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Saturday, 23 January 2021

VP U Henry Van Thio chairs meeting of Myanmar National Culture Central Committee

VICE-PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as chairman of the Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee, delivered a speech at its 5th meeting, held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that the Department of Archaeology and National Museum had repaired and renovated the damages at the 388 pagodas and temples in a major earthquake that hit Bagan area on 24 August 2016.

He continued to say that the renovation works at the Thatbyinyu temple will be continued under the MoU between Myanmar and China to renovate historic buildings in the aftermath of the earthquake in the Bagan area. However, the works were delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The Vice-President also discussed conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage at the Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra — and Bagan cultural heritage sites which have been recognized as the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites.

Myanmar has submitted the



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio presides over the 5th Meeting of Myanmar National Culture Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

draft version of Nomination Dossier to the UNESCO to recognize Mrauk-U in Rakhine State as a World Heritage Site, and the complete version of this dossier will

also be filed to the World Heritage Committee.

The full document of Nomination File for Myanmar's Thanaka culture has also been

submitted to the UNESCO for the registration as the first intangible cultural heritage of the country.

A total of 2,289 items from different regions and states have

been registered in the Myanmar National Intangible Cultural Heritage List as a first entry in the list.

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1.5 mln doses of India's Covishield vaccine arrive in Myanmar

A total of 1.5 million doses of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

On the government-to-government basis, the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from India was transported to Myanmar by Air India.

Indian Ambassador Mr Shri Saurabh Kumar handed over the 1.5 million doses of the Covishield vaccines to Director-Gen-

eral from Medical Research Department Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun at the Yangon International Airport.

Regarding the assistance to Myanmar, the Indian Ambassador said that India is providing the home-made vaccines to the partner countries, including Myanmar. He also quoted the Prime Minister of India as saying that India's vaccine would be useful for fighting the pandemic.

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Director-General Prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun accepts the Covishield vaccine from India handed over by Indian Ambassador Mr Shri Saurabh Kumar at the Yangon International Airport on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: PE ZAW



## VP U Henry Van Thio chairs meeting of Myanmar National Culture Central Committee

### FROM PAGE-1

The Vice-President continued to speak about the existing law and bylaws for the conservation of cultural heritage, the establishment of private-owned museums, the Myanmar Museum Law, and the ongoing process to create a law relating to conservation of intangible cultural heritages of the country.

He also confirmed that guidelines had been developed to reopen pagodas and temples which were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, who is the vice-chairman of the central committee, reported on the conservation works of ancient cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage, matters related to the



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko

national and ethnic national races museums and finalizing the draft Myanmar Museums Law.

U Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, reported on the progress of renovation works at the earthquake-affected tem-



Deputy Minister for Union Government Office U Tin Myint

ples in Bagan, implementation of recommendations in the Nomination of the Bagan Report from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), works for Mrauk-U to be listed as a World Heritage Site, submission of the report (C1444) on conservation of Pyu ancient



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun

cities to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the list of ancient and historic buildings under the department, the list of antiques collected by giving cash awards, cooperation with international organizations, the draft version of Myanmar Museums Law, the draft of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Conservation Law, development of Inwa area in Tada-U township of Mandalay Region into an archaeological park and the establishment of Kanbawza Yeiktha (Chinchaung Palace) as an art centre.

Deputy Minister for the Office of Union Government U Tin Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, departmental officials, experts and representatives from relevant organizations discussed the conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and traditions of Myanmar.

The Vice-President gave comments and suggestions based on the discussions to ensure coordination after which the meeting was concluded.—

MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Announcement of Fund Management Sub-committee on Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines

The Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines has collected K7,654.483 million US\$71,528 donated by the local and foreign well-wishers to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund via Myanmar Currency Account OA013733 and Foreign Currency Account EDC 600012 at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) from 14 to 20 January 2021.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

### Cash contribution for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made through MoPFI website

1. The contribution of cash for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made via the website of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (<http://www.mopfi.gov.mm>) in the following ways.

- (a) MPU Debit/Credit Card of local banks
- (b) Visa/Master Credit of local banks
- (c) Visa/Master Debit & Credit Card of foreign banks
- (d) Mobile Wallets such as CB-pay, KBZ-pay, OK\$ through QR Code (more mobile wallets

- (e) Internet/mobile banking App of KBZ, CB, AYA, UAB and MAB (more internet/mobile banking Apps will be available)
- (f) Over-the-counter at Supermarkets such as City Mart, Marketplace, Sein Gay Har, Aeon, Orange; mini-marts and convenience stores such as Denko Mini Market, Fun Fun Mart, ABC and Oasis; Mobile Wallet agents such as M-Pitesan, True Money and MyTelPay; Mobile Phone shops such as Any Call, e-City,

Lu Gyi Min and My Fone; Wai Yan Electronics Sale Centre; the shops available Near Me logo.

2. Therefore, cash contribution can be made at the above-mentioned platforms electronically, in addition to the branches of Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and other local private banks.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

## Announcement on fund establishment to purchase COVID-19 vaccines

1. The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 30-12-2020 formed a Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines. The sub-committee has opened the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at the Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw as follows:

- (a) Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012). The bank account will be initially deposited with USD250 million, equivalent to about K338 billion from State-funding.
- (b) Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733). The bank account is initially deposited K1 billion (K1,000 million) from State-funding.

2. Therefore, organizations and people (local/ foreign countries) who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines, can donate any type of foreign currency to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012) at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), and can donate Myanmar Kyat to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733).

3. The potential well-wishers can contact the following phone numbers:  
Director-General (067 3410156)  
Treasury Department (067 3410158)

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry



# Senior General receives Russian Defence Minister

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accorded a guard-of-honour welcome to Army General Sergey K. Shoigu, Minister for Defence of Russian Federation, in front Zeyathiri Villa, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Those at the welcoming ceremony were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Myint Nwe, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov, Russian



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Defence Minister Army General Sergey K. Shoigu in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January 2021.

PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, his senior officers and the Russian military attaché in Myanmar. The meeting was also held at the parlour of Zeyathiri Villa, according to the Office of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



## MoBA, JMA sign MoU for human resource development in border area

THE Ministry of Border Affairs and the Japan-Myanmar Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a human resource development project in the border area at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung made an opening remark at the signing ceremony, and Chair of Japan-Myanmar Association Mr Watanabe Hideo explained the matters relating to the MoU.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Major-General Phone Myat and Chair of Japan-Myanmar Association Mr Watanabe Hideo signed the MoU.

During the two years of 2021 and 2020, the ministry and the association, using US\$ 0.97 million, will jointly create job opportunities by conducting elderly care trainings for ethnic nationals in border areas.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung (centre) witnesses the signing of MoU by Major-General Phone Myat and Mr Watanabe Hideo in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

## 1.5 mln doses of India's Covishield vaccine arrive in Myanmar

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Deputy Director-General of Yangon Region's Public Health Department Dr Tun Myint said, "It is still necessary to be careful of COVID-19 after being vaccinated the first time. Prevention guidelines are still required to be abided by until the second dose of vaccine is received to avoid the waste of valuable medicines."

"The vaccines need to be stored in the room temperatures of 2 to 8°C. As some of the previous vaccines were stored in the cool chain

room, it is not a problem for the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines will be transported to the central cool chain room and distributed to regions and states," he added.

The government of India donated the first batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar in enhancing Myanmar-India relations and helping Myanmar in the fights against the pandemic.

Second batch of the vaccines will soon arrive in Myanmar.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Covishield vaccines are being unloaded from the flight of Air India at the Yangon International Airport on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: PE ZAW



## Peacemaking processes in the post-2020 period



AT this time when we already have the peace roadmap for the post-2020 period clearly in our view, we will implement the post-2020 period peace process with new approaches by exerting our efforts from all angles and points of view so that not only the NCA signatories but also the non-signatories will come on board and cooperate.

