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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 6 August 2020

## President U Win Myint inaugurates new office of Anti-Corruption Commission



President U Win Myint attends inauguration ceremony of Anti-Corruption Commission's new office in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

**P**resident U Win Myint opened the new office building of Anti-Corruption Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chairman of ACC and its members, and departmental officials.

After removing the curtain of building's signboard, the President sprinkled

scented water onto the plaque of commission's new office.

President U Win Myint made a remark on the opening of new ACC office.

(Speech of President U Win Myint is covered on page 4)

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi also explained the progress and ongoing activities of his office.

He talked about the reform of ACC by the government in November

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## State Counsellor discusses preparations for conducting elections during COVID period



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a videoconference on preparations for 2020 General Election, on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

**D**aw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) held a videoconference yesterday at 10 am with senior officials from the conference room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw regarding preparations being made to conduct elections.

The following senior officials participated in the videoconference:

U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population; U Myint Naing, member of the Union Election Commission; and U Htet Aung, Deputy Director-General of the General Administration Department.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi first gave a few introductory remarks. She said that, she wanted to discuss two fundamental rights which were very important for citizens; the first was

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## Two new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 5 August, total figure reaches 357

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 357 after 2 new cases were reported on 5 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No 356 returned from Sudan and Case No 357 from India. Out of the 357 confirmed cases, six died, 305 have recovered, 289 have been discharged from hospitals and 24 were held under investigation.—MNA

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“People are the key”

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses bills, loan programme, budget reports

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw held its 8<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session yesterday, with discussions on bills, loan programmes from foreign financial institutions and budget report of Union government.

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved the Myanmar Health Assistant Council Bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported findings and recommendations of his committee on National Planning Bill for 2020-2021 financial year.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe and Vice-Chairman of Joint Public Accounts Committee U Aung Min reported Union Budget Bill for 2020-2021 financial year to the Hluttaw.



Bills and budget reports were discussed during the 8<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 5 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker U T Khun Myat invited the names of Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bills.

**Unicredit Bank of Austria**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced approval for getting 0.861-million-euro grant and 4.876 million-euro loan with zero interest rate from the Unicredit Bank of Austria. The proposal was sent by the President for implementing infrastructural system of electronic mailing and digital registration.

**ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements**

The Hluttaw also approved for signing of Myanmar in the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, proposed by the President.

MP Dr Khin Sithu from Loikaw constituency and MP U Naing Htoo Aung from Natogyi constituency discussed signing of Myanmar in cooperation agreement on multi-economic sector in the region, and the proposal was sent by the President.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh asked for approval of this proposal to sign the agreement at 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN

Summit scheduled in November this year.

The Hluttaw then approved this proposal.

**Loan from JICA**

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win asked for the approval of Hluttaw to get 15 billion yen from the Japan International Cooperation Agency to implement the phase 3 of Small and Medium Scaled Business Development Project, which was the proposal sent by the President. The loan will be spent for giving out loans to focus on the businesses affected by the COV-

ID-19.

He added the ministry is drafting the Credit Guarantee Corporation with the US\$60 million loan from Asian Development Bank.

The Hluttaw then approved for the JICA loan.

**JPAC reports**

The Joint Public Accounts Committee’s findings and recommendations on the National Planning Bill for the first six-month of 2019-2020FY, sent by the President, was also discussed by MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency, MP U Kyaw Tote from Mandalay Region constituency 7,

Pyithu Hluttaw representative of the Tatmadaw Major Soe Naing and MP Dr Than Aung Soe from Minhla constituency.

The Joint Public Accounts Committee’s findings and recommendations on the Union Budget Bill was discussed by MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency, Pyithu Hluttaw representative of the Tatmadaw Lt-Col Tun Lin Oo and MP U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency.

The 9<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 7 August.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant  
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses National Library Bill and Animal Health and Breeding Development Bill on 5 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses National Library Bill, Animal Health, Breeding Development Bill

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held meetings over National Library Bill and Animal Health and Breeding Development Bill sent back by the President with recommendation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Joint Bill Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Joint Secretary and members of the Joint Bill Committee, officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Committee, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office of the Attorney-General of the Union, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA  
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han )

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020  
General Election  
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS  
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President U Win Myint inaugurates new office of Anti-Corruption Commission

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2017, the implementation of annual plans under the Anti-Corruption Strategy Plan (2018-2021), and the completion of 80 per cent works from the plan at the end of June 2020.

The commission chairman also emphasized sustainable progress in fighting against corruption through two strategies of enforcing the legal framework and the harmonious promotion between public integrity and business integrity.

He added the commission will implement the remaining 20 per cent of tasks under the four-year plan, while the government has supported the plan of commission to draw ‘the National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy’.

The commission has formed the Corruption Prevention Units (CPU) to promote integrity at the public departments and offices. However, some of these units have not seen significant progress in their works.

The commission has in-



President U Win Myint formally opening new office building of the Anti-Corruption Commission on 5 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

structed the private business firms to adopt and follow codes of conduct for eliminating corruptions.

ACC Chair U Aung Kyi continued the emergence of ‘the National-Level Anti-Corruption Strategy’ could enforce the CPU and the CoC.

The ACC chair then presented the reference books for promoting anti-corruption and integrity for high schools and universities across the



country to Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi before concluding the ceremony.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

President U Win Myint sprinkles scented water onto the plaque of Anti-Corruption Commission office. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of the new office building of Anti-Corruption Commission on 5 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speech delivered by U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the opening ceremony of the new office building of the Anti-Corruption Commission

(5 August 2020)

I send auspicious good wishes to all those who have come to the opening ceremony of the new office building of the Anti-Corruption Commission – Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chairman and members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, and all invited guests.

When I was serving as the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, I was able to approve the fourth revision of the draft Anti-Corruption Law submitted by the Anti-Corruption Commission, in the interests of the citizens of Myanmar and the State to further promote the effectiveness in prevention and combating of corruption. This law has granted wide-ranging powers to the Commission to combat corruption and powers to conduct its work independently. This Commission was also authorized as the body to combat corruption.

Furthermore, when I took the oath of office as the President in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, I said that we would have to exert more efforts to combat corruption. When I received the chairman and members of the Anti-Corruption Commission as President, I gave clear and precise instructions for the establishment of branch offices in Regions/States and in conducting its work to combat corruption without discriminating whether those involved were rich or poor and whether they were powerful or powerless. I recognize the strenuous efforts being made by the Commission to combat corruption from all angles.

Just as in other countries of the world, the efforts being made to prevent corruption, conducting awareness-raising campaigns, and initiating prosecutions in our country stand out as good examples of our efforts to reform in accordance with the changing times and changing political system.

I would also like to give my support to the efforts being made by the Commission to formulate a National Level Anti-Corruption Strategy to enable future governments to combat corruption without losing momentum. Just as in other countries of the world, the efforts being made to prevent corruption, conducting awareness-raising campaigns, and initiating prosecutions in our country stand out as good examples of our efforts to reform in accordance with the changing times and changing political system.

The fact that we are able to open this new office building for the Anti-Corruption Commission as a separate building, at a time when Union Government is trying to solve the problem of corruption which has taken root for so many years all over the country, with deep political commitment, will become a milestone in the history of Myanmar’s efforts to combat corruption. This I believe. Why? This is because this new office building which has been built during the tenure of our Union Government is equal in stature as buildings owned by the anti-cor-

Taw. Besides, to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption activities, we have made authorizations to open branch offices in Mawlamyine of Mon State and Taunggyi of Shan State.

