State Counsellor discusses restarting movie production operations during COVID period with movie industry senior executives

State Counsellor in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 held a videoconference yesterday morning from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss restarting movie production operations during the COVID period.

The following persons attended the videoconference: Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports; U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization; and U Zaw Min, Chairman of the Mingalar Cinema Group.

The State Counsellor in her introductory remarks said that Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, was very concerned that the people of Myanmar had become careless with respect to COVID-19; and that this was not the time to become careless and the people should remain ever vigilant. She wanted the movie industry to resume operations just like other industries; although she wanted the movie industry to resume operations there were many things to be considered regarding health matters; in some other countries, they thought they had the COVID under control but had to contend with a new outbreak of the disease.

In Myanmar COVID prevention was most important as the cost of treatment was a very heavy burden for a country like Myanmar which was still a developing country; that was why more emphasis was placed on prevention; regarding the movie industry she wanted to discuss based on two factors generally; one was movie production and the other was the screening of movies in the movie halls. She said they had to consider which of these would have more difficulties to follow the health rules and regulations to a certain extent.

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 28 July, total figure remains at 350

Updated at 8 pm, 28 July 2020

Total Cases 350
New Cases 0
Total Deaths 6
New PUIs 28

Recovery Update on 28 July 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recoveries 293
New Recoveries 1
Discharged from Hospitals 278

Updated at 8 pm, 28 July 2020
Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries to three ministries at 6th-day meeting

Pyithu Hluttaw held its 6th-day meeting of 17th regular session, with questions of MPs to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

MP U Toe Win from Tamway constituency asked for construction of new buildings to replace the existing old wooden houses in the residential quarters of traffic police members in Marn Aung Ward in his constituency, and about how to manage junk cars in the police quarter.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing replied that the budget has been proposed for 2020-2021 financial year for construction of a four-story 24-unit apartment and the 18 junk cars will be sent to the steel mill.

MP U Khin Maung Soe from Wundwin constituency asked for construction of 400 volt power lines and erecting concrete power posts, as well as removal of power posts and transformers beside Thaewdaw-Wundwin No.1 road in his constituency.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win replied that construction of 2.5 mile-long 400 volt power line was estimated about K57.6 million; power posts have been erected for the length of 1.44 mile at the cost of K34.35 million, and the remaining one-mile length will be finalized in 2020-2021 FY.

The deputy minister agreed to remove lamp posts and transformers on the road of Thaewdaw-Wundwin; the estimated cost for this project is K122.25 million, and it has been included in the fund of Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation for 2020-2021FY.

MP U Lamar Naw Aung from Ingyanyan constituency asked about installation of microscope, appointment of a medical doctor and the requirement of an ambulance for the public hospital in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that one set of Type C Laboratory to the hospital in 2013-2014FY; the microscope for this equipment needs to be substituted with a new one. The deputy minister also said the hospital will receive K1.5 million for renovation of X-ray room and a unit of X-ray machine will be sent to the hospital after 50 X-ray machines have been imported in 2019-2020FY.

She added that an assistant doctor from Myitkyina people’s hospital has formed the duty at the Ingyanyan hospital since 1 November last year; and the doctor has been assigned for duty at the hospital since 1 July this year. The deputy minister added an ambulance will be presented to the hospital after the Department of Medical Services has received the cars. MP U Sai Oo Kham from Hsenwi constituency asked about return of 4.5-acre confiscated lands for police post to the owner, and Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing answered the question.

MP U Nay Myo Htet from Kyauktada constituency asked for collecting accurate amount of electricity bill, MP U Win Min from Hlinethaya constituency about removal of lamp posts and transformers from the main roads, constructions of more lamp posts and installation of transformers and systematic installment of power lines.

MP U Aye Naing from Dagon Myothit (south) about removal of lamp posts from Hlawagar road and Pyidaungsu road, urgent removal of 1,000 lamp posts and installation of 40 transformers. The questions were answered by Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win.

MP Dr Sein Mya Aye from Dala constituency asked for construction of apartments for health workers in Yangon city area on the land of healthcare staff quarters in his constituency; MP Daw Aye Mya Myo from Kyunkan constituency about update on construction of legal aid for legal aid service civil members who gave out the entire fund for construction of a station hospital in Kyonekan village of her constituency, and MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency about upgrade of 16-bedded hospital to 25-bedded facility in Kyweepe hospital in her constituency. The questions were answered by Deputy Minister Dr Ma Mya Lay Sein.

The Hluttaw unanimously approved the amendment bill on Code of Civil Procedure submitted by the Supreme Court of the Union.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win submitted a bill for the future fund of civil service members of Pyithu Ht’ U Khin Maung Win invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the bill.

Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee member Dr Khin Saung submitted an investigation report on management for procurement of antibiotics, and the Hluttaw Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the report.

MPs also discussed the motion that urged the Union Government for controlling e-cigarettes (Electronic Nicotine Delivery System, the heated tobacco product and other harmful products and water pipes) for inhaling tobacco and related materials.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied the discussions, calling for coordination of relevant departments in these measures before the motion was approved by the Hluttaw.

The 7th-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will be convened 30 July—Aye Aye Than (MNA) (Translated by Aung Khin)
We cannot bank our hopes on possibilities. We must put our trust in ourselves, in our capabilities, efforts and strength, and preparations not only for our success but also to avoid our own defeat.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at AFPEL Supreme Council Session, August 1946)

State Counsellor discusses restarting movie production operations during COVID period with movie industry senior executives

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discussed mutual cooperation among the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Information and the stakeholders in the film industry which is providing many employment opportunities, entertainment and knowledge.

The Union Minister also emphasized his ministry is helping the film industry in the prevention of COVID-19 disease, and all the stakeholders in this business need to know the precautionary measures of this disease thoroughly to be able to resume this sector.

He continued to discuss the possible risks of infection without showing symptoms as there is no vaccine for COVID-19 until now; the schools have reopened with care not to occur second and third waves of the pandemic.

