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Wednesday, 22 July 2020

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects renovation of embankment and strand road in Amarapura



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects repair works of damages to embankment and Strand Road in Amarapura on 21 July. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, inspected the control of Ayeyawady River floodwaters caused by damages to the embankment near Shwe Gae wastewater treatment facility in

Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

The Vice President, Union Minister and Deputy Chairman of the management committee Lt-Gen Soe Htut and members of the committee Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung, Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and Dr

Kyaw Linn and officials heard reports on flood control measures and renovation of the Strand Road to allow the resumption of traffic.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn also reported on temporary road embankment repair works by

driving sheet piles to fill with big rocks and sandbags. He also reported about plans to build a new embankment after the rainy season. The Vice President gave comments and advice to ensure coordination.

The Ayeyawady floodwaters seeped in on 19 July and dam-

aged the embankment near the Shwe Gae wastewater treatment facility and the Strand Road.

It is reported that renovation works are being carried out immediately to allow the resumption of normal flow of traffic. — MNA ■ (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar remains at 341 after no new case reported on 21 July

Updated at 8 pm, 21 July 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 21 July 2020



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AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw holds 4th-day meeting of 17th regular session

THE fourth-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MP Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 raised a question on budget spending of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department for water management processes in order to provide enough clean water in the Rakhine State.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu replied that the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department of the



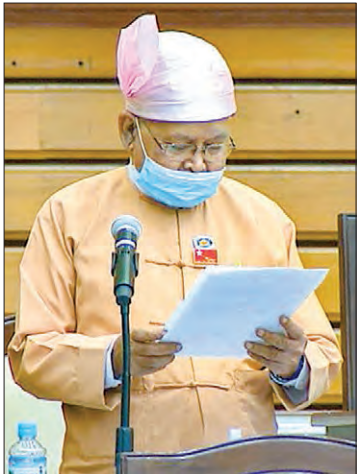
Union Minister
Dr Aung Thu



Union Minister
Dr Myo Thein Gyi



MP Daw Htu May



MP U San Myint



MP U Hla Myint (a)
U Hla Myint Than

2021FY, but the proposal will be considered in next fiscal years in order to fulfil the needs.

MP U San Myint from Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 asked a question on whether there is a plan to build new school buildings to replace the dangerous old school buildings in the premises of the high school in Kone Pyin village, Yay Kyi township, Patheingyi district, Ayeyawady Region. The Union Minister for Education replied that the budget for constructing a (130x 30) feet two-storey building has been allocated for the 2020-2021 FY.

MP Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt said that the objective of the report, the research result and the suggestions can reflect the current situations, so all stakeholders should cooperatively implement the suggestions for the sake of the nation and the citizens. She also suggested that some of the suggestions in the report will also be useful in implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

MP U Ba Myo Thein from Yangon Region constituency 5 discussed that good agricultural practices should be adopted.



MP U Myo Htap (a)
Salai Myo Htike



MP U Bwe Khane

Rakhine State spent K16.485 billion between the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY) and 2019-2020FY for construction of a total of 47 dams, and the Department of Rural Development spent K19.525 billion between the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY) and 2019-2020FY for 2,796 projects to provide adequate water supply to villages. So, the total spending by the two departments for water supply projects in the Rakhine State in that period was K36.01 billion.

The Union Minister added that the relevant municipalities and the Department of Rural Development are cooperating for sufficient supply of water in the Rakhine State.

According to 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, the percentage of households using improved drinking water sources stood at 37.8 per cent in

the Rakhine State. But, according to the “Rainy Season Data” of the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (MLCS-2017) jointly conducted by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, about 45 per cent of the population in the Rakhine had access to improved water sources, said the Union Minister Dr Aung Thu.

The Union Minister continued to say that 2019 Interim Census has already been completed, so the updated data for accessing to improved water sources in the Rakhine State will be announced soon.

MP U Bwe Khane from Chin State constituency 3 raised a question on whether a budget will be got for constructing a new school building in the premises of the middle school in the Foneka village, Thantlang township, Chin State.

In response to his question, the Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied that the existing school building is enough for the current number of students, so there will be no budget allocation for constructing a new school building in the 2020-2021FY. But the budget may be provided in the 2021-2022FY, and it will depend on the number of students, said the Union Minister for Education.

MP U Myo Htap (a) Salai Myo Htike from Chin State constituency 12 raised a question on whether new school buildings will be built in the premises of the high schools of Lonenu village and Ganam village in Paletwa township, Chin State, in 2020-2021 FY. The Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied that the new school buildings will not be constructed in the 2020-

Questions related to land issues were raised by MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than from Mon State constituency 11 and MP U Saw Than Htut from Kayin State constituency 2.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu replied to these questions.

MP U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe from Tanintharyi Region constituency 10 discussed the Myanmar Health Assistant Council Bill, which was sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with recommendations.

MP Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt from Bago Region constituency 3 and MP U Ba Myo Thein from Yangon Region constituency 5 discussed Amyotha Hluttaw’s Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee’s report on reduction of side effects from chemical residues in agricultural sector in Myanmar.

Then, Amyotha Hluttaw’s Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee Secretary Dr Win Myint said that the committee took about a year to draw up the report. He expressed thanks to the MPs who made the discussions, and tabled a motion to accept the report of the committee.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced Hluttaw’s agreement to accept the report of the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee, after obtaining the decision of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The 5th-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 23 July.—Aung Ye Thwin (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

EU disburses €37.625 mln in support of Myanmar education

THE European Union disbursed €37.625 million [59.693 billion MMK] yesterday to further support education reform in Myanmar.

The grant is paid earlier than planned to help the Government address the exceptional needs that arose due to COVID-19 and ensure a safe return to school for all children, and improve the quality of education and vocational training throughout the country.

This is the third payment from a total of €221 million (MMK 382 billion) provided by the European Union to

increase access to quality education for all in Myanmar.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said, “The European Union is a trusted partner. Its support will help us make sure that every child in Myanmar has access to education in post-COVID-19. At the same time, we will be able to continue our reform and roll out our new curricula.”

EU Ambassador Kristian Schmidt said, “The reopening of schools has been debated throughout the world. I am encouraged by the Government’s efforts to make

schools safe ‘post-COVID-19’ for all children in Myanmar, while keeping the pace for the ambitious reform of the education sector.”

The disbursement followed an Education Sector Reform Policy Dialogue meeting between the Government and the European Union, in particular on the plans for reopening schools as well as access to education in Rakhine State and public financial management.

EU has agreed for €221 million grant to the Ministry of Education.—Aung Khin

Need to Distinguish between Politics and Being Disciplined

You are required to distinguish politics from being disciplined. Nothing will work without having discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, they must be well convinced of the kind of punishment they will deservedly receive as a consequence. Try your best by being disciplined to have an order changed. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and being disciplined.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech given at the All Workers' Union meeting and dinner in Natmauk, on 25 March 1947)



PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw raises asterisked questions, turns down urgent motion at 4th-day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw held the 4th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday, with answers of ministries to the asterisked questions, inviting list of MPs to discuss the two bills sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw and tabling an urgent motion.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the extension of term for Advisory Group on Parliamentary Capacity Building from 18 July 2020 to 31 January 2021.

MP U Sai Okkar from Lai-kha constituency asked about identifications of family registration and birth date of elder persons for financial aid scheme, and the government's plan for long-term assistance to the senior citizens.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that identifications and correction on birth date of senior citizens are being coordinated with the relevant departments and the ministry is also drafting a long-term financing strategy to fully cover the increase of aging population.

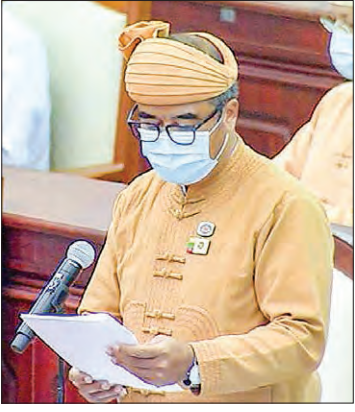
MP U Wan Hla from Nanyun constituency asked about possible sufficient water supply for people in Pangsaung Town in 2020-2021 financial year.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that the ministry has proposed K107.950 million for the Border Area Development Fund of the Union to be used in 2020-2021FY to install pipelines and construction of water storage facilities for the water supply programme in Pangsaung.

MP Dr Salai Reyana Vel from Falam constituency asked about installation of landline phone network at Reedhorda branch of the Myanmar Economic Bank in his constituency.



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung



MP U Sai Okkar



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut



MP U Wan Hla

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win answered that the landline at the branch of bank could be installed only when the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications in Reedhorda Town.

