State Counsellor checks voters’ lists displays in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

State Counsellor inspects voters' lists displays at Zawanadipa ward in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

5 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 14 August, total figure reaches 374

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 374 after 5 new cases were reported on 14 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 370 returned from USA, No 371 from UAE and No. 372, No. 373, and No. 374 returned from India. Out of the 374 confirmed cases, six died, 322 have recovered, 314 have been discharged from hospitals and 20 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 14 August 2020
The Vice President heard reports on the government technical school and development projects at schools in 2018-2018 financial year and the future projects in next FY.

He instructed on timely completion of works and supply of hygiene water at the school.

The school is located at 4 miles south of Thantlang Township on 40.6 acres of land. The three-storey reinforced cement concrete building was constructed with K941.184 million from the fund of 2019-2020 FY. The school will conduct the courses of building technology, electrical engineering and automobile. Each course will allow 30 trainees. The short-term vocational training courses such as brick laying and masonry, carpentry, metal bar bending, motorcycle repairing, home electrical appliance, and home wiring connection.

66/11 kV, 5 MVA sub power station

The new 66/11 kV, 5 MVA sub power station is included in electrification project of Chin State from 2019-2020 FY to 2024-2025 FY.

The Vice President and party also inspected construction of water storage facility for Thantlang Township.

This water storage facility, with 40 ft length, 40 ft width, 10 ft height and 6 inches thickness. The reinforced cement concrete facility is under construction with K128.9 million fund.

Extended structure of Thantlang public hospital

The two-storey reinforced cement concrete building is 150 ft long and 62 ft wide. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
State Counsellor checks voters’ lists displays in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

FROM PAGE-1

She told the locals that each person could cast their vote only 12 times in the parliamentary elections from the age 18 to 80 and that people should not miss this opportunity for the future of the country. People need to vote in performing their national duty to be able to enjoy their rights.

She added that authorities would take healthcare measures and guidelines at the polling stations on the voting day. At the same time, eligible voters need to check their names in the voters’ lists to elect the candidate of their choice.

During the inspection tours, the State Counsellor was accompanied by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Minister U Min Thu, Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, UEC member U Myint Naing and officials.

According to the voters’ lists, there are 51,013 persons in Ottarathiri, 88,872 in Pobbathiri, 76,850 in Zeyathiri, 27,860 in Dekkhinathiri and 79,737 in Zaibuthiri.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MIC commits to responsible business, achievement of investment targeted amount, says Union Minister U Thaung Tun

THE Myanmar Investment Commission held a regular meeting yesterday morning. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister Dr Than Myint, Vice-Chairman of the MIC and (10) members of the Commission attended in the meeting.

Chairman of MIC, U Thaung Tun stated that MIC strives for achievement of the investment targeted amount of USD 5.8 billion in the near future and further stressed MIC’s commitment to responsible investment.

The meeting approved (3) new projects in the manufacturing sector, hotel sector and other services sector as well as additional investments in (3) existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD (20.057) million, Kyat (158,059) million and (750) job opportunities are expected to be created.

By the end of July 2020, the countries/regions with the largest investments in Myanmar are Singapore, People’s Republic of China and Thailand. The power sector accounted for 26.33%. This was followed by the oil and gas sector, accounting for 26.24% and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.27 % of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA

5 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 14 August, total figure reaches 374

FROM PAGE-1

Five more COVID-19 cases on 14 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case No</th>
<th>Age</th>
<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>
<th>Remark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>370</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Tamwe Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, USA</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Hold under quarantine (Tamwe Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, UAE</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Hold under quarantine (Hmawbi Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Thanedwe Township, Rakhine State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, India</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>373</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Muse Township, Northern Shan State</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, India</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>374</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Hline Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, India</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

Framework agreement signed for Myanmar encyclopaedia republication works

A signing ceremony on a framework agreement for delegating tasks between Sarpay Beikman, under the Printing and Publishing Department, and Tun Foundation concerning the republishment of the Myanmar encyclopaedia was held at the Sarpay Beikman building on Merchant Street of Kyauktada Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered the opening speech at the signing ceremony while U Thein Tun, chairman of Tun Foundation, and librarian Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung gave separate addresses. Acting Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing and Dr Tin Hluing from Tun Foundation signed the agreement and exchanged the documents in the presence of the Union Minister. — MNA (Translated by Zau Het Oo)

Sarpay Beikman and Tun Foundation sign framework agreement on republishment of the Myanmar encyclopaedia on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

Mekong Sub-region countries discuss transboundary haze pollution

THE Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-region held its 9th meeting online yesterday. Representatives from Mekong Sub-region countries – Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – joined the virtual meeting.

