WE NEED TO BE ALERT AS CONTAINMENT MEASURES EASED

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Government organizes Waso-robe offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offer the Waso-robe to Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi donates the Waso-robe and offertories to Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE annual Waso-robe offering ceremony was held at the Sasana Maha Beikman of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with the offering of donation items to the venerable sayadaws and Buddhist monks.

The ceremony was graced by members of the Sangha, including the Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, and was attended by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and senior government officials.

Before the ceremony, the State Counsellor donated alms, fruits, flowers, water and lights to the Buddha image in the Sasana Beikman.

After delivering a sermon and recitation of Paritta by members of the Sangha, President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho offered a Waso-robe and offertories to the Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented a Waso-robe and offertories to the leading Sayadaw of the Thanlyin Minkyaung monastery.

Next, the venerable sayadaws received Waso-robes and offertories donated by Vice President U Myint Swe, Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein, and Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung.

Members of the Sangha also accepted the Waso-robes and offertories donated by the Union Ministers.

After sharing merits for the donations, "soon" (day meal) was offered to members of the Sangha.

The Waso-robe offering ceremony was also attended by the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the deputy ministers and officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement of National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
10th Waxing of Second Waso 1382 ME
29 July 2020

IT is announced that the statements to public, orders, notifications, and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 31 July 2020 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 15 August 2020 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) .

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves ADB, JICA loans for Bago-Kyaikto expressway projects

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw representatives debated the proposal of loans for implementing the Bago-Kyaikto Expressway Project and the Bago-Kyaikto Expressway New Section Development Project during the 7th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 17th regular session yesterday.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Approving both loan proposals

The proposals to acquire the loans was submitted by the President and involves acquiring a US$ 483.8 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the highway project and the 27.779 billion Japanese Yen from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the development project.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win first explained the ADB loan. Speaker U T Khun Myat then called for a standing vote where 336 out of the 552 attending Hluttaw representatives stood up, thereby approving the proposal.

Deputy Ministers Dr Kyaw Linn and U Maung Maung Win then explained the JICA loan. Dr Kyaw Linn said the Union Government has approved of the JICA loan for the development project during its (13/2020) meeting. He said they will follow the recommendations of the assembly.

The Deputy Minister explained that the project also involves upgrading the Thuwunna Training Centre which will allow them to conduct wind tunnel tests, vibration tests, testing equipment for bridge construction, and providing training to engineers at the same time. Furthermore, experts and volunteer teachers from Japan will be providing vocational training and engineering training at the centre as well.

The Deputy Minister said both projects are actually a single entity and will be part of the East-West Economic Corridor starting from the city of Da Nang in Viet Nam to Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon.

Speaker U T Khun Myat then called for a standing vote where 338 out of the 552 attending Hluttaw representatives stood up, thereby approving the proposal.

Setting future date for loan, ASEAN agreement proposal debate

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also heard Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explain the US$250 million loan from ADB for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme. With no opposition from the assembly, the Speaker announced the proposal has been approved.

Next, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun explained the proposal sent by the President on Myanmar signing the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement Framework. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the proposal to register their name and said the debate is scheduled for 5 August.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh explained that the agreement involves developed countries that can provide a wider market and opportunities for high-quality investments to stream into Myanmar. He said it will also enable our nation to improve legal frameworks for economic development, increase the capabilities of implementing bodies, become a part of the world's largest trade region and boost the image of the nation.

The Speaker then called for MPs interested in discussing the proposal to register their name and said the debate is scheduled for 5 August.

Debates continue on tax revenue, MSME loan

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives discussed the Joint Public Accounts Committe's report on the tax revenue for the first six months of 2019-2020 financial year for Union Ministries and institutions, sent by the Union Government.

Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Daw Aye Aye Mar said businesses that failed to collect the full tax amount should be reviewed and businesses not included in the tax exemption list should be strictly monitored for accountability.

The matter was further debated by U Saw Talay Saw from Shwegyin constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Thant Zin, U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Zaw Tun, and U Bo Gyi from Chauk constituency.

Similarly, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Nyan Shwe, Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency, and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Zaw Min Oo debated the President's proposal to acquire a ¥15 billion from JICA for implementing phase 3 of the MSME Development Project.

Other debate on public debt

Next, Hluttaw representatives debated the Joint Public Accounts Committee report (10/2020) on the Union Government's annual public debt report for 2018-2019 financial year.

U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency asked for ministries that took out the highest amount of foreign loans to offer a report on the number of loan agreements signed by year, the number of completed and ongoing processes, the number of remaining projects whose loan period has ended and plans to move forward.

U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency said no matter when the loan was taken out, it needs to be used within the set regulations for the benefit of the nation. He said the government and the Hluttaw must perform checks on each other to ensure the loans are used for their intended purposes.

The matter was further discussed by U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Col Aye Lwin, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Zaw Win Naing, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Toe Lwin, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Col Zaw Lwin, and U Bo Gyi from Chauk constituency.

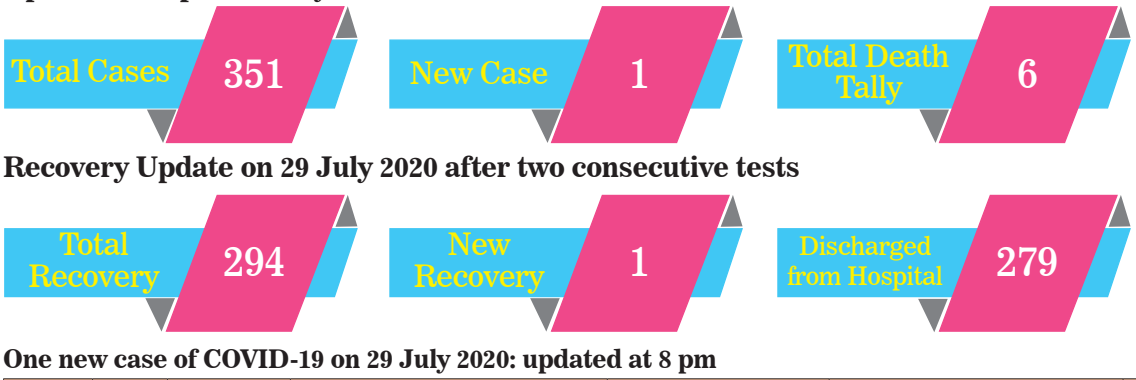
The 8th-meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 5 August.—Aung Ye Twin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

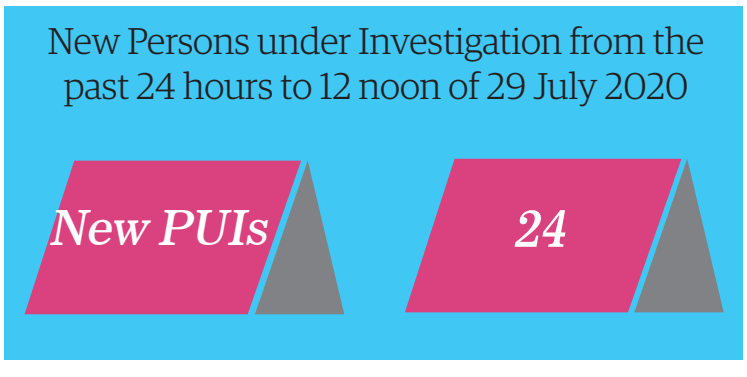
One new case of COVID-19 reported in Myanmar on 29 July, total figure reaches 351

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **351** after **1 new case**, who returned from Malaysia, was reported on 29 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the **351** confirmed cases, **six** died, **294** have recovered, **279** have been discharged from hospitals and **24** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 29 July 2020



Recovery Update on 29 July 2020 after two consecutive tests



One new case of COVID-19 on 29 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
351	31	Male	Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State	No	Yes, (Malaysia)	People's Hospital, Mawlamyine Township	Positive	Keep under Investigation (Kya-in Seikkyi Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

Spread democracy!

