

State Counsellor holds videoconference about repatriation of Myanmar nationals stranded abroad



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks on a videoconference about experiences in repatriation programmes for Myanmar nationals from foreign countries. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) held a videoconference at 10:00 am yesterday morning from the Presidential Palace about bringing home Myanmar nationals from various countries during the COVID period.

The persons who participated in the discussions were: U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister from the Ministry of International Cooperation, a returnee from India Ma Aye Aye Aung and a returnee from Australia Ma Thanda Aung Soe.

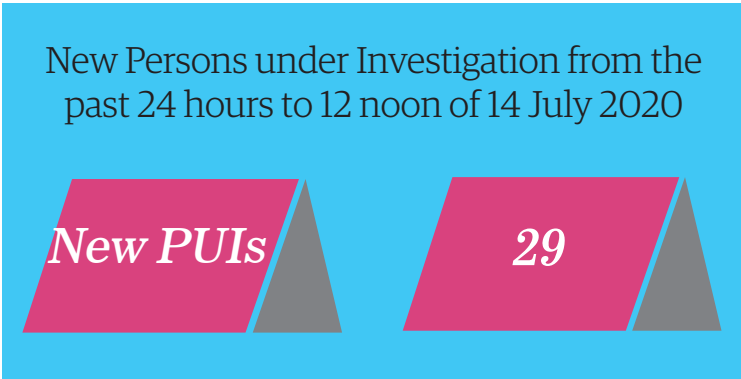
First of all, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, she wished to discuss

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COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 337 after one new case reported on 14 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 337 after 1 new imported case, who returned from UAE, was reported on 14 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 337 confirmed cases, six died, 261 have recovered, 249 have been discharged from hospitals and 29 have been under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 14 July 2020



One new case of COVID-19 on 14 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
337	37	Female	Seikkyi Khauaungto Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries to ministries, discusses legal amendment bill



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA



MP U Win Win.



Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn.



MP Daw Ni Ni May Myint.

Pyithu Hluttaw held its second-day meeting yesterday, raising asterisked questions to the ministries, tabled a bill, explained a report and discussed a motion.

MP U Win Win from Minbu constituency asked for opening a Government Technical Institute in Minbu (Saku) Township.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the ministry has a plan to construct a Government Technical

Institute in Minbu Township.

MP U Nay Lin Aung from Mindat constituency asked for further expansion for the road section of Mindat-Matupi highway in Mindat Town and filling of earth between the main road and the houses which were removed backward for the project.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied the soil retaining walls will be constructed with the Union budget and State government

budget phase by phase on the availability of budgets.

MP Daw Ni Ni May Myint from Taungup constituency asked for upgrade of inter-village road into an earth road in her constituency.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn replied that budget will be proposed for the 2020-2021 financial year to upgrade this road.

MP U Sein Myint from Myingyan constituency asked for upgrade of technical college

into the level of institute in his constituency and MP U Nyan Hein from Thanbyuzayat constituency about amendment of procedures for refilling the vacancies of heads of schools at the high schools. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied the questions.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn replied to the questions of MP U Tun Tun Naing from Kani constituency about upgrade of an inter-village road in his con-

stituencies and MP Dr Zaw Win Myint from Singu constituency about upgrade of an inter-village road for all seasons.

Supreme Court of the Union Judge U Myo Tint tabled the amendment bill on the Code of Civil Procedure, and Bill Committee member U Aung Sein explained the report.

The nine MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw discussed a motion tabled by MP U Nyan Lin from Shwepyitha constituency in urging the government for selecting representatives of students at basic and higher education schools as a move to develop democratic practices and multi-sectoral development among young generations.

The motion was approved by the Hluttaw without objection.

The third-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will convene on 15 July.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw raises queries to ministries, discusses Microfinance Bill on second-day meeting

Amyotha Hluttaw held the second-day meeting of its 17th regular session yesterday.

MP U Win Aung from Sagaing Region constituency 3 asked about the delay in response of Ministry of Defence to the recommendation of scrutinizing committees to return of 100 acres out of the confiscated lands by the MEC for sugar mill project in Kanbalu Township from 183 local farmers and to give out compensations for the used lands.

Deputy Minister for Defence Real-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that the scrutinizing committees mentioned the 100 acres of land as the surplus land, however, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued permits for these lands, and are being utilized for the sugar mill and sugarcane plantation.

The Deputy Minister continued to say that there is no extra land and compensations have been given out to the owners since the time the lands were confiscated, and that these lands will not be released or compensation will not be given out again.

MP U Kyaw Than from Rakhine State constituency 10 asked about possible plan to withdraw retirement pension of civil service personnel in their townships.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win replied that the retired persons from civil and military organizations can take out their pensions at the branches of Myanma Economic Bank with the orders of Pension Department, while those from enterprises and municipal committees can receive their pensions in the areas of their workplaces and locations of respective industries monthly, quarterly, biannually or annually, or at the branches of Myanma Economic Bank when the respective enterprises and committees.

The Deputy Minister also said the retired persons can take their pensions through mobile services such as e-pension card, Myanmar mobile money and Wave Money.

MP U Si Hu Dwe from Kachin State constituency 2

asked about construction of reinforced concrete structure to prevent flood of Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina Township.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department will manage the project, and budget will be allocated from the fund of Kachin State government.

MP Dr Khun Win Thaung from Kachin State constituency 11 asked for organizing inter-university swimming competitions to promote this sport and to resume contesting ASEAN University Games, and he also asked about refilling the positions for president and vice-president at Myanmar Swimming Federation.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that the Myanmar Olympic Committee has assigned the Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department for the duties of Acting President of Myanmar Swimming Federation, and the filling of the positions



Deputy Minister for Defence Real-Admiral Myint Nwe.



MP U Win Aung.

will be carried out when sport activities are allowed to resume.

The Deputy Minister added swimming sport is jointly promoted by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education by organizing summer swimming courses, basic swimming courses in respective regions and states, organizing swimming competitions, conducting training courses and training programmes with foreign trainers.

MP U Soe Win from Rakhine State constituency 12 asked about settlement on controversial records between the farmers and Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw answered it.

MP U Soe Moe from Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 asked for the Ministry of Health and Sports to get back the two

sport grounds in Patheingyi Township.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein replied it.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngeik Man explained the report of bill committee on Microfinance Bill sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with recommendations. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than approved the bill with the decision of Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw's Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee member Saw Sha Phaung Owa read out the report of committee about reduction of side effects from chemical residues in agricultural sector.

The Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the report. The third-day of Amyotha Hluttaw will convene on 15 July.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Special care cannot be given to every single crop

We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So, we don't have leisure time. In governing an entire nation, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue affecting the people. But, in reality, our government is working against many difficulties; we saw success in some issues and did not in some others.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)



State Counsellor holds videoconference about repatriation of Myanmar nationals stranded abroad

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on Myanmar nationals who have returned from abroad; especially those who have to enter quarantine related to COVID. Since Myanmar nationals were living in many countries, they have to be brought back home from these countries respectively. In this repatriation effort, commercial flights were not running. The reason these flights had to be stopped was that it would have been very difficult to contain the spread of this disease if people were given the freedom to go as they wished during the COVID outbreak.