MP U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency asked for operation of orphanages systematically and legally with official documents and issuing birth certificates for the children there, access to learning for these children; MP Dr Kyi Moh Moh Lwin from Singaing constituency asked about fair education access for the sexually abused victim girls by adopting accurate policies and directives of relevant ministries.

The two questions were answered by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung.

MP U Moe Shwe from Putao constituency asked about the plan to upgrade 14/5 miles long inter-village road between Putao and Namhtwamkhu villages, and MP U Stephen from Kengtung constituency asked about construction of a creek crossing bridge of Namngwan village in his constituency.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut answered the questions.

MP U Win Aung from Mo-



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win

mauk constituency asked about opening a branch of Myanmar Economic Bank in Lwejel Town in his constituency; MP U Win Myint Aung from Dabayin constituency asked for postponement of repayment period for monsoon agricultural loan of 2019 by the farmers; and MP Daw Wint Wah Tun from Shadaw constituency asked for a branch of Myanmar Economic Bank in her constituency.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win answered the questions.

MP U Thein Tun from Kyaunggon constituency tabled a motion that urged the Union government to implement a project for sustainability and development of the farmers with international grant or long-term loan with no interest in relaxing the debts incurred by the farm-

ers in agricultural sector.

The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion.

MP Dr Maung Thin from Meiktila constituency tabled a motion on coordination of the National-Level Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or relevant ministries with the micro finance firms to postpone repayment of loan to these moneylenders in a certain extent of response period and no or 50 per cent interest rate for loan during the recovery period in fighting against COVID-19.

The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion.

The Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the Microfinance Bill and the Protection of the Citizen for the Personal Freedom and Personal Se-

curity Bill sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with recommendations.

MP U Khin Maung Myint from Yaksawk constituency tabled an urgent motion to bring back Myanmar nationals stranded in Malaysia and Thailand on their own decision before the 2020 General Election for voting in coordination with the respective governments.

The motion said that over 20,000 Myanmar citizens could not return home although they have submitted their names for repatriation at the embassy; there is no relief flight for them, but the Tatmadaw has offered to use some multi-purpose vessels, like Mottama Navy ship, that can carry about 1,000 persons each time from Malaysia.

The motion also mentioned that many Myanmar people are stranded in Thailand as there is no enough relief flights of MAI and MNA, while the Tatmadaw can use its aircrafts to bring back them home before the elections.

However, the motion received only 125 supporting votes, and failed to meet the required number 144 to discuss it at the Hluttaw.

The 5th-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will convene on 23 July.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds videoconference with COVID-19 volunteers

UNION MINISTER Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Secretary of the National Volunteer Steering Unit, held a videoconference with volunteers and members of civil society organizations assisting in COVID-19 measures across the nation yesterday.

Participants from Chin State, Rakhine State, Mon State and Taninthayi Region joined the meeting and discussed of areas of cooperation, challenges faced, and finding solutions to related issues.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said while COVID-19 is no longer spreading as noticeably as before domestically, people returning from abroad may be carrying the disease and thus putting them in quarantine is important. He thanked everyone assisting and urged volunteers to assist the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

in social security, disaster prevention, response and rehabilitation processes. He said there would be different challenges and necessities between the states and regions and asked for participants to voice those differences.

The meeting then started with discussions on the language barrier preventing effective dissemination of COVID-19 information among various ethnic regions, the difficulty of transporting water, food, and lab samples of people in quarantine across Chin State due to inadequate infrastructure, the need for vehicle fuel, the need for cash assistance to purchase food for people in quarantine the longer COVID-19 stretches on, proper management of illegal routes of entry, especially routes by water, requesting supplies of face masks, hand sanitizers, gloves and PPE outfits when schools



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds online meeting with volunteers and members of CSOs assisting in COVID-19 measures on 21 July. PHOTO: MNA

reopen, equipping schools with foot-operated waste bins, organizing additional courses for disaster management and volunteers, and support from the Union Government to the long-term assistance by volunteers and philanthropic organizations in COVID-19 measures.

The Union Minister responded by saying his ministry will swiftly address the issues that can be resolved immediately and coordinate with other relevant departments to address the other issues.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects printing factory, English newspaper of MoI



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun holds meeting with GNLM management and editorial team in Yangon on 21 July. PHOTO: GNLM

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun inspected the Photolitho Printing Press under the Printing and Publishing Department, and met the editorial team of the English-language Global New Light of Myanmar at Nga Htet Gyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township yesterday.

At the Photolitho Printing Press, the Deputy Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department explained the printing machines, preparation for printing ballot papers for the 2020 General Election and security measures at the factory.

The Deputy Minister coordinated the discussions and inspected the workplace.

The Deputy Minister visited the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper and held a meeting

with the management and the editorial team.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed that the Global New Light of Myanmar is the only English language newspaper that conveys the government policy to international readers, and that both the editorial team and the management need to promote quality of the newspaper which can attract more interest from foreign audience with the news of multi-party democracy elections.

He emphasized following foreign policies of the country in covering international news, while local and national news need to draw the interest of local readers in terms of quality and contents.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

The ASEAN Secretariat Invites Nationals from Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam to apply for the following post:
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Economic Community

THE ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) based in Jakarta, Indonesia is inviting qualified ASEAN Nationals from Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam to apply for the position of Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community (DSG AEC). Detailed information including responsibilities and qualifications are available at <https://asean.org/opportunities/vacancies-asec/>.

New postage stamp honouring Myanmar blacksmith to be issued

THE Myanmar Post will issue a new postage stamp (200 kyats), featuring the Myanmar blacksmith work, on 24 July. The ministry aims to raise awareness among young people the Myanmar cultural art and crafts as it is one of the 10 Myanmar’s cultural crafts.

The stamp can be bought at Yangon Post Office, Mandalay Post Office and the post offices in every state and region starting from 9:30 am on 24 July. As a special programme, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will stamp the date on the stamps and the First Day Cover on 24 July.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



This is the time we should be on our guard

In our country, we haven't even reached three months from the time we started imposing health rules and regulations to protect ourselves from COVID. I can see some people who have lost their patience. In this type of situation, we should be scared because we need to be scared; this is the time we should be on our guard. In some countries where they have announced that they have overcome the COVID challenge, they are facing COVID cases again. This is really scary.

Let me remind you again. Researchers are of the opinion that the second COVID wave is more likely to be worse than the first wave. We did not overcome the first wave easily. We had to invest in financial resources, human resources, and spiritual energy and will power. All types of energy. We need to come up with spiritual energy and will power continuously so that the investments we have made so far couldn't turn out to be for nothing.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 17 June 2020)



Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co.,Ltd. makes press release on YPS prepaid card service. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**



Demonstration of YPS prepaid card services on a YBS bus in Yangon. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

Yangon bus operator begins prepaid card service

THE Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co.,Ltd. has launched the prepaid card service for its 597 buses in Yangon.

The company broadcast live Yangon Payment Services (YPS) online from 9 to 9:20 am.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, his Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport Daw Nilar Kyaw, CEO of Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co.,Ltd. Ms Grace Li made remarks on the prepaid card service.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said, "The Yangon Bus Service plays a crucial role in the bus transport network system for public. The prepaid card service could solve the problem in the changes of paper money in bus fares."

The YPS cards are available at the 102 outlets of G&G convenience stores in Yangon, and the company is providing the customer service at the three centres in downtown Sule, Thamine and Tamway.

Moreover, the Yangon City Development Committee has opened sales and top-up counters for prepaid cards at the bus stops in front of city hall, Myanmar Plaza, 8 Mile and Parami Nyaungbin.

CEO Ms Grace Li remarked, "The launch of YPS card system is a new historic milestone and an onset of a long journey, helping the cashless ecosystem of the country. The company will also introduce other prepaid card services."

The YPS cards can be used at the bus line numbers 43,62,

72, 87,88,89,96,12,14,25,30 and 38.

The price of each card is K2,000 and the available top-up amount is from K1,000 to K50,000.

During the promotion period from 16 July to 15 August, the card will be free of charge for the minimal top-up K5,000.

The user needs to touch the card with the bus validator at the front door of the bus, and it must be put on another validator near the exit door to deduct the fee when someone got off the bus.

If the user failed to put the card on the exit validator, the fare will also be taken for the previous ride when the card is touched on the front validator. Only one passenger could use the card service each time.—Yamanya

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar brings back 109 citizens stranded abroad

THE relief flight of MAI (Myanmar Airways International) landed at Yangon International Airport at 8 pm on 21 July bringing a total of 109 Myanmar nationals back home via Incheon International Airport.