We must spread democracy and must try to build an independent Myanmar through this system. Only democracy is suitable for independence as it is the only system that supports peace. So, democracy must be our goal!

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San at the fourth State leaders meeting in August 1945)



Myanmar-Japan Investment Dialogue on Economic Recovery After COVID-19 and New Investment Opportunities



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes a keynote address at virtual Myanmar-Japan Forum via a video clip on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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A Myanmar-Japan Investment Dialogue on Economic Recovery After COVID-19 and New Investment Opportunities was held yesterday via videoconference at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a keynote address via a video clip in which the State Counsellor highlighted the role of Japanese investment in enabling the creation of thousands of well-paid quality jobs, and that quality job creation would remain at the heart of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

As part of the virtual Myanmar-Japan Investment Dialogue, the Myanmar Government unveiled two new major infrastructure projects and associated investment opportunities to over 1,000 Japanese businesspersons in attendance.

Mr Sasaki Nobuhiko, Japan External Trade Organization Chairperson noted that Myanmar was becoming an increasingly attractive investment destination, that Japanese companies could today feel Myanmar's newfound dynamism, and expressed hope that the event would spark further Japanese investment in Myanmar over the coming months and years.

Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Japan's Ambassador to Myanmar expressed thanks to the government and people of Myanmar for their successful efforts which have thus far prevented the spread of COVID-19 and affirmed that Japan would continue to stand with Myanmar in providing full cooperation and support to the country's nation-building efforts.

Mr Nakano Hiromasa, Japan's State Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry noted Myanmar's geopolitical significance, and that Myanmar was proving to be a promising investment destination across a range of industries.



Union Minister U Thaung Tun joins virtual Myanmar-Japan Investment Dialogue on Economic Recovery After COVID-19 and New Investment Opportunities on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Union Government organizes Waso-robe offering ceremony...



Vice President U Myint Swe offers Waso-robe to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Citra Nyana. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo offers Waso-robe to Mai Thaut Sayadaw Bhaddanta Thumingalar Bhivamsa. **PHOTO: MNA**



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Kawvida. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Kavi Thara. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Nanda Sara. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Ceintita Lankara. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung offers Waso-robe to Bhaddanta Sehtila. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar holds first preparatory meeting for AIPA General Assembly

MYANMAR Hluttaw representatives organized the first preparatory meeting yesterday to attend the 41st ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly, which is scheduled from 8 to 10 September.

In the meeting, the Myanmar delegation leader and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein said that most of the delegation members have previous experiences, and they need to prepare well to effectively make discussions in the 41st AIPA General Assembly.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw AIPA Joint Committee Chairman U Zaw Thein explained the detailed preparations for the AIPA General Assembly.

AIPA National Secretariat Deputy Director-General U Bone Kyi Aung talked about the programmes of the AIPA General Assembly, Draft Resolutions and matters related to the administration for the assembly.

The attendees also discussed relevant matters including draft proposals, AIPA General Assembly programmes and preparations.

Myanmar delegation leader U Tun Tun Hein delivered a concluding speech, saying that participating in the assembly from home country can gain advantages for the Myanmar delegation, and he also urged the attendees to work unitedly and exert great efforts to be ready for the AIPA General Assembly.



Hluttaw Representatives discuss preparatory processes for 41st ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly scheduled in September. **PHOTO: MNA**

The upcoming AIPA General Assembly will convene via videoconferencing for the first time.—MNA *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

Union Minister U Soe Win holds virtual meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win held a virtual meeting with the US-ASEAN Business Council President Mr Alexander C Feldman and party yesterday afternoon.

During the virtual meeting, the Union Minister said that Myanmar welcomes the US companies that are interested in doing investments in Myanmar.



Union Minister U Soe Win joins virtual meeting of US-ASEAN Business Council on 29 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

Currently, Myanmar has exerted efforts in order that the relevant policies, regulations and laws can meet international standards. Moreover, "mobile payment system" has been developed, according to the Union Minister.

The Union Minister also invited US companies to take part in the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) of Myanmar.

The US-ASEAN Business Council congratulated Myanmar on effectively controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegates of the council also asked questions about the development of SMEs, mobile payment system, tax system and Financial Inclusion Roadmap of Myanmar.

Myanmar has implemented pilot projects of mobile payment system in some areas. Moreover, technical assistant and training have been provided to encourage SMEs to participate in the "Digitalization Transaction".

During the meeting, Myanmar officials also explained the reforms in tax system and the financial inclusion roadmap, and the process of finalizing the Insurance Business Law, which will be submitted to the Hluttaw.

The virtual meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, the permeant secretaries and senior officials.

Representatives from the 10 US top companies including Chevron, Chubb, Coca-Cola and Visa took part in the discussion. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Myanmar-Japan Investment Dialogue on Economic Recovery ...

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During a panel exchange, representatives from some of Japan's largest corporations, namely Sumitomo, Mitsubishi, Marubeni, and Kawasaki exchanged views with senior Myanmar government and private sector officials regarding their experiences investing in Myanmar, with participants drawing attention to the Thilawa SEZs on-site 'one-stop-shop' investment services.

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations provided further details on the newly unveiled West Yangon Industrial Park and Special Economic Zone in Mon State.

The Union Minister noted that the SEZ would be "…bigger and better connected than any other SEZ currently in operation anywhere in Myanmar". The Union Minister also drew attention to how the new SEZ would connect both the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and the Thilawa SEZ to Da Nang in Vietnam via the Greater Mekong Sub-Region East-West Economic Corridor.

The Minister also clarified that both the West Yangon Industrial Park and the new SEZ shall undergo a world-class, transparent, open, and internationally competitive tender process.

Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry U Sett Aung informed all that an international advisory body was currently being selected to assist with the identification of a company to invest in the construction of Western Yangon Industrial Park and that through collaboration with this international advisory body, investors would be selected through an open and transparent Swiss Challenge tender process.

Regarding the location of the new SEZ, the Deputy Minister explained how the new SEZ will be located in an area that can be easily connected to the Greater Mekong Sub-Region East-West Economic Corridor, in an area that would permit the construction of a deep-sea port and that could be easily connected to the Thilawa SEZ through the local transport networks.

To assist with location selection, an international advisory firm will also help prepare a feasibility study and master plan in a transparent manner such that the new SEZ and Thilawa SEZ could be connected as a single SEZ.

The Investment Dialogue was held as part of ongoing investment promotion efforts led by Myanmar's Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations to promote new investment opportunities and provide updates on investment enabling reforms directly to Japanese businesspersons. Both sides used the opportunity to exchange views on how Myanmar and Japan could continue to promote greater mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people and economic connections shared between two countries as we emerge into a post-COVID-19 era.—MNA

I hope our country would become more united and stronger

If we can overcome this challenge, it would be a success not only for the present but also for generations to come. An authouress once said that moments of honour in the history of a country can become sources of strength to overcome difficult periods for ages to come. It is the strong belief which tells us that we have overcome big difficulties before; this time around also we can overcome.