We have realized that both formal and informal dialogues are pivotal to the peacemaking processes in the post-2020 period. Similarly, we also recognize the role of public participation. This is related to paving the way for inclusiveness of all the stakeholders. Moreover, we have to focus on the design aspect of the peacemaking process such as policy and framework guidelines, the formation of necessary working groups, and the establishment of systems and mechanisms.

**(Excerpt from Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and State Counsellor**

**Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on New Year, on 2 January 2021)**

## Myanmar, HSF sign MoU for Hluttaw development programme

AN MoU between Myanmar Hluttaw and the Hanns Seidel Foundation was renewed at the online signing ceremony yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein, members of the JCC, the Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and Resident Representative of the HSF in Myanmar Mr Achim Munz participated in the signing ceremony.

At the ceremony, JCC Joint Secretary (2), Director-General for Amyotha Hluttaw Office U Lwin Oo and the HSF Resident Representative signed the MoU online.—MNA



Myanmar Hluttaw and the Hanns Seidel Foundation sign MoU for Hluttaw development programme via videoconference on 22 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attended and delivered a statement at the 17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) which was held virtually on 21 January 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by the Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and high-level officials from ACD member states. At the meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on enhancing cooperation among ACD member countries to mitigate adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic under the theme "The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism".

In his statement, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin mentioned that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every sector including the tourism and hospitality industry, which is one of the major contributors



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in the 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue via videoconference on 21 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

for GDPs of the Asian countries. He stated that the Asia region's rich history, diversity, cultural richness and natural beauties offer immense potential to rejuvenate tourism industry. The Union Minister also highlighted that promotion of intra-regional and inter-regional tourism not

only contributes to the economy but also enhances understanding and friendship among the peoples thereby fostering peace, harmony and stability in the region. He also added that Myanmar is making necessary preparations to implement bilateral and sub-regional safe trav-

el schemes, as and when the COVID-19 situation subsides. He also informed the meeting of Myanmar's readiness to contribute to regional food security by promoting exports of agricultural and marine products to new markets in Asia, especially the Middle East, and to work close-

ly with other ACD members to achieve the common objectives of ACD.

The Meeting adopted the Ankara Declaration which includes recommendations such as sharing information and best practices in combatting, preventing and mitigating infectious diseases, in particular, the COVID-19 as well as in the recovery of the tourism and travel sectors with comprehensive measures such as safety and hygiene protocols; and preparations for the Third ACD Summit to be hosted by the State of Qatar, tentatively in 2021.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue was established in Thailand in June 2002 with the objectives of consolidating Asia's strength, rich resources, diversity and opportunities towards a strong and progressive Asia underpinned by six pillars of cooperation. ACD is now comprised of 35 member states from Asia. —MNA



# Well-wishers donate cash to COVID-19 vaccination fund

A ceremony to donate cash to COVID-19 vaccination fund was held at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, donors explained the purpose of the donation, and Chairman of the Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines and Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win expressed thanks to the donors for their contributions.

The Union Minister and Deputy Minister accepted the cash donated by well-wishers and returned certificates of honour to the donors.

Members of the Fund Man-



Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry hosts the ceremony to donate cash to COVID-19 vaccination fund in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

agement Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Directors-Gen-

eral and donors who contributed cash between K100 million and K10 million participated in the event.

A Myanmar Currency Account and a Foreign Currency Account were opened at the Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi

Taw for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund, and the two accounts were initially deposited K1 billion and US\$250 million from State-funding.

Cash contributions from local and foreign donors have been accepted since 6 January. Until 20 January, the cash contributions from local and foreign donors to the vaccination fund amounted to K17,781.337 million and US\$ 2.745 million.

Names of the donors have been published in daily newspapers, and local and foreign well-wishers were making cash contributions daily to the vaccination fund.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

# NCSA Centre holds workshop, paper reading session

THE 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop and paper reading session for innovative ways to adapt to climate change in the community was held via videoconferencing yesterday.

The event was jointly organized by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and the National Climate Smart Agriculture Centre of Yezin Agricultural University.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu delivered an opening remark at the workshop and paper reading ceremony.

He discussed climate change adaptation and mitigation policy to overcome climate changes especially for the two sectors of country—Myanmar's agriculture (with 67.3 per cent of



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu participates in the 3rd workshop and paper reading session for innovative ways to adapt to climate change in the community on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

the population relying on) and breeding sectors with 22.4 per cent of GDP ratio and 19.6 per cent of foreign income.

He then highlighted the efforts of ministry in providing the proper practices for effective use of agrichemicals and low carbon emission depending on the goals of the sustainable devel-

opment plan and implementing the Climate Smart Response and Climate Smart Production in farming, fisheries and breeding sectors.

He also discussed the emergency responses for the farmers and agriculture businesses together with the CERP (COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan) and

MERRP (Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan) of the government and innovative ways for climate changes based on these policies and strategies.

Then, FAO Representative in Myanmar Mr Arnold Franz expressed words of thanks and Dr Nang Hseng Hom, Rector of Yezin Agricultural University

briefed the paper reading session.

The NCSA Centre organized the paper reading session together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, FAO and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation by aiming to improve the abilities of participants in the processes for climate change.

Deputy Rector of Yezin Agricultural University Dr Hla Than presided over the first part of paper reading session while Dr Thiha (Sustainable Forest Management Specialist) and Mr Jitendra P Jaiswal (Climate Smart Agriculture Specialist) the second part.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

# MoNREC discusses biodiversity conservation works

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation chaired a meeting via videoconferencing to discuss the works on environmental, forest and mining sectors yesterday evening in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister U Ohn Win, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Lee Sanghwa, Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe, the Permanent Secretary, the Directors-General for Forestry Department, Mining

Department, Environmental Conservation Department and Mineral Exploration Department participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the activities of Hmawby Regional Training School established in collaboration with the Asia Forestry Cooperation Group; completion of mangrove plantation in Kawhmu Township; plans for the opening of the Mekong-Korea Biodiversity Centre in Nay Pyi Taw agreed upon at the first

Mekong-Korea Leaders' Summit; working activities of Khakaborazi Diversity Research Centre in Putao; conditions for the establishment and implementation of a botanical garden and orchard near RETC in Hmawbi; publishing a handbook of 53 species of forest trees in Bago Yoma and a handbook on 100 species of Myanmar medicinal plants, in collaboration with the Korean National Arboretum; plans to sign and implement a joint agreement

to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The meeting also discussed proposals to hold the annual Deputy Ministerial Meeting on Environment between the two countries this year; the distribution of fuel-efficient stoves in 1,109 villages in the dry zone and future activities in collaboration with the Korea Centre for Climate Change; the completion of chromite ore resource estimation research conducted upon

the research agreement signed between the Korean Department of Geological and Mineral Resources and the Myanmar's Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration in Chin State, and plans to carry out lithium mining research in Mandalay Region and further cooperation for research and forecasting of rare and valuable mineral resources.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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



## Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung joins ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung takes part in the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting via videoconference on 22 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung took part in the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN1) with the Senior Officials Meeting (ADGSOM1) hosted

ed by Malaysia online yesterday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin bin Yassin delivered his opening keynote address virtually at the event.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung discussed strengthening the cooperation among Asean countries towards the development of the digital ecosystems, development of digital economy, the transition towards the digital economy, better cybersecurity measures, the formation of the first committee on cooperation in cybersecurity.

The virtual meeting was also taken part by ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from dialogue partners - China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the United States, and the European Union (EU) - and the

Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economy Community and officials.

Under the theme of ASEAN-Digitally Connected Community, the meeting discussed accelerating digital economy with the work from the home system during the pandemic, plans of member countries in the post COVID-19.