Due to the suspension of international commercial flights during the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar has been repatriating its citizens stranded in foreign countries.

Among these returnees, 43 persons are from Republic of Korea while 66 are from Egypt, Greek, Canada, Belgium, Norway, Japan, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany and US.

As they arrived in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of

Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flights and charter flights in accordance with the instructions from Na-

tional-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 1,873 citizens via Incheon International Airport of Republic of Korea to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar citizens who came back from Thailand queuing for immigration service at Yangon International Airport on 21 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar returnees through ROK seen at Yangon International Airport on 21 July. **PHOTO: MNA**



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

Foreign correspondents’ club selects new members

The Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Myanmar (FCCM) selected new executive committee members for 2020 during its urgent meeting through videoconferencing on 20 July.
The Chairman of FCCM, executive members and members of FCCM joined the online meeting.
Firstly, FCCM Chairman U Min Zaw delivered the opening

speech and the former executive committee members announced their resignation.
Afterwards, they discussed the selection of new members from a list of nominees.
U Han Htwe Aung (TV Asahi) was selected as Chairman of the Executive Committee for FCCM 2020-2021, U Myat Thura (Kyodo News) as Vice-Chairperson-1, Daw Hla Hla Htay (AFP)

as Vice-Chairperson 2, U Thiha Thwel as secretary, U Nyein Chan Naing (EPA) as joint-secretary, Daw Yadana Tun (Kyodo News) as treasurer, and Daw Su Myat Mon (Xinhua) as auditor while Daw Khin Moh Moh Myint (NHK), U Sithu Naing (VOA), Daw Myo Myat Myat Tun (The Wall Street Journal) and U Thein Zaw (AP) were selected as FCCM members.

The office of FCCM, which was established in 1989, is located at No (312), 2nd floor, East Shwegondaing Road in Bahan Township of Yangon Region. FCCM can be contacted via 09-30091921 and fclubofmyanmar@gmail.com.—MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Local farmers, businessmen need to coordinate to prevent declining sugarcane cultivation

THE local farmers and businessmen are needed to coordinate to control the market so that they can prevent sugarcane growing from declining, according to the Agriculture Department in Aunglan township.
The sugarcane cultivation has decreased to about 1,000 acres of land this year in Aunglan township compared to that of last year.
The sugarcane is grown mostly in Taungdwingyi, Aunglan and Kanma townships. Last year, the Aunglan township grew about 10,000 acres of sugarcane. But, this year, the local farmers from Aunglan can grow only 9,000 acres of sugarcane.
“As there is a decline in the sugarcane cultivation, the local farmers have reduced the grown acreage of sugarcane plants because sugar mills are only willing to buy the sugarcane plants at a much lower price. If the sugarcane production continues to decline, the sugar mills will not get the raw materials. The local growers don’t want to sell their sugar if the millers do not want to offer



Farmers harvesting sugarcane in Myingyan Township. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

the right price. The growers are selling their products to places where they get a higher price. It is interrelated and so, both the local growers and the businessmen should control the market to make it stable,” said U Tun Hla Aung, the head of Agriculture Department in Aunglan Township.
Magway Region targeted to grow 15,000 acres of sugarcane

plants in 2019-2020 fiscal year. However, the Magway region grew a total of 16,389 acres of plants which is an increase over the target, said Director U Lin Myat of Agriculture Department in Magway Region.
The local farmers grow the sugarcane plants from November to January. The duration of the sugarcane growing is one

year. The inputs of the sugarcane cost around K400,000-K500,000. Each acre of sugarcane can yield around 30-40 tonnes. Each tonne of sugarcane plants can make a profit of around K 900,000 -K1.2 million, according to the sugarcane growers. —Zayyatu (Magway)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar records over 2,800 DHF cases as of 27 June

THE Ministry of Health and Sports reported more than 2,800 Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases across the country from January to 27 June with over 1,100 cases arising in 20 days.
Myanmar reported over 1,700 dengue fever infection cases with 12 deaths from January to 6 June. However, a total of 2862 cases have reportedly increased with 20 deaths in 26 weeks.
At present, the DHF is reported mostly in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon

Region, Magway Region and Mon State.
From 1 January to 30 May, Sagaing Region has seen most cases with 74 cases and two deaths in Chaung- U Township, 57 cases in Yinmabin Township, 47 cases and one death in Buda-lin Township, followed by Mon State with 43 cases in Mawlamyine Township and 37 cases and two deaths in Paung Township.
A total of 1,480 cases have been recorded with 11 deaths in Myanmar from the beginning of the year through 30 May, according to the Ministry

of Health and Sports.
As of May, the DHF transmission rate in Yangon Region was rampant with 24 in South Dagon, 16 in Htantabin, 16 in Shwepyitha, 15 in Hlinethaya, 14 in Dala, 11 in North Dagon, 10 in Thingangyun, 10 in Insein, eight in Thanhlyin and seven in North Okkalapa townships respectively.
The half of the death rate of dengue cases are reported mostly in Yangon Region. The high population in the town can be attributed to transmission of both dengue fever and corona-

virus, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.
The Health Department is conducting effectively preventive and control measures against DHF under the programme of covering, emptying and cleaning of water storage containers and spraying of mosquito repellents. The department is also planning to provide awareness training courses for the local people to understand how to prevent the disease from breaking out.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

FDI inflows into Myanmar up by \$900 mln

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has attracted more than US\$4.4 billion in foreign direct investments within the past ten months of the current fiscal year, an increase of over \$900 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, as per data of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to the DICA statistics, 208 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the Myanmar Investment Commission

(MIC) and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees between 1 October and 10 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, bringing in the capital of \$4.49 billion, including the expansion of capitals by the existing enterprises.

In the year-ago period, FDI of just \$3.526 billion had poured in from 224 enterprises.

The number of permitted or endorsed enterprises this year was 16 lower than last year. However, the surge in investment in the current fiscal was attributed

to the projects with large investments, the DICA stated.

Both the foreign and domestic investment sectors are not affected by the coronavirus negative impacts, said DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

Amid the coronavirus concerns, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses including the garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the meantime.

Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others which can contribute to the fight against the pandemic infection in the country at the soonest.

In the current financial year, the MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic

Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

“The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and it is now under implementation. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach an FDI target of \$200 billion in forthcoming 20 years,” said Union Minister U Thaung Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Govt to shift integrated poultry, fish farming to GAqP

THE government is phasing in a ban on integrated poultry and fish farming to undergo Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) system, according to the Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

“We have to ensure food safety from farm to table to comply with GAqP system. The system has to cover from farming to processing factories. The training courses related to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) have been conducted at ISO laboratories and factories.

We trace the quality of water and wastewater management system in fish farming lakes and production chain of feedstuff. The integrated poultry and fish farming have been gradually banned since last year. Some fish ponds are found antibiotics in non-compliance with GAqP standard, said Director Dr Yin Yin Moe of Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

There are over 495,000 acres of integrated fish farms across the country, while 9,735 acres are located in Yangon Region.

According to the Myanmar Livestock Federation (MLF), at present, there are 1.35 million broilers being raised for meat, about 1.465 million semi-broilers, and more than 2.9 million layers for an egg at integrated poultry and fish farms. “The industry has been producing meat and eggs at a reasonable price to fulfil the needs of the consumers. It also helps support the country’s meat sector,” it stated.

Currently, there are 211 livestock entrepreneurs employing 6,330 labourers in the integrated farming industry. It is estimated

that about 37,980 people are relying on this industry, according to the MLF.

“If the government bans integrated poultry and fish farming with immediate effect, it could hurt the livelihood of more than 37,980 people depending on this industry and investors. Moreover, it can pose land problems for poultry farming and reduce the number of poultry raised,” said Dr Kyaw Htin, Vice President of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

“Having said that, the federation has requested the government to conduct a systematic analysis of integrated poultry and fish farming,” he said.

As a result of this, the government is slowly moving to the GAqP system, with a gradual ban on integrated farming system.

According to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, about 80 per cent of such mixed farming is being conducted with the help of foreigners. This kind of integrated poultry and fish farming is not in line with Good Aquaculture Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and it can harm the export of farm-raised fish, MFF’s officials said.

“Moreover, fish bred on integrated farms pose food safety risks and are not suitable for consumption. Furthermore, such practices can harm the country’s National Aquaculture Development Plan to build a sustainable aquaculture sector in Myanmar,” they added. — Thant Zin Win/ Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Investors eyeing industrial estate development sector

By Nyein Nyein

SOME local and foreign investors are interested in industrial estate development sector, said Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

At present, domestic, foreign enterprises and joint ventures are discussing to invest in industrial estate development sector.

