

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 30 January 2021

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

### Announcement to public

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Pyatho, 1382 ME

(29 January 2021)

IT is announced that public statements, orders, notifications, and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of the Union-level organizations and the Union ministries effective until 31 January 2021 for protection, control and prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 28 February 2021 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

## VP U Myint Swe inspects development projects in Kachin State

Vice-President U Myint Swe made an inspection tour of development projects in Kachin State yesterday.

His entourage included Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe, permanent secretaries, directors-general and responsible officials.

Upon arrival in Putao Township by the special military aircraft, they were welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung, state government ministers and responsible officials at the airport.

They first inspected the Hkakaborazi Biodiversity Research Lab and the Biodiversity Conservation Public Awareness Exhibition hall.

At the management office of Hkakaborazi National Park, the Vice-President heard reports on environmental conservation works in the northernmost part of Myanmar, the status of forest coverage area in Putao district, information about the national park, the biodiversity situation, administration and management



Vice-President U Myint Swe is greeting to the locals in Khaunglanphu Township, Kachin State on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

matters, research opportunities and cooperation with international organizations.

In response to reports

presented at the meeting, the Vice-President discussed conservation of Myanmar forests, plants and wildlife species, en-

vironmental conservation at the origination point of the Maykha river which is a tributary of the Ayeyawady River, exploring new

species of plants and animals and socio-economic development of the local people.

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# VP U Myint Swe inspects development projects in Kachin State

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After hearing reports on the Hkakaborazi Native Orchids Farm, the Vice-President and party proceeded to Khaunglanphu Township where they presented basic household food items for 895 families, 472 school uniforms and exercise books for teachers and children and dried fish for 83 families of government staff.

Deputy Commander of the Northern Command Brig-Gen Aung Myo Oo gave foodstuffs and commodities donated by the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force)



VP U Myint Swe inspects the Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Exhibition at Hkakaborazi National Park in Putao, Kachin State on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe provides foodstuffs to the locals and staff in Khaunglanphu on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe inspects the Biodiversity Conservation Exhibition at Hkakaborazi park in Putao on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe inspects Ridem suspension bridge that crosses Maykha river in Phulone village on 29 January. PHOTO: MNA

families for the local people.

The Vice-President also inspected development projects of Khaunglanphu Townships and the Ridem suspension bridge that crosses the Maykha river in Phulone village. At the Khaunglanphu-Magweza road construction project, he was briefed on the progress in constructing 28 concrete bridges, 165 box culverts, stone water drainage and other projects to be implemented in the 2020-2021 financial year.

The Vice-President gave guidance and instructions on safety measures to be undertaken in construction projects, transporting construction ma-



Aerial picture shows Khaunglanphu-Magweza road construction project in Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA

terials for the new Ridem bridge and the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Construction to work in close cooperation.

He then inspected the construction works being carried out for the road section from Magweza – Khaunglanphu in the Sanlutchet valley.

The Vice-President presented cash awards to staff members from the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Directorate of Military Engineering before flying back to Putao where they inspected the Mular Shiedi suspension bridge.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Central) Request

1. People in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are facing the risk of COVID-19 pandemic at present, and experiencing the great hardship in the economy, education, health and social sectors.
2. Meanwhile, it was learnt that common people and religious communities had felt worries and anxiety in relation to the disputes on the 2020 General Election.
3. By recognizing disputes as to the danger and negotiation as the cause of well-being, it is seriously required to conduct negotiation peacefully.
4. Therefore, it is requested to all the national people from different faiths to solve the disputes peacefully through negotiations in line with the existing laws, bylaws and rules, instead of heated arguments, for the peace, stability and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Central)

## First-day meeting of third Amyotha Hluttaw postponed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

THE first-day meeting of third Amyotha Hluttaw will be postponed from 1st February 2021 (Monday) to 2nd February 2021 (Tuesday) in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

## State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee's senior monks suggest peaceful manner in resolving disputes

Senior Buddhist monks from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held an online meeting from their respective residing monasteries yesterday afternoon. The meeting discussed worries and anxiety of common people and religious communities about the ongoing disputes in relation to the recent 2020 General Election and released the following statement.

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee**  
**Maha Nayaka Monastery, Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon**  
Letter No. 001/47-12/5/Thar-Ma Ha Na  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Pyatho, 1382 MME  
29 January 2021

### Request

1. People in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are facing the risk of COVID-19 pandemic at present, and experiencing the great hardship in the economy, education, health and social sectors.
2. Meanwhile, it was learnt that common people and religious communities had felt worries and anxiety in relation to the disputes on the 2020 General Election.
3. Vivadam bayataw dithawa, Avivadinnca Khemataw  
Samagga Sakhila Hohta, so Buddha Nusasani— This Pali verse means to regard disputes as to the danger and conduct negotiation as it is the cause of well-being.
4. It is requested to the Union Government, the Tatmadaw, the political parties and the laypersons of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to solve the disputes peacefully through negotiations in line with the existing laws, bylaws and rules, instead of heated arguments.

Sd/  Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa Abhidhaja Aggamaha Rahta Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Chairman of the committee	Sd/  Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Executive Member of the committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Sumingala Bhivamsa Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Deputy Chairperson of the committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Cittara Nyana Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Deputy Chairperson of the committee
Sd/  Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma Agga Maha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Dvipi akadhara Deputy Chairperson of the committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Kesara Bhivamsa Agga Maha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Dvipi akadhara Deputy Chairperson of the committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Nanda Sara Agga Maha Pandita Deputy Chairperson of the committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Kawvida Agga Maha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Deputy Chairperson of the committee
Sd/  Bhaddanta Dhammasara Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Executive Member of the committee	Sd/  Dr Bhaddanta Sanda Nasara Agga Maha Vacaka Pandita Executive Member of committee	Sd/  Bhaddanta Sila Sara Bhivamsa Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Executive Member of the committee	Sd/  Dr Bhaddanta Ceintitalankara Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Executive Member of the committee
	Sd/  Bhaddanta Sethila Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Executive Member of the committee	Sd/  Dr Bhaddanta Tejosara Bhivamsa Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Executive Member of the committee	

## MPs vaccinated against COVID-19 before Hluttaw session

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat and Members of Parliament received vaccination against COVID-19 before the start of the first regular session of the third Hluttaw at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials came to observe the vaccination programme for the MPs.

Head of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department Dr Myat Wunna Soe said, "Pyithu Hluttaw MPs are vaccinated today. The swabs of the MPs who were receiving vaccination against COVID-19 were tested two times – the first test on 23 January when they arrived in Nay Pyi Taw and the second test on 28 January. Those who tested negative for COVID-19 in those two times are vaccinated now".

"Before administering vac-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives the COVID-19 vaccine in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN



Pyithu Hluttaw MPs receive the vaccination against COVID-19 in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

cines, we first measure their blood pressure, body temperature and blood oxygen level. If needed, they have to see the doctors. We administered vaccines if they are well. The MPs have to return to their rooms only after 30 minutes of the vaccination and if they are safe. Necessary medical covers were provided at their hostels," he added.

More than 3,000 people were vaccinated in Nay Pyi Taw. The effects of the COVID-19 vaccination were being monitored. No signs of hypotension and cardiac problem were found. Only they felt a little bit unwell such as physical pain, slight fever and aching. Out of the more than 3,000 people, about 600 people reported that they felt a little bit unwell.

"Two things are to be considered if a new vaccine was administered to the public. The first one is its quality and effectiveness, and the second one is its safety.

According to our experience, the safety of this COVID-19 vaccine is good. Therefore, people don't need to worry about the safety of the vaccine," he said.

"During the 24 hours after receiving the vaccines, if body pains are felt, it is suggested to take the medicines like paracetamol and cetirizine. During that time, it is suggested to eat regularly, drink a lot of water, have a lot of Vitamin C, and sleep enough," he added. A total of 315 Pyithu Hluttaw MPs were vaccinated yesterday, and 160 Amyotha Hluttaw MPs will be vaccinated on 30 January. Relevant Hluttaw Offices already distributed personal protective equipment for COVID-19 to the individual MPs.