The Union Minister also discussed the draft plan for film shootings based on the experiences of this business in Florida and the Netherlands; the field surveys of senior health officials at the shootings; recommendations of the ministry on the entire film production process.

A book of guidelines for the shooting was published with 29 recommendations jointly made by the experts from the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe urged the public to continue wearing masks in public places not to experience the outbreak of pandemic like in the United States, Brazil and India.

Chairman of MMPO U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin discussed the need to take records on the shootings, artistes, medical tests, rules and guidelines in the work.

There are 10 pending films to be finalized until now.

Chairman of Mingalar Cinema Group U Zaw Min talked about preparations for organizing centenary of Myanmar film industry and development of Myanmar motion picture business with 225 cinemas across the country and the increasing number of films up to 140 annually.

He also requested the reopening of cinemas, like in some other countries, in line with the rules and directives of relevant ministries.

U Zaw Min also proposed plans to sell only 50 per cent of seats for physical distancing in the cinema and to get financial assistance and loan of the government.

In responding to the discussions the State Counsellor said that care should be taken so that there was no transmission of the COVID disease during the movie-making process; once the movies have been made, the movie theatres were very important for the people to see the movies; in the developed countries movies have become fashionable again; they have recreated the movie theatres as places to have fun, to have recreation and turned them into interesting places. She wanted the movie theatre people to strive to make the same thing happen in Myanmar; for the economy to develop, it was important for all sectors to be successful; she said for her part she had also encouraged the fine arts; she wanted the movie industry to progress and prosper; at one time the Myanmar movie industry held the leading position in Asia; therefore efforts should be made to regain this position; Myanmar would be successful like before if she knew how to use the new technologies effectively.

Once the movie theatres have been renovated, the Ministry of Health and Sports would make visits, formulate rules and regulations and issue necessary instructions; once these movie theatres are able to abide by the rules and regulations, it would be possible to reopen them.

When we reopened the schools some were worried; they were afraid that if the schools had been reopened in a hasty manner; the school children would get infected and the virus would spread; there were also concerns that if the schools were kept closed for a long time, the children would drift away from education and later it would become difficult to send them back to school; these two things had to be balanced all the time; therefore the high schools were reopened first; the high schools were categorized into A, B, C levels and only the A level schools were allowed to be reopened. The schools that were given permission to reopen were schools that had made modifications in accordance with the rules and regulations stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Once all those schools which had made the necessary modifications had been permitted to reopen, we will wait for one month; during that one-month period, we will monitor if there had been any transmission of the disease and whether there had been any spread of infection among the students and teachers; only after that we would make a decision as to whether we should move to the next phase of reopening schools.

During this time, if the movie theatres did the necessary preparations and modifications, the Ministry of Health and Sports would begin their inspection process; if the process to reopen the high schools went smoothly, it would be able to assume that we have reached a stage where activities involving large numbers of people could be carried out effectively and with discipline. She said that at such a time, the Ministry of Health and Sports would have to decide when the movie theatres should be reopened.

In making her concluding remarks the State Counsellor said that at the present time the Union Government had been giving as much support as possible to control the negative impact of COVID-19; they were making assessments to determine how effective these measures were; assessments were being made at this time to determine the effectiveness of reducing the impact on the economy; what changes need to be made and which measures need to be maintained. She said they had to consider how they should proceed until the end of the year and how they should proceed in the next year. The funds that had been spent this year would have a great deal of positive impact for the next year’s budget; they had to consider for the short-term as well as for the long-term; they would give support as much as possible to the fullest extent; they had to consider how much support could be given and in what manner support could be given; they were doing their best in accordance with the availability of the national budget.

She said we need to contain the spread of COVID; if this disease spread without control it would create a lot of difficulties for Myanmar; the cost for treatment would be very high. Myanmar had taken advanced measures since 4 January with respect to COVID; that was the reason we have been able to contain the disease; at present some of the returnees brought back the disease; we have quarantined all the returnees and have sent those who have been infected to the hospitals for treatment; we have given full treatment to our people; she said she wanted to thank all those who have given assistance for the nation’s economy; it was the duty of the Union Government to render assistance to those who have given support to the national economy; they were reviewing the situation to determine what would be the best way to utilize public funds with regard to the status of the national budget.

She said the national movie industry could make considerable progress if efforts were made to improve the movie industry and the art of movie-making; at the same time, because of COVID, efforts need to be made to make the movie theatres more hygienic and pleasant places for people to go. In this matter of COVID, we are searching for success with the participation of the whole country; Myanmar has been able to contain COVID up to now, because of the participation and cooperation of all the people; she hoped that Myanmar would be able to effectively prevent the COVID with the participation and cooperation of everyone, till the danger of the disease came to an end.

She ended by sending best wishes for the progress of the movie industry, movie theatre industry and everyone in the entertainment industry — MNA
Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering organizes meeting

The Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering organizes meeting

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses Union Budget Bill

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building yesterday afternoon to discuss the Union Budget Bill 2020-2021, sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a), U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, the Vice-Chairmen of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, secretary, joint secretary and members, officials from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.  

— MNA  
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives Myanmar Press Council, Executive Director for MPRL E&P Group of Companies

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint separately received the representatives of Myanmar Press Council led by its Chairman Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing, and Executive Director U Tint Swe of MPRL E&P Group of Companies and party yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting with Myanmar Press Council, they discussed matters related to conducting a workshop on four pillars, cooperation for the sustainable media, establishment of media centre and amendment of media law.

At the meeting with MPRL E&P Group of Companies, they discussed matters related to obtaining colocation service for implementation of e-Government system. — MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
Union Minister U Soe Win joins 5th Annual Meeting of Asian investment bank

A 5th Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was held through videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win and Minister for Finance and Economy Honorable Mr Jin Liqun from China served as the Vice-Chair of the meeting.

Liqun will serve as the President for the second five-year term. The 6th AIB annual meeting will be held in UAE from 27 October to 28 October in 2021.

