmar and Japan government signed an exchange of note and a loan agreement. Japan government granted ¥23.683 billion with 0.01 interests for 40 years.

The consultant companies are being selected per JICA's guideline, and joint venture with Nihon Suido Consultants Co., Ltd and Grontmij A/S consultant company entered into a contract on 23 July 2015. The construction of the project was started in January 2018.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

LOTTE Hotel Yangon donates fund to Yangon Region Public Health Department

LOTTE Hotel Yangon contributed cash donation to help the Yangon Region Public Health Department in fight against COVID-19.

Mr Jay Lee General Manager of Lotte Hotel Yangon handed over donation fund to Deputy Director-General, Dr Tun Myint, Head of Yangon Regional Public Health Department.

"Today donation is we Lotte Hotel Yangon would like to participate in government's effort at disease control and treatment on COVID-19. We are glad and special thanks to Ministry of Health and Sports for giving a chance to Participate. We strongly believe to get through together sooner." said Mr Jay Lee.

Lotte Hotel Yangon, one of the finest modern structures in the whole of Myanmar, is located on Pyay Road, Yangon, Myanmar.



Head of Yangon Regional Health Department Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint (R) accepts donations from LOTTE Hotel Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

It has been three years that Lotte Hotel set a new Standard for 5 star accommodation in Myanmar since opening in September 2017.

Since opening, Lotte Hotel Yangon has actively participated in contribution to the society. Moreover, Lotte Group

will continuously take an active part to support the community during COVID-19 pandemic. —GNLM



## Myanmar to export corn to Thailand under zero tariff from 1 February

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is prepping for corn export to Thailand under zero-tariff starting from 1 February 2021, said U Min Khaing, chairman of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand imposed a hefty tariff on import during its corn season to protect the interest of its growers. It grants tax exemption for corn import between February and August, he continued.

“Thailand imposed 73 per cent of tax on corn import during the harvest season. The large tariffs prompt Myanmar’s exporters to halt the trade at that time. Consequently, we wait for the tax exemption period from 1 February to 31 August, he elaborated.

Thailand yearly imports up to 5 million tonnes of corn from external markets. With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar’s corn export is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes in the current financial year, the association stated.

At present, Myanmar’s corn



Myanmar exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the foreign market in the past FY2019-2020, with an estimated value of \$360 million. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

export is heavily relying on border trade. The country mainly sends the corn to the neighbouring countries China, Laos and Thailand. It is also shipped to Singapore, Malaysia and Viet Nam through sea trade. The corn fetched US\$230-240 per tonne.

Last 26 June 2020, the Un-

ion Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint met a delegation led by Chairman U Min Khaing of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. They discussed matters concerning the trade openness for corn with Thailand, legal trade channel to China, explore more corn markets and the open-

ing of corn depot at the Myawady border to facilitate corn trade and avoid scams.

Additionally, getting government’s loan access for corn growers to enhance productivity and boost exports in the post-COVID-19 era, quality control measures for safe and quality prod-

ucts, choosing pedigree corn seeds for cultivation, attracting investments for corn peeling machine, coordinating the related associations to supply local feed industry which plays a crucial role for the livestock sector and systematic payments in border trade were also highlighted.

Myanmar exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the foreign market in the past FY2019-2020, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayah states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns.

Myanmar and Thailand started to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on corn trade on 12 December 2017. Under the MoU, Myanmar, corn exports were exempted from tax between 1 February and 31 August.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Pandemic cuts annual inflation rate to 5.21pc in October 2020

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, continued dropping to 5.21 per cent in October 2020 as consumer price fell amid the COVID-19 impacts, according to the inflation report released by the Central Statistical Organization, under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

There was a slump in consumer demand triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. As a result of this, the annual inflation rate extended its drop in October 2020, as per the report.

The US dollar against Kyat is relatively weak in October, with a fall of about K20 than the previous month and a sharp drop of K214 against a year-ago period. The imported oil price dropped against September’s rate, causing the price index in the transport group to slump, the inflation report showed.