Staff and employees who will be working at the Hluttaw sessions were also vaccinated against COVID-19.—Myo Min Nain (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## MoSWRR discusses cooperation with ASEAN on Rakhine State development, resettlement activities

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting in a virtual system on the ongoing cooperation with ASEAN on development and resettlement activities and future cooperation in Rakhine State yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, deputy ministers for the State Counsellor Office, Border Affairs, International Cooperation and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, State Ministers of the Rakhine State government, the permanent secretaries, directors-General and departmental officials participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said the meeting aims to discuss the ongoing activities on Rakhine State Development and Resettlement and further cooperation, and ways to solve the difficulties encountered and make the international community aware of the current situation.

He said the situation in Rakhine State is subtle and attracts international attention and hence it needs the positive cooperation of the international community. He added social harmony in Ra-



Union Ministers U Kyaw Tin and Dr Win Myat Aye participate in the meeting on cooperation with ASEAN on development of Rakhine State on 29 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

khine State is a key requirement and the implementation projects will be successful only with the participation of the local people.

He added the implementation of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State formed in September 2017, the cooperation

with local and international in the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD) and cooperation with ASEAN and United Nations.

He said although the cooperation with international organizations grew to some extent

until the end of 2018, the armed conflict in Rakhine State at the beginning of 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic have made implementation difficult and slowed down. However, the respective ministries and Rakhine State government tried to continue the implementation process.

He added effective cooperation with the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) in 2019, which conducted preliminary needs for resettlement programmes, prepared the finding reports, and cooperated with UNDP for Rakhine Joint Assessment (RJA) report. He continued these reports proved that there are no restrictions in education, health care and other basic services according to the rules and regulations.

He said the respective ministries have developed 37 projects to implement the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment Report and seven priority projects were approved on 29 October, 2019.

These projects include increasing access to local radio programs and information via radio to support readmission in Rakhine State; project to provide the necessary equipment for screening returnees at resettlement camps; project to dig fish ponds for livelihood support; technol-

ogy and machinery distribution project for agriculture; project to upgrade access roads to resettlement camps and intermediate camps; project to strengthen the dissemination and management of information on the readmission process through social media by relevant ministries; the project to provide more psychosocial support for returnees and local people by arranging places for women fun places for children.

He said his ministry had prepared the report (draft) to implement the Kofi Anan Advisory Commission on Rakhine State by the relevant ministries.

The meeting also discussed the support of ASEAN's cooperation in development and resettlement activities and the future cooperation with ASEAN, the implementation of the priority projects according to the Preliminary Needs Assessment Report, the need to give priority to the readmission process in implementing the projects, discussion on Rakhine State at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Special Meeting, regional meetings to raise funds for the projects and high-level coordination meeting, situation in resettlement camps and construction of houses in the resettlement areas and further activities.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe chairs 1/2021 Myanmar Medical Council Meeting

THE Myanmar Medical Council held its 1/2021 meeting for its second 4-year term via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as Patron of the council discussed the efforts of the council in improving the healthcare services of country and quality of medics.

Myanmar Medical Council Law was enacted in 2015, and the performance of council improved the health sector during the past four years.

Myanmar Medical Council Law was amended in 2020, and the council was formed with 65 members and 20 executive members.

The Union Minister also stressed the criteria and assessment in coming four years to improve the healthcare quality of doctors, state-owned hospitals and private hospitals and cooperation works with the medical

universities to study the changing medical subjects to promote the teaching level and to produce quality medics.

He also stressed the need for conducting a discussion with the relevant ministries, medicine universities, Myanmar Pharmaceutical Association, Myanmar Medical Association and other experts of respective subjects and supervision for medical ethics.

He urged to select the experts who need to be altruists with full of responsibilities and reasoning skills for any kinds of situation to form 10 committees.

Myanmar Medical Council was organized with well-experienced experts, and so they could promote the medical sector than before and carry out for the medical experts to follow the ethics while the ministry is also making efforts to ensure strict adherence to medical ethics.

He also highlighted the discussion regarding Myanmar



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks at the Meeting of Myanmar Medical Council on 29 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

Medical Council Law among the council members; work plans to conform to the resources of country and situation of the medical field, the use of electronic system or internet for licencing, the extension of licences and other work processes.

He discussed the processes for board-certified specialists and aims of the council to promote healthcare system and quality

of medics.

He also said Myanmar Medical Council plays a key role for the country, people and ministries. He urged to keep cooperating for the development of the medical sector via the promotion of healthcare quality and status.

Professor Dr S Kyaw Hla, member of Myanmar Medical Council presented the selecting of council members and execu-

tive members for a second 4-year term, and Professor Dr Maung Maung Wint read out the name lists of elected council members.

Then, Professor Dr Khin Maung Aye who was selected as Chairman of Myanmar Medical Council made his greeting speech and briefed the work plans including granting licences for general doctors and specialists, Myanmar Medical Licencing Examination to be held twice a year for those receive bachelor in medicine in foreign countries, inspection for complaint reports regarding with ethics (or) the cases transferred from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the formation of Accreditation Committee and credit system for Continuing Medical Education like other international countries.

The participants coordinated the discussion and then, the Union Minister concluded the meeting.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

# 29 solar power plants of Myanmar to generate 1,030 MW in mid-2021

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing 29 solar power projects, with the installed capacity of 1,030 megawatts, to generate electricity in mid-2021, according to the 4th coordination meeting of National Renewable Energy Committee yesterday.

The committee meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and it was attended by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing as the chairman, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu as the vice-chairman, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and committee members.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Win Khaing said that the committee has organized three meetings since it was formed in February 2019, and could work for the improvement of renewable energy in Myanmar's Energy Mix, opening the first solar power



Union Ministers U Win Khaing and Dr Aung Thu attend the 4th coordination meeting of the National Renewable Energy Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

plant in Myanmar with 40 MW capacity in Minbu on 27 June 2019, the 0.5 MW solar power plant in Manaungkyun on 19 December 2019 inaugurated by the State Counsellor.

The 0.5 MW solar power plant in Cocogyun Township began electricity generation for 24 hours every day since 4 January 2021.

After completing the ongoing solar projects, Myanmar's energy mix for electricity generation would be 40 per cent from hydro-

power, 14 per cent from solar, 3 per cent from domestic natural gas, 11 per cent from liquified natural gas and 1 per cent from other sources.

When the installed capacity reached 8,118 MW, the power generation from renewable energy will account for 54 per cent and 45 per cent from clean fuel. The country has met international policies for renewable energy and exceeded the expectation of ASEAN on renewable energy.

The electrification ratio of

the country has reached over 58 per cent, and renewable energy would significantly contribute in 75 per cent coverage of electricity in the country.

Moreover, the electricity supply in Yangon and Mandalay region is targeted to reach 75 per cent this year, while Myanmar has pledged at the Climate Ambition Summit which was held on 12 December last year as the preliminary event of COP 26 Climate Change Conference that will take place in Britain at the

end of this year to develop up to 39 per cent of renewable energy in the country's electricity ratio.

Under the Nationally Determined Contribution, which is aimed for the reduction of climate change, Myanmar is working to reduce carbon dioxide emission from 297 million tonnes of the present to 144 million tonnes in 2030.

Union Minister U Win Khaing also talked about the works of Department of Rural Development to set up solar mini-grid and solar home system in remote and rural areas, increasing 5 per cent of electrification rate in the country.

The MoEE will implement the floating solar project in collaboration with the MoALI, and the solar-power plant with the MoPFI. The meeting was attended by ministerial officials, Yangon City Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Mandalay City Development Committee member Dr Thit Sin and senior members of relevant organizations via online—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Statement of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on its inspection of prisons, jails and lock-ups in Myanmar during August to December 2020

### Statement No. (3/ 2021)

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has inspected prisons, jails, labour camps, police detention centres, court lock-ups and hospital guard-wards, on scheduled dates, in accordance with section 43 of the Commission Law in order to examine whether prisoners and detainees are treated in conformity with humanitarian norms, international human rights instruments and domestic legislation.
2. In inspecting, as stipulated in section 44 of the Commission law, spaces in the prisons, jails and lock-ups and facilities for those detained were examined and independent interviews with the prisoners and detainees were conducted. The findings of the inspections together with recommendations were referred to the relevant Union-level organizations.
3. The Commission had already issued Statement No. (11/2020) on the prison inspection from January to July 2020. The Commission subsequently inspected 2 prisons, 1 jail, 2 labour camps, 3 police detention centres, 3 court lock-ups and 3 hospital guard wards as follows:
  - (a) Myingyan Prison, police detention centre, court lock-up and hospital guard ward from 12 to 13 August 2020;
  - (b) Mawlamyine Prison, Hpa-an Prison, Mar Lar Phu Labour Camp, Lat Kha Na Labour Camp, police detention centre, court lock-ups and hospital guard wards from 18 to 22 August 2020.
4. From September to December 2020, the Commission suspended prison visits and field investigations because of COVID-19 pandemic.
5. On these inspection tours, 43 prisoners and detainees were allowed to separately

meet the inspection team to freely reveal their difficulties, violations of their rights and judicial matters without the presence of prison officials. After reviewing their revelations, the relevant organizations at the Union-Level have been informed accordingly.

