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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 23 December 2020

## VP U Henry Van Thio inspects construction of Lailenpi airstrip in Matupi Township

VICE-President U Henry Van Thio and officials made an inspection tour to the Lailenpi airstrip project in Matupi Township in Mindat district of Chin State, yesterday afternoon.

The Vice-President, together with Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phone Myat, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo and officials, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU airport by helicopters in the morning. From there they continued their journey by helicopters to Chin State.

On arrival at the Lailenpi airstrip project, they were welcomed by Chief Minister of Chin State U Salai Lian Luai, state government members and officials.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo and Engineer In-charge of airstrip construction Mr Terry presented a progress report.

Town elder U Hi Wah reported on the needs for local development. Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phone Myat and state govern-

ment ministers participated in the discussions.

The Vice-President gave comments and suggestions based on the discussions before inspecting the construction of airstrip by car.

The project was funded by the Mission Aviation Fellowship to reduce obstacles to healthcare services for local people in southern Chin State and to encourage the development of more effective transportation for the area.

The project was approved at meeting number 12/2017 of the Union Government. Construction was started in May 2019, and to date 75 per cent has been completed. The Lailenpi airstrip is the first-ever project constructed by an international organization with full financial and technical assistance in Myanmar.

It is located at an altitude of 4,918-ft with a 2,500-ft long and 50-ft wide runway. Caravan Cessna aircraft can land at the airstrip. It has a parking area of 150-ft length and 200-ft width.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio and officials are seen looking into the progress of the Lailenpi airstrip project in Matupi Township, Chin State on 22 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Japan donates COVID-19 devices to MoHS



The Japanese government and its people donate medical supplies to the MoHS on 22 December 2020. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE Japanese Government and its people donated COVID-19 medical devices to the Ministry of Health and Sports, yesterday morning in Yangon. At the donation ceremony, Mr Takimi Kazuyuki, the Counsellor of the Embassy of

Japan in Myanmar, handed over the second batch of donation which included 10 sets of mobile X-Rays, and 100 sets of syringe pumps and 100 sets of suction pumps to the Myanmar officials. Japan has donated medi-

cal equipment and supplies for the COVID-19 Intensive Care Units in Myanmar during the outbreak and plans are underway to provide ambulances. —Zaw Gyi  
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar Gazette

## Heads of Service Organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Aye Ko Ko Deputy Director-General Political Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Dr Nay Win Oo Deputy Permanent Secretary (Deputy Director-General) Union Minister Office Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (Research) Ministry of Education

## Community COVID Counselling available free on mobile phones

The Community COVID Counselling will be available free on mobile phones from 9 am to 10 pm every day. The services can be received through mobile phone numbers 09 770 770 001 (Telenor), 09 770 770 011 (Telenor),

09 980 000 112 (Ooredoo) and 09 980 000 113 (Ooredoo). The counselling programme is jointly provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Myanmar Medical Association. —MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees are seen under Immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

THE 36<sup>th</sup> relief flight of Myanmar Airways International organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul landed at Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 78 Myanmar nationals after they were stranded in the Republic of Korea due to the suspension of international flights yesterday evening. The returnee group included 44 persons from the ROK, 3 from

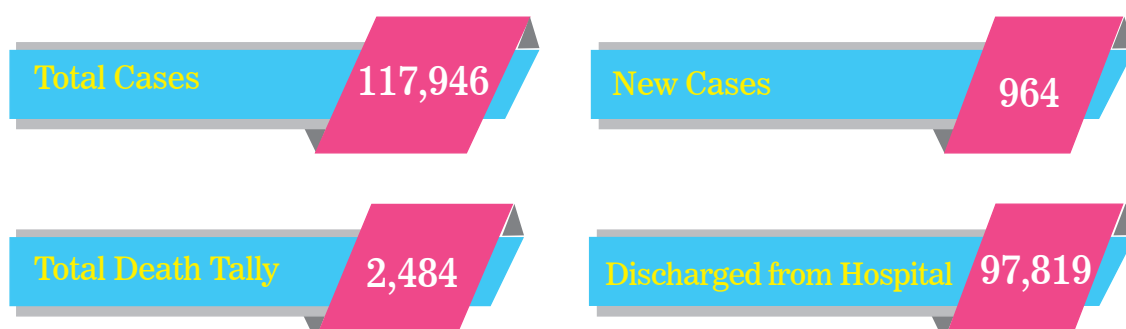
Brazil, 1 from Canada, 1 from Norway, 6 from Switzerland, 6 from South Africa, 2 from the UK and 15 from the US. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 7-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine. To bring back the Myan-

mar 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 and Myanmar embassies from respective countries. —MNA  
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

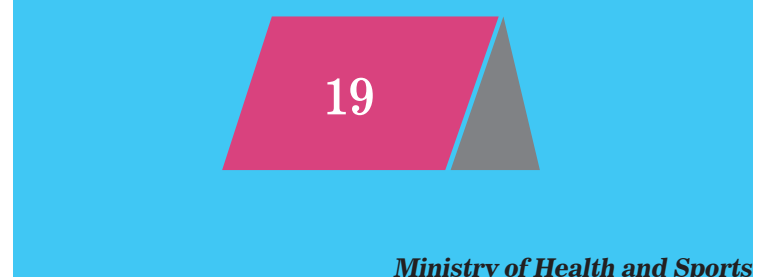
## 964 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 December, total figure rises to 117,946

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 117,946 after 964 new cases were reported on 22 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 117,946 confirmed cases, 2,484 died, 97,819 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 22 December 2020



Daily death toll until 8 pm 22-12-2020



## 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

## Union Minister U Soe Win holds virtual meeting with ADB officials



MoPFI Union Minister U Soe Win meets ADB Country Director Mr Newin Sinsiri and officials online on 22 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win held a virtual meeting with Asian Development Bank Country Director Mr Newin Sinsiri and his group yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Mr Newin Sinsiri and ADB officials made their remarks on COVID-19 crisis in Myanmar and explained ADB's plan to set up a US\$9 billion Asia-Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) to help developing countries purchase COVID-19 vaccine effectively.

ADB officials said that under Rapid Response Component (RRC) and Project Investment Component (PIC), ADB would

help APVAX member nations purchase COVID-19 vaccines. They also explained loan terms and conditions related to APVAX.

The Union Minister and officials explained that the ministry is working with international organizations, such as the World Bank and the ADB to obtain financial support to purchase COVID-19 vaccines.

Both sides discussed the Rapid Response Component (RRC) and Project Investment Component (PIC) of the APVAX and the loan terms.—MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

## Research papers on forest, mining and environment read via videoconferencing

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation organized a virtual opening ceremony of the 32<sup>nd</sup> paper reading session on forest, mining and environmental research, via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the virtual opening ceremony, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said that it is very important for the development of research and education for the long-term development of a nation.

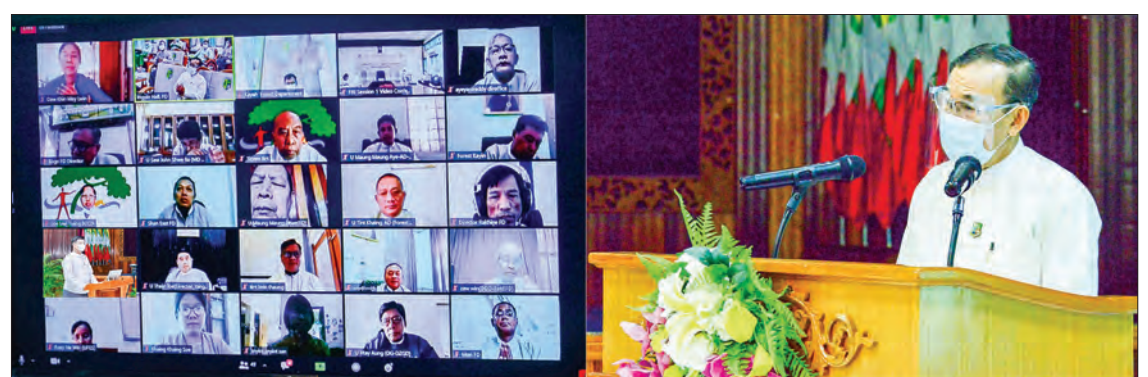
He continued that the duty of his ministry is to make effective efforts for sustainable management of forest resources, environmental conservation, and systematic exploitation of mineral resources for economic growth without harming the natural en-

vironment.

Regarding the research, the Union Minister said that research needs to be conducted by using new approaches to solve forest and environmental issues. He added that applied research is very important to solve this problem.

He also urged the researchers to cooperate with local and foreign organizations. Now, the Forest, Mining and Environmental Research Advisory Committee led by the Deputy Minister has also been formed.