Because commercial flights had stopped, the Union Government had permitted Special flights and Relief flights. Special flights were used to carry cargo and passengers for government projects; flights needed for unavoidable diplomatic matters, and for the transport of medicines and other important cargoes. Relief flights have been used mainly for bringing home Myanmar nationals. It has been possible to bring back home some Myanmar nationals on flights carrying medical supplies. These matters are being arranged mainly by the Ministry for International Cooperation. These matters have to be organized and conducted with the coordination of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, and with the permission of the Ministry of Health and Sports. In the final analysis, the directive of the Ministry of Health and Sports is the key.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin discussed that the Ministry of International Coopera-

tion worked together with the Ministry of Health and Sports in control measures against COVID-19 in line with the rules of the World Health Organization, and the government has formed the ministerial level central committee even before the WHO declared the pandemic as the global emergency.

Fifty-nine Myanmar students, out of 61 stranded in Wuhan city of China, were brought back by the first relief flight on 2 February. The remaining two students were repatriated through India where they spent quarantine.

A cargo flight was arranged to bring back Myanmar nationals stranded in Thai airport in April. International flights were suspended on 30 April, however, the central committee arranged cargo flights and relief flights for the foreigners stranded in the country. International communities recognized this work.

The Union Minister also explained the repatriation programmes for Myanmar nationals who wanted to come back home for various reasons. Myanmar missions in foreign countries coordinated with the relevant officials in those countries for the return of nationals.

Over 8,000 Myanmar nationals were repatriated by 56 relief flights from foreign countries, and arrangements are being made to bring back about 1,800 persons by 13 relief flights in August.

He continued to say that the repatriation programmes are adjusted with the capacity of quarantine facilities in the country as the central committee has limited only 700 persons to bring back home each week.

He remarked that the Myanmar missions abroad gained the trust of its citizens during the pandemic crisis as they reportedly felt safe for medical treatments quarantine programmes.

Ma Aye Aye Aung who returned from India recounted her experiences in India where she visited for learning Yoga techniques in Mumbai.

She also talked about the first lockdown of India on 24 March, panic buying of people, suspension of all the businesses in Mumbai with the highest number of domestic migrant workers in India and hundreds of thousands of unemployment rates amid the pandemic.

She also said about insufficient capacity of public hospitals to accommodate patients; as the cost of medical treatment was ten-time in private hospitals, some patients suffered from depression to commit suicide.

Ma Aye Aye Aung also talked about the second lockdown in Mumbai, a sky-high electricity bill 20-times the usual cost and an increase of two to three times of commodity prices despite the government's control measures.

She finally returned home through Chennai by the relief flight on 28 May.

She expressed the improvement of the healthcare system in Myanmar and facilities of quarantine centres.

Ma Thandar Aung Soe who returned from Australia said that when she arrived in Sydney, there was no social distancing or no use of facial masks to prevent COVID-19.

After the WHO declared the viral disease as the pandemic on

11 March, the spread of this disease increased gradually across the world.

She was also stranded in Australia due to suspension of international flights and no transit country to return home.

She recounted her experiences on the strict lockdown in Australia, directives for home quarantine to the young persons with mild symptoms, and the relief plan for its citizens like in Myanmar.

Ma Thandar Aung Soe also expressed assistance of Myanmar Embassy in Canberra for her return to home, remarked Myanmar has made better control programmes of COVID-19 and advised for specific quarantine facilities appropriate for any gender and age levels.

In responding to the discussions, the State Counsellor said an "embassy" should be a refuge for Myanmar nationals living abroad; she said it was her wish that Myanmar nationals should have a feeling of trust that they would get help from the embassy in time of need.

There were also many Myanmar nationals living in Malaysia; some do not have adequate documentary evidence to prove their nationality so a review process had to be done. She said Myanmar authorities had to consider and review the nature of healthcare treatment they had received; the rules and regulations under which they had lived and if there were any persons who were tested positive. In cases where there were positives cases, these people were sent to the hospital; this type of procedure was not done in all countries; in some rich countries, people who test-

ed positive were asked to stay at home instead of being sent to hospital; they were asked to contact the hospital only when the case became more serious.

In Myanmar returnees were put into quarantine and sent to hospital if they were tested positive; we need our hospitals to have adequate medical supplies and medical staff; that was the reason why we could not permit returnees to return in large numbers; we need adequate quarantine centres and hospitals to take care of infected persons according to a pre-calculated percentage.

If a person is found to be infected with COVID, this person was immediately sent to the hospital for medical care and treatment; if the patient has other diseases, this person was admitted to hospital in accordance with the requirement of the disease. It would be very difficult for the hospitals to receive elderly people who do not have any disease and take care of them; the hospitals were doing their best to give adequate healthcare and treatment to those who are infected; if a person has been admitted into a hospital, medical treatment is given whether the patient is old or young without discrimination. In most cases, children get infected from their parents; infected children got admitted to the hospital together with their parents, elder brother or elder sister; children feel lonely only to a certain extent. She added that she would give necessary instructions to give special care for those who are disabled and those who have gender issues.

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“People are the key”

State Counsellor holds videoconference about ...

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She said a policy to give special care to persons with special vulnerabilities was being implemented.

In giving her concluding remarks the State Counsellor said that the COVID committee had been formed at the end of January and they began their activities beginning from early February; she thought that the reason Myanmar had been able to come this far was because of early planning and early action; for example, the Ministry of Health and Sports formulated plans beginning from 4th January and this could be said to be very early; at that time other countries were still treating COVID in a very nonchalant manner; because the Ministry of Health and Sports had made plans in an early manner when

the WHO declared COVID as a pandemic, Myanmar had already taken COVID-related steps for two months already. In taking measures related to COVID, the government considered and took action for health as well as for the economic impacts.

Once there was a COVID outbreak, there were bound to be economic impacts, so we took measures to make advance preparations to make sure that the impact on the people would be minimal as much as possible. We made plans beginning from February to lessen the impact as much as possible on those who became unemployed and so that they could get back jobs as early as possible; efforts were made to implement projects and programmes related to the construction and agriculture sector as quickly as possible.

If we looked at it from an over-all view, people’s cooperation and participation is the key. That is the reason why we have been saying all the time “People are the key”. If the people did not follow the rules and regulations, everything would come to nought, even if we had issued the best of rules or regulations. She said she wanted everyone to follow the rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports as a way of showing gratitude to this ministry. The COVID matter is not yet over; it was difficult to say when it would be over; it is learnt that tests were being made to develop curative vaccines; it was not possible to know how fast they would be able to develop the vaccines; normally you need two years to test a vaccine; because COVID is an emergency, they are test-

ing within a short time-frame; conducting tests within a short time-frame has its own dangers; they might not have sufficient time to ensure that it was free from dangers; if there was not enough time there could be bad effects.

Among those nationals who are in foreign countries, there were many who wanted to return home; yesterday there were over 500 persons who came back from Thailand and over 130 who came back from China. The number of persons coming back home has declined; the last three weeks, the number of returnees was 1,000 every day; it was difficult to say when this process of Myanmar nationals returning home would stop; a small number would be returning on a regular basis; we have to put them all into quarantine; we have to give medical

treatment to those who need treatment. She said she wanted those who have the experience to assist in this process; the main thing is to remind everyone not to be careless and to follow the rules and regulations; we have to control and prevent COVID by issuing health rules and regulations; it was more difficult to give treatment after the COVID has spread and more costly; there was no guarantee that a person cannot be re-infected after being infected with the COVID. As far as it was known at the moment, a person could get re-infected. All of you should take care of this matter.

