Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August 2020

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

State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body for implementing NCA

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairmen of NRPC Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win, Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Union Minister U Min Thu, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), NRPC Secretary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, 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.

The ethnic armed organizations were represented by Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) Acting Leader and Chairperson of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Sao Yawd Serk, Secretary Sao Sai Ngern, Patron of the PaO National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khan Okka, Vice-Chairman Khun Myint Tun, Central Committee member of Arakan Liberation Party Saw Mra Yazar Lin, Chairperson of All Burma Students’ Democratic Front U Than Khe, Vice-Chairperson U Myo Win, Saw Mo Shay and Saw Sein Win from Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), General Secretary of KNU/KN-LLA-PC Dr Naw Ka Paw Htoo, Joint General Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt, General Secretary of Karen National Union Pado Saw Tar Do Htun, Central Committee member Pado Saw L Kalay, Chairman of Lahu Democratic Union Kyar Khun Sar, Secretary Kya Salmon.
State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body ...

To find a path which has harmony and balance between political aspects and military aspects, we sought to find how to create a better path which could overcome all difficulties of the past.

Although Myanmar is seen as the country with conflicts, people collaboratively faced against the pandemic and the disease has been under control.

SEE PAGE-3
State Counsellor attends 9th meeting of joint coordination body ...

Wisdom is also as important as the good intention for making right decisions; courage is the opposite of doubt in works; all these three matters are required in making crucial steps for establishing a Democratic Federal Union.

Concluding remarks
In his concluding remark, PPST Acting Leader and Chairperson of RCSS Sao Yawd Serk said the 9th JICM could approve the results of negotiation meetings and schedules for the 21st Century Panglong Conference; the firm determination of leaders from both sides in making agreements on Part 3 of the Union Accord. Vice Senior General Soe Win also said the 9th JICM could make the 7 points of agreement and the schedule for the Union Peace Conference has been decided; these developments were expected by the people; further discussions will be made on Table 2 for step-by-step implementation of works beyond 2020 and basic principles and guidelines for democracy and federal system in line with the situations of the country. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that struggle and efforts with patience are needed to achieve an excellent result; good intention, wisdom and courage are required in working for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union; this intention could help in overcoming all the difficulties; wisdom is also as important as the good intention for making right decisions; courage is the opposite of doubt in works; all these three matters are required in making crucial steps for establishing a Democratic Federal Union.

Struggle and efforts with patience are needed to achieve an excellent result; good intention, wisdom and courage are required in working for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union.

 backwards.

Topics at 9th JICM
Participants then discussed issues and agreements for discussion format in the enforcement of the ceasefire, the NCA framework agreements that will include in Part 3 of Union Accord, processes for beyond 2020 and table 1 of phase by phase implementation, approvals for fundamental agreements for building a Democratic Federal Union, further discussions be-

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State Counsellor receives PPST acting leader Sao Yawd Serk

STATE COUNSELLOR and Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) acting leader Sao Yawd Serk, who is also Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), in her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed development, arrangements for the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, and the peace process being conducted in accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The meeting was also attended by the Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, and Sao Sai Lyan from the RCSS.

—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Myanmar brings 151 nationals back home by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) brought back 151 Myanmar nationals stranded in the Philippines, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

The Union Democratic Party fails to contest as Hluttaw candidates from its party in at least three constituencies in the General Elections to be held on 8 November, 2020. The Union Election Commission (UEC) decided in its plenary meeting (30/2020) on 13-8-2020 to terminate the registration of Union Democratic Party as a political party and to dissolve it in line with Section 12(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law.

Sd
Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 88/2020
10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August 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. The ministry announced modification of these orders with Order 79/2020 on 1 August 2020, increasing the number of persons in gathering from five to 15 or more than 15 persons.

2. The Ministry of Health and Sports has re-issued this new order that will take effect on 16-8-2020 to increase the limited number of persons to less than 30.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 132 / 2020
10th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
13 August 2020

Termination of registration and dissolution of a political party

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Union Election Commission
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)
Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development sectors in Tiddim, Tonzang townships

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Chin State, went yesterday morning, to the construction sites of San Kite school building of No (1) B.E.H.S in Tiddim, Cyclone Shelter, 25-bedded hospital and Var Bridge (2) in Tonzang.