The 52 research papers on Forest, Mining and Environmental issues will be read and submitted in the two-day session. Not only papers written by researchers from the Forest Research Institute, but also the



Union Minister U Ohn Win addresses the research papers reading session via videoconferencing on 22 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

dissertations of graduates of MSc and PhD programmes who have returned from various foreign universities will be read in the two-day session.

Forest Department Director-General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, ECCDI Chairperson retired Director-General Dr Kyaw Tint,

Nature Conservancy's Myanmar Programme Director Dr Tint Lwin Thaung served as keynote speakers in the ceremony, and they discussed challenging forestry issues, climate change, history of forest research, and international and local research on forest, mining and environmental issues.

The research papers on forestry, climate change, biodiversity, responsible wood utilization, environmental conservation and mining have been read in the two-day paper reading session.—MNA

*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

# "People are the key"

## India - Myanmar Chamber of Commerce launches Catalog 2020

U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday joined members of the India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) in launching the IMCC 2020 Catalog.

The IMCC 2020 Catalog provides Indian investors with an up-to-date overview of Myanmar's investment and broader regulatory environment. This catalog will assist the Indian business community as they consider stepping up their investment activities in Myanmar.

The Union Minister used the opportunity to highlight the strong bilateral ties shared between India and Myanmar while highlighting a range of new investment opportunities now available to Indian investors as



Union Minister U Thaung Tun joins the virtual launching of IMCC 2020 Catalog on 22 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Why invest in Myanmar now? I say - with this government's pursuit of broad-based, sustainable, and inclusive growth, Myanmar offers one of the most exciting frontier investment destinations currently on offer anywhere.

a result of recent reforms.

Moreover, he said that the Government of Myanmar made the full commitment to creating

a favourable, more attractive, and investor-friendly environment, stating: "And yet, in light of global uncertainty, some may

well ask: What might Myanmar offer Indian investors at this moment? Why invest in Myanmar now? I say - with this government's pursuit of broad-based, sustainable, and inclusive growth, Myanmar offers one of the most exciting frontier investment destinations currently on offer anywhere."

The Union Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to furthering Myanmar-India investment ties.

The event was attended by over 80 individuals, including U Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Daw Thway Thway Chit, Director-General of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Shri Saurabh Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, U Zaw Min Win, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Mr Sunil Seth, President of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and the members of the IMCC.—MNA

## 2,000 rice bags of APTERR Tier 3 programme reach Magway COVID centres



Magway Region government distributed 2,000 rice bags, donated by the Korean government, to the COVID centres in the region starting from 21 December. **PHOTO: ZEYATU (MAGWAY)**

MAGWAY Region government distributed 2,000 rice bags to COVID-19 centres in the region.

The rice is donated by the Korean government under Tier 3 of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) as prepositioned.

The ROK has provided 600 tonnes of rice to the people living in Sagaing, Magway, Taninthayi

and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Mon, Chin, Kayah and Kachin States.

Magway Region received an allocation of 100 tonnes of rice (2500 bags each weighing 40 kg), according to region Agriculture Department.

"We started distributing the rice on 21 December. The officials of six townships took

the rice.

There are over 500 quarantine centres in 25 townships of Magway Region and about 3,000 people who undergo quarantine, according to Assistant Director for region Public Health Department Dr Khin Maung Than.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## 9 Myanmar returnees from China arrive in Chinshwehaw border crossing

A total of 9 Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back home through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw on 21 December.

The group of 3 males and 6 females were 1 from Haingyikyun, 3 from Lashio, 2 from Namtu, 1 from Kutkai, 1 from Mongmit and 1 from Kunlong townships.

Among them, 1 returnee

from Kunlong Township was transferred to the local quarantine centre and the remaining 8 persons are kept at the COVID centre in Chinshwehaw.

The Rapid Test Kit will be used in undertaking their medical test, and their swabs will be examined at the Public Health Laboratory in Muse Township.—Zin Zin (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back home through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

## We will conduct the vaccination programme all over the country without leaving anyone behind

Some persons might think that they would not get an infection after they have received COVID-19 vaccination in a very flippant manner. We will conduct the vaccination programme all over the country without leaving anyone behind. This is our policy. No one will be left behind. We have made plans to provide healthcare services to all. However, the vaccination programme cannot be launched across the country for everyone at the same time. It will take months. Please don't think that the vaccination programme can be implemented right now, today, tomorrow or day after tomorrow. Moreover, the vaccination programme is not likely to begin this month, although we have ordered the vaccine and have drawn up the vaccination plan. The vaccine stock will not arrive immediately. We will try to get it as early as possible. The vaccination programme will need months to reach the whole country. During this period, we need to maintain great vigilance. If the outbreak of the disease occurs continuously, it would be an obstacle to the economic recovery of our country.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 containment measures, on 12 December 2020)*



## Pre-Christmas worship service held via videoconferencing

THE Nay Pyi Taw Christian Church of Myanmar in Pyinmana Township organized a worship service via videoconferencing ahead of Christmas yesterday.

Dr Shwe Hluan, the wife of Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko extended Christmas greetings at the event.

Heads of Christian churches delivered remarks on the special pre-worship services to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

In making the speech, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko extends Christmas greetings at the online pre-Christmas worship service on 22 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

expressed his appreciation for the prayers of Christians in line with the wishes of Jesus Christ for loving-kindness and peace of the world.

He also highlighted the fundamental needs of mutual understanding, magnanimity and forgiveness for peaceful coexistence among people from different faiths.

The Union Minister made wishes of 'Happy Christmas' and overcoming COVID-19 crisis.

The event was concluded with prayers, bible reading and Christmas carols.—MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## European Union multimedia campaign A Le Htoe raises action for gender equality in Myanmar

VIOLENCE against women can only be eradicated if universally and unequivocally condemned. Men must stand with women for equality. This is the message of a new public education video from the European Union in Myanmar and world champion fighter Aung La Nsang. The new video will premiere today as part of the 'A Le Htoe', Myanmar action against gender-based violence (GBV) campaign. A Le Htoe –which means knockout in Burmese–denounces norms and traditional roles that lead to or intensify violence against women. According to Aung La Nsang, we must first “knockout” the beliefs that normalise, reward or heighten violence against women. Only

by doing so and by behaving respectfully and promoting equality at home, at work and within our communities can we work towards eradicating violence against women. A father of two, Aung La Nsang believes change can already start at home, with spouses sharing responsibilities and by instilling the positive values of respect and equality to their children. He is leading the fight against GBV, together with Myanmar gender equality ambassadors –actor Aung Myint Myat; MMA fighter Phoe Thaw; football star Kyaw Min Oo; musicians R Zarni, Raymond (Idiots Band), Bon Bon and Eisi Kway; entrepreneur and social influencer Yin Yin Hnounge' vlogger

Mommy Pan (Hazel Seng Pan); and reproductive health specialist and author Dr Phyo Thiha. Gender-based violence is one of the world's most pervasive and yet largely unreported human rights violations. It can be experienced by anyone, but disproportionately affects women. According to the World Health Organization, one in every three women experience GBV in their lifetime. GBV is prevalent throughout Myanmar but often, those who experience it suffer in silence.

A Le Htoe kicked off in line with the global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV (25 November) and will run until February 2021. A range of multimedia content and activities depicting the dif-

ferent aspects of GBV are being disseminated across digital and mass media channels, including infographic posts, animation videos, and public education videos for online, national radio and TV. A Le Htoe also features series of webinars and broadcast interviews featuring Myanmar gender experts from EU-funded programmes such as Women and Girls First implemented by the

UN Population Fund (UNFPA); Safe & Fair implemented by UN Women and the International Labour Organization (ILO) as part of the worldwide Spotlight Initiative; the Empower Civil Society Organization and Local Authorities Promoting Gender Equality in Myanmar project with the Gender Equality Network; and MyJustice Myanmar implemented by the British Council. — GNLM



## Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Office of the President

## Press Release 44/2020

7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nadaw 1382 ME  
(21 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 19 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 Khay Soe, who lives in Inngyinmyaing ward in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 14 December 2020, on Kukko Kone-Aung Chan Tha Village road, in Kyunhla Township, police arrested Thura Aung, 28, son of U Kyaw Aung, who lives in Pynmamaing ward, Khay Soe, 28, son of U Nyo Aye, who lives in Inngyinmyaing ward, Aung Kyaw Thu (a) Kyaw Gyi, 26, son of U Khin Maung Lay, who lives in Pynmamaing ward, and Than Zaw Win, 27, son of U Aung Than, who lives in the same ward, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kyunhla) MaYa (Pa) 21/2020 under Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Ma Mi Cho (a) Ei Cho, who lives in Panga Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 17 December 2020, police searched the house of Ma Aye Mon (a) Mi Cho (a) Ei Cho, 38, daughter of U Tun Shein, who lives in Panga Village in Thanbyuzayat Township and arrested her and her husband Than Win Aung (a) Abyote, 29, son of U Ba Shein, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Thanbyuzayat) MaYa (Pa) 67/2020 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Okka, who lives in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 14 December 2020, police searched the house of Okka (a) Kyaw Ze Ya (a) Kyaw Tote, 33, son of U Myint Thein (a) Than Tote, who lives in Sangyoung (South) Ward, Sangyoung Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sangyoung) MaYa (Pa) 24/2020 under the Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of people in Kannar ward (west), Insein Township, Yangon Region, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 6 cases have been identified and 12 male suspects have been charged with the possession of illegal drugs. On 14 December 2020, according to the series of previous arrests, police searched the house of Win Ko Aung (a) Apanar, 27, son of U Aung Kyaw Moe, who lives in Kannar ward (west) in Insein Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa (Pa) 169/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Kyan Chaung and his grandmother Daw Than Hla (a) Daw Than, who lives in Phayarkone Village in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 15 December 2020, police searched the house of Daw Tin Tin Than (a) Daw Than (a) Daw Than Hla, 72, daughter of U Tin Aye and arrested her and her grandson Kyaw Thiha Tun (a) Kyan Chaung, 25, son of U Hla Moe, who lives in Phayarkone Village in Thanlyin Township, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Thanlyin) MaYa (Pa) 73/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of people in Botunzan ward in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 17 December 2020, at the corner of Mattabala Road and Min Nandar Road, Botunzan ward, in Dawbon Township, police arrested Aung Ko Oo (a) Aung Ye Paing, 25, son of U Aye Paing, who lives in ward (7), Thakayta Township, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa (Pa)41/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 19 December 2020, police also arrested Min Thu Khant (a) Pho Thar, 24, son of U Soe Wai Latt, who lives in the same ward, and his brother Aung Hein Khant (a) Pho Htwe, 20, together with marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa (Pa) 42/2020 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to further investigation, police also arrested Myint Maung, 31, son of U Kyaw Soe Win, who lives in (6/east) ward in Thakayta, together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa (Pa) 43/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Myint Swe, who lives in Ponnagon ward in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 17 December 2020, police searched the house of Myint Swe, 66, son of U Myint Thu, who lives in Ponnagon ward in Tamway Township but didn't find him and arrested his son Zaw Aung Htet (a) Pho Thar, 16, son of U Myint Swe, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Tamway) MaYa (Pa) 56/2020 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Nay Tun, who lives in ward 14 in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 18 December 2020, police searched the house of Nay Tun, 52, son of U Hla Shwe, who lives in ward 14, South Okkalapa Township, and arrested him and his wife Daw Kathy Maw, 48, daughter of U Maung Phone, together with WY/R stimulant tablets, ICE and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Southokkalapa) MaYa (Pa) 45/2020 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Amay San, who lives in ward (Ka), Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 18 December 2020, police searched the house of Amay San (a) Daw Tin Myint, 49, daughter of U Be U (a) Maung Soe, who lives in ward (Ka), Thingangyun Township but didn't find her and arrested her son Amin Khan (a) Aung Aung, 29, son of U Thaug Tan, Aye Lwin (a) Dawot, 24, son of U Than Htike, who lives in ward (Ga) and Than Oo (a) Ume, 27, son of U Soe Naing, who lives in lower Pazundaung ward in Pazundaung Township, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Thuwunna) MaYa (Pa) 70/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of people who lives in the wards of Namtu Township in Northern Shan State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 18 November 2020, police arrested Saung Oo Hlaing, 23, son of U Myint Aung, who lives in ward (1) in Namtu Township together with 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa (Pa) 10/2020 under the Section 16 (c) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of people who lives in ward (5) in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 22 cases have been identified and 22 male suspects and 6 female suspects, totally 28 suspects have been charged with the possession of illegal drugs. On 19 December 2020, according to the series of previous arrests, police searched the house of Tun Tun, 48, son of U Win, who lives in ward (5) in Lashio Township and arrested him together with 88/1 stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa (Pa) 166/2020 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,466 cases have been opened files as of 19 December 2020. A total of 2,237 people, including 1,865 men and 372 women had been arrested with 11,133.1514 g of heroin, 1,490.92 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, 700,074 stimulant tablets, 15,559.19 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.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

## Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

# Black bean price plummets under K1 mln per tonne

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of black bean continuously plummeted under K1 million per tonne in the local bean market for lack of demand for the black bean from India, according to the trade data stated by Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Exchange).

Although the price of the domestic black bean hit K1,152,500 per tonne in the end-October because there was the demand from India, the cost of black bean fell to 974,000 per tonne on 22 December, which is a decrease by K180,000 per tonne.

On 1 October, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India issued a notification to purchase 150,000 tonnes of black beans and the import deadline is March 2021. The licence will be equally granted to India's



A worker carries a sack of black bean in a warehouse in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

companies.

Currently, Myanmar has stockpiled around under 100,000

tonnes of black bean in the local market, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame

Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

Although Myanmar does

not have sufficient stock, for now, it can reach the quota of 150,000 tonnes along with the beans which will be harvested in the next season, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the MPBSSMA.

Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black bean and pigeon peas.

Myanmar has to export black bean and pigeon peas under a quota system and limit period.

Consequently, there is no guarantee that we could get the prevailing market price next year; the market observers shared their opinions.

Following no assurance of black beans and pigeon peas in the markets, the association suggested on the end-October that the local farmers grow black-eyed beans more.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## 1,000 companies struck off register due to absence of AR: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 1,000 companies has been struck off the register as they fail to submit an annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended. The DICA found that 1,000 companies were unable to restore its status within six months of suspension under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law and the companies were struck off the register starting from 7 December, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266

(A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their position only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee,

K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Since then, 38,340 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing the total number of registered companies to 84,717 by October-end 2020. Typically, MyCO is receiving more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month. At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar exports plunge by \$1.2 bln as of 11 Dec amid COVID resurgence

MYANMAR exports over past two months of the current financial year 2020-2021 plummeted to US\$2.647 billion, reflecting a tremendous drop of \$1.2 billion compared with a year-ago period of the previous FY, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the corresponding period in the previous FY, exports stood at \$3.847 billion, according to the data released by the ministry.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. Moreover, the severe container shortage has become the biggest disrupter in shipping amid the coronavirus impacts, on the back of robust demand on the Asia-Europe and transpacific trade. Container shipping costs are drastically surging. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates to almost triple in Myanmar, causing delays for exporters.

Of the seven export groups, agricultural exports showed an increase of \$147

million against a year-ago period. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products, minerals, fishery products and finished industrial goods declined.

Between 1 October and 11 December of the current FY, export values have registered at \$845.63 million for agro products, \$14.4 million for livestock, \$184.233 million for fishery products, \$233.448 million for minerals, \$23.7 million for forest products, \$1.257 billion for manufactured goods, and \$88.574 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. At present, CMP garment exports drastically dropping as the western countries cancelled order amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion and market diversification. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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# We remain committed to fighting human trafficking during and after COVID-19

**T**HE COVID-19 pandemic has created new risks and challenges to victims and survivors of trafficking around the globe, making more people vulnerable to human trafficking.

Due to COVID-19, there are fewer employment opportunities, creating more vulnerabilities and increasing the need to migrate elsewhere for job opportunities, which in turn may lead to increased cases of human trafficking.

The fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has also worsened the vulnerabilities of at-risk groups, especially women and children, to trafficking in human beings.

Like other small countries, Myanmar is not free from the menace of human trafficking, as agents of the criminal world are luring innocent people into their trap with false promises of better lives and occupations with higher salaries in wealthier countries.

The Union Government remains committed to delivering justice and human rights throughout the country during its second term and our country's anti-human trafficking central committee is implementing the tasks of the five-year anti-human trafficking

programme giving it a national-level priority.

However, the most important role that anti-trafficking agencies can play in accepting the victims, reintegration and their rehabilitation is to clearly understand their respective roles and responsibilities and the importance of cooperation with each other in providing effective remedies to survivors and victims.

Anti-trafficking bodies in our country should note that factors from COVID-19 restrictions and job losses to border closures could undo our achievements in tackling human trafficking in recent years.

Myanmar is facing both cross-border and domestic human trafficking, but cross-border trafficking is four times larger than within the country, as the business of selling people abroad brings in more money. Moreover, the number of women who fall victim to human trafficking is four times larger than that of male victims.

We can turn this tide by encouraging cooperation among community-based anti-trafficking bodies and authorities.

We would like to call on community-based anti-trafficking bodies, authorities concerned and survivors of past trafficking events to come together to take a role in helping not only those who have survived trafficking but also those who are still experiencing it.