During this transition to democracy, our government has been working to achieve more progress in the areas of administration, legislation, judiciary, political affairs, economic affairs, social affairs, education and health. Corruption acts as a very significant stumbling block on the path of the nation’s modernization, progress and development. It also impacts negatively on the country’s economic development, the elevation of the people’s socio-economic status, poverty reduction, and efforts to bring in foreign investments smoothly.

In conclusion, I wish to urge all government ministries, non-governmental

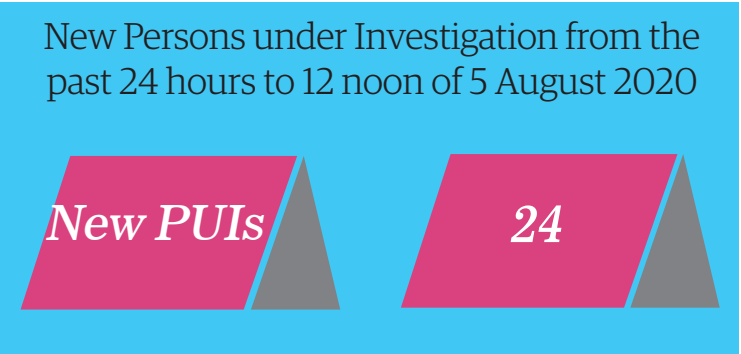
... this new office building for the Anti-Corruption Commission as a separate building, ... will become a milestone in the history of Myanmar’s efforts to combat corruption. This I believe.

human resources to a certain extent by opening branch offices in Mandalay region and Yangon region as well as the present new office building of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Nay Pyi organizations, civil society organizations, the media and all the people to join us in making increased efforts to prevent and combat corruption.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

Two new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 5 August, total figure reaches 357

FROM PAGE-1  
Updated at 8 pm, 5 August 2020



Two new cases of COVID-19 on 5 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address                        | Contact with positive patient | Oversea travel history | Hospital for medical treatment       | Lab result | Remark                                         |
|---------|-----|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 356     | 15  | Female | Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay | No                            | Yes, Sudan             | Waibargi Specialist Hospital, Yangon | Positive   | Keep under Investigation (Mingaladon Township) |
| 357     | 19  | Male   | Tiddim Township, Chin State    | No                            | Yes, India             | People’s Hospital, Tiddim Township   | Positive   | Keep under Investigation (Tonzang Township)    |

Ministry of Health and Sports

# State Counsellor discusses preparations for conducting elections during COVID period



State Counsellor discusses preparations for 2020 General Election with Union Minister U Thein Swe and officials concerned on 5 August.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

**FROM PAGE-1**

health and that the health of the people was the main responsibility of the Union Government and it was also the right of the people; the next matter was to have the right to participate and vote in the elections; this was also the right of citizens as well as their duty; in all this, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the administrative sector and the UEC – Union Election Commission all played a critical role.

The second stage was to ensure that all the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health and Sports for COVID-19 were being followed for the citizens to cast their votes in safety; the first stage was to make sure that the voters lists were correct for voters to be able to vote; during the last two weeks, a lot of news emerged saying that the voters lists were incorrect and incomplete; this is something that needed to be done with great care; all citizens born of parents who are from an indigenous race and are 18 years of age have the right to vote; it is her belief that just as citizens have the right to vote they also have the duty to vote; everyone must want to be dutiful towards the country; they should vote in accordance with their choice; to say “I don’t like this or I don’t like that” and to refuse to vote is a very irresponsible act; all citizens should perform their duties by voting which is a matter of only one day every five years; she believed that the majority would wish to vote; the three departments who have the responsibility should make sure that citizens would be able to vote.

**Discussion of Union Minister U Thein Swe**

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe explained preparations for the successful holding of the 2020 General Election, the issuing of national scrutiny cards to a total of 5,720,000 people at schools, industrial zones and workplaces from 2016 to July 2020, the coordination of his ministry with the Union Election Commission, the General Administration Department in collecting accurate voter lists for the general elections at various levels.

He added that some errors have been reported on the voter lists after announcing its first edition on 25 July, however, the second edition of voter lists will be issued in October with the cooperation of local election commissions and the administration departments while the respective immigration office will help in ensuring accurate voter lists.

He also said measures to follow rules of Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent COVID-19, repatriation programme for Myanmar migrant workers at the border crossings, arrangements for voting of the returnees in the respective areas and foreign countries, difficulties in collecting voter lists in rural areas for many reasons and variation of voter lists due to the internal migration.

The Union Minister continued discussions about reaccepting Myanmar migrant workers at the border crossings with Thailand, China and India, as well as the returnees by relief and special flights in line with the directives of MoHS.

**Discussions of UEC Member U Myint Naing, the member of Union Election Commission, explained collecting voter lists based on the family registrations in 2010 and 2015, however, the accurate lists could not be received at that time; the recent collection of voter lists was focused on the actual data of residents, and that it is expected the list of voters would be more realistic; however, it was also found some mistakes in the lists of 37.5 million eligible voters; out of 6.6 million**

people who checked the voter lists, over 210,000 persons requested Form 3, about 66,000 asked Form 4 for objection and over 150,000 asked Form 4 (c) for corrections.

He continued saying that the UEC will work together with the GAD and the MoLIP for accurate voter lists; explained COVID-19 measures at the poll stations and the process for free and fair elections.

**Discussions of Deputy Director-General from GAD**

Deputy Director-General from the General Administration Department U Htet Aung explained the works of GAD in working together with local UEC offices, the accuracy of voter lists, the plans to campaign for practising COVID-19 preventive measures, and the support of GAD staffs to the UEC offices in the electoral processes.

After that, in responding to the discussions made above, the State Counsellor said that efforts that were being made to conduct the elections successfully were not only for political reasons but because it was very important for the welfare of the State; it has been learnt that the UEC has made studies about elections held in Singapore and

She wanted to show that the calibre of Myanmar citizens did not depend only on financial wealth but also on being dutiful, being disciplined and being loyal towards the country and that they were able to pull this off successfully.

Korea (ROK); the whole world has accepted that the elections held in these countries were conducted very smoothly with a high level of competency; these countries were very rich countries; Myanmar was not a rich country like them; at the beginning when the COVID disease first erupted many were skeptical about how a country such as Myanmar with few resources would be able to control the COVID; later they accepted that Myanmar was able to control the COVID up to now; however the process to prevent, control and provide treatment for COVID-19 was not yet over; it was still not yet known when this would be over; she said, the elections have to be conducted during this time.

The State Counsellor said she wanted to show that Myanmar was able to conduct the elections successfully and safely from the health point of view, in accordance with the rights and duties of the citizens for the dignity of the country; she wanted to show that the calibre of Myanmar citizens did not depend only on financial wealth but also on being dutiful, being disciplined and being loyal towards the country and that they were able to pull this off successfully.

She added this was why she believed that the UEC, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the GAD – General Administration Department would all cooperate fully for the success of the elections, and to ensure that the rights of citizens could be exercised to the fullest extent and in a dutiful manner.

In the life of a person, if this person started voting at the age of 18, because elections are being held every five years, if this person lived to be 80, this person would only have the opportunity to vote 12 times. Therefore during the 80 years, the right of a person to vote for the future of the country and the progress of the country would be only 12 times during the lifespan. She said she wanted the citizens to use these 12 days in the best possible way; it was the duty of the Union Government to make sure that this was possible; she wanted to thank all those who participated in the videoconference; she hoped that all would participate and cooperate to win the trust of the people and live up to their expectations.