With the strength of the people, I hope our country would become more united and stronger in the post COVID period.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 1 June 2020)



Ministries discuss advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad for 2020 General Election

MINISTRIES held coordination meeting for the advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad for 2020 General Election at the respective embassies, and Permanent Representative offices and Consulates-General in foreign countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the meeting with the Ministry of International Cooperation yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary U Soe Han, the directors-general and Electoral Coordination Committee members of the two ministries attended the meeting.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin discusses preparations for advance voting of Myanmar nationals living abroad on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin urged Myanmar missions abroad to conduct voter awareness campaigns for Myanmar nationals living abroad, such as filling and submitting Form 15 before 5 August, not to lose their rights to vote, to send back the reviewed forms to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in timely manner, transport of ballot papers after secret voting to the MoFA, to report on preparations for advance voting procedures and to set up polling stations in accordance with the guidelines to protect the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Permanent Secretary U Soe Han and the directors-general from the respective departments discussed the advance voting for overseas Myanmar, plans for staff to vote locally, visit of international and local election observers and proposals of foreign missions/organizations to observe the elections.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin advised to present the drafted plans for sending the Form 15, ballot-papers and casted ballots in time and safely by special flights and relief flights, to explain the guidelines of the advance voting by videoconferencing with Myanmar Ambassadors not to repeat mistakes as in the 2015 General Election, to expand polling stations with the approval of host countries and to help and support foreign embassies and international organizations in observing the elections.—MN A

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Flood hits Sagaing Region as major river bursts banks

AYEYAWADY River burst its bank, and 6,516 locals from 1,451 households in some areas of Sagaing Region were evacuated from their homes.

Union Minister of Social Welfare, Resettlement and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Social Affair Minister of Sagaing Region, Director-General of Disaster Management and officials of Region General Administration Department and Municipal Department comforted the flood victims and provided food supplies, cash assistance and medical equipment for prevention of COVID-19.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides cash assistance to flood victims in Sagaing Region on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister and party visited Aye Myawady ward, Dawei Zay ward and Te Gyi village tract at No (6) B.E.P.S and the Guest Pavilion (Tazaung) of Wai Lu Won Ngar Htat Gyi Pagoda, where the flood victims are sheltered.

The Union Minister said that although the hardship due to floods might last for some days, the governmental officials will provide food aids, cash assistance, mask and soap bars to ease the difficulties of victims during COVID-19 pandemic.

It needs to take care and wash the hands frequently to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It can also prevent from other infectious diseases by washing hands and the government will keep providing the necessary support, he added.

A total of K6,612,900 cash assistance, instant noodle, mask and hand gel to 3,149 people from Aye Myawady ward, Dawei Zay ward and Te Gyi village tract.

The Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also provided K13,638,600 cash assistance, 14,510 packs of instant noodle, 1,451 bars of soap and 6,516masks to 6,516 people of 1,451 flood-affected households in Sagaing Region.

Similarly, the flood victims in Bago, Mandalay and Magway Regions were also provided by the respective Region Disaster Management officials at the temporary shelters.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh attends Special AEM-METI Videoconference on COVID-19 Response



Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh joins the virtual meeting between ASEAN Economic Ministers and Japan's Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh yesterday attended the Special Meeting between ASEAN Economic Ministers and Japan's Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry on the region's COVID-19 Response on behalf of U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Economic Relations via videoconference.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tran Tuan Anh, Viet Nam's Minister for Industry and Trade. The meeting was attended by Economic Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries, Japan and the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat.

During the meeting, Mr Kajiyama Hiroshi, Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry delivered his opening remark and the Economic Ministers exchanged their views on the COVID-19 situation in ASEAN and Japan.

Deputy Minister expressed his gratitude to the solidarity of all countries who are now fighting against the pandemic individually and collectively and shared the view of the importance of continuous exchange of information, best practices and successful policy implementation.

Minister also explained Myanmar's 'whole-of-nation' approach to combatting COVID-19 aimed at mitigating the immediate and mid-term social and economic impacts guided by our COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), which complement our longer-term Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

Furthermore, he underscored the willingness to work together with Japan and other ASEAN Member States to enhance the resilience of regional economy in the post-pandemic era.

After that, the Economic Ministers adopted the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan.

The Action Plan offers a collective response not only for the current challenges but also for the initiatives for economic resilience beyond COVID-19 and proactive approach for future pandemic and economic crisis, particularly for financial support programme, technical support for industrial promotion and innovation, facilitating cooperation between public, private and academic sectors, promoting smart cities and capacity building program to develop LNG market.

Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department and other senior officials joinedwith Deputy Minister in the meeting.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Commerce holds meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council

DEPUTY Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo held a videoconference with the Chairman, President & CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council Mr Alexander C. Feldman and party at the former's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed the bilateral trade and matters related to promoting investment, trade liberalization in COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP to remedy the economic damage due to COVID-19 crisis, actions for food safety, digitalization, e-commerce, social commerce and supporting fund and technical assistance to small and medium-scaled businesses.

The businesspersons from US-ASEAN Business Council raised queries about business and other legal procedures.

The Deputy Minister and officials replied to the questions.

The conference was attended by the Permanent Secretary, the directors-general, the deputy permanent secretary, over 20 businesspersons from US-ASEAN Business Council and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo discusses bilateral trade and investments issue with the US- ASEAN Business Council on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 79/2020

10th Waxing of Second Waso, 1382 ME
(29 July 2020)

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order under the authority of Article 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 37/2020 on 16-4-2020 and Order 56/2020 on 28-5-2020 to prohibit from gathering five or more than five persons exception for some reasons, to curb the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to implement preventive measures.
2. The Ministry of Health and Sports has reissued the orders to prohibit from gathering 15 or more than 15 persons, increasing the number of five persons, except for reasons in previous orders, starting from 1 August 2020.
3. The Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law will apply to those who breach the orders and instructions related to the COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Public Health Department.

(Dr Myint Htwe)
Union Minister

Further Extension of Effective Period of Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel

The effective period the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel issued on 29 March 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports was extended up to 31 July 2020 23:59 hours Myanmar Standard Time (MST), in line with the approval of the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

In order to continue to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar effectively, the effective period has been further extended, in accordance with the approval of the National -Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, until 31 August 2020, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

30 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

We need to be alert as containment measures eased

ON the eve of the reopening of high schools, the Ministry of Health and Sports has taken the next step by expanding the limit on social gatherings from five to 15.

The ministry issued an order yesterday expanding the gathering of people from five to 15, in a bid to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

Anyone violating the order could face fines or other punishments, as set out in the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

It is time to relax the rules, but we need to be alert for a potential second wave of infections. Authorities are keeping on watch the situation to see if easing the measures results in the emergence of local transmission of the virus.

> ...our country is now in the "wait and see" stage, and today is not the time to become careless, as we all must remain ever-vigilant.

This reflects that we are not out of the woods yet, and people should not be negligent in protecting themselves from contracting the infection. People are urged to strictly follow all health guidelines.