The AIB’s purpose is to support the necessary investments to create development in infrastructures which play a vital role for investments between Asia and economically related countries.

The AIB was formed in 2016. At present, there are 102 member countries under the International Development Association (IDA) of World Bank by the operation started in January 2016. A total of US$819.6 billion has been invested in 87 projects in member countries.

Moreover, the bank announced to support loans to member countries to address COVID-19 crisis. It has set up AIIB COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility and has announced to provide between $5 billion and $10 billion loans in 16 April 2020. Under that facility, it has been announced on 7 May this year to provide loans to the AIB member countries under the International Development Association (IDA) of World Bank by establishing a $30 million Special Fund Window (SFW).

The annual meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and Director-General of Treasury Department Daw Si Si Pyone.— MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives US-ASEAN Business Council

Union Minister U-Haung Tun (C) holds talks with the members of the US-ASEAN Business Council via video-meeting on 28 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U-Haung Tun (L) holds talks with the members of the US-ASEAN Business Council via video-meeting yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Soe Win (Centre) participates in the 5th Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank via videoconference from Nay Pyi Taw on 28 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win and Minister for Finance and Economy Honorable Mr Jin Liqun from China served as the Vice-Chair of the meeting.

The AIB held the annual meeting online due to COVID-19 pandemic. At the meeting, the governors chose the president for the second five-year term of AIB; President of AIB Mr Jin Liqun reported the performance improvements of AIB; the governors confirmed and approved the new members from the proposed countries, the further implementations of AIB and announced the country to hold the 6th annual meeting in 2021.

The governors approved the proposal of China and the current President of AIB Mr Jin Liqun will serve as the President for the second five-year term. The 6th AIB annual meeting will be held in UAE from 27 October to 28 October in 2021.

The AIB’s purpose is to support the necessary investments to create development in infrastructures which play a vital role for investments between Asia and economically related countries.

The AIB was formed in 2016, with 57 members which in turn complemented the longer-term Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). The AIB also expressed thanks to the Government and people of the US for their generous support in the efforts to overcome the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister noted that while US-Myanmar trade relations had improved steadily over the years, the given US ranks 13th out of 51 countries in terms of FDI approvals, there was ample room for further growth.

US-ASEAN Business Council members voiced their support for Myanmar’s ongoing trade liberalization measures, including the lifting of a ban on spirits in line with the World Trade Organization rules, and expressed willingness to continue cooperating to enhance the capacity of SMEs, including through partnering with local businesses.

The US-ASEAN Business Council is a leading advocacy group that aims to foster economic growth and trade ties between the US and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ ten member countries.— MNA

You can protect yourself

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

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 25 July 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Detail on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Information received of Tun Wai who lives in Ywatha Village, Phayangpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 12 July 2020, police searched the house of Tun Wai, 48, son of U Tun Kyaw, who lives in Ywatha Village, Phayangpyin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phayangpyin)MaYa(pa)131/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Information received of Maung Yin who lives in Aungpin Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 13 July 2020, police searched the house of Maung Yin, 35, son of U Kyaw Mya, who lives in Aungpin Village, Wuntho Township and seized &quot;WY/MY&quot; stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho)MaYa(pa)94/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Information received of Myint Htwe who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 13 July 2020, police searched the house of Myint Htwe, 42, son of U Maung Gyi, who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)95/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Information received of Aung Lwin Htay who lives in Nanpaung Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 16 July 2020, police arrested Aung Lwin Htay, 42, son of U Si, who lives in Nanpaung Village, Htigyaing Township, together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets on the road of Nanpaung Village, Htigyaing Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)94/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Win Yin who lives in Paukkon Village, Phayangpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 19 July 2020, the police searched the house of Ma Win Yin, 30, daughter of U Than Shwe, who lives in Paukkon Village, Phayangpyin Township and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Phayangpyin)MaYa(pa)136/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Information received of Htain Lin who lives in Phayartasu Village, Phayangpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 20 July 2020, the police searched the house of Htain Lin, 42, son of U Hia Shein, who lives in Phayartasu Village, Phayangpyin Township and arrested him and four others – Aye Maung, 35, son of U Maung Thein, Than Win, 47, son of U Ba Thaug, Aung Sein, 48, son of U Maung Aung and Than Shwe, 34, son of Tun Hla – together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets, heroin and opium. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Phayangpyin)MaYa(pa)137/2020 under Section 19(a), 21 and 22 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Information received of Than Aung who lives in Tatkon Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 22 July 2020, police searched the house of Than Aung, 47, son of U Thar Tun, who lives in Tatkon Village, Wuntho Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho)MaYa(pa)88/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Information received of Pan Kar who lives in Pantaw Village, Bamausk Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 25 July 2020, police searched the house of Pan Kar (a) Soe Min Htet, 21, son of U Tin Oo, who lives in Pantaw Village, Bamausk Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Bamausk)MaYa(pa)06/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Information received of Mi Htay Win who lives in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Township, Tanintharyi Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 12 July 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Thu Soe, 28, son of U Soe Soe Oo, who lives in Htauangkhiam Village, Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Bokpyin)MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region.</td>
<td>Police have opened seven cases and arrested seven men and three women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Lin Tun, 39, son of U Maung Maung, who lives in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township and arrested him together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets on 16 July 2020. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Dagaw)MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyauktan Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State.</td>
<td>Police have opened 5 cases and arrested four men and two women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Kyaw Maung Maung (a) Ahtaylay, 20, son of U Tint Lwin, who lives in Thirimyayin Ward, Mawlamyine Township and Thet Hmu Thar (a) Soutchun, 20, son of U Kan Thar Oo, who lives in the Mpon Ward, together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets in No 8 Street, Kyauktan Ward on 19 July 2020. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mpon)MaYa(pa)46/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Information received of Han Win Zaw who lives in Kamar Kasit Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 14 July 2020, police searched the house of Han Win Zaw, 19, son of U Zaw Min Htaw, who lives in Kamar Kasit Ward, Dala Township and arrested him, his wife Ma Hnin Peint, 23, daughter of U Aye Han, Paw Sein, 53, son of U Phoe Khant, who lives in Dapinshwile Ward and Naing Myo, 38, son of U Tin Than, who lives in No 51 Ward, North Dagon Myothit Township, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dala)MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
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</table>
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

13. Information received of Daw Than Than Htwe who lives in No 2 Ward, Botataung Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.

