

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Soe Win receives UNHCR Resident Representative

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Rural Development Supervisory Committee holds 1<sup>st</sup> coordination meeting online

PAGE-4

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 245, 3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Nadaw 1382 ME

www.gnlnm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 17 December 2020

## First coord meeting held for 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day



Vice-President U Myint Swe presides over the first coordination meeting to organize annual celebrations of 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day, at the President Office on 16 December. PHOTO: MNA

**V**ICE-PRESIDENT U Myint Swe chaired a coordination meeting yesterday to organize the annual celebrations of the 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day on 12 February 2021.

The 1<sup>st</sup> coordination meeting of the central committee on

convening the event was held at the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Vice-President is the chairman of the 14-member central committee which was formed by the Office of the President on 2 October this year to organize the event successfully

in accordance with the five national objectives.

The 17-member management committee, led by the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, and the other 14 sub-committees were also formed to implement the guidelines of the central committee.

The Vice-President explained the five objectives of the 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day: Implementation of internal peace through Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, Socio-economic development of the national ethnic races, Emergence of a constitution which is in accord with

the Democratic Federal Union, 'Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty', and Nurturing highly capable new generations with strong Union spirit.

SEE PAGE-3

### 1,233 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 December, total figure rises to 111,900

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 111,900 after 1,233 new cases were reported on 16 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 111,900 confirmed cases, 2,346 died, 90,453 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 December 2020

Total Cases

111,900

New Cases

1,233

Total Death Tally

2,346

Discharged from Hospital

90,453

Daily death toll until 8 pm 16-12-2020

27

Ministry of Health and Sports



## "People are the key"



Preparations are seen in progress for the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level competition in which 3 Myanmar students will take part from the MRTV studio in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Preparations made for 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level competition

A coordination meeting to prepare for the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level competition was held online on 15 December.

The meeting was attended by members of the information sub-committees from ASEAN countries, supervising teachers and officials from ASEAN

Secretariat.

The competition will be organized online by Singapore as a rotating host on 16 and 17 December, and the three Myanmar students will take part in it from the studio of MRTV in Yangon.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Big Bad Wolf Book Sale holds press conference ahead of its first online book sale in Myanmar

THE World's Biggest Book Sale, the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale, held a press conference on 16 December to provide details about this year's Online Sale and their plans for the Sale's future. Present for the press conference were the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale Co-Founders Andrew Yap and Jacqueline Ng, as well as U Myo Aung, Director of

Ready 2 Read (Myanmar) and organizer of the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale in Myanmar since its debut in 2019.

The Big Bad Wolf Book Sale will be returning to Myanmar from December 23-January 2 – but this time the event will be held entirely online at <https://comingsoon.bigbadwolfbooks.com/>, which will go live at 12 am

on 23 December. Redesigned to cater to the current need for safe browsing, the Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale will offer 20 million English-language books and over 40,000 book titles at up to 90% off recommended retail prices.

"The biggest challenge in launching the Online Book Sale was creating a platform that

is user-friendly and gives our customer a similar experience to when they visit our physical Big Bad Wolf Book Sale," Andrew Yap said. "We wanted our customers to experience a hassle-free shopping atmosphere where they can browse through our millions of books in the comfort and safety of their homes. Based on our ex-

perience running Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale in other countries, we had the opportunity to make enhancements to our e-commerce platform to ensure we're able to provide a better online shopping experience. We believe we have equipped ourselves with the best upgrades to run the Book Sale this time." —GNLM

## Domestic flights resume operation under healthcare guidelines

LOCAL airlines resumed their domestic flights yesterday in line with the healthcare guidelines after the suspension of their operations to control the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

The Myanmar National Airlines flew its flights from Yangon to Loikaw-Heho-Kengtung route and the Air KBZ from Yangon to Myeik, Sittway and Tachilek townships.

Ko Min Kyaw Than, a passenger who will go to Sittway, said, "I have undergone medical test in the last 36 hours. I had to prepare for the medical test. Resumption of domestic flights will be very convenient for the stranded passengers."

Captain Thein Zaw, Chief Operating Officer from Air KBZ, said, "Our flights are being operated to

the cities with higher passenger numbers. Although tickets can be purchased freely, the passengers need to show the COVID-free health document before taking the flight. If the passenger tested positive after purchasing the air ticket, our airlines would refund the ticket."

The Golden Myanmar Airlines will restart its flights to Sittway, Heho and Tachilek, while Air Thanlwin airlines and Mann Yadarnapon Airlines will announce the dates to resume their services.

The Ministry of Health and Sports set the healthcare guidelines for air travellers to support the recovery of the national economy through civil aviation sector.

Passengers also need to undergo medical test at the des-



Domestic flight passengers are seen queuing for immigration process on 16 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

ignated places in Nay Pyi Taw and other regions and states, including Yangon Region at Tourist

Burma Building on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township and the Public Health Office at the

AungMingalar Highway Terminal in Mingaladon Township.—MNA  
*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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



## Strive for development with united strength

All our ethnic national brothers and sisters need to strive with united strength based on national unity for the success of the peace process, for overcoming the various steps of the democratic transition process, for democracy to take firm root and for it to develop, progress and endure.

*(Extract from the Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on 4 January 2020 on the occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day.)*



Landscape of Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO BY: TUN TUN THEIN

## First coord meeting held for 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day

### FROM PAGE-1

The Union Day has been designated to commemorate the signing the Panglong Agreement among ethnic national races on 12 February 1947 as a movement led by General Aung San and ethnic leaders in struggling for the independence of the country.

The Vice-President added that the upcoming event would include the flag-hoisting and saluting ceremonies, and reading the President's message of greetings in the morning. These ceremonies will be held in line

with the standard operating procedures and the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

There will be no dinner reception in the evening due to the remaining outbreak of COVID-19.

He also instructed members of the committee and sub-committees, as well as region/state governments to follow the directives of the MoHS in making preparations for the event which will be held in the Union Territory and other areas.

The Vice-President gave

instructions for disinfection at relevant places, medical tests to the staff members who will perform duties at the event and other control measures against COVID-19.

He also discussed awareness campaigns on the objectives of the 74<sup>th</sup> Union Day on the platforms of state-owned media and in public areas by erecting posters.

He also spoke about the works of the security sub-committee and other relevant sub-committees.

Chairman of the Management Committee and Nay Pyi

Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Aung Myin Tun, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Col Kyaw Soe Oo, and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U San Naing presented the progress reports on their respective committees.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and his Permanent Secretary Dr

Thet Khaing Win explained preparations for healthcare measures at the event.

Officials from the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture presented progress reports on plans that have been made for the event.

Vice-President U Myint Swe gave advice and comments based on the discussions before the meeting was concluded.

—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Union Minister U Soe Win receives UNHCR Resident Representative

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win received Ms Hai Kyung Jun, Resident Representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and party yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting discussed the cooperation with UN agencies in implementing socio-economic development, the role of Development Assistance Coordination Unit for ensuring the effective use of international assistance by adopting the Development Assistance Policy, the focus of the ministry on the remedy for national economy affected by COVID-19, approval of Myanmar Economic Resilience and Reform Plan-MERRP, the main

implementation plan with Goal 2 and Goal 3 of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, cooperation with UNHCR to address the challenges of Myanmar and developing the public-private partnership.

The UNHCR official said that she would put special efforts to provide good support to the public during her service in Myanmar.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win holds talks with UNHCR Resident Representative Ms Hai Kyung Jun and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA





We need to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that come our way effectively without missing these opportunities

People require increased vigilance. Try to live healthily, and you should be able to control your desires. In the end that is the crux of the matter. Containing COVID-19 means all the people individually exercising self-control. Our Union government, the State will make plans to make the vaccines available to the people and have them vaccinated.

We will also strive hard for the resumption of businesses, economic recovery and more economic development than in the past. We will try to seek COVID-19 related opportunities which we could not get in the past. However, we need to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that come our way effectively without missing these opportunities.

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



## Rural Development Supervisory Committee holds 1<sup>st</sup> coordination meeting online



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu chairs the first coordination meeting of the Rural Development Supervisory Committee via videoconferencing on 16 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Rural Development Supervisory Committee held its 1<sup>st</sup> coordination meeting via video-

conferencing yesterday. Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Dr Aung Thu, in his capacity as the Chairman of Committee, chaired the meeting which was

also attended by Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, committee members of 11 ministries and other invited experts.

The Union Minister discussed the works of his committee in rural development programmes in coordination with the region/state governments, relevant ministries and experts.

He also explained that the ministry is focussing on the development of the competitive and sustainable system for agricultural produce, the multisectoral development in agriculture and livestock sector for promoting socio-economy of the country, increasing financial investment and input items, technology, market, rural infrastructural development, livelihood development and skill-building for rural people.