The Vice President firstly inspected the completion of San Kite school building of No (1) B.E.H.S in Tiddim together with Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gy, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers and other officials and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gy and Headmaster U Im Khan Mone explained the operation of school building.

The Vice President met town elders of Tiddim at the school and attended the ceremony of issuing national scrutiny cards under “Thitsa Project”.

The 2020 Multiparty General Election will be held on 8 November, said the Vice President, adding working plans in the relevant regions and states not to lose voting rights of all eligible voters and to cast their votes, concerted efforts of relevant sub-election commission, General Administration Department and Ministry of Labour; Immigration and Population, announcement of voter lists at the relevant wards and villages, some requirements in the released voter lists and importance of correct voter lists.

In order not to lose voting rights, the relevant region, state, district and township offices under the Department of Immigration and Department of Population also conduct field projects regarding official household lists and ID cards which are the needs of ordinary migrants and temporary migrants under Thitsa Project and the Chin State General Administration Department, Election Commission, Department of Immigration and Population and other officials should keep cooperating in unity, he added.

Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Zo Bawi and Deputy Minister of Labour; Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaw presented the ID cards to the local residents.

During the second section of ceremony, the Vice President explained his inspection trip to Chin State where is difficult to get one place to another during rainy season, Myanmar ranks at a certain level out of the world countries to control the COVID-19 pandemic because of the concerted efforts of the government, civil service, organizations and the citizens.

He also expressed hope that the government and the public will strongly overcome any disaster together in unity and instructed to follow the health guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

It is important not to lose the voting rights of eligible voters in upcoming election on November 8, since every person over the age of 18 gets the opportunity only once in every five years, it is necessary to ensure that the eligible voters do not lose their votes, the relevant departments should urge the people to go and check the voters lists whether their names are in the lists and all must cooperate to cast the votes systematically in line with the laws, rules, procedures, regulations and directives.

Tiddim town elder U Khin Swin Mone discussed designation of Tiddim as district town, water access from 18 miles for water security, upgrading 100-bedded hospital into 200-bedded hospital, receiving electricity from the national grid, opening school of science and technology and construction of township-level hall and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gy, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and U Khin Maung Win and Director General U Soe Oo joined the discussion.

The Vice President presented cash assistance to volunteer group of Tiddim that participated in fight against of COVID-19.

The Vice President and party arrived at a silk farm in Tonzang Township and farm manager U Harain Hthaung Htang explained the detail of the farm.

The Vice President inspected the construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelter and Town Administrator Salai Hthaung explained the facilities.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Chin State Minister U Paung Long Min Htun and Director-General U Win Naing Tun explained the completion status of the multi-purpose cyclone shelter, status of completed cyclone shelters and related work in cyclone shelters, completion of disaster prevention work funded by the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, construction works for war victims and the submission of the work to be carried out to the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and the Vice President asked what he wanted to know.

The multi-purpose cyclone shelter is 60 feet long and 70 feet wide and was built with K224 million.

During the meeting with Mayors of Tonzang Township at the Township’s General Administration Department, the Vice President said that the government was fulfilling the requirements of the township and that he came to inspect the implementation and know the requirements to be fulfilled. He also said that the township was located near the border area of Chin State, the focus is on development needs more than other areas.

The Vice President thanked those who involved in protection and control of COVID-19 and urged to cooperate in the preventive measures of the disease.

The Vice President urged the people to cooperate with the responsible persons of the department in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission for the successful convening of internationally recognized election and to ensure that the voters lists for the upcoming election are accurate and those who have the right to vote do not lose their right to vote.

SEE PAGE-6
THE Ministry of Information organized a seminar on the trend of Myanmar media, with focus on online media and copyright, at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made an opening speech, mentioning the aim of seminar that the form of media and its landscape have changed into digital platform in various ways and those who are working at the MoI need to know not only the global and local media situations, as well as the changing trend.