On 15 July 2020, police searched the house of Daw Than Than Htwe, 52, daughter of U Thet Shae, who lives in No 2 Ward, Botataung Township and arrested her and her daughter Ma Khin Ma Aung, 26, daughter of U Tin Maung Htwe, together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Botataung)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

14. Information received of Wai Yan Tun who lives in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.

On 13 July 2020, police arrested Wai Yan Tun (a) Tu Tu (a) Jagangyi, 28, son of U Ye Aung, who live in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on Shweli Street, No 8 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dagon Seikkan)MaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

15. Information received of Win San Tun who lives in Yawmona 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.

On 20 July 2020, police searched the house of Win San Tun (a) Eiwar, 23, son of U Thein Win, who lives in Yawmona 1 Ward, Dawbon Township and arrested him and Naing Aung, 36, son of U Ye Myint, who lives in Yawmona 2 Ward, together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)135/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

16. Information received of Aung Kyaw Lin who lives in No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.

On 21 July 2020, police arrested Joing (a) Aung Kyaw Lin, 29, son of U Kyaw Win, who live in No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on Saga 17 Street, No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

17. Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township, northern Shan State.

Police have opened 15 cases and arrested 18 men and two women together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ma Ar Paing, 39, daughter of U Mon Yar, who lives in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township and Aung Chit Oo, 24, son of U Nyunt Maung, who lives in the No 9 Ward of the same township, together with 68/1 stimulant tablets and heroin on a road of No 5 Ward in Lashio Township on 21 July 2020. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)134/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, police searched the house of Ma Khin Wai Wai, 51, daughter of U Chit Maung, who lives in No 5 Ward, and arrested her together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and heroin on 23 July 2020. Acting on an interrogation, she bought the drug from Daw Kyein Chwin Yi, 52, daughter of U Kyein Khin Kaug, who lives in Painggan (yake) Village, Lashio Township. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)135/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police continued a thorough search of Daw Kyein Chwin Yi’s house and arrested her together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)136/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,266 cases have been opened files as of 25 July 2020. A total of 1,952 one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

329 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 28 July

A total of 329 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, yesterday. Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Than Zin Aung, Officer of Myawady District Administration Department U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. The number of migrant workers who returned from Thailand through the border bridge has reached 54,682 so far. The latest group of returnees included 188 males and 141 females from different regions and states. — Hein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by El Phyu Phyu Aung)
Be ready for flooding

The risk of flooding looming increasingly large along the Ayeyawady River in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing is clear—a return to business as usual is unnatural in a region that was already off-track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The virtual High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development recently convened governments and stakeholders across the globe to focus on the imperative to build back better while keeping an eye on the Global Goals. Asia was the first to be hit by COVID-19 and its devastating social and economic impacts. Efforts to respond to the pandemic have revealed how many people in our societies live precariously close to poverty and hunger, with no access to essential services. Between 10 million and 400 million people are expected to be pushed into poverty on less than $1.90 a day. In times of pandemics, these impacts are felt across the globe.

People, especially in risk areas, are urged to heed the warnings that are given to them. Do not want to lose lives to the disasters. These are avoidable tragedies.

Armed with this knowledge, new measures are being taken to build back better while keeping an eye on the Global Goals. People, especially in risk areas, are urged to heed the warnings that are given to them. Do not want to lose lives to the disasters. These are avoidable tragedies.

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Timor-Leste donates K2.5mln for Phakant landslide victims

Timor-Leste Government and its people donated K2.5million to help the rehabilitation processes for landslide incident that occurred in Wai Khar village of Phakant Township in Kachin State.

The cash assistance is mainly aimed for vulnerable families such as pregnant women, elderly persons and the persons with disabilities.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and party handed over the donation to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye on 28 July morning.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

UPDJC representatives from Govt, NCA-S EAOs hold meeting with their counterparts from political parties

THE UPDJC representatives of Government, NCA Signatories Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAOs) held a meeting with their counterparts from political parties at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shwe Li Road in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting, the Government representatives and the NCA-S EAOs explained matters related to the upcoming 4th session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong- which will be convened in accordance with the decision of the 8th JICM meeting, matters related to the Part 3 of the Union Accord, and the current peace process.

They also replied to the questions of UPDJC representatives from political parties.

The government representatives at the meeting were U Hla Maung Shwe, U Pyone Cho and U Zaw Htay; those from the NCA-S EAOs were U Myo Win, Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, and Naing Aung Ma Ngay.

The representatives of political parties were U Thu Wai, U Myint Soe, Tar Hla Pe, U Thein Tun, U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Dr Aung Myat Oo, U Tha Tun Hla, U Khun Tun Shwe, U Li Paw Ye, Daw Doi Bu, Naing Ta La Nyi, Daw Yin Yin May, U Saw Tun Aung Myint, U Nyo Pa Loat, Sai Nai Nai Htwe, U Sai Hay Aung, Daw Aye Thida Myint, U Sai Aung Myint Khang, Salai Jimmy Mira Zarbwe and U Tun Aung.

—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

114 Myanmar citizens fly back home via ROK

THE relief flight of Korean Air landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing a total of 114 Myanmar nationals back home via Incheon International Airport.

Among these returnees, 37 persons are from Republic of Korea while 77 are from US, Egypt, Canada, Indonesia, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Cyprus, Japan and Germany.

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 chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 9,165 citizens to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
UMFCCI holds virtual meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council

PRESIDENT U Zaw Min Win of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the officials conducted a virtual meeting on 27 July with a delegation led by Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director Mr. Michael W Michalak of US-ASEAN Business Council to discuss matters concerning the growth of Myanmar's economy, business opportunities and cooperation between the US and Myanmar.