She ended the video conference by thanking all the participants and gave blessings for good health and a speedy victory over COVID. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Norwegian Ambassador

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received outgoing Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes, who completed her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, at 2 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, matters related to promote friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Norway, peace processes in Myanmar, cooperation on development of fed-

eral democracy in Myanmar, efforts for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, creating job opportunities for returnees from abroad, economic cooperation and investment were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA ■

(Translated by YHT)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives outgoing Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes on 14 July. PHOTO:MNA



Senior officials of Ministry of Information join virtual 21st ASEAN Sub-Committee Meeting on Information on 14 July. PHOTO:MNA

Myanmar participates in 21st ASEAN information virtual meeting

SENIOR officials of Ministry of Information joined the 21st ASEAN Sub-Committee Meeting on Information (21st SCI Meeting) via videoconference yesterday.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung and Chairman of Myanmar-ASEAN Information Sub-Committee and Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Ye Naing represented Myanmar at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to enhance the mutual understanding among the ASEAN member countries and to implement ASEAN projects together.

The participants discussed allocation of ASEAN culture budget for ASEAN information sector projects, rules and regulations for information sector projects, and new project proposals.

The ASEAN Sub-Committee of Information holds meet-

ings twice a year, the first one in May-to-July and second one in November.

Due to COVID-19, this year’s host country Singapore organized the meeting online.

Myanmar organized two SCI meetings in 2007 and 2018.

Thailand will host the 22nd edition of SCI Meeting next year. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Tatmadaw families donate medical supplies, food items to Sao San Tun Hospital, ethnic people in Taunggyi

THE TATMADAW (Army, Navy and Air) donated medical supplies for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 and food aid to Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi yesterday morning.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister of Border Affairs Lieutenant General Ye Aung, the military personnel from the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Service, Commanders of Eastern Command, Eastern Central Command and Dr Myint Thein, the Medical Superintendent of Sao San Tun Hospital attended the donation ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Senior General presented medical supplies for COVID-19, including 30,000 surgical masks, 1,200 N 95 Masks, 300 face shields, 6 boxes of Sodium Hypochloride (20L), 750 personal protective equipment (PPEs), 1,500 examination gloves, 350 bottles of hand gel, 350 bottles hand sanitizer and 500 boxes of OT gown to the Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Thein.

Then, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presented the supplement nutritional food including 808 eggs, 808 packets of Shwe Phi Oo and 808 packets of Nan Myaing Coffee for hospital staff and patients.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds discussions with ethnic representatives at the donation ceremony of COVID-19 medical supplies and food items in Taunggyi on 14 July. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

In the afternoon, the Senior General met the ethnic representatives of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Danu Self-Administered Zone and Inle region, as well as the members of Shan Literature and Culture Association at the Panglong Hall of Eastern Command for the donation of medical supplies and food aids.

Chairman of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone leading body U Khun San Lwin, Chairman of the Danu Self-Administered Zone leading body U Arkar Lin, Patron of Inntha Literature and Culture and Regional Association U Sai Nwan Aung joined the meeting.

The Senior General donated 20,000 surgical masks, 500

N95 masks, 250 face shields, 5 boxes of sodium hypochloride (20L), 1000 examination gloves, 250 bottles of hand gel, 250 bottles of hand sanitizer to each group of ethnic representatives.

Chairman of the Pa-O Self Administered Zone leading body U Khun San Lwin expressed words of thanks on behalf of ethnic representatives.

The ethnic representatives presented their challenges which they faced at the beginning of COVID-19 crisis and the Senior General made discussion in return, according to the statement of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—(MNA)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Notice to public in visiting Martyrs' Mausoleum on 73rd Martyrs' Day

IT is requested to abide by the following rules in visiting the Martyrs' Mausoleum on 73rd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day on 19 July 2020:

1. Any kinds of mobile phones, flags, hand bags, cameras, lighters, flower wreath/ flower bouquets/flower baskets, vinyl, bottles, and sticks and pipes that are used in carrying flags are not allowed to be brought into the compound of Martyrs' Mausoleum.
2. It is also required to mention personal information including name, ID card number, address and phone number at the junction of Link and West Shwegondine roads, which is the route to the Martyrs' Mausoleum and where temperature screening will be conducted to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
3. The visitors will have to queue at least six feet apart from each other to follow social distancing set by the Ministry of Health and Sports before entering the mausoleum where only 12 persons will be allowed to pay tributes to the martyrs for each time on the day.
4. The visitors must depart the building along the designated route after paying tribute. No one is allowed to have access to restricted areas.
5. The exist route is the eastern or southern gates of the Shwedagon Pagoda from the mausoleum taking the Arzarni Road.
6. For public safety, the visitors should not refuse inspection by the members of security forces and need to follow the guidelines set by members of Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society, and social organizations.

Rule Enforcement and Organizing Committee for 73rd Anniversary of Martyr's Day

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

'Notice for those who come to Martyrs Mausoleum'
You are respectfully requested not to carry along the following itens into the Martyrs Mausoleum

Mobile Phones and		Flower bouquest, flower wreaths and flower baskets	
Various kinds of Flags		Vinyls	
Bags, Slimbags, Wallets Etc...		Bottles and Cans	
Cameras		PVC and Steel pipes used as poles for Flags	
Matches/Matchboxes			

Ladies and Gentlemen who come to Martyrs Mausoleum , Taking drones to Mausoleum and flying around the Mausoleum highly prohibited



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 27/2020
9th Waning of First Waso, 1382 ME
(13 July 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psycho-tropic 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 Com-plaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 11 July 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 Maung Nyo who lives in Naungmu Village, Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 July 2020, police searched the house of Myaung Nyo, 41, son of U Thar Yin, who lives in Naungmu Village, Pinlebu Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Pinlebu) MaYa(pa)104/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of some people using, distribut-ing and selling illegal drugs in Aungthukha Ward, Kaw-thoung Township, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened 23 cases and arrested 23 men and four women together with stimulant tablets, stimulant tablet crash powder and speciosa powder in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Htay (a) Sheebine, 38, son of U Aung Myint, who lives in Aungthukha Ward of Kawthoung Township on 7 July 2020, and arrested him together with ICE and speciosa. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(pa)139/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs on the road of Abid-Khalaedaing vil-lage road in Mudon Township, Mon State.	Police have opened 15 cases and arrested 27 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 Town-ship on 9 July 2020. It was driven by Sithu Soe, 23, son of U Myint Htay, who lives in the same village and Htet Lin Soe, 22, son of U Tun Thein, and arrested them together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Kamarwet) MaYa(pa)39/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Ko Watoke who lives in East Khanaungto Ward, Seikkyi/ Khanaungto Township, Yan-gon Region, using, distribut-ing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 July 2020, police arrested Kyaw Wei Zin (a) Watoke, 25, son of U Aye Thauung, who lives in East Khanaungto Ward, Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township, together with ‘WY’ stimu-lant tablets in Zay Street, East Khanaungto Ward, Seikkyi/ Khanaungto Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Seikkyi Khanaungto)MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Nar-cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Baeu (a) Monelarou who lives in No 14 Ward, Shwepaukkan Myothit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 July 2020, police searched the house of Myo Win Htut (a) Baeu (a) Monelarou, who lives in No 14 Ward, Shwepauk-kan Myothit, North Okkalapa Township and arrested him and two others – Min Min Tun, 30, son of U Aung Sein and Moe Thu, 28, son of U Maung Maung Myint -- together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Shwep-aukkan)MaYa(pa)11/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Ma Hmway Hmway who lives in West Kannar Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 July 2020, police searched the house of Hmway Hmway (a) Hmway Hmway Kyi, 35, daughter of U Tin Shwe, who lives in West Kannar Ward, Insein Township and arrested her together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and ICE. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(pa)120/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20 (a) of the Nar-cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Ma Chit Moe Swe who lives in U Mya Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 6 July 2020, police searched the house of Ma Chit Moe Swe (a) Gawpheehtoke, 22, daughter of U Aung Lin, who lives in U Mya Ward, Kyimyindine Township and arrested her and two others – Thae Wei, 34, son of U Han Tun and Hla Win Tun, 31 daughter of U Tun Hla, who live in the same ward -- together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Sethsan) MaYa(pa)16/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