Deputy Director-General from Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Htay discussed the Copyright Laws, Assistant Director from MRTV Daw Myat Kyay Mhone discussed online media and broadcasting media.

Editor Daw May Thu Soe from PPD held talks on print media, and Editor Daw Honey Win from NPE discussed Myanmar’s media trend and News Media Law.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun commented the need for the best preparations in facing unavoidable changing trend of media. Union Minister Dr Pe Myint made a concluding remark on the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
MoHS braces itself for second wave of COVID-19

THE COVID-19 Central Command Centre of Ministry of Health and Sports conducted the Central-Level Table-Top Exercise in preparation for effective response to possible second wave of COVID-19 yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said although the disease is controlled to a certain extent, some people fail to follow the health guidelines in most of the places and the ministry will keep carrying out the preventive measures not to occur second wave of COVID-19.

The Table-Top Exercise is held to serve the systematic response by referencing the rules of epidemics if there is second wave of COVID-19 in the country, he said, adding continuous study on infections of neighbouring countries and world nations.

He also said that this Table-Top Exercise will mainly focus on how to control the disease during the second wave, how much time or human resources will be needed to respond to the disease including the laboratory test, restrictions and treatment and how to conduct division of labour to the relevant sectors and organizations by analyzing the current situation.

According to this discussion, it needs to fulfill the required things as quickly as possible and to designate further standard operation procedures and criteria if necessary and the responsible organizations by analyzing the current situation.

It is very important to live with vigilance

It has been said that the way COVID-19 disease spread was different from country to country. It changed from one place to the other. In Myanmar, it has been said that most of the infection cases did not show any symptoms. It was very dangerous. If the symptoms were visible the disease could be avoided. If the COVID-19 disease did not show visible symptoms, it could not be avoided. That was why it was very important to live with vigilance.

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

MSWRR provides support to IDPs in Kachin

UNION Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday visited two villages in Kachin State where former IDPs returned to their homes, and inspected the process of rehabilitation.

The Union Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Minister, the Kachin State Chief Minister, regional ministers, the Director-General of the ministry, and other relevant officials. The visit of the Union Minister and his entourage also reflects improvement of the “agreements in social sector basic principle” included in the Union Accord and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

The Union Minister and his entourage visited Nansangyang Village in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, and said words of encouragement to the former IDPs. The Union Minister went to the Basic Education Middle School of the village and the rural sub-health centre to make discussions with relevant officials. Then, the Union Minister inspected 100 acres of arable lands that will be used in the process of rehabilitation for the former IDPs.

During his meeting with the villagers, the Union Minister said that the government is giving higher priority to ethnic matters and national peace, and providing assistance to IDPs. He also explained the ministry’s works for various matters including providing aid to vulnerable groups, anti-drug efforts and education.

Speaking on alleviating the impact of COVID-19 crisis, the Union Minister said that the government is implementing the CERP. During the meeting, the Deputy Minister, the Kachin State Chief Minister and the Director-General also explained their works. In accordance with the CERP, the Ministry gave K40,000 to each of the 98 households in the Nansangyang Village (total K3.92 million), and handed over K1.5 million to the relevant officials for creating “Child Friendly Space”. The Kachin State government provided 16 rice bags for the households in the village.

Similarly, the Union Minister and his entourage visited Dubatyang Village and said inspiring words to the villagers.

For resettlement of IDPs in the Kachin State, China recently contributed Yuan 4 million. Yesterday, the Union Minister handed over the money to the Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung at the Kachin State Government Office in Myitkyina.

The Union Minister and his entourage also handed over a total of K533.6 million for 8,840 households (K4,000 per house- hold) in the IDP camps in Kachin State, K203.6 million for disabled persons in the state, K25 million for elderly persons in the IDP camps, K53.1 million as social pension for the last quarter of 2020, and K1 million for creating “Child Friendly Spaces” in the two villages. The Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung expressed thanks to the Union Minister.