At the meeting, the businesspersons and representatives of Bower Group Asia, Chevron, Chubb, Coca-Cola, ExxonMobil, Google, Jhpiego, Permed, Ricard, Scoular and Visa talked about the possible business situations and potential investments in the post-coronavirus era.

The president of UMFCCI and officials remarked the public-private partnership during the coronavirus outbreak, customs service and procedures, investment and digital transformation of enterprises.

Mr. Michael W Michalak and the delegates highlighted the support plans to the vulnerable businesses hit hard by the coronavirus impacts, MSMEs, energy, transportation, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, infrastructural building and human resource sectors. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice export through sea trade up by $181.9 ml in current fiscal

MYANMAR's maritime trade constituted over 85 per cent of rice exports and generated an estimated income of US$727.38 million as of 10 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The figures reflect an increase of $181.96 million compared with a year-ago period. Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14.8 per cent of the total rice exports.

Rice exports through the border gates have generated an estimated $63.6 million in the current fiscal year, which plunged from $171.5 million registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

With the growing demand from foreign countries, the export price of rice is up by $10-15 per tonne in the recent period. However, it is difficult to ship rice in the rainy season, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 16 July in 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 2.2 million metric tonnes, worth over $666 million, according to an announcement from the MRF.

The export volume is up by 360,000 tonnes, while the value showed an increase of $100 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Madagascar. The Philippines is the fourth-largest est buyer and Cote D'Ivoire the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports, while 30.56 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Senegal, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 58 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth $601 million, in the 2018-2019 FY.

— GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports of cattle, animal products down by $254.3 ml in current FY

MYANMAR's exports of animal products between 1 October and 17 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 touched a low of US$647.4 million, a sharp drop of $254.3 million compared with the corresponding period of 2018-2019 FY.

At present, live cattle exports to China has been on the decline due to the suspension of a trade by China since the pre-Chinese New Year period, said cattle exporters.

In the previous fiscal, animal products exports were registered at $319 million. Animal products exports are solely driven by the private sector this year.

At present, live cattle exports to China has been on the decline due to the suspension of a trade by China since the pre-Chinese New Year period, said cattle exporters.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over $1,625.5 million, but last year, the suspension of trade lead Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering a lower price of below $1,511 million.

Myanmar has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade Coop- eration and Coordinating Committee (JBTCCC) meetings on legal exports of cattle along with cross-border control of communicable diseases.

While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trading is still not permitted by China, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Myanmar, which allowed live-stocking trading in late 2017, is now exploring new export markets for cattle.

At present, to prevent animal disease, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued a notification on 11 March 2020 that the cattle are subject to special goods and procedures for movement of the cattle in the regions and states were mentioned, posing difficulties to those livestock farmers working on a manageable scale.

To transport the cattle within the country, the health certificate (AHD/PC-3) issued by the head of the related Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in the townships, districts and regions or states are required.

If the traders fail to comply with the notification, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law.

At present, the COVID-19 consequences pose transportation difficulties and it is hard to seek approval from the related Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

As a result of this, the drastic plunge of live cattle export forced the breeders to turn to meat market as they are facing financial hardships during the coronavirus pandemic. The meat price is also dropping, said a trader.

The country exports cattle that are above five years old, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

Myanmar has exported over 600,000 heads of cattle, with an estimated value of over $801 million, to China through Muse border between the 2017-2018 FY and the month of October in the current FY, according to trade figures.

The authorities have issued cattle export licences to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licences across the country. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Cattles in the animal disease surveillance station near Pakyu Village in Kutkai Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

PHOTO: UMFCCI

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

PHOTO: UMFCCI
Over 900 acres of farmlands reclaimed in 9 townships

ABOUT 964.82 acres of farmlands were reclaimed in 2019-2020 fiscal year, in nine townships of the three following districts—Shwebo, Monywa and Kanbala—where increased agricultural income generation project is being implemented, said U Khin Maung Zin, the regional head of the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Sagaing Region.

“Regarding the implementation of the increased agricultural income generation project, the Agricultural Mechanization Department reclaimed over 900 acres of farmlands in this FY. The department is planning to re-clain more farmlands in the next FY. The department will reclaim a total of 5,000 acres of agriculture land,” he added. According to the increased agricultural income generation project, the department systematically reclaimed a total of 964.82 acres of farmlands—182.96 acres in Kya Khat village and 123.91 acres in Ywar Shae village in Dabaing Township, 315.09 acres in Ywartawgone village in Wetlet Township and 280.86 acres in Myinchingone village in Shwebo Township in 2019-2020FY. The department also reclaimed 575 acres of farmlands in Sagaing Region in 2018-2019FY.

DHF mortality rate rises in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon regions

MORE THAN 82,000 people were infected with Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) during three years, from 2017 to 2020, with a higher mortality rate annually in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon regions and Mon State, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

A total of 31,288 DHF patients in 2017, 23,273 patients in 2018, 24,345 patients in 2019 and 3,446 patients in 27 weeks of 2020 were recorded across the country. The DHF infected patients are slightly increasing annually.

From January to 4 July 2020, the DHF is highly rising in 20 townships including Taunggyi, Chaungthar, Fuang, Mawlamyine, Hlainghwe, Hpa-an, Pyu, Yinmabin, Bujalin, Kyaukse, Chaungzon, Loikaw, Hinthada, Pakokku, Kyiakmarwar, Sittway, Myingyan, Htathabin, Gangaw and Kyaukphu townships. These townships recorded 17 deaths from dengue infection with 1,322 others suffering from the disease.

From January to 4 July, Myanmar saw about 3,446 cases with about 27 deaths. Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway regions and Mon state are the most affected areas in the country.