6. The team carried out the inspections in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, contained in the Procedure of the MNHRC Law and based on the findings, the following recommendations have already been put forward to the relevant Union-Level organizations:

• related to health	5
• related to education	1
• related to administration	18
• related to prison transfer	5
• related to sanitation	7
• related to prison buildings	3
• related to communication with the outside world	1
• related to family visit	1
• related to food	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

7. While inspecting prisons, jails and lock-ups, the inspection team also monitored the implementation of the previous recommendations and progress achieved. The implementation of the new recommendations resulting from the current inspections will be re-examined as well on next inspection tours.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

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

THE exact amount of cash contributions made by the people from local and foreign countries between 21.1.2021 and 27.1.2021 for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733 and Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012 of the Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw are K 6,730.539 million and \$359,030.

The funds received until 27.1.2021 are as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund – OA-013733	Kyat
Amount on 21.1.2021	K18,781,336,582.39
(+) Amount between 21.1.2021 and 27.1.2021	K 6,730,538,903.00
<b>Balance on 27.1.2021</b>	<b>25,511,875,485.39</b>

### COVID-19 Vaccination Fund –EDC 600012

	USD
Amount on 21.1.2021	177,744,556.69
(+) Amount between 21.1.201 and 27.1.2021	359,030.59
<b>Balance on 27.1.2021</b>	<b>178,103,587.28</b>

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

# MoHS receives COVID-19 medical devices from Swiss agency

THE Ministry of Health and Sports received the donation of COVID-19 medical devices from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation yesterday morning in Yangon.

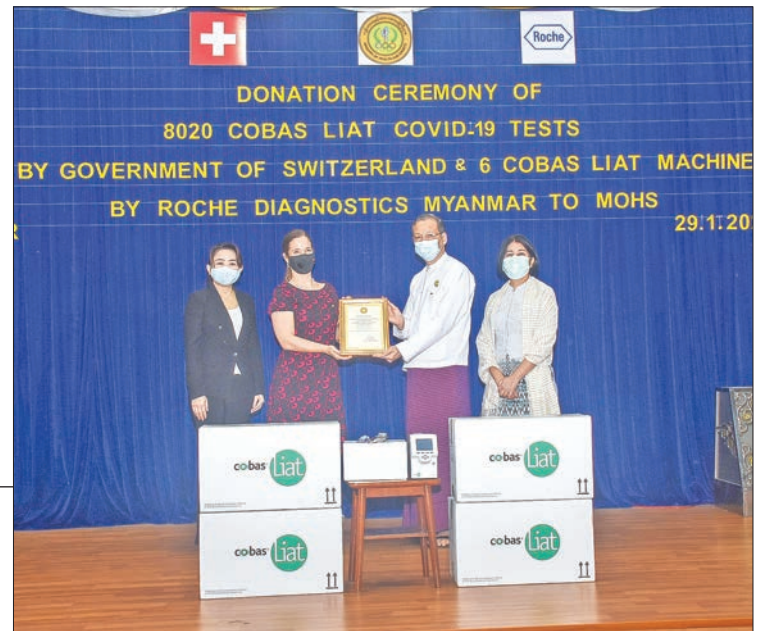
Director-General for Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun addressed the ceremony and Deputy Director-General for National Health Laboratory (Yangon) Prof. Dr Htay Htay Tin expressed words of thanks.

Deputy Head of Cooperation of Swiss Cooperation Office Myanmar Mrs Rea Bonzi, General Manager for Roche Diagnostics Myanmar Ms Christina Yong and UNICEF Country Representative to Myanmar Ms June Kunugi explained the reason for donation. Afterwards, Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun received the donated 6 units of Cobas Liat laboratory equipment and 8,020 items of laboratory equipment worth of US\$345,434

and returned the certificates of honour. The donations will be sent to laboratories in Maung-taw, Sittway, Myitkyina, Tachilek, Myawady and Hlaingbwe townships.—Ko Ko Zaw

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun accepts the medical equipment from Swiss agency on 29 January. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**



## Health workers receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine



Nagmon Township, Kachin State.  
**PHOTO: MYA NAN (IPRD)**



Machanbaw Township, Kachin State.  
**PHOTO: KHUN LINN OO (IPRD)**



Monghkat Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: MOEDE (IPRD)**



Indaw Township, Sagaing Region.  
**PHOTO: 060**



Mongnai Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: MYO NYUNT SHWE (IPRD)**



Mongyawng Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: AR CHAR (IPRD)**



Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region.  
**PHOTO: NAY AUNG (IPRD)**



Muse Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: SALAI VANIO HTAN (IPRD)**



Mongmit Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: MONGMITHAR (SITHU HTAY)**



Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.  
**PHOTO: PYAE PHYO KYAW (PANTANAW)**



Twantay Township, Yangon Region.  
**PHOTO: MYO HLAING (TWANTAY)**



Minbya Township, Rakhine State.  
**PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG TUN (IPRD)**



Pekhon Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: KO HTWE (PEKHON)**



Mabein Township, Shan State.  
**PHOTO: MYO MIN (IPRD)**



Latpadan Township, Bago Region.  
**PHOTO: WINT NANDAR HTAY**

## Chinese government donates \$300,000 to JMC

CHINESE government donated US\$300,000 to the Joint Monitoring Committee on Ceasefire yesterday in support of the committee's ceasefire efforts with the ethnic armed organizations.

The donation ceremony was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai briefed the donation aimed at boosting China-Myanmar relationship. Then, JMC's Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae

received the cash contribution and returned the certificate of honour.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae also discussed the current efforts of JMC with the signatories and non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. (NCA).—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae (R) accepts the donation for JMC made by Chinese government on 29 January. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Myanmar nationals return home by relief flights



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 29 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 37th relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday bringing back a total of 144 Myanmar citizens stranded in Singapore.

Moreover, the 30 Myanmar seamen who expired their employment contracts and stranded in France and Spain were also brought to home by the Korean Air flight organized by

Myanmar Embassy in Paris in the same evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration 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.

To bring back the Myanmar

seamen and citizens in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working together with the relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies from respective countries and shipping companies.

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

## Airbus A320-214 XY-ALJ joins MAI fleet

A new Airbus A320-214 XY-ALJ aircraft has joined the Myanmar Airways International fleet after flying from the Netherlands and landing at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

The new aircraft which was added to the MAI fleet was welcomed with a water salute at the airport officials while the pilots who flew the plane from the Netherlands were greeted

by MAI flights attendants with flowers.

The French made new aircraft has 8 Business Class seats and 162 Economy Class seats.

The MAI is the first and only airline in Myanmar which has received an IATA Operational Safety Audits (IOSA) certification.—Ye Yint Shine

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



Officials and flight attendants of Myanmar Airways International pose for a group picture with the pilots of Airbus A320-214 XY-ALJ aircraft at the Yangon International Airport on 29 January. **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**

## 363 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 January, total figure rises to 139,515

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 139,515 after 363 new cases were reported on 29 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 139,515 confirmed cases, 3,115 died, 124,064 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 29 January 2021

Total Cases

139,515

New Cases

363

Total Death Tally

3,115

Discharged from Hospital

124,064

Daily death toll until 8 pm 29-1-2021

12

Ministry of Health and Sports

# Give expansion of renewable energy thumbs up

**A**MIDST global warming and climate change, Myanmar's energy sector has seen an increase in renewable energy power production.