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst

The coronavirus pandemic has pushed most of the world’s economies into unprecedented contractions in the second quarter, except for China which escaped a recession.

Here are the second quarter changes in gross domestic product (GDP) compared to the previous quarter for the world’s top economies. China stated otherwise, the figures are from the national statistics institutes.

Germany

Europe’s top economy was hit hard by the coronavirus nearly as much as its neighbours, but still saw its GDP fall by 11.1 per cent in the second quarter. GDP had already declined by 2 per cent in the first quarter. Germany’s economy met the definition of a recession: two consecutive quarters of contracting GDP. Germany’s previous record for a quarterly GDP drop is 10.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2009.

Spain

After a 5.2 per cent drop in the first quarter, Spain’s economy contracted a further 13.8 per cent in the second, notably by 6.0 per cent drop in tourism income and 4.6 per cent third in exports. Eurozone

The eurozone’s overall GDP plunged 12.1 per cent in the three months to June, after 3.6 per cent in the first quarter, making the country second in Europe in terms of the worst performance. GDP fell 9.8 per cent in the second quarter, pushing the country into recession.

Italy

Italy’s growth was impacted very early on by the coronavirus which hit its richest region, Lombardy, particularly hard. Italian GDP fell by 8.3 per cent in the first quarter and then by 12.4 per cent in the second, pushing the country into recession.

France

France’s top economy was hit hard by the coronavirus more than its neighbours, but still saw its GDP fall by 11.8 per cent in the second quarter. GDP had already decreased by 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009.

The European Union’s economic growth data for the area in 1995.

The United States

The world’s top economy, suffered a 9.5 per cent slump in the second quarter following a 13.7 per cent contraction in the first. The country met the definition of a recession: two consecutive quarters of contracting GDP. GDP fell 4.8 per cent in the second quarter after a 1.6 per cent drop in the first.

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8 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 13 August, total figure reaches 369

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 369 after 8 new cases were reported on 13 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 362, No.363 returned from Japan and others from UAE. Out of the 369 confirmed cases, six died, 321 have recovered, 312 have been discharged from hospitals and 18 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 13 August 2020

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>369</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Case</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Death</td>
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</tbody>
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Recovery Update on 13 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Recovered</th>
<th>321</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Recovered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discharged from Hospital</td>
<td>312</td>
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Eight more COVID-19 cases on 13 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Gender</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact with positive patient</th>
<th>Oversea travel history</th>
<th>Hospital for medical treatment</th>
<th>Lab result</th>
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<tr>
<td>362</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Tamway Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, Japan</td>
<td>Waibargi Specialists Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Held under quarantine (Hline Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>363</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, Japan</td>
<td>Waibargi Specialists Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yangon investment committee approves 2 foreign, 1 domestic projects with over 1,000 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) virtual meeting on 12 August has approved two foreign projects from China, and Samoa and one domestic project.

Those projects will bring in US$4.964 million and K2.17 billion, creating 1,073 jobs. They will invest in manufacturing of foam mattress, camera bags and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaged in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The investments in the regions also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

Yangon Region tops foreign investments among the regions and states, attracting more than 600 enterprises over the four years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to DICA statistics, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar; Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees have granted permits and endorsements to 905 foreign enterprises between 2016-2017, financial year and as of May-end in the 2019-2020 financial year, with estimated capitals of US$22.39 billion.

Of 51 foreign countries, Singapore put the largest investments, followed by China and Thailand.

MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 residents, according to the DICA. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Monywa depot sees decline in commodity sale

THE sale of Monywa depot is cool these days, said U Zaw Moe, general secretary of Monywa depot.

"Now, the sale of the commodity is cool in the market. The Monywa depot is relying upon India and China demand. At present, India, which suffers from the serious outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and is ranked the world third, is less buying the beans in this period. So, the pigeon peas and black beans are not selling well these days. The prices of the bean have also dropped these days. The price of chickpea was K27,000-K28,000 per basket in February and March. At present, the price of chickpea is K23,500-K24,000 per basket. The price of chickpea dropped to K23,000-K23,500 per basket. The prices of a variety of beans have also declined. The coronavirus has adversely affected the businessmen," he said.

