ESSENTIAL 1,000 DAYS OF NUTRITION

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor stresses need for continued public vigilance against COVID-19 in videoconference with senior health officials

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds virtual talks with senior health officials for more public vigilance against COVID-19, on 30 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a videoconference yesterday with senior health officials stressing the need for continued vigilance among the public regarding COVID-19.

Participants in the discussions were Deputy Director-General of Public Health Department (Disease Control) Dr Thandar Lwin, Medical Superintendent of Yangon General Hospital Dr Myint Myint Aye and Senior Consultant Physician at Hpa-an General Hospital Dr Cho Cho Sann Htoo.

The State Counsellor, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the National-Level Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Prevention, Control and Treatment, greeted from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, saying the aim of the meeting was to alert the public to keep up the vigilance against COVID-19 as the government has issued rules and regulations since April for preventive measures; it has been found that the public has become stressed out and careless. As a results she has become a bit worried; she said people should not be careless.

It has been learnt from the news that in other countries, people thought that the worse was over but the COVID-19 second wave came in; if possible, Myanmar wants to prevent the complete occurrence of COVID-19 second wave; Myanmar does not wish to see an outbreak.

Therefore, from the viewpoint of prevention as well as treatment, the public should be informed about the things that need to be heeded and why. That was why she wanted health professionals to make people understand these things clearly. Now was not the time to become careless and carefree. If the public could follow the rules and maintain discipline for another two to three months, it would be possible to arrive at a situation when people could say they have overcome the danger. This was not to say definitely that such a situation could be reached. She said she wanted to discuss the possibility of reaching such a situation. She added, as the Department of Health had responsibility for the whole country, she wanted the discussions to cover from the viewpoint of the Ministry of Health why the people should

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No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 30 June, total figure remains at 299

Updated at 8 pm, 30 June 2020

Total Case	New Case	Total Death Tally
299	0	6

Recovery Update on 30 June 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
222	1	216

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 30 June 2020

New PUI
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Union Peace Conference to be held under COVID-19 guidelines

Central Committee for Organizing Union Peace Conference meets for preparatory works on 30 June.
PHOTO: MNA

THE Central Committee for Organizing Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong held a meeting at the Ministry of State Counsellor Office yesterday.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, in his capacity as the Vice-Chairman of Committee, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tin, Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myint Htwe, and U Ohn Maung, Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and U Maung Maung Win, Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo of Myanmar Police Force, permanent secretaries, the directors-general and officials.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explained plans for holding of the upcoming peace conference in new normal and discussions with EAOs and their agreements on reduction of overall participants to one-third.

Director-General U Zaw Htay also presented preparatory plans for the peace conference.

The Union Ministers of respective committees discussed invitations, accommodation, transportation, security, press and information, healthcare, banking and coordination works for the peace conference.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 72/2020

11th Waxing of First Waso, 1382 ME
(30 June 2020)

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in line with provisions stipulated in Section 21-(b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The ministry is working around the clock for the prevention of the acute respiratory disease Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and had previously issued Stay-at-Home orders for 10 townships in Yangon Region and a township in Sagaing Region.

2. Ten of the townships showed improvements in prevention measures and were removed from Stay at Home imposed townships list with Order 50/2020 issued by MoHS on 14-5-2020, Order 57/2020 issued by MoHS on 28-5-2020 and Order 66/2020 issued by MoHS on 14-6-2020.

3. Insein Township in Yangon Region now shows considerable improvement in COVID-19 prevention measures and its residences are hereby removed from the Stay-at-Home order after 4 am on 1-7-2020.

Dr Myint Htwe
(Union Minister)

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19 spread

You are not the only one under pressure from COVID-19, but all of society is and that fact can help to build compassion among the public.

Compassion can reduce hatred between individuals and accept issues for resolving together.

Anxiety can be reduced by this method and everyone should try hard to face and overcome COVID-19 issues. — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Group)

Union ministers discuss possible resumption of film, TV shootings, cinemas

UNION ministers held a coordination meeting yesterday to resume shooting of films and TV programmes and reopening of cinemas.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, permanent secretaries, officials, the chairman and secretary of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, film producers, responsible persons in production of Bogyoke Aung San biopic and officials from TV channels and partner organizations.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made an opening remark at the meeting, saying the ministry's works for development of film and TV industries, decisions to be made only in mid-August for celebrating centenary of Myanmar film industry, postponement of academy award giving ceremony, difficulties of film workers in their livelihoods due to the close-down of this industry, situations of TV industry in the countries of Europe and the United States, possible assistance to film workers from the COVID-19 national-level central committee and practical measures against COVID-19 when the industry resumed.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko explained production of Bogyoke Aung San biopic which started shootings on 30 September last year, and was suspended on 25 March.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe emphasized social distancing in prevention of pandemic, the threat of imported cases, high risk of this disease in film and TV industries and the need to develop guidelines before resuming the industry.

Union Minister U Thaung Tun discussed the short and long term plan for facing against this disease, assistance to the workers in these industries and possible infections in the cinemas during two to three hours films, and following recommendation of MoHS when the cinemas are reopened.

Secretary U Zaw Myint Oo of MMPO held talks on resumption of shootings and reopening of cinemas, COVID-19 loans for film industry.

Officials from the Forever Group Co., Ltd, the Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd, the Mingalar Cinemas and responsible persons from film and TV businesses made discussions of relevant sectors. Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung coordinated the discussions before the concluding remark of Union Minister Dr Pe Myint.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union ministers hold talks on resumption of film and TV shootings and reopening of cinemas.
PHOTO: MNA

"People are the key"

State Counsellor stresses need for public vigilance against COVID-19 in videoconference with senior health officials

FROM PAGE-1

not let their guard down and the kind of things the people should be especially careful.

Dr Thandar Lwin discussed the preparatory measures of Ministry of Health and Sports since 4 January even in the early outbreak of endemic in China, with giving information about the disease on website and Facebook page of the ministry.

Moreover, the MoHS worked together with relevant ministries, the Union Government and region/state government in disease control measures, renovated ICUs at the hospitals, conducted awareness campaigns; issued orders to prohibit local and foreign travellers; identified suspected patients for medical treatments; upgraded laboratories; established quarantine centres in coordination with the civil society organizations; found the first confirmed case in Myanmar on 23 March and the total cases in the country has reached 299 until now.

She also discussed to keep on adhering to rules and regulations for preventing transmission of the disease.

Restrictions were re-imposed in South Korea, China, Australia and India after more COVID-19 cases were found again; plans for reopening of schools were postponed; although restrictions were eased step by step in Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia, arrivals of foreign tourists are still prohibited; Singapore and New Zealand announced significant decline of the pandemic case, but the disease has been found again.

Dr Myint Myint Aye explained treatments of COVID-19 disease at Yangon General Hospital, with setting up designated areas for the suspected patients and other facilities, proper use of PPE sets and conducting infection control practice; assigning its doctors, nurses, skilled staff and medical officers to the Waibargi Specialist Hospital, South Okkalapa Women and Children Hospital and Phaunggyi Hospital.

The Yangon General Hospital also used three ambulance cars to transfer patients to private hospitals, people's hospitals and positive patients at quarantine centres, suspected patients and closed contact persons to Waibargi Specialist Hospital and South Okkalapa Hospital.

She advised people to continue adhering to following rules and regulations of MoHS to prevent more COVID-19 cases.

Dr Cho Cho Sann Htoo also talked about the considerable threat of COVID-19 in Kayin State as it is bordering with Thailand; Hpa-an hospital was prepared for the designated hospital although it is just 200-bedded hospital with the participation of medical specialists and private donors.

The hospital gave medical treatments to a total of 138 suspected patients up to 25 June, motivation and counselling were given to the patients in isolation; six hemodialysis machines have been installed and one was set to use for quarantine patients.

She finally advised people to maintain awareness on the COVID-19 and follow the guidelines.

Regarding the discussions, the State Counsellor remarked that success was achieved in preventive measures because early plans were adopted; it could be said that Myanmar was one of the countries which adopted rules and regulations at an early stage; most countries took the COVID-19 rather lightly; it has been noticed that most countries took it lightly and thought that they could handle the COVID-19 disease and did not take it seriously. In Myanmar, necessary rules and regulations were issued beginning from 4th January and preventive measures were taken thus providing much-needed support to contain the disease. Roughly speaking there was no spreading of the disease inside the country but most of the time the disease was carried by those who came back from foreign countries. This was why it was deemed necessary to keep reminding frequently. It has been said that the way COVID-19 disease spread was different from country to country. It changed from one place to the other. In Myanmar, it has been said that most of the infection cases did not show any symptoms. It was very dangerous. If the symptoms were visible the disease could be avoided. If the COVID-19 disease did not show visible symptoms, it could not be avoided. That was why it was very important to live with vigilance. It the disease lingered on this was not a good thing. The State has to struggle to provide treatment; the patient also has to struggle. In the same way, the patient's family and friends also have to struggle. The main thing is to have vigilance. To protect oneself with vigilance is more effective than receiving treatment.