With the opening of a first ever solar power plant with 40 MW production capacity in June 2019 in Minbu in central Myanmar, our country has taken a first step towards the renewable energy target of electrification for 75 per cent of the country's population by 2025.

A 0.5 MW Solar Power Plant was opened in Manaung Island on 19 December 2019 while another 0.5 MW Solar Power Plant in Cocogyun Township has been supplying power to the local people 24/7 since 4th January this year.

Meanwhile, with a total installed capacity of 1,030 MW, ongoing solar power projects in 29 places are targeted to produce electricity in mid-2021.

Upon completion of the ongoing solar power projects, solar energy will be at near 14 per cent of our country's General Mix while hydro power plants are generating 40 per cent and LNG plants 11 per cent of our electricity mix.

When the total installed capacity of our country reaches 8,118 MW, renewable energy will account for 54 per cent and clean fuel will be 45 per cent of our country's electricity mix.

When the total installed capacity of our country reaches 8,118 MW, renewable energy will account for 54 per cent and clean fuel will be 45 per cent of our country's electricity mix.

Hence, we have a rosy future for our future energy sector.

However, we need technology and financial assistance from international countries and we need to explore possible places to produce renewable energy while encouraging investors to enter into the renewable energy sector to ensure that electricity reaches at a lower price under Off-Grid Component of National Electrification Project which was launched in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.

The government is hoping to achieve 100-per-cent electrification in 3 to 4 years, and efforts are being made towards that end. Myanmar is well on the road to using renewable energy resources for generating power.

We must generate solar and wind power, using clean energy resources as much we can, to meet the national goal of nationwide electrification without damaging the environment. We are confident that we can double our efforts to meet renewable energy goals with the technical and financial assistance from international communities. In fighting climate change, our achievement is also yours.



## Lessons to be learned from our big neighbour friend, China

By: Khin Maung Lynn, Joint Secretary-1, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)

**W**HEN I received a volume III of *The Governance of China* by President Xi Jinping I felt very happy and enthusiastic to read through, get lessons from it and be able to apply appropriately for the good of my own country and its people. Firstly, we need to obtain or seek enough wisdom and knowledge to be able to learn good lessons from others, on their successes and failures or mistakes. Then we have to think big and dream big for the sake of our own country and people, like our big neighbour China, on how we want to lead our lives in the future. Then we have to work very hard and smart as planned in detail, implement with weal and woe and through step by step with good leadership, great courage, perseverance, unwavering spirit, strong will, and most importantly with the strong and genuine support of our own people who understand and trust that you are bringing them to a New Era of peace, security, and prosperity in not-too-distant future.

Every country has the right to dream. As a country, we have the right to dream what is best for its people and for the future of its choice without disrupting other peoples or countries. Not every country dares to think big or dream big publicly like China. China dreams boldly and declares to the whole world as "the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation". China's modernization started 40 years ago has lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty. International community managed to achieve only one of the United Nations Millennium

Development Goals, and that was because of China. China's has pledged it will be carbon neutral by the year 2060. China's successes and pledges to make the world a better place are unparalleled. Most countries have failed due to a lack of courage to dream big or do not know how to achieve or bring their dreams come true. Nowadays, many countries are facing nightmares with uncertainties, challenges both outside and inside, unwanted circumstances, threats, etc. but the problems that they are facing today are mostly created by their own past and present misdeeds, mistakes, and misrules or by mismanagement.

For Myanmar, we can learn many valuable lessons from China's success how it is carrying out its authentic the Chinese Dream, to come true by 2049 or at its 100th Anniversary of the Founding of its modern nationhood. Firmly based on President Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people are trying relentlessly to reach that New Era despite the multitude of obstacles, hurdles, challenges, threats, and all sorts of disruptive, negative reactions, and unfounded criticisms that they face along the way.

The old phrase "time is of essence" is especially true in our present fast-changing world, and time is a resource to be used creatively, innovatively, and smartly for one's country to prosper and enjoy peace and security. China is very fortunate to have successive strong and benevolent leaders in its long history who not only saved the nation and people from chaos and destruction but who have succeeded in bringing up China and its people to the global stage



Attendees look at books on display during the release ceremony of the Myanmar edition of the first volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, July 9, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

as the second-most prosperous country in the world today. Unlike China, many countries have failed miserably under inefficient, poor, selfish, indifferent, and greedy leadership, misruled and mismanaged by irresponsible and corrupt public authorities, both known and many un-known missed opportunities, and by mistreating and misleading its own people and country.

In the current 21st Century, times, circumstances and situations have changed drastically with the advent of IT and other cutting-edge technologies which have shrunk the world smaller and making citizens of the world very much closer and nearer to each other. Both ancient and modern wisdom, useful and essential knowledge can be obtained readily and appropriately online

or from numerous sources, and a wide variety of subjects can be learned through the internet and virtual learning methods. The current pandemic has vastly expedited our reliance on the digital age, and we are now more inter-connected to each other.

To be able to enjoy a more secure, stable, safer, prosperous, harmonious, and peaceful world, we must all work together with greater imagination, new innovative ideas or thinking, and with all-inclusive greener and environmentally safer development strategies, etc. Since more than 65% of the world's population are born after the year 2000, they are the ones who will share the future together for better or for worse in this 21st Century. The world leaders of today should think and look into the future of our countries, our young people, and for future generations. Do we want

existence". We can clearly learn, with our own independent mind and with clear heads, from the achievements of China and its future plans, without being influenced by biased and unwanted negative views from external sources. Global governance system is only achievable if most of the world's leaders become proactive leaders and have energetic followers, as in China today.

A good system can be implemented only with uncorrupt, competent and professional officials and talented people, especially from the younger generation, and when people have trust and confidence in their leaders. China is fortunate to have a thriving, enterprising, educated, and talented young people who have become a great asset to China. If our young people of the world, especially from the developing world, can work closely, innovatively, and cooperatively with the young people of China, like brothers and sisters with genuine friendship, amity, sincerity, and with a sense of responsibility, sharing and caring for our mutual benefit, our future, as well as the world's future, will be much brighter, safer, cleaner, and more livable with peace and harmony among nations and peoples. I sincerely hope and wish that the best scenario will emerge for our young people, and their forthcoming generations as a global community with shared future.

The views expressed in the above article are his own personal views and that they do not reflect the views of MISIS.



## Union Day slogans for 2021 (74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

1. Equal opportunities and equal responsibilities, living in a peaceful, prosperous and stable Union.
2. Unity is strength, solidarity is power That is the heart of the Union.
3. Many fruits sprouting from one stem, this is our brotherhood of the Union.
4. Our Union built with brotherhood, Never forget Union day.
5. Drinking the same water, living on the same land, we are Union nationals of the same blood.

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 29th January, 2021)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 January, 2021:** Light rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January, 2021:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January, 2021:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January, 2021:** Generally fair.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Yangon Region. Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region.

## IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON TOURISM

### Virus cost global tourism \$1.3 trillion in 2020: UN

**T**HE coronavirus crisis cost the global tourism sector \$1.3 trillion in lost revenue in 2020 as the number of people travelling plunged, the UN said Thursday, calling it "the worst year in tourism history".

Revenue lost last year amounted to "more than 11 times the loss recorded during the 2009 global economic crisis",

the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization said in a statement, warning that between 100 million and 120 million direct tourism jobs were at risk.

International tourist arrivals fell by one billion, or 74 per cent, in 2020 with Asia, the first region to feel the impact of Covid-19, seeing the steepest decline, it added.

"While much has been made

in making safe international travel a possibility, we are aware that the crisis is far from over," WTO head Zurab Pololikashvili said in the statement.

The rollout of Covid-19 vaccines is expected to "slowly normalize travel" in 2021 but many countries are reintroducing travel restrictions such as quarantines, mandatory testing

and border closures "due to the evolving nature of the pandemic", the body said.

The Asia and Pacific region recorded an 84 per cent drop in arrivals.

It was followed by Africa and the Middle East with a 75 per cent drop, Europe with 70 per cent fewer visitors "despite a small and short-lived revival in

the summer" and the Americas where arrivals fell by 69 per cent.