"The price of black bean has not significantly dropped. But there is low stock in the market. The price of sesame is rising in the market and has reached a minimum of K48,000 per basket. The production of the sesame has also declined. This is the reason why the price of sesame has increased. During the pandemic period, the production has dropped and so the prices of the products are rising," said U Thein Soo, a trader at Monywa Depot. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa) (Translated by Hay Mar)
US holds off on extra tariffs in EU Airbus dispute

WASHINGTON — Washington said Wednesday it would hold off on its threat to impose higher tariffs on $7.5 billion worth of EU goods in its long-running dispute over subsidies to European aircraft maker Airbus.

Last year the World Trade Organization authorized the US to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on $7.5 billion in European goods.

Washington then slapped 25 per cent taxes on a number of EU products including wine, cheese and olives. A 10 percent tariff on Airbus planes was increased to 15 per cent in March.

The European Union last month said it had brought itself into compliance with WTO rulings and called for the tariffs to be lifted. Washington said Wednesday the bloc had not done enough but signaled it was willing to seek a solution.

“The EU and member states have not taken the actions necessary to come into compliance with WTO decisions,” US trade representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement.

“The United States, however, is committed to obtaining a long-term resolution to this dispute.”

Accordingly, the United States will begin a new process with the EU in an effort to reach an agreement that will remedy the US aviation industry and workers and will ensure a level playing field for US companies.”

In June it had threatened to levy tariffs on another $3.1 billion in EU goods as it has been authorized to do under a WTO ruling.—AFP

Ministry of Health and Sports

Eight new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 13 August, total figure reaches 369

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US says Iran forces board ship in international waters

DUBAI — Iranian forces boarded a tanker in international waters, using a helicopter and two ships to take over the vessel, the US Central Command said in a tweet on Wednesday.

“Today in international waters, Iranian forces, including two ships and an Iranian “Sea King” helicopter, overtook and boarded a ship called the “Wila,” Centcom said.

It also posted grainy black-and-white footage of a helicopter hovering low over a vessel, and what appeared to be two personnel rappelling onto the deck.

The ship was most recently positioned near the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for a third of the world’s seaborne oil — after floating off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates for about a month, Bloomberg said citing its tracking data.

It said the vessel is a Liberian-flagged chemical and oil products tanker; and that it had stopped in July near the Iraqi oil terminal of Al-Basra where its draft increased, indicating it had picked up a shipment.

Iran and its arch enemy the United States have traded barbs in the past year over a spate of incidents in the sensitive waters of the Gulf. The escalation of Iran-US tensions last year saw ships mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in the strait.—AFP
Facebook launches US voting information centre

CAMBRIDGE — Facebook on Thursday launched a voting information centre as part of its campaign to help millions of voters register for November's US presidential election and counter misinformation.

The hub accessed from the menu on Facebook and Instagram will serve as a one-stop-shop to give people in the US the tools and information they need to make their voices heard at the ballot box,” the social media giant said.

It is the latest effort by the platform to prevent a repeat of the online disinformation that marred the 2016 US election.

Facebook said the voter information tool would also help people navigate the changes to voting procedures.

Against the odds, Chinese companies still committed to U.S. market: survey

WASHINGTON — Against the odds of escalating anti-China rhetoric and ongoing uncertainty, Chinese companies continue to be committed to the U.S. market, according to a new survey by the China General Chamber of Commerce-USA (CGCC).

The 2020 Annual Business Survey Report on Chinese Enterprises in the United States, conducted in partnership with global auditing and consultancy firm PwC, found that more than half of Chinese companies operating in the United States have been adversely affected by the escalating anti-China rhetoric in recent months, with 42 per cent of respondents cited as a key area of concern for future growth, showed the survey that assessed around 200 Chinese enterprises in the United States.