Despite the drop registered in food price, the CPI showed an uptick in household goods and maintenance, other commodities, clothing, recreation, culture

and non-food. The price index of education and telecommunication is stable amid the COVID-19. The price of transport and tobacco and beverages dropped, the report stated.

The annual rate of core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 4.22 per cent in October 2020. The year on year inflation rate stood at 1.5 per cent in October, the inflation data indicated.

During the one year from October 2019 to October 2020, the inflation rate hit a high of 9.20 per cent in February 2020.

Despite the drop in fuel oil price and gain in the local currency, the power tariff hike led to higher inflation rate up to 9.2 per cent in February 2020. Then, it gradually declined due to the coronavirus outbreak in March.

The inflation rate was registered at 8.35 per cent in May 2020, and so, the month of June with 7.91 per cent. The coronavirus impacts triggered the drop in the consumer price index, and it gradually inclined to 7.14 per cent in July, and the rate extended its

slide to 6.43 per cent in August. It continued slipping to 5.81 per cent in September 2020 and 5.21 per cent in October 2020.

In October, Ayeyawady Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 9.99 per cent, followed by Mandalay Region at 8.52 per cent, and Nay Pyi Taw at 7.14 per cent. The rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 5.04 per cent in Ayeyawady and a minimum rate of -2.8 per cent in Sagaing Region.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. The concerned authorities have been making efforts, to reduce the inflation rate, based on policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development Plan (2016-2017FY-2020-2021FY). — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## US dollar value against Kyat rises to K1,400 on 15 December

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar against Kyat gained to K1,400 on 15 December in the local forex market as the vaccine development news brightened the global economic forecast.

Following the vaccine optimism, hopes for the global economy and trade recovery triggered high global demand for the dollar; U Than Lwin, senior consultant to Kanbawza Bank shared his opinion.

“The US started vaccine rollout. The vaccine is bringing the economy near recovery. Another point is that developed countries are accelerating vaccine development. That’s why the global economy and trade are likely to recover. The traders are buying dollar now. These are the causes of US dollar appreciation,” he explained.

A dollar exchange rate stood around K1,324 on 1 December 2020. The rate jumped to K1,400 on 15 December, with a rise of over K70.

When the dollar value remained strong, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold 3 million

dollars from the state’s foreign reserves on 14 December.

“A too-strong or too-weak dollar is not suitable for the economy. It is one of the responsibilities of the CBM to control the price. The currency intervention is required to steer the own currency value. The rise in dollar value brought benefits to export businesses such as rice, beans and pulses. The farmers can get a fair price, he added.

This year, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October and K1,303-1,330 in November.

Last year, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



## Messi grateful for Ballon d'Or Dream Team spot

BUENOS AIRES — Lionel Messi, Ronaldo and Cristiano Ronaldo said Monday (Dec 14) they felt honoured to be named in the greatest team of all time by France Football.

Having cancelled its annual Ballon d'Or award for the world's best footballer because of the coronavirus pandemic, the weekly magazine instead announced its best XI in history, as voted by journalists from 170 countries and regions.

"For me it is an honour to have been included in the eleven of the Ballon d'Or Dream Team," Messi, who has won the Ballon d'Or a record six times, said in an Instagram post.

"I want to thank you for choosing me and also congratulate all the players who were selected ... and all the nominees, there are real phenomena on that list."

As expected, the esteemed line-up included Brazil's three-time World Cup winner Pele and legendary Argentinian Diego Maradona, who died last month of a heart-attack.

The team also included goalkeeper Lev Yashin; defenders Cafu, Franz Beckenbauer and Paolo Maldini; and midfielders Xavi and Lothar Matthaus.