The fact that a large number of people were checking the voter lists to see if their names were in these lists was a good sign; this showed that the people were interested in the elections and that they recognized the importance of these elections; that was why she believed that the elections would be held successfully.

She concluded by saying that she wished to thank everyone because she has heard that everyone would participate and cooperate for the success of the elections.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

VP U Myint Swe emphasizes enforcement of Science, Technology and Innovation Law

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of National Science, Technology and Innovation Council, presided over the council meeting 1/2020 yesterday, calling for the implementation of objectives in the Science, Technology and Innovation Law.

He said that Myanmar is cooperating with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific—UNESCAP—for drafting the national-level policies and frameworks in implementing the works of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); as Myanmar is a UN member-country and a partner of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the country is responsible for practising STI norms and STI outlooks issued by the OECD annually.

The Vice President also advised the relevant ministries to adopt national-level STI policies and implementing strategies for these policies aimed for national development in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as Goal 4: Quality education, Goal 5: Gender equality, Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals.

He also suggested encouraging greater creativity and innovation which will contribute to the development of the modern economy in line with Strategy 7 in



Vice President U Myint Swe emphasizes enforcement of Science, Technology and Innovation Law on 5 August. PHOTO: MNA

Goal 3 of Pillar 2 in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030).

He continued to discuss the needs to draw work plans, visions and goals to carry out the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation (2016-2025) for the emergence of ‘National STI Action Plan and Implementation Plan.

The Vice President emphasized technology transfers from research works to the industrial and production sectors, with ensuring mutual benefits between the inventors and the investors as these are included in the fundamental objectives of STI.

Protection and transfer of technologies are to be carried out in line with the law, together with the development of human resources, from research works to commercial purposes, cooperation with international partner organizations and adopting a system to promote innovation and creation.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, also Council Vice-Chairman, explained progress in drafting the National Education Strategic Plan 2021-2030, the establishment of Centre of Research and Innovation, organizing educative talks, the use of modern application and

software to develop innovation and creation, and the council decisions in the 1/2019 meeting.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin discussed the need to form relevant work committees to encourage science, technology and innovations to stay abreast of Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win discussed the formation of the committees on environmental conservation and participation of experts.

Union Minister for Health

and Sports Dr Myint Htwe advised coordination among relevant committees for developing the National Research Policy.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Chairman of National Education Policy Commission Dr Myo Kywal and Permanent Secretary with the Ministry of Transport and Communications U Soe Thein also reported on relevant sectors.

The Vice President coordinated the discussions before concluding the meeting. —MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee holds meeting on health sector

THE Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee holds the coordination meeting on 5 August. PHOTO: MNA

ting Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw held a meeting with Hluttaw representatives who raised the questions and officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the com-

mittee made a coordination between the MP and the ministerial officials for removing the list of pledges in the previous 16<sup>th</sup> regular sessions of Hluttaw.—MNA  
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoI announces list of media for covering 4<sup>th</sup> Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

THE Ministry of Information has released the list of the news media for covering 4<sup>th</sup> session of Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong which will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I and II in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 21 August.

Detail information of the list can be viewed at [www.moi.gov.mm](http://www.moi.gov.mm), [www.mdn.gov.mm](http://www.mdn.gov.mm), [www.mrtv.gov.mm](http://www.mrtv.gov.mm) and on Facebook pages of MOI Webportal Myanmar; Myanmar Digital News and MRTV. The journalists who will cover the event need to follow the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.—MNA  
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

K200 new postage stamp featuring Myanmar goldsmith work to be issued

THE Myanmar Posts under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a K200 new postage stamp featuring Myanmar goldsmith work on 7 August 2020. The new postage stamp will be available at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post

Office, Mandalay Post Office and the post offices in every state and region starting from 9:30 am on 7 August.

As a special promotion, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will print the date and inauguration



mark on the stamps and the First Day Cover on 7 August.

The 3D designed cards to mark the centenary of

Yangon University will also be on sale together on that day.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

# National workshop on submitting mid-term review of Implementation of ASCC Blueprint 2025 held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko makes the opening remark at workshop on reviewing ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE opening ceremony of the national workshop on submitting mid-term review of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community high-level official Dr Khin Kyi Pyar (Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture- Mandalay), officials from ASEAN Socio-Cultural Commu-

nity Pillar, experts and representatives from 15 sectoral bodies.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said that the workshop was to review the implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 in Myanmar during the term of the current government and to report the national-level mid-term assessment to the office of Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The Union Minister continued to say that it was to honour the ASEAN Day which falls on 8 August.

He added that the three

pillars of ASEAN: Political and Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community were supporting each other to cooperate for peace, stability and prosperity in the ASEAN region. In order to combine those three pillars to create an ASEAN Community, ASEAN leaders approved the declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in the ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in 2003 to create an ASEAN Community by 2020, said the Union Minister.

Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment

of an ASEAN Community by 2015 was signed at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2007 in Cebu City in the Philippines, said the Union Minister. The office of Secretary-General of ASEAN implemented the first blueprint for the period of 2009-2015 and the second blueprint for the period of 2016-2025; the procedures of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint will be completed in 2025.

The Union Minister continued that the member-countries lay down the procedures for national-level assessment to submit regular reports on problems and profits which might be faced according to ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint and new procedures will be set by the end of 2025 after studying the current assessment.

It is the result of procedures in blueprint which were thoughtfully set by the ASEAN's leaders for the regional development and all the ASEAN member-countries are responsible to keep carrying out these duties, said the Union Minister, adding that all are co-operating in unity to be able to timely submit the mid-term assessment of second blueprint to

the office of Secretary-General of ASEAN and coordination meetings were also held with officials of the office of Secretary-General of ASEAN and experts.

He also requested to keep cooperating to be able to send in time on 21 August 2020 to the office of Secretary-General of ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia to seek approvals of ASEAN's leaders at 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit which will be held in November 2020.

The workshop will be held until 6 August by the representatives of 15 Sectoral Bodies from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Union Civil Service Board, which are related to the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)*

## MoEE exchanges agreements with tender-winning companies

EXCHANGE of agreements for supplying concrete poles and the installation services in the second phase of National Electrification Project, which is being implemented with the World Bank's loan, by the government to tender-winning company took place at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing said the ministry made concerted efforts in implementing National Electrification Project with US\$310million loan of World Bank to achieve the target of nationwide electrification by 2030 and carried out as NEP-I to electrify 5,080 villages within 2 miles of power grid in Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw), Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (southern, northern and eastern), Sagaing, Bago (eastern and western), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

As second phase, the officials keep operating to electrify 4,700 villages within 3 miles of power grid in Union Territory (Nay Pyi

Taw), Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (southern, northern, eastern), Sagaing, Bago (eastern and western), Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions, said the Union Minister, adding negotiations with the World Bank for loan to implement NEP- II.

Moreover, it was also approved a \$171.27million loan for rural electrification plan from ADB at Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 17<sup>th</sup> regularly session held on 27 July and the required power plants will be constructed in Kayin State, Bago Region (eastern), Magway and Mandalay regions and the project can bring electricity to 2,815 villages and 400,300 households, he added.

Under the NEP and rural electrification plan, 55 per cent of the households is to have access to electricity in 2020-2021FY, 75 per cent in 2025-2026FY and 100 per cent in 2030.

The construction works are completed in 3,039 villages and 2,583 villages were electrified in NEP phase 1 and the ceremony was held regarding supplying concrete poles to be used in

power supply to the villages of Ayeyawady Region and 18 per cent of transformers and 62 per cent of concrete pillars out of all purchased materials for second phase of NEP-1 were already received.

