FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS A MATTER OF DIGNITY FOR COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Just as we are following the rules to protect ourselves from COVID, we must nurture good practices to survive in good health: State Counsellor PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Union Peace Conference working committees discuss preparations for 21st Century Panglong PAGE-5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President instructs UEC Chair, Union Ministers, Attorney-General, UEC members for ensuring free and fair 2020 General Election

President U Win Myint advises UEC Chair, Union Ministers, Attorney-General and UEC members on 8 July to ensure a free and fair 2020 General Election. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with the Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, and UEC members at the Presidential Palace guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday and gave them SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor delivers Video Statement at Global Leaders' Day Event during ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and World of Work

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes a video statement at the Global Leaders' Day Event during the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work on 8 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivered a video Statement at the Global Leaders' Day Event during the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work, which was held via videoconference yesterday. SEE PAGE-2

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 317 after one new case reported on 8 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **317** after **one** new imported case from the United Kingdom was reported on 8 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the **317** confirmed cases, **six** died, **250** have recovered and **233** have been discharged from hospital.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 8 July 2020

Total Case	New Case	Total Death Tally
317	1	6

Recovery Update on 8 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
250	5	233

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 8 July 2020

New PUI
46

One more case of COVID-19 on 8 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
317	25	Male	Yankin Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, the United Kingdom	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mayangon Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

"People are the key"

Just as we are following the rules to protect ourselves from COVID, we must nurture good practices to survive in good health: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote that just as Myanmar people were following rules to protect themselves from COVID, they must nurture good practices to survive in good health on her Facebook page yesterday. This was what she wrote:

The Ministry of Health and Sports has been issuing reminders frequently not to forget the dangers of diseases that occur during the Monsoon season because of COVID. I wonder whether all of you saw in the news which said that the number of deaths due to dengue fever this season was more than COVID related deaths.

> In working hard to be free from such dangers, it is not only the responsibility of the Union Government but also the responsibility of the people.

You should protect yourself from diseases; that is the best way. If you can stop the disease before it reaches the stage when you need treatment, you can save yourself from having to spend a lot of money and also having to suffer physical stress.

I want our people to be healthy. No matter whether you are elderly or young, I want you all to be in a situation where you have physical as well as mental comfort. Not only to be free from the danger of COVID; I want you all to be free from all types of dangers. In working hard to be free from such dangers, it is not only the responsibility of the Union Government but also the responsibility of the people.

Please stay healthy for your own sake, for your family, your community, for your country. Just as you are following rules to protect yourself from COVID, you need to nurture good practices to survive in good health. Although you might sometimes feel suffocated for having to live a healthy lifestyle, the long term value is quite significant.

To be healthy is a great blessing not only for yourself but also for your country.
(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

State Counsellor delivers Video Statement at Global Leaders' Day Event during ILO Global Summit on Covid-19 and World of Work

FROM PAGE-1

The Global Leaders' Day Event of the ILO Global Summit was chaired by Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General of the ILO who delivered an opening remark. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, and the Heads of State and Government from 55 member states of ILO also contributed Video Statements for the event.

In her statement to the Summit, the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi highlighted the impacts of the COVID-19 on the vulnerable groups and workers, in particular women. She stressed the need to strike a balance between the twin objectives, protecting the health of workers, and taking measures to ensure that their business can keep running. She apprised the meeting of the Myanmar Government's efforts in responding to COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce the impacts of the pandemic on the economy, labour market and livelihoods. She stated that Myanmar has taken a "Whole-of-Nation" approach, mobilizing the strength of its people, strong voluntarism, charity and sharing spirit. As a result, she stated that Myanmar has to date managed to keep the virus under control.

The State Counsellor also added that the government has made every effort to bring back all its migrant workers who are facing difficulties in foreign lands and to create job opportunities for them by initiating labour-intensive projects in the construction and agriculture sectors. She also informed that Myanmar is determined to follow up the recommendations of the ILO Centenary Declaration, in particular protection of labour rights, and explained how Myanmar responds to COVID-19 by following the policy framework based on the four key pillars suggested by the ILO. The State Counsellor concluded by stressing the need for global cooperation that delivers concrete actions in response to the common challenges facing the Future of Work. —MNA

(State Counsellor's Statement is covered on page-4)

115 Myanmar citizens repatriated from foreign countries on 8 July

Myanmar nationals returned from Singapore queue for immigration process at the Yangon Internaitonal Airport on 8 July 2020. **PHOTO : MNA**

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening of 8 July, bringing back a total of 115 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries.

Among them, 45 persons were from South Korea, 1 each from Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Russia, 2 each from Austria and the Netherlands, 3 from Switzerland, 4 from Greece, 5 from the UK, 10 from Indonesia and 10 from French and Spain and 30 from the United States.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flight and charter flight in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 6,934 citizens to date.
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

To Be Able To Live A Decent Life

What we are trying to do is not an insignificant endeavour. In short, we are striving for the independence of people so that they will be able to live a decent life. If time has to be wasted in protecting against seditious elements, then what is the use of gaining independence?

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech broadcast on radio on 5th April 1947)

President instructs UEC Chair, Union Ministers, Attorney-General, UEC members for ensuring free and fair 2020 General Election

President U Win Myint asks to organize 2020 General Election which can reflect the desire of voters. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

instructions and guidance to ensure that the 2020 General Election is free and fair.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tin, Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe and Dr Win Myat Aye, Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, and UEC members U Aung Myint, U Soe Rae, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay, U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U Than Aung, U Min Swe and U Swe Tint Lwin.

In his speech, President U Win Myint emphasized the need to make the 2020 Multi-party Democracy General Election on 8 November free and fair as the government has determined to develop Myanmar into a democratic country, so the multi-party democracy general election is essential.

The Union Election Commission has set five criteria for the elections. The elections must be free in accordance with the law, fair in accordance with the law, transparent, trustworthy, and the election results must reflect the desires of the voters.

> It is important that eligible voters must not lose their right to vote. Losing the right to vote is losing the right of a citizen, or a natural right.

In accordance with the five criteria, the UEC officials need to be impartial and exert efforts in the electoral processes. Relevant ministries also need to provide assistance in the electoral processes.

According to the electoral laws, citizens, associate citizens and naturalized citizens have the right to vote. **It is important that eligible voters must not lose their right to vote. Losing the right to vote is losing the right of a citizen, or a natural right.** In other words, it is losing human rights. So, the Union Election Commission and all relevant departments must help them not to lose the right to vote.

Military personnel, citizens living abroad, and the disabled persons must not lose their right to vote. And in safeguarding their right to vote, officials need to do it in accordance with the law. **The advance-voting process needs to be in accordance with laws, by-laws and regulations. Votes must be counted systemically and transparently in the presence of polling station staff, polling station representatives and the general public.**

Legal actions must be taken against those who commit electoral crimes, such as denying people the right to vote or the right to be elected, threats related to the election, abuse of power, cheating, bribery and corruption, inappropriate acts based on racial and religious hatred, delivering inappropriate speeches, issuing inappropriate statements, inciting, and any efforts to disturb the election, so that the election will be free and fair.