Ronaldo, a two-time World Cup winner and dual Ballon d'Or recipient, expressed pride at being named in the No. 9 position. —Xinhua ■

## Liverpool's Klopp hails 'true legend' Houllier

LONDON — Current Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp paid tribute to former Reds boss Gerard Houllier, who died aged 73 on Monday (Dec 14), calling the Frenchman a "true coaching legend".

Houllier won four major trophies, including an unprecedented treble in 2001, during a six-year spell as manager of the Premier League giants.

"He is a true Liverpool legend and he is a true coaching legend," Klopp, who has won the Champions League and Premier League titles with Liverpool, told the club's website.

"He was really influential in the game. A great coach, but a human being who gave you a really warm feeling when you were around him. For all of us it is a big loss and a really sad day."

Houllier helped Liverpool become a consistent force in English football again after a barren spell in the late 1990s.

Last season's Premier League triumph under Klopp ended a 30-year wait for a top-



Houllier won his fourth major trophy at Liverpool with a League Cup final victory over Manchester United in 2003. PHOTO: AFP/ODD ANDERSEN

flight league title, while Liverpool's only other major honours in the 90s were the 1992 FA Cup and 1995 League Cup.

Houllier lifted both those

trophies, as well as the UEFA Cup, during his third season in charge, before his side also beat Manchester United to win the 2003 League Cup.

"I met him before I came to Liverpool and I knew him a little bit then," said Klopp, who took over at Anfield in 2015. —AFP ■

## Tokyo 2020 unveils plan for socially distanced Olympic torch relay



The Olympic flame is currently on display in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

TOKYO — Tokyo 2020 organizers said Tuesday they will press ahead with a nationwide, socially distanced torch relay — 100 days before the Olympic flame begins its coronavirus-delayed journey around Japan.

Despite a recent spike in infections, Games officials believe the relay can be held safely — and in front of spectators — with around 10,000 runners carrying the torch around Japan's 47 prefectures.

The torch relay was postponed just two days before it was due to begin earlier this year when the decision was taken to delay the Games by 12 months

because of the pandemic.

Now it will start on March 25, 2021, with Olympic officials to lay out detailed anti-virus measures in the coming weeks.

"We want to make sure that everyone's health is secure — the spectators, the torchbearers, the officials and the citizens in the local areas," said Tokyo Games Vice-Director General Yukihiko Nunomura.

"We want the runners to smile and we want the spectators to smile as they welcome the torch. We want to generate excitement so that people really feel that the Tokyo Olympics are coming." —AFP ■

## Manchester United get Liga leaders Sociedad in Europa League last 32

PARIS — Manchester United will face La Liga leaders Real Sociedad in the last 32 of the Europa League following Monday's draw in Nyon, after they were dumped out of the Champions League last week.

United dropped down to the Europa League, which they won in 2017, after RB Leipzig knocked them out of the Europe's top com-

petition at the group stage.

But Sociedad represent one of the toughest draws of the first knockout round. They reclaimed top spot in La Liga on Sunday and made it out of the Europa League group stage thanks to a dramatic late draw at Napoli, combined with AZ Alkmaar's last-gasp defeat at Rijeka.

United meanwhile are eighth

in the Premier League after Saturday's goalless draw with local rivals Manchester City, although they are only five points behind leaders Tottenham Hotspur having played a game fewer.

Gennaro Gattuso's Napoli, who are four points behind leaders AC Milan in Serie A, will face another Spanish side in the shape of Granada, while Milan

have been handed a tie with Red Star Belgrade in a clash of former European champions.

New Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen will take on Swiss side Young Boys, while Ajax face current Ligue 1 leaders Lille after being eliminated from a tough Champions League group that contained Liverpool and Atalanta.

Arsenal have a tricky tie with Benfica after topping their group with six wins from six, while fellow Premier League outfits Tottenham and Leicester City will clash with Austria's Wolfsberg and Slavia Prague respectively.

Scottish Premiership leaders Rangers take on Royal Antwerp after finishing above Benfica to top Group D. —AFP ■