Director-General for De-

partment of Rural Development U Khant Zaw, in his capacity as Committee Secretary, presented the sectors stated in rural development projects such as education, health, transport, electricity and energy, agriculture, livestock and vocational training development, environmental conservation and disaster management, planning and local and foreign aids, farmland management and cottage industry.

Officials of relevant ministries coordinated the meeting and Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and other officials discussed the cooperation among committee members including budget allocation for region, state, district and township level committees.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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

THE Ministry of Education continues its online seminar to draft the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030) yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi discussed on betterment for NESP (2021-2030), the continuation of the Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) and NESP (2016-2020) and explained 10-year period for implementation of SDG-4, MSDP, OECD's Learning Compass (2030) and UNESCO Future of Education (2030).

The Union Minister also highlighted the strategies and components for powerpoint presentations conducted by the international and local experts, NGOs, INGOs, civil society or-

ganizations and other relevant officials.

He recommended lifelong learning opportunities, quality education system especially for students in remote areas, implementation of Blended Learning which is a combination of High-Tech Learning and High-Touch Learning and cooperation work to ensure the quality schools, organizations and universities which guarantee the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Skills and Competencies.

The Permanent Secretary and Directors-General explained the process in drafting NESP (2021-2030) and the other attendees coordinated the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins the discussion on NESP (2021-2030) drafting online on 16 December. **PHOTO: MNA**



# MoE discusses financial management with local, foreign stakeholders

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi joined the virtual meeting on Public Financial Management Debottlenecking Analysis and Financial Management Roadmap (FMR) yesterday.

In his opening remarks, the Union Minister appreciated the participation of the officials of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Auditor-General Office, World Bank and EU in drafting the Public Financial Management Debottlenecking Analysis and Financial Management Roadmap (FMR).

The Union Minister highlighted the efforts of the government to raise the budget in education sector yearly according to the report and suggestion, sustainable profits for the country

by making the investment in the education sector, responsibility, accountability and transparency of relevant organizations and the important role of Public Financial Management Debottlenecking Analysis and Financial Management Roadmap (FMR) in education reforms.

He also pointed out the need for effective public budget management among the relevant developments and organizations.

The Union Minister discussed further opportunities for the ministry to cooperate with the relevant ministries, World Bank and EU.

World Bank's Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos Ms Mariam J Sherman and Deputy Head of Cooperation of



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins the virtual meeting on Public Financial Management Debottlenecking Analysis and Financial Management Roadmap on 16 December. PHOTO: MNA

the EU Delegation to Myanmar Mrs Kristina Bunde respectively made a greeting speech.

The meeting was also at-

tended by the Hluttaw Representatives, Joint Public Accounts Committee members, other officials of relevant ministries, Un-

ion Auditor-General Office, World Bank, EU and other partner organizations.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

# Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives COVID-19 donation from UNHCR

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe received UNHCR Resident Representative Ms Hai Kyung Jun and accepted COVID-19 PCR Test Kits donated from UNHCR.

During the meeting, Ms Hai Kyung Jun said that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would continue to work with the Ministry of Health and Sports and the donation aims to assist in the COVID-19 medical treatment of MoHS.

The Union Minister said to

travel to other regions and states of Myanmar to see the real situations on the ground, as the UNHCR representative in Myanmar and the Ministry of Health and Sports will continue to work together with the UNHCR.

Afterwards, Resident Representative Ms Hai Kyung Jun handed over 50,000 Cobas SARS-CoV2-PCR Test Kits to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and received the certificate of honour.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (R) accepts donation from and presents certificate of honour to UNHCR Resident Representative Ms Hai Kyung Jun (L) on 16 December. PHOTO: MNA

# Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds meetings with UNHCR officials, US Chargé d’Affaires’

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the delegation led by UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar Ms

Hai Kyung Jun at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, followed by a virtual meeting with another delegation led by the US Chargé d’Affaires’ Ms Gwendolyn J

Cardno on the same day.

During his meeting with the UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar Ms Hai Kyung Jun, the Union Minister discussed matters related to an MoU with UNHCR to provide humanitarian assistance, implementation of resettlement and rehabilitation processes for IDPs, and cooperation between Myanmar and the UNHCR, plans for the closure of temporary IDP camps in accordance with the national-level strategy, disaster management activities, the ministry’s plan to cooperate with UNHCR on future humanitarian and development works and other relevant issues.

During his virtual meeting with the US Chargé d’Affaires’ Ms Gwendolyn J Cardno, the Union Minister discussed the implementation of the National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps, the ministry’s assistance including financial aid for IDPs and vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 crisis, the continuation of humanitarian work in the Rakhine State in accordance with COVID-19 related guidelines, implementation of Child Rights Law, which was approved in 2019 and other vital issues.

Myanmar ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 27 September 2019, according to the Union Minister, who said that the President Office had formed a national-level committee to implement the protocol.

The Union Minister also discussed matters related to human trafficking, Myanmar’s cooperation with neighbouring countries in social welfare and relief activities. He said that the US could cooperate in expanding the Emergency Management Centres (EOCs), which is significant for disaster prevention.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



MSWRR Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets UNHCR delegation at his office and US delegation online on 16 December. PHOTO: MNA



## Resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State discussed via videoconferencing

THE 4<sup>th</sup> meeting between the Working Committee on implementation of resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kachin State and the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC) was held via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said that prioritizing the resettlement of IDPs and the closure of IDP camps are aimed at working on ethnic issues and nationwide peace. He added that the move is aimed at lasting peace and building a democratic federal union.

The government will increase cooperation with national ethnic people, according to the Union Minister, who said that a democratic federal union could be achieved by making efforts for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Union Minister stressed that the government, MPs and civil society organizations need to strengthen cooperation.

The National-level Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye joins the discussion on the resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State via videoconference on 16 December. PHOTO: MNA

of IDP Camps includes plans to promote cooperation among the government, civil society organi-

zations, IDPs, UN organizations, and local and international NGOs for the resettlement process, ac-

ording to the Union Minister.

He also highlighted the need to increase security measures,

including coordination for humanitarian demining.

The Working Committee on Implementation of Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kachin State was formed on 8 May 2019, and the Deputy Minister of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement leads the working committee.

The decisions of the fourth meeting will be submitted to the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC).

KHCC Chairperson Rev Dr Hkalam Samson also delivered a speech. The Secretary of the Working Committee explained the implementation of the decisions of the third meeting.

Participants, including the Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister, Kachin State Social Affairs Minister and KHCC officials made discussions and suggestions.

The virtual meeting was also participated by Kachin State Ministers, guests from Northern Command and other relevant officials.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

## Domestic gold price rises to over K1,320,000 per tical

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold price has risen to over K1,320,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) and it is likely to increase continuously, said U Myo Myint, the chairman of Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

With the rising of global gold prices, the dollar exchange rate and less entering of raw materials from the regions, the domestic gold prices are rising. If it is increasing continuously like now, the domestic gold

price will be likely to grow continually, he added.

"With the increase of the global gold price, the US dollar exchange rate is slightly rising. Also, there are less entering of the raw materials because of long closing days. Sometimes, we don't have raw materials, and we are generating with the old items. However, the gold price is hard and has risen to K1,321,000 per tical," said U Myo Myint.

Now, the global gold price hit US\$1,857 per ounce on 16 December. Additionally, the lo-

cal forex market sees a slight gain of US dollar against Kyat. That is another cause of gold price hike. The dollar against the Kyat exchange rate is around K1,400 per dollar.

After the first wave of COVID, the pure domestic gold price hiked to K1,331,500 per tical, which is higher recorded in four months. However, the domestic gold market sees more sellers than buyers. Previously, about 50 visses of gold were traded daily in the domestic market, but now, only five visses of gold are being traded.

According to the gold traders, during the past four months, the domestic gold was priced with a minimum rate of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the maximum rate of K1,296,500 (27 July). The price moved in the range of K1,286,500 on 13 August and K1,332,500 on 7 August. The local gold price reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). In November, the do-

mestic gold was priced with a minimum rate of K1,270,000 (30 November) and the maximum rate of K1,317,000 (9 November).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over K1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September in 2019.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## CB Bank launches CB Card+ Mobile Application

CB Bank launched CB Card+ mobile application for CB Bank card customers on 15 December. The customers can view Card information as well as use the app to make payments at any stores which accept Visa contactless payments if their phones have NFC capabilities. CB Card+ application can be downloaded online at App Store and Google Play Store without going to the bank.

CB Card+ app features the following services: can quickly

check discounts and promotions for CB Cards, can tap and pay securely wherever Visa Contactless is accepted, can block and unblock card, can top-up prepaid cards, can check card details and information, and check for nearby CB Bank branches, ATMs and merchants.