While fighting against human trafficking, promoting a human rights based, gender and age-sensitive, trauma-informed, and victim-centred approach now and after the pandemic is a must.

# Hailing 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Yangon University (1920-2020); Yangon Universities' Boat Club (formerly known as Rangoon University Boat Club)

By: Tommy Pauk

**A**S a gesture of hailing the hundredth Anniversary of Yangon University, I have been writing articles in the Global New Light of Myanmar about the glorious and significant events, sport-club activities, Myanmar culture & fine arts clubs' activities and other activities of Yangon University (formerly known as Rangoon University) which were held within a hundred-year period. (From 1920 to 2020). Indeed, we can proudly say that University of Yangon (current name) is the mother of all universities in Myanmar who has given birth to brilliant and versatile graduates. In addition, those graduates became patriotic leaders, world prominent figures, celebs, artists, brilliant sportsmen and sports-women as well. Those of the graduates have glorified or dignified our country in many aspects from 1920 to 2020 so far. Moreover, they are eligible or qualified enough to take part in nation building tasks.

Since I am an alumnus of Rangoon University, I feel so inclined to write about the sport activities such as football, tennis, swimming and boat-rowing and so on. I intend the readers to learn or recount the fame and glory of Yangon University apart from its curriculum and knowledge bank imparting or disseminating to students of all majors (Arts and Sciences majors). Yangon University has continuously nurtured all major students with

the well-qualified faculty and advanced curricula to date.

Football, tennis and boat-rowing had been the most popular sports with the students of Yangon University (Rangoon University) during the early years of 20th century. At that time, playing football was the most popular game with the Rangoon University male students. Second to football, boat-rowing was the most popular with the students indeed.

Rangoon University Boat Club was founded in 1923 by Law Professor Sir Authur Eggar. The Club had financial assistance from Sir Authur's Trust with a handful of members and a locally built clinker-canoe for 12 paddles. A golden opportunity arose in 1923 when the University accepted an invitation from the Regatta authorities to participate in the amateur class in the regatta. In order to make his members participate in the special programmed boat-race on Yangon Kandawgyi lake (ရန်ကုန်ကန်တော်ကြီး), Mr Eggar rented two Myanmar traditional boats named 'Paddamyar' and 'Zawgyi Pyan' (ဝတ္တုဖြား နှင့် ခေတ်ရိပ်). Then the club team had successfully participated in that special show of boat race. This was the birth of the Club in a most informal manner. It had only a handful of members barely sufficient to man a pair of nine-oar laungs (မြန်မာလောင်းလှေ).

Rangoon University Boat

Club launched the inaugural ceremony in August, 1924. RUBC (Rangoon University Boat Club). Actually, it was formed with University College and Judson College. Afterwards, the club imported the English rowing-boats from England.

From the very beginning, it had no land of its own for a building site on the Inya Lake, nor any boat. The members had nothing to meet the needs of a rowing club but only their blind faith in their President\_ Mr. Eggar and their absolute determination to follow his lead. There were neither grand schemes nor rash promises. But a few months after the Royal Lake (ရန်ကုန်ကန်တော်ကြီး) Regatta, the Club became the proud possessor of a locally built



A bronze bust of Commodore Pe Than, who was a president of YUBC from 1958 to 1962.



SIR ARTHUR EGGAR FOUNDER AND LIFE PRESIDENT (1923-1958)



ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်လှေကွဲအဆင်း

The scene of Rangoon Boat Club on the back ground in 1939.

12- paddle clinker-canoe in addition to few Myanmar laungs (မြန်မာလောင်းလှေ) (Myanmar long and narrow racing boat) and bauktus (ဘောက်တူလှေ) (clinker-canoes) on loan.

The University authorities placed at its disposal as a temporary measure the University Swimming beach promontory where a zinc shed was built to house boats coming out from England. The students of Yangon University those wishing to become members had to learn how to swim before entering Yangon University Boat Club. When they became good swimmer, they were admitted to get membership of the boat club. Then they were trained to be the crew members

or rowers. Since Mr Eggar was a rowing enthusiast and he wanted to develop the rowing club in the Yangon University. In addition, Mr Eggar encouraged the University students to join Yangon University Boat Club. Thus, some university students those keen on art of rowing as a sport and became the crew members as well as boat club members.

Between the year 1930 and the year 1935, Rangoon University Boat Club owned two eight-man English rowing boats, two four-man English rowing boats, one-man English rowing boat and one eight- man barge (used for rowing training) The rapid progress of the Club within a few years was also due to kind patron-

age and assistance given in every possible way by Payataga (donor of Koe-hat-Kyee Buddha image) (ကိုးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားဒါယိကာ) U Kyaw and U Nyo. In 1925, U Kyaw bought two Myanmar laungs (မြန်မာလောင်းလှေများ) named "Min Gaung Kyaw and Hla Shwe Hintha (မင်းခေါင်ကျော် နှင့် လှရွှေဟင်္သာ) and donated to Rangoon University Boat Club. N.B. (မြန်မာလောင်းလှေ) (Myanmar long and narrow racing boat)

Later, the name — Rangoon University Boat Club was renamed Yangon Universities' Boat Club in order that the students from other Universities in Yangon could join or register as the club members. (Note; after Rangoon University was established in 1920 in the propinquity of the Inya lake (Victoria Lake) in Yangon Kamayut township area, the other Universities and colleges such as Medical College, Dental College, Rangoon Institute Technology (RIT) and Institute of Economics etc. were gradually established at the various places in Yangon local area. All those students from respective Universities and colleges can join Yangon Universities' Boat Club and practice rowing in line with the rules and regulations of the club. The generous contribution of U Nyo enabled to move to the present club site with spacious new boat house in 1927. The rowing club members acquired discipline and rowing spirit through hard training. Normally, they would become a bunch of amateurs in the rowing sport.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day Anniversary (2021)

### National Objectives

1. All Union nationals to protect and strive with "collective strength" for Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Unity, and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
2. All citizens to be able to enjoy on the same level - social equality, economic equality, political equality, equality as citizens, equal opportunity, and equality before the law.
3. To strive towards the amendment of the Constitution for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union.
4. To build a modern developed Democratic Federal Union by nurturing Union spirit for the perpetuation of the Union.
5. The government, together with the people to confront with collective strength the challenges faced by the entire people with increased momentum for all-round development of the country.

## U Soe Han presents Credentials to Emperor of Japan

U Soe Han, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Japan, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan, on 17 December 2020 in Tokyo.—MNA

## Appointment of Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to Myanmar agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Saleh Mohamed Ahmed Al Saqri as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi.

Mr Saleh Mohamed Ahmed Al Saqri was born in 1965. In 1989, he graduated from Yarmouk University, Jordan with a Bachelor Degree in Literature specialized in History and Political Science and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman. In 1992, he was appointed as a Vice-Consul in the Consulate-General of the Sultanate of Oman in Zanzibar, Tanzania. In 1997, he served as Head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Office for Economic Affairs in the Economic and Technical Cooperation Department. In 2004, he served at the Sultanate's Embassy in Saudi Arabia and was appointed as a Deputy Head of Mission in 2008. In 2009, he was Deputy Head of the Economic and Technical Cooperation Department, Bilateral Cooperation Affairs with Arab Countries. In 2010, he was appointed as Deputy Head of the Department of Economic Communities and Dialogue Groups. In 2013, he served as Charge d' Affaires at the Sultanate's Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2018, he was transferred to the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman. On 17 March 2020, he was appointed as Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Mr Saleh Mohamed Ahmed Al Saqri is fluent in Arabic, English and Swahili. He is married with five sons and a daughter. — MNA



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## Thailand to temporarily suspend border trade through Mawtaung-Singkhon from 24 Dec



Border crossing with Thailand has been closed down since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 21 March 2020. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

THAILAND will temporarily shut down border trade through Mawtaung-Singkhon starting from 24 December, according to an official statement of Prachuap Khiri Khan, the western province of Thailand.

"The emergency meeting of COVID-19 prevention and control committee (Prachuap Khiri Khan Province) decided on 21

December to halt border trade to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Samut Sakhong province which is adjacent to Prachuap Khiri Khan province. Thailand directly imports fishery products of Myeik District, Myanmar through Singkhon-Mawtaung border. Thailand's main cold storages and fish auction market are located in Maha Chai area

of Samut Sakhong. The trucks are daily entering this area. As Prachuap Khiri Khan has the highest risk for contracting the virus, the province will block the border," said U Aung Kyi Myint, liaison officer of Prachuap-Myeik sister cities.

To contain the spread of COVID-19 in Myeik district, Myanmar and in Samut Sakhong

Province, Prachuap Khiri Khan province will temporarily cut out all the interactions and ban the border trade amid the crisis, as per the outcome of an emergency meeting held on 21 December.