“We are preparing to have readiness for investments in the industrial zone development sector. We had discussions regarding this, but any proposal is not received yet,” he said.

In the current fiscal year 2019-2020, zero investment is found in the industrial estate development sector.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

During last fiscal, there was Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex project implemented by KMIC Development Co., Ltd on 558 acres of land in Hlegu Township, Yangon; and Development and Operation Project of Smart and Eco City and Related Businesses by Thailand-based Amata Group on 2,000 acres of land near Dagon Myothit (East) and (South) townships.

The construction of those projects started this year.

The real estate development sector attracted K248 billion in the 2011-2012FY, K51 billion in the 2013-2014FY, K14 billion in the 2014-2015FY, K260 billion in the 2015-2016FY and K36 billion in the 2018-2019FY, he added.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

UAB bank again wins Myanmar’s Best Bank Award from Euromoney in 2020

UAB bank was recognized again as Myanmar’s Best Bank at the prestigious Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2020. The award in 2020 is the second year in a row for UAB bank, who was also crowned as Myanmar’s Best Bank in 2019 by Euromoney.

The Euromoney Awards for Excellence is an annual event which selects the best ranking banks in the region. All the awards have one central theme – they recognise institutions and individuals that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and momentum in the markets in which they excel.

With net profit doubled in 2019 year on year to 13.6 billion (approx US\$ 10 million), togeth-

er with total income up by 35%, deposits up by 10.8% and the bank’s loan book growing by 12.8%, UAB bank’s returns on equity and assets swelled to 18.5% and 1.2% respectively for the period ending 30th September 2019. Meanwhile, the bank’s capital adequacy ratio continued to be one of the highest in the industry, rising to 9%, from 7.9% a year earlier.

Commenting on the award, Christopher Loh, MD & CEO of UAB bank said, “It is such an honour to be recognized as Myanmar’s Best Bank again by Euromoney in 2020. Despite the challenges and the competition, we continued to build on the solid foundation that has

transformed the way we run our bank and business.

In addition to sustaining a strong balance sheet and financials which are the key factors for this award, we have invested significantly in fintech and launched the iconic first celebrity app – SaiSai Pay and UABPay+ which forms the building blocks of our digital ecosystem.

We are very proud to win this Myanmar’s Best Bank award for 2 consecutive years and will continue to take UAB bank further with greater innovation, transparency and by leading change and humanising banking here in Myanmar.”— GNLM

No stone unturned in combatting challenges ahead in fighting COVID-19

WE have witnessed our achievements in containing the COVID-19, to date.

In our country, 341 people have been infected with the disease to date, along with six dead and 266 who have been discharged from hospitals after they recovered from the infection.

In comparison, the situation in our country is not as severe as the situation faced by other countries.

However, quarantine still needs to be an essential part of our battle with COVID-19 because those who returned from foreign countries may be infected with the coronavirus.

The return of migrant workers during the spreading of the Coronavirus in our country is one of many challenges we are facing today. The regulations to prevent the possible spread of Coronavirus are already in place, and the returnees are still required to abide by these necessary 14-day stay at home quarantine or facility quarantine orders to protect public health.

Meanwhile, volunteers are facing language barriers in some ethnic areas, challenges in transporting food and water, as well as difficulties in transporting swabs to laboratories due to poor transportation in some areas, especially in hilly regions, including Chin State. There are also shortages of fuel and food assistance for those who are quarantined.

To make the fight to stop the spread of Covid-19 effective, enforcement should be tightened among those who return illegally to the homeland through waterways, even as the authorities are focusing on those who return officially through borders.

The government is obliged to fulfill the needs of our frontline volunteers who are staying within quarantine centres and have helped the government in preparing quarantine centres at risk of coronavirus infection.

Life in a quarantine centre is tough. The volunteers require help for their safety and effective work.

Despite such challenges, we are confident that the participation, understanding and support of our people can overcome all obstacles.

No doubt, we have been successful, thus far, thanks to the public's participation and awareness. Again, this is credited to the crucial role of public participation in preventing and containing the global pandemic.

Our country is not rich. But, the government would leave no stone unturned in fighting the disease and in helping our frontline volunteers and providing treatment to all suspected patients, whether the infection is severe or not, with the use of all possible resources to overcome outbreaks of the disease.

Hence, we would like to urge our people to remain farsighted, determined, diligent and unified.

The Mission of the NCP for Marine Pollution and Stockpile Contingency Analysis

By Captain Aung Zaw (HSSE Consultant For Maritime Safety, Security and Environmental Protection Division
Department of Marine Administration)

Introduction to NCP in Marine Pollution

The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) has finalized a National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution (NCP) at the end of 2018. The NCP has been translated from English to Myanmar successfully and submitted to the Ministry of Transport and Communications for approval from the Union Government in the first quarter of 2020.

Background

In recent years there has been a supertanker terminal, Kyaukpyu deep-sea port, constructed in the Rakhine region on the west coast of Myanmar. The received oil has been transported through a pipeline to China, which is made island project which makes Myanmar become an oil receiver country in a million tonnes per annum, so the risk of oil pollution is likely to be significant.

On the other hand, several oil terminals and general cargo wharves are situated along the Yangon River though there are no persistent oils, other than bunker

fuels, imported so far, shipping traffics is more congested and therefore the risk of an oil spill is relatively more profound. Besides, offshore blocks for exploration and production have been extended to deep water in the EEZ and thus as to present a fairly high risk of marine pollution owing to collisions, stranding, blowouts, and other marine accidents. Such risks of pollution threaten coastal habitats, amenity beaches, the tourist industry, sea birds, marine life and mangroves, coastal installations and fishing industry.

National Task Force (NTF) Meetings

Myanmar has signed the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation OPRC 1990, on 15 December 2016. Therefore, the DMA has encouraged the maritime stakeholders, including oil and gas industries, to prepare their respective oil spill contingency plans as well as appropriate response stockpile based on spill risk to be in place.

The National Task Force



PHOTO: FLORA AND FUANA ORGANIZATION

was formed by consisting of (22) members from national authorities and concerned departments nominated by several ministries, representatives from port terminals, and offshore industries.

There were also local and international consultants and experts from the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) and IMO-IPIECA GISEA Project Coordinator. The mission of the

group is targeted to draw up a NOSCP, later on, it was changed the name to National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution (here and after refers as NCP) as it was advised by the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) consultants in order to cover all types of pollution, not just caused by oil.

There were a series of meetings throughout the year 2017 till the end of 2018 that was a deadline

given by the Ministry to be the completion date. Because of that order, the plan for conducting surveys for sensitivity mapping along the coastline was postponed to later months in 2019 when it was expected to finally be approved by the government level.

Risk Assessment Methodology

- Identify Initial Risk Rating

- Identify Control Measures
- Elimination of Risk(s)
- Reduce/Substitution
- Engineering Control
- Administrative /Procedural Control
- Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Identification of Control Measures
- Review residual risk after control measure have been identified

Risk Assessment Design Oil Spill Risk Assessment

- Identify possible oil spills scenarios
- Identify the sensitive resources that may be impacted by the oil spill risks
- Evaluate the risk based on the probability and severity of the oil spill impact
- Evaluate preventive and response measures including the level of equipment capability available
- Gather information on the oil products (e.g., storage location, quantity, oil characteristic, etc.)

SEE PAGE-10

BRIMMING WITH FAKE NEWS STORIES ON THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Middle East mythbusters battle virus 'infodemic'

BROWSE through Arabic-language social media pages and you could walk away thinking COVID-19 is an American hoax, isn't deadly and can be swiftly cured with a garlic clove.

Arabic pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are brimming with fake news stories on the novel coronavirus, from benign inaccuracies to full-throated conspiracy theories.

As authorities work to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus, civic platforms across the Middle East are stepping up to combat the Arabic "infodemic" they say is as dangerous as the infection itself.

"We correct the news and save lives," said Baher Jassem, an Iraqi activist from the Tech 4 Peace collective, which switched from its four-year campaign against fake political and economic news to setting the record straight on COVID-19.

Every few hours, the collective's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages publish screenshots of fabricated news stories about the virus, from claims about new remedies to celebrity deaths from the illness or a reassuring wave of recoveries.



Arabic pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are brimming with fake news stories on the novel coronavirus, from benign inaccuracies to full-throated conspiracy theories. (SHUTTERSTOCK/DANIELMARIN)

The pictures are marked with a red stamp reading "fake post", accompanied by a correction and links to more accurate information. Their accounts reach more than one million followers.