U Kyaw Lynn, Executive Vice-Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of CB Bank said, "CB Bank is committed to deliver innovative products and services which complement

our customers' lifestyles. We

have now launched CB Card+ Application, the indispensable mobile application for our card customers. We can use the application to view card details and statements as well as make payments at any shops which accept Visa Contactless payments for phones with NFC functions. As a leading bank in digital banking services, CB Bank will continue to introduce more innovative products and services to provide solutions and convenience to our

customers."

Lillian Wang, Country Manager for Visa Myanmar said, "We congratulate CB Bank on the launch of their new mobile application. Attitudes towards digital payments are evolving at pace in Myanmar. Today's digital-first consumers expect simple, secure and intuitive payment tools that enables them to transact across a breadth of online and offline channels. We see much potential and opportunity for connected devices to

create convenient and relevant payment experiences that truly change the way people make and manage their payments. This collaboration will help us widen our footprint and broaden digital payments penetration, contributing to our commitment towards the vision of Digital Myanmar and the country's evolution to a less-cash society."

For more information and details related to CB Card+ Application, customers can contact 01-2317770.—GNLM



# Exporters body to construct cattle yard near Mandalay Region

By Nyein Nyein

A yard will be constructed near Mandalay Region for the cattle designated for export to China will be mustered into there, according to the Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association (MRCEA).

“At present, live cattle export to China through the Muse land border is facing hardships due to housing difficulties and high feedstuff cost,” said Chairperson U Soe Naing of the exporters association.

“We are discussing this matter with key participants. Muse border is too small to handle thousands of cattle. If the number of cattle exceeds 5,000, housing difficulties occur; therefore, we need cattle yard. PyinOoLwin has abundant pasture land. It is easy to buy hay and corn there as well,” he added. Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association will submit a report to the authority concerned to build cattle yard.

Additionally, the association is planning to raise the cattle to gain weight in a bid to receive a reasonable price in Muse border, he said.

“The cattle are departing from distant places such as Magway and Sagaing and leaving for Muse border. For instance, if a cow is weighed 100 visses (a viss equals to



About 15,000 heads of cattle, owned by 150 companies, are now stranded in Muse border as China stopped purchasing cattle. **FILE PHOTO**

3.6 pounds), the cattle lose weight to 80-85 visses. The weight loss happens during commercial long-haul transport. Nevertheless, China manages to feed the cow to maximize the value before reselling them. Therefore, we are trying to adopt the new feeding system for fattening cattle,” he elaborated.

About 15,000 heads of cattle, owned by 150 companies, are now stranded in Muse border as China stopped purchasing cattle.

The labour wages and feedstuff cost burden them. It costs K400,000-600,000 to take care of 100 heads of cattle every day.

China permits live cattle import only after ensuring the cattle is free from 20 diseases, including Foot and Mouth Disease, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. Thus, the officials concerned from the two countries are negotiating this.

Earlier, 1,500-2,000 heads of cattle were

daily traded through Muse border. With China stepping up border control as precautionary measures for the COVID-19 and other reasons, it was three months that China halted cattle trade, MRCEA Chair U Soe Naing affirmed.

In the meantime, we are concerned about possible market manipulation when the supply is surpassing the demand. Additionally, Myanmar’s live cattle export is heavily relying on the China market due to a fair price. However, Myanmar has other external markets such as Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh, he added.

The Ministry of Commerce grants a permit to each company for 100 cattle export, and the pass is valid for three months. The companies can be taken legal actions if they do not sell the cattle during the three months.

Live cattle export was allowed in late 2017, to eradicate illegal exports, creating more opportunities for breeders and promoting their interests.

Myanmar has around 500,000 heads of cattle for export beyond domestic consumption, the association stated.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

# Myanmar regains foreign markets as export rice prices rise in November

MYANMAR regained rice market shares from certain countries on account of high quality and the price also increased in November, said U Ye Min Aung, Chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation.

The export price of Myanmar’s rice is relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices are higher than those market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF’s data showed.

In November, the export prices of Myanmar white rice (low quality), broken rice and parboiled rice rose compared to October’s rate. The prices moved in the range of US\$400-490 per metric ton.

Following the coronavirus resurgence in Myanmar, rice was highly demanded in the domestic market. The domestic retail market in November saw a rise of K500-

2,000 per 108-pound bag compared to October’s prices, said traders from Bayintnaung market. The prices of rice last month for Pawsan varieties moved in the ranges of K38,000-57,000 per 108-pound-bag in the domestic market, while low-quality rice fetched K22,000-28,000, MRF data showed.

The local people prefer old rice to the newly harvested crop. When the fresh rice enters the market, the price of old rice is remained strong, said a trader from Wahdan commodity depot. Myanmar exported 350,260 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners between 1 October and 27 November in the current financial year 2020-2021, generating an income of over US\$300 million, as per MRF’s data.

MRF expected to ship 2.4 million tonnes of rice, and broken rice in the last

FY ended 30 September 2020. The country surpassed the export target, sending over 426,611 tonnes to neighbouring countries through border trade and over 2.15 million tonnes of rice and broken to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.58 million tonnes.

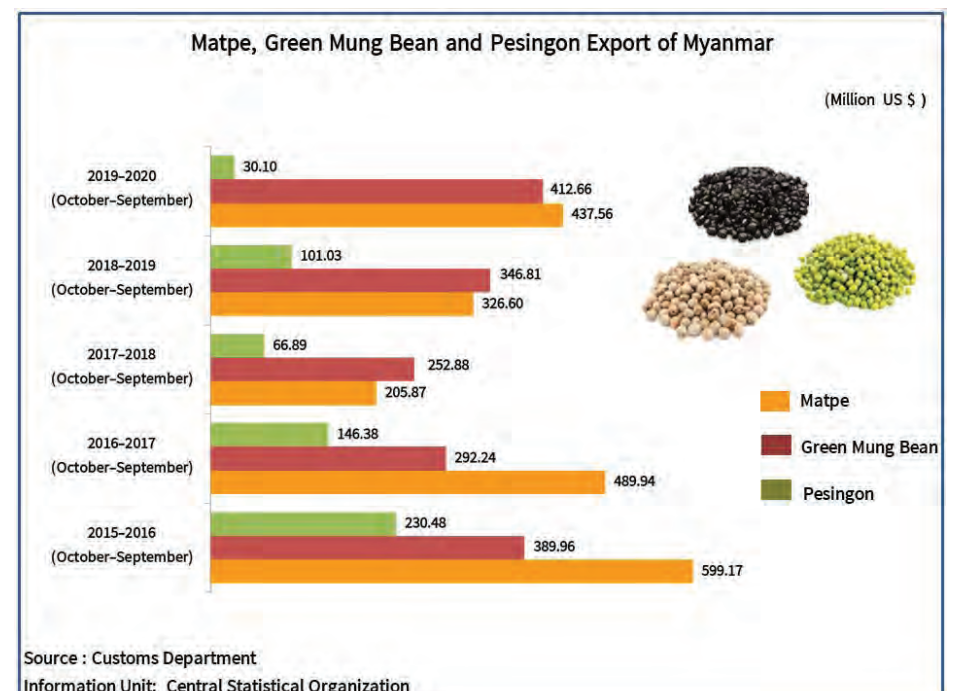
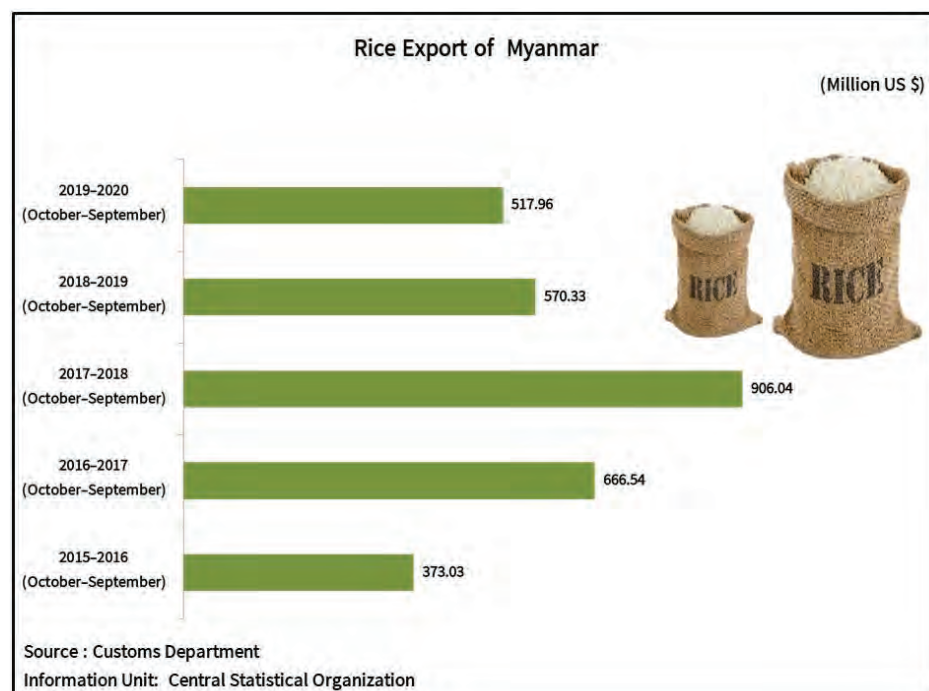
Last year, Myanmar shipped rice to 66 foreign markets. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by the Philippines and Malaysia. Madagascar is the fourth-largest buyer and Poland, the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