All officials need to make systematic arrangements for eligible voters living in foreign countries and advance-voting process. Ward/Village Administrators, as well as officials of the Department of Immigration and the Department of Population need to continue taking efforts to make the list of eligible voters to be exact, correct and reliable. Relevant ministries need to inform the Union Election Commission about the situations in their areas and security reviews in the areas. And all relevant officials need to help the voters who are outside their eligible constituencies for advance voting in accordance with the rules.

> The advance-voting process needs to be in accordance with laws, by-laws and regulations. Votes must be counted systemically and transparently in the presence of polling station staff, polling station representatives and the general public.

He also suggested broadcast of TV series and songs for voter education, newspapers coverage of UEC's directives, announcements and orders not to lose their citizen rights to vote.

SEE PAGE-4

President instructs UEC Chair, Union Ministers, Attorney-General, UEC members for ensuring free and fair 2020 General Election

FROM PAGE-3

The President called for coordination between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the General Administration Department in identifying eligible voters who have no national registration cards although they have reached 18 years of age; to issue official documents of family members in line with rules and regulations; coordination in duty assignment of teachers as poll station officials; training courses on law and by-laws for them in collaboration with the Union Election Commission; health workers to help in organizing the elections in line with the rules of COVID-19 control measures; communication authorities to prevent hate speech and the words that harm national unity.

The President finally instructed legal officers from the Office of Attorney-General of the Union to provide legal advice to the election sub-commissions, to perform as trainers in the courses of election commissions, to ensure legitimacy of reports on electoral cost, and all these processes could help in organizing free and fair elections.

> The President called for coordination between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the General Administration Department in identifying eligible voters who have no national registration cards although they have reached 18 years of age ...

Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein reported his commission's works for organizing a fair, free and transparent election, tasks of sub-commissions and lack of staff members, the need for cooperation by the relevant ministries and the work plans for post COVID-19.

The Union Ministers and the Attorney-General of the Union presented their ideas for successful completion of the 2020 General Election.

The President made a concluding remark on adhering to the law and rules in organizing a free and fair election.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe, Aung Khin)

Statement of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Global Leaders' Day of ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work

(8 July 2020)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies,

Let me begin by expressing our thanks to the ILO for convening this Global Summit at this most challenging time for workers all over the world .

Last year, we all rejoiced in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the ILO and the successful adoption of the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work. Unfortunately now, barely 9 months after the adoption of the Declaration, the world is facing the unexpected outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This new virus attacks everyone indiscriminately, whether rich or poor, but its impact falls harder on the poor and vulnerable. Workers, in particular women, are affected most severely. Its impact on the economy, labour market and livelihoods will be more prolonged and hard-hitting than initially expected, as the pandemic is showing no sign of abating. We must therefore strike a balance between our twin objectives, protecting the health of workers and taking measures to ensure that their business can keep running.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies,

For Myanmar, our people are the main source of our strength. To overcome our resource constraint, we have taken a Whole-of-Nation approach, mobilizing the people. The unique character that has emerged clearly from our pandemic response is strong voluntarism, charity and a sharing spirit. To ensure that of no one is left behind, our response covers all vulnerable segments, including IDPs and affected workers.

As a result, we have to date managed to keep the virus under control. As of today, we have only about 300 infected cases with 6 cases of death. We are treading the middle path between our paralleled efforts to protect public health, while mitigating economic impacts.

At this time of crisis, migrant workers are faced with difficulties in foreign lands without access to social protection. They are looking to their motherland for aid. Myanmar has made every effort to bring back all its citizens and to provide food and assistance to all returnees at the quarantine centres until they can go back to their homes in safety. The government is keeping a record of the skills of the returnees and creating job opportunities for them by initiating labour-intensive projects in the construction and agriculture sectors, as well as "Cash for Work" schemes linked to rural development. I believe that the issue of the migrant workers is one that deserves ILO's greater attention.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies,

Myanmar is working together with ILO to promote labour standards and we are determined to follow up the recommendations of the ILO Centenary Declaration, in particular, protection of labour rights. Recently, we enacted a new Child Law in line with the Convention on the Right of the Child, and ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention No 138 to address the issue of child labour.

In addressing the challenges of the pandemic, we are following the policy response; based on the four key pillars suggested by the ILO.

First, to stimulate the economy and employment, Myanmar has developed its COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), which comprises a series of actions designed to cushion the financial, social and economic impacts of the pandemic and to provide loans to vulnerable sectors and small- and medium-sized businesses.

To realize the Second Pillar of supporting enterprises, we established a Committee to remedy the economic impact of COVID-19, along with a COVID-19 Fund to support the three most affected enterprises, namely, garment industries, hotels and tourism and MSMEs. The Government also provided social security benefits for insured workers who have lost jobs. Essential food items and cash transfers are also provided to families without regular income. Given the serious impacts on vulnerable groups, we have to avoid any step that could disrupt supply chains and exports in this most affected industry.

Under the third pillar of "protecting workers in the workplace", the government has issued instructions on new working arrangements at workplaces. Only those factories that have COVID-19 preventive measures in place are allowed to resume operations.

Myanmar encourages effective tripartite social dialogue for solutions as outlined by the Fourth Pillar. The tripartite representatives conducted Education programmes on COVID-19 in all industrial zones. I, have myself also taken part in a series of video conferences with people involved in combating the pandemic, and these have included representatives of workers and employers.

Excellencies,

Myanmar has been working in partnership with ILO to conduct research on the pandemic's impact on our labour market and to organize training for our workers. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the ILO for supporting our COVID-19 response.

The global pandemic has already taken toll of half a million lives, disrupted livelihoods and devastated the world of work. This is a time for maximum cooperation. This unprecedented global challenge requires global cooperation that delivers concrete actions in response to the common challenges we face on the Future of Work.

Thank you.

■

Union Minister receives donation for prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as the Secretary (2) of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), received the donations for prevention, containment and treatment of the disease in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained the donations that the country had been under control from the COVID-19 to some extent at present and he thanked all the staff and responsible persons from the Ministry of Health and Sports and he said that those financial assistance and hospital supplies were from the companies and organizations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar embassies in foreign countries, offices of Myanmar Permanent Representative abroad, 9 Myanmar Consulate Offices and companies and organizations abroad. He continued that Myanmar still needs to be cautious carefully although the spreading of the disease was under control with the cooperative efforts; and the donations not only could be used for the COVID-19-related patients but also would be beneficial repeatedly as it provided the better health care for long term.

Then, he thanked all the relevant officials for helping to receive the donations.