Vice-Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of Laos PRD Dr Saynakhone Intavong chaired the video-meeting, and Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe acted as the deputy chair of the meeting.

At the meeting, Vice-Minister Dr Intavong made an opening remark, followed ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC)’s discussions on haze pollution conditions in Mekong region. The meeting approved the report discussed at 15th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

They also discussed the extension of the targets of hotspot counts in Mekong Sub-region countries not going beyond the limit of 50,000 up to 2025.

Cooperation among Mekong Sub-region countries and with international organizations on haze control management preceded the meeting.

They also reviewed the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (2016-2020) (Haze-free Roadmap) and ASEAN Pealand Management Strategy – APMS (2014-2020).

Myanmar, in cooperation with EU, IUCN, GIZ, GEC, CI-FOH, and IFAD, will implement Sustainable Management of Pealand Ecosystems in Mekong Countries, ASEAN-EU Sustainable Use of Pealand and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN-SUPA, and Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia-MAHPSA) for pealand sustainability and reduction of haze pollution in ASEAN region.

Myanmar will host 16th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution and 10th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region in 2021.

The meeting was concluded following the speeches of Mekong Sub-region countries and ASEAN Secretary-General Office.

The 15th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 August. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar brings 122 nationals back home from India by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) brought back 122 Myanmar nationals stranded in India, 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 in relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COV-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries. The government also has arranged to repatriate the remaining Myanmar nationals from India on 29 August. — MNA (Translated by Rhine Thazin Han)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.
It would be necessary to create the markets ourselves;

During the COVID period, we also need to consider how to minimize the impact of COVID on the fisheries and prawn breeding and how to make these enterprises grow in the long term; it would be necessary to create the markets ourselves; looking for markets and creating markets are quite different. Looking for markets means looking for existing markets; while creating markets or developing markets means the process of developing new products that others would wish to buy; both are important;

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s discussions at videoconference regarding impact of COVID-19 on livestock and fisheries sector with stakeholders on 7 July 2020)

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends CMO formation on copyright, digital media development meetings in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint talked about the works for emergence of an interim committee on forming the Collective Management Organizations for Copyright during the meeting at the Central Factory of Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

He said that a literary copyright meeting early this month focused the topics on how to address the breach of literary copyrights, especially happening on internet and protection of copyright.

Before enactments of the copyright law on literary and artistic works and its regulations and ahead of the CMOs, the interim committee needs to handle problems in copyright issues, the Union Minister said, and the committee will have to conduct copyright awareness, give suggestions, negotiate settlement over disputes in this sector, support in drafting copyright bylaws and cooperate in formation of CMOs.

Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe from IPRD reported plans for emergence of the interim committee.

Writers, experts and other related persons in the literary sector also discussed the protection of copyrights and formation of committee.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attended coordination meeting on digital media development, which was also attended by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.

The Union Minister discussed the boom in online media with the development of digital technology has impacted on the mainstream media or print media; the existing media law and its bylaws are based on the print media; formation of organizations and drafting the rules focus on the dignity and interest of organization members.

Development of digital media was discussed by U Thaung Su Nyin from 7 Day media, U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-YIT) from TV Yangon, Daw Nan Kalyar Win from Popular News Agency, U Aung Myo Min from Myanmar Celebrity, U Ko Ko Lay from the Standard Time, U Han Thar Nyein from Kamayut media, U Win Hlaing Oo from Wunzii, U Kyaw Myo Min from Akonethi News Agency, U Khan Maung Soe from DVB, U Thein Tun Pe from Cytron Computer, U Min Swe Hlaing from Lar Lar Kyi, U Moe Aye from One News and U Thet Phyo Aung from One Media.

The Union Minister also made a concluding remark after the suggestions of the Deputy Minister on the discussions. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar parliamentary representatives attend 11th AIPA Caucus

The 11th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus was held through videoconferencing yesterday morning.


Myanmar Parliamentary Representatives led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw AIPA Joint Committee Chairman U Zaw Thein joined the meeting.

At the meeting, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Alan Peter S. Cayetano delivered the opening speech.

The representatives of each country presented the implementation reports on decisions made at the 40th General Assembly of AIPA last year and the reports on the topic of “improving economic recovery and mitigating the impact during the COVID-19 period”.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Shwe Shwe Soin presented the report of Myanmar on the status of implementation of the resolutions adopted during the 40th AIPA General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Naing Htoo Aung discussed the ’Mitigating Risks and Strengthening Economic Resilience in the Period of Pandemic.’