People are highly advised to continue to limit their contacts as much as possible and continue to practise physical distancing to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

The smaller the gatherings, the better. The closer the contact you have with somebody else, the higher the risk of transmission.

Following the achievement in containing the infection in our country, it has been found that our people have become careless, with respect to COVID-19. We want to tell them that our country is now in the "wait and see" stage, and today is not the time to become careless, as we all must remain ever-vigilant.

In Myanmar, COVID prevention remains most important, as the cost of treatment is a very heavy burden for a country such as Myanmar, which is still a developing country. That's why the Union Government has placed more emphasis on prevention.

We should increase the high public awareness about COVID-19 as part of efforts for educating and alerting the people again.

At the same time, containment measures should be relaxed gradually and with ultra-caution and very close monitoring and surveillance.

Our achievement in containing the coronavirus is credited to the crucial role of public participation in preventing and containing the global pandemic.

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

■ ■ ■

Children should avoid eating "Junk Food"

By Lokethar

"Junk Food" is "food containing high levels of calories from sugar and fat, with less proteins , vitamins and minerals." It is food that has low nutritional value. Eating food with high calorie content and not using up most of it in our daily life through enough physical activities, may lead to "obesity".

Myanmar, according to the "World Obesity List" has an obesity rate of just 5.7%. This is indeed good news and Myanmar should try to further reduce the rate as far as possible. The figure being in the national context, it could be that the "obesity rate" is somewhat higher in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas.

The "cause" of obesity , if not of medical origin, is that the intake of "calories" is higher than needed from eating too much, including eating the wrong foods. The "wrong foods" include "Junk Food" described above. It starts with children eating a lot of "Junk Food"- in fact too much- so that they start getting "fat" from young. Once the fat has accumulated it is very difficult to lose it. Hence they grow up into "obese" adults and become more prone to diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and what not. This translates into loss of manpower and increases national expenditure on health.

> We should tell our young to avoid eating Junk Food as far as possible and to eat nutritious food. Their daily meals, should as far as possible be "balanced" in terms of the content of carbohydrate, protein, vitamins, minerals etc.

Many types of "Junk Food" are produced locally. Many types of low cost, low nutritional value "Junk Food" also come in through the borders with adjoining countries. The import of such "Junk Food" from neighbouring countries through "border trade" should perhaps be "controlled". The "Junk Food" of both local and foreign origin are advertised over the TV channels to entice "consumers", particularly the young, to eat them.

"Junk Food" are also sold in the "school tuck shops" or by "vendors" in the school compound itself. Besides "junk food" is readily available in shopping centres and the numerous "house stores" all over the city. Some seem to have been made, by unscrupulous small /micro industries and do not carry any informative labels. For the protection of the young consumers, "foods" including many "snacks", may need to be cleared for sale particularly in the schools, by the Government Agency concerned.

We should tell our young to avoid eating Junk Food as far as possible and to eat nutritious food. Their daily meals, should as far as possible be "balanced" in terms of the content of carbohydrate, protein, vitamins, minerals etc. In Myanmar, daily meals it seems are generally heavily weighted in favour of carbohydrates. This should gradually be reduced and the variety of protein, vitamins, mineral etc. be increased. Nutritionists would be able to suggest balanced meals depending on the food varieties available in any particular region. Taking healthy and nutritious food, even nutritious "snacks", will ensure that future generations of Myanmar are "well built as well as mentally and physically Fit".

Education about "food and nutrition" probably has to be started early in school. Perhaps it's time for the Department of Health to send "nutritionists" at frequent intervals to give talks in schools with aid of video presentations, about the negative affects of "Junk Food" and the positive affects of good eating.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

■

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GLOBAL TOURISM

Coronavirus cost global tourism US$320 billion in Jan-May: UN

- The coronavirus crisis cost the global tourism sector US$320 billion in lost revenue during the first five months of 2020
- The amount of revenue lost between January and May is "more than three times the loss during the Global Financial Crisis of 2009
- International tourist arrivals fell by 300 million during the period, or 56 per cent
- International tourist arrivals could plunge by 60 to 80 per cent in 2020 owing to the coronavirus.
- International tourism arrivals rose by four per cent in 2019 to 1.5 billion, with France the world's most visited country, followed by Spain and the United States.

The enormous toll of COVID-19 on international tourism has now become clear, with World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) data showing the cost up to May was already three times that of the 2009 Global Economic Crisis.



Tourists take a picture by a fence closing the Swiss-Italian border at Grand Saint Bernard pass on June 2, 2020, on the eve of Italy's unilateral reopening of its borders, amid the COVID-19 outbreak, caused by the novel coronavirus. **(AFP/FABRICE COFFRINI)**

THE latest edition of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer shows that the near-complete lockdown imposed in response to the pandemic led to a 98 per cent fall in international tourist numbers in May when compared to 2019. The Barometer also shows a 56% year-on-year drop in tourist arrivals between January and May. This translates into a fall of 300 million tourists and US$320 billion lost in international tourism receipts – more than three times the loss during the Global Economic Crisis of 2009.

Dramatic fall in tourism

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "This latest data makes clear the importance of restarting tourism as soon as it is safe to do so. The dramatic fall in international tourism places many millions of livelihoods at risk, including in developing countries. Governments in every world region have a dual responsibility: to prioritize public health while also protecting jobs and businesses. They also need to maintain the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that has defined our response to this shared challenge and refrain from making unilateral decisions that may undermine the trust and confidence we have been working so hard to build."

Restart underway but confidence low

At the same time, UNWTO also notes signs of a gradual and cautious change in trend, most notably in the Northern Hemisphere and particularly following the opening of borders across the Schengen Zone of the European Union on 1 July.

While tourism is slowly returning in some destinations, the UNWTO Confidence Index has dropped to record lows, both for the evaluation of the period January-April 2020, and the prospects for May-August. Most members of the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts expect international tourism to recover by the second half of 2021, followed by those who expect a rebound in the first part of next year.

The group of global experts points to a series of downside risks such as travel restrictions and border shutdowns still in place in most destinations, major outbound markets such as the United States and China being at standstill, safety concerns associated with travel, the resurgence of the virus and risks of new lockdowns or curfews. Furthermore, concerns over a lack of reliable information and a deteriorating economic environment are indicated as factors weighing on consumer confidence.

SOURCE: UNWTO, AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Than Zaw, Director-General of the Oil and Gas Planning Department under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy as Director-General of the Office of Union Minister from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Khun Aye Naing, Director-General of the Small-scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zar Ni Win, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Union Minister's Office (Religious Affairs) of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, as Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 14:00 hrs MST on 29-7-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Sagaing has reached its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Nyaung U has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level about (1) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Dokehtawady River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Dokehtawady River at Myitnge has reached its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 29th July, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th July, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Eastern Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Write for us

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

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

Pagodas, temples in Yangon Region reopen today

THE pagodas and temples in Yangon Region, which have been closed temporarily because of the outbreak of COVID-19, are reopening on 30 July, according to the regional government.

However, the pagodas' boards of trustees from the reopening pagodas and temples have been informed to follow the rules and regulations in line with the health guidelines adopted by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

To visit the pagodas and temples located in downtown Yangon, the inspection team led by the regional Minister for Social Affairs, will check those reopened pagodas and temples. The related General Administration Departments will also check to enable the reopening of the pagodas and temples outside of Yangon region.