8.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in West Kannar Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region.	Police have opened two cases and arrested six men together with stimulant tablets, heroin and marijuana in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Myat Min Naing (a) Narpar, 21, son of U Maung Maung, who lives in lower Myothit Zay Ward, Insein Township together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on the road of Danatheikdi Street, West Kannar Ward on 7 July 2020. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(pa)122/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police arrested Nay Lin (a) Phoe Shae, 41, son of U Pein, who lives in lower Myothit Zay Ward, Insein Township together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets, ICE and marijuana at the corner of Thadda Thukha Street, West Kannar Ward. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(pa)123/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Sithu Aung (a) Myaukkyi, 30, son of U Htay Yi, who lives in lower Myothit Zay Ward, Insein Township together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on the road of Danatheikdi Street, West Kannar Ward. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(pa)124/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Shwe Mann who lives in West Kannar Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 July 2020, police searched the house of Shwe Mann (a) Khin Hlaing, 64, son of U Than, who lives in west Kannar Ward, Insein Township and arrested him and two others – Win Htet Kyaw, 25, son of U San Nyunt, who lives in the same house and Ye Naing Tun, 33, son of U Saw Tun Tun Lin, who lives in No 2 Ward, Mayangon Township -- together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Insein) MaYa(pa)126/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Ko Naing Gyi who lives in No 46 Ward, North Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 July 2020, police searched the house of Ko Naing Gyi (a) Ko Ko Naing (a) Ko Naing, 55, son of U Tin Shwe, who lives in No 46 Ward, North Dagon Myothit Township and arrested him together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (North Dagon) MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of Myo Thiha who lives in Lay Taung Ward, Thakayta Township, Yan-gon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 July 2020, police searched the house of Myo Thiha, 17, son of U Aung Htway, who live in Lay Taung Ward, Thakayta Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Thakayta) MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Maung Yoe who lives in Anauk Ward, Pekhon Township, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 5 July 2020, police searched the house of Maung Yoe, 47, son of U Htar, who lives in Anauk Ward, Pekhon Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Pekhon) MaYa(pa)20/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13.	Information received of Kyaw Soe who lives in Laechar Vil-lage, Yaksawk Township, south-ern Shan State, using, distrib-uting and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 July 2020, police searched the farm hut of Kyaw Soe, 42, son of U Ba Hsaung, who lives in Laechar Village, Yaksawk Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(pa)43/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,246 cases have been opened files as of 11 July 2020. A total of 1,922 people, including 1,610 men and 312 women had been arrested with 9,569.6114 g of heroin, 1,432.42 g of ICE, 43,654.22886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,363.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 649,757 stimulant tablets, 13,149.23 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 630.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stim-ulant 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

You can protect yourself

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.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)



Central Committee on Organizing 4th Union Peace Conference holds coordination meeting

THE Central Committee on Organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong—held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Central Committee Vice-Chairman and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Central Committee members U Kyaw Tin, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Myint Htwe, and U Ohn Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Maung Maung Win and U Kyaw Myo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the Vice-Chairman of Central Committee said it was a coordination meeting to prepare for the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong—to be convened in the second week of August.

The 3rd session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong—was convened from 11 to 16 July, 2018. After that, formal meetings could not be held because of various reasons. In 2019 and 2020, the Union government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) held formal and informal preliminary meetings to plan to continue the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong.

The 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement held at the National Reconciliation and



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe (centre) speaks during the meeting of Central Committee on Organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference at the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 January agreed that the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong—would be convened in the first four months of 2020. The government held continuous discussions and negotiations for the points which should be included in the Part III of the Union Accord, which is important for the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference, said the Central Committee Vice-Chairman.

But, the peace talks were delayed because of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic. However, negotiations for the Union Peace Conference could be restarted with the help and great efforts of the delegates involved in the peace talks, remarked Vice-Chairman of Central Committee.

The coordination meetings between the government and NCA Signatories ethnic armed organizations (NCA-S EAOs) on 2 and 4 July decided that the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong—to be convened in the second week of August. Initially, the government proposed that the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference would be held in July. But the Ethnic Armed Organizations made discussions among them, and then they proposed that the conference should be convened on 12, 13 and 14 August. The government side has also agreed on the designated schedule for the conference, said Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Tint Swe.

The Union Peace Conference is a tripartite conference

involving the government side, Ethnic Armed Organizations and political parties. The government side comprises of the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw.

The Central Committee Vice-Chairman and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe also remarked that both Tatmadaw and the Ethnic Armed Organizations, which were directly involved in armed conflicts, know the essence of peace very well, so they will be serious in the political dialogue.

The Central Committee Vice-Chairman pointed out that the people in the areas where armed conflicts occurred would desperately hope that the 21st Century Panglong would bring peace, so all stakeholders must exert serious efforts in peace talks for the sake of the Union.

The Vice-Chairman of Central Committee emphasized that each work committee on organizing the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong must prepare well for the conference in accordance with the guidelines for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19.

Afterwards, the officials who attended the coordination meeting explained about their preparations made sector-wise discussions. In response to their discussions, the Vice-Chairman of Central Committee made necessary suggestions.

Next, the attendees provided suggestions in order to make the upcoming session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong successful.

In his concluding remark, the Central Committee Vice-Chairman said that peace process cannot be stopped, that's why the Union Peace Conference has to be held even during the COVID-19 crisis.

Myanmar successfully overcomes the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and similarly the nation will be able to push back the second wave of COVID-19. Nobody cannot guess when the COVID-19 pandemic will completely end, so it is impossible to wait for the time when the COVID-19 crisis will be completely over, and that's why the Union Peace Conference will have to be convened in August, said the Vice-Chairman of Central Committee.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Ensuring flood season does not worsen spread of COVID-19 is a must

WITH flood season on the horizon, local authorities are preparing to face the dual challenge of COVID-19 and floods in their respective regions.

The swollen Ayeyawady River inundated low-lying areas in Myitkyina and Waigaw in Kachin State on 11 July, forcing the people in these areas to shelter at relief camps.

The situation has rang alarm bells and brought into focus the need to carry out flood preparedness in lower Myanmar which experiences floods every year.

We are confident that we can reduce the impacts from the dual challenges: floods and COVID-19 through our well preparedness.