The session ended with the virtual signing of the 11th AIPA Caucus Report by heads of AIPA delegations.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Raneo Abu made a concluding remark on the assembly. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
Govt provides farmers over K14 bln to produce monsoon paddy seeds

A ceremony to provide cash assistance for farmers to produce monsoon paddy seeds was held in Mahin Village, Toungoo Township in Bago Region yesterday.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Aung Zaw Naing, departmental officials and farmers attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said state-owned newspapers and television channels were publishing and broadcasting agricultural practices and technical education programs during COVID-19.

The ministry is not only implementing short-term plans in accordance with COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) but also undertaking post-COVID-19 procedures and long-term plans for agricultural development.

Farmers’ organizations were being formed in accordance with the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits.

The Chief Minister gave K23.3 million for 46 farmers’ production of seeds in 150 acres. Farmer representatives received the cash assistance.

A total of K81.8 million for 551 acres of seed production was provided at the ceremony.

Region Minister U Aung Zaw Naing presented K23.3 million for 46 farmers’ production of seeds in 150 acres. Farmer representatives received the cash assistance.

A total of K81.8 million for 551 acres of seed production was provided at the ceremony.

Monsoon paddy seed producers in Bago Region receive K14 billion of cash assistance from CERP fund. PHOTO: MNA

UPDJC Secretariat meets political party representatives

Meeting between UPDJC Secretariat and political party representatives is in progress on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat met with representatives from political parties of Myanmar at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Government officials and representatives from ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), who comprise the UPDJC Secretariat, first explained the points of agreements that will be included in Part III of the Union Accord which will be signed during the Fourth Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong. They then replied to queries from the political party representatives.

Present at the meeting from the government’s side of the UPDJC were Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Rtd), U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, U Hla Maung Shwe, and Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor’s Office while the NCA Signatories of the UPDJC included U Myo Win (ABSDF), Saw Mya Yanar Lin (ALP), Nai Aung Ma Ngay (NMSP), and Khun Myint Tun (PNU).

Representatives of political parties who attended the meeting include U Thu Wai (Democratic Party-Myanmar), U Naing Nyan Lin (NLD), U Myint Soe (USDLP), Sai Kyaw Nyunt (Shan Democratic Party), Tar Hla Pe (Ta’ang National Party), U Thein Tun (National Unity Party), U Aung Kyi Nyunt (NLD), Dr Aung Myat Oo (USDLP), U Oo Hla Saw (Arakan National Party), U Khun Thun Shwe (Pa-O National Organization), U Tho Bo Min (Lisu National Development Party), Dr Tha Ja (Kachin State People’s Party), Daw Yin Yin May (Kokang Democracy and Unity Party), U Saw Tun Aung Myint (Kayan People’s Party), U Sai Nap (Wa National Party), Sai Naing Naing Htwe from (Kayah State Democratic Party), Nang Khin Sein Myint (Tai-Leng Nationalities Development Party), Daw Aye Thida Myint (Lahu National Development Party), U Sai Bo Aung (Shan Nationalities Democratic Party), U Ngi Sa (Chin National League for Democracy), and U Tun Aung (Arkhark National Development Party).—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

To shape the future with your vote, let’s check the voters’ lists.
Govt provides COVID-19 assistance to IDPs in Lashio

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye provided assistance from the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) at the IDP camps in Lashio, northern Shan State yesterday.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Shan State Deputy Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs and other officials as he met the inhabitants including the elderly and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) at the IDP camps.

The official assistance included family education and health services, cash assistance, a special cash assistance for the elderly unregistered for a pension plan, and assistance for PLWDs who did not receive assistance in the previous support process.

While the assistance is meant to fulfill short-term needs, the cash assistance provided could flow into the regional monetary supply and support socio-economic development, according to Dr Win Myat Aye.

He mentioned that his ministry has been implementing the 11 points concerning the social sector included in the collective agreement of the Union Peace Conference since 2017 and always incorporates social harmony and coexistence.

The Union Minister said the humanitarian assistances are, in a way, the government giving the people their money back from public finance when they are in need. He then thanked the General Administration Department (GAD), other government departments and the people involved in organizing the government assistance.

The Union Minister then handed over K56.92 million cash assistance for 1,423 families and K14.88 million for 496 elderly unregistered for a pension in the IDP camps and K75.42 million for 2,514 PLWDs in the Lashio District to relevant officials.

The Union Minister and party also visited the Thirimingalar Mansu Shan Monastery, donated Woso robes and other offertories to the presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Sadama Jotikadaga Dr Bhaddanta Punna Nanda, who is also Chair of Lashio Township Sangha Nayaka Committee.

Japan, UNDP Myanmar exchange notes on aid for electoral assistance

Mr Maruyama Ichiro, Ambassador of Japan signed and exchanged Notes with Ms Dawn Del Rio, Officer-In-Charge/Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Myanmar, regarding Japan’s grant aid for Electoral Assistance to Myanmar.