They also exchanged views on the importance of cybersecurity, approval of ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025 for digital transformation for implementing a digital community and future plans.

The Putrajaya Declaration was also adopted at the event.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## MoHT holds meeting on tourism development plans

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung met the tourism development working groups through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon to discuss preparations for tourism promotion with the review of current tourism situation in Myanmar due to COVID-19.

The Union Minister discussed arrangements to make Myanmar a safe and secure destination for international tourists, promoting health and safety protocol and marketing with the extensive use of digital marketing tools and the priority procedures to be carried out when the tourism resumes.

The Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation reported on the preparations for the resumption of tourism in the

post-COVID-19 period, and the meeting participants, Chairmen of the Myanmar-Europe, Myanmar-ASEAN, Myanmar-Japan, Myanmar-Korea and Myanmar-China Tourism Development Working Groups discussed the steps to be taken for tourism development according to the target markets.

Director-General for the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Department U Maung Maung Kyaw discussed the budget for international tourism fairs and the need for tourism development working groups to be ready when international airlines resume. Deputy Minister U Tin Latt discussed the presentations of the tourism development groups to carry out in



Union Minister U Ohn Maung participates in the virtual meeting on tourism development plans on 22 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

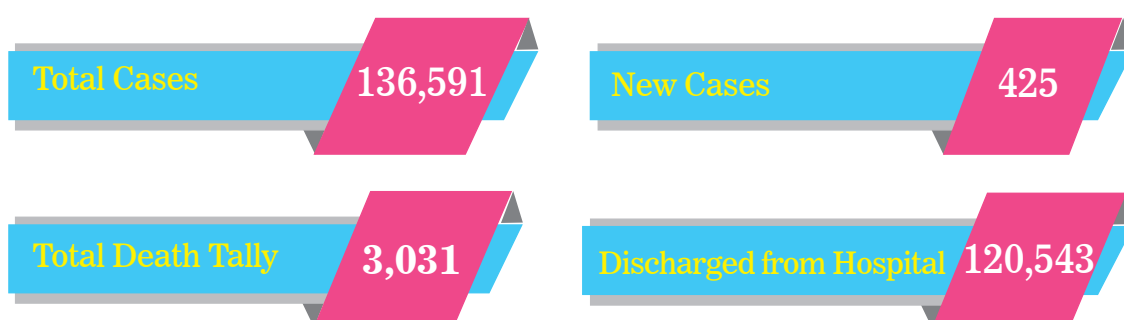
accordance with the respective markets and the Union Minister coordinated the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

### 425 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 January, total figure rises to 136,591

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 136,591 after 425 new cases were reported on 22 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 136,591 confirmed cases, 3,031 died, 120,543 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 22 January 2021



Daily death toll until 8 pm 22-1-2021

18

Ministry of Health and Sports



# China allows Myanmar fishery products only with COVID-free certificates

By Nyein Nyein

DEPARTMENT of Animal and Plant Quarantine of the General Administration of Customs of China-GACC informed the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Beijing that China has allowed import of Myanmar fishery products only upon production of COVID-free certificate.

The GACC mentioned in a statement that to ensure the safety and effective prevention of the spreading of the COVID-19 on the goods plays an important role, to set up an effective safety system by the companies registered to export edible aquatic animals to China following these guidelines, to implement the protection system, to give specific guidelines to check COVID-19 in edible aquatic animals exported to China.

Besides, the companies registered to export edible aquatic animals to China need to halt the import process immediately and need to inform China when they found the suspected COVID-19 patients in their companies or if there is a risk of COVID-19 infection in the export products. The suspended companies should resume the export process to China after confirming that they are safe. Also, China urges companies to work together for security and convenience regarding the export of edible aquatic animals



(FILES) Workers process fish at a factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

to China.

Therefore, the COVID-19 free certificates essential to fishery exports to China must be issued as soon as possible because it can cause disturbance on trading, said General Secretary U Win Kyaing of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

Since last October, China authorities have given a permit for fishery exports only upon production of COVID-19 free certificates on products. Consequently, fishery exports, including frozen fish, prawn, eel and crabs, cannot be exported to China via the land

border.

Although China earlier allowed Myanmar to export fishery products without having any certificates through regular trade, China did not allow importing without the COVID-free certificates.

However, MFF is not clear about which department is responsible for issuing COVID-19 clearance certificate for fishery products.

“It is a new order for the COVID-free certificates on fishery products. We are not clear as to who are legal authorities. Also,

there are no guidelines to check the COVID-19 on the export products,” said U Win Kyaing.

The Federation has already submitted a report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation through the Fisheries Department to screen fishery products and receive the COVID-19-free certificates.

On 21 January, a coordination meeting was held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the fisheries sector.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu said that coordination would be made between the governments to engage the fishery products to the potential foreign markets. The ministry will also call for coordination with the relevant departments, including the Myanmar fisheries federation, to issue the COVID-free certificates on Myanmar fishery products.

China is the second-largest buyer of Myanmar’s fishery products. During the previous financial year 2019-2020, Myanmar shipped over US\$850 million worth fishery products to external markets and among them, \$254 million worth exports flowed into China.

The Federation expects to reach fishery export target of \$1 billion in the current FY. Myanmar has earned \$278.378 million from the export of fishery products over three and a half months of this financial year between 1 October 2020 and 15 January 2021. The same period of the last FY saw \$301.958 million. So, this year’s amount plunged into \$23.580 million, according to official data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s marine products mainly go to more than 45 countries, with Thailand being the largest exporter followed by China.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Newly-harvested winter chickpea starts opening price with nearly K30,000 per basket

ACCORDING to a bean merchant, newly-harvested winter chickpea price is likely to open with nearly K30,000 per basket in the market.

“The winter chickpea grown early in Sagaing and Mandalay regions will yield in February. The opening price of winter chickpeas is likely to be high because of high domestic consumption and demand from foreign markets. Now, the early harvested chickpea is being sold for K28,000 per basket,” said a bean trader from Mandalay Town.

The chickpea is one of the marketable beans and is currently exported to India, China, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The bean

is also consumed in the country in substitution of Sadawpe bean.

Myanmar annually exports nearly 40,000 tonnes of chickpea. The country can produce over 500,000 tonnes of chickpea, which is highly consumed domestically. The opening price of chickpea is K30,000 per basket.

The peas are mostly cultivated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Nay Pyi Taw only in the cold season. There are about 90,000 acres of chickpea plantation across the country.

They are cultivated in October and November and harvested in the January-April period. — Aye Chan Moe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Myanmar products to be displayed at Myanmar Event Park in Changchun

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar products will be exhibited at Myanmar Event Park in Changchun town, China.

The Myanmar Event Park aims to promote Myanmar’s economy, trade, investment, education, health, culture and tourism and enable the development of benefits and opportunities for Myanmar. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the event will be launched in Changchun town, China, either in January or February.

Myanmar products will be displayed at the Myanmar Event Park to promote bilateral trade between the two coun-

tries and introduce Myanmar products to China’s market.

The soft copy information and sample such as profile, photos and videos of the Myanmar products, products that are being currently exported to China, the new potential export products are needed to send directly to Daw Shwe Sin Oo, the Economic Attaché, the embassy of the republic of the Union of Myanmar in Beijing, China through email: myanmareco.beijing@yahoo.com, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (head office in Nay Pyi Taw) and Myanmar International Trade Centre (MITC).

By doing so, the Myanmar

embassy in Beijing, China can carry out the distribution of Myanmar products’ information to enable observation by Chinese companies and entrepreneurs.