The regional government has ordered to reopen the pagodas and temples in downtown Yangon on 30 July even though the inspected team has not completed its inspection process. However, the regional government will continue to inspect the pagodas and temples whether they are following the health guidelines.

Shwedagon Pagoda was closed on 10 April 2020 because of the outbreak of COVID-19. Similarly, the authorities have closed other pagodas and temples in April to prevent the pagodas and temples from being crowded.—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

1,830 star-tortoises bred in Bagan Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in 2020

MYANMAR star-tortoises are bred in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan, Mandalay Region under fencing system.

"The star-tortoises are found only in Myanmar. However, they are on the verge of extinction. To be able to increase the number of star-tortoises, we need to release them to their native places. The rare star-tortoise species are being bred in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary to be able to conduct more research by the experts and to allow the public to come and see them for observation.

"To prevent the star-tortoises from extinction, Myanmar Government started to breed a total of 82 star-tortoises — 42 males and 40 females — in 2001 at Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan region.

"The first time of breeding of star-tortoises can give birth only a few numbers. Now, star-tortoises are being bred in thousands annually. Although authorities targeted to breed around 1,500 tortoises in 2020, it has bred a total of 1,830 star tortoises," said U Shwe Htay Aung, the administrator of Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary.



Myanmar star-tortoises bred in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan. They are on the verge of extinction. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG HTEIN (KYAUKPADAUNG)**

This year, the breeding of star-tortoises is 67 per cent, which is an increase from 48 per cent last year.

At present, there are a total of 7,500 star-tortoises in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary. So, Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary is one among the world breeding farms which have the highest number of star-tortoises. Annually, more than 1,000 star-tortoises are being bred, which is an increase when compared to the target. —Maung Maung Htein (Kyaukpadaung)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MCDC to launch fourth sales of Mya Yee Nandar housing units

THE fourth sales of Mya Yee Nandar affordable housing complexes will be launched in August by lucky draw system to enable those who were not lucky enough in the previous sales to win the draws.

The launch will be on 10, 11, 12 and 13 August at Mandalay City Hall. "This time we would not invite the new applicants to purchase Mya Yee Nandar housing apartments. However, we will allow those who have participated in but not won the lucky draws in the third sales to try again in this 4th sales," said U Kyaw Hsan Myint, a member of Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).



The fourth sales of the Mya Yee Nandar Housing will be launched in August in Mandalay. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

A total of 3,495 people were unlucky in the third time selling of Mya Yee Nandar affordable housing apartments to those who are civil staff, retired service personnel, private companies' staff and the general public. This time, a total of 492 flats will be sold and the lucky draw system will be conducted in a transparent manner.

Those who get permission to purchase the apartments need to deposit K3 million in advance before they choose the room number also by the lucky draw system.

The apartments measure 661 square feet and the price is set according to the level of the floor. Ground floor units cost K26.7 million, first-floor units K24.7 million, second-floor units K22.6 million, third-floor units K21.6 million, fourth-floor units K20.6 million, and fifth-floor units K19.5 million inclusive of three-per cent commercial tax. —May Thet Htar

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Gold exports back to normal



Officials evalutating the quality of gold as Myanmar's export of gold return to normal. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S gold export paused after a change in the payment system, and now it is coming back to normal, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

On 27 July, Taw Win Myint Company conducted appraisals of gems and jewellery which is designated for export to Japan at One-Stop Service Centre. The earrings, rings, pendants and other gems were assessed.

As per the notification released by the Ministry of Commerce, starting from April, the international remittance for gold purchase has changed from Telegraph Transfer (TT) to Letter of Credit (LC). As a result of this, payment can take about two months, cost banking service changes by two sides, and increase the charges for security matter in transportation. Meanwhile, gold trading in the international market has also come to a stop due to volatile prices, said YGEA Chair U Myo Myint.

The YGEA have already submitted a request for the resumption of TT payment system to the Ministry of Commerce.

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

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

(translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Retailers warned of no price hike to resell reserved rice

By Nyein Nyein

IF retailers are found to hike the rice price more than the set price, they will be struck off from the list to resell the reserved rice, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

At present, over 50 retailers have been submitted to purchase the reserved rice from the State. More than 1,000 bags from the reserved rice have been sold to them. Those reserved rice are planned to be sold at K22,800 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops, with the maximum 200 bags per batch. The shops must resell the rice to the consumers not exceeding K1,000-1,100 per pyi (2.3 kg) depending on the regions.

Moreover, there is a separate plan to sell the rice at the labour-intensive factories for the workers.

MRF stated that the respective Consumer Affairs Department of the regions and states will monitor the sales to ensure systematic management.

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

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. Myanmar has purchased an adequate amount of rice for the national reserve, and the State's purchase from the exporters will temporarily halt starting from 1 August.

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

To ensure the self-sufficiency during the coronavirus pandemic, the government decided to spend K38 billion to purchase foodstuff (50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil) as the emergency food reserves, said Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports top $1.43bln in 2019-2020FY

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have shown a marked increase this financial year, touching US$1.43 billion between 1 October and 17 July, an increase of $183.9 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the corresponding period of the previous financial year, mineral exports were pegged at just $1.25 billion.

Both private and public sector mineral exports have recorded an increase in the current fiscal, with private sector exports valued at $952.3 million and public sector exports estimated at $484.19 million.

So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to the limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry. Within two years of the implementation of the Myanmar Mines Law, the Mines Department has approved 144 out of 3,000 proposed mining blocks and many more blocks will soon be granted the permit.

At present, evaluation teams in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, and Kayin states and Sagaing, Taninthayi, and Magway regions are screening mining applications, based on the opinions of the respective departments and the region and state governments.

The Myanmar Mines Law was enacted on 24 December 2015, but the law came into force when the rules were issued on 13 February 2018.

The ministry undertakes the screening process of the proposals for medium and large-scale mining blocks, while regional and state governments are allowed to process applications for small-scale mining blocks.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks which cover up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares), while local firms can invest in all kinds of blocks. Investors can seek a permit to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The permits cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources has been lessening. Myanmar's mineral products constitute 10 per cent of overall exports. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Agro exports exceed $3.2 bln as of 17 July

MYANMAR'S exports of agricultural products between 1 October and 17 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 exceeded US$3.2 billion from $2.7 billion in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the past nine and a half months, the agro-export figures reflect an increase of $503.39 million against a-year ago period.

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

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

US Embassy donates medical gloves, masks to MoHS



Ministry of Health and Sports receives personal protective items donated by the US Embassy on 29 July. **PHOTO:MNA**

THE Embassy of the United States of America in Yangon donated US$ 67,500 worth of medical gloves and masks to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday to mitigate and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in Myanmar.

After Chargé d' Affaires Mr George Sibley from the US Embassy to Myanmar had explained the donation, Director-General of Department of Medical Research Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun delivered a remark.

At the donation ceremony, the Deputy Chief of Mission handed over the medical gloves and masks to the Director-General of DMR, and the latter returned certificate of honour.—MNA

(Translated by Ei

Myanmar takes part in virtual forum for ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Eradication



The 2020 Extraordinary ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Eradication Forum in progress on 29 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR joined 2020 Extraordinary ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Eradication Forum organized by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) yesterday. The virtual forum was also attended by the government officials from ASEAN member countries— Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore—with the discussions about their efforts on poverty reduction during the COVID-19 crisis.

Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) Director-General Ms Su Guoxia and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Mr Kung Phoak delivered their opening remarks at the forum which was attended by 45 representatives of relevant organizations. The top officials from ASEAN member countries discussed their poverty alleviation efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

Director-General of Rural Development Department U Khant Zaw, in his capacity as the rotating chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) discussed Myanmar's response to the COVID-19 crisis, experiences related to poverty reduction, and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) of Myanmar.

He said that the SOMRDPE Myanmar has implemented the "Cash for Work Programme" and the "Village Revolving Fund Programme" during the COVID-19 crisis. The delegations from China-ASEAN Centre, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, IFAD, WFP, World Bank and Asian Development Bank participated in the discussions, followed by the closing remarks of Cambodia's Ministry of Rural Development Secretary of State Chivoan SAO, and the IPRCC Deputy Director General Dr TAN Weiping.—MNA *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

Myanmar families in Tokyo donate Patient Monitor to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital

THE Asia-Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS), Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan U Myint Thu and the embassy families donated a K3.5 million worth Patient Monitor to the Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) yesterday.

Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Lynn Aye made an opening remark on the donation ceremony. Political Department Director-General U Aung Ko explained the reason of the donation. Hospital officials then received the Patient Monitor, and returned the certificate of honour. Professor Dr Ye Thurein (Neurosurgeon) expressed thanks to the donors. —MNA *(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*



Myanmar families in Tokyo donate a set of Patient Monitor equitment to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital on 29 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

MRTV staff attend market strategy forum for attracting digital audience



Market strategy forum is aimed to attract digital audience. **PHOTO: MNA**

ABOUT 20 MRTV staff attended a market strategy forum for attracting digital audience at the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) in Nay Pyi Taw – Tatkon on 28 July.

It was organized by the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU). During the forum, Mr Steve Ahern, the Head of Malaysia's ABU Media Academy explained how the digital market can be promoted, how to increase the number of audience in Free to air radio/TV broadcasting platforms, the need to increase online viewers, how to use new online technologies, how to attract online viewers and how to earn higher advertisement income by increasing the number of online audience. —MNA*(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)*

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

The foreign manufacturer Ningxia Taiyicin Biotech Co., Ltd will import and distributes the following products registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Emazing 5.7 WDG	EAGROW KNIFE 5.7 WDG	Emamectin Benzoate 5.7% WDG	Provisional Reg:	P2019-4668

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board,Plant Protection Division, West of Gyogone Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the changing trading name of pesticide.

Address: Kesai Eagrow (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. No(T-A8), Room (401), Min Dana Street, (3) Quarter, Shwe Kabar Condo, Mayangone Township Yangon. Ph: 09891497268

FE FOODS & BEVERAGES MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED

Notice for Final General Meeting of Members Voluntary Winding Up

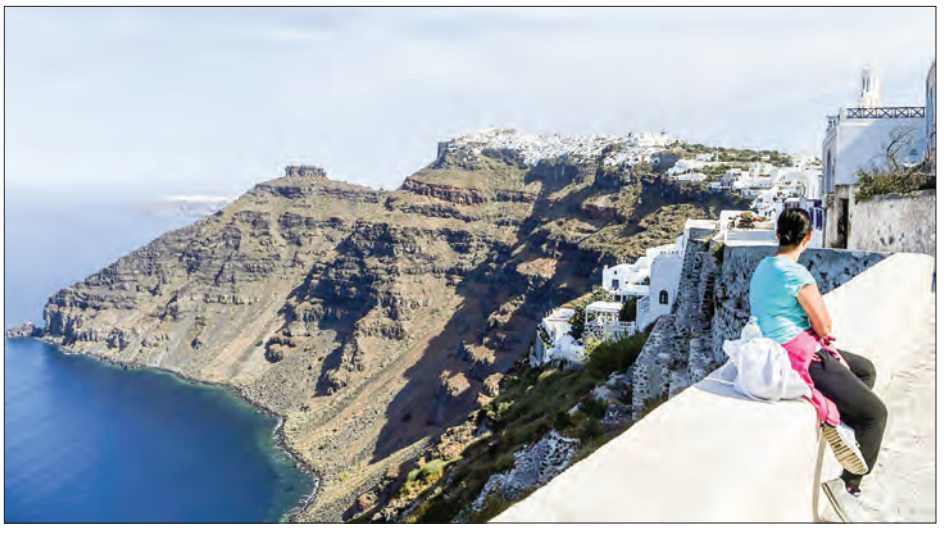
According to the section 357 of Myanmar Companies Law, it is required to secure consents of members of the Company "FE Foods & Beverages Myanmar Company Limited" and therefore all the members are invited to attend the final general meeting which will be convened at the place and time mentioned below.

Date: 1.9.2020
Time: (15:30) pm
Place: 16th Floor, Sule Square Tower, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The final report of the liquidator will be submitted and explained to the members in the meeting.

U Win Swe
Liquidator (FE Foods & Beverages Myanmar Company Limited), Advocate (No.11054)
No. 59, U Ba Han Street, Thamine, Mayankon Township,Yangon.
Tel: (959) 451360389

Greece to reopen six ports to cruise ships this week



A woman gazes across the view of the town of Fyra in the island of Santorini on June 14, 2020 as the country prepares for the return of tourists to Greece from around 30 countries by air, sea and land. **PHOTO: AFP/ARIS MESSINIS**

ATHENS—Greece will reopen six of its ports, including Piraeus in Athens, to cruise ships on Saturday for the first time in the coronavirus-shortened tourism season, the tourism minister said. In a letter to the Cruise Lines International Association and three major cruise operators, Harry Theoharis said the ports of Piraeus, Rhodes, Iraklio, Volos, Corfu and Katakolo would accept passengers, state agency ANA reported Tuesday. After docking at one of these ports, cruise ships will subsequently be able to travel elsewhere in Greece, depending on local coronavirus conditions, he said. With a quarter of the economy dependent on tourism, Greece has sought to capitalize on its relatively low infection rate to bring in visitors.—AFP ■

Foreign investment into Vietnam down 6.9 pct in 7 months

HANOI—Vietnam attracted foreign investment of 18.8 billion U.S. dollars in the first seven months of this year, seeing a year-on-year decline of 6.9 per cent, its General Statistics Office said on Wednesday. Specifically, Vietnam licenced 1,620 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with total registered capital of 9.5 billion U.S. dollars, and saw 619 operational FDI projects raise their capital by 4.7 billion U.S. dollars, according to the office. Between January and July, foreign investors also spent 4.6 billion U.S. dollars buying shares or contributing capital to Vietnamese firms, down 45.6 per cent on-year. Among the 10.1 billion U.S. dollars FDI disbursed, 71.1 per cent were poured into the processing and manufacturing sector, 15 per cent into the real estate sector, and 7.1 per cent into the electricity, gas, hot water, steam and air-conditioner production and distribution sector.