> The people are the most valuable human resources. If we lose our people because of the disease, it would be a huge loss for the country. That is why there should be vigilance at all times.

The people in Yangon are going out of their homes in large numbers. That was why she wanted the doctor who lived in Yangon to stop and ponder about the reason why a great number of people wanted to go out of their homes. She did not wish to say anything about people who have to work; especially people who were earning daily wages; they have to go out to work as long as there were job opportunities and struggle for their families. However, she wanted to know why a lot of people were going about in groups on the Inya lake bund.

The exit route lies within the mind. Everyone should take note of this. There is a saying, no matter where you might wander loneliness is most felt within a crowd. No one cares about you. Psychologists have observed that the loneliness you feel within a crowd is the worst kind of feeling. The exit route is within one's mind. That was why she wanted to urge the people to have the patience for two to three months; after two to three months the total would become five to six months, this was not such a long time. In the lifetime of a person, one cannot say that five or six months is a long time. The reason she had to keep reminding frequently was that Myanmar was not a rich country and therefore had to exist based on spiritual strength. Existing based on spiritual energy means to exist based on discipline. That is why duty needs to be respected and discipline should be maintained. Each person needs to know how to live happily with contentment. Only you can create your own happiness. No one could do that for you. She said she wanted all those involved in healthcare services to remind healthcare workers. At this time all Myanmar citizens returning from foreign countries should be welcomed. This was just like returning to your parents' home in times of hardships and danger. People can come back to one's own country. She said we should welcome those who returned to Myanmar with the feeling that if they returned to the home country everyone would join in to solve the problem. This kind of spirit should be encouraged. Myanmar would be able to stand firmly as a union only if this kind of spirit is kept alive.

The main reason for having this meeting was because the Ministry of Health and Sports has become concerned. The people have become careless; they think they could not get infected and that the danger has passed. They need to understand that the danger is not yet over. In Yangon as a result of people not observing the rules and regulations for COVID, incidents of other diseases and accidents have increased. For example, because of higher numbers of people travelling, accidents have increased.

As a result, there were more patients. Hospitals have to treat these patients and when some of them were infected with COVID disease, treatment had to be given to these patients also. Therefore the workload became heavier and this resulted in the Union Government having to confront more problems. Therefore "mindfulness", this has to be repeated again and again. Experts have said that for something to be implanted in the brain, it has to be repeated again and again.

Among the things said by the Ministry of Health and Sports, it was mentioned that because early preventive measures were taken it has been possible to contain the pandemic. However, it would be such a loss if people became careless and it would become necessary to confront danger at this time. What had been accomplished before would become meaningless. That would be such a loss for the human resources of the country. It would be a loss for the people. The people are the most valuable human resources. If we lose our people because of the disease, it would be a huge loss for the country. That is why there should be vigilance at all times.

In the discussions, it was mentioned that in the later stages, people were not afraid anymore. It was not a good thing to be afraid all the time. She said she did not mean to say that people should be afraid. People should be vigilant. To be vigilant and to be afraid are not the same. Wearing a mask when you go out is being vigilant. To wash your hand carefully and frequently; to wash your hand when you come home; taking off the mask and changing your clothes; these things are not too difficult to do. By taking these steps you can protect yourself from having to meet with more critical situations. This is the reason why people are being reminded all the time.

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin participates in videoconference of Special ASEAN-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19; Australia announces a package of initiatives on COVID-19 response and recovery

Special ASEAN-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 is held via videoconference on 30 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the videoconference of the Special ASEAN-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 at 2:00 pm yesterday from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Foreign Minister of Malaysia as Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and Madame Marise Payne, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Women of Australia. The meeting was attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the meeting, the Ministers underscored the importance of enhancing ASEAN- Australia cooperation in three areas of mutual interests namely health security, stability and economic recovery. The Ministers appreciated the substantial ASEAN-Australia cooperation and welcomed a package of initiatives to strengthen ASEAN- Australia partnership on COVID-19 response and recovery. The Ministers also discussed to continue cooperation through ASEAN-led regional mechanisms to mitigate the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin updated the meeting on the measures taken by the Government to control the pandemic and mitigate its economic impacts and to ensure early recovery. He added that despite limitation in its resources, Myanmar has been able to keep COVID-19 under control thanks to early response and the Whole-of-Nation approach taken by the Government in addressing health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. He also apprised the meeting of the Government's rigorous efforts in mobilizing peoples' participation and taking preventive and control measures for vulnerable segments including IDPs by adhering to the principle of "leaving no one behind" in the fight against the pandemic.

With regard to strengthening the ASEAN-Australia cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Minister welcomed Australia's commitment to use over 630 million USD to support the global effort to fight COVID- 19. The Union Minister highlighted the importance of strengthening ASEAN-Australia cooperation in public health and digital health to facilitate adaptation to the new normal, expediting upgradation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (ANNZFTA) to revitalize the regional economies and the expeditious conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

As migrant workers are one of the groups most affected by COVID-19, the Union Minister also stressed the need to foster closer cooperation to mitigate the socio-economic impacts fall upon migrant workers during the time when businesses are facing economic hardships.

The Co-Chairs' Statement of the Special ASEAN-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 was issued at the meeting. Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Sports. —MNA ■

Union Commerce Minister discusses with Myanmar commercial attachés abroad

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint held a Zoom meeting with Myanmar commercial attachés from foreign countries yesterday, discussing three-year trade promotion plans between Myanmar and the respective countries.

Myanmar commercial attaché in China's Beijing, Nanning and Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, India, the United States, and Belgium participated in the video-meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint said COVID-19 has affected all sectors of the countries around the world including Myanmar, especially job opportunity.

Based on agriculture, the government in cooperation with the public is making efforts to increase local purchase demand and get production sufficient, he added.

The Union Minister also instructed the commercial attaches to present reports on their staying countries' economic recovery procedures in post-COVID-19 period and market conditions.

The ministry's Deputy Minister said the main duty of commercial attaches is to improve our country's trade and investment.

He adds that commercial attaches are those who are sent abroad representing Myanmar, therefore, they need to observe government's policies and the ministry's procedures and activities to answer the questions on development progress in Myanmar raised by businesspersons and organizations.

He also urged the commercial attaches to try their best analyzing the country's capability for trading and investing, and make strenuous efforts to assist the nation's economic development.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint holds meeting with Myanmar commercial attachés from foreign countries on three-year trade promotion plans between Myanmar and respective countries. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commercial attaches reported on their three-year trade and investment plans, trade opportunities and challenges, and strengths and weaknesses.