These Myanmar products include spice, jaggery, peanut candy, sesame candy, preserved plum, jam, biscuit, tamarind toffee, snacks made of tamarind and other well-packaged traditional Myanmar foods. It will also contain drink such as coffee seed, coffee powder, instant tea and coffee, dry tea leaves and packed tamarind juice, mango juice, plum juice bottles. —Thiri

(Translated by Hay Mar)



# Steps towards fishery sector recovery are welcomed

CONCERNS around the COVID-19 pandemic in our country are expected to be eased with the arrival of the first batch of vaccines from India yesterday.

The coming weeks will bring a ray of rosy hope to put our economy which was hit by the pandemic on the road to recovery.

The fishery sector occupies an important place in our country's economy. Our country has a lot of potential to earn billions of dollars from fisheries export.

We welcome the steps to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to find possible export markets during and after the COVID-19 period through government-to-government connections.

The government has granted 10 GAqP certificates for over 9,300 acres of fish, prawn and crab farms, and GAqP standards have been drafted in line with ASEAN standards.

At the same time, we need to encourage emergence of private laboratories meeting international standards for aquaculture products, capacity building for workers in the marketing and processing sector and to upgrade the cold storage facilities.

For foreign investments to come in, we need to show first that we have the potential to develop from all sides.

Before the pandemic, some farms got the opportunity to export aquaculture products to the EU after good laboratory results for chemical residues in aquaculture products from Myanmar.

To ensure the safety of all food exported to the EU, they require suppliers to have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) certificates.

To put our fishery sector on the right path to recovery in a short period, we need to attract foreign investments which can also offer modern technology. For foreign investments to come in, we need to show first that we have the potential to develop from all sides.

Everyone is obliged to cooperate to gain business confidence and to create a good environment for business.

The loss of domestic demand would be recovered when restaurants are reopened and public events are allowed in the post-COVID-19 era.

Amidst COVID-19, there have been some positive outcomes such as revival of local food networks thanks to logistics with health guidelines and increases in local sales through direct marketing and deliveries.

However, fishing communities in coastal areas, factories, workers and businesses are still suffering from negative consequences of the pandemic.

There is an urgent need for those who are taking a leading role in both public and private fishery sectors to coordinate, plan and implement effective short- and long-term responses to the pandemic.

## COVAX: THE GLOBALLY-POOLED CORONAVIRUS VACCINE PROCUREMENT AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION EFFORT

# Covax: The Global Plan To Share COVID Vaccines

Aimed at pooling the risk and rewards, Covax has struck agreements with manufacturers for two billion vaccine doses, and has secured options on a further billion.

THE Covax programme, bolstered by the new United States (US) presidency on Thursday, aims to secure enough COVID-19 vaccines this year for the most vulnerable 20 per cent in every country, rich or poor.

Top US government scientist Anthony Fauci told the World Health Organization (WHO) that the United States intends to join Covax, the globally-pooled coronavirus vaccine procurement and equitable distribution effort.

The move should give the facility a much-needed powerful impetus - amid fears that rich countries are undermining the project by cutting their own direct deals with manufacturers.

Since December, dozens of the world's wealthiest countries have begun vaccination campaigns in a bid to halt the coronavirus pandemic.

As members of the Covax facility, the poorest nations are hoping to see their very first doses arrive in February.

In Covax, funding is covered for the 92 lower- and lower-middle-income economies involved, while for richer countries, it operates as a back-up insurance policy.

Aimed at pooling the risk



Indonesia received a shipment of 1.2 million doses of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 6. The country plans to vaccinate younger citizens first. PHOTO: INDONESIAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE / AFP

and rewards, Covax has struck agreements with manufacturers for two billion vaccine doses, and has secured options on a further billion.

### Global Solidarity

The Covax facility was launched in June 2020 at the Global Vaccine Summit.

It is co-led by the WHO as well as Gavi, the Vaccine Alli-

ance, and CEPI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

It sought an immediate US\$2 billion to kick-start the programme, with the intention of ensuring poorer nations can vaccinate their health workers and most vulnerable citizens - on the basis that the pandemic would remain a global threat if it was not tackled worldwide.

Currently, around 190 countries are participating, including the 92 low-income and lower-middle income nations such as India, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

Covax is inspired by similar previous mechanisms that facilitated universal and equitable access to pneumococcal and Ebola vaccines.

It guarantees the purchase of a fixed volume of COVID-19

vaccines even before they have been approved for use, and offers market guarantees.

Covax thereby aims to give pharmaceutical companies the confidence to invest in production, to ensure that vaccines are ready to go, at scale and speed, once regulators give the go-ahead.

### Which Vaccines?

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is the leader in UN vaccine logistics and is preparing to transport up to 850 tonnes of doses per month.

Covax deals have been struck with several vaccine manufacturers: Novavax, Sanofi-GSK, Johnson and Johnson - which have not so far been licenced for use by any national regulator - plus AstraZeneca.

So far, the WHO has only given its emergency use validation to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which has been given the green light in several countries.

The WHO hopes to make a decision in late February on the Moderna vaccine, which has also been authorised by several national health authorities.

The WHO is in talks with Pfizer and Moderna to procure doses.

### 'Vaccine Nationalism'

The vaccine shipments depend on several factors, including national regulatory approval and the recipient country's preparedness to start vaccinating.

The project's success also rests on whether it can raise the required funding.

Covax raised the initial US\$2 billion last year.

But at least US\$4.6 billion more will be needed this year for procurement, with a further US\$800 million needed for research and development and US\$1.4 billion for vaccine delivery support.

The WHO hopes to distribute 145 million doses worldwide in the first three months of this year. However, the WHO has repeatedly hit out at "vaccine nationalism" - particularly rich countries hogging the first doses off the production line in their own direct deals with manufacturers, bypassing Covax.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Monday that 39 million doses of coronavirus vaccines had been administered worldwide at that point, of which 25 - "not 25 million; not 25,000; just 25" - were in a lower-income country.

SOURCE: AFP

## NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY REDUCED COVID-19 RISK

# Lilly antibody reduced Covid-19 risk by 80% in nursing home study

Eli Lilly Bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) is an investigational neutralizing IgG1 monoclonal antibody directed against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein

ASYNTHETIC antibody developed by Eli Lilly reduced the risk of contracting Covid-19 by 80 per cent in a study of nursing home residents when used preventatively, the company said Thursday.

Though the result is only preliminary and awaiting peer review, the finding was hailed as highly promising by experts, who said it meant that the infused therapy had the potential to complement vaccines.

"We are exceptionally

pleased with these positive results, which showed bamlanivimab was able to help prevent COVID-19, substantially reducing symptomatic disease among nursing home residents, some of the most vulnerable members of our society," said Daniel Skovronsky, the company's chief scientific officer, using the trade name for the antibody.

The result came from a late-stage clinical trial sponsored by the US government that examined 299 residents and 666 staff of long-term care facilities who

tested negative for the virus, the company said in a press release.

The participants were randomly assigned either 4.2 grams of bamlanivimab, or a placebo.

After eight weeks of follow-up, the risk of developing symptomatic Covid-19 was overall reduced by 57 per cent for those receiving the treatment.

In particular, residents on bamlanivimab had a 80 per cent lower risk of contracting the disease.

Among the 299 residents, there were four deaths attribut-

ed to Covid-19, all in the placebo arm. The study also looked at using bamlanivimab, which has received emergency use authorization in the US, as a treatment for 132 participants (41 residents and 91 staff) who tested positive at the start.

The press release reported fewer details from this part of the study, but said that among the 41 residents in the treatment group, there were four deaths, and all occurred in the placebo arm with none in the bamlanivimab arm.

Independent experts react-



Developed by Eli Lilly and Company, Bamlanivimab secured emergency use authorization (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in November 2020. PHOTO CREDIT: ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

ed with excitement. "These results exceed our expectations, demonstrating that this class of treatments can be used to both prevent and treat

disease," said Nick Cammack, Covid-19 Therapeutics accelerator lead at Britain's Wellcome charity.