Myanmar reported about 1,740 cases with about 12 deaths from January to 6 June. Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway regions and Mon State reportedly had the most considerable numbers of outbreaks, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

As of 16 May, the DHF is highly reported in Yangon region with 24 patients in South Dagon, 16 in Htathabin, 16 in Shwepyitha, 15 in Hlinethaya, 14 in Dala, 11 in North Dagon, 10 in Thingangyun, 10 in Insein, eight in Thanlyin and seven in North Okkalapa townships, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung hotels undergo inspection for reopening

ALTHOUGH hotels in Ayeyawady Region are receiving room bookings because they hear that they will be granted the permission to resume their businesses commencing from 28 July, the regional COVID-19 committee has not confirmed yet to reopen the hotel businesses, according to the Director of Hotels and Tourism (Patha).

A hotel in Chaungtha beach sets the room charges from K35,000 to K70,000 per day and they have announced that booking of the rooms is being accepted because they will resume their businesses starting from 28 July. The regional joint committee inspected over 40 hotels in Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches on 23 and 24 July to see whether the hotels have made necessary preparations in line with the health guidelines. The hotels are found to abide by the

health guidelines, according to the joint committee. “Some of the rooms are already booked,” said a hotel staff member in Ngwehsaung beach.

Although the beaches in Ayeyawady Region were closed temporarily, the local travelers reached the beaches on Martyrs’ Day, according to the Ayeyawady Region Administration Team. At present, the joint committee will submit their inspection results to the regional COV-19 committee. “The committee will grant permission to reopen the hotels if they are found to be in concordance with the guidelines. However, they are not sure of the reopening date exactly. We hope to grant the permission soon,” said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Patha).—Aye Maung

(Translated by Aye Maung)
Spain lockdown leaves 1mn jobless but not ‘unemployed’

MADRID — The coronavirus epidemic has destroyed the jobs of over a million Spaniards, but with lockdowns preventing them from looking for work, they were excluded from the unemployment count, data showed Tuesday.

Figures published by the National Statistics Institute (INE) showed the number of unemployed rose by only 55,000 between April and June to 3.4 million. That pushed the unemployment rate to 15.3 per cent from 14.4 per cent in the first quarter.

But those figures significantly underestimate the impact of the virus on the Spanish job market which registered a 1.07 million drop in the number of people employed during the second quarter, the INE said.

“The figure is horrible, without a doubt the worst in history,” Pepe Alvarez, the leader of the UGT union, Spain’s second biggest, told radio Cadena Ser.

The unemployment data is based on surveys, not claims for benefits, and the survey counts only people actively seeking a job as unemployed. As the lockdowns imposed to stop the spread of coronavirus kept people from hunting for jobs, they were not considered as unemployed by the survey.

The unemployment data also does not take into account the millions of workers on the government furlough scheme that was put in place to avoid massive layoffs at firms hit by the lockdowns.

In the second quarter, the number of hours worked experienced “an unprecedented fall” of nearly 25 percent, the INE said.—AFP

Chinese airlines offer unlimited flights to revive industry

BEIJING — China Southern on Tuesday became the latest Chinese airline to offer ultra-cheap, all-you-can-fly deals aimed at reigniting air travel following coronavirus lockdowns.

At least eight Chinese carriers, are so far launched similar schemes which they hope will boost the ailing domestic aviation sector in the world’s second-largest economy.

Lucky Air, which unveiled offers for unlimited domestic flights on July 13, announced two days later that it had hit capacity for monthly and seasonal passes for individuals.

The deals, valid for anything between a month and a year, start at 1,588 yuan ($227) for unlimited flights over 31 days per person.

Some carriers have chosen to join hands, with Qingdao Airlines, Okay Airways and Ruili Airlines collaborating for unlimited weekend deals as well.

Others like Juneyao Air rolled out a 888 yuan ($127) package for unlimited upgrades — allowing passengers to bump up their economy class tickets for no added cost.—AFP

Nissan expects 670 bil. yen net loss in FY 2020

TOKYO — Nissan Motor Co. said Tuesday it expects a net loss of 670 billion yen ($6.4 billion) in fiscal 2020, as the new coronavirus pandemic hits auto demand, adding pressure on the carmaker already struggling to restore profitability after the 2018 arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn.

Nissan's group net loss projection for the current business year to March 2021 follows a loss of 671.22 billion yen last fiscal year. The carmaker expects a group operating loss of 470 billion yen, expanding hugely from 40.47 billion yen in loss the previous year, on sales of 7.8 trillion yen, down 21.0 per cent.—Kyodo

Myanmar Port Authority

“Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.05 feet to 20.18 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 4th to August 6th, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Vietnam curbs movement in city of 1.1m as virus-free run ends

DANANG — Vietnam will suspend all flights and public transport into and out of a city of 1.1 million people where the country’s first coronavirus cases in months were recently detected, authorities said Monday.

Until the weekend it appeared that the Southeast Asian country had managed to stub out the virus — and with lockdowns lifted since late April, domestic tourists had flocked back to the coastal city of Danang.

But fresh restrictions on movement, including stopping buses and taxis within the city, were announced following the discovery of Vietnam’s first local transmission of COVID-19 in nearly 100 days.

The transport ministry made the order on Monday evening, just hours before it goes into effect at midnight (1700 GMT Monday). After a 57-year-old retired Vietnamese man in Danang was confirmed to have the disease on Saturday — the first community transmission since April 16 — more than a dozen new infections have been found.

Danang is a popular tourist destination and its beaches and restaurants have been packed with local visitors.—AFP

Passengers wearing face masks queue up for check-in at the departures terminal Danang international airport in Danang on 27 July, 2020. (AFP PHOTO)
Proximity Finance raises US$14 million to reach more smallholder farmers

Proximity Finance, Myanmar’s first farmer-focused finance institution, signs a US$14 million equity package with Finnfund, Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI) and Proparco. Proximity Finance was launched in 2010 as the microfinance arm of Proximity Designs, one of the largest agricultural services platforms in Myanmar, that provides farm technology, agronomy advice and financial services to small farms across the country.