Among 65 countries and regions which had investment projects licensed in Vietnam in the first seven months of this year, Singapore was Vietnam's largest source of foreign investment, followed by China and South Korea, said the office.—Xinhua ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **ZHEJIANG E-TONG CHEMICAL CO., LTD** has registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "**ANAWRAHTA PRODUCTION CO., LTD**", to new distributor name "**Y AGRO SOLUTION CO., LTD**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Y AGRO SOLUTION CO., LTD**. Ph- Ph-09969007222

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	K.4 Satan 48 SL	Glyphosate 48% SL	F2018-1489

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (041W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (041W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-7-2020** 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 SHIPPING PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (046N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (046N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0138 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0138 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-7-2020** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (029S/031N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (029S/031N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates Company Limited
For **BEIJING JINGDONG 360 DU E-COMMERCE LTD.**
BY ITS ATTORNEY
ACTIP IP LIMITED
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 30th July, 2020

6th coordination meeting of peace negotiators turns out fruitful results

REPRESENTATIVES of the government and the NCA-S EAOs concluded their 6th coordination meeting yesterday, with fruitful results for further discussions and schedule for the next round of discussions in the first week of August.

The final day of 6th coordination meeting highlighted the framework for NCA implementation of the 8th JICM meeting decisions, process and phase-by-phase implementation beyond 2020, preparations for the 4th session of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong and related meetings and information about next meeting results to the political party group of UPDJC.

NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngern said, in his concluding remark on the meeting, that they discussed controversial issues in the Part 3 of Union Accord and reached some important agreements.

"Meeting results from the upcoming coordination meetings will be shared to the political party groups of UPDJC. The remaining issues will be discussed at the 7th coordination meeting, and its results will be tabled to the Joint Implementing Coordination Meetings," Sao Sai Ngern said.

He appreciated the peace-making efforts of negotiators from both sides, including on signing Part 3 of Union Accord and organizing Union Peace Conference.

Vice-Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo also confirmed positive results of the meeting.

"Both sides tried to make key agreements through patience and optimistic manners. We will continue discussions in Nay Pyi Taw, and try for genuine federal practices at the 4th session of 21st Century Panglong.



Government and NCA-S EAOs successfully conclude the 6th coordination meeting for peace process. on 29 July 2020. **PHOTO : PHOE HTAUNG**

After the meeting, Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and NCA-S-EAOs representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay held the joint press conference.

The 7th edition of the coordination will convene in Nay Pyi Taw in the first week of August.—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Press briefing after 6th coordination meeting of Government and NCA-S EAOs

THE final day of 6th coordination meeting between government representatives and ethnic armed organizations that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA-S EAOs) was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon yesterday evening.

The meeting focused on organizing the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, as decided during the 8th JICM meeting, and working towards signing Part 3 of the Union Accord.

After the meeting, Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of State Counsellor and NCA-S EAOs representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay held a press conference.

U Zaw Htay said while this meeting was held for one more day than the planned 3-day meeting, as all members need to discuss within their organizations, the meeting resulted in a wide range of agreements.

He said they discussed the three parts to the Union Accord's Part 3 the first part containing 13 implementation framework agreements for the NCA. He said there are 3 points left to be discussed, although they are not too different from one another, and detailed discussions are likely to make it successful.

U Zaw Htay said the second part concerned successive processes and implementations beyond 2020. He said the second part is separated into two categories. The first category has 8 topics that have all been agreed upon. He said the second category includes sub-topics that go into greater detail and one of them was about security unification. This was divided into three stages in the discussions with EAOs and successfully negotiating all of them would mean completion of a portion of the second category.

U Zaw Htay said the third part was about the guiding fundamentals for establishing a Democratic Federal Union. He said they are discussing 8 points on that matter with 2 in agreement and 6 remaining. He said they have mostly agreed on the other points but they require additional discussion as they are linked to other points as well. He said they may finish discussing them in the next meeting.

U Zaw Htay said they will meet in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 August after this 6th meeting and conduct preliminary meetings for JICM and the main meeting as well. He said they will organize the UPDJC meeting from there and head towards the peace conference.

Next, Nai Aung Ma Ngay said this is the first face-to-face meeting since numerous online meetings held to curb the spread of COVID-19. He said the first part only had 3 points left to discuss just as U Zaw Htay had mentioned and the second part only had the second table left to discuss, involving security unification, as well. He said the third part had 8 points with 2 in agreement and 6 remaining but since they are all interrelated the discussion is not over yet. He said he expects good results after the discussions scheduled for 1 August in Nay Pyi Taw.

Journalists then asked about the fourth session of the UPC scheduled for the second week of August.

Invitations to conference

U Zaw Htay replied that they have not invited anyone yet in response to a question on whether EAOs that have not signed the NCA will be invited to the peace conference. However, he said they plan to invite the non-signatories in addition to political parties and diplomats. He said the Ministry of Information has issued rules and regulations for journalists wishing to attend.

U Zaw Htay said they will not be inviting observers as a precaution to COVID-19 and the peace conference will also be held separately in MICC-I and MICC-II. He said the JICM and UPDJC meetings will be held in MICC-I while the opening ceremony will be held in MICC-II. He said every attending party will only have a third of the usual number allowed to attend the peace conference due to social distancing requirements during COVID-19.

Attendees from international organizations

U Zaw Htay said since the suspension of airlines are in place, the invited persons have to attend the conference themselves as it would be difficult for people to attend from abroad. He said they will not have people coming in instead of the invited and will only have the most essential people accompanying diplomats. Attendees will also have to take swab tests and stay at the designated hotels.

Nai Aung Ma Ngay then said they also wish to invite the non-signatories to the NCA and they have talked about this with the Union Government. Whether or not they actually attend is left to the non-signatories.—Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Director-General U Zaw Htay and NCA-S EAOs representative Nai Aung Ma Ngay hold a press briefing on 29 July. **PHOTO: POE HTAUNG**

Yemeni separatists abandon self-rule, push peace deal

SANAA—Yemeni separatists abandoned their declaration of self-rule in the south on Wednesday and pledged to implement a stalled Saudi-brokered peace deal, mending a rift between allies in the war against Huthi rebels.

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) proclaimed self-governance in April after accusing the government of failing to perform its duties and of "conspiring" against the southern cause, pushing the war-ravaged country deeper into crisis.

The breakdown between the one-time allies had complicated a long and separate conflict between a Saudi-led military coalition and the Iran-allied rebels, who control much of the north, including the capital Sanaa.

The STC "announces that it is abandoning its self-rule declaration" to allow the implementation of a power-sharing deal known as the Riyadh Agreement, spokesman Nizar Haitham wrote on Twitter.

He acknowledged the announcement came after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates exerted pressure to row back on their decision.

Saudi Arabia said it had proposed a plan to "accelerate" the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported early Wednesday.

The plan calls for the Yemeni prime minister to form a new government within 30 days, as well as the appointment of a new governor and security director for second city Aden where the government had set up base.

"Once this is implemented, the government should commence its work in Aden, and oversee the completion of the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement in accordance with all its clauses and tracks," SPA said, citing an unnamed Saudi official.—AFP ■



Fighting between southern separatists and unionist supporters of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi had severely undermined their Saudi-backed campaign against Huthi rebels who control the capital . **© AFP/FILE**

Police clear migrant camp outside Paris at high virus risk

PARIS—French police on Wednesday evacuated some 1,500 migrants from a camp north of Paris where crowded living conditions and a lack of water and sanitation exposed them to a high risk of coronavirus infection.

The migrants were taken from the camp in Aubervilliers, along the Saint-Denis canal northeast of Paris, to shelters in and around the capital, the police department said.