Myanmar Embassies, Myanmar Permanent Representative Offices and 9 Myanmar Consulate Offices donated K1.5 million and US$6,700, Ministry of Foreign Affairs donated 3,000 N 95 masks and 10,000 surgical masks, Kunming Cuicai Trading Co.Ltd from China donated K18,587,000, Thailand-based ZMW Solution CEO U Zaw Moe Win donated 30 personal protective equipment (PPEs) and 300 face shields, Japan YUAI Foundation, Amazing Asia Association and Yoshinosato (Health and Welfare) Group from Japan donated 14,900 masks.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe receives donation items for prevention, containment and treatment of the disease on 8 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

The donations were accepted by the Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, the Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, through the Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, and then certificates of honour were given in return.—MNA *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Coordination meeting discusses progress in Schoolbook production, distribution

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presided over the meeting of Schoolbook Printing and Distribution Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 3rd meeting of committee in this year discussed production of the books for basic education schools in good quality and in timely manner for 2021-2022 academic year.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, in his capacity as chairman of committee, explained the ministry's role in the book production processes, the works of Printing and Publishing Department, production contracts with private sector in line with tender rules and coordination of his office with the Ministry of Education for ensuring quality of books.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi explained the collaboration between the two ministries for better qualities of books, supplying all the class-levels of school children with books and stationeries during the COVID-19 period.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, the chairman of schoolbook printing sub-committee, and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, the chairman of schoolbook distribution sub-committee, discussed better working process of the sub-committees.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, the deputy chairman of schoolbook production committee, presented formation of committees and sub-committees, production plans for 2021-2022 academic year; Action Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing about the updates on book production, Director-General U Ko Lay Win from the Department of Basic Education about timely completion of the process.

Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy U Tin Maung Oo and Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry U Ko Ko Lwin presented the work plans of their ministries.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung took records on eight decisions of the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presides over Schoolbook Printing and Distribution Committee on 8 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw delegates returning from Russia resume duties as results show negative for second time

THE members of Tatmadaw delegation who returned from the Russian Federation tested negative for COVID-19 for second time and so they resume their duties, according to the statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 75th Anniversary of Victory Day parade of Great Patriotic War in Russian Federation and arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 25 June evening and were placed under home quarantine and facilities quarantine at the designated places.

Then, their swab samples were tested by the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) on 30 June and 7 July and the results showed negative. So, they resume their duties starting from 8 July.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

WFP sends more rice, food aid to Paletwa

SECOND donation of rice and food items from the World Food Programme (WFP) arrived in Paletwa Township, Chin State, on 7 July, according to the report of Tamadaw True News Information Team.

The statement said that 1,465 rice bags, 360 boxes of oil bottle, 360 pulse bags, 15 salt bags and 52 boxes of nutrition powder carried by 14 trucks were carried by U Khin Maung Kyi, the WFP's local official in Paletwa, arrived in the town on 7 July. The distribution of relief assistance will be carried out only when the next supplies arrive in there. The WFP stated that 2,000 rice bags and other household items had been delivered for the first time with the help of Tatmadaw members on 28 April. For refugees, local people and departmental staffs in Paletwa, the Tatmadaw donated 100 rice bags on 14 March and 100 rice bags on 15 March, medical supplies for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 disease on 3 June and the Chin State Government and well-wishers donated 3,528 rice bags, 83 bean bags, 102 salt bags, 25 cooking oil barrels, 21 onion bags and supplies for prevention of COVID-19.—MNA*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

The relationship between the State and the people is very important

The relationship between the State and the people is very important. When I say State, I mean the whole machinery, both animate and inanimate, which keeps the country running, led by the Union Government. To become a State which is dependable, we need people who are dependable.

At this time when the COVID disease is spreading all over the world, all countries are dealing with this problem in various ways. "People are the key"; we have placed our belief firmly on this. We place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of "all for one and one for all".

One of the measures taken by the Union Government is to make it possible for those citizens living in foreign countries to be able to return; because the infection rate of the disease is high in some foreign countries, we have to make special preparations to make sure that the infection does not spread from the returnees.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 13 June 2020)

Second day of 19th JMC-U meeting discusses wide range of committee affairs

The Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee – Union Level holds its second-day meeting on 8 July about the issues of committee. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

THE Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee – Union Level (JMC-U) held the second day of its 19th meeting at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Vice-Chairman (1) Saw Issac Poe, Vice-Chairman (2) Rev. Saw Matthew Aye, committee members including Lt-Gen Min Naung, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Lt-Gen Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, and representatives from ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and civil society Organizations (CSOs).

The meeting discussed approving the list of candidates for joining JMC-U, the processes implemented in the period between the 18th and 19th JMC-U meetings, the progress of no cost extension implementation from the JMC fund, drawing the fund budget scheme for 2020-2021 financial year, approving the executive director position proposed from the government's budget, discussing the deputy executive director position proposed by EAOs, reviewing the JMC's ToR and SoP if necessary, setting action plans for bilateral discussions in the JMC and resuming JMC-S meetings, forming Local Civilians Monitoring (LCM) groups, acquiring policies from civilian discussions across all levels of the JMC, proposal for holding the ninth civilian JMC meetings in the last week of July 2020, the donations from China and Thailand to the JMC, the expenditure and balance report of funds controlled by the JMC, and selecting the time and date for the next JMC-U meeting.

The 18th JMC-U meeting was held in September 2018 and the 19th meeting was held nearly a year later. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed between the Union Government and eight EAOs in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October 2015, in the presence of local and international witnesses. Two more EAOs signed the NCA during the current government's administration on 13 February 2018.

The JMC-U was formed on 18 October 2015 to support the NCA in reducing armed conflicts and ensuring the success of political dialogues. The JMC is formed at the Union level and at the State and Regional level with JMC-S offices in Myeik of Tanintharyi Region, Toungoo of Bago Region, Hpa-an of Kayin State, Mawlaymine of Mon State, and Kho Lam in Shan State. Local level JMCs are formed in Langkho of Southern Shan State and Papun of Kayin State. Anyone can report violations of military affairs, ethics and ceasefire agreements outline in the NCA or arguments arising on these matters and the JMC-U will send a special unit to resolve the issues.

After the meeting, JMC-U Secretary (1) Dr Shwe Kah and Secretary (2) Colonel Wunna Aung answered to questions from the media regarding the 19th meeting of the JMC-U.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MRTV presents awards to outstanding staff producers

THE Myanma Radio and Television presented awards yesterday to the staff who produced interesting programmes.

The MRTV Programme Award 2020 is included in technical cooperation project between the broadcast station of Ministry of Information and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Director-General of MRTV U Ye Naing and responsible persons, award winning producers attended the ceremony and the experts of Japanese Expert Team joined the event online.

At the ceremony, Director-General U Ye Naing said that while MRTV is making efforts to broadcast the quality TV programmes, they implement the project to promote the capacity of staff, to broadcast good programmes and fair news to the public; by holding such ceremony that will help the staff in their production industry as well.

He then presented awards to the 12 producers--10 for Drama, News Reporting, Feature, Culture and Education, Entertainment and Infotainment programmes and the two winners with highest scores among these 10 persons for the Grand Prix.

The Technical Cooperation Project is a joint project which was initiated by MRTV and JICA in 2016, and the four anniversary ceremonies have been held until this year.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Director-General U Ye Naing presents MRTV Programme Award 2020 to an outstanding producer on 8 July. **PHOTO:MNA**

9 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Free and fair elections a matter of dignity for country and the people

AFTER the Union Election Commission-UEC set November 8 as the date for the general elections, the focus will now intensify on ensuring that the general elections are free and fair, and safe from coronavirus.