The installation service tenders for second phase of NEP-1 are the agreements for supplying power to the villages of Magway Region, Rakhine State, Chin State

and Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw.

If the operations are completed within two miles of first phase of NEP-1 and three miles of second phase, about 1,166,431 households in 9,780 villages will have access to electricity and the electrification rate will increase by 10.72 per cent, said the Union Minister, instructing to implement the project in line with the regulations for being a national-level project and to complete within the fixed time.

Managing Director of Electricity Supply Enterprise U Ye Toe Thwin briefed the situation of NEP and exchanged the agreements with the official of tender-winning companies.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*



Ministry of Electricity and Energy exchanges agreements with tender-winning companies for supplying concrete poles and installation services on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

# No man is above the law in fighting scourge of corruption

WITH the opening of the Anti-Corruption Commission Office Building which meets the standard of other ASEAN-member of the South East Asia Parties against Corruption, the Union Government has taken further step to speed up the fighting against the corruption.

The opening of the building becomes the milestone in the history of anti-corruption of Myanmar as it comes while the Union Government is taking a lead in the fight against the corruption which has taken a root for decades in our country.

Corruption is posing a hindrance to emergence of a clean government with good governance.

That is why the incumbent government is committed to fighting corruption as a national duty.

Due to the action taken against corrupt civil servants, the public is increasingly more aware of the dangers of corruption. As democracy strides forwards during this transitional period, there is a better chance of exposing corruption.

during this transitional period, there is a better chance of exposing corruption.

The farther the journey of democratic transition takes steps forward, the larger will be the risk among people who are involved in corruption.

Corruption is more widespread in developing countries and those in transition—not because they are different from other nations but because the conditions are ripe.

State institutions are weak; government policies or regulatory agencies contain loop-holes that permit illegal activities; and institutions such as parliament, the judiciary, and civil society—including the press—that usually serve as safeguards are marginalized or themselves affected by corruption.

Therefore, these countries are locked in a vicious circle of corruption.

Corruption cannot be defeated if civil liberties are not firmly guaranteed. Hence, the Union Government is committed to fighting this scourge of humanity because it is the enemy of security, development, progress, and peace.

The fourth amendment to the Anti-Corruption Law, sub-section (A), Section-3, bars officials from abusing their power by using their position in the administration. Under the law, action can be taken against those who give and receive bribes.

No doubt. There will be no man above the law in our country.

## ROBUST HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

# How South Korea built a system to beat COVID-19

THE importance of a reliable and widely accessible healthcare system is never more apparent than during a pandemic. It is now painfully clear that countries cannot pursue economic development, and assume that the health system will develop in tandem. Instead, they must do what South Korea did: devise targeted strategies for effective healthcare delivery that go hand in hand with broader social- and economic-development efforts.

Over the last decade, South Korea's modern and robust health infrastructure has enabled it to cope with multiple major health crises. The COVID-19 crisis has been no different. Although South Korea faced one of the world's largest initial outbreaks outside China, it managed to contain the virus quickly, without imposing a nationwide lockdown.

This success was a long time coming. South Korea's rapid ascent from a low-income country to high-income status occurred alongside a drastic improvement in health outcomes. From 1960 to 1990, the infant mortality rate plummeted, from 80 deaths per 1,000 births to just 13, and average life expectancy at birth increased from 55 to 72 years.

This was no accident. South Korea's government began investing in healthcare—especially



Pedestrians wearing face masks cross the road in central Seoul on 23 June, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

in ensuring that services were available to rural communities and the poor—very early in the development process. In the 1950s, the government established immunization centres in every town and village.

Beginning in the 1960s—when South Korea's economic rise was just starting—the government introduced incentives to ensure that doctors were available everywhere. Physicians in private practice were commissioned to be public doctors, for example, and medical students could receive scholarships in exchange for a commitment to work in an underserved area for 2-5 years after graduation.

But South Korea's government did not just ensure access to health resources; it made sure people used them. In 1954, it introduced a law requiring children under the age of 14 to be immunized. This, together with accessible community health centres and the support of World Health Organization (WHO) advisers, caused vaccination rates to soar, and many acute communicable diseases were contained. There have been no reported cases of smallpox in South Korea since 1961, of typhus since 1968, or of poliomyelitis since 1984.

Of course, progress on economic development gave public-health initiatives a major boost. As per capita gross domestic product (GDP) grew—from

US\$158 in 1960 to US\$6,610 in 1990 to US\$12,257 in 2000—so did the ability of workers and companies to pay into a compulsory health-insurance system, introduced in 1977. A voluntary insurance system had existed since the early 1960s, but a shortage of skilled staff and participating medical institutions undermined its effectiveness. The new scheme added financial resources and expanded to include the self-employed and informal-sector workers, ultimately achieving universal coverage in 1989. The compulsory insurance payments remain a major source of the health system's funding.

Health education also made a big difference. Even before

most South Koreans had access to quality schooling, government agencies were disseminating crucial information—covering topics like sanitation, food hygiene, immunization, maternal and child health, and family planning—via newspapers, leaflets, and television broadcasts.

As education levels rose, particularly among women, health outcomes improved further, not only because people had more health-related knowledge, but also because the fertility rate plunged, from 6.1 children per woman in 1960 to 1.6 in 1990. This trend, together with economic growth and rising incomes, allowed for far greater investment in children's health. In fact, in the 1970s and 1980s, health expenditure grew faster than GDP. As demand for health services rose, public and private clinics and hospitals proliferated.

Today, South Korea continues to strengthen and refine its health-care system. For example, it uses the vast amounts of health data to which it has access to assess consumption of health services and improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The pillars of the South Korean model—universal health coverage, equitable access, and cost-effectiveness—are applicable across developing countries. The key is to design deliberate

strategies for healthcare that complement countries' economic-development agendas.

Such strategies should include investment in infrastructure like hospitals and clinics, as well as initiatives to attract the qualified staff needed to make those institutions function, including in poor and rural areas. To advance the goal of delivering universal health coverage, governments could consider creating a single national health-insurance system like South Korea's.

To promote progress, governments should establish specific targets—such as for neonatal mortality, access to clean water and proper sanitation, the eradication of disease, and health coverage—in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And global development partners should support these efforts.

Effective healthcare systems enable longer and more productive lives, support human-capital development, and underpin sustained economic growth. They are also essential to protect people from major health shocks like the COVID-19 crisis and the inevitable pandemics to come. An effective model exists. Developing countries should emulate it.

SOURCE: THEASEANPOST

## SPORTS CROWDS AND CORONAVIRUS A RISKY COMBINATION

# Large sports crowds 'unrealistic' this year: WHO

THE World Health Organization said Wednesday it was "unrealistic" to expect large crowds at sports events this year in countries suffering from community-level transmission of the new coronavirus.

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said it could be "disastrous" in such circumstances to allow the return of sports matches with tens of thousands of people attending. Asked in a live WHO social media chat when major sports events could come back, Ryan said it was impossible to predict.

"We don't know," the Irish epidemiologist said. "Large crowds of 40, 50, 60,000 people—it's not just the risk of being in the stadium, it's the risk of going to the stadium, the public transport, the bars and the clubs," he explained.

"Imagine all the problems we have now with nightclubs and bars, and you squeeze all of that together into a four- or five-hour experience, where

thousands of people go on the same public transport to a venue, get involved in the social aspects before a game, be involved in the game and then all of the social aspects after. "In the context of community transmission, that could be disastrous."