"We don't just want to expose lies. We want to spread awareness about the coronavirus, the right way to protect yourself, the wrong remedies that are circulating," Jassem told AFP.

The corrections campaign could not

have come sooner: the region appears to be experiencing a long-feared COVID-19 spike.

Iraq's daily case rate increase exploded to more than 2,000 in late June, nearing 3,000 per day this month.

Lebanon, Oman and Algeria saw peaks of daily new cases in mid-July, while Saudi Arabia and Jordan witnessed crests in late June but appear to be stabilizing. Doctors in Iraq blame online misin-

formation: their patients have insisted coronavirus is an American conspiracy, or people are actually dying from a sarin gas attack, or that Iraq's blistering heat would halt the virus's spread.

Medics say such false information could make people less likely to wear masks in public, abide by social distancing or wash their hands regularly.

'This is personal'

Misinformation about COVID-19 has been spreading in various languages since the pandemic's early days, but the proliferation in Arabic is particularly dangerous because of the lack of quality reporting, activists told AFP.

Indeed, Reporters Without Borders has noted authorities' tightening control over media in the Middle East in 2020, specifically over information relating to COVID-19.

As a result, activists said, news consumers are suspicious of the information they find in traditional outlets and more likely to entertain conspiracy theories.

"Media literacy is non-existent. Iraqis can go on Facebook and Twitter but are

not really equipped to see 50 different sources and differentiate what's fact and what's fiction," said Faisal al-Mutar, a US-based Iraqi activist and founder of Ideas Beyond Borders.

IBB has partnered with Wikipedia to translate more than 250 detail-rich pages on COVID-19's origins and spread into Arabic. It's no easy task given the Arabic language's diverse dialects, said volunteer translator Issam Fawwaz, based in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

"The scientific terms aren't standardized. A term used in Syria, Lebanon or Jordan is totally different from Egypt or Morocco," while some English terms have no Arabic equivalents, 33-year-old Fawwaz told AFP.

But conviction in the impact of his work has kept him going.

"This is personal for me. I was one of those people that used to believe fake news, but I was lucky to have people who pushed me to use my brain," he said.

"One person persuaded by a fake news story can spark a calamity in his community."

SOURCE: AFP

U Thurain Thant Zin concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Bulgaria

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thurain Thant Zin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Bulgaria.—MNA

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 11:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-7-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (10:30) hrs M.S.T observation yesterday, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise above the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (2) days 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 Phaungpyin Township to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-7-2020)

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observations today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Hkamti and Homalin are observed as about (2½) feet and (1) foot below their respective danger levels. The water Levels may reach their respective danger levels during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Hkamti and Homalin Townships to take precaution measure.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 21st July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22nd July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Brazil set to test Chinese coronavirus vaccine

BRASILIA — Brazil will begin advanced clinical testing of a Chinese-made vaccine against the new coronavirus Tuesday, issuing the first doses to around 900 volunteers, officials said.

The coronavirus vaccine, developed by private Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac, is the third in the world to enter Phase 3 trials, or large-scale testing on humans — the last step before regulatory approval.

It will be administered to doctors and other health workers who volunteer for the program across six states in Brazil, one of the countries hit hardest by the pandemic. “Trials of CoronaVac, one of the vaccines that has advanced furthest in testing in the world, will begin at the Clinical Hospital of Sao Paulo,” the state’s



The coronavirus vaccine, developed by private Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac, is the third in the world to enter Phase 3 trials, or large-scale testing on humans – the last step before regulatory approval. **PHOTO: AFP**

governor, Joao Doria, told a news conference. He said initial results were expected within 90 days. Sinovac is partnering with a

Brazilian public health research center, the Butantan Institute, on the trials. If the vaccine proves safe and effective, the institute

will have the right to produce 120 million doses under the deal, according to officials. “In Brazil, we could have the first vaccine to be put to widespread use, which is very, very promising,” said the head of the Butantan Institute, Dimas Covas. Brazil is the second-hardest-hit country in the coronavirus pandemic, after the United States. Its death toll surpassed 80,000 on Monday, and it has registered 2.1 million infections. Those grim figures make it an ideal testing ground for potential vaccines, since the virus is still spreading quickly.

Brazil is also helping carry out Phase 3 testing of another experimental vaccine, developed by Oxford University in Britain and pharmaceutical firm Astra-Zeneca.—AFP ■

China requires negative COVID-19 tests for inbound air passengers

BEIJING — Passengers on flights to China are required to provide negative nucleic acid test results before boarding, the country’s civil aviation regulator said Tuesday. Chinese and foreign passengers taking flights to China must complete the tests within five days before embarking, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said in a joint statement issued with the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The tests should be conducted in institutions designated or approved by Chinese embassies, the statement added.—Xinhua

The Mission of the NCP for Marine Pollution and Stockpile Contingency Analysis

FROM PAGE-9

Risk Identification Increase Traffic

The number of vessels calling at Port of Yangon gradually increased during the last decade that 2018 figure reaches 140% of the number in the last ten years. Cargo handling at Yangon Port is also an outstanding surge from 2008 to 2018. As the number of ships increasing in traffic, no doubt the risk of maritime accidents is likely to encounter much more frequently. The increase in shipping traffic is the main cause of spill risks.

Industrial Zone

As booming economic and industrial zones to require the capacity expansion of ports, depot, tanks, pipelines, particularly in Thilawa industrial zones and Yangon city, the increase of fuel demand is one of the casual factors to oil import activities and transportation more frequently. Particularly serious challenge likely to result from the Thilawa SEZ, together with new port regardless of export or import, definitely becomes the vessel traffic congestion. Thus, these development scans to be considered as the potential of an oil spill.

Oil and Gas Industry

According to the statistic, the risk of a major oil spill from an offshore platform is very low. On average, each year, it only contributes less than 4% of the

total spills into the sea come from offshore exploration and production. In general, oil production offshore is regulated through national legislation. However, in this region, offshore operations are controlled by the E&P operators themselves. In principle, the government should have regulated and set the standards for operation and planning for emergencies, including oil spill response. At the same time, contingency plans have to be prepared by the operator of the offshore facility and shall be endorsed by the regulatory authority before the facility begins operation. The development of oil and gas exploration and production activities in Myanmar waters is one of the spill risks.

Natural Disaster

Natural Disaster or severe weather conditions could increase the risk of spill in the operation of the Oil and Gas industrial and maritime transportation. Recalling the worst catastrophe happened in Myanmar deltaic region, during 2008 Cyclone Nargis hit the Deltaic region of Myanmar on 02 May 2008, crossing the south of the country over two days, and left devastating consequences.

Other causes

Not only a natural disaster but human-made disasters are also manifested to fire and explosion that may be caused by the terrorist attack, sabotage or by any perpetrators who have been

threatening maritime safety and security as well.

Contingency Plan

The format of a contingency plan should comply with existing:

- Local legislation and regulations
- Company policy and standards
- The National contingency plan
- YOSCP operates as an Area Plan
- MMIP serves as PFOSCP as well as Area Plan
- Furthermore, all OSCPs are integrated into the NOSCP

Observations

- The Project team recorded the following observations: -
- Good general awareness of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution (the National Plan).
- Most of the port operators are waiting for guidance from the government with regard to the implementation of the National Plan.
- There is a fundamental lack of understanding of the Risk Assessment of spill risk and the selection of appropriate response(s).
- The Tiered Response concept is largely understood. National Plan Tier 1: “a small-sized spill or minor event within the facility”
- Guidelines are required concerning Risk Assessment and the development of appropriate response(s).
- Some facilities have been pro-

- active and have Oil Spill Response Equipment (OSRE); however, most are not serviceable or is inappropriate, illustrating the lack of a formal risk assessment approach.
- Given the dominant high current speeds, any spill in or entering the River should automatically be considered a Tier 2 event since the response required would fall outside the Tier 1 capability.
- The provision of a common Tier 2 stockpile of OSRE would provide an efficient and cost-effective way to meet the requirements of the National Plan.
- A dedicated, professional, appropriately trained, and equipped response organization would be best placed to deliver an adequate and appropriate Tier 2 response on the Yangon River.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Key requirements for implementation: -
- Risk Assessment
 - Spill Response Centre Establishment
 - Capacity-building
 - Drills
 - National Level Exercise
 - Regional Level Exercise
 - Initiate the Network among Thilawa SEZ and Yangon Port Terminal for corporation and collaboration in case of any emergency Oil spills, Safety and Security concerns
 - To promote safety culture within industry Thilawa SEZ and

Yangon ports operators
Writer: -
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Advanced Diploma in Maritime Transportation (Singapore Polytechnic)

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Florida teachers sue to stop school openings as virus rages

TALLAHASSEE —Florida’s main teachers union on Monday sued Governor Ron DeSantis and other authorities to stop schools from reopening in August, as the state has become a US epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Florida Education Association, which represents 140,000 teachers, says the state constitution asserts that schools must provide a “safe and secure” environment, but that the COVID-19 resurgence “is remarkable and out of control.” Florida reported 10,347 new COVID-19 cases and 90 deaths on Monday, bringing the total death toll to 5,072. More than 9,500 novel coronavirus patients have been hospitalized and just 18 per cent of intensive care beds are available, officials say. DeSantis “needs a reality check,” said FEA President Fedrick Ingram.