As the traders have already made an advance payment, the shutdown will start only from noon on 24 December. Therefore, they are urged to process the trading by noon on 24 December.

"Mawtaung-Singkhon is temporary border access during the pandemic. Only dried goods and some fishery products are allowed. The border crossing has been closed down since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 21 March 2020," U Aung Kyi Myint continued.

The closure of Singkhon border will hurt Myeik fishery production. Catching squid businesses in Myeik Archaeology might come to a halt, he added.

—Myint Oo (Myeik)  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Tourism development committee formed in Naga area

THE Naga Self-Administered Zone has formed the tourism development committee since November.

U Kay Sain, Chairman of Leading Body of the zone, said that the committee is comprised with 3 patrons, the chairman, Secretary and 23 members who are the Lehe Township police officer, legal officer, the officials from the Department of Planning, Department of Immigration, Fire Brigade, municipal committee, representatives of hotels, motels,

guesthouses, tourist guides, restaurants, transportation sector, town elders and members of civil society organizations.

The committee has set 21 objectives such as to develop the tourism industry, to promote the living standard and quality, to conserve the natural environment and to cooperate with the relevant organizations for human resource development.

—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)  
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Naga area has potentials for tourist attraction due to its traditional cultures. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

## Kayin State locals grow more watermelons this year for export

THE local villagers from Wae Pyan village on Papan-Kamamaung-Wabo road, Kayin State are growing more Taiwan watermelons species (855) and HERA species watermelon (locally named Dongyi) this year compared with those of last year, according to the local villagers.

This Wae Pyan village is mainly growing the monsoon paddy in the farmland except for the deep ground in monsoon season. This time, the local villagers are growing winter crops such as soybeans, green peas, black beans and watermelons.

The ten-day nursery wa-

termelon plants are transplanted in the bounded areas. The farmers irrigate the water for the growth of the watermelons from Thanlwin River. After two or three months, they pick up the watermelons and send them to the market.

The produced watermelons are sent not only to the local market but also exported to China market through the Muse land border. However, the local watermelon growers are concerned about the stability of the market. In 2019, the local growers were adversely affected by the export of watermelon because of speculations by the traders. This year, the cultivation of the watermelon

costs over K1 million per acre.

The local growers are saying that they deserve to get back last year losses and have requested the government to control the watermelon market to ensure

stability. In the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar exported over 600,000 tonnes of watermelon, earning over US\$500 million.

—Lin Thant (IPRD)  
(Translated by Hay Mar)



A watermelon cultivation plot in Kayin State. **PHOTO: LIN THANT (IPRD)**

BLANKET BANS

# Brussels recommends EU members lift UK travel bans



A man walks past the closed entrance of the Eurostar terminal at Brussels South railway station (Gare du Midi), in Brussels, on Dec. 21, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

THE European Commission has recommended that EU member states lift the blanket bans some have imposed on arrivals from Britain to allow essential journeys to resume.

“Flight and train bans should be discontinued given the need to ensure essential travel and avoid supply chain disruptions,” a statement from the EU executive said.

The statement comes as the British government is working with France in an attempt to find a way to lift border closures that have snarled one of Europe’s most important

trade routes just days before the Brexit cliff edge.

Much of the world closed its borders to the United Kingdom over recent days after the UK identified a highly infectious new coronavirus strain.

More than 1,500 lorries are backed up in Kent, unable to make the crossing to France, with drivers having spent a second night sleeping in their cabs.

“We speak to our colleagues in France constantly on a range of issues and that work has been underway over the last 24 hours and we’ll continue today,” British Home Secretary Priti Patel

told Sky News this morning.

Asked if there would be a resolution today, Ms Patel said: “We’re working to get a resolution. It’s in both our interests to ensure that we have flow. We’ll see what materializes today.”

“You will hear later on today about developments on the French freight ban.”

A possible solution could be mass testing of HGV drivers, while the BBC reported that plans to reopen the border will come into effect from tomorrow, citing French Europe Minister Clement Beaune.

SOURCE: AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW MEASURES EXPECTED

### France plans partial reopening of UK border

FRANCE will introduce a mandatory Covid-19 test requirement for French nationals seeking to return to the UK, reports France Info, citing government sources.

The requirement will also apply to professionals such as lorry drivers and to individuals with residency status in France.

For others, including British citizens, borders are expected to remain closed.

It is not known how long these measures will remain in force.

French President Emmanuel Macron and British PM Boris Johnson spoke yesterday evening about the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 and the impact on travel between the two countries.

The news comes as Brussels recommends resuming traffic with the United Kingdom for “essential trips”.—SOURCE: AFP

RESTRICTIONS UNTIL JANUARY 12

### Ireland imposes new virus curbs until after Christmas

IRELAND on Tuesday announced fresh coronavirus restrictions until January 12 to curb the spread of new infections.

In an address Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin said the country would return to the “level five of the plan for living with COVID” following a 10 per cent growth in the virus.

Under the restrictions families are asked to stay at home with certain exceptions.—SOURCE: AFP

INTERIOR MINISTRY

### France rewards frontline Covid workers with citizenship

HUNDREDS of foreigners in France whose jobs expose them to high Covid-19 risks will be naturalised quickly for their commitment during the health crisis, the interior ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry had in September invited people who “actively contributed” to the fight against the novel coronavirus to apply for fast-track naturalisation.

Of the nearly 3,000 people who responded, 74 had already obtained citizenship and 693 more were in the final stage of the process, the office of Marlene Schiappa, junior minister for citizenship, said in a statement.—SOURCE: AFP

AFTER MUTATION DISCOVERY

## BioNTech says it can make mutation-beating vaccine in six weeks

THE co-founder of BioNTech said Tuesday it was “highly likely” that its vaccine against the coronavirus works against the mutated strain detected in Britain, but it could also adapt the vaccine if necessary in six weeks.

“Scientifically, it is highly likely that the immune response by this vaccine also can deal with the new virus variant,” said Ugur Sahin. But if needed, “in principle the beauty of the messenger technology is that we can directly start to engineer a vaccine which completely mimics this new mutation – we could be able to provide a new vaccine technically within six weeks.”

Sahin said the variant de-

tected in Britain has nine mutations, rather than just one as is usually common. Nevertheless, he voiced confidence that the vaccine developed with Pfizer would be efficient because it “contains more than 1,000 amino acids, and only nine of them have changed, so that means 99 per cent of the protein is still the same”.

He said tests are being run on the variant, with results expected in two weeks.

“We have scientific confidence that the vaccine might protect but we will only know it if the experiment is done... we will publish the data as soon as possible,” he added.

SOURCE: AFP



The co-founder of BioNTech said Tuesday it was “highly likely” that its vaccine against the coronavirus works against the mutated strain detected in Britain, but it could also adapt the vaccine if necessary in six weeks. PHOTO: AFP

DIP IN TRAVEL

## EasyJet delays delivery of Airbus planes

EASYJET has delayed delivery of new Airbus planes, the British

no-frills airline announced Tuesday, as the coronavirus pandemic

destroys demand for air travel.

A total of 22 aircraft due between 2022 and 2024 will be deferred until 2027-28, EasyJet said in a statement.

Other deliveries due 2022-24 will have flexible timings.

“In this period of uncertainty, this flexibility is even more valuable, as it will enable us to quickly flex our fleet size in response to customer demand,” chief executive Johan Lundgren said.

EasyJet recently posted the first annual pre-tax loss in its 25-year history on the virus fallout, while the airline is axing up to 4,500 jobs or almost one third of its staff.

SOURCE: AFP



EasyJet has delayed delivery of new Airbus planes, the British no-frills airline announced Tuesday, as the coronavirus pandemic destroys demand for air travel. PHOTO: AFP

## OVERWHELMING APPROVAL

## US Congress approves \$900 billion stimulus package

US lawmakers on have approved a \$900 billion relief package for the world's biggest economy that will provide a long-sought boost for millions of Americans and businesses battered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Overwhelming approval in the Senate and House of Representatives on Monday cleared the way for the legislation to be sent to President Donald Trump to be signed into law.

Trump signed a stopgap measure early Tuesday to keep the federal government funded until December 28 and avert a shutdown.

"The American people can rest assured that more help is on the way, immediately," Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell said on Twitter.

As the Covid-19 death count rises amid a massive corona-

virus resurgence that further threatens the economy, Republican and Democratic legislators have finally hammered out a bill after months of wrangling and partisan finger-pointing.

The deal will spare millions of jobless workers who were days away from seeing their unemployment benefits expire, and provide a new round of cash payouts.

Small businesses will benefit from more government grants, while the package also includes rental assistance and help to families facing eviction.