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the 2020 European football championships have been postponed until next year, while major football tournaments like Europe's Champions League and the English Premier League have been forced behind closed doors.

"We may have to expect that as things open up, we go from having no-one at the games to maybe 1,000 and 2,000," said Ryan. "We all want our sport back. We're just going to have to be careful for a good bit longer. "It's very unrealistic in countries with community transmission that we're going to be seeing large gatherings like that this year."

"Right now, it's hard to see those fully re-opened venues."

SOURCE: AFP



Even with the stadium closed, Arsenal fans celebrated outside the Emirates stadium in north London when their team won the English FA Cup earlier this month. PHOTO: AFP

## Flood Bulletin (Issued at: 13:00 hrs MST on 5-8-2020)

### Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

### Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

### Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada and Zalun Townships, Seiktha and Ngathaingchaung to take precaution measure.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).—Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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# Myanmar receives initial contribution of 4 mln yuan for resettlement of Kachin IDPs



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives 4 million yuan from China for resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

People’s Republic of China contributed 4 million yuan, out of 200 million yuan pledged for resettlement of the displaced persons in Kachin State, yesterday evening.

Union Minister Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the Directors-General and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen

Hai and other diplomats joined the ceremony.

During the event, the Union Minister expressed thanks and explained the formation of Working Committee on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons led by the Deputy Minister. The initial contribution, out of 200 million yuan, will be spent to construct or repair the houses in villages of Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships, in cooperating with the Kachin State government.

The Union Minister added that 1 million yuan will be spent for feasibility study of experts from Power China Kunming Engineering Corporation. He expressed his appreciation for the initial cash assistance before the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong.

The Chinese Ambassador said that his country supports development of Myanmar as neighbouring country.

The 200 million yuan financial assistance was signed during the official visit of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping to Myanmar in early 2020 for resettlement of IDPs in northern part of Myanmar, according to the Ambassador.

The current assistance is aimed for the progresses of national reconciliation and peace processes, promoting the living standard of people in northern part of Myanmar, and China will actively provide assistance to the works of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, he added, and presented 4 million yuan to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye who returned a certificate of honour.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

# Permanent Secretary U Soe Han participates in Videoconference of 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-US Dialogue

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han participated in the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-US Dialogue which was held via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Thongphane Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations and Mr David R. Stilwell, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States. The meeting was attended by ASEAN Senior Officials and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Political-Security Community.

At the Meeting, the Senior Officials discussed matters on

ASEAN and the United States’ responses to COVID-19, and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation of the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, the Meeting shared views on regional and international issues. Permanent Secretary U Soe Han highlighted that the principles of strengthening ASEAN Centrality, mutual respect, mutual trust, equality, inclusivity and complementarity within the existing cooperation framework contained in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific are vital for enhancing strategic stability and win-win cooperation in the region. He also stressed the importance of strengthening ASEAN-US maritime cooperation particularly in the areas of maritime connectivity, combating marine debris, preservation and protection of marine environment and



Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han joins the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-US Dialogue via videoconference on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

biodiversity to ensure the Indo-Pacific as a region of peace, stability and cooperation.

Present at the Meeting were senior officials from the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—GNLM

# Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win joins senior finance officers meeting of ASEAN+3

DEPUTY Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win participated in the virtual meeting of Deputy Finance

Minister and Deputy Governors of Central Banks from ASEAN+3 countries yesterday morning.

The meeting was hosted by

Vietnam.

At the meeting, ASEAN+3 countries discussed Technical Guidance (TG) for Conditionality

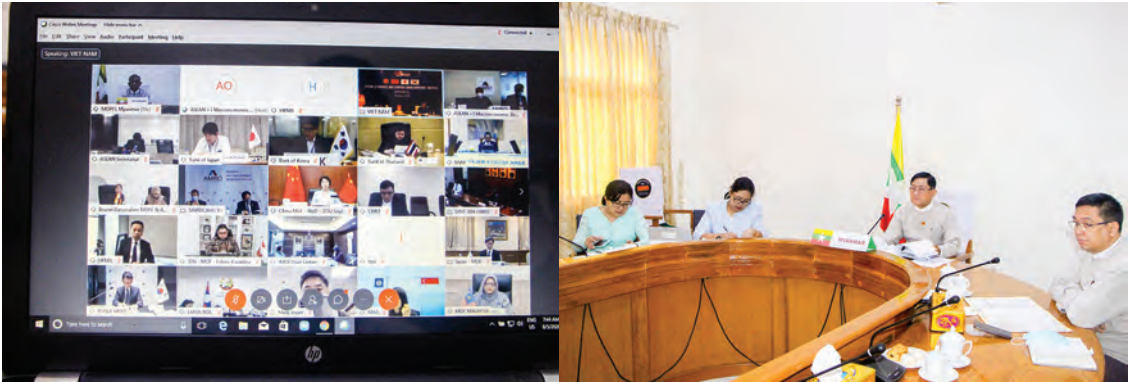
Framework (ILP) for multinational participation in Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation- CMIM, matters related to the Revision of the CMIM Agreement, 2021 budget expenditure and personnel issues of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office- AMRO, reviews on the performance of AMRO, performance growth conditions of Asian Bond Markets Initiative- ABMI, policy making, implementation and budgeting procedures of ASEAN+3 countries to respond the COVID-19 crisis.

ASEAN+3 financial meetings are held alternately in ASE-

AN countries and the Plus Three countries (China, Japan and South Korea). This year, because of COVID-19 crisis, Vietnam and Japan hosted the virtual meeting as Co-Chairs. The decisions made in this meeting will be reported in ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ meeting to be held in September.

The meeting was attended by deputy finance ministers from ASEAN+3 countries and officials from International Monetary Fund, AMRO and ASEAN General Secretary Office.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



ASEAN+3 countries hold virtual meeting of Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives WFP officials

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye met officials from World Food Programme (WFP) who collaborated in fight against COVID-19 yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed providing cash support to fulfill the food needs while people stay in quarantine centres by collaborating with Union Government, and respective regional or state governments, to continue providing food and

nutrition assistance to returnees from foreign countries and to the volunteers at the quarantine centres, technical support by WFP to be able to use electronic technology to provide financial support to the displaced people in IDP camps.—MNA

*(Translated by  
Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses assistance of WFP on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**



## 7<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting between Govt, NCA-S EAOs concludes successfully in Nay Pyi Taw

THE second day of work committee 7<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting between the Government and the NCA-S EAOs (Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement Signatories – Ethnic Armed Organizations) was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Representatives of the Government at the coordination meeting were NRPC Vice-Chairman and Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission advisory board members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, and Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.

Representatives of the NCA-S EAOs at the meeting were NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngern, NCA Implementation Coordinator U Myo Win, members Pado Saw Ta Doh Moo, U Hla Htay, Saw Mra Yazar Lin, Dr Lian Hmung Sakhong, Salai Htalaw Hei, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw L Kalusay, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Kya



The work committee 7<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting between the Government and the NCA-S EAOs is in progress on 5 August. **PHOTO: HTIKE KYI**

Salmon, Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Khun Myint Tun and Dr Sai Oo.

Proposals of both sides for implementation of the resolutions of the 8th JICM, the NCA Implementation and Framework, relevant future processes for post-2020, plans for step-by-step implementation and basic principles were discussed in the second-day meeting.

During the meeting, the NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngern said that some facts that could not be discussed in the previous coordination meeting were successfully discussed in the

two-day 7th coordination meeting, and agreements were reached because of efforts by all attendees.