Meanwhile, Myanmar exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by China, Senegal, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice was placed in 60 foreign markets. ASEAN countries constitute 18 per cent of Myanmar’s total rice exports with

over 466,882 tonnes. In comparison, 30 per cent of total rice exports in Myanmar goes to China with over 775,884 tonnes, followed by African countries with 27 per cent after exports of around 706,302 tonnes. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports with over 514,523 tonnes while other countries represent five per cent of exports with over 122,786 tonnes.

Next, Myanmar yearly produces 13 million tonnes of rice. There is self-sufficiency in the domestic market, and rice reserves have been stored in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the FY2017-2018, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.3 million tonnes, in the FY2018-2019. —Ko Khant

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*





# Act fast in implementing COVID-19 response plans to support economic recovery

MYANMAR'S economy continues to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic, with growth estimated to have slowed sharply to 1.7 percent in FY19/20, down from 6.8 per cent the previous year, according to the World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor, released yesterday.

The pandemic and associated containment measures have weakened consumption and investment, and disrupted businesses operations and the supply of labor and inputs.

As part of measures that slow the spread of the virus, and mitigate increases in poverty, the Union Government set up COVID-19 funds of K200 billion, and approved over K101 billion to 3,394 enterprises as first disbursement and over K64 billion to

2,939 enterprises as second disbursement and provided relief aid and food to the country's vulnerable people.

For the longer term, public investments in infrastructure and digital technologies can increase domestic demand and employment, while boosting the productive capacity of the economy.

To achieve this, we must carry out an assessment on the effective impact of the loan disbursed, government's support to improve the country's economy in line with "Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol" and issues presented by the ministries and other organizations to Working Committee.

The World Bank's report stated that as a result of COVID-19, the poverty rate could increase from 22.4 per cent in

FY2018/19 to 27 per cent in FY20/21 and return to pre-crisis level in FY21/22 at the earliest.

Due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, economic growth is projected to remain subdued at 2 per cent in FY20/21, said the report of the World Bank.

But provided mobility restrictions are gradually relaxed and cases of local transmission of the virus slow, the economy is projected to slowly recover from March 2021 onwards. The medium-term outlook is positive - supported by public investment, a resurgence in manufacturing, and productivity gains associated with the adoption of digital technology - with growth estimated to recover to 7 per cent on average.

However, risks remain high given continued uncertainty about the future evolution of the pandemic, both locally and globally. Availability of vaccines for everyone will take time. For more months to come, we must continue to implement the basic public health measures such as washing our hands, wearing face masks and maintaining physical distance and avoiding crowds. New waves of the pandemic can happen before we all are vaccinated and it can result in more severe restrictions and can delay our economic recovery. Now is the time to scale up our COVID-19 response plans to support the recovery of our economy as soon as possible.

By Lokethar

RECENTLY, the Global New Light of Myanmar carried a news item to the effect that the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw held a coordination meeting via video-conferencing on the draft of the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) (2021-2030). This comes as no surprise because the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) (2016-2021) is in its last stage. Due to the incidence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the last stage has probably been transposed to the (2021-2030) Plan. Perhaps the public could be informed in due course about the achievements of the (2016-2021) Plan. However, it is presumed that the drawing up of the (2021-2030) NESP will build upon what has been achieved in the previous plan and what is targeted for the (2021-2030) NESP.

### "Mother Law"

The NESP (2021-2030) will presumably abide by the National Education Law of 2014, and it's the amendment of 2015. The National Education Law is the "Mother Law" of all other Education Laws, subsequently to be enacted. It also takes into account quality assurance of education. Following up on the National Education Law the Basic Education Law was enacted in 2019. Perhaps new laws on TVET and Private Education are in the pipeline.

All "Education Strategies" based on whatever law, have one aspect in common, which is the "Training of Teachers/Instructors". The National Education Law has a chapter devoted to this aspect of education/training. Teachers have the important duty of not only helping to transfer the "learning" content but also to inculcate civic sense and self-study capability for lifelong learning of their students/trainees. As I have been an "Instructor Trainer" for many years I would like to make some suggestions about Teacher/Instructor training based on my experience.

The Basic Education Law enacted in 2019, in its aims and objectives, states that "the educational environment should be of international standard and



Entry to pre-employment technical and vocational education (TVET) may occur upon completion of lower secondary education, and entry to higher-level TVET and to higher education may occur upon completion of upper secondary education. PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC SALES/ADB.

use modern teaching-learning technology to ensure high-quality learning". At the same time, in the basic principles part, it is stated "that the use of modern technology should include the "student-centred approach" to teaching and learning. Such an approach is conducive to "active learning".

### Using modern technology

It is true that training the teachers on using modern technology and new methods of teaching would address the issue of the current deficiencies in the Teaching-Learning process. However, it requires the support of all stakeholders, including the teachers, the students and parents to work together for the Education Reform to meet with success.

The "Teaching-Learning" process needs to be steered away from the current "one way talking by the teacher and rote memorizing of learning content by the student" to a more "student-centred approach" as is stated in the Basic Education Law. Of course, "Rote Learning" is the means of learning vocabulary, mathematical tables, poetry recitation etc., particularly in the pre-primary and primary classes. It has its place in what is often known as "foundational learning". However it's not conducive to the understanding of complex ideas, problem-solving and creative thinking as in "active learning". The aim of teaching is to create a "learning environment" which will engage

the students more in the learning process and thus enhance their assimilation of the learning content.

However, most teachers at every level are used to the "Chalk and Talk" mode of teaching and note giving. It may also involve the teacher drawing diagrams and charts on the black/whiteboard thus reducing the time of "facing the class" while teaching. This in effect negates "eye contact with the students" as well as proper body language like gesturing or pointing out to any trainee in asking questions to get their feedback and so on. The "Chalk and Talk" method is also prone to leaving "visualization" of abstract ideas to the individual student's imagination, among other drawbacks.

### A two-way modality

With the advances in technology, "teaching" has progressed, depending upon the stage of development, to the point where the teacher, using modern technology, "manages" the transfer of knowledge, skills and attitude/behaviour to the students. At the same time, it involves using a two-way modality in which there is the interaction between the teacher and the students. Teacher training has to take this into account and teach the teachers how to teach using modern education technology and a more interactive approach which is conducive to "active learning" on the part of the student.

Therefore in the future, as is

the intent of the Education Law, hopefully in the teaching-learning process, all teachers will be able to use modern Education Technology. It will help students to "understand" better what is being taught. It will at the same time reduce the time taken by the teacher in drawing diagrams and writing detail notes on the blackboard/ whiteboard and hence increase the "productivity" of

It is true that training the teachers on using modern technology and new methods of teaching would address the issue of the current deficiencies in the Teaching-Learning process.

the teacher in that he/she will have more time to complete the learning content of the curricula. Systematic Teacher Training to teach using modern technology will have to be undertaken step by step because of the various constraints including the budgetary constraints in so doing.

### "Competency" in the new method

Then again what has to be taken into account is that "training and retraining" of teachers in the new methods will take time to produce results. The

new TVET Instructors will arise. It is of utmost importance that Vocational Instructors who impart practical skills to the trainees, are themselves able to demonstrate the skills. It is my experience that the Teacher/Trainers who are hired for imparting the practical skills based on their academic qualification alone are often not very competent in actually demonstrating how to perform the jobs/tasks to their trainees. Hiring "Trainers" who have been practising the occupational skills to earn their living for some years and have the ability to actually show their trainees how to perform the job/task to the required standards of performance, is a prime necessity.