With Myanmar’s third General Election under the current constitution scheduled for November this year, holding a fair and transparent election is an important step toward the consolidation of democracy in Myanmar.

Under these circumstances, this assistance will provide indelible ink to all polling stations across Myanmar to prevent double-voting for all voters in cooperation with UNDP thereby contributing to holding a fair and transparent election.

This is the second time that the Government of Japan has assisted the conduct of Elections in Myanmar, following the assistance of necessary items and the deployment of Election Observation Team in the previous General Election in 2015.

— GNLM

Human rights commission inspects Myingyan Prison

A team of Myanmar Human Rights Commission led by its member U Kyaw Myint and U Kyaw Soe inspected the Myingyan Prison, police station, court and hospital lock-ups yesterday.

They also checked preparations for COVID-19 preventive measures at these places.

The MHRC officials then met with several inmates individually and asked them any violation of human rights, convenience of inmates, their access to basic necessities and any violation of human rights, convenience of inmates, their access to basic necessities and situation of fundamental rights for prisoners.

The inspection team will send their findings to relevant departments for further actions accordingly. — MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19 spread

You are not the only one under pressure from COVID-19, but all of society is and that fact can help to build compassion among the public.

Compassion can reduce hatred between individuals and accept issues for resolving together. Anxiety can be reduced by this method and everyone should try hard to face and overcome COVID-19 issues. — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Group)
The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday urged people not to fear catching the novel coronavirus from food, as Chinese testers found traces on food and food packaging.

WHO says says food safe from coronavirus

THE World Health Organ-  
ization (WHO) on Thursday urged people not to fear catching the novel coronavirus from food, as Chinese testers found traces on food and food packaging.

The virus was found Tues-  
day in the Chinese city of Shang-  
hai during a routine check on  
food imports from Brazil, city authori-  
ties said.

The authorities said they im-  
mEDIATELY screened people who  
had been in contact with the con-  
taminated products, plus their  
relatives, and all the tests came  
back negative.

In China’s eastern Anhui  
province, the mayor of Wuhan an-  
ounced Thursday that the virus  
had been discovered on the pack-  
aging of shrimp imported from  
Ecuador, which had been kept in  
a restaurant freezer.

The WHO said there was no  
need to panic – and there were no  
examples of the respiratory dise-  
ase being transmitted through  
food.

"People are already scared  
enough and fearful enough in  
the COVID-19 pandemic," WHO emer-  
gency director Michael Ryan told  
a virtual press conference online.

"People should not fear food  
or food packaging or the proces- 
sing or delivery of food.

"There is no evidence that  
food or the food chain is partic-  
ipating in the transmission of this  
virus."

"Our food, from a COVID per-  
spective, is safe," said

SOURCE: AFP

The WHO says 184 can-  
didate vaccines are being worked  
on around the world, of which 28  
have progressed to being tested  
on humans.

"Despite those lower numbers,  
many, many countries around the  
world have now made it a top  
priority," Tedros said.

"Many governments around  
the world have now made it a top  
priority for their citizens around  
the world to develop these vaccines,"  
he added.

"We are learning everyday  
how innovative we can be and  
how fast we can move," he said.

The WHO said the world  
is working to develop vaccines  
in record time, with multiple  
projects and partnerships  
working on about 184 different  
vaccines.

Tedros said the number of  
vaccines being worked on is  
likely to be big deterrents for those  
with symptoms to seek care.
Samanea Yangon wholesale market prepares to open in November

SAMANEYA Yangon wholesale market is reported to open in November. The Samanea Yangon wholesale market is part of Phase-1 of Myanmar’s biggest trading centre project, which is implemented at the corner of Bago river street and Yadanar street in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region. So far, the construction of the Samanea Yangon wholesale market is completed 100 per cent. The shops at the wholesale market are likely to open in November.

The wholesale market jointly developed by Singapore-based Samanea Group and Yangon based EI Company Limited is built on a 167-acre plot of land with the permission of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). The wholesale market includes 730 shops to be able to sell various kinds of items in a place. Each shop is 25 feet in length and 15 feet in width. The trading centre Phase-1 project contains not only the wholesale market but also warehouse, apartments and logistics enterprises.

The shops at the wholesale market will be rented only with an aim for SME businesses to be able to invest. At present, about 90 per cent of shops have been rented already, said U Aung Myo Oo, deputy general manager of Samanea Yangon.

The market has 50,000 square metres wide parking lot, which can accommodate up to over 1,000 cars. The market has also installed the CCTVs. The wholesale market authorities will also coordinate with YRTA to make YBS buses run the wholesale market route.

The project for the construction of Samanea Yangon wholesale market was started to implement on 1 August 2019. The Phase-2 of the trading centre project will also be implemented very soon, according to Samanea Yangon.