The representatives from both sides agreed the 14 points of NCA Implementation Framework agreement, which are the first section of the part III of the Union Accord, said the NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngern. The second section that includes step-by-step processes and implementation for post-2020 was also discussed.

He said that some federal principles in the part III of the Union Accord were agreed by both

sides, and the remaining points will be discussed in upcoming meetings. Matters related to the upcoming fourth-session of the Union Peace Conference– 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, plans for invitation to NCA non-signatories EAOs to the conference, and detailed arrangements for the conference and associated meetings.

After that, the format of the Union Accord was discussed, and a drafting work committee was assigned to work on for it, according to the group leader Sao Sai Ngern. The agreements reached in the two-day meeting will be submitted to the relevant

leaders of the work committees of both sides for seeking approval, he said.

He also urged all relevant groups to exert serious efforts in the upcoming JICM preliminary meeting on 10 and 11 August to achieve good results.

Afterwards, the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Vice-Chairman Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo said that both sides could make frank and open discussions in the two-day meeting.

He continued that some points could not be approved in the meeting, but they will be discussed in the JICM preliminary meeting and the JICM meeting.

Discussions on some matters including the step-by-step processes for post-2020 need to be continued to reach agreement, and EAOs will submit the matters to the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) meeting, and work on for the matters, he said.

Then, the Vice Chairman Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo expressed thanks to all the representatives, and the work committee 7<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting was successfully concluded. —Myo Myint and Han Lin Naing

*(Translated by  
Maung Maung Swe)*



Myanmar returnees from abroad are queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 5 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 166 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Malaysia

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday night, bringing back a total of 166 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in Malaysia.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections

and arranged for 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flight and chartered flight in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embas-

sies from respective countries.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur cooperates with the relevant organizations of Malaysia in accordance with the instructions of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send back the undocumented Myanmar nationals and those who are detained at cells in relief flights.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

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CAD to reserve 42 tonnes of palm oil in Natogyi



Emergency palm oil is stocked up to prevent shortage of the food for public in Natogyi.  
**PHOTO : THAN AUNG ZAW(IPRD)**

THE Consumer Affairs Department (CAD) will stock up 2,587 containers of palm oil weighing 42 tonnes at the sports ground in Natogyi town, according to the department.

At present, the department has already stockpiled a total of 1,798 containers of palm oil weighing 29 tonnes starting

from 30 July.

Under the Mandalay regional government plan, the supervision teams for storage of palm oil were formed in townships and districts.

The emergency palm oil is stocked up to prevent shortage of the food for public if the outbreak of coronavirus is highly

spread in the country.

Following the directives of the Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID, the Consumer Affairs Department will carry out the distribution of the oil under the regional government plan if there are shortages of food for the public or if there

are rises high outbreak of coronavirus, according to the department.

The supervision teams for the storage of palm oil is trying to stockpile a total of 2,587 containers of palm oil weighing 42 tonnes to distribute to the public in Natogyi in cooperation with the related ministries, Myanmar Oil Millers, Oil Entrepreneurs Association and merchant associations.

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 Union Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar has purchased adequate volume of rice for the national reserve and the purchase has temporarily halted, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Commerce.—Than Aung Zaw(IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 5,000 in 7 townships affected by Ayeyawady River floods

MORE than 5,000 victims from seven townships are suffering from the rising of Ayeyawady River from 20 July to 4 August. Now, the victims have been temporarily moved from those areas and they are now receiving assistance, according to the regional Disaster Management Department.

“Over 5,000 victims are affected by the floods in seven townships. So, we are providing necessary support. The heavy rains flooded these areas and some houses were damaged. Five people are floating along the river but they are found alive fortunately,” said U Myint Soe, the head of the Disaster Management Department of Magway Region.

There are 844 victims from 233 households in six wards in Chauk Township, 533 victims from 121 households in four villages in Yenangyaung Township and 292 victims from 75 households from two villages in Magway Township.

Similarly, there are 651 victims from 147 households from one village and four wards in Kanma Township, 1,862 victims from 510 households from five villages and one ward in Pakokku Township, 338 victims from 121 households from three villages in Yesagyo Township and 651 victims from 240 households from five villages and three wards in Minbu (Saku) Township.

On 3 August, heavy rains



Officials from Disaster Management Department of Magway Region providing the cash aids to the flood victims.  
**PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

have displaced the people from Latpankon Village in Aunglan Township.

The regional Disaster management Department provided over K 3 million to 52 destroyed houses and ration worth K 10.8 million for 5,171

victims from 1,474 households, each person to receive the ration for seven days, said U Myin Soe, the regional Head from the Disaster Management Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tawwi-Peinzalot train service suspended due to flooding

THE train service has been cancelled starting from 4 August because of flooding on Tawwi-Peinzalot railway, said an official from Myanma Railways (MR).

The continuous heavy rainfall caused flooding on the railway at Bridge 136 at mileposts

98/5 to 98/15 between Tawwi station and Peinzalote station, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region. Therefore, the flooding has severely impacted the public transport system and the train service has been suspended temporarily.

After being inspected by the

officials from MR head office in Nay Pyi Taw and the officials from Region 6, the train service is not yet to resume. So, the schedules of Yangon-Mandalay No-5 up express train and No-3 up express train were cancelled on 4 August, according to MR.

MR will refund the train

fares for cancellation of the Yangon-Mandalay express trains to those who bought the ticket onboard on those trains.

The officials from MR are trying to enable resumption of the trains on those railways. —Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# China high demand hikes sesame prices in Mandalay market



Myanmar exports 90 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

THE prices of black and white sesame seeds are significantly rising in Mandalay market on the back of strong demand from China, Mandalay traders said.

This year, high sesame producing regions of Myan-

mar (Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions) experienced low yield due to drought impacts. During the meantime, China high demand hiked the prices, according to Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

“Myanmar increasing-ly sends sesame seeds to China market. The price fluctuates a bit. The gradual increase in sesame prices since last week of July has been attributed to high demand by China when the drought reduced crop yield in the country. The various varieties of sesame are priced good, especially black and white sesame varieties,” said owner of Soe Win Myint Depot.

The prevailing price of sesame jumped to K205,000 per three-basket bag from K150,000. Similarly, the white sesame seeds have also priced a high of

K103,000-138,000 depending on quality. As the sesame stockpile is thin, there is no way of the price drop in the coming weeks, he noted.

Myanmar exports 90 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries. The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Department. Japan prefers

Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country.

The number of sesame acreages has increased in the country. Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also

grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 tonnes, worth \$130 million, in the 2015-2016 financial year; 100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the 2017-2018FY.—Min Htet Aung/Ko Htet

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Over 80,000 firms register via MyCO in 2 years: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, has crossed 80,000 in two years since the establishment of an online platform, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Since then, 33,718 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing the total number of registered companies to 80,095 by July-end.

Normally, over 1,000 new companies are registered every month. When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November, 1,364 in December, 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181

in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in December 2019 were recorded, data from the DICA shows.

This year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June and 1,650 in July, as per data of the DICA.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA.