“Everyone wants schools to reopen, but we don’t want to begin in-person teaching, face an explosion of cases and sickness, then be forced to return to distance learning,” he said. The lawsuit calls on DeSantis, state education commissioner Richard Corcoran and the mayor of Miami county to desist “from unnecessarily and unconstitutionally forcing millions of public-school students and employees to report to unsafe brick and mortar schools.”—AFP ■



Business education teacher Malikah Armbrister protests along with her colleagues in front of the Hillsborough County Schools District Office on July 16, 2020, in Tampa, Florida. PHOTO: AFP

EU agrees huge virus aid plan



EU member states Hungary and Poland often come under fire in Brussels for allegedly undermining European legal standards and democratic values. PHOTO: AFP

BRUSSELS—European leaders on Tuesday agreed on a massive aid package for their pandemic-ravaged economies, as President Donald Trump changed his tune in favour of face masks as a tool against the coronavirus in the United States. The virus has infected more than 14.6 million people and killed over 600,000 of them since it first emerged in China, with fresh alarm being sounded over its accelerating spread in Africa. The pandemic has devastated the global economy, and after a fractious summit, European leaders agreed on a rescue package of 750 billion euros (\$858 billion)

to try and pull their bloc out of a deep recession.

The package will send tens of billions of euros to countries hit hardest by the virus, most notably heavily indebted Spain and Italy that had lobbied hard for a major gesture from their EU partners. The talks saw strong resistance from some members against sending money to nations they consider too lax with public spending. With even richer nations struggling, experts have warned that the impact would be harsher in poorer regions of the world like Africa. There are fresh concerns about the continent, particularly South Africa, where the

death toll crossed 5,000 over the weekend.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the date of reaching the agreement on the EU economic recovery fund and the long-term financial budget a ‘historic’ day for Europe. “This is a historic day for Europe,” Macron said on Twitter after a four-day EU summit in Brussels. Earlier in the day, EU leaders finished their summit in Brussels that had been lasting for four days. According to European Council President Charles Michel, the leaders have managed to reach an agreement on the long-term EU budget and

post-coronavirus economic recovery fund. EU Chancellor Angela Merkel said at a press conference that she was pleased with the summit results.

“After a very long meeting, we have reached a good result. I am very happy about it,” Merkel said at a press conference. The EU leaders, in particular, agreed on the long-term budget of \$1.2 trillion for 2021-2027 and the post-coronavirus economic recovery fund of \$858 billion. European leaders for the first time agreed to link payment of EU funds to a member state with respect for the bloc’s legal norms -- although Poland and Hungary insisted they had blocked tougher planned measures.

“It is the first time that the respect for rule of law is a decisive criteria for budget spending,” EU Council President Charles Michel, who chaired the marathon summit, told reporters. Poland and Hungary had threatened to veto the EU’s entire budget package if there was any linkage between funding and rule of law but, as the talks continued through a fourth night, a deal was finally reached.—AFP, ANI ■

Iraqi PM arrives in Tehran to meet with Iranian officials

BAGHDAD—Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi arrived in Tehran on Tuesday for his first foreign visit in the new capacity

to hold talks with Iranian officials, Iran’s Press TV broadcaster reported. Al-Kadhimi’s visit is taking place at the invitation

of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Prior to this, Al-Kadhimi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad

Zarif in Baghdad. The top Iraqi official was expected to travel first to Saudi Arabia, Tehran’s major regional rival, but the visit

was eventually postponed due to the hospitalisation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.—ANI ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG: ANGGUN SARI & BARGE: TROPICAL ISLAND

Consignees of cargo carried on TUG: ANGGUN SARI & BARGE: TROPICAL ISLAND are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-7-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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: 2301191/2301178

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CEA PROJECT LOGISTICS (MALAYSIA)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (028W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (028W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-7-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT 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 LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (028S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (028S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-7-2020 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

Nepal to resume international, domestic flights in August

KATHMANDU—Nepal will resume operation of commercial international and domestic flights from Aug. 17, the government said Tuesday.

A Cabinet meeting late Monday instructed aviation authorities to prepare a safety protocol to be followed for the operation of flights, Tourism Minister Yogesh Bhattarai told reporters.

“Airlines will have to strictly abide by the safety regulations,” Bhattarai said, without elaborating.

Nepal suspended all flights on March 22 before going under a complete lockdown on March 24. Ever since, only chartered and repatriation flights have operated.

The lockdown has since been eased partially with the government allowing private vehicles to operate on an odd-even basis and public transport to operate at a third of their capacity.

Travel from one district to another is, however, difficult because of the need to produce a variety of documents. Schools remain closed.

Markets have been allowed to open, but consumer appetite to purchase anything other than essentials remains tepid.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Nepal has confirmed 17,844 coronavirus infections, with 40 fatalities.

The health ministry’s daily virus briefings show declining infection numbers and an increasing number of cured patients being discharged on a consistent basis over the past several days, decreasing pressure on the nation’s quarantine facilities.—Kyodo ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

FUJIFILM Corporation, a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 26-30, Nishiazabu 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. 4/5083/2020 (29.5.2020)

In respect of “Printing machines; industrial inkjet printing machines; inkjet printing machines; print head for printers; printing or bookbinding machines and apparatus; 3D printers” included in **International Class 07**;

“Photocopying machines; digital copiers; electrostatic copying machines; copiers; facsimile machines; telecommunication machines and apparatus; laser printers; inkjet printers; dye-sublimation printers; scanners; multifunctional devices which incorporate printer, copier and facsimile functions; multifunctional devices which incorporate copier, facsimile, scanner and printer functions; plotters; printers and their parts and fittings; scanners and their parts and fittings; copiers and their parts and fittings; facsimiles and their parts and fittings; multifunctional devices which incorporate copier, facsimile and scanner functions and their parts and fittings; photosensitive drum for copiers; photosensitive drum for computer printers; photosensitive drum for facsimiles; photosensitive drum for multifunctional devices which incorporate printer, facsimile, copier and scanner functions; thermal print head; ink jet head; LED print head; print head; light-emitting diodes [LED]; laser diodes; lasers, not for medical purposes; organic light-emitting diodes [OLED]; semi-conductor elements; computer software for document management, for document creation, for document and image processing; computer software for scanning images and documents; computer software for document production and document workflow management; computer software for data processing; computer program and software for image processing; computer software for print server of computer; computer software for diagnostics and troubleshooting; software for developing digital print applications; application software; computer programs; electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; toner cartridges, unfilled; toner cartridges, unfilled for printers and copiers; ink cartridges, unfilled; personal digital assistants; electronic publications” included in **International Class 09**;

“Recycled paper; printing paper; paper; paper for copies; paper for printers; paper and cardboard; stationery; printed matter; containers of paper, for packaging” included in **International Class 16** and

“Printing services via computer networks; electronic printing using computers and their related equipments; consultancy and information services relating to printing technology using computers and their related equipments; consultancy and information services relating to printing; printing services; recycling of toner cartridge; recycling of office machines and industrial equipment; recycling of waste and trash; rental of printing machines and apparatus; rental of 3D printers” included in **International Class 40**.

The above mark has been filed in Japan as JP Application No.: 2020-035522, on April 1, 2020.

Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the colors in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark at Registration No. 4/5083/2020 (29.5.2020).

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For FUJIFILM Corporation,
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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
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Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 22 July 2020

Bauer shuts eight magazines in Australia due to virus downturn



The economic crisis sparked by the coronavirus has devastated news media around the world. PHOTO: AFP

HAMBURG—Bauer Media is closing eight of Australia’s best-known magazines due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the publisher announced Tuesday, a month after it was bought by a private equity firm.

The axed titles include the Australian editions of Harper’s Bazaar, Elle, InStyle, Men’s Health and Women’s Health.