SOURCE: AFP

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report. BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 23rd January, 2021: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Gems emporium committee discusses post-COVID-19 event plans

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, in his capacity as the patron of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee, presided over its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The members of work committees and the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association reviewed the previous emporiums, and discussed preparations for sale events in the post-COVID-19, depending on the situations of the pandemic.

The committee could not



Union Minister U Ohn Win chairs the meeting of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

organize an emporium scheduled for January 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, although it held a preparatory meeting on 9 December 2019.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

# MoSWRR accepts US assistance for women rehabilitation centre in Lashio

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement hosted the virtual handover ceremony of additional assistance from the US government for women's rehabilitation training programme to be conducted at Lashio drug rehabilitation centre yesterday.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye expressed words of thanks to the US government and its people for their donations to the drug rehabilitation centre in Wethikan and Pehon in 2019 and other additional assistance for new women rehabilitation training to be established in Lashio drug rehabilitation centre.

The Union Minister also highlighted the establishment of 14 rehabilitation centres to date, 3-month rehabilitation training and 40-day community-based rehabilitation programmes.

He then talked about the temporary closure of centres during COVID-19 outbreak and the plans to run the centres with no more than 30 people



Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement accepts the assistance from the US government for women's rehabilitation training programme in Lashio on 22 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

according to the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. The US Ambassador Mr Thomas Laszlo Vajda said the US and Myanmar are facing the problems of drug addiction which affect the families and regional economy.

The rate of drug abuse is increasing amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Myanmar is facing similar cases, and so the US gov-

ernment provides the needed assistance to Myanmar to use in rehabilitation processes.

He also stressed the importance of rehabilitation programmes without any gender discrimination and briefed the donations for the first women's rehabilitation training.

Director Mr Ryan Mckean for the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement em-

phasized the donation as a good result of the bilateral agreement between the US and Myanmar signed in 2017 and further bilateral relations in rehabilitation programmes.

Then, Mr Ryan Mckean handed over the donations to Director-General of Rehabilitation Department U Win Naing Tun. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

# Myanmar nationals repatriated from India, Singapore by relief flights

A total of 193 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries— 47 from India and 146 from Singapore – because of the suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

The relief flight of Air India organized by Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi bringing back the Myanmar nationals home

from India landed at Yangon International Airport in the afternoon.

The relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines organized by Myanmar Embassy in Singapore repatriating 146 Myanmar nationals from Singapore landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Im-

migration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign

countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens and seamen stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

## UN, pope hail launch of anti-nuclear treaty

THE Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took effect Friday – but the milestone is marred by the lack of signatures from the world’s major nuclear powers.

Despite the missing participants, the occasion was marked by praise from the United Nations and even Pope Francis. “The Treaty is an important step towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and a strong demonstration of support for multilateral approaches to nuclear disarmament,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. He praised “the first multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty in more than two decades,” and called on “all States to work together to realize this ambition to advance common

security and collective safety.” The treaty seeks to prohibit the use, development, production, testing, stationing, stockpiling and threat of nuclear weapons. The pope heralded the treaty’s enactment during his general audience Wednesday. “This is the first legally binding international instrument explicitly prohibiting these weapons, whose indiscriminate use would impact a huge number of people in a short time and would cause long-lasting damage to the environment,” Francis said.

“I strongly encourage all States and all people to work decisively toward promoting conditions necessary for a world without nuclear weapons, contributing to the advancement of



A view of the Centre for Scientific and Technical Study of Aquitaine (CESTA/CEA), dedicated to the design of nuclear weapons, in Barp, southwest France is seen in 2014. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

peace and multilateral cooperation which humanity greatly needs today.” The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Mauer, echoed those sentiments. “Today is a

victory for our common humanity. Let us seize the moment – and take the Treaty all the way to its goal: a world without nuclear weapons,” he said in a statement. SOURCE: AFP

PRESSURING CRITICS

## Navalny allies face jail ahead of weekend protests

ALLIES of jailed Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny were facing possible fines and prison time on Friday in court cases that ramp up pressure on Kremlin critics ahead of weekend protests.

Navalny’s allies are planning to hold demonstrations on Saturday in dozens of cities in support of the Kremlin critic who was arrested and jailed on his return to Russia following a near-fatal poisoning with a nerve agent.

Several close Navalny associates, including prominent activist Lyubov Sobol and his spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh, were detained late on Thursday for calling on Russians to join the demonstrations and face hefty fines and short jail stints.

Sobol, 33, is accused of repeatedly violating legislation on public gatherings, which carries a maximum fine of up to 300,000 rubles (\$4,000), her lawyer Vladimir Voronin told AFP.

Sobol, who has a small child, is not likely to be given jail time Friday, Voronin said.

But he cautioned that if she is found guilty, authorities could later open a criminal probe against her.

Yarmysh, a 31-year-old Navalny spokeswoman who spent the night in jail, is accused of violating legislation on public gatherings and could be detained for 10 days, her lawyer Veronika Polyakova told AFP.

Ahead of Yarmysh’s arrest, she recorded a video urging a large turnout on Saturday.

“Our future literally depends on the number of people who take to the streets,” she said.

A number of Navalny allies were also detained in the regions on Thursday and Friday, including the coordinator for the opposition politician’s offices in the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok.

SOURCE: AFP

OVERHAULING THE ‘BROKEN’ SYSTEM

## Biden undoes Trump migration orders, pushes for major reform



Protesters march in 2017 against Donald Trump’s immigration policies. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

WITHIN hours of taking office, President Joe Biden undid some of Donald Trump’s most controversial immigration policies and sparked cautious hope that mil-

lions living in the shadows could one day get legal status in the US.

Scribbled signatures from his pen on Wednesday lifted an entry ban for people from many

majority Muslim nations and halted construction of Trump’s border wall with Mexico, heartening immigration defenders left reeling by four years of “America First” nationalism.

Yet advocates see new battles ahead, including whether lawmakers can finally overhaul the nation’s immigration system which has been branded as “broken” with some 11 million undocumented people living in limbo.

These discussions, however, have only begun as the Trump administration has just left the White House. His so-called “Muslim ban,” which in 2017 targeted citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, ignited international outrage and lead to domestic court rulings

against it. Iraq and Sudan were dropped from the list, but in 2018 the Supreme Court upheld a later version of the ban for the other nations – as well as North Korea and Venezuela. As part of his first acts, Biden signed new protections for so-called “Dreamers” – immigrants who arrived illegally as children and had been temporarily shielded from deportation by a program Trump tried to dismantle. In addition, the new president overturned one of his predecessor’s orders pushing aggressive efforts to find and deport unauthorized immigrants, and imposed a 100-day suspension on most deportations. Immigration advocates erupted in support for Biden’s first orders.

SOURCE: AFP

ADJUSTING THE ACRONYM

## Colombia’s FARC party to change blood-soaked name

COLOMBIA’S FARC party said Thursday that it would change its name to move away from the acronym that identified the Marxist rebel force for decades.

On the heels of a 2016 peace accord, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia transitioned to a political party called the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force – both of which went by FARC.

“It was complicated (for us) to keep the FARC name; not because we regret it, or it makes us ashamed of anything, but because it was as the FARC that we took part in armed conflict,



A model presents a creation by former FARC combatants during a demonstration demanding peace accords be respected, at Bolivar square in Bogota in November 2020. PHOTO: AFP

in war,” said Rodrigo Londono, leader of the leftist party, also known as Timochenko.

He acknowledged that “the conflict caused a lot of pain” and added that the name FARC is closely associated with bloodshed. A new name is expected to be announced later this month, he added. The former rebels have been divided since their disarmament. Although the majority of some 13,000 former FARC combatants and militiamen accepted the peace agreement, dissident factions have kept up or retaken arms.