Indonesia’s palm oil export drifts down 11 pct in H1 as epidemic suppresses demands

JAKARTA — The volume of the crude palm oil (CPO) export from Indonesia edged down in the first half of this year as the novel coronavirus pandemic has eroded global demands of the commodity.

The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) said that the shipment of the crude palm oil abroad shrank by 11 per cent to 15.5 million tonnes from January to June annualized, local media reported on Thursday.

The lockdown policies imposed by foreign nations, particularly the main buyers of Indonesia’s crude palm oil, have been ravaging business activities which culminated to the weakening of the demands, GAPKI’s Chairman Joko Supriyono said.

Still, rising global prices of the commodity have helped drift up the value of the Indonesian crude palm oil in the period by 6.4 per cent to $10.06 billion U.S. dollars on the yearly basis, the chairman said on Wednesday.

Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.05 feet to 21.42 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 18th to August 14th, 2020.

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Shops reopen at Yangon night market

YANGON night market on Strand Road closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it now reopens as usual.

“Small non-food shops have opened since June, with one or two remaining closed. Bars opened until 10:30 pm in mid-July. Now, there are 30 non-food shops, 97 food shops, 5 container restaurants and 8 container bars. And we are preparing another one to open. As for monthly rental fees, 25,000 kyats for small food shop and 13,000 kyats for secondhand shop. During the COVID-19 crisis, we reduce one-month rental fees for small shop and two-month rental fees for big container bars and restaurants,” said A 25 Myanmar Development Co., Ltd Director Ko Aung.

The night market has been opened since 2017. It has restaurants and night entertainment programmes. There are bars, and shops selling Asian foods, European foods, Indian foods, Arabic foods as well as tea shops and local food shops. Although secondhand shops for mobile phones and electrical equipment opened from 3 pm to 3 am, now they open from 3 pm to 10:30 pm because of COVID-19 crisis. Since 2017, the former night market was handed over to the Yangon City Development Committee and it has been constructing the shops and public toilets. Now, 80 per cent of the constructions have been completed. The project is set to be completed in three years. — Thant Zaw Win

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YIA Terminal 3, Gate 4 to close till end of August

YANGON International Airport’s Terminal 3 Gate 4 will be closed until the end of August for the extension work at the airport terminal for the convenience of the domestic travellers, according to an announcement released by Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL), which took over YIA operation and management.

The YIA Terminal 3, Gate 4 has been closed from August 8 to 10 August for the renovation of YIA. The Gate 4 closing dates will be extended up to 31 August because of the delay in the construction process during the rainy season. During this period, the passengers must use Gates 1, 2 and 3 as the entrance gates.

For the convenience of the airport users, YACL is arranging for building up the roof between the car parking area and Terminal 3 platforms, according to YACL.

If there is any inconvenience for the flight users, the airport authorities will request the passengers to be patient and obey the health rules and regulations adopted by the airport authorities. — Ya Ma Nga

(Translated by Hay Mar)

JV to build Ayeyawady International Industrial Port in Pathein

By Nyein Nyein

EVER Flow River Group Public Company (EFR) joined hands with Ayeyawady Hintha Holdings Co., Ltd (AHH) to implement Ayeyawady International Industrial Port (AIIP) and set up a joint venture namely A Logistics Co., Ltd, according to the EFR’s press statement.

The night market, Services Limited, a subsidiary of EFR, owns 69 per cent of shares of A Logistics Co., Ltd and 40 per cent are held by AHH Co., Ltd. They signed an agreement to implement multi-sectoral infrastructure development project AIIP in Pathein town, Ayeyawady Region.

The JV has carried out a feasibility study for over a year. The project includes bonded warehouses, container yard, international port terminals, and necessary infrastructure. Later, the port can handle international ships and ocean liners, as per the statement.

The project is situated on about 6,700 acres of land in Pathein-Ngaputaw Highway. As per the agreement, A Logistics Co., Ltd will operate AIIP project, build the workforce, work design, support logistics to manufacturing and trading sectors, provide ocean freight service to penetrate the local products to the international market, import raw materials for CMP businesses and agriculture sector, and offer comprehensive logistics services.