The German media conglomerate paused publication of many of its Australian and New Zealand magazines in May due to a drastic fall in advertising revenue caused by business closures and travel restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19. Bauer then sold its Australian and New Zealand operations in July to Sydney-based private equity firm Mercury Capital.

Bauer ANZ CEO Brendan Hill, who stayed on after the sale, said that earlier hopes that all of the company’s 43 magazine brands could resume publication later this year had been dashed by the depth of the economic downturn.

“No one could have anticipated the swift, wide-spread and ongoing impact of the pandemic on our business and industry,” Hill said in a statement.

“The reinstatement of these titles and teams was always dependent on the advertising market bouncing back and the return of domestic and international travel.

“Despite promising signs from advertisers in recent weeks, this has not outweighed the medium-term outlook for these titles.”

The economic crisis has devastated news media around the world, with dozens of Australian newsrooms closed and hundreds of journalists losing their jobs in recent months.

While Australia had curbed the virus and began easing restrictions in June, a serious outbreak in Melbourne in recent weeks has cast a pall over its recovery.

Bauer cited data from Nielsen AdQuest showing the COVID-19 lockdowns caused a nearly 40-per cent drop in media advertising expenditure in Australia from March to April, while it was down 33 per cent in June compared to a year earlier.—AFP ■

Invitation for Bids

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Electrification Project
Credit No 5727-MM

Date: 22nd July 2020

Contract Title: Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East), Naypyitaw & Mandalay

Reference No: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3A/2020 and MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W10/2020

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3A/2020 for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East) & Naypyitaw and MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W10/2020 for Mandalay**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3A/2020 for Shan (South), Shan (North), Shan (East) & Naypyitaw and MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W10/2020 for Mandalay**

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W3A/2020 process for Shan (East), Shan (South), Shan (North) & Naypyitaw is:**

Lot 1: Shan (South) & Naypyitaw – 46 Villages

Lot 2: Shan (South) & Shan (East) – 51 Villages

Lot 3: Shan (North) – 52 Villages

Lot 4: Shan (North) – 44 Villages

Lot 5: Shan (North) – 60 Villages

Lot 6: Shan (North) – 48 Villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-W10/2020 process for Mandalay is:**

Lot 1: Mandalay – 21 Villages

Lot 2: Mandalay – 33 Villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoe@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below:

Attention: **Project Manager**
Project Management Office
(National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**

Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Zip Code: **15011**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**

Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoe@gmail.com

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m, **21st August 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below:

Attention: **Project Manager**
Meeting Room No.2, Ground Floor,
Office Building No.27,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**

Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Zip Code: **15011**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**

Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoe@gmail.com

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

Australia extends stimulus spending as 'COVID recession' looms

CANBERRA — Australia will extend record stimulus spending into next year, the government announced Tuesday, outlining multi-billion-dollar measures to shield the labour market from the ravages of the rolling coronavirus crisis.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that supplements to the unemployed and businesses struggling to retain staff would continue until at least the end of the year, and likely beyond.

With Australia poised to fall into its first recession in almost 30 years and



Pedestrians don masks as they walk the unusually quiet streets of central Melbourne. **PHOTO: AFP**

struggling to tame now double-digit unemployment, the government will increase stimulus spending on two income support pro-

grammes to around Aus\$86 billion (US\$60 billion).

The government has already doled out around \$30 billion to almost one

million companies which have seen their turnover slashed.

The money has allowed around 3.5 million staff to be retained, according to government estimates.

Morrison, who dubbed it the "COVID-19 recession", said the stimulus programme "has saved businesses and it has saved livelihoods", as he announced measures that would trash his much-vaunted election promise to deliver a budget surplus this year.—AFP ■

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CORRIGENDUM

In the Trademark Caution of **Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**, appeared in p.12 of this Paper dated on 8.7.2020, the trademarks "TAFLOTAN-S" (Registration Number-4/2577/2017); "TAPCOM-S" (Registration Number-4/2578/2017) and "サンデルタックス" (Registration Number-4/2579/2017) are also registered for the goods "**collyrium; eye drops; ophthalmological preparations**" in International Class 5.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (073N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (073N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (163N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (163N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (262W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (262W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (029W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (029W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD



Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex to be established in Hlegu Township

By Kyaw Htike Soe

THE Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex is set to be established on 556 acres of land in Nyaung Hna Bin Village, Hlegu Township in Yangon Region and construction of the project is expected to begin in October this year. Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun held a video conferencing with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa on June 10 to discuss matters relating to the project.

The project will be developed in two phases, and the first phase will be built on 314.69 acres of land while the second phase is scheduled to be set up on 241.12 acres of land. It will be the first South Korea-funded industrial complex in Myanmar which will be built under the agreement between the two countries. The Urban and Housing Development Department (UHDD) under the Ministry of Construction of Myanmar and the Korea Land and Housing Corporation from the Republic of Korea signed the agreement to jointly establish an industrial complex in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region on 16 June 2017 in Jeju Island in South Korea. Under the agreement, an industrial zone will be implemented in Yangon Region at an estimated cost of about US\$ 110 million.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved the project on 27 February 2019 as a 60/40 partnership between

Myanmar and South Korea and the industrial park will be built in two phases with the first starting from 2019 to 2021 and the second phase from 2022 to 2024. Seoul-based Kyongdong Engineering Co., Ltd was awarded the contract to draw up the project design. The industrial park will be made up of three scale (large, medium and small) industrial plots where factories and warehouses for garment products, food manufacturing, jewellery processing, vehicle spare parts factory, and electronic parts will be constructed. Besides, it will include residential, commercial, vocational training school, main roads, intersection roads, drainage system, power stations, plantation of green spaces, and wastewater treatment plants.

The industrial complex will support the development of industrial, export and human resource sectors in Myanmar. Many South Korean companies are expected to make investments in the industrial complex which will create 50,000 to 100,000 job opportunities for local people and generate US\$ 10 million in taxes annually. In addition, it will uplift the socio-economic conditions of local people in the region. Once the project is completed, it will boost mutually beneficial Myanmar-Korea trade. It also has the huge potential of attracting investors at home and abroad by establishing an investor-friendly environment. Myanmar has also taken some significant steps to

give a boost to economic ties and tourism from South Korea, by offering visa waiver for South Korean tourists.

Over 200 South Korean

companies including multinational conglomerate Lotte Group are currently operating in Myanmar and many Korean manufacturing companies are

now interested to make inroads into Myanmar. South Korea is a crucial investment and trading partner for Myanmar and is the sixth largest foreign investor in



Eco Green City Project.



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Lee Sang-hwa held a virtual meeting via video conferencing.

the Southeast Asian country with most investment from the East Asian country flowed to oil and gas, infrastructure, retail, and real estate sectors. South Korea has so far injected nearly US\$ 4 billion worth of investments into 177 projects in the real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, logistics, and construction sectors in Myanmar, accounting for 4.86 per cent of total foreign direct investments

in the Southeast Asian country. Bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea was almost US\$ 660 million in the financial year 2015-2016, soared to US\$ 866 million in the fiscal year 2016-17, saw US\$ 790 million in 2017-2018FY, and reached nearly US\$ 800 million in 2018-2019FY, according to the statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.



PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards virtual roundtable navigates the real estate industry amid global pandemic

PROPERTYGURU, Asia’s leading property technology company, in partnership with ShweProperty, the leading property website and number one online real estate group in Myanmar, hosted a virtual roundtable 14 July 2020 at 3:00 pm- 4:30 pm (Myanmar time). The Zoom session was made accessible to local media, property professionals, and the general public where experts from PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards gave insights around the prospect of navigating the Myanmar real estate industry amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speakers touched upon various topics including the current sentiment from overseas real estate investors for Myanmar real estate and an outlook for the property market in light of the global pandemic, as well as beneficial digital tools that developers can use to mitigate the crisis.

Following a brief introduction of the sixth edition of the prestigious awards programme in Myanmar by Jules Kay, managing director of PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards and Events, the session featured various insights to help the market’s revitalization.

‘Bright spots, underserved segments, untapped potential’

The returning chairperson of the PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards programme, Richard Emerson, managing director of Emerson Real Estate, provided an outlook for the market and talked about re-kindling interest and demand from overseas real estate investors for Myanmar property during the Covid-19 outbreak. “We explore the bright spots, underserved segments, and untapped potential of an emerging property market that has fascinated enterprising investors worldwide over the last decade,” Emerson said.