SOURCE: AFP



NEW ID SYSTEM

# Fear and frustration in Nigeria as millions at risk of phone suspension

“IF I don’t have my phone, I don’t make money,” said Raphael Ajih, resting on a rusty metal chair, his hands clenched on his lap.

The government of Africa’s most populous country has ordered telecom operators to block the SIM cards of anyone who fails to register for a National Identity Number (NIN) by February 9.

Across the country, many like Ajih are trying to comply with the directive, only to be frustrated by days-long waits to do the paperwork, often in large crowds despite the Covid

pandemic.

The idea behind the NIN is to create a single ID database for Nigeria’s 200 million people, replacing the hotchpotch of documents, from drivers licences to voter cards, that citizens use to identify themselves. A unique number for each person, which in turn will unlock their national ID card, will help to smooth out problems in policy-making and budget planning, the government says. The change will also fight Nigeria’s rampant crime, goes its argument. By linking the ID number



Applicants say they sometimes have to wait days to get their NIN. PHOTO: AFP

to a SIM, this will weed out unregistered cards used by crooks and jihadists.

Ajih, 38, sells goods via WhatsApp and Amazon and works as an Uber driver in the capital Abuja -- jobs that enable him to financially support his two younger brothers and sister as well as extended family members.

He sends money to relatives by mobile transfer, something he may no longer be able to do if he fails to get a NIN and submits the number to his mobile operator.

SOURCE: AFP

FACING PRESSURE

## Embattled Intel says earnings better than expected

INTEL said Thursday that earnings topped prior expectations, as the computer chip giant faces pressure to come up with bold ways to fend off fierce competition and an activist shareholder.

Intel said it took in \$20 billion in revenue during the final quarter of last year, little changed from a year earlier, amid robust sales of personal computers.

The Silicon Valley company reported

net income of \$5.9 billion in the quarter, down a billion dollars from the same period a year earlier.

Intel said that its board approved an increased cash dividend of \$1.39 per share in what may have been a move to placate investor Dan Loeb of Third Point, who has called on Intel to bolster its weakening position in the chip market.

SOURCE: AFP

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(29/2020-2021)**

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-126(20-21) (Retender)	Mud Chemicals (3) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 22 January 2021 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 22 February 2021**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **22-2-2021, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

### Invitation For Open tender No.(1/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (3041.638) Metric Tons, average metal content (Ni- 35.94 %, Fe-62.19 %) (17) Lots of Ferro Nickel by United States Dollar as follow,  
(a) Ferro Nickel (500) MT ( 2 ) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site  
(b) Ferro Nickel (200) MT ( 5 ) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site  
(c) Ferro Nickel (100) MT (10) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
2. Base price of Ferro Nickel shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Nickel average price in the month prior to the month of tender opening and the iron ore price 300 U.S. dollar per metric ton. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021, (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No. (19), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. If you need detailed information, please can be inquired at telephone no. (+95) 67- 3409378, 67- 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee  
Department of Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

### Invitation For Open tender No.(2/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5008.574) Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,  
(a) Cathode Copper (108.574) MT (1) Lot, Yangon, Eden Warehouse  
(b) Cathode Copper (100) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse  
(c) Cathode Copper (200) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse  
(d) Cathode Copper (200) MT (7) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site  
(e) Cathode Copper (500) MT (2) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site  
(f) Cathode Copper (1000) MT (1) Lot, Monywa, Mine Site
2. Base price of Cathode Copper (Eden Warehouse, Yangon) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount shall be winning tender.
3. Base price of Cathode Copper (Mine Site, Monywa) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021 (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee  
Department of Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SN HARMONY V.004

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SN HARMONY VOY. NO. (004)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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.

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DAUNTING CHALLENGES

# Asia to dominate Davos virtual forum as virus-hit West struggles

EMERGING stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic, Asia is set to dominate this year's virtual World Economic Forum as a virus-battered West struggles and a new US president faces particularly daunting challenges.

The 2020 WEF, which took place in its usual Swiss Alpine resort of Davos, saw the global elite just starting to worry about a pandemic that surfaced in China a month earlier. While the coronavirus leaves a mounting death toll and upends economies, depriving millions of people of work, China and Asian countries



Celebrated at home for throttling the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping will headline the virtual Davos forum. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

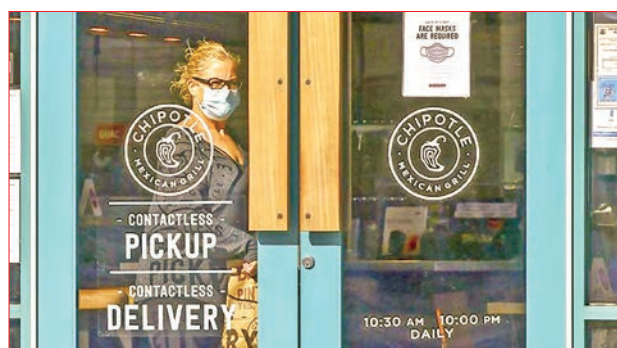
in 2021 are making a strong comeback from the virus that hit them first. In virtual format because of the pandemic, next week's event is headlined: "A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust." The spotlight will be on Chinese President Xi Jinping, who will give a speech on Monday, the opening day of the event that will last through next Friday. The big names from Europe will be German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who heads the European Union executive.

US President Joe Biden will not appear at the virtual Davos, which has never been a fixture on the White House calendar -- even if the new administration has pledged to revive a US multilateral foreign policy after four years of Donald Trump's America First approach. Trump had been an exception as he stopped in Davos twice, with the real estate billionaire enjoying mixing with the global business elite. Before him, Bill Clinton was the only American president who had travelled to Davos, and that was just once.

SOURCE: AFP

UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

## US jobless claim data underscores employment crisis awaiting Biden



The latest government data confirms layoffs are continuing at high levels in the United States. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

US government data released the day after Joe Biden entered the White House made clear the scale of the employment crisis facing the new president as the country struggles to make it through the Covid-19 pandemic.

The United States saw 900,000 new filings for unemployment benefits last week, the Labour De-

partment said Thursday, a huge number that remains well above the single worst week of the 2008-2010 global financial crisis, during which Biden served as vice president under Barack Obama. Economists had been expecting a significant reduction in seasonally adjusted claims in the week ended January 16, but instead they fell just

26,000 from the prior week's downwardly revised total, underscoring the damage done by the pandemic's renewed onslaught in the country.

The government also reported 423,734 new filings made under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programme for self-employed people not normally eligible for benefits. That was nearly twice the week prior, after that programme lapsed briefly amid a standoff in Washington over extending it and other aid.

All told, nearly 16 million people were receiving some form of assistance from the government as of January 2 -- a figure that's expected to rise.

SOURCE: AFP

DIGITAL INDUSTRIALIZATION

## Xinjiang's digital economy grows 10 per cent in 2020

THE digital economy in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region registered a 10-per cent growth year on year in 2020, contributing 26 per cent to the region's annual gross domestic product (GDP), local authorities said on Thursday.

The growth was mainly driven by the construction of new infrastructure projects, such as the Xinjiang Software Park, and the rapid expansion of the 5G+ Industrial Internet last year, according to the regional government's department of industry and information technology.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), Xinjiang's digital economy

maintained an average annual double-digit growth. Currently, 6,272 5G base stations are operating, with 2.75 million 5G users.

The region has applied the Industrial Internet in more than 20 key industries such as new energy, oil and gas exploitation, electricity, and equipment manufacturing. In 2021, Xinjiang will accelerate industrial digitalization and digital industrialization to promote key-industry integration. These include the energy and chemical, textile and clothing, machinery and equipment, and mining industries, said the department.