The Union Minister and the Deputy Minister coordinated the reported matters. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 25/2020
10th Waxing of First Waso, 1382 ME
(29 June 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 27 June 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Bilumyo Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.	Police have opened three cases and arrested two men and two women together with stimulant tablets and heroin in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched two suspects – Min Bar Oo, 19, son of U Thein Kyaw, who lives in Myohaung Quarter and Nyi Bhwar, 20, son of U Aung Win Htwe, who lives in Zayhmekan Quarter – near Bilumyo Village, Mohnyin Township on 27 June 2020 and arrested them together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mohnyin) MaYa(pa)102/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Myo Aung who lives in Namee Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 June 2020, police searched the house of Myo Aung (a) Lanbo, 32, son of U Kyaw Hla, who lives in Namee Village, Indaw Township and arrested him together with stimulant tablets, stimulant tablet crush powder and heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mawlu) MaYa(pa)36/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Zaw Thu Lwin (a) Ko Thu and Myo Thiha (a) Myo Myo who live in Minkwet 1 Quarter, Paungde Township, Bago Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 June 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Thu Lwin (a) Ko Thu, 30, son of U Than Htay, who lives in Minkwet 1 Quarter, Paungde Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Paungde) MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Myo Thiha (a) Myo Myo, 39, son of U Win Aung, who lives in the same quarter and arrested him and his wife Ma Hmway Hmway (a) Hmway Lay, 42, daughter of U Aye Myint, together with marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Paungde) MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Tun Win Aung who lives in No 2 Quarter, Kyaw Town, Magway Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 June 2020, police searched the house of Tun Win Aung, 29, son of U Bo Htwe, who lives in No 2 Quarter, Kyaw Town Township and arrested him and Tun Min Latt (a) Kalarsein, 28, son of U Tun Tun Than, who lives in the same quarter, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Gangaw) MaYa(pa)6/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Thein Soe who lives in No 1 Quarter, Kyaw Town, Magway Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 June 2020, police searched the house of Thein Soe, 42, son of U Chit Shane, who lives in No 1 Quarter, Kyaw Town and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Gangaw) MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) and 23 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs on the road of Abid-Khalaedaing village road in Mudon Township, Mon State.	Police have opened 13 cases and arrested 23 men together with speciosa and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a motor cycle on the road of Abid-Khalaedaing Village near Abid Village, Mudon Township on 21 June. It was driven by Min Thu (a) Khin Maung Htoo, 31, son of U San Nyein, who lives in Thetkaw Village, Chaungzon Township and Khine Zaw Htay, 34, son of U Tin Yi, who lives in Kahnyaw Village. Police arrested them together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Kamarwet) MaYa(pa)37/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyauktan Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State.	Police have opened 4 cases and arrested three men and two women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a motor cycle near the roundabout of industrial zone, Kyauktan Quarter, Mawlamyine Township on 26 June. It was driven by Mingalar Min Maung (a) Sein Pyu, 22, son of U Myint, who lives in the Kwetthit Street of the same quarter. He was arrested together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Mupon) MaYa(pa)39/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Mi Thet who lives in Hmawset Quarter, Dala Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21 June 2020, police searched the house of Mi Thet (a) Mya Thet Mon, 46, daughter of U Taw Kyaw, who lives in Hmawset Quarter, Dala Township and arrested her two others – Moe Thu Win (a) Ko Moe, 23, son of U Hsan Win, and Ma Myo Thet Oo (a) Moe Thae Oo, 19, daughter of U Myo Myint, who live in the same quarter -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dala) MaYa(pa)22/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Nga Zaw (a) Zaw Myo who lives in Kyusan Quarter, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 June 2020, police searched the house of Nga Zaw (a) Zaw Myo (a) Myo Kyaw Zin, 37, son of U Khin Aung, who lives in Kyusan Quarter, Mingaladon Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mingaladon) MaYa(pa)30/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Myo Naing who lives in Laemar Village, Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 June 2020, police searched a motor cycle on the road of Laemar Village, Yaksawk Township. It was driven by Myo Naing (a) Naing Lin, 30, son of U Paw Yar, who lives in the same village. He was arrested together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of Maung Myo Aye who lives in Hlaetoe Village, Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 June 2020, police searched the house of Maung Myo Aye, 36, son of U Aye Maung, who lives in Hlaetoe Village, Yaksawk Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(pa)36/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Win Pe who lives in Naungphan Village, Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 June 2020, police searched the house of Win Pe, 52, son of U Pyauk, who lives in Naungphan Village, Yaksawk Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(pa)37/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13.	Information received of Nyi Nyi Aung who lives in Palaungchaung Village, Nawnghkio Township, northern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 June 2020, police searched the house of Hla Hsaung, 51, son of U San Pyu, who lives in Paukkon Village, Nawnghkio Township and arrested him and three others – Nyi Nyi Aung, 20, son of U Nyunt Maung; Aung Kyaw Oo, 21, son of U Kyaw Myaing; and Naing Lin Oo, 23, son of U Tun Kyi, who live in Palaungchaung Village -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Doepin) MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,210 cases have been opened files as of 27 June 2020. A total of 1,869 people, including 1,563 men and 306 women had been arrested with 9,558.4614 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 43,563.92886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,263.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 638,549 stimulant tablets, 12,371.90 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 629.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 56.95 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 26 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

State Counsellor stresses need for public vigilance against COVID-19 in videoconference with senior health officials

FROM PAGE-3

In other countries, having to confront an outbreak for the second time is more dangerous. According to the news reports, in some states in America where the restrictions were lifted, they had to impose the restrictions again. Because the rate of people infected by the COVID disease increased, restaurants and other places which were permitted to open had to be closed again. She said restrictions were being lifted slowly because she did not wish the same thing to happen in Myanmar. They were moving step by step. However, there were some who have become impatient. It is a very difficult thing to have to retreat after moving fast. Having to retreat is because of having a problem. The best thing is to make sure that you don't have to retreat. That was why it was important to move slowly. In the discussions presented by the doctor from Hpa-an, it was very encouraging to hear that everyone joined in to help. She said she wanted to thank the youths of Kayin State. If the youths can practice and nurture "metta"(loving kindness) and "cetena" (good intentions) starting from now it would be very good for the future of the country. The most important things are "metta" and "cetena". We should encourage the willingness to work for others with social welfare spirit. One way of giving encouragement is to give recognition.

The second wave of COVID-19 is more severe in foreign countries; news reports said that some states in the US had to re-impose lockdown after it was removed; the rapid increasing number of COVID patients has closed restaurants and other sites again; Myanmar is gradually easing restrictions to avoid such situations, while moving ahead step by step; however, some people have lost their patience; it is more difficult to step backwards in solving problems; backtracking is problem that can turn around a situation; and that slow and steady pace is more useful; prevention is the best way to solve a problem; it is very satisfied to hear cooperation of locals in Hpa-an and very appreciated to the youth in Kayin State; developing loving kindness among the youth is good for the future of the country; community spirit must be supported and it is a form of recognition; good deeds must be appreciated; a group that is trying for promoting loving kindness among human beings have said it; one pointing figure of someone to another means three fingers are pointing to oneself; optimistic and philanthropic attitude of the youths is a good expectation for the country.

It was said in the discussions that some returnee patients have no mobile phones; some persons have old phones which are not used anymore, but in good conditions for use; such extra phones will be useful for the patients to have confidence in relieving their diseases; it is required to prevent, control and treat COVID and to maintain awareness and vigilance; it is grateful to officials of Ministry of Health and Sports and common for their works in fighting against COVID-19; it can take advantage from struggles for the country, not only during the pandemic but also for the future of the country; experiences could turn into capacity; and thanks to all the people taking part in measures against COVID -19; may all being healthy and wealthy.—MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)*

Tatmadaw delegates come back from Russia test negative for COVID-19

ALL Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegates and students who returned from the Russian Federation tested negative for COVID-19, according to the report of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

Fifteen members of Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the 75th Anniversary of Victory Day parade of Great Patriotic War in Russia and 22 students stranded in Russia arrived back at the Nay Pyi Taw airport on 25 June. On their arrival, they were placed in home quarantines and facilities quarantines.

The Tatmadaw delegates and students were tested with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) yesterday, and no one has tested positive for COVID-19.—MNA*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

FAO provides teaching materials for Myanmar Forest School, CFDTC

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented teaching materials/instructional materials to Myanmar Forest School (MFS) and Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC) yesterday.

A ceremony to hand over the teaching materials was held at the Forest Department's Director-General Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The FAO donates teaching aid to Myanmar Forest School and Central Forestry Development Training Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

Director-General of Forest Department Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw made opening remarks, and FAO's resident representative Ms Xiaojie Fan delivered a speech at the ceremony.

FAO's resident representative Ms Xiaojie Fan and Senior Technical Advisor of the SLM Projects Ms Xavier Bouan handed over 14 kinds of teaching materials, 120 in pieces, to the Director-General.

The director-general presented certificates of honour to the FAO's officials. — MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Public contributions to the fund of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

THE government is increasing its momentum for measures against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For the successful implementation of these measures, the following companies, organizations and individuals have made the following cash donations until 4:30 pm on 25 June 2020.

The following is the list of donors to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19:

Sr.	Name of donor	Amount(US$)
1.	Van Phong Bo Ngoai Giao with UOB S'pore Bank	49,918.21
2.	Hong Kong Myanmar Manufactures Asso; Limited Hong Kong	10,733.11
3.	Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Yangon	10,700.00
4.	Myanmar Embassy in Japan	8,900.18
5.	BTMU (MUFG) Bank	3,353.70
6.	Karisma Apparel (Myanmar) Co., Ltd on behalf of Lawsgroup Hong Kong	1,500.00
7.	Krung Thai Bank Pcl (Yangon Representative Office)	1,000.00
	Total	**86,105.20**

Further donations of cash and hospital supplies / equipment will be published.

National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19)
(Translated by TTN)

Max Myanmar Group wins best sustainability strategy award

UK-based CFI.co (Capital Finance International) presented Best Sustainability Strategy Myanmar 2020 Award to Max Myanmar Group.

The award selection board chose Max Myanmar Group as the group has implemented their works in accordance with international norms and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), carried out social work and environmental conservation activities and always considered its partner organizations' welfares since the company was established.

CFI.co is has presented best awards to companies and individuals around the world after reviewing their achievements annually.—Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Police officer stabbed to death in Sittway

A police sergeant from Sittway Myoma police station was killed at his house in Sittway, Rakhine State on 29 June.

On returning home, the police officer was attacked at the front gate of his house in Manipura Street in Block 3 of Ma Gyi Myaing Ward at 8:05 pm, according to Tatmadaw True News Information Team. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

348 Myanmar citizens abroad come back home by relief flights

A total of 348 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries due to COVID-19 arrived back home by Myanmar Airlines International (MAI)'s three relief flights that all landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Ninety citizens stranded in Cambodia came back home by yesterday's first relief flight that landed at the Yangon airport at 5:5 pm.

One hundred and twenty-nine Myanmar citizens – 79 from the Republic of Korea, 2 from Belgium, 1 from from Canada, Germany, 3 from Japan, 2 from Norway, 9 from the United Kingdom, 1 from Viet Nam, 1 from South Sudan, and 30 from the United States – arrived at the Yangon airport at 8 pm by second relief flight that departed from Incheon International Airport in South Korea. Of the total returnees, 129 Myanmar citizens from United Arab Emirates came back home by MAI's third relief flight yesterday that landed at the Yangon airport at 9:30 pm.