Here we come up against a constraint in that many are not so keen to work as instructors on the salary generally offered to "practical training instructors". Hence to really get practical instructors who are skilled, there may need to be relaxations made regarding their academic qualification as well offering them incentives to the extent possible. Not getting the right practical instructor has been the obstacle in assuring quality training in the TVET sector. This is an issue we have to resolve for the success of our TVET sector. Perhaps practical instructors from among those who have the required years of experience of the occupation in Industry or in self-employment and possess at least a Level 3 competency certificate in the occupation concerned from the National Skills Standards Authority could be considered for hiring as a practical instructor. Such instructors could be trained in Teaching Methods through an Instructor Training Course.

Within a prescribed period of time following the coming in to force of the Law. The gradual transition will better ensure success in the application of the new methods of the teaching-learning process and hence will gain acceptance and support of stakeholders including teachers, students and parents alike.

Here I would like to add something more about the training of Teachers/Instructors of Technical and Vocational Education and Training. As the TVET sector needs to be expanded appreciably to meet the needs of the economy for skilled workers, the need for

new TVET Instructors will arise. It is of utmost importance that Vocational Instructors who impart practical skills to the trainees, are themselves able to demonstrate the skills. It is my experience that the Teacher/Trainers who are hired for imparting the practical skills based on their academic qualification alone are often not very competent in actually demonstrating how to perform the jobs/tasks to their trainees. Hiring "Trainers" who have been practising the occupational skills to earn their living for some years and have the ability to actually show their trainees how to perform the job/task to the required standards of performance, is a prime necessity.

Here we come up against a constraint in that many are not so keen to work as instructors on the salary generally offered to "practical training instructors". Hence to really get practical instructors who are skilled, there may need to be relaxations made regarding their academic qualification as well offering them incentives to the extent possible. Not getting the right practical instructor has been the obstacle in assuring quality training in the TVET sector. This is an issue we have to resolve for the success of our TVET sector. Perhaps practical instructors from among those who have the required years of experience of the occupation in Industry or in self-employment and possess at least a Level 3 competency certificate in the occupation concerned from the National Skills Standards Authority could be considered for hiring as a practical instructor. Such instructors could be trained in Teaching Methods through an Instructor Training Course.

In fact, on my part, I feel the need for establishing TVET Instructor Training Centres. In my recollection once there was an "Instructor Training Facility" in the Insein Government Technical Institute in Yangon. Now however that is "water under the bridge". Hence my suggestion is to re-establish such facilities in the GTI s in Yangon, Mandalay and some of the other Regions.

With charity to all and malice to none.

# Teacher/Instructor Training in the Context of Education Reform

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 16 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 AFTERNOON OF THE 17 December, 2020: Rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin 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: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December, 2020: Fair weather.

Advertisement for Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper, featuring a 'BUY NOW' button and a 'NOW Available' banner.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာများကို လက်ဆိုင်များတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ရန်ပို့ပြ

- List of subscription rates for different regions: မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအတွင်း, ကြေးမုံခရိုင်, သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း, The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Advertisement for Newsprint & Journal Printing Service, including contact information: 01-8604530.

Advertisement for marketing services, including contact information: 09-974424848.



CHIEF EDITOR

Aungthu Ya aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS

Ye Htut Tin editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Aung Htein Tun Tun Naing

SENIOR TRANSLATOR

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS

Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon, Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin, Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529, Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848 marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629. gnlmnews@gmail.com www.gnlm.com.mm www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com www.facebook.com/thegnlm



Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title. Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Inya Centre donates over K24 mln worth RT-PCR Lab, related equipment to MSSRC



The Medical Skill, Simulation and Research Centre (MSSRC) of the University of Medicine 1 accepts donation of medical devices from Inya Centre. PHOTO: YE MIN AUNG(YM@) #INYACENTRE

INYA Centre donated RT-PCR Lab and related equipment, which are worth K24,710,600, to Medical Skill, Simulation and Research Centre (MSSRC) of the

University of Medicine 1. The donation ceremony was held at the University of Medicine 1 on 16 December and attended by Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Rector of

the University of Medicine 1 and Vice-Chairman of Yangon's COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee and the officials, Inya Centre Committee

Chairman U Kyaw Win and U Khun Naung, the chairman of the Working Committee and the officials.

The Inya Centre handed over RT-PCR Lab and related equipment which are worth over K24 million to Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Rector of University of Medicine 1 and the Vice-Chairman of Yangon's COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Committee.

That is the second donation by Inya Centre. The centre donated ten Biomeme RT-PCRs which have the certificates of the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Food and Drug Administration.

The RT-PCR Lab and related equipment will be used in Biosafety Level 2+ Laboratory of Medical Skill, Simulation and Research Centre.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Korean govt donates 53 tonnes of rice to people in Kayin State during pandemic period

THE Republic of Korea government donated 53 tonnes of rice to the people from Kayin State under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) programme as they are suffering during the pandemic period.

The Agriculture Department in Kayin State handed over 1,325 bags of rice weighing 53 tonnes donated by the Korean government to Kayin State government in the State Agriculture

Department meeting hall on 15 December.

At the ceremony, U Saw Myint Oo, the Minister for Agriculture, and Irrigation of Kayin State gave the opening remarks. Next, U Than Htike, the Director from the State Agriculture Department explained the donation of the rice and organization chart of APTERR.

Then, about 53 tonnes of rice were handed over to U Saw Myint Oo, the State Minister on behalf



Kayin State Minister for Agriculture, and Irrigation U Saw Myint Oo receives 53-tonne rice donation from the ROK. PHOTO: NAY MYO LWIN (IPRD)

of the state government. The rice bags were kept in Development Committee's hall located in Ward 5, Hpa-an Township and will be

distributed to the residents from the townships in Kayin State.—Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Anti-Corruption Commission receives over 5,000 complaint letters as of November 2020

MYANMAR Anti-Corruption Commission received more than 5,000 complaint letters in eleven months of 2020, which is the lowest number of letters in three years, according to a press release of the commission.

According to its recent statements, the anti-corruption commission received 10,543 complaint letters in 2018 and 9,394 letters in 2019 across the country. Among the complaints received in 2019, about 1,044 are under investigation. Now, the commission received only a total of 5,372 letters, which has dropped nearly

half of the letters compared to those of last year.

In eleven months of 2020, the commission received the complaint letters mostly from Yangon Region. The number of complaints was: 1,315 complaint letters in Yangon Region, 1,127 letters in Mandalay Region and 698 letters in Bago Region. However, the commission received only 14 letters from Kayah State, according to the press released by the commission. The complaint letters are about the departments' action, management and administration error, land

management, judiciary cases, personal misconduct within the department, withdrawal of the complaint and other general things. The commission is handling a total of 6,416 letters including 5,372 letters in eleven months of 2020 and 1,044 letters from 2019. Of those letters, 6,063 letters have been handled. Among them, there were 69 for investigation, with 1,091 handed over to respective Ministries and region and state governments, 2,160 for which suggestions were sent to the public, 2,743 not being relevant to the law and 353

being still under review, according to the announcement of the commission. Out of the 1,091 letters which were handed over to respective region and state governments, most of them were delivered to the Ministry of Home Affairs with 120 letters and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation with 60 letters. Myanmar's Anti-Corruption Law took effect in September 2013, and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in 2014 and was reformed in November 2017.—Aye Chan Moe

(Translated by Hay Mar)



## MAI relief flights bring Myanmar citizens back home from abroad

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur landed at Yangon International Airport with 174 citizens from Malaysia yesterday evening.

Moreover, another relief flight of the MAI organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul and the Crew Change Supporting Committee flew 133 Myanmar seamen back home through Incheon Airport in Republic of Korea in the same evening.

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

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens 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



Myanmar returnees go through Immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

### HUMBOLDT FORUM

## Rebuilt Prussian palace, scarred by history, opens in Berlin

A reconstructed Prussian palace will open in Berlin on Wednesday as a museum complex housing colonial artefacts, just as debate is gathering pace around the return of treasures plundered from abroad.

A reconstructed Prussian palace will open in Berlin on Wednesday as a museum complex housing colonial artifacts, just as debate is gathering pace around the return of treasures plundered from abroad.

The opening ceremony for the Humboldt Forum, which will house attractions including the Ethnological Museum of Berlin, will take place virtually due to restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Launched in 2013, the huge renovation project in central Berlin has been plagued by delays, controversy and spiralling costs -- much like the capital's ill-fated new international air-

port that opened in October.

The bitter irony of the building being home to a museum housing nearly 20,000 artifacts from Africa, Asia and Oceania, mostly from the former colonies, has not been lost on critics.