SOURCE: Xinhua

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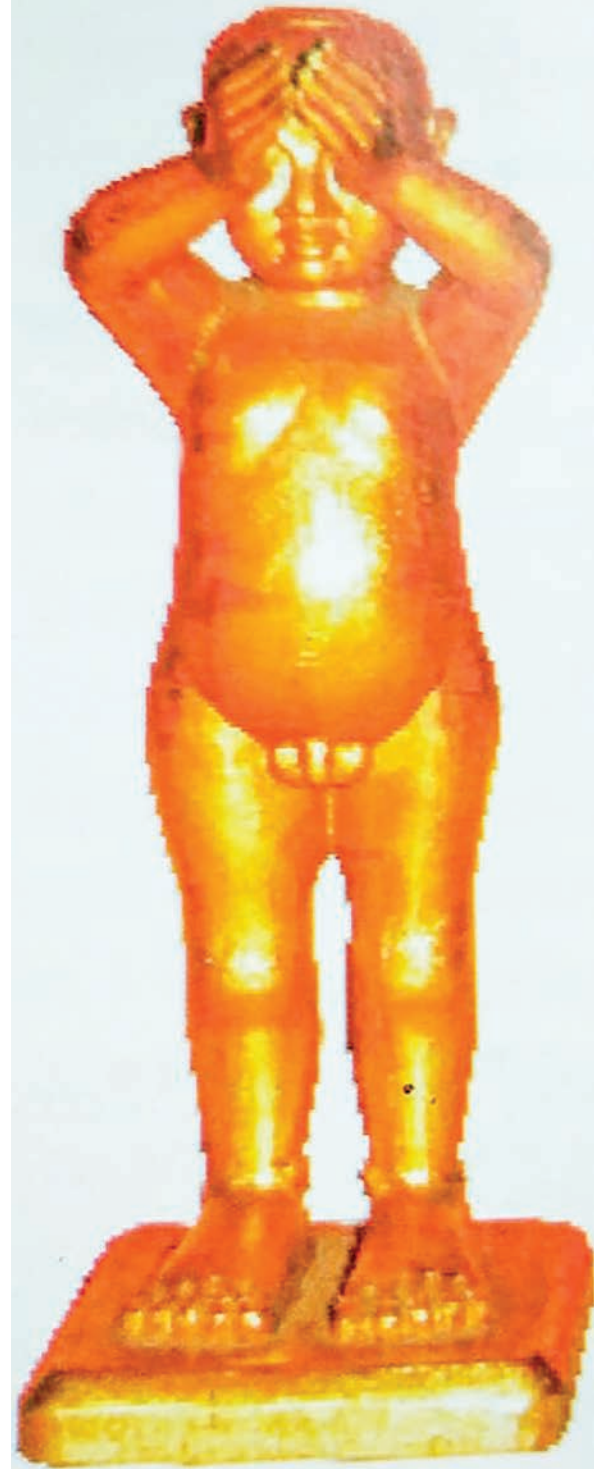
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Thiha Thana throne and statues of royal pages



Statue of the royal page on the front wing of Thiha Thana throne

# Royal Pages

## in Myanmar

By Maung Tha  
(Archaeology)

TRANSLATED BY  
THAN TUN AUNG

**M**YANMAR encyclopaedia defines a royal page as child servant who served minor duties at the royal palace and royal residences in the past. Veteran historian Dr Toe Hla said those children under seven years old served at the king for carrying out minor tasks.

Religious edifices were decorated with statues of royal pages, and now, they are well-known as Papier-mâché dolls.

### Statue of royal page

Some people decorate their houses with puppets of royal page, made of wood, stone or concrete in postures of sitting, playing, standing, offering oil lamps to

the Buddha images and so on. Now, the puppet of the royal page is in standing position.

Hair of Papier-mâché doll is tied by a string on both sides of its head. Its neck is decorated with a large gold coin. The doll grids its loins. Large bracelets are worn at wrists and ankles. Cheeks are decorated with round patches of Thanakha. In dancing, the doll wears quarter pants.

In 1996, Myanmar used Papier-mâché doll as a mascot of the Visit Myanmar Year.

Thrones of Myanmar kings were decorated with 12 kinds of decoration including a statue of royal page. The statue can be seen in front of the throne in Anjali Mudra. Some statues bare clothes. Thiha Thana throne displayed at the National Museum in Yangon



was decorated with eight 22 inches high gilt royal page statues made of wood.

Carving the statues of royal page dedicates portents for day by day growing up of prestige and power of the king. Anjali Mudra of the statues is the posture of electing the Buddha embryo as the president in the early world, according to Vocabulary in Use of Royal Palace Dictionary.

### Origins of royal page and definitions

Some Myanmar histories mentioned ranks, duty and obligations of royal pages in the monarchical era.

They were sanitation workers serving at the western royal building. They served in the reign of King Badon (1712-1819 AD) in the Konbaung era under supervision of clerks from the western minister. They had got 80 baskets of paddy as salaries.

King Bodawpaya allowed 110 people of families from Thandwe, Yanbye and Manaung of Rakhine State to reside in Amarapura Royal Palace in Nadaw of 1150 ME. The king allotted land plots to them and formed the royal page group.

Historian Daw Kyan wrote they served near the king to perform tasks at same positions of those managing shoes, betel quids and tea servants.

The paper on royal administration of Myanmar kings stated the royal pages had to clean the rooms and pavements of queens, princesses and maids of honour. If these areas were uncleaned, the western minister had to punish them.

Old Myanmar History compiled by Myanmar Historical Commission member U Thein Hlaing mentioned child servants had to clean halls of king and queens, especially toilets.

The dictionary compiled by Judson mentioned royal pages as formerly palace sweepers or personal attendant of a Saopha. But, historian Daw Kyan reviewed such servant might not exist current era because of using 'formerly'.

### Royal pages in Bagan era

Researchers clarified matters related to royal pages in Bagan era with evidence. O Pyae Sone Thin stone inscription (at Saw Min Latt Pagoda) carved in 595 ME, Saw Hla Wun Pagoda's stone inscription in 626 ME, Minwaing stone inscription in 627 ME, Mathkhein Phwarzat stone inscription in 631 ME and Tuyin Pahtoe stone inscription in 651 ME mentioned royal pages. Moreover, Thitmahtee Kyaung stone inscription carved in 634 ME in Bagan era, Minister Intapaccaya stone inscription in 655 ME and Thanbyin Zeya Thahtay stone inscription in 656 ME used words of royal pages.

O Pyaw Sone Thin stone inscription expressed that child servant was one of the royal pages. They were at the same level of Thanbyin, Kalan, Hura and Thukhamein posts. Min Waing stone inscription said the child servant discharged duty together with gift collector Uttamabhiriz under King Uzzana, according to Myanmar Historical Commission member Sayamagyi Daw Kyan. Likewise, Thitmahtee stone inscription mentioned royal pages were witnesses in trading farmlands. Minister Intapaccaya stone inscription mentioned merits gained in donating the monastery were shared with king, minister, mother of the king, first queen and royal pages.

According to the records in the stone inscriptions, royal pages in Bagan era were different in positions of Amarapura and Yadanabon eras. Those servants were at the same level of Thanbyin, Kal-

an, counsellor, Hura and Thukhamein posts. Royal pages were not room cleaners.

As such, veteran historian Dr. Than Tun remarked that royal pages might be those born at the same moment as the king.

### Royal pages in after Bagan era

In the reign of King Ngaseeshin Kyaw Swa in Pinya era, Danyawady revolutionary treatise compiled by Rakhine Sayadaw mentioned matters related to royal pages, saying that Chit Hnaung Oo, son of Tagaung governor, served at Taseeshin Minye Kyaw Swa and his brother Shwe Hsin and the younger at the crown prince.