Upon their arrival, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with the guidelines set by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded in other countries due to COVID-19. Until now a total of 6,476 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home.— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar returnees from foreign countries are queuing for immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport on 30 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thailand hands over 75 human trafficking victims to Myanmar

Thai authorities hand over 75 trafficking victims to Myanmar at the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge 2 on 26 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

A batch of 75 Myanmar nationals who were victims of human trafficking in Thailand returned home through the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge 2 on 26 June.

Officials from Songkhla Shelter of Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Director Mr Parinwat Thitiphonthannawit handed over the victims of human trafficking together with Thai government's cash assistance 524,417 Thai baht to the officials of Myanmar.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's Deputy Director of Rehabilitation Department U Kyaw Swar, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department U Kyaw Thu Naing, and officials from District General Administration Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Anti-trafficking Police Force (Myawady), Public Health Department, and Myawady People's Hospital accepted the victims.

The returnees were being quarantined at the MoU office near Shwe Myawady Market in Myawady. Rehabilitation Department and relevant departments will fulfill the requirements of them during the 21-day quarantine.

When they are sent back to their native places, cash assistances they received from Thai government will be provided, and Rehabilitation Department will also provide K 200,000 each to all of them.

The 21-day quarantine and sending them to their native places will be arranged in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The two governments previously planned to hand over 79 victims, but four women victims were left as they have to go to court as witnesses. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoSWRR provides medical supplies to IDP camps

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement have been carrying out prevention, control and response measures against COVID-19 at the IDP camps in the country in cooperation with the relevant departments and organizations.

Yesterday, the Ministry implemented COVID-19 preventive measures at IDP camps in Rakhine State.

Officials from the Ministry provided 11,810 bars of soap, 23,620 cloth masks, 5,844 bottles of sanitizer, 14 hand speakers, 14 thermometers, 14 memory sticks, 14 vinyl and 30 hand wash basins to the 20 temporary shelters in Mrauk-Utownship. Similarly, officials provided 11,368 cloth masks and 20 hand wash basins to the 12 temporary shelters in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State on 29 June.—MNA

(Translated by YHT)

Officials are presenting medical supplies to IDP camps in Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

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1 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Essential 1,000 days of nutrition

ABOUT 29.3 per cent of children in Myanmar are stunted in their growth due to malnutrition, according to a report. Malnutrition strikes in the period from when the mother first gets pregnant to when the child reaches the age of 2 years old, or in other words, the first 1000 days of the child's life.

Poverty and the inability to purchase nutritional food, inadequate nutritional knowledge, and misconceptions that prevent the consumption of certain food essential for growth are some of the causes for malnutrition and stunted growth compared to other children of the same age and gender in the long run.

Malnutrition is the cause of stunted growth for 1.6 per cent of children in Myanmar and is more common in rural areas than in larger urban locations. Chin State and Rakhine State are two of the least developed states in Myanmar and have the highest rate of stunted growth at 58 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

> Supplementing food need to be fed from three categories – (1) food that gives energy, (2) food that promotes healthy growth, and (3) food that aids against illnesses. These three groups of food need to be included in the daily diet.

Malnutrition just doesn't affect physical growth or stature, it also stunts the mental development of children. This can lead to ill health, low immunity systems, difficulty keeping up with academic subjects, and memory retention difficulties that have prevented children from completing school and consequently make it difficult to find employment when they come of age.

It is important to conduct nutritional awareness campaigns in both urban and rural areas including villages. It would be equally effective to teach them how to gain the correct amount of nutrients from sources of food that are easily available where they live. The first 1,000 days are important and the mother needs to eat the required nutrition during pregnancy, only feed babies the mother's milk up to 6 months of age, and then compliment with other nutritional food later on.

Supplementing food need to be fed from three categories – (1) food that gives energy, (2) food that promotes healthy growth, and (3) food that aids against illnesses. These three groups of food need to be included in the daily diet.

Starchy food such as rice, wheat, corn, potato, taro root, yam, sweet potato, honey, and sugar that contain carbohydrates and vegetable oil and animal fats give energy. Meanwhile, meat, fish legumes, chicken eggs, duck eggs and quail eggs promote healthy growth while vegetables and fruits that are rich in vitamins and minerals and succulents help ward of sickness.

Children can start joining the family dinner table at the age of 1 and do not essentially require a separate special diet so their development can be handled in a slightly more lenient manner after their first 1,000 days.

Poverty or a lack of education are not the main contributors of malnutrition, rather they are mostly caused by a lack of information on nutrition or proper care of the child, according to nutritionists. We need to raise awareness on nutrition to mothers in rural areas so that they consume a nutrient-rich healthy diet and feed their children in the same manner so that the next generation that will lead our nation will come out healthy and strong.

Confronting the silent and endemic crisis of harmful practices

Urgent, accelerated action needed to stop female genital mutilation, child marriage, and other practices that harm women and girls, according to new UNFPA report

EVERY year, millions of girls are subjected to practices that harm them physically and emotionally, with the full knowledge and consent of their families, friends and communities, according to the State of World Population 2020, released today by UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

At least 19 harmful practices, ranging from breast ironing to virginity testing, are considered human rights violations, according to the UNFPA report, which focuses on the three most prevalent ones: female genital mutilation, child marriage, and extreme bias against daughters in favour of sons. Harmful practices against girls cause profound and lasting trauma, robbing them of their right to reach their full potential," says UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem.

This year, an estimated 4.1 million girls will be subjected to female genital mutilation. Today, 33,000 girls under age 18 will be forced into marriages, usually to much older men. Also, an extreme preference for sons over daughters in some countries has fuelled gender-biased sex selection or extreme neglect that leads to their death as children, resulting in 140 million "missing females."

Some harmful practices are waning in countries where they have been most prevalent. But because of population growth in these countries, the number of girls subjected to them will actually rise in the coming decades, if urgent action is not taken.

Countries that have ratified international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child have a duty to end the harm, whether it's inflicted on girls by family members, religious communities, health-care providers, commercial enterprises or state institutions. Many have responded with laws, but laws alone are not enough.

Decades of experience and research show that bottom-up, grassroots approaches are better at bringing change, the UNFPA report states. "We must tackle the problem by tackling the root causes, especially gender-biased norms. We must do a better job of supporting communities' own efforts to understand the toll these practices are taking on girls and the benefits that accrue to the whole of society by stopping them," Dr Kanem says.

Economies and the legal systems that support them must be restructured to guarantee every woman equal opportunities, the report adds. Changing rules for property inheritance, for example, can eliminate a powerful incentive for families to favour sons over daughters and help to eliminate child marriage.

Ending child marriage and female genital mutilation worldwide is possible within 10 years by scaling up efforts to keep girls in school longer and teach them life skills and to engage men and boys in social change. Investments totaling $3.4 billion a year through 2020 would end these two harmful practices and end the suffering of an estimated 84 million girls, the report shows.

While progress has been made in ending some harmful practices worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse gains. A recent analysis revealed that if services and programmes remain shuttered for six months, an additional 13 million girls may be forced into marriage and 2 million more girls may be subjected to female genital mutilation between now and 2030.

"The pandemic both makes our job harder and more urgent as so many more girls are now at risk," Dr Kanem says. "We will not stop until the rights, choices and bodies of all girls are fully their own."

Legally speaking, a marriage in which either the girl is below 18 years of age, or the boy is below 21 years of age is child marriage. Ending child marriage and female genital mutilation worldwide is possible within 10 years by scaling up efforts to keep girls in school longer and teach them life skills and to engage men and boys in social change. **PHOTO: AFP**

In the context of Myanmar, a country that has affirmed and ratified the CEDAW, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls remain an unfulfilled promise. Only half of the eligible women are participating in the workforce, even though women in the country are as qualified as their male counterparts. Furthermore, qualitative studies have shown that there is significant and widespread physical, psychological and sexual violence against women and girls in the country. The violence, particularly sexual violence, is much higher in areas experiencing armed conflict.

"This is unacceptable," says the UNFPA Representative for Myanmar, Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan. "We must end harmful practices and this can be achieved only when both authorities and communities stand by the women and girls whose rights are being denied. Women and girls are entitled to the same rights and opportunities as men and boys." Mr Balakrishnan further added: "Women's access to economic opportunities, and also the public space for their participation in political and peace processes need to be strengthened and nurtured."

SOURCE: UNFPA MYANMAR

COVID-19: AN ONGOING THREAT

Members of the public, detained for roaming the streets, have their temperatures checked outside a police station in Quezon City, in Manila, on 17 April, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Confirmed COVID-19 cases mounting in Asia-Pacific as WHO warns worst is yet to come

COVID-19 continued to spread in Asia-Pacific region on Tuesday while the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the worst is yet to come in the pandemic as global cases and death tolls climbed.

India's federal health ministry Tuesday morning said 418 new deaths and 18,522 positive cases were reported during the past 24 hours across the country, taking the number of deaths to 16,893 and total cases to 566,840.