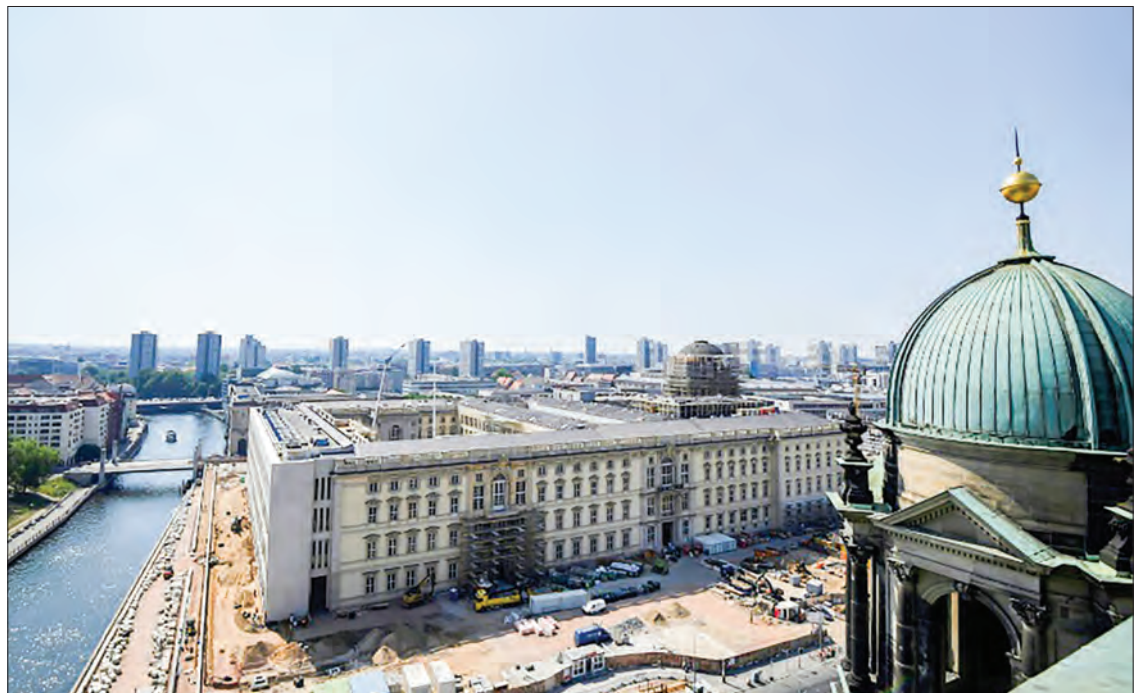
Until the fall of the German Empire at the end of World War I, the palace was the main residence of the Hohenzollerns, instigators of German colonialism.

The construction has also cost some 677 million euros (\$823 million) -- almost 100 million more than originally planned.

Culture Minister Monika Gruetters and Berlin Mayor Michael Mueller are due to hold a press conference at midday.

### Victim of history

The original palace was a victim of Berlin's history, including World War II and the division between East and West.



The Humboldt Forum building dominates the 'Museum Island' in central Berlin. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Partly destroyed by bombing during the war, it was then completely razed to the ground by communist East Germany

after the defeat of the Nazis.

It was replaced by the Palace of the Republic, an austere modernist slab with reflective

orange windows that housed the regime's parliament and a cultural and leisure centre.

SOURCE: AFP

### ANCIENT LETTERS

## Flipping the script: China school reforms spark Mongolian writing revival



Batbileg Lkhagvabaatar started teaching the script for free in September. PHOTO: AFP

In a classroom in Mongolia's capital, students pass over the Soviet-era Cyrillic alphabet they grew up with and turn their copybooks sideways to practise the traditional, vertical Mongolian script that dates back to the empire of Genghis Khan.

Teacher Batbileg Lkhagvabaatar leads the class, tracing lines of the flowing, dotted characters on a whiteboard and explaining grammar rules to the group of young men and women and a smattering of children.

They are among a growing number inspired to learn the

ancient letters after protests by their kinsfolk in China's Inner Mongolia region against reforms replacing Mongolian with Mandarin as the language of instruction in schools for core classes.

"I was very disappointed to hear what happened to the Inner Mongolians," said Togtokhjargal Battogtokh, 46, one of the students in the Ulaanbaatar classroom. "It hurt me too."

"That's why I want to inspire other people to learn our script." Critics of Beijing's language policy in Inner Mongolia -- home to an estimated 4.5 mil-

lion ethnic Mongolians -- say it mirrors moves in other border areas like Xinjiang and Tibet to assimilate local minorities into the dominant Han culture.

Across the border in Mongolia, whose economy is dependent on mineral exports to its giant southern neighbour, they have touched a nerve.

Javkhlan Samand -- Mongolia's most famous country singer -- named his most recent concert "Stay Mongolian", paying tribute to those protesting across the border in authoritarian China.

SOURCE: AFP



## "PROGRESS MADE"

## EU chief says 'next days decisive' in Brexit talks

BRITISH and European negotiators have made progress towards agreeing fair trade rules but are still far apart on access to fishing, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday.

"The next days are going to be decisive," the president of the European Commission told the European Parliament, as intense talks on a post-Brexit trade deal continued nearby in Brussels.

"The good news is that we have found a way forward on most issues," she said, adding that she and EU negotiator Michel Barnier can now see a "narrow path to an agreement".

"But this is now a case of us being so close, and yet being so far away from each other, because two issues still remain outstanding, you know them: a level playing field and the fisheries."

Von der Leyen said that Barnier and his UK counterpart David Frost had made progress towards resolving rules for state aid to businesses and that the ways the deal will be governed "by now are largely being resolved".

But she was pessimistic on fish. Britain is insisting that when it leaves the EU single market at the end of the year it will resume full control over access to its waters. EU member states are holding out to preserve quotas for their crews fishing in UK waters and they want a long-term arrangement to provide stability.

Britain has so far only offered reduced access and annual quota renegotiations.

"On fisheries, the discussion is still very difficult," von der Leyen said.



Pedestrians walk past an BTier 2 Coronavirus information displayed on an electronic advertising board at a bus stop in central London yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

"We do not question the UK sovereignty on its own waters, but we asked for predictability

and stability for our fishermen and our fisherwomen," she said. "And in all honesty, I some-

times feel that we will not be able to resolve this question."

SOURCE: AFP

## THE HEAD OF A US DELEGATION

## Trump aide Kushner heads to Israel, Morocco after deal on ties



US presidential advisor Jared Kushner is to visit Israel and Morocco, a US official said. PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/ AFP/FILE

JARED Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and advisor, will visit Israel and Morocco next week to discuss the normalization of ties between the two countries, a US official told AFP Tuesday.

The American delegation, headed by Kushner, will take the first direct commercial flight from Tel Aviv to Rabat, the source said.

Kushner is expected Monday in Israel. Morocco last week announced a "resumption of relations" with Israel, in an announcement making it the fourth Arab country this year to unveil plans to normalize ties with Tel Aviv through a US-brokered deal, following the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

The announcement came after Trump tweeted that Rabat and the Jewish state had agreed to "full diplomatic relations".

That followed Trump's recognition of Morocco's contested sovereignty in Western Sahara, infuriating the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, which controls about one-fifth of the vast, arid region.

Western Sahara is a disputed and divided former Spanish colony, mostly under Morocco's control, where tensions with the pro-independence Polisario have simmered since the 1970s.

The movement has dismissed Trump's announcement and vowed to fight on until Moroccan forces withdraw from the entire region.

SOURCE: AFP

## DESPITE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

## UK Supreme Court rules Heathrow can have third runway

BRITAIN'S Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that Heathrow, one of the world's busiest airports, can build a third runway, overturning a legal decision to block the plan on environmental grounds.

The nation's highest court struck down a Court of Appeal ruling in February that the UK government had failed to take into account climate change commitments when in 2018 it approved the new runway at the London airport. Heathrow successfully argued that the Court of Appeal made errors of law.

Environmental group Greenpeace said Prime Minister Boris Johnson should still not allow the project to proceed, in the light of his government's targets on

cutting carbon emissions.

The Supreme Court said the previous Conservative government had "no obligation" to consider the Paris climate agreement when it gave the nod to the extra runway. While the UK government said building work could begin in 2022, Heathrow warned that it would delay construction by at least two years owing to the coronavirus fallout and the legal challenges.

## 'Win against rivals'

Heathrow hailed Wednesday's ruling, which it said would also allow Britain to compete with continental rivals following Brexit.

"Only by expanding the UK's hub airport can we connect all

of Britain to all of the growing markets of the world, helping to create hundreds of thousands of jobs in every nation and region of our country," it said in a statement. "Demand for aviation will recover from Covid-19, and the additional capacity at an expanded Heathrow will allow Britain as a sovereign nation to compete for trade and win against our rivals in France and Germany."

The airport added that it had "already committed" to net zero carbon emissions and that the latest ruling "recognizes the robust planning process that will require... expansion is compliant with the UK's climate change obligations, including the Paris Climate Agreement."