—— Pwint Thitsar
(Translated by Hay Mar)

New G Bank branch opens in Myawady border town

AS new banking services expand in Myanmar’s economic sector, Glory Farmer Development Bank, or G Bank for short, opened a new branch office in Myawady Township, Kayin State, on 7 August.

With the new branch in Ward 4, Bamar Su 8 in Myawady and its headquarters in Yarana Road in Bayint Naung Warehouse, Yangon, G Bank offers standard banking services such as depositing or withdrawing cash, domestic and payment orders during its operating hours and is striving to extend its reach to other prominent cities across the nation.

G Bank is offering a maximum interest rate of 8.75% in a fixed deposit account with a minimum tenure of one year to commemorate the opening of its Myawady branch in addition to other souvenirs.

G Bank aims to offer halal and outstanding services to all its customers in line with its code of conduct and integrity while keeping astride with technological developments to ensure banking services are accessible to all people.

A new branch of G Bank is inaugurated in Myawady Township, Kayin State, early this month.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

CCTVs to check visitors’ safety in Kantha lake

CCTVs will be installed in Kantha lake, which is one of the recreation areas in Magway town for the safety of the visitors, according to Magway Township Municipal Committee.

A total of 22 CCTVs will be fitted on eight lamp posts, which were erected around north and east of the lake. Out of 22, four CCTVs will be put on each lamp post.

“The plan is being implemented to install the CCTVs after making discussion with Magway township police force and CCTV expert Ko Aung. We have also planned to upgrade the CCTVs being installed on the traffic lights. So, we will replace those CCTVs in Kantha lake,” said U Pho Ni, chairman of Magway Township Municipal Committee.

About 53 lamp posts, 25 benches with roof and nine mini playgrounds were jointly implemented by the government and the public. Magway residents planted about 1,200 trees and the Fisheries Department released the fish species, according to Magway Township Municipal Committee.

—— Zayyatu (Magway)
(Translated by Hay Mar)
Rice export via land border drops by half

By Nyein Nyein

THE rice and broken rice export via land borders has dropped by half, according to the official statistics of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Between October and July in 2019-2020 financial year (FY), Myanmar exported over 300,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice via land borders, which has dropped from about 600,000 tonnes of rice and defective rice export in the same period of last FY. Myanmar rice and broken rice via border generated an estimated income of US$96 billion in this FY, which has dropped from $173 billion in the same period of last FY, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Although the income of rice and broken rice export through border route has declined, the revenue of rice and defective rice export via sea route has increased. In 2018-19FY, Myanmar fetched over $400 million from the export of 1.3 million tonnes of rice and broken rice via sea route. In the same period of this FY, Myanmar shipped over 1.9 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth $600 million.

Currently, MRF targeted to export 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in this FY. MRF is also arranging to enable the meeting of the rice export target. At present, the country has already exported over 2.2 million tonnes of rice and broken rice via both sea and border routes. To meet the target, Myanmar is going to export 150,000 tonnes of rice this month and 100,000 tonnes of rice in September according to the decisions made at coordination meeting led by the Ministry of Commerce on 26 June. The coordinating meeting discussed matters related to rice export and the country’s rice reserve.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Domestic oil prices rise by K20 per litre

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic oil price, which has been stable for three months, is rising by K20 per litre on 13 August. The price of diesel has been stable, starting from 22 July. However, the Yangon fuel oil stations charged K540 per litre for Octane 92, K650 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K500 for premium diesel on 13 August.

“The domestic oil price is directly related to the price prevailing in the global fuel oil market,” said a local pump man from a fuel oil station.

On 13 August, the price of global fuel oil stood US$43 per barrel, which is an increase of $15 per barrel in two months. The domestic oil prices significantly dropped from January to May. The prices of fuel oil were reportedly rising again in June. Myanmar imports 90 per cent of fuel oil and produces the remaining 10 per cent locally.

Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore with the monthly volume touching 200,000 tonnes for petroleum and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar.