There's no question about it: Holding successful elections amidst COVID-19 is going to be difficult. Therefore, ministries concerned are obliged to help the UEC which has performed an important service to the nation.

For the safety from spread of coronavirus, all hands from the local authorities and election officials must be on deck for ensuring our voters are at the polls on November 8, spaced at six-foot intervals and wearing masks. Besides, hand sanitizers or washing facilities must be available for washing their hands before and after casting vote. Provided they passed a temperature screening, they are able to vote in the parliamentary elections.

We are confident that we can do it with the participation of the people because we have shown our effective response to the coronavirus pandemic since the outbreak happened in our country.

> No one should be above the law regarding elections, and enforcement should be tightened to prevent violations of the law.

In any democracy, citizens have the fundamental right to free and fair elections, with their votes counted in a transparent and credible manner, as political parties and candidates have the right to compete in elections without harassment or intimidation.

To be free and fair, it is important to prevent disinformation and hate speech; and incitement must be removed from social media and other online platforms in a timely manner by authorities.

No one should be above the law regarding elections, and enforcement should be tightened to prevent violations of the law.

Also, educating the people is a must, as part of efforts to prevent disinformation and hate speech against women candidates.

Meanwhile, elections are about more than just what happens on the day of polling, therefore, we would like to urge losers of fair elections to quickly accept election results once they are final. Any election irregularities, even those conducted during a crisis or emergency such as COVID-19, should be resolved consistent with fair election principles, recognizing and resolving disputes in good faith.

To make the elections a success, to build trust among those participating in the electoral process, and to make the elections free and fair, abiding by the Code of Conduct is sine qua non for political parties and candidates.

The UEC is committed to holding the 2020 general elections in accordance with five standards: freedom of choice, fairness, transparency, accessibility, and compatibility with public desire.

Holding free and fair elections is a matter of dignity for the country and the people.

WHO studying evidence on airborne Covid-19 transmission

WHO to put out a new scientific brief within days.

THE WHO said Tuesday it would study fresh evidence on airborne transmission of the coronavirus, after an international group of scientists concluded it could spread far beyond two metres.

The World Health Organization said it would put out a new scientific brief within days, rounding up the knowledge about how the virus can be transmitted and ensuring its guidance stays in line with the evidence.

The two-metre (yard) physical distancing guideline has been a major factor in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed more than 538,000 people and infected over 11.6 million since the outbreak emerged in China last December.

However, the new coronavirus can spread through the air far beyond two metres, an group of 239 international scientists said Monday.

When an infected person exhales, they expel droplets. Droplets under five micrometres in size can become suspended in the air for several hours and travel up to tens of metres, they said.

Benedetta Allegranzi, the WHO's technical lead on infection control, told a virtual press conference: "We acknowledge that there is emerging evidence in this field.

"And therefore we believe that we have to be open to this evidence and understand its implications regarding the modes of transmission and also regarding the precautions that need to be taken," she said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's COVID-19 technical lead, said the UN health agency was producing a scientific brief consolidating the growing knowledge around transmission.

"It is important that what we know fits into the guidance that we have," she said.

"We will be issuing our brief in the coming days, and that will outline everything that we have in this area."

Meanwhile WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the pandemic was showing no signs of slowing down, as 400,000 new cases were reported over the weekend.

It took 12 weeks for the world to reach the first 400,000 COVID-19 cases.

"The outbreak is accelerating and we've clearly not reached the peak of the pandemic," Tedros said.

"While the number of deaths appears to have levelled off globally, in reality some countries have made significant progress in reducing the number of deaths, while in other countries deaths are still on the rise."

The virus has "taken the world hostage", he concluded.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro – who caused huge controversy for repeatedly flouting containment measures and minimizing the risk of the virus – announced on Tuesday he had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The WHO sent him their best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

"It brings home for us all the reality of this virus: no-one is special," said the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan.

"Whether we're prince or pauper, we're equally vulnerable." *SOURCE: AFP*

The COVID-19 Coronavirus and a woman wearing a mask. **SOURCE: PIXABAY/AFP**

STARTING THE FORMAL PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL

Brazil's president contracts virus as US starts WHO withdrawal

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro has tested positive for the coronavirus after months of downplaying the dangers of the disease, as the United States begins its withdrawal from the World Health Organization despite logging a record number of new infections.

The American pull-out from the WHO comes as the UN agency conceded there was "emerging evidence" coronavirus is transmitted through particles in the air, heightening fears over an illness that has already infected nearly 11.8 million people worldwide and caused more than 540,000 deaths.

Countries are struggling to keep a lid on new cases as they attempt to restart economies, with Australia's second-biggest city becoming the latest victim of a second surge after recently lifting virus restrictions.

Millions in Melbourne prepared for a return to lockdown Wednesday that was forecast to run six weeks, as soaring community transmission brings more than 100 new cases daily in the city.

Bolsonaro, who said he had experienced only mild symptoms so far, said he was feeling "perfectly well" as he removed his mask in a TV interview Tuesday to announce his diagnosis.

The far-right leader has consistently ignored virus containment measures such as social distancing despite Brazil being the world's second-worst hit country with more than 66,000 dead.

Brazil accounts for the lion's share of infections in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the caseload has now surpassed three million, according to an AFP tally.

The World Health Organization in Geneva has faced criticism from President Trump over its handling of the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Record rise

In Washington, a senior US official said the United States had informed UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of its intention to leave the WHO, effective July 6, 2021.

President Donald Trump has been critical of the WHO's pandemic response, accusing it of bias toward China and ignoring early signs of human-to-human transmission.

The US is the largest financial contributor to the agency, providing $400 million annually.

Joe Biden, Trump's main challenger in November's presidential election, said he would immediately reverse the decision if he wins.

The pandemic has killed more than 131,000 people in the US, by far the highest death toll of any nation, and on Tuesday the country logged a record number of new daily cases at more than 60,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Officials have said hospitals in some parts of the country are in danger of being overwhelmed.

Top infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci has warned the US is still "knee-deep" in only its first coronavirus wave.

But Trump pounced on that comment Tuesday, saying America was "in a good place" and adding: "I disagree with him."

Experts are still struggling to understand COVID-19, and the WHO said it was open to new research suggesting the virus can spread through the air farther and for longer than initially believed. Scientists had lobbied for the agency to recognize the possibility.

Confront reality

Panic-buying gripped Melbourne on Wednesday as shoppers snapped up items in preparation for the new lockdown, which also includes sealing the state of Victoria off from the rest of the country.

Australia's largest supermarket chain said it had reimposed buying limits on goods including pasta, vegetables and sugar after shoppers rushed to stores across the region.

"This is not the situation that anybody wanted to be in, but it is the reality that we must confront," said Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews.

In many nations, adjusting to the new normal of social distancing, masks and fluctuating restrictions is meeting resistance, with health authorities often struggling to win hearts and minds.

The head of the prestigious Royal Society science journal said Tuesday that people who refuse to wear masks should even be stigmatized in the same way as drink-drivers.