SOURCE: AFP

## 'TURN THE PAGE'

## Biden joins battle for Senate as top Republican accepts win

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden threw his weight into the Democratic battle for control of the US Senate on Tuesday, as his White House win was finally acknowledged by top Republicans and holdout foreign leaders.

President-elect Joe Biden threw his weight behind the Democratic battle for control of the US Senate on Tuesday, as his White House win was finally acknowledged by top Republicans and

holdout foreign leaders.

Biden flew into Georgia -- a southern state he won in an upset against President Donald Trump -- to host a rally for two Democratic candidates in runoff races that will determine the Senate's balance of power.

"Honk for your next United States senators Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock," Biden told the crowd at the drive-in event in Atlanta as he urged vot-

ers to turn out in force on January 5. "Send me these two men, and we will control the Senate!"

One day after the Electoral College affirmed Biden's victory, attention shifted to the looming Senate battle -- and to the shape of the incoming administration, as Biden also announced he had nominated Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor and presidential rival, as secretary of transportation.

SOURCE: AFP



LATEST PROJECTIONS

## Greek budget foresees weaker recovery from virus-hit 2020

GREEK lawmakers on Tuesday approved a 2021 budget built around weaker forecasts for a rebound from the coronavirus pandemic, which also includes cash for buying new fighter jets from France.

Latest projections see the Greek economy slumping 10.5 per cent this year, worse than the 8.2 per cent predicted in October.

Meanwhile the 2021 rebound should see 4.8 per cent expansion, down from a previous forecast of 7.5 per cent.

After weathering the first wave of the pandemic better than most European countries, Greece in early November resorted to a nationwide lockdown that has weighed on activity and is now expected to last until January 7.

The economy had returned to growth in the third quarter, following a 14-per cent quarter-on-quarter slump in April-June that was the worst in at least 25 years.

SOURCE: AFP

HIGH GROWTH RATES PREDICTED

## Strong virus response helps Vietnam's economy weather pandemic

A strong response to the coronavirus pandemic, surging exports and healthy public spending have helped Vietnam buck a global recession in 2020 and fast-track its recovery, with analysts predicting it will likely enjoy one of the highest growth rates in the world.

A strong response to the coronavirus pandemic, surging exports and healthy public spending have helped Vietnam buck a global recession in 2020 and fast-track its recovery, with analysts predicting it will likely enjoy one of the highest growth rates



A strong response to the coronavirus pandemic, surging exports and healthy public spending has helped Vietnam buck a global recession in 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

in the world.

But the pain is not over for some sectors with containment measures and border disruptions

hammering the country's tourism industry, and leaving the once-booming aviation sector limping.

While many countries

have suffered from high infection and mortality rates, Vietnam has recorded fewer than 1,500 coronavirus cases and 35 deaths thanks to mass quarantines, expansive contact-tracing and strict controls on movement, allowing factories to largely stay open and people to swiftly get back to work.

"The serious lockdown lasted for less than three months, so domestic activity was quickly back to normal by June," Nguyen Xuan Thanh, a public policy lecturer at Fulbright University Viet-

nam, told AFP.

While many Western countries were imploring citizens to stay home mid-year, Vietnamese people were able to flock to scenic beaches as the government tried to give the domestic tourism industry a much-needed shot in the arm.

There were grave fears for Vietnam's export-reliant economy as demand for clothing, footwear and smartphones slumped in some of its biggest markets including the European Union, Japan and South Korea.

SOURCE: AFP

### Ministry of Transport and Communications Myanma Port Authority Invitation to Open Tender

1. Myanma Port Authority is planning to construct the following two vessels by foreign currency, USD (United States Dollar) only within for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years. Therefore, interested Tenderers are cordially invited to submit complete project proposal for the following project-

No.	Particular	Currency	Tender closing date and time
1.	26M Grab Dredger Barge with 2.5M <sup>3</sup> Clamshell Crane (1-Unit)	USD only	18 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021 13:00 hrs
2.	250M <sup>3</sup> Self-propelled Split Hopper Barge (1-Unit)	USD only	18 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021 13:00 hrs

2. Tender Forms can be purchased at the planning Section, Theinbyu Dockyard, Mechanical Engineering Department, No.557/559, Strand Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar of during office hours starting from 21 Dec 2020.

3. Tender to be performed by one tender two sealed envelopes system, Prequalification Bid and Price Bid to be submitted with each sealed envelope. We will explain about the Prequalification Bid at 13:00 hrs. on 6 Jan 2021 at the Meeting Room-No.1 of Head Office, Myanma Port Authority, No-10 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

4. If you need more detailed information, please can be inquired at telephone no. 951-8610218, 951-8610225. Webmail: info@mpa.gov.mm

Myanma Port Authority



### Embassy of India, Yangon Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited for whitewashing/painting of Embassy Residence at 35, Thantaman Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Details of tender is available in the Embassy's website <https://embassyofindiayangon.gov.in/> Tender - Tender (Embassy's) and CPP Portal. The last date for bid submission is **28 December, 2020.**

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာ အဆင့်မီ  
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။  
**Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 01-8604530**

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
ကြော်ငြာချင်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအချင်စီများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ  
ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးဆွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။  
**Advertise with us. HOTLINE 09-974424848**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (207N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (207N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V FU RONG SONG V.63

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FU RONG SONG VOY. NO. (63)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S COSCO SHIPPING SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V PATRIOT SW V.1

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PATRIOT SW VOY. NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-5** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**





The New Hanthawaddy International Airport will be developed on over 9,600 acres of state-owned land on outskirts of Bago City. **PHOTO: THE GNLM**

## Infrastructural development projects to make Bago City a major transport hub

By Kyaw Htike Soe

“THE New Hanthawaddy International Airport will be implemented as a national project,” Vice-President U Henry Van Thio told the media. The new airport project will be developed on over 9,600 acres of state-owned land on outskirts of Bago City, about 75 km from commercial city Yangon.

The new airport, designed to be built in three phases, includes the construction of an international terminal with capacity for 12 million passengers p/a, a 3,600m runway capable of handling A340 and Boeing 747 aircraft, taxiways, 42 aircraft stands and installation of a baggage handling system and other support systems, according to an aviation website CAPA. Phase 1 of the HIA project is expected to complete in 2027 with the target of 8 million annual passenger handling capacity. It will mainly be composed of

one runway with 3,600 metres in length and 45 metres in width, one parallel taxiway, two taxiways, two high-speed taxiways, and other essential facilities. After Phase 3 is completed, which is estimated to be in 2048, it is targeted to reach 30 million annual passenger handling capacity.

The new airport will be the main gateway of Myanmar for attracting tourists and boosting freight economy and trade of the country. The new airport is estimated to cost between US\$1.5 billion and US\$2 billion to develop and become a major entry for international airlines to use and operate their businesses. Once completed, the airport will be the largest of its kind in Myanmar. The new airport is expected to draw more foreign direct flights to Myanmar and increase tourist arrivals as Bago Region lies on ASEAN highway. Industrial zones and dry ports will also be established in Bago Region as part of the ASEAN Highway, according

to Ministry of Construction. The development of the airport will increase commercial and industrial activities around Bago Region and beyond and raise the living standard of locals through the creation of job opportunities.

In addition, the Bago River Bridge (MyoOo Kin) project which started in the financial year 2018-2019 has fully completed recently, according to the bridge construction group. The Bago River Bridge (MyoOo Kin) was built by the Bridge Construction Group 9 of the Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction at the cost of K1.758 billion. The Bago River Bridge (MyoOo Kin) is located on SeinThaLyaung and ThameinBaran Roads, which allow vehicles to avoid congested downtown Bago. The Bago River Crossing Bridge (MyoOo Kin) is a two-lane reinforced concrete facility measuring 518 ft. in length and 28 ft. in width. The facility can withstand up to 60 tonnes of weight and have a 6-ft wide pedes-

trian walkway on each side. The bridge is a steel box girder with the floor of reinforced concrete and its piles are mainly constructed from reinforcement cement concrete. The bridge's clearance is 39 metres, and waterway under the facility is 3 metres. The bridge is connected with the Bago's detour and with the road network to

Yangon. The construction of the Bago River Bridge (MyoOoKin) started in February 2019 and was completed on November 29 this year. The new bridge is scheduled to be opened to traffic soon. With the opening of the new bridge, traffic congestion in Bago will be reduced to a certain extent, which will help speed up the flow



The Bago River Bridge (MyoOo Kin) is set to open to traffic soon. **PHOTO: THE MIR**





of goods, according to the bridge construction group. Local people near Bago City will be able to use the new bridge in all seasons with greater ease.

The new bridge would contribute to the development of trade in the area, facilitate the swift flow of commodities and reduce transport charges for local people. The new bridge is expected to provide better road transportation for locals and contribute to the balanced growth between rural and urban areas.