Bangladesh recorded 64 new fatalities, the highest increase in a single day since the pandemic broke out in the country on March 8, bringing the total number of fatalities to 1,847.

The number of confirmed cases in the country increased to 145,483 with 3,682 new cases reported in the last 24 hours.

In Indonesia, the confirmed cases rose by 1,293 within one day to 56,385, with the death toll adding by 71 to 2,876, Achmad Yurianto, a Health Ministry official, said at a press conference.

According to him, 1,006 more people were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 24,806.

The number of positive cases in the Philippines soared to 37,514 after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 1,080 more infections.

The death toll also increased to 1,266 after 11 more patients succumbed to the viral disease, the DOH added.

South Korea recorded 43 more cases compared to 24 hours ago as of midnight Tuesday, raising the total number of infections to 12,800.

The daily caseload moved roughly between 30 and 60 in recent weeks due to the continued small cluster infections and imported cases. Of the new cases, 20 were imported from overseas, lifting the combined figure to 1,582.

No more death was confirmed, leaving the death toll at 282.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Seyed Reza Nobakhti as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Seyed Reza Nobakhti earned a Master Degree in Political Sciences from University of Imam Sadegh. In 1990, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Political Expert at the First Africa Division. Then, he served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lusaka and Warsaw from 1991 to 1995 and as Acting Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Warsaw from 1995 to 1996. He then served as a Political Expert at the Department of Central and Northern Europe from 1996 to 2000 and was transferred to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus and Stockholm as an Economic Counsellor from 2000 to 2004. He was Deputy Director at the Division of Mass Media for Arabic and African Countries from 2004 to 2010. Then, he was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iran to Ivory Coast in 2010. He was a Senior Expert on African and Arabic Affairs from 2014 to 2017, and served as Director at the Consular Department from 2017 to 2020. He is married with 4 children.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 30th June, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1ST JULY, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Naypyitaw and Magway Regions, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon–Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1ST JULY, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1ST JULY, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Yangon-Okkan RBE train to reopen from 1 July

By Nyein Nyein

Suspended Yangon-Okkan RBE railway will resume its services as from 1 July. **PHOTP: SUPPLIED**

THE RBE up and down trains operating between Yangon and Okkan will resume their operations starting from 1 July as the same schedules before, according to Myanma Railways (MR).

The RBE down-66 train will leave Oakkan railway station at 6 am and arrive at Yangon railway station at 9:35 am.

The RBE up-65 train will leave Yangon Central Railway Station at 4:30 pm and arrive at Okkan railway station at 8:10 pm.

The ticket fare for the train is K600 per person from Yangon to Okkan as usual, according to MR.

Before the coronavirus period, the Yangon-Okkan RBE train carried about 1,000 passengers daily. With the resuming of the Yangon-Okkan RBE train, the schedule of the circular train (B-3/4) and Yangon-Insein (Q-2) train has changed their timetables a little bit. The detailed schedule of the train will be announced at the relevant railway stations, according to MR.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

5 Ayeyawady dolphins found dead in 6 months along Ayeyawady River

Ayeyawady dolphins are under the threat of electro-fishing method. **PHOTO: HTAIK HTAR NAING**

FIVE Ayeyawady dolphins including a one-month-old baby dolphin were found dead within six months in the Ayeyawady River along with Mandalay–Bhamo, according to the Endangered Species Conservation Division under the Fisheries Department.

"Five Ayeyawady dolphins were recorded found dead from January to June 2020. Among the dead dolphins, the one-year-old baby female dolphin was found dead on 2 June. A survey conducted in February 2020 had shown a total of 79 dolphins between Mandalay-Bhamo, which is a record high population this year," said U Zaw Man, the deputy head of the Endangered Species Conservation Division, Fisheries Department (Nay Pyi Taw). Another one-year-old baby female dolphin was reportedly found dead on 27 June early morning at Sein Pan Gone Village in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Fisheries Department.

"According to the local villagers, the four small boats, which are illegally catching with the use of the electro-fishing method, are found two miles away from the village in which people found the dead dolphin. We assumed that the dolphin was only one-year-old and she was electrified to death. The dead baby dolphin was put inside an icebox and brought to Mandalay Region," he added.

Our contract with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) will expire in 2022. So, the conservation will be conducted by other organizations. Some activities are conducted despite the budget constraint. The Ayeyawady dolphin conservation cannot be conducted only by an individual organization. We need more cooperation of the related department, organizations and the local communities.

Regarding with the Ayeyawady dolphin conservative area, the conservation area zone-1 is between Minkin and Kyaukmyaung townships while the zone-2 is between Htigyaing and Shwegu townships. The department seized 10 illegal electro-fishing boats in 2017, 20 in 2018, 31 in 2019 and 19 in 2020 with three illegal fishermen. Then, the illegal fishing boats were handed over to the fisheries department.

In the Ayeyawady conservative area, the related fisheries department is conducting awareness activities of the illegal electro-fishing in cooperation with WCS. —Htik Htar Naing

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Restriction on issuing of visa extended up to end of July

TO control the spreading of the coronavirus pandemic effectively, the restriction on issuing of entry visa has been extended up to end of July.

The issuance of entry visa was restricted till 30 June previously and now the restriction has been extended for one more month.

"Not only us but also the Ministry of Transport and Communications have also extended the operation of the fights till 31 July," said an official from the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Department of Civil Aviation director for transport said, "For extension of the restriction on international commercial flights coming into the Yangon International Airport, we are still waiting for the instruction from the Ministry.

Regarding the foreign travellers, although the government has restricted the visa, the foreign nationals including the diplomats and the United Nations officials are allowed to enter the country, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

However, those wishing to visit Myanmar for urgent missions or compelling reasons must follow the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Related to the pandemic prevention, control and treatment, the government's orders, announcements and instructions have been extended until 15 July except in the cases in which the National-Level Central Committee allows such people to enter for good reasons.

Myanmar government has restricted the entry visa starting from 15 March. The entry visa applies to visa on arrival, electronic visa and social visa. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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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.

Change in payment system halts gold export

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S gold export has paused when the international remittance for gold purchase has changed from Telegraph Transfer (TT) to Letter of Credit (LC), said Chairman U Myo Myint of Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

"As per the notification released by the Ministry of Commerce, starting from April, payment method was changed to LC. As a result of this, payment can take about two months, cost banking service changes by two sides, and increase the charges for security matter in transportation. Meanwhile, gold trading in the international market has also come to a stop due to volatile prices," he continued.

Earlier, Myanmar exported gold to Japan and the Republic of Korea by TT payment system, which is prompt payment or transfers through the bank.

Later, the Trade Department no longer approve the TT. They grant a licence for trading with the LC system.

"We used the TT system for direct deposit through banks or immediate payment. Once the transfer is received, the goods are shipped. With the LC system, we have to open LC at the bank and so do for the buyer side at his/her bank. Additionally, they have to be shipped by linking with the insurance company. It costs around US$500 for 1,000 worth items, due to the banking service for the delayed payment and higher transportation charges. So, the buyers are not interested in buying and the export is completely halted," YGEA Chair explained.

Following the suspension of gold export, the rate of domestic gold prices is about K100,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) lower than international prices according to the YGEA.

Local gold price is lower than that of international market, causing suspension of export.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

"The large gap between domestic gold and global gold prices is the main reason for export suspension. We cannot sell or buy gold according to international prices. The gold export is stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

More than 10,000 local goldsmiths are unemployed owing to a trading halt with the external market, he added.

This being so, trading with the TT system is required to make the domestic gold market recover.

Having said that, the YGEA have already submitted a request for the resumption of the TT payment system to the Ministry of Commerce.

Gold and other jewellery are primarily purchased by Japan and ROK, and other tourists also buy them, the YGEA stated.

Myanmar gave green light to gold exports and imports in January 2018, with the aims to eradicate illegal trade, earn revenue for the country and maintain the market's stability .■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MRF strives for rice export target of 2.4mln tonnes in 2019-2020FY

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has been accelerating its effort to meet rice export target of 2.4 million tonnes in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to MRF.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce, coordinating meeting related to rice export and the country's rice reserve matters was held on 26 June.

According to the coordination meeting, 150,000 tonnes of rice will be exported each in July and August. And, 100,000 tonnes of rice will be sent to the external market in September, totalling rice export quota of 400,000 tonnes.

MRF stated that Myanmar has shipped over 2.044 million tonnes of rice and broken rice as of 12 June since October in the current fiscal, generating US$605.907 million.

Additionally, starting from July, each export quota limit for companies are to be lifted and licence permit under contract was discussed and approved.

Regarding the State's rice reserve scheme, the rice volume for reserve will be cut to 5 per cent from 10 per cent of total rice export. This action will come into effect on 1 July 2020.

Before seeking the export licence, the companies must provide 2.5 per cent of total rice export as the reserved rice, and then, the remaining 2.5 per cent must be sent to the State's warehouses within 15 days after receiving the licence, as per decisions of the coordination meeting.