"If all of us wear one, we protect each other and thereby ourselves, reducing transmission," wrote president Venki Ramakrishnan.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Kyaw Tun of Department of Civil Aviation, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Daw Kay Thi Soe concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Hungary

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Kay Thi Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Hungary.—MNA

Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Romania

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Romania.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 8th July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9th July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, scattered in Magway Region and Nothern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th July, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to convene its 5th meeting

THE preliminary meeting for the 5th meeting of the 47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held from 3 to 6 Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME (from 22 to 25 July, 2020), and its regular meeting will take place on 7 and 8 Waxing of Second Waso (26 and 27 July).

The 47 senior monks in the committee have been invited in letters to the Maha Nayaka Monastery on Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township in Yangon Region by 21 July for the regular meeting, whether they received official invitation letters or not, according to the Department of Religious Affairs.—MNA

(Translated by Maung-Maung Swe)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Working Committee for Remedial Works on Economic Impacts of COVID-19
Announcement No (8/2020)

(1 July 2020)

1. The Working Committee for Remedial Works on Economic Impacts of COVID-1 has set up COVID-19 fund to provide financial assistance to the affected businessesand granted loan from 9 April 2020 for CMP businesses, hotel and tourism industries,micro, small and medium enterprises which have been severely hitby COVID-19pandemic
2. The loans were granted to 3,393 businesses which conform to the specifications in announcement dated 29 March 2020 of the work committee by diving into seven times as follow:

No	Business	Quantity	Amount (Kyat and mln)	Percentage
(a)	CMP(garment)	45	6312.00	6.24%
(b)	CMP (others)	2	75.00	0.07%
(c)	Hotels	340	15720.74	15.55%
(d)	Tour Industry	236	3757.46	3.72%
(e)	Restaurants	220	5182.00	5.12%
(f)	MESE for foodstuffs, commodities, Products manufacturing industry and services	2550	70081.10	69.30%
	Total amount	**3393**	**101128.30**	**100.00%**

3. The working committee will keep carrying out in granting loans to the businesses in accordance with the announcement no 2/2020 released by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry on 3, July 2020.

Action to be taken against undisciplined visitors to U Bein Bridge

AUTHORITIES will take legal action against the undisciplined travellers who visit U Bein Bridge which was temporarily closed during the pandemic period, it is learnt.

To prevent the spreading of deadly viral disease, some of the significant places in Mandalay Region including pagodas, parks and U Bein bridge were closed temporarily starting from the first week of April.

After lifting the restriction in the Mandalay Region, the restaurants, fashion shops and souvenir shops are reopened at Taungthaman Lake. So, some of the travellers are visiting U Bein bridge although the bridge was closed. So, the related administration personnel held meetings to assign the security personnel in the U Bein bridge entrance area to prevent the travellers for visiting U Bein bridge. Those visitors entering the out of the bound area of U Bein bridge will have legal action taken.

U Bein bridge is a destination for local and foreign tourists in Mandalay. **FILE PHOTO**

"The undisciplined visitors are seen entering the out-of-bound areas of the U Bein bridge. If the visitors are still acting in an undisciplined manner, we will take legal action which may imprison them for a jail term of three to six months. The visitors are not allowed to enter the out-of-bound areas of U Bein bridge. Authorities also installed the barbed wire in U Bein bridge, said an official from Taungthaman Lake.

With the installation of barbed wire, there are no visitors on U Bein bridge currently. Although U Bein bridge was closed, the travellers are visiting Taungthaman Lake taking the joy-ride boats in the lake.

With the closure of U Bein bridge, the local people who earn their livelihoods in the area of U Bein bridge are facing difficulties. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Agro exports up nearly $500 mln as of 26 June

Sugar is one of the major export items from Myanmar. **FILE PHOTO**

Myanmar's exports of agricultural products between 1 October and 26 June in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 exceeded US$3 billion from $2.54 billion in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the past nine months, the export figures reflect an increase of $493.6 million against a-year ago period.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along, accounting for 22 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, the involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic gold market sees slight rise in price

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold prices slightly increased on the back of a record rise in the international global market, said Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

At present, global gold prices hit an all-time high of US$1,784 per ounce, while a pure gold fetches over K1,224,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms).

Yet, the domestic gold price is not as high as that registered at the opening time of the gold market on 18 May, according to the gold market.

The local gold market was reopened on 18 May at K1.236 million per tical.

Following the global hikes, the domestic gold price should have raised to above K1.3 million per tical. However, the rate of domestic gold prices is about K100,000 per tical lower than international prices, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at just US$1,550 per ounce in the global market.

Despite the upticks in the global gold market, the domestic market cannot raise the price as the foreign demand halted, coupled with Kyat gaining against the US dollar, said U Myo Myint.

Additionally, the domestic market sees more sellers than buyers, the YGEA stated.

According to gold traders, during the past four months, the local gold price moved in the range of, K1,214,100 on 5 February and K1,234,200 on 28 February. In March, it reached the lowest level of K1,148,000 (31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,600 (4 March). In April, the coronavirus risks shut down the gold market, and the market was reopened on 18 May, with the minimum rate of K1,214,100 (27 May) and the maximum rate of K1,236,000 (18 May), according to gold traders.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

State's rice reserve to be sold at fairer price: MRF reports

By Nyein Nyein

THE rice (Aemahta variety), that have been purchased from export companies as country's reserved rice, will be sold at a much fairer price, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Those reserved rice will be sold through retail shops. The state's emergency rice reserve is to ensure the food security, keep the price stable in the domestic market, continue to export them regularly, lessen the worries of the consumers during the pandemic, and not to harm the rice production of farmers due to the price fall when the new paddy is harvested.

Therefore, the rice has been purchased from exporters since April-end.

Those reserved rice are planned to be sold at K22,800 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops, with the maximum 200 bags per batch. The shops must resell the rice to the consumers not exceeding K1,000-1,100 per pyi (2.3 kg) depending on the regions.

Moreover, there is a separate plan to sell the rice at the labour-intensive factories for the workers. MRF stated that the respective Consumer Affairs Department of the regions and states will monitor the sales to ensure systematic management.

Regarding the rice purchase at a much fairer price, those interested retailers and factories can contact through mobile numbers — 09-694386994 of MRF and 09-694386996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. The state has purchased more than 34,000 tonnes of rice from 123 companies as of 11 June. They have been stored at nine warehouses, in line with the set rules and regulations.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP garment exports worth $2.5 bln in Oct-Apr

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US$2.5 billion in the period between 1 October and April-end in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the coronavirus. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out. The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. With demand from foreign trade partners growing, imports of CMP raw materials are rising year by year.

Since an outbreak like viral disease might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.— Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

AirAsia's future in doubt due to virus; share price tumbles

AirAsia's future is in doubt because of the collapse in air travel as a result of coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

KUALA LUMPUR — The future of top regional budget carrier AirAsia is in "significant doubt" after the collapse in travel demand caused by coronavirus, its auditor warned, sending the airline's share price tumbling nearly 18 per cent on Wednesday.