The ministry has already issued licences for the opening of 2,704 fuel oil stations across the country including 95 fuel oil stations in Union Territory, 188 stations in Yangon, 658 in Mandalay, 213 in Ayeyawady Region, 371 in Bago Region, 196 in Magway Region, 245 in Sagaing Region, 10 in Taninthayi Region, 121 in Kayin State, 18 in Kayah State, 53 in Kayin State, 5 in Chin State, 138 in Mon State, 38 in Rakhine State, 58 in eastern Shan State, 195 in northern Shan State and 182 in southern Shan State. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)
ASEAN: at 53rd and Beyond - Resilient and Relevant to the Shift of Global Landscape

Aye Thandar Soe (MOFA)

ON 8th August 2020, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) virtually commemorated its 53rd Anniversary under the theme “ASEAN 53: A Cohesive Journey to Recovery”. Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, it marked the first-ever online celebration of the bloc since its establishment on the same day in 1967. At the virtual celebration, ASEAN Foreign Ministers highlighted the progress in which they highlighted eight points including, among others, maintaining peace, security, neutrality and stability in the region and remaining united, cohesive and resilient. The statement also acknowledged the growing uncertainties resulting from the changing geopolitical dynamics in the regional and global landscape and these may have detrimental ramifications for the region. It is pertinent to note that ASEAN vowed to put itself in a position of being neutral amid the growth of geopolitical and major power rivalries while reaffirming its unity, cohesiveness and resilience.

2020 is the defining moment for ASEAN which calls for the exigency to review its procedural approach and expand its visions. The emergence of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent political and socio-economic ramifications, the rise of geopolitical fault lines, major power rivalries and their potential shift of new approach towards ASEAN, the global economic downturn as well as ongoing traditional and non-traditional security threats are the testaments or challenges to the said ASEAN’s resilience, cohesiveness and responsiveness. These can probably be interpreted as the outcome and strong motivation for ASEAN to take on the challenge of realigning ASEAN’s existing practices upon current demands as well as adjusting national and regional interest to fit the global contest and remain resilient and relevant to the changing dynamics.

Looking back at the history of ASEAN, the founding fathers established the association with five-member countries in the course of Cold War: the time when major political rivalries were mounting in the region. Since then, ASEAN has grown as a vibrant regional bloc with the enlargement of the group in 1999 making all ten countries in the region as effective members of the organization. In 2015, ASEAN proclaimed its establishment of ASEAN Community and subsequently envisioned ASEAN 2025. Forging Ahead Together: a forward looking roadmap towards the realization of ASEAN Community through its Blueprints. The implementation of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 is now on important tasks of reshaping the region. It is encouraging to see the progress made in the implementation of these Blueprints where the majority of action lines have been addressed.

Nevertheless, since the remaining action lines are to be carried out in long-term, ASEAN needs to sustain the current momentum to ensure that all these action lines are effectively and fully implemented within an established time frame. In the meantime, it is also equally important to have the adjustment in implementing the remaining action lines to account for the current situation, including but not limited to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the Chairmanship of Viet Nam, ASEAN has the important tasks of resuming ASEAN Charter, the Mid-Term Review of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and the brain-storming discussions on the ASEAN Long-Term Vision. These are the right time determinations that will accommodate ASEAN and its Member States to review and assess its next 5-year journey of the Community building process. This includes looking into the emerging issues of political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions and the strategic changes of a regional and global context.

In stretching out its relations with External and Dialogue Partners, the following questions may probably be noteworthy for ASEAN: How is ASEAN relevant to the world? Where is ASEAN in the global stage? How do ASEAN and its regional collaboration contribute towards the regional and international peace, security, stability and prosperity of non-claimant states in the region, and (ii) geopolitical rivalries between and among major and rising powers outside the region (or) freedom of navigation and overflight in and above the South China Sea. The key factor and the important circumstance for ASEAN to stand united in the issue of the South China Sea are to deep political will and mutual trust within ASEAN and with China. All parties involved in the negotiations and dialogues on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea should participate with sincerity, exercise maximum flexibility and adopt results-oriented approaches taking into account of the mutual trust. Most importantly, stability and safety of navigation and overflight in and above the South China Sea in order to successfully complete the negotiation within the particular timeframe.

The existing principles of ASEAN (as set in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) which includes mutual respect, non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes and effective cooperation remain essential and relevant to this aggressive world. Some may doubt the effectiveness of ASEAN’s so-called approach of consensus and non-interference. However, what ASEAN has achieved thus far through the adherence of these fundamental principles should not be brushed away. Most importantly, these principles enforce cooperation rather than confrontation among the countries and that approach will pave the way and promote harmony in moving forward our community-building efforts and bringing peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Furthermore, the increasing interest of countries outside the region to engage with ASEAN is a clear indication of the recognition of external parties to the important role played by ASEAN in the global arena as a well-institutioned regional grouping. ASEAN also has tracked her record of facilitating regional security and political affairs. To give an example, Singapore and Viet Nam hosted the historic U.S.-ASEAN Dialogue in 2018 and 2019 to facilitate decreasing the tension and hostilities between the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the recent clear signaling in the Korean Peninsula. These are the important milestones of ASEAN’s proactive initiatives towards regional peace and stability, and ASEAN should continue to maintain such efforts. ASEAN’s existing mechanisms such as East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting Plus (ADMM+P) may also be considered as viable platforms for the security and strategic dialogues between and among major and rising powers of the world.