International tourism arrivals rose by four percent in 2019 to 1.5 billion, with France the world's most visited country, followed by Spain and the United States.

The last time international tourist arrivals posted an annual decline was in 2009 when the global economic crisis led to a

four per cent drop.

The WTO said most experts do not see a return to pre-pandemic levels of tourism activity before 2023.

Open-air and nature-based tourism will see growing demand when tourism restarts, with domestic tourism also expected to be more popular, the body said. SOURCE: AFP

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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.

## Fish cracker production improved with solar dryers



THE local traditional fish cracker business in Kyaukpysu township, Rakhine State, is transformed into a modern business with the solar dryers purchased with the Responsible Business Fund (RBF) of the Denmark government and the better quality of the product is obtained. Daw Thet Nandar Soe, the owner of "7 Top" fish cracker business, said, "We have been doing this

business for over 30 years, and there was a lot of loss when the fish crackers were traditionally made due to the dust and bird droppings since they were dried in the sun outside of the house." She added the labour safety and fresh crackers free of dust and dirt when processing the fish crackers with the solar dryers.

The fish crackers, also known as Rakhine Papara, are fried in oil and eaten as delicious food with tea or coffee and sold across the country. — Tin Tun Oo, Phyo Wai Lin (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Fish crackers are dried in a solar dryer. **PHOTO: TIN TUN OO, PHYO WAILIN**

## Thanaka merchants expect high market in post-COVID-19

THANAKA merchants are expecting high market when the tourism resumes in the post-COVID-19, according to U Kyaw Moe, the chairperson of the Myanmar Thanaka Association.

For the convenience of resellers through Thanaka farm owners, the Thanaka Association of Ayadaw Township opened the Thanaka Festival and Market in July 2020. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the Thanaka market has not been closed and the trade has been good so far with the price ranging from 2,000 kyats to 10,000 kyats for each. Therefore, it is expected that the price will be higher than the current price when the tour resumes in the post-COVID-19 period. U Kyaw



Three quarters of Myanmar's Thanaka export are produced from Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

Moe said, "Thanaka market is opened during the COVID-19 period. As the trade is very good

this year, the price will be double when the tourism resumes. Organic Thanaka has become

rare everywhere. As we open the market, buyers don't need to go to the farm since we provide authentic Thanaka with a fair price."

The 75 per cent of Thanaka exports of the country are from Ayadaw Township where more than 100,000 acres of Thanaka trees are cultivated. The Ayadaw Thanaka is popular because of its natural brown colour, thick bark and its aroma and medicinal properties. The township has been recognized as Thanaka City, and signboards of "Thanaka City Ayadaw" have been set up at the entrances to the city. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## Over 300 golden ruddy shelducks migrate near Ayeyawady River in Magway

MORE than 300 golden ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) migrate near Ayeyawady River in Magway town, rich in crystal clear water and algae, said U Tin Win, the township head of Magway Forest Department.

"The golden ruddy shelducks are annually migrating in the last week of December. We have recorded more than 300 golden hummingbirds this year. Last year, there were around 500 golden ruddy shelducks. More golden ruddy shelducks are expected to reach sooner or later. They migrated for foods. Ayeyawady River has the crystal clear water and algae," he added.

The migrated golden ruddy shelducks are living, dividing among themselves into three groups. They are hunting the food in the early morning, in the afternoon, and the evening.

They are seen to be playing with water.

The nature of golden ruddy shelducks is that it spends the winter in small bands such as streams and creeks with clean water and algae rather than flowing rivers. When they sleep at night, they usually stay under the pits and saplings, not far away from the lake.

"When we asked the residents, they said that the golden ruddy shelducks usually arrive in the last week of December and go back in April. The residents are not sure where they move back to. The golden ruddy shelducks usually consume the algae. The residents also love to see them," said the head of Magway Forest Department.

The golden ruddy shelducks are listed in the endangered species. Those who kill them shall be faced with a sentence of up to

seven to 10 years' imprisonment or K1 million fine or both. Last year, the bird poachers arrived at those places. So this year, the forest department is taking precautionary measures. And, the department is giving awareness to the residents regarding the conservation.

There are many migratory birds in Magway township. Now, we have assigned the staff from the forest department, and they are patrolling around the places where the waterfowl birds and winter birds migrate. — Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Picture shows migratory birds in Magway Region. **PHOTO: ZAYYARTU (MAGWAY)**

## Foreign demand shows uptick for Myanmar corn this year

ACCORDING to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association (MCIA), the demand for Myanmar corn from foreign countries is on the rise.

With the rising demand for Myanmar corn, the price of corn is likely to increase this year, said an official from MCIA.

Last year, Myanmar corn was demanded a bit from the foreign market. But this year, three countries have enquired Myanmar corn in a single day. True, last year saw Myanmar corn having demand, but it was only a small volume.

This year, Thailand is preparing to buy corn from Myanmar. At the same time, the demand from Viet Nam is on the rise to buy Myanmar corn.

Yearly, Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos are buying Myanmar corn as they do annually have

a high requirement of corn in their countries. This year too, these countries are demanding Myanmar corn as in the previous years.

Myanmar annually produces around 3 million tonnes of corn from 607,000 hectares of land. It is grown in all regions and states but especially in Shan State, and Sagaing and Magway regions.

Myawady corn commodity depot has planned to open in the third week of January in 2021. The depot will be opened to ensure fair trade of corn on the Myawady border and for the greater convenience of the trading.

This year, the association targeted to export 1.6 million tonnes of corn. Last year, Myanmar exported over 2.2 million tonnes of corn to the foreign



Farmers unload corn from a vehicle. PHOTO: KO HTEIN

market, with an estimated value of over US\$360 million,

according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce. —Aye

Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

## Cultivation of foreign marketable green gram expands

By Nyein Nyein

THE cultivation of green gram, which is foreign marketable and having prices, is being expanded in the country, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo of the Myanmar Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchant Association.

Earlier, the country produced only over 300,000 tonnes of green gram yearly. Later on, more than 600,000 tonnes of green gram were being produced, he added.

“Last year, we produced over 300,000 tonnes of green gram for the whole year. Now, we can produce over 600,000 tonnes of green gram in the country. It can grow in all three seasons -- summer, monsoon and winter. The green gram is

grown not only in regions but also Bago east and west. It is also grown in Thonegwa and Khayan townships in Yangon region and Bago, Thanatpin, Kawa townships. Now, Myanmar can export more than 600,000 tonnes of green gram. We expect to export more tonnes of green gram this year,” U Min Ko Oo explained.

“The green gram price ranges between K1.3 million and 1.4 million per tonne depending upon the new harvested green gram. The FOB price of green gram is around US\$1000 per tonne. The green gram market is extensive. It is exported mostly to China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Europe. Myanmar exported no more than 10 per cent or 15 per cent of green gram to India. Myanmar also exported

green gram to China through Muse route and sea route,” he added.

He also added that the government and the association suggested that the local farmer grow marketable green gram more. Myanmar mainly exports three types of bean such as green grams, black beans and pigeon peas. Among them, the green gram is leading with the highest price. According to the bean market, the black bean price is K950,000 per tonne while the pigeon pea is sold for K810,000 per tonne.

Consequently, the local farmers have significantly dropped its black bean and pigeon pea cultivation, relying only upon the India market.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Farmers harvest green gram. PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING

## Myanmar exports plummet \$1.15 bln as of 15 January

Myanmar's exports over past three and half months of the current financial year 2020-2021 touched a low to US\$4.3 billion, reflecting a tremendous drop of \$1.158 billion compared with a year-ago period of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce data.

During the corresponding period in the previous FY, exports stood at \$5.46 billion, according to the data released by the ministry.

The pandemic deals a severe blow to the manufacturing, mineral and other service sectors as it shut down the events. Additionally, people demand only staple food.

Drops in exports of natural gas, gems and jewellery and CMP garments contribute to a slump in exports, the ministry stated.

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. 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 increased \$408.5 million against a year-

ago period. At the same time, other goods export group was also seen a small rise. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products, minerals, fishery products and finished industrial goods declined.

Between 1 October and 15 January of the current FY, export values have registered at \$1.46 billion for agro products, \$15.25 million for livestock, \$278.37 million for fishery products, \$352.6 million for minerals, \$39.44 million for forest products, \$2.023 billion for manufactured goods, and \$133.5 million for other goods.