Uminkyaung stone inscription carved in Pinya era of 700 ME mentioned Apathunge generally used in Bagan era, urging Thanbyin, high officers of Myanmar royal court and royal pages to call well-done for the meritorious deeds. That is why royal pages might be in a high position in the Bagan era.



According to the research conducted by Saya Bo Sheik, the stone inscription of Thangetaw Village head carved in 727 ME in Inwa era mentioned that head of Thangetaw Village U Shwe Khet and wife donated 10 peis of lands to Pinya Shwezigon Pagoda. The stone inscription of Asalathu of Thang-etaw Village donated chamber and land plots to the pagoda in 761 ME. The stone inscription from Yanaungmyin Pagoda in 769 ME stated when King Min Khaung I built Yanaungmyin Pagoda, the head of Thangetaw Village Nan Thu Klaung donated 13

peis of farmlands and 10 pieces of gold bracelets to the pagoda.

Shin Maha Rathtathara of Inwa era composed Samvara poem illustrating royal pages as guards of stairways and arches leading to the inner royal buildings.

In the second Inwa era (Nyaungyan era), royal pages became gunners to take security measures of the royal palace. In the reign of King Thalun, the royal page troops were involved in 40 groups under the control of the western minister. However, some royal pages guarded the dead bodies in the royal palace according to the orders and gazettes.

Researcher Bo Sheik wrote that royal pages became guards at the doors in the time of King Sinku in Konbaung era. In the reign of King Badon, some royal pages discharged the duty of cleaner. Some royal pages discharged higher duties. According to the folded paper of toilet door group, some royal pages guarded toilets in the time of King Badon, but the paper did not mention they carried out sanitation of the toilet.

### Seven characteristics of royal pages and royal page dance

Swesone Kyawhtin treatise mentioned Kyeethe Layhtet Sayadaw replied to question on seven characteristics of royal pages having capabilities namely well-knowing wish of the king, having neatness and tidiness, cleverness, abiding by the laws, having wider knowledge, minimizing needs and conscientiousness to serve the king.

The puppet of the royal page is involved in 28 puppets in the marionette drama of Myanmar. Each puppet indicates 28 physical structures of Abhidhamma Desana preached by the Lord Buddha.

The 28 puppets comprise 17 right puppets and 11 left puppets. The puppet of the royal page is included on the list of right puppets. The preliminary dance of female dancer in the drama needs to follow 12 kinds of dancing called 12 dancing sections of a female dancer. Seven sections from the performance of the female dancer were separated into seven kinds of dancing. Dancing of royal page was included in both 12 sections of a female dancer and seven kinds of dancing. As such, two puppets of royal page were used in the past, but the marionette performance uses only one royal page puppet.

In staging marionette performances, it is the most difficult to handle strings of the royal page. Later, the dance of royal page was inserted into the theatrical drama performance. In central Myanmar, local people perform a dance of royal page to the accompaniment of Dobet troupe in the procession of novice-to-be.

As royal pages served the king from Bagan to Konbaung eras, they might be trusty servants of the king. Their ranks might be the same as servants for shoes, tea and betel spittle or might be higher them. Now, royal pages cannot be seen, but statues and dance of royal page still remain as Myanmar cultural heritages.

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*Dictionary for words used in royal palace (U Maung Maung Tin)*  
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## E-Sport: Burmese Ghouls reaches Upper Bracket Final of M2 World Championship

MYANMAR'S Burmese Ghouls Mobile Legends team secured a place in the Upper Bracket Final of the M2 Mobile Legends: Bang Bang World Championship 2021 after beating Filipino Bren Esports team 2-0 in the Play Off Upper Bracket of the E Sport Championship which was held yesterday at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

Five players: Ace, Dee, Maybe, Kid, and Ruby DD participated in the Burmese Ghouls team in the Play-Off Upper Bracket against Filipino Bren Esports.

Burmese Ghouls dominated the whole game with full of concentration. Hyper player Ace took a Jungler role of the Burmese Ghouls and the rest of the Myanmar team member gave him their best support to secure the big 2-0 win to go in the Upper Bracket Final game.

In the Upper Bracket Final today (23 January), Burmese Ghouls will play against RRQ Hoshi of Indonesia. The Upper Bracket stage winner will advance to the Grand Final of the M2 World Championship 2021.



Burmese Ghouls players compete in the Play-Off stage of the Mobile Legends M2 World Championship 2021 at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore on 22 January 2021. **PHOTO: BURMESE GHOULS FACEBOOK PAGE**

Founded in 2016, Myanmar's "Burmese Ghouls" team is standing as one of the best E-Sports

teams in the ASEAN region. The team is proudly representing Myanmar in virtual and in-person in-

ternational gaming tournaments of the Mobile Legends. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Japan says 'no truth' in Tokyo Olympics cancellation report



The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to start on July 23. **PHOTO: PHILIP FONG AFP/FILE**

TOKYO—Japan dismissed a report claiming officials see cancelling the Tokyo Olympics as inevitable on Friday, as

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said he was "determined" to hold the Games.

Deputy government

spokesman Manabu Sakai there was "no truth" to the report in The Times, which quoted an unnamed ruling coalition source as saying "the consensus is that it's too difficult" to hold the Games.

It is the latest article to cast doubt on the Games, which were postponed over the coronavirus last year but have been hit by a surge in cases and plunging public support. "I am determined to realize a safe and secure Tokyo Games as proof that mankind will have overcome the virus," Suga insisted on Friday.

Games organizers also said they were "fully focused on hosting the Games this

summer".

But Sakai said a decision on hosting the Games was looming for Japan, a statement that appeared to deviate from the government's stated position.

"At some point in time, we will naturally make a decision as to whether to actually hold it," he said.

"Until then the Japanese government will do what it needs to do and make progress and prepare for it."

Concerns have risen as Japan battles a third wave of virus infections, with polls showing around 80 per cent of Japanese oppose hosting the event this year.—AFP ■

## Liverpool's 68-game unbeaten home run comes to an end after 0-1 loss to Burnley

Liverpool—Jurgen Klopp took responsibility for the sudden collapse of Liverpool's Premier League title defence after their 68-game unbeaten run in the Premier League at Anfield came to a stunning end in a 1-0 defeat to Burnley on Thursday.

The Clarets began the game just one place above the relegation zone, but gave their chances of beating the drop a huge boost when Ashley Barnes was tripped by Alisson Becker seven minutes from time and then beat the Brazilian from the penalty spot.

Klopp's men have now failed to win in five consecutive

league games to slip to fourth in the table, six points behind leaders Manchester United. Liverpool had not tasted a league defeat at Anfield since April 2017.

Since then the Reds have ended a 30-year wait to win a league title, but their chances of repeating that feat are fading rapidly after a disastrous run over the past month. "We lost the game, which I think is pretty impossible to lose, but we did it," said Klopp. "That is my fault because it is my job so that the boys have the right feelings, like they have the right amount of confidence." —AFP ■



After romping to a first league crown for 30 years last season, Liverpool are suffering a hangover in their title defence as Jurgen Klopp's men have gone five games without a Premier League win for the first time since 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Defending champions Serbia, led by Novak Djokovic, drawn in tough pool

MELBOURNE—Defending champions Serbia were handed a "brutal" draw in the ATP Cup Friday, with Novak Djokovic's team facing Germany and Canada in the group stage.

The tournament - launched last year as a rival to the Davis Cup - has been slimmed down to 12 teams this year and will be played in Melbourne as a curtain-raiser to the Australian Open, rather than the multi-city format employed in 2020.

It was delayed to 1-5 February because of COVID-19 restrictions in the host city and the prize money on offer has also been halved to US\$7.5 million, reflecting a leaner, pandemic-affected budget.

Commentator Mark Petchey said the Serbians faced a tricky draw in Group A against the Alexander Zverev-inspired Germany and a Canada team featuring Denis Shapovalov and Milos Raonic.—AFP ■