"It's a good bipartisan deal," Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "We will do some good with this legislation."

But "as President-elect Joe Biden has said, it's a first step, and we will need to do more.

More to get virus assistance to



US lawmakers finally broke an impasse on a new Covid-19 relief package that extends unemployment benefits and provides aid to businesses and individuals harmed by the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

crush the virus. More money to buy vaccines," she said on the House floor.

The US is facing the world's largest coronavirus outbreak,

and cases have surged in recent months, threatening a tentative economic recovery. The death toll has topped 319,000.

SOURCE: AFP

## SOCIALIST-LED GOVERNMENT

## Spain poised to pass budget in boost for minority government



Pedro Sanchez (L) came to power in June 2018 but was forced to call fresh elections early the following year. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

SPAIN'S Senate is poised to approve Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's budget for 2021 later Tuesday, boosting his minority Socialist-led government after years of political instability.

The spending plan, which channels billions of euros in European Union pandemic recovery funds into the economy, was approved by the lower house on December 3.

Barring a last-minute surprise, the Senate is expected to give final approval for the fiscal programme as lawmakers have already signalled their support in recent weeks.

Its passage increases the chances that Sanchez will hold on to power until the next general election set for 2023.

This will be the first budget to be approved since that of the previous conservative government of Mariano Rajoy in 2018. Sanchez has until now relied on prolonging the 2018 spending plan.

The rise of new parties such as far-left Podemos and market-friendly Ciudadanos has fractured parliament, making it difficult to pass legislation.

This has led to a cycle of political instability that has taken

Spain, the euro zone's fourth largest economy, to four elections between 2015 and 2019.

"This is a very, very important stage because it allows Pedro Sanchez to gain time and stability," said Oriol Bartomeus, a political scientist at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. **'Sanchez never admits defeat'**

Sanchez came to power in June 2018 but was forced to call fresh elections early the following year after Catalan separatist parties voted down his draft budget.

The budget vote came on the heels of the start of a high-profile trial of Catalan separatist leaders over Catalonia's failed 2017 bid to break away from Spain.

SOURCE: AFP

## DEVALUATION OF IRAQI DINAR

## Iraqis protest after currency value slashed

HUNDREDS of angry Iraqis protested Monday in several cities against a currency devaluation that has slashed their purchasing power amid a pandemic-fuelled economic crisis.

The Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) at the weekend devalued the currency by over a fifth against the US dollar, officially re-pegging the dinar at a bank

rate of 1,460 to the greenback.

On Monday, hundreds gathered in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, demanding the government change tack, furious at the first devaluation in a half-decade.

"The government should collapse before the dinar," one sign held by a young protester read.

Many of the protesters were

elderly, who said the value of their pensions had been cut.

Riot police with shields and helmets stood guard at Tahrir, but the protest was peaceful.

Tahrir Square had been occupied round-the-clock for a year by a protest movement demanding an end to government corruption, but the demonstrators were cleared out in an army-led

operation in October.

Iraq, which relies on oil sales to finance more than 90 per cent of its budget, is set to see its economy shrink by 11 per cent this year, while poverty doubles to 40 per cent of the country's 40 million residents, according to International Monetary Fund estimates.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS  
IN BRIEF'POLITICAL  
CHERNOBYL'

## Russia sanctions EU over poisoning of 'delusional' Navalny

Russia said Tuesday it was hitting EU officials with sanctions for their response to the poisoning of opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who the Kremlin said was suffering from "delusions of persecution".

The foreign ministry in Moscow summoned several senior EU diplomats before announcing the new travel bans.

In response to "confrontational" sanctions imposed by the bloc in October, Russia "decided to expand the list of representatives of EU member states and institutions who will be denied entry to Russia."

The announcement on Tuesday came a day after Navalny, 44, said in a report he had impersonated an official in the Kremlin's Security Council and extracted an admission of guilt from a toxins expert with the FSB security service.

SOURCE: AFP

RACISM IN DECADES  
OF REPORTING

## US daily apologizes for decades of racist coverage

THE editor of the Kansas City Star apologized Monday on behalf of the American daily newspaper for decades of racist and discriminatory coverage of the Black minority.

The police killing of Black man George Floyd in May, which sparked protests across the US, had forced the paper to grapple with its historic coverage, editor in chief Mike Fannin told CNN. "We never put ourselves under the microscope to better understand how the Star had covered the Black community for years," he said. Fannin on Sunday published a long editorial in which he called the influential Midwestern paper's history "the story of a powerful local business that has done wrong". The apology from the publication comes as the US reckons with its history of slavery, segregation and systemic racism after the mass protests.

SOURCE: AFP

4TH ARAB COUNTRY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL



In this file photo from August 31, Jared Kushner speaks at Abu Dhabi airport following the arrival of the first ever commercial flight from Israel to the UAE. PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB AFP/FILE

## First Israel-Morocco direct commercial flight heads to Rabat

THE first direct commercial flight between Israel and Morocco took off from Tel Aviv on Tuesday, in a symbolic trip after the countries reached a US-brokered deal to normalize ties.

The El Al flight with US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and advisor Jared Kushner and Israeli National Security Advisor Meir Ben

Shabbat on board was headed to Rabat, where Moroccan and Israeli officials were due to sign a series of agreements.

The trip aims to showcase the achievements of the Trump administration in Middle East diplomacy, weeks before Trump is replaced at the White House by President-elect Joe Biden.

Morocco became

the third Arab state this year, after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, to normalize ties with Israel under US-brokered deals, while Sudan has pledged to follow suit.

Speaking at Israel's Ben Gurion airport before departure, Kushner stressed that the UAE-Israel deal had already created commercial opportunities for both countries.

"My hope is that this flight today to Morocco will create the same amount of momentum," between Morocco and Israel, he said.

### Western Sahara

As part of the Morocco-Israel deal, Trump fulfilled a decades-old goal of Morocco by backing its contested sovereignty in Western Sahara.

SOURCE: AFP

ANIMAL WELFARE

## Austrians press EU to talk turkey, raise farm standards

AS Katharina and Reinhard Bauer show off cosseted turkey chicks they highlight standards that they -- and the Austrian government -- would like the rest of the EU to adopt as well.

"On our farm the birds have lots of space," Katharina explains on the organic farm the pair run together in Weibern, northern Austria.

They stress how delicate the business of raising

turkey chicks is given their fragile state immediately after hatching.

According to Reinhard they're "very sensitive, curious and affectionate".

The couple says the birds, brought to Europe from the Americas by Spanish colonists in the 16th Century, must be raised in an environment as close to nature as possible to be fit for Christmas tables.

It's a view shared by the Austrian government, which is aiming to get EU partners on board in raising standards for turkey farming across the bloc.

Agriculture Minister Elisabeth Koestinger recently boasted that "the 'World Animal Protection' organization has put Austria in first place in its animal welfare rankings, in comparison with 50 countries worldwide."

In November Green

Austrian MEP Sarah Wiener launched a petition, backed by the government, calling for sector regulations at the European level in line with Austrian practices.

### Human scale

After chickens and pigs, turkeys are the third most commonly reared animal in the EU, with around 190 million slaughtered annually.

SOURCE: AFP



Austrian turkey breeders and government officials would like their standards adopted across the European Union. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

## Japan maintains economic view in Dec. but wary of weak consumption

THE Japanese government kept its economic assessment unchanged in December in its monthly report released Tuesday but cited concerns about consumer spending in the coming months due to a resurgence of coronavi-

rus infections across the country.

The Cabinet Office said the Japanese economy is "still in a severe situation due to the novel coronavirus, but it is showing movements of picking up," using the same wording for

the sixth straight month.

The government revised downward its view of private consumption, which is "picking up as a whole, while weakness can be seen in some sectors," the report said.

SOURCE: KYODO

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

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

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)25/MR(ISN) 20-21	Spare Parts for Pielstick Engine (28) Items

Closing Date & Time-20.1.2021 (Wednesday) (14:30)Hrs
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 21.12.2020 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

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (014N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (014N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2020** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GIANG HAI II VOY. NO. (16.20)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GIANG HAI II VOY. NO. (16.20)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DAYANG ORIENT

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DAYANG ORIENT VOY. NO. (20188)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

# Saltwater fish farming development calls for favourable natural environment

By Kyaw Soe Tun (Department of Fisheries)

## Late development in saltwater fish farming

Those residing in the rural areas in Myanmar account for 70% of the total population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The majority of the people do for a living relying on agriculture. The agricultural sector makes up 29% of the gross domestic product (GDP) whereas the fish farming sector accounts for 30% of the GDP of the whole agriculture sector. Fish farming plays an increasingly important role in the national fish supply of the country.