Upon the completion of the project, it will bring about the market competitiveness, promoting Myanmar’s agro products in the international market, access to high-quality products, local productivity growth and job opportunities.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
US to ease water rules after Trump's shower moan

WASHINGTON — The US government is looking at easing regulations on shower fittings following complaints from President Donald Trump who has regularly railed against water conservation rules in his quest for “perfect hair.”

On Wednesday the Department of Energy (DOE) said it was proposing to amend the definition of a showerhead to allow multiple showerheads on a single fitting, which would get around water conservation measures brought in under President George H.W. Bush. The 1992 rules established a maximum water use of 2.5 gallons per minute for showers but the amendment means that will apply to each showerhead rather than a single shower fitting.

The announcement comes after Trump complained about the lack of water pressure in showers. “Showerheads — you take a shower; the water doesn’t come out,” he said in July at the White House announcing a roll-out to require showerheads to use no more than 1.6 gallons per minute.

“We must continue to be cautious in order to protect the results obtained thanks to sacrifices made by all in recent months,” Health Minister Roberto Speranza said after issuing the new rules, which will last until September 7, late Wednesday. Health authorities worry in particular that Italians returning from vacations abroad may be bringing home the virus and passing it on when people are crowding outdoors, on beaches, at festivals or parties during the summer.

Travellers arriving at an airport, port or border crossing can choose from a number of options, including rapid tests on the spot, or the presentation of a certificate obtained within the last 72 hours which shows they are COVID-19 free.

Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican immigrant father and an Indian immigrant mother, later took to the podium saying she was “incredibly honoured by this responsibility” of the vice presidency, and that she was “ready to work.” —Xinhua

Biden, Harris appear together for 1st time as running mates

WASHINGTON — U.S. presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden attended Wednesday a campaign event in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, together with Kamala Harris, his choice of Democratic vice presidential candidate, in what was the duo’s first public appearance as running mates.

Postponed for several hours due to power outage on site, the event, held in a basketball venue, finally saw the former vice president and the senator from California walk out side by side, both donning masks.

“I picked the right person to join me as the next vice president of the United States of America and that’s senator Kamala Harris,” Biden said, praising the first African as well as South Asian-American woman to be nominated for vice president in a major party as being “smart,” “tough,” “experienced,” and “a proven fighter for the backbone of this country - the middle class.”

Sitting next to the podium and keeping social distance with Biden as he spoke, Harris, however, took off the mask as she listened to Biden, who spoke without wearing the mask either.

Biden in his remarks pledged that a “Joe Biden and Kamala Harris administration will have a comprehensive plan to meet the challenge of COVID-19 and turn the corner on this pandemic”, adding that they will adhere to “masking, clear science-based guidance”, meanwhile “dramatically scaling up testing, getting states and local governments the resources they need to open the schools and businesses safely”.

Greek FM visits Israel, agrees to resume Israeli tourism

JERUSALEM — Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias and his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi met in Jerusalem on Thursday and agreed on arrangements for renewing Israeli tourism to Greece.

Under the agreement, some 600 Israeli tourists could enter Greece every week and visit Athens, Corfu, Thessaloniki and Crete. The visitors will have to undergo two coronavirus tests, one before departing from Israel and the other upon their arrival in Greece. They will briefly stay in quarantine until the results of the second test arrive.

“I welcome Greece’s decision to allow tourism from Israel to Greece in the coronavirus era,” Ashkenazi said in a statement released on his behalf. “I hope that other European countries will also adopt this decision,” he added.

The Israeli foreign ministry said the meeting between the two ministers focused on “the importance of bilateral, trilateral (with Cyprus) and regional relations.”

“The two ministers discussed regional developments, the challenges of stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region,” the statement read.

Dendias arrived in Israel on Thursday morning amidst escalating tensions between Greece and Turkey. He is expected to meet also Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin before flying back to Greece.

Israel is considered a “red country” due to its high COVID-19 morbidity rates and Israeli tourists have been barred from many European countries.