Every year, floods have forced the displaced people to seek refuge in makeshift shelters and monasteries where social distancing is practically impossible.

If you are living in flood-prone areas, preparedness for both floods and COVID-19 is worth considering. There is a risk of COVID-19 spreading in crowded areas.

Our preparations and preparedness for floods during the period of the COVID-19 crisis must take into account the quarantine facilities, along with aid for Stay-At-Home programmes, prevention and containment measures against the COVID-19 disease at shelters, and more.

Besides, readiness for providing daily access to clean water for the displaced people and providing the displaced people with information on safety measures against the novel coronavirus are worth considering for tackling the dual challenges.

If the floods occur, we would face the daunting task of managing the floods with the complexities of COVID-19. However, we must continue to diligently make preparations for these possible situations, which are predictable.

It is worth noting that the current pandemic is changing the way we do business, and managing a possible flood will be no exception.

To address the risks of coronavirus in the camps, we would like to urge civil societies, local NGOs and UN agencies to stand in solidarity with the people in IDP camps and local authorities bracing for the possibility of rising waters amid the COVID-19 crisis.

It is clear that all of us can only be safe if we ensure that everyone is kept safe, because COVID-19 disease does not discriminate.

We must make every effort to ensure that the flood season does not exacerbate the current spreading of the COVID-19 virus throughout the country.



General Aung San's Literary Bent

By Khaing Hsu



Bogyoke (General) Aung San

THE late Bogyoke (General) Aung San has been accepted as a national leader, as architect of Myanmar independ-

ence, and as father of Myanmar Tatmadaw. However, few people knew about his literary bent. U Aung San was well versed in both Myanmar and English,

both spoken and written. What an avid reader he was related thus by a schoolmate of his, Thakin Ba Aye, who at one time served as his personal secretary.

Bogyoke was an avid reader. He would read for over half-an-hour seated on the "throne of china", and had to be called out of the bathroom.

Two months after the re-occupation of Yangon by the British Forces, Bogyoke Aung San requested Sayagyi U Razak and Ludu U Hla to come down to Yangon. On arrival they attended an AFPFL Conference. After the meeting, Bogyoke invited them to dinner at his Tower Lane house. At dinner they discussed politics and literature. With regard to the discussion, U Hla recorded that Bogyoke Aung San expressed his intention of retiring from politics once independence has been won and the country has settled down. He also showed us the manuscript of his autobiography in English he has just started to write.

In April 1947 in Pyin-Oo-

Lwin, Bogyoke was supposed to have told his aide Bo Tun Hla (pen name Tekkatho Ne Win):

After independence I will retire from politics and take up a writing career. I want to write about politics, history, marriage, child-rearing.

Furthermore at the press conference held to AFPFL Headquarters on May 30, 1947, Bogyoke Aung San stated:

I'll be in politics till independence. When interparty conflicts arise after independence, I don't want to be part of it. I'll retire and observe all that goes on and write books.

On Monday the 14th of July 1947, five days before the assassinations, U Khin Zaw, U Thein Han (Saya Zawgyi), U Htin Fatt (Maung Htin), and U Wun (Saya Minthuwin) went to the Secretariat on business. When they got to the front of the Constituent Assembly building they saw Deedok U Ba Choe and Bogyoke Aung San on the verandah chatting away. U Htin Fatt and party greeted them and joined in the conversation. In course of the

conversation Deedok U Ba Choe said that on the attainment of independence, he would retire from politics to study education and culture. Then pointing his finger at U Htin Fatt and party, Sayagyi Deedok U Ba Choe added,

I'd love to go with them on a cultural study tour of Southeast Asia.

At that, Bogyoke Aung San, then clad in a pale yellow Bangkok longyi and a closed silk jacket, interjected with his lips curled in emphasis, saying:

Saya, I too would be quitting politics then to take up a writing career. At college, I studied both Pali and Myanmar. I got good marks in Myanmar language and would have gained distinctions if only I had worked harder.

He also added:

We need a lot of works of translation as well as biographies. I don't know why we don't have them.

When the conversation got round to the need for publicizing Myanmar culture and art,

Bogyoke said:

In Myanmar dancing and music, there are things that came from there. We should investigate the connections between Asian cultures.

He then claimed: "I'm also a student of art and culture."

Reporter U Ohn Pe who at one time worked together with Bogyoke as news editors at New Burma newspaper said this of Bogyoke's literary work.

In writing English or Myanmar (for Dagon and Oway Magazines), he was precise... When I was my temporary news editor of New Burma newspaper, he was my temporary co-editor. Because his English editorials were up to the standard and logical, they were attentively read in governmental and political quarters.

About Bogyoke Aung San's literary bent, his colleague U Thein Pe Myint expressed regret in his book entitled Communism and We Barmars that though Thakin Aung San was a keen writer, he had no time to produce a book.



WHO says no return to 'normal' as COVID-19 deaths in Latin America pass US

TOO many nations are mismanaging their coronavirus response, placing a return to normality a long way off, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned Monday as Latin America recorded the world's second-highest death toll.

With new infections spreading rapidly, many countries were reimposing restrictions on Monday, locking down towns and cities and reintroducing measures to halt the spread of the sickness.

But WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that too many countries were "headed in the wrong direction" with governments giving out mixed messages that were undermining trust.

"There will be no return to the 'old normal' for the foreseeable future," he said, warning that without governments adopting a comprehensive strategy, the situation would get "worse and worse and worse."

Since the start of July, nearly 2.5 million new infections have been detected across the globe,



An employee wearing protective gear disinfects a shopping mall in Caxias do Sul, Brazil on May 13, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

with the number of cases doubling over the past six weeks, according to an Agence France-Presse (AFP) tally based on official figures.

With cases surging in Latin America, the region on Monday declared a total of 144,758 deaths, passing the 144,023 recorded in the U.S. and Canada.

It now stands second only

to Europe, where 202,505 people have died.

Over the weekend, U.S. President Donald Trump wore a face mask in public for the first time, in the world's worst-hit country where 135,171 people have died.

Mexico has become the country with the fourth-highest number of COVID-19 fatalities in the world, climbing to a total of 35,006

deaths and surpassing Italy.

And Iran, the worst-hit country in the Middle East, counted more than 200 new deaths on Monday, pushing its toll over 13,000.

Reimposing lockdowns

In Spain, regional officials were in a standoff with courts after a judge suspended a lockdown

just hours after it was imposed on 160,000 people in the Catalonia city of Lerida following a sharp rise in cases.

Despite calls to respect the closure, many people were on the streets by mid-afternoon, with shops and bars still open, an AFP correspondent said.

It was the first such order given since Spain's lockdown ended on June 21 and the situation in the northeastern city was the most worrying among 120 outbreaks across a country where the virus has killed more than 28,400 people.

South Africa has also reimposed a nationwide curfew to prevent a "coronavirus storm" from ravaging the continent's hardest-hit nation, where new infections have topped 12,000 per day.

Morocco followed suit on Monday, locking down Tangiers, with public transport suspended, cafes and public spaces closed and movement restricted in the northern port city of 1 million inhabitants.

In Asia, the Philippines imposed a two-week lockdown on

250,000 people in the capital Manila as new infections soared, and Hong Kong stepped up precautions to combat a sudden spike in infections.