The fisheries sector includes offshore and inshore fishing, inland fish ponds, inland freshwater aquaculture, tender fisheries, fish farming, fish and shrimp processing business. It is impossible to boost capture fisheries and so it is necessary to strive for the betterment of fish farming.

The freshwater fish farming began in the 1950s is now making progress, but the saltwater fish farming is still lagging behind. The development of saltwater fish farming should be carried out in the appropriate places along the 2,832 km long coastal waters.

## National Aquaculture Development Plan-NADP

The government released a multi-cooperation framework of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP in August in 2018. To give the aquaculture sec-

tor a conducive policy framework, Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) and Department of Fisheries (DoF) started drafting National Aquaculture Development (NADP) in February 2018. The DoF finalized the draft of the NADP in line with the MSDP in March in 2020, and it has been under implementation.

The benefits resulting from the fish farming with regard to the MSDP are development through inclusiveness, income generation by export, creation of job opportunities, the security of food and nutrition and conservation of the natural environment.

## Saltwater fish farming sees signs of progress in the future

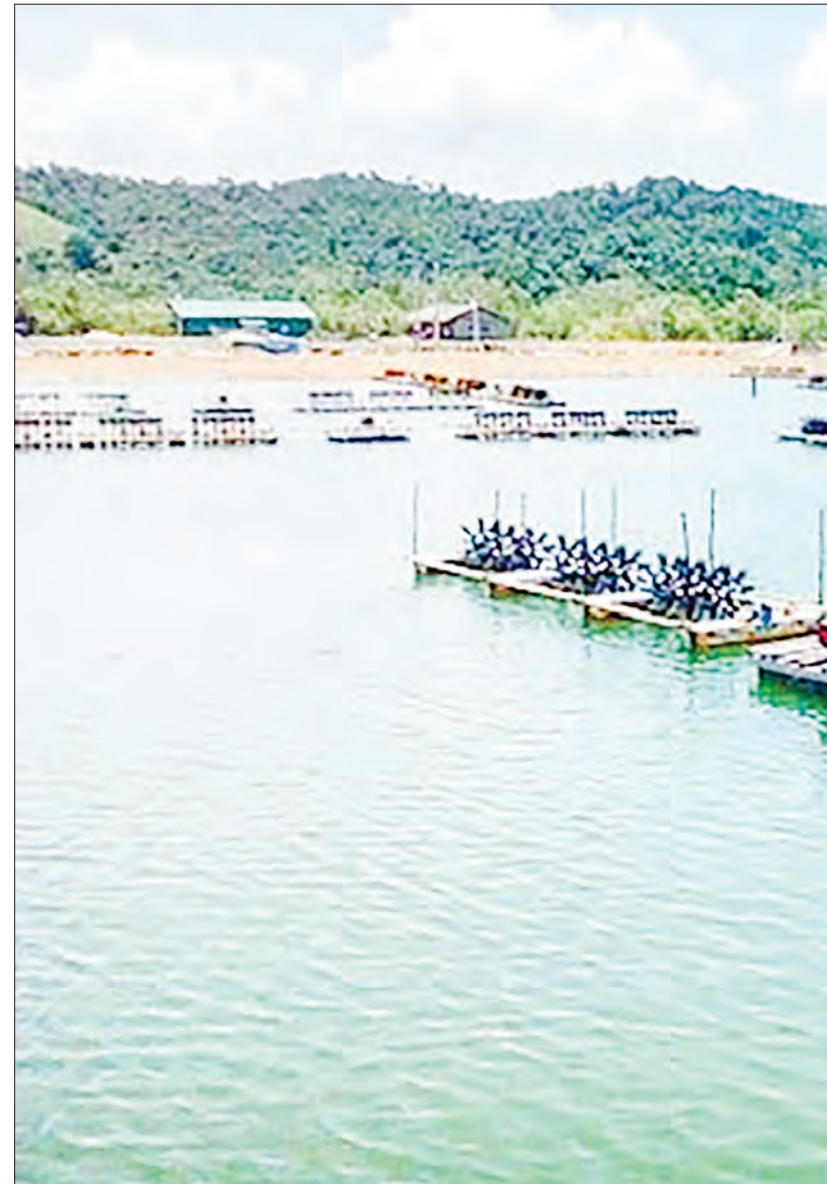
The saltwater fish farming in Myanmar is not as far developed as in its neighbouring countries. Myanmar should exploit the weaknesses the other countries faced in the saltwater fish farming to its advantage. There is much potential for the extension of saltwater fish farming in the country in the future. In the past decades, prawn ponds were dug, and the prawns were bred in some neighbouring countries after clearing mangrove. The prawn farming was carried out with the excessive use of chemicals, making a healthy profit only in the short run, but later resulting in environmental degradation due to the waste disposal and

chemical residues. Therefore the attention of the prawn farmers has turned to the ways not to harm the natural environment in order to enjoy much profit from prawn farming. Closed-recirculating shrimp farming system has come into extensive use. It means that the wastewater disposed of the ponds is systematically purified, and then it is re-circulated and reused in the ponds.

## Saltwater fish farming techniques

In the sector of saltwater fish farming, it is divided into two types of aquaculture—land-based aquaculture and sea-based aquaculture. Moreover, there are two types of fish farming related to ecosystems, the first is an autotrophic type, and the second is a heterotrophic type. It is unnecessary for seaweed, mollusc, oyster and other shellfish to feed them food separately and they can grow consuming nitrogen, phosphorous and organic parts in the water. Suitable feedstuffs are needed to be fed in the farming of fish, prawn and crabs.

In the autotrophic type, there may be a little pollution due to the genetic causes of the animals that are bred in the aquaculture. Carbon sink fishery is related to seaweed farming. Carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous from the surrounding water are absorbed in the digestive system. The car-



The photo shows Pyae Phyto Tun company-owned saltwater prawn farming pond.

bon dioxide level has been high in the atmosphere, and there have been changes in climate due to the excessive use of fossil fuel and deforestation in the world.

The plants can digest inorganic carbon by photosynthesis and then reproduce oxygen. Approximately 71% of Earth's surface, an area of some 361 million square kilometres (139.5 million square miles), is covered by ocean. The algae covering an area of 1 square kilometre produces 375 tonnes of carbon in a year changing from inorganic carbon to organic carbon, according to the calculation of the scholars. Algae are of great importance in the process of carbon circulation. Consequently, global warming can be controlled to some extent by keeping up the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

85% of pollution has resulted from aquatic animal farming while the remaining 15% of pollution is affected by the outside environment. The root causes in the pollution of aquatic animal farming are the disposal of excretion/secretion and feed residues. The instigations of the outside environment, including the wastes disposal from the cities and the factories are also one of the factors in the pollution of aquatic animal farming.

## Bad effects of water pollution

An accumulation of the disposal of wastes and feed residues in an aquatic animal farming causes physical and chemical changes in the water and then eutrophication along with increased nitrogen and phosphorous apart from the composition of soluble inorganic and organic substances. Moreover, it can cause red tide, which is a phenomenon caused by algal blooms that may also deplete oxygen in the waters and/or release toxins that may cause illness in humans and other animals.

Moreover, the residues of antibiotics and insecticides bring bad effect on harmonious ecosystems of surrounding water area. If the aquatic animal farming is carried out in the undisciplined and excessive manner, it will hurt the capacity of decontaminating ecosystems of the natural surrounding water area, thereby undermining sustainable development, bringing about problems and difficulties sooner or later.

So as to ensure harmonious natural environment ecosystems in breeding outside new species, the farmers should consider whether outside new species are in harmony with the regional environment, whether they eat species, whether they eat com-



ds in Kyunsu Township in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region.

petitively between them and whether they mix with others. Special attention must be paid to the fact that the aquatic animals will not get away from farming to the natural water area.

Environmental capacity for aquaculture does not cause unacceptable ecological impacts in a particular area or water body. For that reason, if the aquaculture area and zone are designated, maximum farming size, effects on socio-economic life and ecology, wastes coming from the aquatic farming, the volume of feed residue, surrounding water area, and responsiveness to ecology should be taken into consideration.

The ways how to carry out equitable development in the sustainability of saltwater fish farming are to the following.

- Carrying out fishing farming in accord with appropriate rules and regulations
- Designating saltwater fish farming zones in different places by using scientific means
- Implementing emergency warning system and providing technical assistance in the precautionary measures against the possible spread of fish-related dis-

ease and natural disasters

- Making use of effective methods related to physics and chemistry (For example; changing water from the farming, ventilation and water sanitation process)
- Making use of biological means (For example; cultivation of bacteria and sea algae)
- Mixed farming (For example; scallop and algae, prawn and algae and fish and algae)
- Breeding sea algae and shell animals capable of protecting eutrophication that can help reduce the emission of carbon dioxide
- Putting the species of fish, prawn and crabs into culture-based capture
- Creating artificial fish reef can increase water resources and prevent excessive capture of fish, thereby developing amateur fishing appropriate for ecosystems

The artificial fish reef can be seen in more than 30 countries, including developed countries like the United States, China and Japan. There are more than 5,000 artificial fish reefs in Japan, covering 12% of the offshore fishing area. About 50

million people from the United States go to artificial fish reefs on the purpose of amateur fishing. The income the local people received triples to that from conventional fishing.