Justin Sway, CEO of ShweProperty, presented helpful digital tools for developers amid the crisis. He said: “ShweProperty, with our partner PropertyGuru, will leverage the strengths of our combined online platforms to support the Myanmar real estate industry and help developers to navigate these times of uncertainty. As your most knowledgeable local expert, we will help you to have access to the most advanced digital tools on the market that will prepare your business for resilience and scale during the new normal, now and in the future.”

Expanded regional reach

MP Presented by Hitachi Elevators and Escalators, this year’s 6th Annual PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards will be held in partnership with ShweProperty, marking the strongest edition yet for the prestigious regional awards programme and expanding the visibility of nominated developers to a larger regional audience.

Headquartered in Singapore, PropertyGuru Group has access to more than 15 markets across Asia Pacific for its awards business, as well as 23 million property seekers across the region, providing the necessary resources to elevate recipients of the Myanmar Property Awards to the regional stage. Meanwhile, one of Myanmar’s most recognizable brands, ShweProperty has more than 250,000 properties listed on its platform.

“The 2020 edition of the PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards creates a single benchmark of excellence for the real estate industry in the country as it combines ShweProperty’s expertise within the domestic real estate landscape and PropertyGuru’s incomparable access to international markets across Asia-Pacific. This synergy between the leading real estate awards programme in the region and a respected property portal in Myanmar is exactly the kind of support developers need to amplify their brand during these exceptional times,” said Kay.

Strict, ethical, unbiased criteria

This year’s Awards will continue to follow the strict, ethical and unbiased criteria of the PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards. To ensure fairness and transparency, the entire judging process will be supervised by BDO, led by Joe Yew Chi Jee; Nang Hnin Thet Htwe, executive; and Hong Shi Ying, senior manager.

The 2020 edition of the PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards will introduce new categories to its roster of Development accolades — Best Luxury Condo Development, Best Affordable Condo Development and Best Affordable Housing Development. New design categories in contention include Best Commercial Architectural Design and Best Commercial Interior Design. In celebration of Myanmar’s rich legacy of colonial architecture, the 2020 edition will open categories for Best Heritage Renovated Property and Best Heritage Renovated Property Design. The general public are still encouraged to submit their nominations online via asiapropertyawards.com/nominations.

Shortlisted developers and projects will be named Winners or Highly Commended at the black-tie gala dinner and presentation ceremony, scheduled on Friday, 23 October 2020, at the Sule Shangri-La Yangon hotel ballroom.

The 6th PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards, presented in partnership with ShweProperty, is supported by platinum sponsor Hitachi Elevators and Escalators; official supervisor BDO; official magazine PropertyGuru Property Report; official charity partner Right to Play; official PR partner Klareco Communications; and official portal partner ShweProperty.com.—GNLM



Phone Myint Kyaw wins silver in AK 9 Ball Open

MYANMAR pool player Phone Myint Kyaw won silver medal after facing a loss to a Chinese player in the final match of AK 9 Ball Open in China on 18 July.

He was defeated with 10-11 in the final match. He is also now competing in the Elite

Tour 8 Ball.

In Chinese 8 Ball Game, the pool star will compete against Chinese player Chu Bin Jie in the semifinal on 8, 9 and 10 August.

The two semifinal matches will have to play for three days each – the first match is scheduled for 22, 23 and 24 July, and 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

Phone Myint Kyaw is seen in the AK 9 Ball Open in China on 18 July 2020. **PHOTO: KO AR TT'S FACEBOOK**

Guardiola takes swipe at Arsenal over 'respect'

LONDON — Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola took a swipe at Arsenal on Monday (Jul 20) by admitting he does not respect them off the pitch.

Guardiola's side were knocked out of the FA Cup at the semi-final stage by Arsenal on Saturday as the Gunners won 2-0 at Wembley.

Guardiola was impressed by Arsenal's play under his former assistant Mikel Arteta, but he made a distinction in his thoughts about the north London club when it comes to their approach away from the pitch.

Guardiola's anger with Arsenal is thought to come from the role they played in the group of eight Premier League clubs perceived to have turned on City during their successful appeal against a two-year Champions league ban.

The group wrote to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), to try to ensure any

attempt by City to delay their two-year ban while their appeal was ongoing was dismissed.

City had their ban overturned by CAS earlier this month, but Guardiola told reporters: "The opponents always deserve my respect and credit, and Arsenal, they have it."

"I have all the respect for what Arsenal are on the pitch -- not much off the pitch, but on the pitch a lot."

So I congratulate them and good luck against Chelsea in the final."

Meanwhile, Guardiola says he is "optimistic" as City prepare to resume their bid for Champions League glory against Real Madrid.

City will host the Spanish champions in the second leg of their last 16 tie on August 7.

Guardiola's side hold a 2-1 lead from the first meeting in Madrid in February.—AFP ■

Historic Ronaldo puts Juve on brink of ninth straight Serie A title

TURIN — Cristiano Ronaldo put Juventus on the brink of a ninth consecutive Italian league title on Monday after he scored twice in a 2-1 win over Lazio to become the first player to hit 50 goals in Serie A, La Liga and the Premier League.

Juventus ended a three-match winless run thanks to Ronaldo's second-half brace that moves them eight points clear of second-placed Inter Milan with four games remaining.

Maurizio Sarri's side could win the title on Thursday against lowly Udinese, or on Sunday at home against Sampdoria, depending on their rivals' results this week.

"We are missing four points, only after we have achieved them will we then be able to think about the goal achieved," said Sarri.

"All the games are difficult now, and in the space of six days, we play three games. So, we must stay focused and think about securing the missing points."



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first player to score 50 goals in Serie A, La Liga and the Premier League. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sarri added: "Cristiano is an impressive player because he has the extraordinary ability to complete a quick recovery between games."

"Not only physically, but, above all, mentally: he is a champion with his feet, but also with his head."

Ronaldo grabbed the first goal from the penalty spot just

after the break and was handed a tap-in three minutes later by teammate Paulo Dybala.

The Portuguese has scored 30 goals this season, equal with Lazio's Ciro Immobile, who ended his three-match drought with a late penalty. His second was his 50th goal in Serie A, after also passing the landmark in England and Spain.—AFP ■

Coach Calleja leaves Villarreal after finishing fifth

MADRID — Villarreal announced on Monday (Jul 20) that Javi Calleja is no longer their coach despite taking the team to a fifth-placed finish in La Liga.

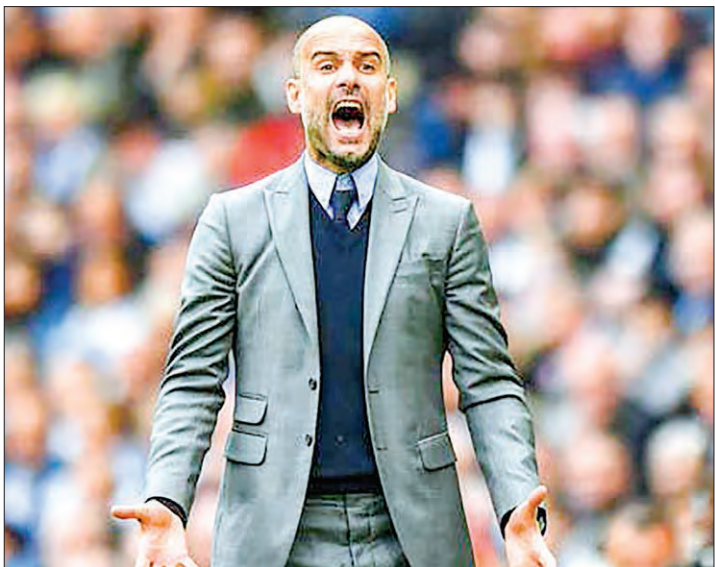
"Javi Calleja is no longer Villarreal CF head coach. The Yellows would like to thank him for his hard work, dedication and professionalism during his time as Yellows first-team manager," the club said in a statement.

Former Villarreal player Calleja, 42, took over as coach

in September 2017 and in his first season took the side to fifth and qualification for the Europa League. The following December he was sacked with the outfit in the relegation zone, only to return after less than two months to save them from the drop.

This season Calleja once again led Villarreal to fifth, in part thanks to a good run of results after the Spanish top-flight returned from the coronavirus suspension last month.

However Spanish media report former Sevilla, Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal coach Unai Emery will take his place. Calleja is the second major figure at the club to leave this summer, after Qatari club Al-Sadd announced on Monday that Santi Cazorla will be joining them. The Spain midfielder bid farewell to Villarreal ahead of the team's final game of the La Liga season, a 4-0 thumping of Eibar on Sunday.—AFP ■



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola gestures on the touchline during an English Premier League football match. **PHOTO: AFP**