The migrants began boarding buses at dawn at the camp, one of dozens that have sprung up since large waves of asylum seekers began arriving in Europe in 2015. "The people are exhausted; for some it is their tenth evacuation," said Silvana Gaeta of the NGO Solidarite Migrants Wilson, which provides meals at the camp of mainly male migrants from the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan.

"They know that they will be placed in gymnasiums, and half of them will meet again on the street as soon as this evening."—AFP ■

U.S. Senate Republicans' COVID-19 relief proposal draws backlash



Volunteers prepare to load vehicles with boxes of food at a food bank in the Los Angeles County city of Duarte, California on July 8, 2020. **PHOTO BY FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP**

WASHINGTON —U.S. Senate Republicans' newly released 1-trillion-U.S. dollar COVID-19 relief proposal has drawn backlash from lawmakers and economists, and the country's two parties are still far from reaching a deal days before an extra unemployment benefit expires.

As part of the 2.2-trillion-dollar coronavirus relief bill passed in late March, Congress agreed to provide 600-dollar federal unemployment benefits per week on top of state unemployment benefits, which are set to expire at the end of July. The Senate Republicans' proposal, unveiled Monday, would slash the federal benefits to 200 dollars through September, giving an unemployed worker about 70 per cent of previous wages when combined with state benefits, while Democrats want to maintain the current level of benefits through January.

"If you've lost your job through no fault of your own, Republicans want you to take a 30 per cent pay cut. Can you believe that?" Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, said on Twitter.

"Americans need to buy food & pay rent. Republicans shouldn't be quibbling over $600 for workers on unemployment," House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, said on Twitter.

The White House and Republicans have contended that the 600-dollar benefits have created a financial disincentive for people to return to work, an argument refuted by some economists, including Adam Posen, president of Washington-based think tank Peterson Institute for International Economics.—Xinhua ■

Iran says fires missiles from underground in Gulf war games

TEHRAN—Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they launched ballistic missiles from "the depths of the Earth" on Wednesday during the last day of military exercises near sensitive Gulf waters.

The launches came a day after the Guards struck a mock-up of a US aircraft carrier with volleys of missiles near the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for a fifth of world oil output.

State television broadcast aerial footage of the latest daylight exercises in the desert showing bursts of flames, smoke and then dust before what appeared to be four projectiles climbing into the sky.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on their Sepahnews website that it was "the first time in the world" that such an exercise had been carried out.

The statement did not elaborate on the claim or provide any of the missiles' specifications.

It hailed "the successful launch of ballistic missiles from the depths of the Earth in a completely camouflaged way" as an "important achievement that could pose serious challenges to enemy intelligence organizations".

The Guards said they also released bombs from Sukhoi Su-22 fighter-bombers to target predetermined positions on Bani Farur Island in Iran's territorial waters.

"These launches were carried out without the platform and usual equipment," IRGC aerospace chief Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said on state television.—AFP ■



This handout photo provided by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on July 28, 2020 shows rockets being fired from a launch vehicle during a military exercise near the Strait of Hormuz. **© SEPAH NEWS/AFP**

CAS reveals Man City ignored UEFA investigation, but did not breach FFP

LONDON—Manchester City showed a "blatant disregard" for UEFA's investigation into alleged Financial Fair Play (FFP) breaches, according to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), but European football's governing body failed to prove City had disguised funding from the club's owners as sponsorship income. Earlier this month, CAS overturned a two-year ban from European competitions imposed on City by UEFA and reduced a fine of €30 million to €10 million.

The full reasoned judgement by CAS released on Tuesday showed that the fine was to reflect "a severe breach" in City's unwillingness to cooperate with UEFA's investigation.

But that the charges of alleged concealment of equity funding were more significant violations and that "based on the evidence the panel cannot reach the conclusion that disguised funding was paid to City."

City's fortunes on the field have been transformed since a takeover from Shiekh Mansour, a member of the Abu Dhabi royal family, in 2008.—AFP ■

Hole in none: How screen golf got serious in South Korea



A South Korean golfer hits in a simulation booth during the GTour screen golf tournament in Daejeon, south of Seoul. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP**

DAEJEON—On the final green of the tournament, Ha Ki-won carefully took his stance and addressed the ball. A gentle strike, and it rolled forward.

In front of him it circled the hole, making a rattling sound as it dropped, and Ha raised his fist in triumph, taking victory and a 20 million won (US$17,000) winner's cheque by a single shot.

The ball, though, was not in a hole, but still on the carpet. This was a professional screen golf tournament in South Korea, which organizers say is the world's only such tour.

For Ha, 38, screen golf has offered a competitive lifeline: He first wielded a club at the age of 17, and reached the second tier of the professional KPGA tour, but never made a cut in tournament play.

In screen golf, though, he now has five victories, and in 2017 he gave up real-life competition altogether, converting fully to simulator action.

"Now I feel more at ease in front of the giant screen," said Ha.

Just like on a real course, players compete in several groups simultaneously, each taking shots in turn.

But rather than walking in open countryside to reach their next lie, they step in front of a screen measuring 5.8m by 3m.

Sensors on the floor and ceiling track the trajectory of the ball after impact and project its onward path down the virtual course.—AFP ■

Aung La N Sang to join TED Talk event on 2 August



ONE Championship two-division world champion Aung La N Sang. **PHOTO: AUNG LA N SANG'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

MYANMAR'S sports icon, ONE Championship two-division world champion Aung La N Sang will participate in the TED Talk event named TEDxYangon, which will conduct via Facebook Live on 2 August, according to the official statement with the Aung La N Sang on his social media page.

"This Sunday morning (Asia), I'll be on Facebook Live with TEDxYangon for a chat on life after COVID-19, how I got into MMA, and the causes I am passionate about.

"TEDxYangon is a volunteer-run organization based in Yangon, Myanmar," said Aung La N Sang. The Burmese Python continued, "They organize TEDx events to provide a positive platform for sharing ideas and contribute to societal development.

"Join me on August 2nd at 08:30 am Yangon time – that's August 1st (Saturday night), 10:00 pm on the US east coast. Click Going on the event so you don't miss any notifications and updates. See you soon," the Burmese Python added.

The TEDxYangon event has become popular in Myanmar since 2016 and the famous persons like artists, athletes, writers and successful business persons participate in such kind of event to share their knowledge, experiences plus giving information to public. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

France keeps sports stadiums cap at 5,000, with local exceptions

PARIS —The French government, the first in Europe's leading football nations to allow spectators back into grounds, said on Tuesday that the attendance cap would stay at 5,000 until the end of August, but local officials would be able to grant exemptions.

Local authorities would be granted flexibility "according to the seating capacity of the arena, analysis of the general and local health situation and subject to the strict implementation of health protocols," said the sports ministry.

The ceiling of 5,000 was set when the coronavirus state of emergency in mainland France ended on July 11, but the final of the French Cup between Paris Saint-Germain and Saint-Etienne at the Stade de France took place on Friday in front of 2,800 spectators.

Clubs were hoping the limit would be further relaxed to increase revenue but the government has decided "the increase in the spread of the coronavirus in the country" rules that out.

Local government will have the power to authorize matches with more than 5,000 spectators, although spectators will be required to wear marks, stay seated, be in groups of no more than 10 and remain separated from other groups by one seat.—AFP ■



Fans and squad members tried to follow the rules at the French Cup final at the Stade de France. **PHOTO: FRANCK FIFE / AFP/FILE**