The aviation industry is facing its biggest-ever crisis due to the pandemic, with airlines worldwide going out of business or laying off huge numbers of staff to stay afloat.

AirAsia, led by colourful chief executive Tony Fernandes, pioneered low-cost air travel across Asia in the early 2000s at a time of growing demand from a fast-emerging middle class.

But on Monday the debt-laden Malaysian airline reported a record quarterly loss of 803 million ringgit ($187 million) for the first three months of the year, after being forced to ground its fleet due to the virus.

Auditor Ernst & Young said Tuesday that global travel restrictions had dented AirAsia's financial performance, with liabilities exceeding assets by 1.84 billion ringgit.

It noted the "existence of material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on... the company's ability to continue as a going concern", in an unqualified audit opinion statement to the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange. AirAsia, which flies to over 150 destinations, was already facing stiff competition from other low-cost carriers before the outbreak, and had reported a net loss of 283 million ringgit in 2019.

But the auditor also said AirAsia had "seen positive developments on its business operations" with the gradual lifting of travel restrictions in some countries.—AFP

Export gloom sours Pakistan's prized mango season

MULTAN, Pakistan — Dwindling harvests, drooping demand and export supply chains hit by the coronavirus are biting into Pakistan's mango industry, with producers of the prized fruit battling to weather a disastrous season.

Across Pakistan's "mango belt" in Punjab and Sindh provinces, farmers say a long winter and changing rain patterns have slashed production by up to half this year — just as virus shutdowns sparked border restrictions and spiralling export costs.

Pakistan was the sixth-largest exporter of mangoes in the world last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

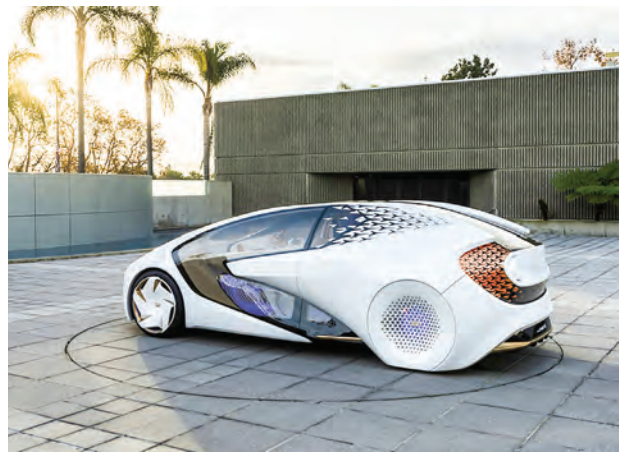
"There are multiple problems that mango farmers are facing," said Rana Muhammad Azim, whose family has been producing the fruit in Punjab for generations.

"The situation is extremely worrisome for us. The mangoes are ready, but no exporter is willing to take the risk and place orders," he said, adding that he was already suffering from a 40 per cent decline in the harvest.

Pakistan produced more than 1.5 million tonnes of mangoes in 2019 — and exported a record 115,000 tonnes worth $80 million — making it the sixth-largest exporter of the fruit in the world.—AFP

Toyota seeks to hire talent through employee recommendations

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. has implemented a new mid-career recruitment system based on employees' recommendations to attract people with diverse IT skills, as it strengthens development of vehicles equipped with self-driving and other advanced capabilities, a company source said Wednesday.



Toyota strengthens development of vehicles equipped with self-driving and other advanced capabilities. Toyota concept car. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The strategy of such referral recruitment has been increasingly adopted among startups, including flea market app operator Mercari Inc. and messaging app provider Line Corp., but its introduction by the auto giant could further propel expansion to other firms also looking to secure high-level talent.

Under the system that started in June, a Toyota employee will use his or her peer network to prompt an acquaintance to apply for a job, while notifying the carmaker's human resources department about the job-seeker. The employee will not be paid any special bonus for introducing a job candidate.—Kyodo

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India, Yangon
Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited for hiring of 6 LSG for Chancery of Embassy of India, Yangon, 545-547, Merchant Street, Yangon. Details of tender is available in the Embassy's website **https://embassyofindiayangon.gov.in/** Tender - Tender (Embassy's) and CPP Portal. The last date for bid submission is **29 July, 2020**.

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (214N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (214N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SOFIA K

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOFIA K VOY. NO. (2090)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

S. Korea's current account surplus posts 2.29 bln USD in May

SEOUL —South Korea's current account balance posted a surplus in May after logging a deficit in the previous month on the back of an economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak, central bank data showed on Tuesday. Current account surplus amounted to 2.29 billion U.S. dollars in May, after recording a deficit of 3.33 billion dollars in April, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). Both export and import declined in double figures amid the continued negative effect from the COVID-19 outbreak. Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, tumbled 28.2 percent over the year to 34.55 billion dollars in May, and import retreated 24.8 percent to 32.05 billion dollars. Trade surplus for goods reached 2.5 billion dollars in May, down 3 billion dollars from a year earlier. Services account balance, which measures the flow of travel, transport costs and royalties, logged a deficit of 480 million dollars in May, down from a deficit of 950 million dollars a year earlier.—Xinhua ■

Six candidates battle it out for WTO leadership

His early departure prompted a scramble for a successor. **PHOTO: AFP**

GENEVA —Six candidates are vying to become the next head of the World Trade Organization -- an institution which faced mammoth challenges even before the pandemic-driven global economic crisis struck.

The window to enter the race slams shut on Wednesday, in a speeded-up contest to replace the outgoing WTO director-general Roberto Azevedo -- the Brazilian career diplomat who is stepping down one year early at the end of August.

The six candidates in the running are from Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria and South Korea.

The new chief must revive stalled trade talks, lay the ground for the 2021 ministerial conference -- one of the WTO's major events -- and thaw relations with Washington.

The United States, which has threatened to leave the WTO, has blocked the organization's dispute settlement appeal system since December, and wants China moved up from the developing economies category.—AFP ■

Quick economic rebound possible for France: stats office

PARIS—France's statistics office unveiled Wednesday survey data that shows there is a chance the country's economy could return to near pre-coronavirus levels by the end of the year.

INSEE released updated economic forecasts for the year that see a strong 19 per cent rebound in gross domestic product in the quarter that begins in July and then a small increase in the fourth quarter.

Nevertheless, with the output lost during the lockdown that stretched from March into May, the French economy is heading for a nine percent drop for the year, "the strongest contraction since national accounts began to be compiled in 1948". That forecast is nevertheless more optimistic than the French government's prediction of 11 per cent, the French central bank's 10 per cent, and the European Commission's 10.6 per cent.

INSEE noted, however, that given the uncertainty about the evolution of the health situation as well further impacts on the economy, the forecasts should be considered with caution. The statistics office surveyed some 38,000 companies in the first half of June about when they expect their business activity to return to pre-crisis levels. And these showed France's economy could recover most of the lost ground by the end of the year.

Under the central scenario, economic activity will have returned to a level of around four percent below normal at the end of the year. Under the optimistic scenario, economic activity may be down around just two per cent.