ROR

# Small business guide to maximizing sales this holiday season

*Five strategies to prepare your business for a busy holiday season in the era of COVID-19*

**T**HE holiday shopping season is fast approaching, and that means small businesses are preparing for what is normally the biggest shopping season of the year. But this year is anything but normal. The pandemic has changed the way we shop around the globe, with a huge shift to e-commerce and contactless payments. Small businesses looking to reach their customers this season are taking note.

The Visa Back to the Business Study, Holiday Edition found that consumers are still ready to shop for the holidays, with 88% of consumers planning to buy and give gifts despite the pandemic. Most small businesses (60%) say they are already taking steps to prepare for the seasonal sales activity, including changing their infrastructure, digitizing their business, and extending their hours.

According to our research, COVID-19 has accelerated these five trends. For small business owners, making the most of these findings could help you reach new customers by taking advantage of the benefits of digital.

## **E-commerce "In Real Life."**

Nationwide shutdowns not only sparked a coronavirus-driven surge in traditional e-commerce, but the lines between online, mobile and physical world have completely blurred with curbside pick-up, aka "click and collect."

While the Visa Back to the Business Holiday Study found 59% of consumers who have relied more on e-commerce during COVID-19 will shop online for half or more of their holiday shopping, a substantial number of holiday shoppers are still eager to shop in store or "In Real Life" (IRL, for short). This trend has not been limited to large merchants either. Bars, restaurants and small merchants of all stripes have quickly embraced this.

Yet, nearly half (48%) of consumers still plan to

do most of their shopping in-person. Visa strongly believes that these virtual and physical lines are likely forever blurred, making it more important than ever to create not just an online presence, but an omnichannel approach.

## **Social commerce is officially a thing.**

Social commerce and mini-apps such as WeChat are popular in Asian markets and making their way West fast. These experiences connect social interactions online with convenient shopping experiences, allowing people to buy products without leaving the app. Predictions suggest that more than 10% of mobile orders will happen through social commerce this holiday season [1], with 66% of Gen Z saying that they've already purchased on social during the pandemic. According to the Visa Back to the Business report, more than a quarter of small businesses or "SMBs" (28%) have tried targeted advertising on social media, which is an important first step to reaching new customers.

## **Contactless has become a key differentiator.**

In the Visa Back to the Business study, 78% of consumers said they had changed the way they pay, making a shift to digital

commerce and technologies like contactless payments as a safety measure in the wake of COVID-19. The growing popularity of contactless payments around the world indicates that the convenience, speed and safety of tapping to pay are preferred over traditional methods, and SMBs should be hyper-focused on prioritizing a user-friendly buying and the checkout experience. Nearly two-thirds of global consumers, in fact, would switch to a new business that installed contactless payment options. **Gift cards and kits are growing in popularity.**

According to the Back to the Business Holiday study, consumers expect to give more digital gift cards (32%) compared to previous years, followed by experiences like tickets, activities or trips (19%) and digital entertainment (18%). Retailers who think "beyond the shop" have the opportunity to be better prepared for more restrictions come winter.

## **Be sure you are protected.**

Before the pandemic, it was easy to assume that fraudsters would try and hack the large merchants and organizations. Unfortunately, they have found that many SMB's aren't adequately protecting themselves, making them an easy target

for a fraudulent activity like card testing or needing to reevaluate how they manage disputes given the many changes COVID-19 brought on. Retailers need to keep their fraud strategy top of mind and balance it with a smooth customer experience – especially with the anticipated uptick in online holiday sales. The best way to find a solution that works for your business is to use fraud tools that are simple to configure and easy to deploy. Work with your payment provider to figure out how to increase your authorization rates while minimizing declines and fraudulent transactions.

Small businesses account for more than one-half of global employment. While COVID-19 has proven the resilience of small business entrepreneurs, it has also exposed their vulnerabilities. Taking creative and actionable steps to swiftly change with the times and respond to the demands of consumers has helped many small business owners thrive and innovate despite the circumstances. In fact, most small business owners remain optimistic about the future (75%), and that is not only a silver lining, but it is good for business.—GNLM



PHOTO: SUPPLIED



## Star goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Aung joins Hantharwady United

HANTHARWADY United have welcomed national team goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Aung as a preparation for the upcoming Myanmar National League season plus 2021 AFC Cup tourney.

The star keeper played for Southern Myanmar FC in previous Myanmar National League seasons.

Pyae Phyo Aung, one of the favourite players of head coach U Myo Min Tun, was submitted to the team's Board of Directors and the team will sign the star goalie on a three-year contract, Hantharwady United stated.

Hantharwady United, who are currently preparing for the new season, will continue to bring in some of the crucial players soon, head coach U Myo Min Tun said.

Hantharwady United also reorganize coaching staff for the new football season and the 2021 AFC Cup Qualifying Play-Off football matches.

The new coaching staff was submitted by the head coach U Myo Min Tun and approved by the team's officials.

The newly formed Han-



Myanmar national team goal keeper Pyae Phyo Aung. PHOTO: MNL

tharwady United coaching staff are U Myo Min Tun as a head coach, U Nyan Win as a technical advisor, U Tin Win as an assistant coach, U Chit

Ko Ko as another assistant coach, U Aung Thet as a goal coach and U Aung Latt Thu as a fitness instructor. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Mourinho takes swipe at wounded Liverpool ahead of summit meeting

LONDON — Jose Mourinho took a swipe at title rivals Liverpool on Tuesday as the Tottenham manager claimed the Premier League champions do not have an injury crisis.

Jurgen Klopp's side will be without a host of injured stars including Virgil Van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Diego Jota and Thiago Alcantara when leaders Tottenham face second placed Liverpool at Anfield on Wednesday.

Xherdan Shaqiri, Kostas Tsimikas and James Milner are also sidelined for Liverpool, while Naby Keita and Joel Mat-

ip could miss out due to injury issues.

But Mourinho insisted Liverpool's strongest team has not been affected because Netherlands centre-back Van Dijk is their only significant absentee.

"I think Alisson is not injured. Alexander-Arnold is not injured. Matip, I believe that he's going to play. Fabinho is not injured. Robertson is not injured. Henderson is not injured. Wijnaldum is not injured. Salah is not injured, Firmino is not injured, Mane is not injured," Mourinho told reporters on Tuesday.—AFP ■

## Golovkin warns De La Hoya over comeback talk

LOS ANGELES — Gennady Golovkin issued a deadly warning to Oscar De La Hoya on Tuesday after the US boxing legend said he wanted to fight the middleweight world champion when he makes his improbable return to boxing.

The 47-year-old De La Hoya, who announced in August he plans to come out of retirement after a 12-year absence from the ring, said recently he wants to fight IBF world champion Golovkin on his return.

"You know how easy GGG would be for me? Oh, my gosh," De La Hoya told the Boxing Scene website last month.

"I always took a good shot and I always took apart fighters like him. In my mind it would be that easy."

But Golovkin, who is preparing for a mandatory defence of his title against Poland's unbeaten Kamil Szeremeta in Florida on Friday, brushed off De La Hoya's trash talk.—AFP ■

## PSG face Barcelona in Champions League knockout phase

PARIS — Paris Saint-Germain, last season's beaten finalists, will face Barcelona in the last 16 of the Champions League while Liverpool were paired with RB Leipzig in Monday's draw.

French champions PSG will relish another chance to avenge their soul-destroying 'Remontada' defeat to the Catalan giants in 2017.

Having beaten Barca 4-0 in the French capital, PSG crashed to a 6-1 defeat at the Camp Nou orchestrated by Neymar.

The Brazilian, who won the 2015 Champions League with Barca, then joined PSG in a world record move weeks later but has yet to taste similar European success with Ligue 1's dominant force.

They came closest last season when they were beaten 1-0 in the final by Bayern Munich, who claimed a sixth European

crown thanks to a goal from PSG youth product Kingsley Coman.

With the first legs due to be played in February, PSG seem hopeful Neymar will have recovered in time from an ankle injury which forced him to be stretchered off the pitch in his side's 1-0 Ligue 1 defeat to Lyon on Sunday.

On Monday PSG said Neymar's prognosis was "reassuring" while the 28-year-old said on Instagram that his injury "could have been worse" following a rough tackle from Lyon midfielder Thiago Mendes which left him screaming in agony.

Barca may not be as intimidating opponents as in the past after a troubled start to the season influenced by boardroom chaos and Lionel Messi's attempt to leave the club in the summer.—AFP ■



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (R) is challenged by Istanbul Basaksehir's Turkish defender Hasan Ali Kaldirim during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Istanbul Basaksehir FK. PHOTO: AFP