Restaurants there can only serve takeaway food after 6 pm, gyms, nightclubs, karaoke bars and beauty salons were shuttered and public gatherings were restricted to four people.

And two U.S. Marine bases on Japan's Okinawa island have been locked down after a spike in cases with dozens infected and local officials expressing "serious doubts" about the U.S. military's containment efforts.

Across the globe, the pandemic has infected nearly 13 million people, killed more than 566,000 and triggered massive economic damage in the seven months since it was detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The latest high-profile personality to test positive for COVID-19 was Bollywood superstar and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai.

SOURCE: AFP

In Commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947-19th July, 2020

Mahn Ba Khaing

(26 October 1903 - 19 July 1947)



MAHN BA KHAING served as the Minister of Industry and Labour in pre-independence government led by General Aung San in September 1946.

He was born to Mahn Pay Kone, a village head, and his wife Daw Pu, in Yonthalin Village, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region on 26 October 1903. He took part in the revolutionary activities in Hinthada Region.

He received primary education at Anglican Board of Mission (A.B.M) School in Hinthada.

He established a Karen language school for the children and formed Karen youths' association.

He was elected as a parliamentarian in 1937 representing Northern Patheingyi Constituency.

He bravely participated in the fight against Japanese troops and made utmost efforts to promote friendship between Burmese and Karen societies. He also strove for the emergence of Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) and served as a member of the central executive committee. He was elected as Chairman of Karen Youth Organization.

He, along with other leaders, was assassinated at 10:37 am on 19 July 1947.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 14-7-2020)

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Shwegu has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level about (3) inches during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Shwegu Township to take precaution measure.

Trade Mark Ads

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Falling demand hits hard Mini Oway taxis in Bagan

DESPITE the local travellers visiting Bagan, Mini Oway tricycle taxis faced difficulties in finding passengers in the archaeological zone in Mandalay Region.

Starting from the coronavirus outbreak in Myanmar, the travellers have not been allowed to visit the Bagan-NyaungU archaeological zone for more than four months.

Now, authorities granted the travellers to visit the archaeological zone with time limitation. Although there are many visitors reaching the ancient zone, no passengers are travelling by hiring the mini Oway, according to the drivers.

“There are over 300 mini Oway toktoks in the archaeological zone. When there were many local and foreign travellers in the zone, the mini Oway drivers earned K15,000 per day. Some drivers earned even K30,000 daily.

Now, there are no passengers and we have to park our toktoks in front of the



Mini Oway three-wheelers running in Bagan-NyaungU are facing difficulties following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar. PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)

houses,” said U Maung Hsan, a three-wheel bike owner.

The residents from the Bagan-NyaungU are reliant upon the local and foreign travellers.

There are many businesses such as fermented bean paste (locally known as

Pon Ye Gyi), Zee Pyar and lacquerware business in Bagan-NyaungU ancient zone.

During the coronavirus pandemic period, the hotels, restaurants, tour guides, and other businesses such as toktok, e-bike have stopped automatically without having

suspension.

Although there are a few local travellers starting to visit the Bagan-NyaungU zone, the mini Oway carriers are still facing difficulty, said U Soe Aung, a toktok bike owner. — Ko Htein (KPD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Small growers in Ngaphe Tsp turn to coffee due to favourable weather

THE number of coffee growers has been increasing in Nat Yaykan Taung region in Ngaphe Township, Magway Region.

The manageable-scale coffee plantations are achieving success in Nat Yaykan Taung region and the local people are interested to grow the coffee plantations, and currently, there are over 1,000 acres of land is put under cultivation of coffee plants.

“Previously, Nat Yaykan Taung region grows only Konjac, a common name of the East and Southeast Asian plant, banana, orange, pineapple and lemon. Now, the local residents grow the coffee on a manageable scale. The coffee planting is successful thanks to the favourable weather condition, said U



Coffee plants are seen in Ngaphe Township in Magway Region. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

Soe Tun, a local farmer.

With success achieved in coffee planting in Ngaphe Township, the agriculture department has provided 60,000 coffee nurs-

ery plants, other 20,000 nursery plants, the farming implements and fertilizers to the local farmers from 10 village-tracts with spending of Mekong-Lancang coopera-

tion special fund under the coronavirus remedy programme. The ceremony was held at Bonbatl Village on 11 July.

“The coffee nursery plants will be provided annually because the local people are interested in coffee growing. The coffee planting can prevent the deforestation,” said U Zaw Thein, the officer in charge of the coffee technology development farm in Ngaphe Township.

The coffee from Nat Yaykan Taung region is sent to Ywar Ngan. Then, the coffee is being exported through Ywangan. Coffee is produced mainly in Magway Region and it has become one of the bestselling products, according to the coffee market, it is learnt.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Write for us

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.

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

Second-time K100 bln COVID Fund focuses priority sectors

By Nyein Nyein

THE priority sectors for the second K100 billion from COVID Fund are agriculture and livestock enterprises, export and import businesses, and vocational schools, said U Ye Min Oo, Minister for Planning and Finance of Yangon Region, who also acts as chair of MSMEs agency and loan assessment committee.

He made the remark at the meeting of MSMEs Agency held at the General Administration Department of Yangon Region on 13 July.

The first K100 billion from COVID Fund has been granted to the SMEs stricken by the coronavirus impacts. More than 3,393 entrepreneurs engaged in CMP businesses, hotels and tourism sector and SMEs have been approved to receive K101.298 billion



Women making clothes at a cottage industry in South Dagon Township, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAAR

of the loan.

Constantly, the second batch of K100 billion from the fund is

planned for those executing agriculture, livestock, export, import and vocational schools, he said.

At the present time, loans to some SMEs are delayed as they cannot provide all required docu-

ments by the respective banks, he continued. Therefore, the procedures in seeking loans and financial management courses for SMEs will be conducted for SMEs in the post-COVID-19 period, he added.

Additionally, a total of 1,483 businesses from Yangon Region have received the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) backed loan of K21.638 billion, according to MSMEs Agency.

Regarding two-step loan funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency, 80 per cent of the loan was earlier set to be used for fixed capital, while the remaining 20 per cent was, for working capital. Now, the agency has negotiated with JICA to grant a loan for 100 per cent working capital instead of 20 per cent.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Individual trades at land borders surpass K34 bln in Q3

TRADE conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders touched K34 billion at the borders in the nine months of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Department issued 50 cards in October-June period, and the cardholders conducted trade worth K34 billion. While imports exceeded K31.6 billion, exports were valued at just K2.4 billion.

The Myawady border recorded the highest trade value at K22.8 billion in the current fiscal, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflects imports as individual trading cardholders did not export goods

through the Myawady border at the first three fiscal quarters.

The value of trade carried out by individual cardholders stood at K333 million at Tamu, over K9 million at Muse, K173.5 million at Tachilek, K33 million at Lweijel, K479 million at Kampaiti, K858 million at Kawthoung, K549.6 million at Reed, K5.1 billion at Mawtaung, K2.76 billion at Hteekhee, and K162 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; crossed 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY; stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY;

rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY; K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018); and K9.38 billion in the 2018-2019FY.

Trading with the use of ITC is based on local currency. Hundreds of exports and imports items have been allowed for individual trading at the borders.