While the deal is pending the Financial Regulatory Department’s approval, the increased equity will support Proximity Finance in tripling its active client base, currently 130,000 households, and dispersing 1,500,000 loans in the next four years. The commitment will also support an increase in loan sizes and the diversification of products, and ultimately will provide critical capital to entrepreneurial-minded small farmers.

While most microfinance institutions require clients to pay back monthly, Proximity Finance’s repayments are made when farmers receive income for their harvest. “Financing agriculture is challenging due

Grab anticipates continued growth in Myanmar with expansion of GrabFood services to Mandalay, Myanmar’s second largest city

Grab, on 24 July 2020, has today launched GrabFood, its on-demand digital food delivery service, in Mandalay. The introduction of GrabFood in Myanmar’s second largest city comes after the growing popularity and take-up of the service by customers in Yangon in recent months, with thousands of customers ordering their favourite meals daily using the same Grab App they already trust to easily make other daily priorities as they await safe deliveries of their food orders. At launch, GrabFood is ready to cater to customers in the four major Mandalay townships – Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Chaungmyahtzi and Maha Aungmye.

In preparation for the launch of GrabFood, the Grab Myanmar team on-boarded the largest number of licensed business food merchant-partners amongst the delivery platforms currently operating in Mandalay. They include popular chain eateries such as Easy Ray, Moe Wai Kyaw Teahouse, Unique Mandalay Tea Room and NMI Drinks. With no minimum order required, customers simply use the Grab App they already trust to easily make orders of their favourite food and drinks. During the initial trial period, orders were found to be delivered by Grab’s efficient delivery-partners on motorbikes to the customer’s doorstep in under 30 minutes.

Said Ko Myat Kaung Min, Head of GrabFood Myanmar, “As the everyday everything app, we are delighted to bring GrabFood to Mandalay and to deliver the favourite dishes of our customers right into their hands! Aided by Grab’s technologies, we are seeing a shift in how people in Myanmar consume their favourite foods as well as how more traditional restaurant operators have embraced digital channels to find and serve more customers as the nation takes steps towards economic recovery.”

“Through the Grab platform, our merchant-partners experience first-hand the different service quality and our commitment to long-term success. They have direct access to our technology and tools to help them shift to online sales and expand their visibility. As many restaurants and merchant-partners work hard to get back on their feet, we are here to help them undergo a digital transformation for a faster business recovery. This is especially important for smaller establishments who prior to this, did not have the means to grow their business beyond their current storefront. With access to a much wider customer base through GrabFood, they can no doubt expect more orders!” he added.

Enjoy Food Delivered to Your Doorstep with a Few Simple
to its seasonality, so our customer-centred design approach ensures our products are tailored to farmers’ needs,” says Hedvig Sundberg, Chief Executive Officer of Proximity Finance.

She continues, “Our relentless commitment to improving the incomes and livelihoods of low-income farm families is strengthened by working with impact-driven investors. This milestone partnership underpins our investors’ focus on building an equitable society and signals international support for rural Myanmar and its people.”

In Myanmar, 39% of the rural population are living in poverty. Farmers represent a hugely undeserved market, but one with tremendous opportunity for those willing to invest in meeting their needs. “With its smallholder farmer focus, Proximity Finance addresses the critical funding gaps in the country’s rural credit sector and aims to reshape the financial landscape for 30+ million underserved rural people. We’re proud to support their commitment to financial inclusion,” says Magali Roux, Proparco’s Regional Director for North and South-East Asia.

“NMI is excited to fund Proximity Finance on the journey to reach even more of Myanmar’s financially excluded smallholder farmers with uniquely adapted products and supported by a team providing deep expertise in agriculture,” shared Arthur Sletteberg, Managing Director, Nordic Microfinance Initiative.

“This investment advances financial inclusion, agriculture and empowering women, thus targeting several sustainable development goals at the same time,” says Ulla Huotari, Investment Manager, Finnfund. “We share Proximity Finance’s mission of increasing incomes across rural Myanmar and look forward to an impactful partnership.”

The investment is classified as a 2X Challenge gender commitment, as over 60% of Proximity Finance’s clients are women.

Additionally, there is a strong gender balance within the company: 50% of senior managers are women, including the CEO and Head of Finance. Proximity Finance has ambitions to uplift women customers and team members through its policies, programmes and finance solutions. —GNLM

Taps on the Grab App

With GrabFood, eaters in Mandalay will never have to miss a meal and will get to satisfy their food cravings in the comfort of their own home or office. The service saves customers travel time to and from the restaurant, and offers them added safety by avoiding exposure to public crowds. During an initial trial of the service in June 2020, the Grab Myanmar team noticed that customers received food deliveries within an average time of 30 minutes.

Grab customers in Mandalay can make a GrabFood order with three simple steps. First, tap on ‘Food’ on the home screen of the Grab App. Then, select the preferred restaurant and add menu items to the order ‘Basket’. Finally, tap on ‘Place Order’ to confirm the order. After an order is placed, Grab users can use features in the Grab App such as Live Order Tracking, direct messaging and calls with delivery-partners. They can also contact Grab’s 24/7 Customer Experience team for assistance should the need arise.

As a welcome treat to celebrate the arrival of GrabFood in Mandalay, new GrabFood customers can enjoy a MMK 3,000 discount and free deliveries on their first two orders. To enjoy these discounts, customers should apply the promo code ‘NEWFOODIE’ and place orders with a minimum value of MMK 5,000. Digital Transformation and Creating Income Opportunities for F&B Businesses in Mandalay

During the COVID-19 period, F&B businesses faced numerous challenges including a hit on revenue as dining-in for customers was not allowed. Grab’s digital platform served as the much-needed innovation to help F&B businesses in Yangon adopt digital transformation and serve customers through delivery orders facilitated by GrabFood. Through GrabFood marketing campaigns and operational efficiencies, food merchant-partners enjoyed a boost in sales during the challenging period, and were uplifted to continue their businesses and support the livelihoods of their staff.