In the long run, ASEAN would need to press the bottom responsive, comprehensive and forward-looking approach in its community-building efforts and proactively engage with external regional groupings to expand its wings. It must be assured that ASEAN’s mechanism is not going beyond the numbers of high-profile meetings, declarations and statements. And these are practically interpreted into the direct benefits for the community-building efforts, especially in the times of crisis like the COVID-19 outbreak. Doing so will help in promoting the people’s sense of belonging to ASEAN Community which was obviously laundered during Thailand’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019. The consideration of practical measures such as the utilization of COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, establishment of the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and the establishment of more emergency response warehouses, in major countries, to the existing ones in the Philippines and Thailand are remarkable in this regard. For outward-looking, the agenda of ASEAN should not merely be the priorities of ASEAN but by being relevant to the rest of the world and benefitting from the emerging global trends. Standing as the united regional grouping to safeguard peace, security, stability and prosperity of its over 600 million people in the region, ASEAN should voluntarily be the main contributor to the world at large by setting up stronger and broader visions. Likewise, while remaining resilient and relevant to the shift of global landscape, ASEAN should also keep standing as a key facilitator in regional security and political affairs as well as the major contributor to the global supply chain.
German vaccine maker CureVac readies for Nasdaq debut

TÜBINGEN, Germany — German biotech company CureVac, whose development of a coronavirus vaccine reportedly drew interest from US President Donald Trump, is set to make its Nasdaq debut Friday after raising more than $200 million in its initial public offering in New York.

The company is seen as one of the leading contenders in the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and received permission in June to start human trials.

CureVac, based in Tübingen in southwest Germany, said on Friday that it raised $213.3 million (180.6 million euros) in its share offering, at the higher end of its price target of $14 to $16 a share.

The company placed 12.3 million shares, giving it a valuation of around $2.9 billion.

CureVac was thrust into the spotlight in March when media reports suggested that the Trump administration was looking to secure exclusive rights to its in-development vaccine.

The company and US officials dismissed the news as unfounded, but it prompted Economy Minister Peter Altmaier to declare that “Germany is not on sale”.

In a move to shield the firm from falling into foreign hands, the German government in June took a 23-per-cent stake in CureVac for 300 million euros.

At the time, Altmaier said: “We don’t know which company will bring the first workable vaccine to market. But we know that CureVac is among those in the lead.”

In July, British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline paid around 143 million euros for a 10-per-cent stake in the company to work together on vaccine development.

CureVac, whose controlling shareholder is the billionaire co-founder of software giant SAP, Dietmar Hopp, develops therapies based on harnessing “messenger RNA” - molecules related to DNA – to treat diseases.

It employs more than 400 people in Germany and Boston. ---AFP

Apple and Google pull ‘Fortnite’ from mobile app shops

NEW YORK — Apple and Google on Thursday pulled video game sensation Fortnite from their mobile app shops after its maker Epic Games released an update that dodges revenue sharing with the tech giants.

The latest version of Fortnite contains a payment system that lets player transactions bypass Apple’s App Store and Google’s Play, preventing the firms from collecting their typical 30 per cent cut.

Apple, which does not allow its users of its popular devices to download apps from anywhere but its App Store, booted the game from its online marketplace, followed later Thursday by Google.

Epic quickly filed a federal lawsuit against Apple, accusing the iPhone maker of wielding monopolistic power.

The game-maker called on a federal judge to order Apple to stop its “anti-competitive conduct” and invalidate the tech giant’s rules requiring app developers to pay commission on 30 per cent of transactions.

The suit said Epic is not seeking favourable treatment, but is asking the court to order Apple to change its commission structure for all developers.

Apple said Fortnite was pulled after “Epic Games took the unfortunate step of violating the App Store guidelines that are applied equally to every developer and designed to keep the store safe for our users.”

Google followed suit and removed Fortnite from its Play store for mobile devices powered by its Android software. ---AFP

Biotec company CureVac is making its stock market debut on the Nasdaq exchange in New York.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

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ANCIENT stupas and temples can be seen in all parts of Myanmar where evidences on Theravada Buddhism have been found since the time of Pyu culture. Religious edifices in Pyu era such as Phayagyi, Bawbawgyi and Phayauma as well as Laymyethna temple, Yahanta temple and Ashaezay temple are standing tall in ancient Pyu city Sri Kestra whereas many stupas and temples in Bagan era can be seen in Bagan region. Similarly, Buddhist religious buildings including stupas and temples are being preserved in ancient Myanmar cities such as Sagaing, Inwa and Amarapura.