Moreover, the meeting decided that the validity of rice export licence is extended up to 60 days from the earlier term of 45 days, MRF stated. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Hteekhee border trade falls by $520 mln as of 19 June

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border between 1 October and 19 June in the 2019-2020 financial year sharply fell to US$1.47 billion from $1.99 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the eight months of current fiscal, exports through the Hteekhee border stood at $1.45 billion, while imports fell short of $18.6 million.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in trade through the Hteekhee border since the previous fiscal, said an official from the ministry.

Earlier, the Myawady checkpoint sees the largest among the Myanmar-Thailand land border trade. The rise in exports through the Hteekhee crossing had boosted the value of the Myanmar-Thailand land border trade in the 2018-2019FY. In the current fiscal, trade values at Hteekhee checkpoint also surpassed those registered at Myawady crossing.

However, Myanmar's exports of natural gas to Thailand over the past eight months of the current financial year 2019-2020 showed a decrease of about $400 million compared with the corresponding period of 2018-2019 fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Of the seven land borders between Myanmar and Thailand, Myeik, Mawtaung and Hteekhee borders have witnessed a decrease in trade in the current financial year, while the remaining borders (Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung and Maese) have reported an increase.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns and bamboo shoots to Thailand. This year, corn exports to Thailand rose significantly compared with the previous years, yet natural gas export drastically plunged. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country.
— Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

The New York Times pulls out of Apple News

The New York Times has decided to leave the Apple News service. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK—The New York Times has become the highest-profile media organization to leave Apple News, saying the tech giant's service was not helping achieve the newspaper's subscription and business goals.

The daily's exit comes as news organizations around the world struggle with declining print readership and an online environment where ad revenue is dominated by Google and Facebook. "Core to a healthy model between The Times and the platforms is a direct path for sending those readers back into our environments, where we control the presentation of our report, the relationships with our readers and the nature of our business rules," chief operating officer Meredith Kopit Levien said in a memo to employees on Monday.

"Our relationship with Apple News does not fit within these parameters," added the memo, which was published by the Times.Launched in 2015, Apple's news app helps promote media subscriptions, and in 2019 Apple added a paid service called Apple News+ -- which shares revenue with newspaper and magazine publishers.

It promotes itself as a service with content curated by humans, not algorithms, and boasts a larger roster of titles including The Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, National Geographic, Vanity Fair and Sports Illustrated.

But the service did not bring in the kind of revenue news organizations were hoping for, according to the Times, which said in its report on the exit that Apple takes a 30 percent cut of every subscription sold through its news app.It also took half of Apple News+ revenues, according to the Times report.

The Times's exit from Apple News comes after Google announced plans last week to pay some news organizations for content in a departure from its past practice following pressure from governments and media groups around the world.—AFP ■

Shell says will take up to $22bn hit from coronavirus

THE HAGUE—Energy giant Royal Dutch Shell will take a vast charge of up to $22 billion (19.6 billion euros) due to chronic fallout from coronavirus and collapsing oil prices, it announced Tuesday.

The Anglo-Dutch company said in a statement that it will face a charge of between $15 billion and $22 billion in the second quarter, after crude futures had suffered a spectacular crash on COVID-19 fallout, the Saudi-Russia price war and oversupply.

The charge will thus likely be larger than the $15.8 billion net profit the firm earned last year.—AFP ■

Philanthropists save Australia's AAP newswire from closure

SYDNEY—The Australian Associated Press has been acquired by a consortium led by philanthropists, saving the newswire from closure at the 11th hour.

The deal was confirmed late Monday, three months after staff were told AAP would shutter as challenges in the media sector were exacerbated by the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite the Australian Associated Press takeover, about half the 180 existing jobs are expected to be lost. **PHOTO: AFP**

The investor consortium, which includes former News Corp chief Peter Tonagh, told staff in an email they shared "a common goal – a desire to protect media diversity in Australia."

"We feel the best way to do this is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the AAP Newswire and its provision of independent, quality journalism on issues that matter to all Australians," they wrote.

"We believe that this has never been more important to Australian society and were concerned about the impact that AAP's closure would have had on independent journalism, on jobs and on the viability of new entrants to the media space."

In March, major shareholders Rupert Murdoch's News Corp and broadcasting and newspaper group Nine Entertainment pulled out of the wire in a surprise decision that fuelled fears of further concentration of Australia's media.

But weeks later, several offers to buy the business put plans to close the business by June 26 on hold.—AFP ■

Invitation for Bids – Investigation, Design and Construction Supervision for LNG Terminal Works of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of Union of Myanmar

Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Company Limited, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for Investigation, Design and Construction Supervision of LNG Terminal Works as part of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Scopes of Works

As a part of the integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it is proposed to construct a LNG Terminal with the Annual Deign Throughput Capacity of 2 million tons, consisting of a special 80,000-175,000m3 LNG Pier and a Workboat Wharf (Heavy Lift Wharf), together with the Jetty, Approach Bridge and Embankment.

Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in the bidding:

- Special design qualification class A in waterway transportation sector, or comprehensive design qualification class A for all sectors;
- Particular qualification class A for geotechnical engineering and hydrogeological exploration, or integrated qualification class A for engineering investigation;
- Capability of design and investigation in harbor and waterway engineering, participation in at least one (1) similar-scale oil and gas terminal design contract and at least one (1) similar jetty design contract since 2015;
- At least three (3) terminal design projects with the construction scale not less than 100 thousand tons within the last five (5) years.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in Chinese could be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 2,000 CNY (Two Thousand in Chinese Yuan) within office hours from June 29th to July 3rd, 2020 by the qualified bidders who should:

- send a written application through email to the Email Address: liuhan@urec.com.cn (cc: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn), and appendixes in the email should include the evidences to demonstrate the qualifications and experiences, the certificate of legal representative or the power of attorney of legal representative, and the effective identity certificate of legal representative or authorized representative;
- Remit the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents to the following designated account:
  Name of payee: Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited
  Bank of deposit: Bank of China, Yunnan Branch
  Number of account: 1340 0041 7658
- Upon receipt of the specified certificates and the non-refundable fee, UREC will send the Bidding Documents in hard copy and in electronic version to the address given by the qualified bidder who had submitted the specified certificates and paid the fee.

The language used for the purpose of the biding should be the Chinese.

The Bids should be submitted in the sealed envelopes before 16:00 July 28th, 2020 (local time).

Refer to the Bidding Documents for details of the requirements for Preparation and Submission of Bid together with Security.

Vietnam's industrial production up slightly in H1

HANOI—Vietnam's national index of industrial production advanced 2.7 per cent year-on-year in the first half this year, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Tuesday.

Main driver of the rise, the processing and manufacturing sector, went up 4.96 per cent, contributing 1.1 per centage points to the overall growth.

Electricity production and distribution sector grew 3.04 per cent, contributing 0.15 per centage points, and water supply and waste management grew 3.76 per cent, contributing 0.03 per centage points.

Complex developments of the COVID-19 outbreak in several countries have caused negative impacts on supplies imported for industrial production, especially the processing and manufacturing sector. Besides, stricter penalties recently imposed on drunk driving by the Vietnamese government have hit the production of the beverage sector, the office

Japan pandemic jobless data mask woe for millions: experts

Japan is suffering its first recession in five years. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO—Unlike most major global powers, Japan has been spared an explosion in unemployment during the coronavirus pandemic, despite the world's third-biggest economy suffering its first recession in more than five years.

However, economists say the situation is not as rosy as the low headline figure may suggest, with millions struggling to make ends meet on precarious temporary contracts.The latest figures published Tuesday showed Japan's unemployment rate climbed to 2.9 percent in May, up 0.3 percentage points from April and the third consecutive increase.There were 120 jobs available for every 100 jobseekers, compared with 132 in April. This was the steepest fall in this closely watched indicator since the 1974 oil crisis.—AFP ■

Australian resources exports hit record high despite coronavirus pandemic

CANBERRA—The Resources and Energy Quarterly shows that despite COVID-19, Australia's export earnings from resources are still on track to reach a record high in 2019/20. Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia Keith Pitt said in a statement on Monday that the new report confirms the resources sector continues to underpin the country's economy and has helped cushion the blow. According to the official figures, Australia's resources and energy exports are expected to reach a record 293 billion Australian dollars (200.9 billion U.S. dollars) in financial year 2019/20, which ends on Tuesday. "Iron ore demand has almost fully recovered in China and it remains on track to be first single Australian commodity to break the 100 billion AUD (68.5 billion USD) mark in annual export value," Pitt said."On current trends, Australia will overtake China next year as the world's top gold producing country to reach 30 billion AUD (20 billion USD) in exports.—Xinhua ■

Africa free-trade vision clouded by virus and pace of talks

The Maseru Bridge border post between Lesotho and South Africa. A landmark agreement would scrap all customs duties on internal trade between African countries, but progress is slow. **PHOTO: AFP**