Besides, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law. According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on

MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. A total of 14,490 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company’s status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for late filing of AR, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the registry, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the registry, according to the DICA notice.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Domestic investments touch K1,543 bln, \$348.29 mln this FY

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises, have reached K1,543 billion and US\$348.29 million as of July-end of the 2019-2020 financial year since October, according to a press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Between 1 October and 31 July in the current fiscal, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective region and state investment committees gave green lights to 113 local enterprises to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K1,233 billion and \$244 million. Domestic investments have flowed into the real estate, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy,

mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The construction, manufacturing, real estate development, hotels and tourism and agriculture sectors pull the largest investments made by Myanmar citizens this year. Although Myanmar’s economy is affected by the coronavirus impacts, domestic and foreign investments are growing in the

current financial year. The existing enterprises are also seen the expansion of capitals and an increase in the labour force, the MIC stated.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting responsible businesses so the country benefits. The MIC is screening the investment projects at the soonest according to the COVID Economic Relief Plan.—GNLM

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*



Myanmar’s Domestic Investments have flowed into the construction sector. **PHOTO: PHOW KHWAR**

### Haskoning International B.V Co., Ltd (Branch Office) Notice of Closure of Final Closing Down

This is to inform the general public that Branch Office of Haskoning International B.V Co., Ltd is being finally closed down with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 as the closing down proceedings have been completed.

Daw Thaung Mya Wai, Liquidator  
LL.B, D.A, D.C.A, ACCA, CPA  
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,  
No. 182/194, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Botahtaung Pagoda Road,  
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

# Modi enjoys twin triumphs for India's Hindu nationalists

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Wednesday lay the foundation for a temple at a flashpoint holy site exactly a year after imposing direct rule on Muslim-majority Kashmir -- twin triumphs for his Hindu nationalist government.

The site of Ayodhya and divided Kashmir have been two of the most divisive communal issues of the past 30 years in India, and Modi has attempted to draw a line under both in his second term. For his fans both steps confirm Modi as a decisive, visionary leader, and India's most important in decades.

His critics see him as remoulding the country as a Hindu nation, at the expense of India's 200 million Muslims, and taking it in authoritarian direction.

"Modi has certainly been India's most transformative



Indian-administered Kashmir was placed under lockdown for the anniversary. PHOTO: AFP

leader in recent memory," Michael Kugelman from the Wilson Center told AFP.

"This has made him wildly popular, but also highly controversial and quite divisive."

The holy city of Ayodhya in northern India has long been a fault line in India's religious divisions, and has been the spark for some of its worst sectarian violence.

Devout Hindus believe that Lord Ram, the warrior god, was born there some 7,000 years ago but that a mosque was constructed on top of his birthplace in the 16th century.—AFP ■

## Brunei reports no new COVID-19 cases for 90 straight days

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Brunei reported no new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, with the national tally of cases standing at 141. It marked the 90<sup>th</sup> consecutive day without new cases since May 7. According to

Brunei's Ministry of Health, no active cases are being treated at the National Isolation Centre. Meanwhile, currently there are 673 individuals who are undergoing mandatory isolation at the monitoring centres provided

by the government, who have arrived in the country after travelling abroad.

There have been three deaths from COVID-19 in Brunei and a total of 138 patients have recovered.—Xinhua ■

## 75 years on, Japan bomb survivors make final pleas for abolition

NAGASAKI—As Japan marks 75 years since the devastating attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the last generation of nuclear bomb survivors are working to ensure their message lives on after them. The "hibakusha" -- literally "person affected by the

bomb" -- have for decades been a powerful voice calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

There are an estimated 136,700 left, many of whom were infants or unborn children at the time of the attacks.

The average age of a survi-

vor now is a little over 83, according to Japan's health ministry, lending an urgency as they share their testimonies and call for a ban on nuclear weapons.

"What we hibakusha are saying is we can't repeat (a nuclear attack)," 88-year-old Terumi

Tanaka, who survived the Nagasaki bombing, told AFP ahead of the anniversaries. "To this end, we have to let people know what we experienced, for them to hear the facts." Tanaka was 13 when the bomb hit his hometown. The attack on Nagasaki killed 74,000 people and came three days after a first bomb devastated the city of Hiroshima, killing 140,000.

He has spent much of his life sharing his experience, hoping that explaining the horrors of nuclear weapons will convince people to support a ban.

But he recognizes that the community of those who lived through the attacks is shrinking, and their message will have to be passed on by others in the decades to come. "We will all pass away, eventually," he said.

"We set up a group called No More Hibakusha Project, which works on preserving records as archives, including what we've written... so that (the next generation) can use them in their campaigns."—AFP ■



Doves fly over the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in western Japan on August 6, 2015 during a memorial ceremony to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. AFP PHOTO/FILE

## Japan-S. Korea feud set to flare over wartime labour row



Lawyers for South Koreans who won a wartime forced labour case against Nippon Steel Corp. speak to reporters on Feb. 15, 2019 in front of the company's head office in Tokyo. (KYODO)/FILE

TOKYO—Tensions between Japan and South Korea could flare up in the coming months amid an ongoing feud over an issue of compensation for Koreans made to work in factories during Japanese colonial rule.

Neither Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe nor South Korean President Moon Jae In appears willing to back down, raising concerns about the prospects for ongoing security and economic cooperation between the close neighbours, both key U.S. allies in Asia.

A South Korean court on Tuesday began procedures to liquidate assets seized from Nippon Steel Corp., which had refused to comply with a Supreme Court decision awarding 100 million won (\$8,400) each to four former workers.

Japan has condemned the ruling as a violation of international law, saying it runs counter to a 1965 bilateral agreement signed when the countries established diplomatic ties.

Under the agreement, Japan provided South Korea with \$300 million in grants and \$200 million in low-interest loans with the understanding that the issue of wartime compensation was being resolved "completely and finally."

The Supreme Court, however, ruled that the former workers were not properly compensated for emotional suffering endured under their conscription during the 1910-1945 period when the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese control.—Kyodo ■

# Utter devastation as toll from Beirut monster blast tops 100

BEIRUT—Rescuers searched for survivors in Beirut Wednesday after a cataclysmic explosion at the port sowed devastation across entire neighbourhoods, killing more than 100 people, wounding thousands and plunging Lebanon deeper into crisis.

The blast, which appeared to have been caused by a fire igniting 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate left unsecured in a warehouse, was felt as far away as Cyprus, some 150 miles (240 kilometres) to the northwest.

The scale of the destruction was such that the Lebanese capital resembled the scene of an earthquake, with thousands of people left homeless

and thousands more cramming into overwhelmed hospitals for treatment.

“We’ve had some dark days in Lebanon over the years but this is something else,” said Rami Rifai, a 38-year-old engineer, speaking to AFP from a hospital where his two daughters were receiving treatment after sustaining cuts despite being half a kilometre from the seat of the blast. “We already had the economic crisis, a government of thieves and coronavirus. I didn’t think it could get worse but now I don’t know if this country can get up again. Everyone is going to try to leave. I will try to leave,” he said, his voice choked by tears.



A helicopter pours water onto the fire at the port of Lebanon's capital Beirut. PHOTO: AFP

In the areas closest to the port, the amount of destruction caused by the long years of civil war between 1975 and 1990 was achieved in a second by a blast that levelled buildings within a radius of several hundred metres. One resident of Mar Mikhail, one of the most

affected neighbourhoods, said she saw bodies strewn in the middle of the street, apparently thrown off balconies and rooftops by the blast.

Many people were watching and filming with their phones after an earlier and smaller explosion was heard in the port and

ignited a fire.

## ‘The Apocalypse’

The resulting footage, which was widely shared on social media, shows a ball of fire and smoke rising above Beirut and a white shockwave engulfing everything around it.—AFP ■

# Trickle of British tourists dashes Cyprus tourism hopes

LARNACA—The holiday island of Cyprus had hoped British tourists would give a badly-needed boost to its pandemic-hit tourism sector, but only a trickle of sun-seekers have arrived. “2020 is a lost season,” said beach bar manager Giannis Aggelopoulos in the resort town of Larnaca, which is usually busy with Brits enjoying sandy beaches but now largely empty of foreign tourists.