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

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)

## 2C2P participates as payments partner for Myanmar's national COVID-19 Vaccination Fund

SOUTHEAST Asia's leading payments platform 2C2P has joined hands with the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MOPFI) to enable public donations to Myanmar's COVID-19 Vaccination Fund.

Earlier this month, MOPFI launched an initiative to allow public donations to supplement government contributions to the national COVID-19 Vaccination Fund. To make the donation process more seamless, 2C2P has joined hands with the MoPFI and offered its vast payments expertise and secure software to the government. 2C2P will further waive payment processing fees for all public donations from local and foreign donors, in addition to making a token contribution to support the country's fight against the pandemic.

To make it easier for MoPFI to accept public donations in support of such nonprofit causes, 2C2P offers over 16 payment options available for the donors. These include pay-

ments via popular, international credit and debit cards such as MasterCard and Visa, in addition to local cards (MPU - Myanmar Payment Union), digital payments, QR payments, and alternative payment methods.

Payment safety and security remain top priority for 2C2P, and donors can be reassured that their donations and personal information are kept safe. 2C2P continues to observe and maintain industry-leading security standards mandated by local and international regulatory authorities, and is trusted by thousands of businesses of all sizes across the globe, from international e-commerce giants, regional airlines, travel companies to global retailers.

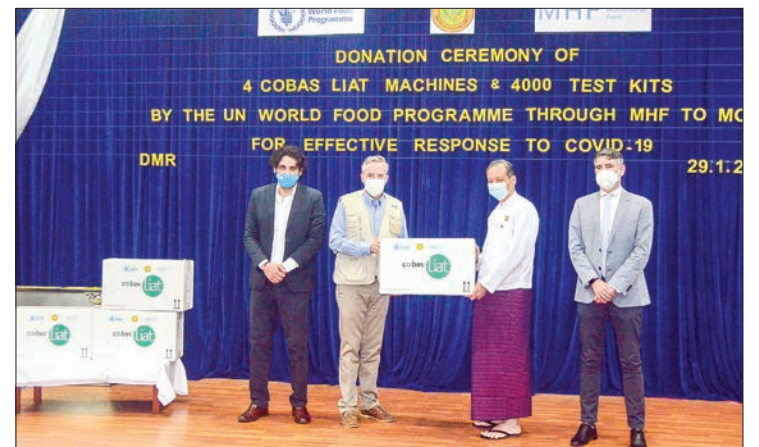
Speaking about the new partnership, Ms Thandar Aung, Project Director of 2C2P Myanmar said, "As the country rallies together to stem the spread of COVID-19, collaborating with the Government to power the gift of giving remains a priority for us. Apart from making dona-

tions as easy and seamless as possible, we hope to further empower the public to help make the country's immunization campaign a success."

CEO of MPU, Mr Zaw Lin Htut said, "As a local payment card scheme, we are very glad to be able to participate in the National COVID-19 Vaccination Fund project together with 2C2P. This initiative will enable our cardholders to make their donation 24/7 from any location. I believe this cashless and convenient method of making public donations will help to increase the success of Myanmar's immunization campaign. MPU will waive the interchange fees to support the country's fight against the pandemic together with our cardholders."

Today's announcement builds on 2C2P's commitment to work with government organizations and nonprofits around Southeast Asia such as the Myanmar Red Cross to simplify payments for a good cause.—GNLM

## WFP donates lab equipment for MoHS



Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun accepts the lab equipment handed over by WFP Myanmar Representative Mr Stephen Anderson in Yangon on 29 January 2021. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE World Food Programme donated laboratory equipment for the Ministry of Health and Sports at the headquarters of Medical Research Department in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday to help Myanmar fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

At the event, Director-General of the Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun expressed thanks to WFP for the donation.

WFP Myanmar Representative Mr Stephen Anderson and Myanmar Humanitarian Fund's

Manager Mr Narciso Rosa-Berlanga explained the purpose of the donation.

The WFP Myanmar Representative handed over 4 Cobas Liat machines and 4,000 test kits worth US\$0.26 million to Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun who returned the certificate of honour. The lab equipment that was purchased from Roche, a Swiss multinational healthcare company, and installed Cobas Liat System can test for COVID-19 within 20 minutes. — Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

### "CEASE ALL MILITARY INTERVENTION"

## US calls for withdrawal of Russian, Turkish forces from Libya



Fighters fire salutatory rounds in the air during a funeral for a commander of the Special Forces of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar, in the eastern city of Benghazi on November 1, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United States on Thursday called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian and Turkish forces from Libya, after a deadline for them to leave was ignored.

This appeal marked a firmer expression of US policy toward oil-rich Libya under the new administration of President Joe Biden.

"We call on all external par-

ties, to include Russia, Turkey and the UAE, to respect Libyan sovereignty and immediately cease all military intervention in Libya," the acting US ambassador Richard Mills said during a UN Security Council meeting on Libya, which has seen a decade of fighting since the overthrow of Moamer Kadhafi.

Under a UN-backed cease-

fire signed October 23, foreign troops and mercenaries were to pull out of Libya within three months. That deadline passed on Saturday with no movement announced or observed on the ground. "Per the October ceasefire agreement we call on Turkey and Russia to immediately initiate the withdrawal of their forces from the country and the removal of the foreign mercenaries and military proxies that they have recruited, financed, deployed and supported in Libya," said Mills.

The UN estimates there are some 20,000 foreign troops and mercenaries in Libya helping the warring factions: the UN-recognized Government of National Accord in Tripoli and military strongman Khalifa Haftar in the east. According to the UN, Haftar has the backing of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, particularly mercenaries from a private group with links to Vladimir Putin. The GNA is supported by Turkey and Syrian rebels transferred to Libya.

SOURCE: AFP

### NATIONALITY FOR CASH

## Cyprus to launch anti-graft reforms after passport scandal

CYPRUS President Nicos Anastasiades said Thursday his government would announce major anti-graft reforms after it scrapped its controversial passport-for-investment scheme last year.

The Mediterranean island dropped the "golden passport" scheme in November after Al Jazeera aired a documentary showing reporters posing as fixers for a Chinese businessman seeking a Cypriot passport despite having a criminal record.

Parliament speaker Demetris Syllouris, who was secretly filmed allegedly trying to facilitate a passport for the fugitive investor, later resigned, although he insisted he was innocent of any wrongdoing.

Al Jazeera reported that dozens of those who applied were under criminal investigation, international sanctions or even serving prison sentences.

In a televised address on

Thursday evening, Anastasiades said that measures to be announced tomorrow "constitute the greatest intervention ever in the Republic of Cyprus, to create the strongest possible protection network against corruption".

Nicosia had long faced pressure from Brussels to reform the scheme over concerns it may have helped organized crime gangs infiltrate the European Union.

Cyprus had argued it had attracted valuable investment following the Mediterranean island's 2013 economic crisis.

Cyprus issued thousands of passports under the scheme which allowed investors to acquire one in exchange for an investment of 2.5 million euros (\$3 million), netting some seven billion euros for Nicosia's coffers over the years. The programme was also dogged by money laundering allegations.

SOURCE: AFP

BATTERED BY PANDEMIC

# Hong Kong economy shrank a record 6.1 per cent in 2020



Christmas decorations are seen in a shopping mall in Hong Kong, south China. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI PENG/FILE

HONG KONG'S economy contracted a record of 6.1 per cent in 2020 as the city was battered by the coronavirus pandemic, just months after it was upended by widespread political unrest. The government on Friday said gross domestic product (GDP) declined three per

cent in the last quarter of 2020 year-on-year, leading to the record decline over the whole year. "As social stability in Hong Kong has been restored, the severe economic contraction last year was mainly due to the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic," a government

spokesperson said in a statement. Hong Kong has now ended two successive years in a deep recession. In 2019 the city was rocked by seven straight months of huge and often violent democracy protests as public anger over China's rule exploded.

SOURCE: AFP

OECD TAX TALKS

## France welcomes 'active' US in multinational tax talks

FRENCH Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire on Thursday welcomed the Biden administration's "active participation" in talks on taxing global giants, as well as trailing reduced tensions after years of transatlantic trade battles.