ABIDJAN—A historic deal to smash down tariff barriers within Africa is being braked by the coronavirus pandemic and a thicket of negotiating problems. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) was formally launched just over a year ago in a blaze of optimism.The accord -- styled as the biggest free-trade accord in the world in terms of population -- gathers 54 out of 55 African countries, with Eritrea the only holdout.It aims to phase out all tariffs on commerce on the continent of 1.2 billion people, a goal that backers say could give trade a mega-jolt as only 15 per cent of trade by African nations is with continental neighbours compared to 70 per cent with Europe.It was supposed to take operational effect on Wednesday, July 1, but the timeline has slipped, under the complications caused by the COVID-19 outbreak but also the slow pace of negotiations themselves."Everybody can see, objectively, nothing can be done on the 1st of July," AfCFTA's brand-new secretary general, Wamkele Mene of South Africa, told AFP. "Forty-two countries out of 55 in Africa are either in full or partial lockdown."A new date for January 2021 has been proposed by ambassadors at the Africa Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa. The recommendation has yet to be adopted by heads of state.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (160N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (160N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (071N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (071N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.11 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 4th to July 6th, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Myanmar's fishery exports fetch over US$ 680 mln in current FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe

The fishery sector employs about 3.5 million people in Myanmar. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

FROM 1 October 2019 to mid-June 2020, Myanmar exported over 560,000 metric tons of fishery products, an increase of 70,000 tonnes over the same period in the previous year. Myanmar earned around US$ 683 million from aquaculture exports, increased by more than US$ 100 million from the year-ago period. The country fetched around US$ 580 million from fishery exports during the same period last year, according to the figures from the Ministry of Commerce.

Despite an increase in terms of income, Myanmar's fishery sector still cannot keep abreast of the neighbouring countries. Myanmar's fishery sector is suffering a sharp drop in demand from foreign markets due to Covid-19 pandemic. The declining demand also affected the country's fishery industry. The fishery sector employs about 3.5 million people in Myanmar, roughly 6% of the Southeast Asian nation's workforce. There are around 248,000 acres of fish farms and 240,000 prawn farms throughout the country. Myanmar has been negotiating with China to export more fishery products through G to G pact. Myanmar's fishery export heavily relies on Chinese market.

Myanmar's fishery products are mainly transported to Europe and Asian countries while freshwater products are shipped to Arab countries. The EU and North America account for about 45 per cent of Myanmar's aquaculture ex-

10 Million Asia Pacific Small Businesses to Participate in Visa's Global Programme to Spur Recovery Through Digital Commerce

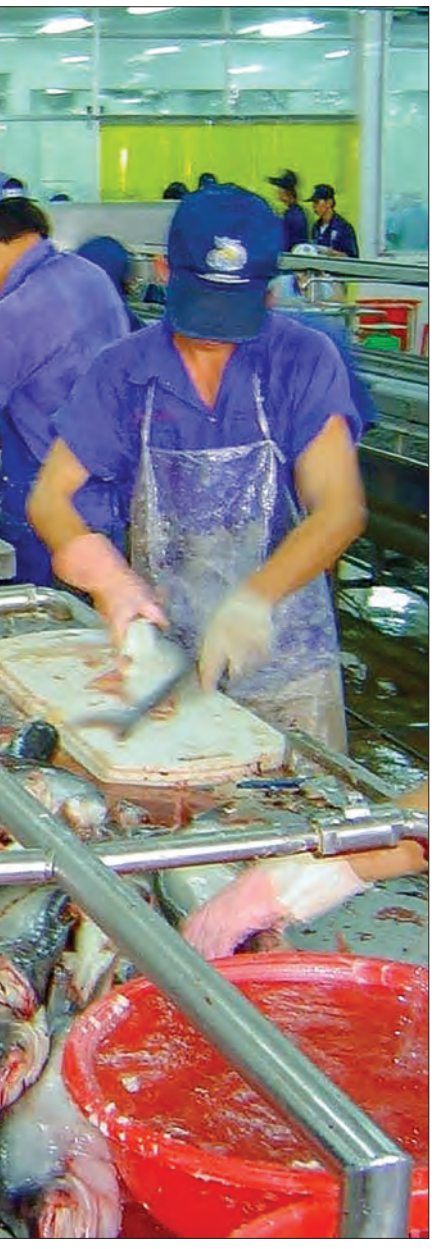
VISA (NYSE: V), on 15 June, announced a commitment to support 10 million small businesses across Asia Pacific in an effort to get local communities back to business in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visa is introducing a range of programmes and solutions to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) drive efficiency and sales by accepting and making payments digitally to meet increased demand for cashless payments – both online and in-store. Visa also formed the Visa Economic Empowerment Institute (VEEI) focused on economic and societal issues, including pandemic challenges SMEs face and closing racial and gender opportunity gaps.

The 10 million pledge is part of a global program that will see Visa supporting 50 million small businesses worldwide. Small businesses will play a vital role in helping communities recover – they account for more than half of global employment and are among the most affected by the pandemic. In Asia Pacific, SMEs account for more than 90 per cent of businesses and employ 50 per cent of the workforce.

In addition to the economic impacts, COVID-19 is accelerating the use of digital commerce experiences, from people seeking new ways to pay that do not involve touching a terminal to a boom in eCommerce, as stay-home orders result in shopping online instead of in-store. In Asia Pacific, 41% of consumers made five or more eCommerce transactions in the past three months. Three quarters of consumers in the region have said they will keep using digital payments instead of going back to cash, even after the global pandemic has subsided.

"Commerce across Asia Pacific is shifting further into digital in the wake of COVID-19, from more people ordering essentials online to people looking for secure, touchless ways to pay in person," said Chris Clark, regional president, Asia Pacific, Visa. "Visa's role as a payments network means we can help SMEs adapt to these new ways of managing and growing their business, ensuring that these crucial players can recover."

Lillian Wang, Country Manager for Visa Myanmar said: "Visa has always been a proud supporter of Myanmar businesses large and small, helping them grow through technology and payment innovation. As the ecosystem continues to adjust to the new normal, we are laser-focused on helping these homegrown businesses navigate through these common challenges with acceptance to digital payments that would both increase their operational efficiency and improve customer experience. Payment innovation will play a crucial part in enabling their businesses to flow during this challenging time



ports – which were estimated to be worth US$ 750 million in 2020 - while China and Thailand account for the remaining 55 per cent. Myanmar's marine products mainly go to more than 40 countries including the European Union, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and United States. Fish and shrimp production industry is the second prioritized business after agriculture sector in Myanmar. Myanmar's fishery sector has been the fourth largest contributor to the country's GDP, and the four largest source of foreign income in the past five years.

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation set a record for foreign income from fishery exports over a period of ten years. The department is also making concerted efforts to earn US$ 1 billion in conjunction with respective organizations and entrepreneurs in the current financial year. The department is closely working with the fish breeders, processors and exporters to ensure Myanmar marine products meet the rules and regulations of importing countries. At the same time, authorities are trying utmost to conserve fishery resources as well as ensure sustainable development in the country's fishery sector. Fish, prawns and crabs are required to meet set standards for better quality and size in foreign markets.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is trying to establish fish and prawn farming zones in cooperation with region and state governments while inviting foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the country's fishery industry. The MFF plans to establish fish lakes, aqua feedstuff processing factories, cold storages, and packaging factories, in cooperation with foreign companies and investors. The MFF is also seeking ways and means to explore new export markets and adopt an advanced farming system so as to boost the country's fish and prawn farming sector. Myanmar mainly exports prawns, crabs, squid, shrimp, dried shrimp, and dried fish to its neighbours such as Thailand and China through its border trade camps.

Myanmar shipped 340,000 tonnes of marine products worth US$ 530 million in 2013-2014 FY; transported 330,000 tonnes valued at US$ 480 million in 2014-2015FY, and freighted 360,000 tonnes worth US$ 500 million in 2015-2016FY. The Southeast Asian country exported 430,000 tonnes of fishery products worth US$ 600 million in 2916-2017FY, shipped 560,000 tonnes valued at US$ 700 million in 2017-2018FY, and exported 580,000 tons worth US$ 700 million in 2018-2019 FY, according to the statistics from the ministry.

■■■

Myanmar's fishery sector has been the fourth largest contributor to the country's GDP over the past five years. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

while preparing them to thrive in the future."

To help small businesses, Visa is focusing initially on four strategic areas to promote digital commerce and economic growth, with plans to continue to create products and services as the needs of entrepreneurs change over time. These areas include:

• Empowering digital-first businesses: Visa has built localised online resource centres – now available in more than 20 countries and territories – providing tools, partner offers and information on how to start, run and grow a digital small business. Visa is teaming up with leading eCommerce platforms such as Shopify and Boutir to help local businesses get online. Visa will be expanding its global partnership with IFundWomen to Asia Pacific, providing grants and digital training to women-owned small businesses in India.