— Xinhua

Italy orders virus tests on Croatia, Greece, Malta, Spain arrivals

ROME — Italy has imposed mandatory coronavirus testing for all travellers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta and Spain, and banned all visitors from Colombia, in a bid to rein in new infections.

“Very cautious in order to make the results obtained thanks to sacrifices made by all in recent months,” Health Minister Roberto Speranza said after issuing the new rules, which will last until September 7, late Wednesday. Health authorities worry in particular that Italians returning from vacations abroad may be bringing home the virus and passing it on when people are crowding outdoors, on beaches, at festivals or parties during the summer.

Travellers arriving at an airport, port or border crossing can choose from a number of options, including rapid tests on the spot, or the presentation of a certificate obtained within the last 72 hours which shows they are COVID-19 free.

They can also choose to carry out a test within two days of entering Italy, but will have to stay in isolation until the results arrive.

Anyone found to be positive, including asymptomatic cases, must report to the local health authorities. —AFP
**SPORT**

**Myanmar National League to resume on 22 August**

The remaining matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 season will restart on 22 August, according to the MFF.

Current MNL champion Yangon United is in the third place with 20 points of six wins, two draws and two losses after nine matches played.

Former MNL champion Shan United is sitting in the fourth place with 17 points after nine matches played. Defending champion Shan United is sitting in the fourth place with 17 points of five wins, two draws and two losses after nine matches played.

There are twelve teams currently participating in the tournament.

**LISBON** — Lionel Messi might never have been faced with a more daunting task at Barcelona than engineering a victory against Bayern Munich in Lisbon on Friday.

The only surviving former winners of European club football’s greatest prize – with five titles each -- meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarter-final behind closed doors at the Estadio da Luz.

It is not often that Messi’s Barcelona come into such a big European tie as the underdogs, but they have this time, with Quique Setien’s team having lost out to Real Madrid in the Spanish title race while Bayern appeared flawless on the way to winning a German league and cup double.

Messi is now 33, yet Barcelona appear more reliant on him than ever.

He scored twice against Bayern in the quarter-finals in 2011 when his double in the first leg of the semi-final, including one of the finest goals the competition has ever seen, transcended a rivalry that had been dragged to its ugliest point.

And he was part of perhaps the tournament’s greatest comeback, the 6-1 destruction of Paris Saint-Germain in 2012 which was the pinnacle of his move to the Brisbane Heat (Aug 13) with broadcaster ABC on being crowned champion at the All-England Club.

The Australian won the junior Wimbledon title as a 15-year-old in 2011 but the expectations that came with that success took their toll and she made a shock decision three years later to ditch tennis for cricket.

“I felt like I got twisted and maybe a little bit lost along the way in the first part of my career.”

While cricket gave her “a different perspective about sport”, the lure of tennis was never far away, driven by an ambition to taste success again at Wimbledon.

“My dream is winning Wimbledon. Without a doubt,” said Barty, who returned to tennis in 2016.

World number one Ashleigh Barty says her top goal is winning Wimbledon. (PHOTO: AFP/KARIM JAAFAR)

**‘That’s what I want’: Top-ranked Barty driven by Wimbledon dream**

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**SYDNEY** — World number one Ashleigh Barty won’t have a chance to fulfil her dream of winning Wimbledon this year, but she remains laser-focused on being crowned champion at the All-England Club.

The Australian won the junior Wimbledon title as a 15-year-old in 2011, but the expectations that came with that success took their toll and she made a shock decision three years later to ditch tennis for cricket.

“In short, I think I needed just to find myself,” Barty, who is skipping the upcoming US Open due to coronavirus fears, said in an interview Thursday (Aug 13) with broadcaster ABC on being crowned champion at the All-England Club.

Even in defition, Gerard Pique still has a claim to be the best defender in La Liga and Marc-Andre ter Stegen is among the most impressive goalkeepers in the world.

“Bayern are playing really well and are full of confidence but we have the weapons to beat them,” Griezmann said Barca TV.

**‘That’s what I want’: Top-ranked Barty driven by Wimbledon dream**

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