When the French economy was under lockdown for the entire month of April, economic activity was down an estimated 30 per cent. INSEE says that around three-fifths of that drop had been recovered in June.—AFP ■

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Invitation for Open tender No. (1/2020)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5000) Metric Tons, (15) Lot of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,

(a)	(100) Metric Tons each	(5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(b)	(200) Metric Tons each	(5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(c)	(500) Metric Tons each	(3) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(d)	(1000) Metric Tons each	(2) Lot Monywa, Mine Site

2. Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be wining tender.

3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 7th August 2020 (14:00) hrs and Opening Tender is (15:00) hrs.

4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No. (19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Departmental of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Invitation for Prequalification – Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Overhead Power Transmission lines and Substation Extensions of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Co. Ltd, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites Applications for Prequalification for Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Overhead Power Transmission Lines and Substation Extensions for Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. Scopes of Works
   2.1 Package 1
   - 500kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from newly-built power plant to 500kV West University Substation with a length of 206km approximately, proposed conductor cross-section of 4×630mm2 and overcrossing Ayeyarwady River for one time at span of about 1.35km;
   - Extension of two bays in 500kV West University Substation near Yangon, including one 500MVA main transformer and five circuit breakers;
   - Extension of four bays in 230kV Pathein Substation;
   - Extension of two bays in 230kV Athoke Substation.

   2.2 Package 2
   - 230kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from newly-built power plant to Pathein Substation with a length of 69km approximately and proposed conductor cross-section of 2×400mm2;
   - 230kV double-circuit overhead power transmission line from Pathein Substation to Athoke Substation with a length of 55km approximately and proposed conductor cross-section of 2×400mm2.
3. Only eligible Applicants with the following key qualifications should participate in the prequalifying process:
   3.1 For Package 1
   The applicants or their subcontracted installation entity and design institute should:
   - possess integrated construction qualification class A for power sector or particular construction qualification class A for power transformation and transmission, and integrated design qualification class A for power sector;
   - as designer, installer or EPC contractor in the past five years:
     - complete 500kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 400km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) in China;
     - complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 100km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) outside China;
     - complete at least one 500kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line with large span (not less than 1km) for overcrossing obstruction in China or 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line with large span (not less than 1km) for overcrossing obstruction outside China;
     - complete at least four 500kV or higher voltage substations in China or at least two 230kV or higher voltage substations outside China.

   3.2 For Package 2
   - possess integrated construction qualification class A for power sector or particular construction qualification class A for power transformation and transmission, and integrated design qualification class A for power sector;
   - as designer, installer or EPC contractor in the past five years:
     - complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 500km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) in China;
     - Complete 230kV or higher voltage overhead power transmission line length not less than 100km (equivalent to single-circuit length accumulated in several projects) outside China.
4. Applicants with the completed similar projects in Myanmar will be preferred.
5. A complete set of Prequalification Documents in Chinese may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible applicants upon the submission of a written application together with the appendixes to demonstrate the qualifications and experiences as well as the certificate of legal representative or the power of attorney of legal representative, and the effective identity certificate of legal representative or authorized representative to the Email Address: tushangsong@urec.com.cn; cc: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn.from 8:00, July 8th to 16:00 July 13th, 2020 (local time).
6. Upon receipt of the specified application and appendixes, UREC will send the Prequalification Documents in electronic version to the email address given by the qualified applicant.
7. The Applications for Prequalification should be submitted in the sealed envelopes before 16:00 July 29th, 2020(local time).
8. Refer to the Prequalification Documents for details of the requirements for Preparation and Submission of Applications for Prequalification together with Security.

Myanmar earns over US$ 730 mln from export of beans, pulses in current FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe

THERE is an increase in the export volume and value of Myanmar's beans and pulses in the current fiscal year regardless of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar exported 1.15 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign markets through over 200 domestic trading companies in the present financial year, an increase of over 100,000 tonnes and around US$ 130 million when compared to the same period last year, said U Min Min, Director-General of Department of Trade under the ministry.

Myanmar transported over 1.15 million tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign markets from 1 October 2019 to late June in the current financial year 2019-2020, fetching over US$ 730 million, according to the figure released by the ministry. About US$ 600 million worth beans and pulses were exported during a-year ago period. Mung beans is the main export item among beans and pulses, with an estimated earning of some US$ 326 million, followed by green grams, with an export value of US$ 198 million and pigeon peas with US$ 96 million. Myanmar is a major pulse exporting nation among ASEAN countries in growing various kinds of beans and pulses. Myanmar is the biggest exporter of beans and pulses in Asia and ranks second after Canada in the world.

Myanmar earns about US$ 800 million from exports of beans and pulses annually. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Mung bean plantation season in the middle of Myanmar is from late May to mid-June and October to November, and November to December. Black gram, green mung beans, butter beans, cow peas, soybeans, chickpeas, and pigeon peas are usually grown by farmers in Myanmar on commercial scale. The crops are becoming increasingly popular with farmers, as they fetch higher prices than paddy while production costs are lower. Rainy season pulses are generally cultivated in June-July and harvested in September-October. Winter season pulses are grown in November-December and harvested in January-February, according to the ministry. Myanmar's beans and

Merchants are seen at a wholesale centre for beans and pulses in Mandalay. **PHOTO: GNLM**

pulses are mainly exported to neighbouring India, followed by China, Indonesia, European countries and Japan. About 80 per cent of beans and pulse export go to India.

Besides India, Myanmar beans are shipped to over 50 countries around the world including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, some ASEAN, and European countries. Since Myanmar secured an access to the European market in 2013, an increasing amount of pulses are making their way to Europe. But Myanmar's beans and pulses export to India has decreased in recent years as the South Asian country pursues pulse self-sufficiency and encourages its domestic production. The mung bean price goes up for a reasonable percentage in the market. The ministry has been conducting discussions with some foreign countries to sell Myanmar beans through government-to-government (G2G) pacts. In addition, the ministry has been exploring more external markets. The export potential for Myanmar's beans and pulses is promising.

Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy and rice, pulses and beans are the country's main agricultural products. Myanmar earned US$ 2.9 billion from the overall agricultural products export in the current fiscal year from 1 October 2019 to 12 June 2020, an increase of over US$ 466 million when compared to the same period last fiscal year. Myanmar's bean industry is not badly affected by the coronavirus crisis, according to some domestic export companies. Myanmar is the major supplier of beans to India and for the fiscal year 2020-2021, the country is expected to export more beans and pulses in line with the quota notification announced by the Department of Commerce, India. Myanmar earns about US$ 800 million from exports of beans and pulses every year.

Myanmar transported 1.2 million tons of beans worth over US$ 1.2 billion in 2015-2016FY, 1.4 million tons valued at about US$ 1.4 billion in 2016-2017FY and 1.3 million tonnes worth about some US$ 887 million in 2017-2018FY, according to the ministry. The Southeast Asian country exported over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially mung beans, with an estimated worth of US$ 1 billion, to other countries in the last fiscal year 2018-2019.