In a phone call, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen showed "commitment... to active participation by American teams in OECD tax talks" on multinational companies, including digital heavyweights, Le Maire's office said in a statement.

The 137 countries in the OECD wealthy nations' club failed to reach

agreement on the thorny tax deal in October, largely due to resistance from the Trump administration, but France now hopes for "an international deal by the end of the first half of the year", the ministry said.

The US Treasury, in a statement, said Yellen had emphasised the shared priorities, "including ending the pandemic, supporting a strong global economic recovery, fighting income inequality, and forcefully addressing the threat of climate change."

SOURCE: AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(30/2020-2021)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-212(20-21)	Electrical Accessories for Oil and Gas Fields (11) Groups / (117) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-213(20-21)	Electrical Spares for CNG Station (2) Groups	Ks
  - The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 29 January 2021 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
  - The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 1 March 2021**.
  - Tender Closing Date & Time - **1-3-2021, 12:00 pm**
- Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CETUS STAR V.88

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CETUS STAR VOY. NO. (88)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-1-2021** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THANH BA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V THANH BA VOY. NO. (2005)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORD PEAK

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORD PEAK VOY. NO. (2005907)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-2-2021** 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.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (211N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (211N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN ACE VOY. NO. (102S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN ACE VOY. NO. (102S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO LUNG VOY. NO. (109N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KUO LUNG VOY. NO. (109N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

## Pyu-era sword tells how people fixed blade and handle 2,000 years ago

By Nat Ye Hla

WITH a recent discovery of a complete iron sword with bronze handle dated back around 2,000 years in the Pyu era (2BC-9BC) in central Myanmar, researchers are able to examine the weapon until now only depicted in a brick relief found in Mongmo's ancient Pyu-era buildings.

The sword with double edge was found in Mahlaing Township in central Myanmar in 2020 and has found a resting place in the Zaykabar Museum in Yangon.

The blade is 14 inches long and three inches wide in the middle before narrowing to the point, and its bronze handle is 4 ½ inches long.

"Once I saw this weapon, I remember the man holding a sword and riding a mythical animal depicted in the brick relief found in Mongmo and now displayed in the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw," U Tin Win, a well-known Pyu artifact researcher in Yangon said.

"The finding helps us understand the way people lived in the



Brick Bearing Relief of a man riding a mythical animal and holding a weapon. NATIONAL MUSEUM IN NAY PYI TAW.

Pyu era and how they fixed the blade with the decorated bronze handle," he said.

"Amazingly, half of its tang is inside the bronze handle and the remaining part is bent over the handle to ensure that the sword cannot come loose from the handle."

On the blade, pieces of tex-

tile are found and the sword is wrapped in the textile and buried along with a warrior.

Thanks to the sword being wrapped in textile, the complete sword was preserved. Most weapons from the Pyu era are found without blades because the iron decays in the soil.



A complete sword of Pyu Era (2BC-9BC)



Bronze handles of swords in Pyu Era. BEITHANO GALLERY

## Pyatho, Khwa Nyo, Gulie, Palee, Polo

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

The 9<sup>th</sup> month of Myanmar Luna Calendar of 12 months is called Pyatho corresponding to January. It is the peak of Myanmar cold season (winter), the season of Heiman. Pyatho literally means "Keep ash at home for you need it for warmth in that peak month of winter."

Khwa Nyo is a wild flower of a creeper with shoots of thick deep blue petals and yellow very fragrant sending out fragrance far and wide. Gulie, Palee and Polo are three different pronunciation and spelling of the equestrian game. History of this Gulie goes far back into history of Mongolia, Persia, China, Korea and Myanmar. It is a game which all princes of civil, military and diplomatic sources had to learn and master.

In the 37 Nats of Myanmar, Shwe Nawrahta Nat was an accomplished Gulie player. His paintings on statues have gulie rod and fulie ball.

Besides in the 37 music and dance styles of the Natkadaw (Nat medium) dancers, there is a the song and style of depicting Gulie play.

Pakhan U Min Kyaw was a



The painting depicts royal princes playing Gulie.

good Gulee Game player where he became Nat Spirit he dance singing the following Gulee game song.

ညနေ၊ ညနေ  
စည်တယ်လေး  
တိုင်းကျော် စံကွန်း  
တိုင်းကျော် ဝူလီရိုက်တယ်  
တိုင်းကျော်တလီရိုက်တယ်  
ဆေးစိုက်တဲ့ကျွန်း

In the evening, Ko Gyi Kya's house is alive with friends and drunkards Ko Gyi Kyaw plays Gulie or Palee in the field of Tobacco plantations.

Singing that song the nat medium possessed by Pakhan

U Min Kyaw Nat spirit dance depicting riding horse and playing Gulie game with his handy gesture. In Taungmyo and Nyaungyan Periods of Myanmar history Natshin Naung of Toungoo, Tabinshwehti and Bayint Naung of Hamsavadi were accomplished Gulie players. Natshin Naung composed 37 Ratu verses extolling Gulie games.

When the British came to India and Myanmar, they introduced Polo game which gradually became golf-the game of diplomacy.

Whey and when Gulie or

Palee game became Polo in UK we need research. The writer's conjecture is that it was Marco Polo who brought to Europe China of Emperor Kublai Khan so it too his Sir name Polo.

Another interesting usage of the world Polo is that of the cigarettes this stylish cigarettes used the picture of a Polo player on its case. Instead of using the long name "Polo Player brand cigarettes, people just used short name Polo cigarettes. Then they dropped cigarettes and used to sing smoking polo. So Polo ceased to be game. It became

smoking cigarettes.

### Style to Polo cigarettes

It was the style of upper class men and women to keep Polo brand cigarette between the fingers and smoke or puff not inhaling but blow out to produce coils of smoke gracefully into the air.

Myanmar women do the same with cheeroot of maize leave between fingers and puff out coils of artistic smokes. Grand mother and grant aunts the writer used to do that.

Hollywood film actress of great renown Kim Novack was a stylish Polo smoker. So was Myanmar Film Actor Tin Tin Mu.

When Polo game evolved from equisetum game into pedalian game it developed into folg of our time. Golf players walk wide areas of land and aquatic places and talk of private, public, domestic and foreign affairs freely. So golf game becomes a game of diplomacy or golf diplomacy.

We have ping-pong diplomacy and golf diplomacy. Table tennis became Ping pong game.

After long years of diplomatic distance USA and Communist



TWICE IN THREE MONTHS

## Five Covid-19 patients die in Romania hospital fire

A fire broke out early Friday in Romania's main hospital for coronavirus patients, killing five of them in the second such incident in three months.

Emergency responders found three dead patients at the Matei Bals hospital in the capital Bucharest, and could not resuscitate a fourth, Raed Arafat, secretary at the interior ministry told reporters.

The body of a fifth victim was later found in one of the bathrooms, Interior Minister Lucian added in an update.

The fire broke out on the ground floor around 5:00 am (0300 GMT), affecting four wards and leading to the evacuation and transfer of 102 patients, said Orlando Schiopu, head of the inspectorate for emergency situations. In November, a fire in an intensive

care unit of a hospital in the northeastern town of Piatra Neamt killed 15 people being treated for Covid-19.

In a country marked by crumbling infrastructure and a culture of makeshift repairs, the November tragedy sparked safety warnings and an investigation that is yet to be concluded.

"The reality is that the majority of our hospitals are the result of chronic underfinancing, non-transparent acquisitions and a long string of improvisations," Health Minister Vlad Voiculescu said in a post on Facebook on Friday. The country of 19 million is one of the poorest in the European Union and is trying to manage the Covid-19 pandemic with a dilapidated and understaffed health system.