The trade department has issued 1,737 cards so far with the aim of boosting trade. Businessmen can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has permitted trade of up to K15 million per day over five days. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ASEAN Online Sales Day to be held on 8 August

By Nyein Nyein

TO boost e-commerce growth among the ASEAN Member States (AMS), ASEAN Online Sales Day (AOSD) will take place on 8 August, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The objectives of AOSD are to encourage cross-border e-commerce, built trust with the e-Commerce consumers, support e-commerce sector which appears to be one of the main drivers of the regional economic growth and benefit the e-commerce businesses, MSMEs and the consumers.

The AOSD will be implemented under two phases. In phase I, it is to raise awareness of e-Commerce among the AMS and expand e-commerce businesses, marketplaces and platforms in the region and increase online sales for the customers. In phase II, it is to grow e-commerce networks to the consumers in other countries outside the region and improve cross-border e-commerce transactions. All the e-commerce busi-

nesses and platforms in the AMS can join AOSD event, except those specifically prohibited.

The AOSD website will be the subdomain of the ASEAN website. The respective e-commerce links of the participants will be linked to the webpage with AOSD logo, offering promotional code.

Those interested e-commerce businesses in Myanmar can also join the AOSD event.

The e-commerce items and services will penetrate to the external markets rapidly. The top platforms of ASEAN will surely connect to the AOSD.

The interested e-commerce businesses in Myanmar are reported to submit the detail of e-commerce businesses, marketplaces and platforms to the email of the Trade Department dotictapp@gmail.com by 21 July. For further enquires, they can contact 067-408485.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Imports exceed exports in Myanmar's trade with Singapore in current fiscal year

THE value of Myanmar's imports surpassed exports in bilateral trade with Singapore in the eight months (Oct-May) of the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Singapore is Myanmar's second-largest trading partner in the region, after Thailand. In the current FY, Myanmar's exports to Singapore were registered at just US\$664.6 million, while imports

were valued at \$2.4 billion, with total trade pegged at \$3 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, footwear, textiles and clothing, minerals, and animal products to Singapore, while it imports plastic, fuel oil, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals, and chemicals.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore was registered at \$3.5 billion in the last fiscal year

2018-2019, \$1.99 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period, \$3.83 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$2.96 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$3.69 billion in the 2015-2016FY.

As per data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Singapore ranked the second among foreign investors in the current fiscal year, bringing in \$920 million. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Local authorities inspect COVID-19 guidelines at hotels in Kawthoung



Local authorities inspecting a hotel in Kawthoung to ensure adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

A combined team of local authorities inspected hotels in Kawthoung Township, Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Region which were temporarily shut down to control COVID-19 pandemic on 13 July morning.

The combined team comprising of officials from the Public Health Department, the Township General Administration Department, the Factories and General

Labour Law Inspection Department, the Anti-human Trafficking Task Force and the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism conducted inspection processes whether the preparations by hotels adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

There are five hotels in downtown Kawthoung and seven resort hotels on the islands. Most of the hotels and guest houses

rely on local travellers while the hotels and resorts on the islands mainly rely on foreign tourists. Meanwhile, the hotels have not hosted any tourist or are not in normal operation like previous months because of the COVID-19 preventive measures of Thailand, and poor weather conditions. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MoSWRR delivers aids to IDP camps in Kachin State

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided assistance for 18 IDP camps in Kachin State in past two days.

Officials from the ministry gave 110 lime powder bags and 2, 878 soap bars to 11 IDP camps in Phakant Township, Kachin State yesterday, and provided 70 lime powder bags and 909 soap bars to seven IDPs camps in the same township on 13 July.

The ministry have been not only implementing COVID-19

preventive, control and response measures but also providing psychological support in the regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

In addition, the ministry have been carrying out prevention, control and response measures against the COVID-19 at the IDP camps in cooperation with departments and organizations concerned across the country.— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



An official gives COVID-19 relief supply to an internally displaced person in Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (095N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (095N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2020** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (094N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (094N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2020** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (027S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (027S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (907N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (907N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2020** 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

112 Myanmar citizens fly back home on 14 July

Myanmar returnees are measured for body temperatures as they arrived at Yangon International Airport on 14 July. PHOTO: MNA

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening of 14 July, bringing back a total of 112 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries.

Among them, 36 persons from South Korea, 57 Myanmar nationals and 19 Myanmar seamen from the USA, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Viet Nam, Denmark, Egypt, Japan, Belgium, Italy, the Great Britain and France.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the 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 by relief flights and charter flight in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 1,675 people in 13 times.

Moreover, the 14th relief flight is being planned to bring more Myanmar nationals from South Korea on 21 July. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Mystery as Argentine sailors infected with COVID-19 after 35 days at sea

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina is trying to solve a medical mystery after 57 sailors were infected with COVID-19 after 35 days at sea, despite the entire crew testing negative before leaving port. The Echizen Maru fishing trawler returned to port after some of its crew members began exhibiting symptoms typical of COVID-19, the health ministry for the southern Tierra del Fuego province said on Monday (Jul 13). According to the ministry, 57 sailors, out of 61 crew members, were diagnosed with the coronavirus after undergoing a new test. However, all of the crew members had undergone 14 days of mandatory quarantine at a hotel in the city of Ushuaia. Prior to that, they had negative results, the ministry said in a statement.—AFP ■

California slams brakes on re-opening amid coronavirus surge

LOS ANGELES—California on Monday ordered all indoor restaurants, bars and movie theatres to close again as coronavirus cases soared across America's most populous state.

Churches as well as businesses including gyms, shopping malls, hair salons and non-essential offices must also close indoor operations in 30 of the state's worst-hit counties, including Los Angeles, Governor Gavin Newsom announced.

"We're moving back into a modification mode of our original 'stay-at-home' order," said Newsom, whose state is by far the largest by population and richest in America. The move came as the Golden State reported 8,358 new coronavirus cases on Sunday, bringing its total to nearly 330,000 including more than 7,000 deaths. Like the governors of Texas, Arizona, and Florida -- which were also hit hard in the virus' second spike -- California delegated the reopening process to local



People wear facemasks while shopping in Los Angeles in early July 2020 -- California Governor Gavin Newsom has now ordered shopping malls, indoor restaurants, bars and movie theaters to close again statewide as virus cases surge. PHOTO: AFP

jurisdictions, initially declined to issue a statewide mask order and reopened bars.

The announcement came as education officials in Los Angeles and San Diego said schools would remain closed when classes resume with online-only lessons next month.

Turf wars

Elsewhere, the mayors of Houston and Atlanta are calling for a return to stay-at-home orders to staunch an alarming spike in coronavirus cases, but are being hindered by state governors who favour less restrictive measures.

While new lockdowns have been ordered around the world in cities like Melbourne, Manila and Tangier, such actions are much harder to accomplish in the United States where decentralized power structures can result in political turf wars.—AFP ■

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following two pesticides are distributed by AGRO GREEN LAND CHEMICAL CO., LTD and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. AGRO GREEN LAND CHEMICAL CO., LTD 09-978999155.

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

Monster Energy Company, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

KHAOS

Reg. Nos. 6991/2014, 7080/2017, 5380/2020
In respect of Class 5: Nutritional supplements.

Reg. Nos. 6992/2014, 7081/2017, 5381/2020
In respect of Class 32: Non-alcoholic beverages.