• Encouraging digital payments: Deploying easy to adopt touchless payment technology – rapidly, and at scale – is critical to enabling faster, more secure commerce. Visa is working to introduce low-cost digital payments acceptance, including solutions that do not require point-of-sale systems and can enable a merchant's mobile phone to become a payment terminal. Visa and our partners have launched tap to phone solutions in Malaysia, with more Asia Pacific markets such as Australia, Hong Kong, India, Taiwan and Vietnam to follow. Visa is also supporting SMEs to make business-to-business (B2B) payments digitally. By digitalizing procurement payments through the use of a Visa Business Card, SMEs can utilise reconciliation tools and benefit from higher efficiency and data insights, in addition to managing their working capital effectively. Visa has curated special partner offers for SMEs using these business cards, which include access to cloud accounting platforms, digital marketing and professional courses.

• Incentivizing neighbourhood support: Visa partnerships encourage consumers to shop local and remind them that where you shop matters. The Visa Back to Business Project – an online tool that helps consumers identify businesses that may be open in the wake of the pandemic or a natural disaster – is now live in Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S., and further expanding globally. Visa has launched its new 'Where You Shop Matters' initiative in Australia and New Zealand that champions and enables entrepreneurs while encouraging consumers to support small businesses. Visa will be expanding the initiative to other Asia Pacific markets such as Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

• Developing positioning and policy: In addition to the initiatives Visa is undertaking, the company today announced the formation of the Visa Economic Empowerment Institute. This new institute comprises Visa experts and partners who will help address underlying problems and provide insights for SMEs growth and closing racial and gender gaps. Key projects in the next six months will address topics including post-crisis recovery and resilience, urban mobility, closing equality opportunity gaps and insights into the gig economy.

The announcement follows a global commitment from the Visa Foundation announced in April, to provide USD210 million in COVID-19 relief funding to address the longer-term needs of the small and micro business community over the next five years.

As the trusted engine of commerce, Visa is committed to using its global network to help the world adapt, rebuild and get everyone back to business.—GNLM

■■■

Myanmar National League set to restart in third week of July

THE Myanmar National League (MNL), which was suspended due to COVID-19, will resume in the third week of July, according to the league's meeting yesterday.

The meeting between officials from MNL and MPT on holding 2020 Myanmar National League in the post-COVID-19 period was held at the meeting hall of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

MNL's CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw, COO U Sue Aung and Sponsorship & Project Director U Theik San Tun, and MPT's Deputy Director of Marketing Department Mr Takehiko Kotani, Deputy General Manager of Branding and Advertising Department U Moe Thura, and Event & Sponsorship Manager Daw Khin Thuzar Kyaw attended the meeting.

They discussed continuous cooperation on holding the Myanmar National League in the post-COVID-19 period following the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. – Kyaw Khin ■

Barcelona midfielder Arthur to join Juventus for US$81m

MADRID—Barcelona midfielder Arthur Melo will join Juventus at the end of the season in a transfer worth 72 million euros (US$81 million), plus a further 10 million euros in variables, the Spanish club announced on Monday. Juventus' Miralem Pjanic is expected to go the other way in a separate deal, allowing both clubs to boost their profit figures ahead of the end of the financial year on Jun 30. Arthur and Pjanic will remain with their current teams until the end of the 2019/20 campaign, which will include the reformed Champions League knock-out stage in August.

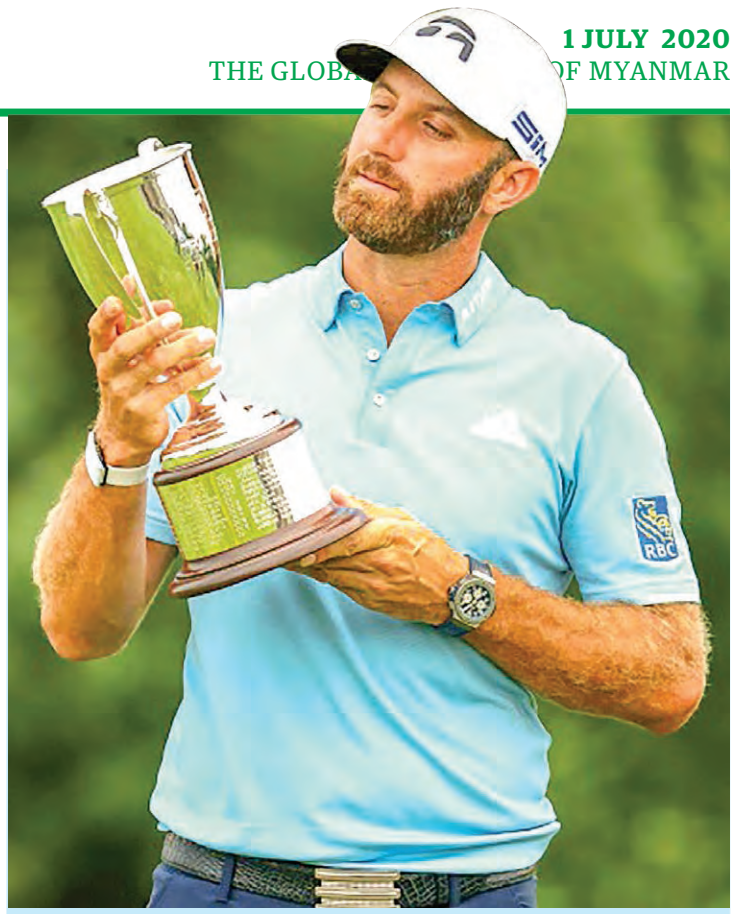
It raises the possibility that Arthur and Pjanic could face each other, and their future clubs, in the competition's latter stages.

"FC Barcelona and Juventus have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Arthur Melo. The Italian club will pay 72 million euros, plus 10 million euros in variables," Barcelona confirmed in a statement."The player will remain at FC Barcelona until the official competitions for the 2019/20 season end."

Arthur only joined Barca from Brazilian side Gremio in 2018 and was hailed as a future star for the club, with many tipping him as the long-term successor to Xavi Hernandez in central midfield. After an encouraging start, the 23-year-old has been one of several players to stagnate this season but the primary motivation for Arthur's sale is thought to be financial. His departure puts more scrutiny on Barcelona's board and president Josep Maria Bartomeu. They have overseen a number of haphazard moves in the transfer market and have been accused of failing to implement any clear sense of direction for the club.

Barcelona have been hit hard by the three-month suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic and they needed to bring in around 70 million euros to satisfy their budget for the current season. By selling Arthur, the board can register the profits from the transfer immediately before spreading the payments for Pjanic over the length of the 30-year-old's contract.—AFP ■

Arthur Melo is leaving Barcelona for Juventus in the first big transfer of the summer. **PHOTO: AFP**



Dustin Johnson with the trophy after winning the Travelers Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

DJ rocks, Ryder Cup wobbles, Summerhays dreams: golf talking points

HONG KONG—One player's amazing streak continued, Ryder Cup speculation grew and a player retired with an almost perfect finale -- here are this week's AFP Sport talking points in golf.

Dustin time

Dustin Johnson is back up to third in the world rankings after recording his 21st PGA Tour win since turning pro in 2008, a tally matched only by Tiger Woods over the same period.

World number one Rory McIlroy—who also began his pro career in 2008 —is next on the list with 18 PGA Tour titles in that time, but he has four majors and eight European Tour trophies whereas Johnson has only one of each. Johnson, however, kept up his incredible streak of winning at least once in each of his 13 seasons on the PGA Tour with victory at the Travelers Championship last weekend.At the age of 36, the victory puts Johnson three PGA Tour wins behind Gary Player, but with only one major to his name -- the 2016 US Open -- opinion is split as to whether he can yet be ranked among the all-time greats.

But consider this: only Arnold Palmer (17), Jack Nicklaus (17) and Tiger Woods (14) started their careers with wins in more consecutive seasons. Exalted company indeed.Surely the laid-back, big-hitting "DJ" is only a couple more major wins from being recognized as truly one of the game's greatest.

Ryder doubts

Speculation has been growing that this year's Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits will be postponed until 2021 -- with an announcement likely as early as this week.—AFP ■

Valencia sack coach Celades after Villarreal loss

MADRID—Valencia fired coach Albert Celades on Monday after a run of bad results culminated with a defeat by the La Liga club's bitter local rivals Villarreal at the weekend.

Valencia have picked up a meagre four points from a possible 15 since the restart following the coronavirus lockdown, dropping to eighth in the league, eight points off the Champions League qualifying spots.

"Valencia have informed Albert Celades of his immediate release," a club statement said.

Former caretaker coach Voro has been called in again as a temporary replacement for the sixth time.

Celades took over at the Mestalla last September after the surprise sacking of previous boss Marcelino, who had led the club to back-to-back fourth-placed finishes.

But Celades has failed to last the season after Sunday's 2-0 loss at Villarreal left Valencia with just two wins in 13 matches in all competitions.

Valencia were also knocked out of the Champions League by Atalanta in March after an 8-4 aggregate defeat in the last 16.—AFP ■

Celades was previously an assistant coach at Real Madrid. **PHOTO: AFP**