#### Aquaculture to develop enormously

To sum up, Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP) must be followed for ensuring equitable and sustainable development in the aquaculture. If so, it will bring about many benefits, thereby manufacturing safe and quality fishery products and finally creating a win-win situation.

All in all, our country is currently setting up plans to breed other commercial aquatic species in the saltwater fish farming in addition to the farming of giant sea perch, saltwater prawn, soft crabs, blood cockle, lobster and sea algae. Our country has many places where we can carry out aquaculture in the freshwater and saltwater areas along the coast. The saltwater fish farming will be able to enormously develop if basic facilities in those areas, modern breeding methods and human resources become better.

*Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)*



## Wave Money wins “Best Digital Wallet of the Year” and “Best Mobile Payments Service” at Global Retail Banking Innovation 2020

**W**AVE Money, the leading mobile financial service provider in Myanmar, won the “Best Digital Wallet of the Year” and “Best Mobile Payments Service” award at the Global Retail Banking Innovation 2020 organized by the Digital Banker. Wave Money was highly commended for delivering innovative services and social impact, particularly to the unbanked and underserved communities. Heldin Singapore, the annual awards recognized Wave Money as an outstanding financial institution among the world’s top financial institutions, and that showed excellence in digital innovation, social and digital inclusion, and service delivery to vulnerable sectors during this COVID-19 pandemic. Brad Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Wave Money said, “We are honoured to be recognized by a respected and independent organization among the world’s leading financial institutions. These accolades inspire us to raise the bar of innovation and impact even higher in line with our commitment to creating a fairer future for Myanmar. We dedicate this award to our Wave Money family for their tireless efforts towards fulfilling this mission.” The Digital Banker is a globally trusted news, business intelligence and research partner to the worldwide financial services sector. One of its flagship programmes, the Global Retail Banking Innovation Awards recognizes and celebrates the world’s outstanding retail banking and financial institutions with a distinguished contribution to the industry. Best Digital Wallet Launched in 2018, WavePay is a super app that meets the lifestyle needs of digital natives while helping advance greater financial inclusion among the unbanked population in the countryside. WavePay is a convenient, secure, simple and reliable way to remit and receive money, pay

utility bills and loans, top-up mobile services, shop online as well as pay at physical checkout counters. In October 2020, Wave Money has set a new record as the WavePay application crossed 1.1 million monthly active users, and an impressive daily average growth of 162% in new WavePay registrations this year.

Best Mobile Payment Service Wave Money has brought the benefits of financial services to millions of Myanmar people who were previously unbanked and underserved. During this challenging COVID-19 era, Wave Money has been fully leveraging its platform to help the Myanmar community. Millions are using WavePay to conveniently and securely transfer money and make daily payments and financial transactions in the comfort and safety of their homes. Government, humanitarian agencies and corporates are also using WavePay to digitally delivering COVID-19 emergency cash to vulnerable sectors, including at-risk communities in rural, remote Myanmar. Wave Money also initiated “WavePay It Forward” to help government, non-government institutions, and humanitarian agencies leverage the digital to deliver essential payments and mobilize relief funds for those severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Wave Money has the largest agent network in Myanmar, covering 89% of the country with over 64,000 agents as of November 2020. Over the years, Wave Money has seen exceptional business and customer growth, which reflects service and technology excellence. From an annual remittance value of 2 trillion Myanmar kyat in 2018, Wave Money moved 6.4 trillion Myanmar kyat (US\$ 4.3 billion) in 2019. As of September 2020, Wave Money’s total remittance value was already at 8 trillion MMK (US\$5.9 billion).—GNLM



## Abraham's return to form boost for Chelsea, says Lampard

LONDON — Tammy Abraham's double in the 3-0 win over West Ham on Monday will do wonders for his confidence said Chelsea manager Frank Lampard.

The 23-year-old's goals could not have come at a better time with German Timo Werner drawing a blank for the seventh successive match.

Werner's drought is his longest in club competition since September 2016, between spells at Stuttgart and RB Leipzig (nine).

Lampard was also rewarded for opting to start Abraham -- for the first time in a month -- instead of the inform France World Cup winner Olivier Giroud.

Abraham's goals, his first double since September 2019, and one from Brazilian veteran Thiago Silva saw Chelsea move into fifth place in the table, six points off leaders

Liverpool.

"It was the perfect night to repay the faith of the gaffer (Lampard)," Abraham told the club website.

"My job is to help the team score goals by getting in the right areas, and that's what I did for my two goals.

"They were poacher's goals, something you do in the park.

"It's just about getting in the box, getting in the right areas and being ready for when the ball lands at your feet.

"Whether it was a cross or shot from Timo, it was about me anticipating, getting ready for rebounds, deflections, and luckily I was in the right place."

Abraham -- whose tally of 25 goals since the start of last season is seven more than any other Blues player -- paid a nice tribute to man-of-the-match Silva, 36, who got Chelsea off the mark.—AFP ■

## FIFA lodges criminal complaint against Blatter over football museum

GENEVA: FIFA on Tuesday announced it had filed a criminal complaint against former president Sepp Blatter over the finances of its museum in Zurich.

In a statement FIFA said it had "lodged a criminal complaint with Zurich's cantonal prosecutor as evidence of suspected criminal misman-

agement by FIFA's former management and companies appointed by them in relation to the (museum) has surfaced." —AFP ■



Reproductions of stamps are seen during a press visit to the new museum dedicated to FIFA World Football Museum in Zurich, Switzerland. PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/FILE

## I want fighters not victims, says Arsenal boss Arteta

LONDON: Under-pressure Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says the only way the struggling Gunners are going to turn their season around is if his players show they are fighters and not victims.

The Spaniard is favourite to be the next Premier League manager to be fired as the warm glow of FA Cup success last season has evaporated fast.

Arsenal are 15th in the table and without a Premier League win since Nov. 1. They have accrued just two points in the last seven games and are only four points above the relegation zone.

The only respite for Arteta — who has been in the post for just over a year — has come in the cup competitions.

They are through to the knockout rounds of the Europa

League and on Tuesday they face Manchester City — where he cut his coaching teeth as assistant to Pep Guardiola — in the League Cup quarterfinals.

"You have two types of people: Fighters and victims," said Arteta. "You need fighters and you don't want any victims.

"Victims bring excuses, victims bring negativity and they start to blame anything that is happening around them or is not going their way.

"You need people who fight, people who contribute and people who are ready to give everything to the club in this moment."

Arteta says he ignores what is written about him and the club, insisting that all that matters is the feeling within the club — and there, he claims, it is a wholly supportive atmosphere.

"Obviously a club of this stature deserves the best and when it is not happening, everyone is going to question what is happening," he said. "I am the most responsible one in terms of results, so I have to accept that."—AFP ■

## Joshua puts hand in his pocket to help gyms

LONDON — Britain's world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua has made a substantial donation to boxing gyms as the 2012 Olympic gold medalist fears many may go out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Numerous amateur gyms have been forced to shut temporarily through the lockdown and Joshua is concerned that many amateur boxers will have to hang up their gloves if some were to close permanently.

Joshua is the latest high-profile boxing personality to voice his fears following that of his promoter Eddie Hearn and Northern Ireland's former two-weight world champion Carl Frampton.

Joshua -- who retained his world title belts with a ninth-round stoppage of Kubrat Pulev earlier this month -- has made his donation to clubs via the three home nations federations.

"Boxing helped shape me, both physically and mentally,"

said Joshua.

"It is no secret that without boxing and the family created around my amateur gym, my life could have been very different.

"The sport has given me a lot and I want to help highlight the issues affecting grass roots clubs and do what I can to keep the lights on for those most in need.

"I am not using this as an opportunity to criticize government for its lack of funding towards boxing -- these are unprecedented times -- however I would like to use my platform to respectfully ask them to rethink their stance.

"Without support we will lose community hubs and potentially the stars of tomorrow."

The funding will be distributed to clubs via England Boxing, Welsh Boxing and Boxing Scotland.

Kevin Bell, chairman of Boxing Scotland, praised Joshua for not forgetting his roots. —AFP ■



Under-pressure Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says the only way the struggling Gunners are going to turn their season around is if his players show they are fighters and not victims. PHOTO: AFP