MONSTER ASSAULT

Reg. Nos. 6993/2014, 7082/2017, 5378/2020
In respect of Class 5: Nutritional supplements.

Reg. Nos. 6994/2014, 7083/2017, 5379/2020
In respect of Class 32: Non-alcoholic beverages.

Monster Energy Company claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. Monster Energy Company reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)
For **Monster Energy Company**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: July 15, 2020.

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 19th JULY 2020 (Martyr's Day) and 20th JULY 2020 (Alternative Holiday of Martyr's Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Reign Beverage Company LLC, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1547 N. Knowles Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90063, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

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In respect of Class 32: Energy drinks; soft drinks; sports drinks.



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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)
For **Reign Beverage Company LLC**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
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Hotels, guesthouses in Bagan ancient cultural zone reopen to visitors

By Kyaw Htike Soe

BAGAN-NYAUNGU region attracts a large number of local and foreign visitors yearly and is always crowded with local travellers and tourists. Tourists flock to Bagan ancient cultural zone every year to enjoy the practice of temple climbing – taking beautiful aerial shots of sumptuous sunsets and the famous hot air balloons from a unique vantage point. Temples in Bagan, many of them were built a thousand years ago, are one of the most important collections of Buddhist architec-

ture in the world, and one of the tourist attraction sites in Myanmar. The local government has permitted the hoteliers to reopen some hotels and guesthouses in the Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone in Mandalay Region that were once closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, said U Win Aung, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Officials from the ministry inspected those hotels and guesthouses

to know as to whether they follow the COVID-19 preventive measures or not, and then gave the green light on June 9. “The hoteliers lodged the complaint letters to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to let them allow reopening hotels and guesthouses in UNESCO World Heritage Site Bagan-NyaungU region,” he said. An inspection team led by the Department of Public Health made a trip to check out as to whether the hotels and guesthouse meet the criteria set by the Ministry of Health



Thatbyinnyu Phayar. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**



Buu Phayar. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**

and Sports,” he explained. The deputy director continued that, “We compiled the list of hotels and guesthouses that meet the set standard and submitted

the list to the General Administration Department and the local government. Hotels are reopened after being sought permission from the local government. Four hotels and four guesthouses are being scrutinized to give permission,” he added. Hoteliers are also prepared to offer better services to the globetrotters in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Sports’ guidelines. The number of tourists entering Bagan NyaungU region is on the decline significantly due to the coronavirus outbreak when compared to last year, said U Zaw Weik, Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Bagan Zone). “Tourist arrivals in Bagan Area dropped due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic when compared to last year. Also a ban on climbing temples in Bagan was put into effect, visitors used to enjoy sunsets and sunrises by climbing to the tops of the many temples. News of the ban went viral on social media platforms, resulting in a decline in tourist arrivals” he said. Visitors are no longer al-



lowed to climb on some famous sunset viewing spots in Bagan after a powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar in 2016. The businesses in Bagan-NyaungU region such as hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops are making arrangements to offer better services to local and foreign travellers after they have given permission to run their operation again. Myanmar’s tourism industry is badly hammered by Covid-19 pandemic and those engaged in tourism-related businesses such as three-wheel, boat, horse-riding, car, e-bike, and motorbike, hotels, guesthouses and souvenir shops are suffering huge financial losses from the Covid-19 outbreak.

Tourists used to visit Bagan to observe the temples and stupas and enjoy the sunset. The horse-riding business, motorbike and e-bike rental services, hotels, motels, and guesthouses and souvenir shops earn well in the peak tourist season (from October to February) annually. Those businesses create job opportunities for residents in the area, contributing to im-

proving the socioeconomic status of local people. Bagan ancient cultural zone has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019. There are 84 registered hotels and guest-

houses with a capacity of 6,000 rooms in Bagan ancient cultural zone. Majority of tourists to Bagan-NyaungU region come from China, France, Japan, UK, United States, Germany,

Thailand and Korea. Bagan ancient cultural zone welcomed 280,000 foreigners in 2017 and attracted over 300,000 tourists in 2018. Tourist arrivals in Mandalay Region

were registered at 385,031 in 2016, 483,784 in 2017, around 490,000 in 2018, and over 500,000 in 2019, according to data compiled by the ministry.



Hotels and guesthouses in Bagan ancient cultural zone are ready to welcome visitors. PHOTO: IPRD

Phone Myint Kyaw to meet Chu Bin Jie in Chinese 8 Ball Game's semifinal in August

MYANMAR pool star Phone Myint Kyaw will compete against Chinese player Chu Bin Jie in the semifinal of Chinese 8 Ball Game on 8, 9 and 10 August, according to the pool star's Facebook.

The two semifinal matches will have to play for three days each – the first match is on 22, 23 and 24 July, while the second match between Phone Myint Kyaw and Chu Bin Jie is on 8, 9 and 10 August.

Out of the three days each, those who win two days will advance to final.—Kyaw Khin ■



Myanmar pool star Phone Myint Kyaw is seen during a match in Chinese 8 Ball Game in 2020. **PHOTO: KO AR TT'S FACEBOOK**

Chicago Marathon cancelled over COVID-19 fears



The Chicago Marathon has become the latest major marathon race to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES — The Chicago Marathon became the latest major marathon to fall victim to the coronavirus on Monday (Jul 13) as organizers confirmed cancellation of the

race for only the second time in its history.

The decision had been largely expected, with several other major marathons around the world already suffering the

same fate because of the pandemic.

The 43rd edition of the race was due to take place on October 11, with an estimated field of around 45,000 runners and wheelchair athletes.

“The Chicago Marathon is our city’s beloved annual celebration of more than 45,000 runners, as well as tens of thousands of volunteers, spectators and city residents,” Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said.

“Like all Chicagoans, I’m personally disappointed that this year’s event won’t take place as originally planned; however, we look forward to welcoming all runners and their cheering squads once again when the Chicago Marathon returns to our city in full force for another very exciting race.”—AFP ■

Germany captain Neuer filmed singing song by controversial Croatian nationalist

BERLIN — A video has emerged of Germany and Bayern Munich captain Manuel Neuer singing a Croatian song which has right-wing nationalist links while on holiday.

In the filming, Neuer, 34, can be seen in a group at a beachside bar singing “Lijepa li si” (You are beautiful) by controversial Croatian singer Marko Perkovic, known as ‘Thompson’.—AFP ■

No spectators for rest of PGA Tour season

LOS ANGELES — The remainder of the 2019-2020 PGA Tour will take place without spectators as the United States battles a resurgence in the coronavirus pandemic, tournament officials said on Monday.

In a coordinated announcement, the remaining tournaments on the schedule said they will not host fans due to concerns over COVID-19.

All five tournaments held since the PGA Tour returned from its coronavirus shutdown in June have taken place without spectators.

Fans had initially been set to be allowed at this week’s Memorial Tournament in Ohio but that plan was scrapped after a sharp escalation in coronavirus cases.

Monday’s announcement means there will be no spectators at the climax of the season, which concludes with the FedEx Cup Playoff series’ Tour Championship, due to be held from September 4-7 in Atlanta.

“These decisions are never easy,” Tour Championship executive director Allison Fillmore said in a statement, describing the move as the “best decision for all involved.”—AFP ■



Tiger Woods will tee off alongside Brooks Koepka and Rory McIlroy at the upcoming Memorial Tournament. **PHOTO: AFP**