In a normal year, UK citizens make up the largest group of visitors to the former British colony in the eastern Mediterranean, where restaurants offer bacon and eggs for breakfast, pints of ale and

televised Premier League games. “It’s a home away from home,” said one visitor, Paul, who arrived Tuesday on an under-booked Wizz Air flight from London with his partner Nastasha and their young son. “We are here to help a bit,” he said. “We like to go to the restaurants, to the bars, to do some shopping. We’re going to spend some money.”

But for Cyprus’ hard-hit tourism sector it’s all too little too late. Most arrivals from Britain since Cyprus eased bilateral restrictions last Saturday have been individual travellers and dual nationals, not the usual big tour groups.—AFP ■

# Trump national security adviser says U.S. opposes foreign interventions in Libya

WASHINGTON—U.S. President Donald Trump’s National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien Tuesday said that the United States was “deeply troubled” by the conflict in Libya, urging against foreign military interventions.

“We strongly oppose foreign military involvement, including the use of mercenaries and private military contractors, by all sides,” O’Brien said in a White House statement.

He also noted that foreign powers that establish an enduring military presence or control Libyan resources posed grave threats to regional stability and global commerce while undermining the security interests of the United States and its allies.—Xinhua ■

# Thousands evacuated as forest fires rage in southern France

MARSEILLE—Around 2,700 people have been evacuated, some of them by boat, to escape forest fires that were raging Wednesday across a vast area near the southern French city of Marseille, officials said.

Some 1,800 firefighters are battling the blazes, which broke out on Tuesday afternoon, fanned by strong winds.

The fires have ravaged about 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of vegetation and are threatening residential areas and campsites near the coast, the fire service said.

No casualties have been reported, “but material damage has still to be evaluated,” it said.



Some 1,800 firefighters are battling the blaze. PHOTO: AFP

The blazes are not yet under control, but lighter winds are expected later Wednesday.

Eight campsites near the towns of Martigues, where the fire erupted, and Sausset-les-Pins have been evacuated “as a preventative measure”, the fire service said.

Some of the tourists at the sites were taken by boat and are being looked after by local authorities.

A care home for the elderly was also evacuated.

A second blaze in the same region broke out near an industrial park, and raged across 120 hectares, damaging a house and several businesses.—AFP ■



Scott Parker is determined there will be no repeat of the mistakes Fulham made the last they were promoted to the Premier League. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## History will not repeat itself, vows Fulham boss Parker

LONDON —Scott Parker says newly-promoted Fulham must avoid the mistakes they made when last in the Premier League two seasons ago after securing a return to the top-flight with victory over Brentford in the Championship play-off final.

The 39-year-old former Fulham and England midfielder's pragmatic approach got the better of the more adventurous style of Brentford counterpart Thomas Frank as his side won 2-1 after extra time Tuesday at an empty Wembley.

Parker's approach to tactics may not be crowd-pleasing but they could be the right recipe to prevent the Cottagers going straight back down like they did last

time.

Huge investment in players was not rewarded with results on the pitch with many of the influx looking hideously over-priced.

Parker was a first-hand witness to the debacle having replaced Claudio Ranieri in February 2019 when they were all but doomed.

However, one of owner Shahid Khan's better investments was to hand Parker a two-year contract despite just three wins in his nine games in charge in the Premier League.

Parker has rewarded that faith plentifully and the Craven Cottage club will earn around £135 million (\$176 million) from being promoted.—AFP ■

## Tennis: Defending champion Nadal won't play US Open, slams schedule

NEW YORK—Defending champion Rafael Nadal said on Tuesday (Aug 4) he will not play the US Open, citing concerns over the coronavirus and slamming tennis' "barbaric" schedule.

"After many thoughts I have decided not to play this year's US Open," Nadal said on Twitter.

"The situation is very complicated worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it.

"This is a decision I never wanted to take but I have decided to follow my heart this time and for the time being I rather not travel."

The 34-year-old Spanish star also took aim at the international tennis schedule, which has been revised following disruptions sparked by Covid-19 shutdowns.

The US Open in New York, scheduled for Aug 31 through Sept 13, will be followed a fortnight later by the French Open at Roland Garros.

"We know that the reduced tennis calendar is barbaric this year after four months stopped with no play..." Nadal said.—AFP ■

## MFF president continues contributions across Myanmar

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw who is also chairperson of the Ayeyawady Foundation continued his donations across Myanmar this week, according to the statement with the foundation.

As the high schools in Myanmar are currently reopening, the MFF president recently provided 4,000 face shields and 8,500 masks to the school children, through Zeyya Maung Mel Char-

ity Team from Sagaing.

The foundation also contributed cash aids of K300,000 each to 12 positive victims returned from Malaysia, daily meals to 346 quarantined persons, health workers and volunteers from camps in Yangon, and provided accommodation facilities in Myawady, Kayin State for ease of communications to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

Next, U Zaw Zaw's founda-

tion also donated over K3,000 million for healthcare activities including food boxes, health insurance and bonus salaries for health workers, financial aids to the people in need and the football president's owned Max Energy also provided a special discount price for taxi, ambulances, vehicles of health workers and volunteers amid pandemic, according to the Ayeyawady Foundation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## AFC Champions League group matches to be held in Malaysia

THE Football Associations of Malaysia (FAM) recently announced that Malaysia would host the 2020 AFC Champions League East Zone Group G and H football matches, scheduled to be held from 17 October to 1 November 2020, according to the football association.

The Group G and H matches will be played under the Round of

16 format starting on 4 November 2020, and two quarterfinal matches will be held on 25 November 2020 and one semi-final tie will be held three days later after submitting their interest to host ahead of the designated deadline, according to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFC).

All matches in the knockout stages will be played in single

match ties, while the Final match has slated to be played in the West region, football authorities stated.

Football authorities are currently discussing for confirmation of centralized venue for the AFC Champions League Groups E and F as well as the remaining knockout stage matches, according to the AFC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Roles reversed as Guardiola seeks to follow trail blazed by Zidane

LONDON—Zinedine Zidane may never have been hired as Real Madrid coach but for the success of Pep Guardiola at Barcelona, but it is Guardiola who now must follow the Frenchman's example to complete his mission at Manchester City.

Zidane's Madrid travel to Manchester on Friday (Aug 7) looking to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit from February as the Champions League resumes after a five-month coronavirus shutdown. Much has changed since the sides last met. Then under pressure, Zidane, in his second spell in charge at the Bernabeu, has again interrupted Barca's dominance of La Liga with a run of 10 straight victories after Spanish football's return in June to take the title.

Even for the club where Champions League success matters more than anything else, the pressure is off Madrid as Zidane looks to protect his perfect record in the competition as a coach.

Three times he led Madrid to Champions League glory in his first spell in charge between 2016 and 2018 and Zidane is yet to be eliminated from the competition as a coach.

"When he has done what he has done, winning three Champions Leagues in a row, taking two La Liga titles from Barca

when they - in this decade - have dominated this competition like no other club, it shows his ability," Guardiola told DAZN. "Although people may not believe me because he is from Real Madrid, I am very happy that things are going well because it is very good for football that things go well for people like him."—AFP ■



Zinedine Zidane won three consecutive Champions League titles during his first spell as Real Madrid boss between 2016 and 2018. Zidane with the Champions League trophy after Real Madrid's win against Liverpool at the NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Kiev, Ukraine on 26 May 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**