■■■

Viber cuts business ties with Facebook

Facebook's data violations and failure to combat violent rhetoric have crossed the line, and Viber is taking relevant measures to cease ad spending, as well as remove product touchpoints, to protect its 1 billion users

RAKUTEN Viber, one of the world's leading messaging apps for free and secure communication, announces it will cut all business ties with Facebook. The messaging app will remove Facebook Connect, Facebook SDK, and GIPHY, as well as cease all ad spending on the social networking platform, leveling up the growing StopHateForProfit movement to boycott the tech goliath.

Amid the protests that broke out all over the U.S. over the past few weeks, a group of six organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League and NAACP, called on Facebook advertisers to pause their spending on the social networking site during the month of July over the company's inability to protect users from hate speech. On top of numerous instances of data misconduct, including the infamous Cambridge Analytica scandal in which the political consulting firm improperly harvested data of up to 87 million Facebook users, Viber sees Facebook's hate-speech stumble as the last straw. As such, the messaging app is taking the StopHateForProfit movement a step further, cutting all business ties with Facebook.

Djamel Agaoua, Viber's CEO: "Facebook continues to demonstrate poor judgment in understanding its role in today's world. From the company's mishandling of data and lack of privacy in its apps, to its outrageous stand of avoiding the steps necessary to protect the public from violent and dangerous rhetoric, Facebook has gone too far. We are not the arbiters of truth, but the truth is some people are suffering from the proliferation of violent content and companies must take a clear stand."

The actions to remove the relevant Facebook touchpoints from the Viber app are expected to be completed by the beginning of July 2020. Ad spending on Facebook will cease effective immediately. —GNLM

■■■

MPT invites football fans to compete for online photo contest

THE Myanmar Posts and Telecommunication (MPT) has recently invited Myanmar football fans to compete in an online photo contest, which is aimed at amusing the football fans, from 1 to 14 July, according to the Myanmar National League.

For the contest, MPT has welcomed the Myanmar football fans to use their old photos taken on the football pitch or in the stadium before and after the football matches while they are enjoying the football matches themselves or with friends or along with the Myanmar celebrities or Myanmar Football stars.

Photos also taken during Fan Developing Event are also allowed to compete in the fans photos contest, stated the MPT.

Fans have to post their filed photos on their Facebook wall by the public with a sign of MPTMNLFANMemory.

After posting the filed photos with a public figure, fans have to send their photo plus real name and phone number.

MPT will pick 40 winners by lucky draw system and winners will be announced on 16 July. The winners will get cash plus many memorial items, according to the Myanmar National League. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

'I'm president, coach and player' says Ibrahimovic after inspiring Milan

MILAN — Zlatan Ibrahimovic ignited a late comeback against Serie A leaders Juventus and then declared that if he had been at AC Milan from the start of the season, they would be Italian champions.

With Milan two goals down on Tuesday, Ibrahimovic converted a 62nd-minute penalty for his sixth goal this season. Four minutes later he set up Franck Kessie for the equalizer then immediately headed for the bench where he spent the rest of the match giving advice to teammates as Milan scored twice more for a 4-2 victory.

Rafael Leao hit Milan's third goal in five minutes as Ibrahimovic reached the bench and Ante Rebic added the fourth in the 80th minute behind closed doors at the San Siro.

"I'm president, coach and player but I'm only paid as a footballer," Ibrahimovic, who rejoined Milan from LA Galaxy on a six-month contract at the end of December, told broadcaster DAZN after the game. "If I had been here from the start we'd have won the Scudetto." "I'm old, it's no secret, but it's just a number," said the 38-year-old Swede. "I played more today than the last game. I feel good, to be honest, and I am trying to help the team in every way."

Speculation surrounds the future of Milan coach Stefano Pioli and Ibrahimovic was coy on whether he would be back next season.

"There's still a month to go and let's see, there are things here that we're not in control. Playing without fans is a shame, a strange situation," Ibrahimovic said. "It could have been the last time you see me live at San Siro.

"I like playing in this Milan team, I do what I can do intelligently, I arrive and then if I don't make a difference I don't like it. I want to help my team-mates and the fans."—AFP ■

Zlatan Ibrahimovic shared a joke with Cristiano Ronaldo after scoring a penalty that helped AC Milan to a 4-2 win over Serie A leaders Juventus. **PHOTO : AFP**

WLC to show best Lethwei replays on YouTube

THE World Lethwei Championship will show replays of best Lethwei fights on its YouTube channel on every Monday of July, according to the statement with the WLC.

WLC has announced its link https://www.youtube.com/c/worldlethwei on their official social media page to enjoy replays of Lethwei stars.

Fans need to subscribe to its YouTube Channel and click the bell icon to get notifications so as not to miss incredible Lethwei action, WLC stated.

All the Lethwei matches will be reshown on Myanmar Standard Time Zone.

The replay of Saw Darwait vs Pat Kyaw Lin Naing will be shown on 6 July 2020 at 7 pm.

Another replay of Ba Htoo Maung vs Kyaw Zin Latt will be shown on 13 July 2020 at 7 pm.

Next, the thrilling fight of Saw Darwait vs Kyaw Zin Latt will be streamed live on 20 July 2020 at 7 pm and fabulous match of Kyaw Zin Latt Vs Saw Htoo Aung will be shown on 27 July 2020 at 7 pm.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

While Lallana, who joined Liverpool in 2014, is available to play if needed, manager Jurgen Klopp does not want jeopardise his next move. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lallana unlikely to play for Liverpool again, says Klopp

LONDON — Adam Lallana is unlikely to play for Liverpool again as the Premier League champions honour an agreement with the out-of-contract midfielder not to put him at risk of injury.

The 32-year-old signed a short-term deal to keep him at Anfield for the rest of this extended campaign but it was always the intention that he would leave after the season was over.

And while Lallana, who joined Liverpool in 2014, is available to play if needed, manager Jurgen Klopp does not want jeopardise his next move.

"It is clear Adam will leave the club in the summer," said the Reds boss.—AFP ■

'What are you talking about?' Nick Kyrgios blasts Dominic Thiem in virus row

SYDNEY — Outspoken Australian Nick Kyrgios questioned Dominic Thiem's intellect on Wednesday (July 8) after the world No.3 told him to stop criticizing fellow tennis stars Alexander Zverev and Novak Djokovic for taking risks with the coronavirus.

Kyrgios said Thiem was not on the same "intellectual level" after the Austrian called his criticism "cheap" and claimed it was "bad luck" that Zverev was caught partying after promising to self-isolate.

Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive for Covid-19 after last month's Adria Tour, an exhibition series with minimal social distancing where Thiem and Zverev also played.

"Kyrgios has really done a lot of nonsense himself. That's why I understand even less when he interferes everywhere," Thiem told German media this week.

"It would be better for him to come clean instead of always criticizing others."

The Australian shot back on Twitter.

"What are you talking about @ThiemDomi? Mistakes like smashing rackets? Swearing? Tanking a few matches here or there? Which everyone does?

"None of you have the intellectual level to even understand where I'm coming from. I'm trying to hold them accountable."

Kyrgios added: "This just shows what a joke @ThiemDomi @AlexZverev & @DjokerNole think this is, 2 of them partying like potato's during a global pandemic.—AFP ■