Grab aims to replicate these efforts in Mandalay and support the city’s F&B businesses by helping them digitize their operations and sales to tap on new revenue streams and to expand the reach of customers to serve. Merchant-partners instantly get an online storefront, opening up a new source of incremental orders and revenue on top of their usual in-store visits. They also gain access to GrabFood’s marketing channels and promotional schemes, boosting their business further. This opportunity was recognized by some of the top F&B brands in Mandalay who have partnered with Grab exclusively as they value the quality of service and technology that GrabFood delivers.

The Grab Myanmar team is actively on-boarding new F&B businesses on its platform every week. F&B businesses in Mandalay, including small, independent food establishments and hawkers who wish to be a GrabFood merchant-partner can call the hotline +959979883330 or email gf.mm.merchants@grab.com.

Creating Jobs in Mandalay

Grab has on-boarded hundreds of delivery-partners to operate the GrabFood service and provides numerous benefits to protect their livelihoods. In addition to remuneration above the industry standard, GrabFood delivery-partners are positioned for success with safety gear and equipment, supplies of personal hygiene hygiene, along with training on food handling and hygiene as well as road safety.

All delivery-partners are covered by Trip Insurance during each GrabFood delivery. In addition, all delivery-partners are eligible for financial assistance of MMK 200,000 under the Grab Partner Relief Fund should they be diagnosed with COVID 19 or officially placed into quarantine by the health authorities.—GNLM

Daw Tin Hla, flower farmer, Letpanpin village Aungpan Township. PHOTO: PROXIMITY FINANCE

Daw Sein Myint vegetable farmer Zaygone village Aungpan Township. PHOTO: PROXIMITY FINANCE

GrabFood delivery-partners in Mandalay. PHOTO: GRAB MYANMAR
Klopp named LMA Manager of the Year

Jurgen Klopp has been named LMA Manager of the Year.

LONDON—Jurgen Klopp was voted the League Managers’ Association Manager of the Year on Monday after ending Liverpool’s 30-year wait to win the Premier League.

Klopp led Liverpool to the Premier League title in the same season they were FIFA Club World champions.

The German’s award was announced by former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson, after whom the trophy is now named.

“Jurgen, fantastic,” Ferguson said on Sky Sports. “We speak about Leeds spending 16 years in the Championship, but Liverpool 30 years since winning that league, incredible.

“You thoroughly deserved it. The performance level of your team was outstanding. Your personality runs right throughout the whole club. It was a marvellous performance.

“Till forgive you for waking me up at 3.30 am to tell me you have won the league! Thank you, but anyway, you thoroughly deserved it. Well done.”

Former Borussia Dortmund boss Klopp said of Ferguson: “I know it’s not 100 per cent appropriate as a Liverpool manager but I admire him. I remember he was the first British manager I met.

“We had breakfast. I’m not sure how much he remembers but I remember because for me this moment was like meeting the Pope. It was absolutely great and from that first season we clicked.”

Brighton sign former Liverpool midfielder Lallana

LONDON—Brighton signed former Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana on a free transfer on Monday.

Former England international Lallana agreed a three-year contract with Brighton just 24 hours after the end of the Premier League season. The 32-year-old, whose deal with Liverpool expired after their final game on Sunday, was targeted by Everton, Leicester and Burnley before opting to join Graham Potter’s side.

“Adam is a really exciting signing for us, someone I’m sure the supporters will be really looking forward to seeing play as and when things are able to begin to return to normal,” Potter told Brighton’s website.—AFP

Japan’s WTA Pan Pacific Open tennis scrapped over COVID-19

TOKYO—The WTA Pan Pacific Open in Japan, one of Asia’s top women’s tennis tournaments, has been scrapped for the first time because of the coronavirus, organizers said Tuesday.

The cancellation of the event, which was scheduled for November and was won by Japan’s Naomi Osaka last year, follows last week’s axing of all international tennis tournaments in China for 2020.

The Pan Pacific’s demise ends a continuous run for the tournament since 1984 and leaves Asia with only one Women’s Tennis Association event, October’s Korea Open, on this year’s coronavirus-wrecked schedule.

It is also another blow for sport in Japan after the Tokyo Olympics, originally due to start last week, were postponed for a year over Covid-19.

“We were trying to find ways (to hold the Pan Pacific Open), such as having no audience or limiting the number of spectators,” organizers said in a statement.

“But we reached the tough conclusion that we have to cancel the tournament given the difficulty of ensuring the safety of all involved, they added.

The tournament had already been postponed from September to November, with organizers hoping the delay would allow them to hold the event.—AFP

Aung La Ngsang donates plasma for COVID-19 treatment

BURMESE Python Aung La Ngsang, who recently recovered from COVID-19, has donated blood plasma for treating COVID-19 patients to Sanford Health, a non-profit integrated health care delivery system in the United States, according to his social media yesterday.

He posed on Facebook: “I swear our phones are listening to us. There was something on the news about researchers needing the blood of those who tested positive for COVID-19 and are now negative.”

And a local blood bank advertisement came up on social media...so here I am sitting, donating my plasma. Well I have great news, we are now that much closer to finding the coronavirus cure with the Python blood. Happy Monday!”

The plasma, the liquid portion of the blood, contains coronavirus antibodies. Antibodies are proteins made by the immune system which can target the virus and neutralize it, according to a health paper.

The Myanmar’s famed mixed martial artist announced that he has tested positive for COVID-19 on 2 July, and he now recovered from the disease.

The 35-year-old nicknamed “Burmese Python” is a Burmese-born American mixed martial artist of ethnic Kachin descent currently signed to ONE Championship, competing in both the Middleweight and Light heavyweight divisions.

He is the current ONE Middleweight World Champion and ONE Light Heavyweight World Champion.—Kyaw Khin

Aung La Ngsang donates plasma for COVID-19 treatment PHOTO: AUNG LA NGSAng

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The event was scheduled for November. PHOTO:TORAYPP/INSTAGRAM