SOURCE: AFP

OBITUARY

## U Kyaw Thein Zan

68 years

**Managing Director, K.T.Z Company Limited  
Executive Committee Member, Myanmar Chamber of Commerce  
for Pharmaceutical & Medical Device**

With great sadness, we announce the loss of U Kyaw Thein Zan, residing at No. 32, Manawhari Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, beloved son of (U Mya Aung & Daw Khin Kyi), beloved brother of Dr. U Kyaw Thet & Daw Aye Aye Khaing, (U Kyaw Tint Swe) & Daw Tin Tin Hla, beloved uncle of Dr. Naing Lin Htike, Consultant, Nephrology, Midsouth Nephrology Consultant Group & Dr. Yadana Kyaw, Consultant, Pulmonary and Critical Care, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Mississippi and Tennessee, U Kyaw Kyaw Myint (Director, K.T.Z Company Limited) & Daw Suzan Tun, U Than Win Soe & Daw Htet Htet Aung (Managing Director, Manawhari Pharma Company Limited), U Ye Zarni Htun (Founder, Logic Prime Co., Ltd) & Daw Thiri Kyaw (K.T.Z Company Limited), beloved grandfather of Mg Thuta, Ma Lin Yadanar Htike, Ma Amara Myat Chel passed away peacefully at 5:10 am on January 28, 2021. The funeral will start from the time of 10 am, and the remains will be cremated at 11:45 am on January 30, 2021 at Yay Way Cemetery, Yangon.

**Bereaved Family**

BIOMASS, HYDRO, SOLAR AND WIND

## Renewables become biggest UK electricity source: study

RENEWABLE energy beat fossil fuels last year to become the largest source of electricity in Britain, according to a study. Biomass, hydro, solar and wind generated a record 42 per cent of UK electricity in 2020, showed a study this week from climate think tanks Ember and Agora Energiewende. Fossil fuels – mainly gas – accounted for 41 per cent, the pair added in a statement. In 2019, renewables accounted for 37 per cent and fossil fuels 45. The study also revealed that offshore wind turbines generated a record 24 per cent of Britain's electricity last year. That compared with 20 per cent in 2019 and was double the level



Britain is betting on wind power, particularly those built offshore, to reduce its use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. PHOTO: GLYN KIRK AFP/FILE

in 2015. Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently vowed to quadruple Britain's offshore wind power

capability within the next decade, as part of plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Britain hosts the

UN's COP26 global climate change summit in Glasgow in November. SOURCE: AFP

SPECIAL UK VISA

## China rebukes UK for hyping up BNO issue to interfere in HK affairs

CHINA on Thursday rebuked Britain for hyping up the British National Overseas (BNO) passport issue to interfere in Hong Kong affairs. "The British side, in breach of its promise, has chosen to obstinately and repeatedly hype up the BNO issue to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and

China's internal affairs," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a press briefing when asked to comment on Britain's move to accept citizenship applications from BNO-eligible HK residents beginning Jan. 31. "This will only end up hurting its own interests," he said. Zhao reiterated

that the Chinese side has full confidence in the future of Hong Kong, and no forces can erode the determination of the Chinese government and people to uphold national sovereignty and security, safeguard Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and oppose external intervention. SOURCE: Xinhua

A TYCOON

## China executes ex-banker in bribes, bigamy case

CHINA on Friday executed a former top banker accused of taking \$260 million worth of bribes, other forms of corruption and bigamy, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Lai Xiaomin, the former chairman of Huarong – one of China's largest state-controlled asset management firms – was put to death by a court in the northern city of Tianjin, CCTV said.

"The amount of bribes received by Lai Xiaomin was extremely large, the crime's circumstances were particularly serious and the social impact was particularly severe," CCTV quoted the Chinese Supreme People's Court as saying, which reviewed and approved the execution order. The report did not specify how Lai was executed, but said he was allowed to meet with close relatives before his death.

Chinese courts have a conviction rate of over 99 per cent, and it is extremely rare for a death sentence to be overturned. The number of executions carried out annually is considered a state secret.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Lai Xiaomin at his trial in August in Tianjin in northern China / © Second Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin. PHOTO: AFP

## Aung La N Sang to fight against Vitaly Bigdash on 21 April

MYANMAR'S Sports Icon Aung La N Sang will take on Russian Fighter Vitaly Bigdash in the Middle Weight Class Fight of ONE Championship event named "ONE on TNT III" which will be held in Singapore on 21 April 2021.

ONE Championship is scheduled to hold four events in April. Tournaments will feature challenges of defending champions and epic fighters, including the "ONE on TNT III" event on 21 April featuring Aung La N Sang vs Vitaly Bigdash fight as the main bout.

Aung La N Sang missed out on the previous ONE Middleweight World Championship Fight against Reinier De Ridder on 30 October

2020 and lost his Middle Weight title.

The upcoming event in April against Vitaly Bigdash will be the first step to reclaim the Middle Weight title for Aung La N Sang as the winner will likely have a chance to challenge with Middle Weight title winner De Ridder.

Aung La has met with Vitaly Bigdash twice. Aung La lost in the first meet but won in the second fight.

Despite losing ONE Middle Weight title last year, Aung La N Sang is still crowning the ONE Championship Light Heavyweight title of the.—Shine Htet Zaw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Aung La N Sang (Right) and Vitaly Bigdash are seen during their previous Middle Weight Fight titled 'Light of a Nation' in Yangon in 2017. **PHOTO: PHOETHAW ZIN**

## Leaders Milan seek Bologna boost as Inter, Juventus gain ground



AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (L) has scored 12 goals in Serie A. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA AFP**

MILAN — Leaders AC Milan look for a boost on Saturday at 13th-placed Bologna after a dramatic Italian Cup exit to city rivals Inter days after a league defeat to Atalanta.

Stefano Pioli's side are just two points ahead of second-placed Inter who host 11th-placed Benevento.

Inter bounced back from last weekend's goalless draw at Udinese to advance to the Italian Cup semi-finals where they meet Juventus.

The Milan teams' Cup clash was overshadowed by insults traded between their star strikers Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Romelu Lukaku with the Swede later sent off.

Tensions are high as both Milan teams attempt to deny Juventus a 10th consecutive league title. "We've lost one of our objectives," said Pioli after the Cup defeat.

"But we have two others which are probably even more

important to achieve," he added of Serie A and the Europa League.

Bologna have won just one of their last 10 league games, and have not beaten Milan since January 2016.

Milan are hopeful of recalling midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu who has been out with coronavirus along with injured Ismael Bennacer and Mario Mandzukic who took a knock on his debut against Atalanta.

Andrea Pirlo's Juventus have been gaining ground and are now fourth, seven points off top spot with a game in hand.

The Turin giants play mid-table Sampdoria, a side Pirlo got his coaching career off to a winning start against 3-0 back in September. Inter missed the chance to move level on points with Milan after a goalless draw in Udine with Antonio Conte sitting out a two-match touchline ban for rowing with the referee.—AFP ■

## Tuchel accepts he must deliver trophies at Chelsea

LONDON — Thomas Tuchel accepts he will be judged on results after becoming the 13th Chelsea manager of owner Roman Abramovich's 17-year

reign in charge of the Premier League club.

The Blues sacked club legend Frank Lampard, who is Chelsea's all-time top

goalscorer, on Monday after a run of five defeats in eight Premier League games. Tuchel got off to an underwhelming start with a 0-0 draw at home to Wolves on Wednesday, just 24 hours after he was appointed.

The German said a title challenge was not realistic this season with Chelsea 11 points adrift of leaders Manchester City, but wants to challenge for silverware in the FA Cup and Champions League.

"If you are signing for Chelsea you are signing for the hunger of titles," Tuchel said at his unveiling to the media on Thursday. "You are signing for being competitive in every competition you play. I'm totally aware of that.—AFP ■



Thomas Tuchel accepts he will be judged on results given Chelsea's history of sacking managers. **PHOTO: RICHARD HEATHCOTE POOL/AFP**

## Injury scare as Djokovic plays through pain in Adelaide

ADELAIDE — World number one Novak Djokovic played only one of two scheduled sets in his opening game of the season Friday as he grapples with a nasty blister on his racquet hand ahead of the Australian Open.

The 17-time Grand Slam winner didn't appear for the first set against young Italian Jannik Sinner at an exhibition in Adelaide, just hours after emerging from two weeks' quarantine, with fellow Serb Filip Krajinovic taking his place. But with a near full crowd at Memorial Drive, Djokovic said he couldn't stay away and came on court for the second set, to huge roars.



Novak Djokovic played with a large blister on his right hand. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I'm sorry that I didn't step on the court from the beginning. I had to do some treatment with my physio and I wasn't feeling

my best the last couple of days," the defending Australian Open champion said after winning his set 6-3.—AFP ■