Ancient stupas and temples are exiting in some ancient areas such as Mwedaw Kakku, Paleik and Mekkhaya till today in addition to Ahmyint Village in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region.

ChaungU Nwekhway Village where the fossil molar of early primate was found takes a position in north-east of ChaungU. The fossil molar was found on Dinga hillock of Shwemyintin mountain range, one mile northwest of Nwekhway Village, in 1981.

Myanmar Encyclopaedia stated NyaungU Saw Rahan built ChaungU Village surrounded by nine small villages on 4th waxing of Tazaungmone, 287 Myanmar Era. While digging the pits for burying cabalistic diagram sheets at four corners of the city, a flame emerged from the iron grub hoe, so the area was called Thantauk. Moreover, the name ChaungU was originated by starting point of creeks. As evidence, it was named the land of ChaungU in the stone inscription of Shwesikhon Pagoda in Khinmon Village.

Existing ChaungU Township shares border with Myinmu Township in the east, Salingyi Township in the west, Myaung Township in the south and Monywa Township in the north. The 188.57 square miles area of the town is 14 miles and four furlongs long from the east to the west and 13 miles and seven furlongs long from the south to the north. The township is formed with six wards and 89 villages in 26 village-tracts.

ChaungU Township at an altitude of 256 feet is home to 108,387 people. Among them, 108,298 people, accounting for 99.9 per cent, is Bamar ethnic people. Buddhists are 99.3 per cent of total population with some Christians and Islam in the township. Local people are engaged in cultivation of paddy and other crops on 188,070 acres of farmlands which yield 1.6 million baskets of paddy, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, mung bean, green gram, pigeon pea, cotton and maize in 2017-18 fiscal year. They grow toddy, areca and mango as major perennial crops as well as marketable crops such as watermelon and muskmelon on 12,716 acres of land.

Nine basic education high schools and high school branches, ten middle schools and branches and 61 post-primary and primary schools are opened in the township for learning of local students. Likewise, ChaungU Township People’s Hospital (25-bed), Ahmyint and Thonpanhla Station Hospitals (16-bed each) and 26 rural health branches are giving healthcare services to the local people.

Currently, 1,454 ancient and new stupas and temples scatter in ChaungU Township. Among them, some pagodas in ChaungU, Khinmon, Ahmyint, Ahneint and Hmancho villages are the most eminent. Mingala Aungmyin Temple, Yoksone Pagoda, Aungmye Lawka Temple, Phatthad Pagoda, Maha Zawti Kayama Monastery in Khinmon Village, MinsU Chanta Cluster of Pagodas, Phatthad Cluster of Pagodas, a pagoda from Minsy Cluster of Pagodas, a pagoda from Yatithit Monastery Cluster of Pagodas, Thambula Pagoda, a pagoda near Pitakalit Chamber of Tawya Monastery, four ChanthaU clusters of pagoda, four pagodas of Yunkyaung cluster of pagodas, stone inscription chamber of Tawkyaunggyi, cluster of Thonpanhla Pagodas, Shweguhtuk cluster of pagodas.
Ancient Ahmyint city

Ahmyint, the native land of Bagan King Narapatisithu, was established in 224 Myanmar era. In his reign, King Narapatisithu ordered to carve 10 lacquerware Buddha images—each of which was located at Shweelingin Monastery in Sigoktara Village of KhinU Township, Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing, Shwesakagyi Pagoda in Samon Village of Sagaing Township, Shwebon Pagoda in Shwebo, Shwesakar Pagoda in Mingin, Shweyattaung Pagoda in Singu, Sakarhla Pagoda in Kalay, Shwesakaragi Pagoda in Kyahnyat, Shwekamyin Pagoda in Myedo and Amyint.

These lacquerware Buddha images were found from Shwethinaw Pagoda between Ahmyint and Ahneint in 1256 ME. Abbot U Pannawam who resided at the monastery donated by Magway Minister near Thaw-tapan Village found about five feet high Buddha image from the large pit in the precinct of Shwethinaw Pagoda. As he saw the inscription carved by Bagan King Narapatisithi in 336 ME. So he conveyed it to Magway Monastery. The Buddha image was stolen. Three weeks later, it was found by Kon Monastery Abbot U Thila from the toddy palm plantations near Amyint city. Thieves took jewellery and gold from the face of the image. So, U Pho Toke and Daw Kyi renovated the image as original form. Kon Monastery Abbot handed over the image but Magway Abbot Bhaddantu U Pannawam did not accept it.

The Buddha Pujaniya festival of the lacquerware Buddha Image conveyed from Kon Monastery to Magway Monastery has been held from the eve of Thadingyut to 1st waning for more than 90 years. When Kon Monastery was repaired, the Buddha image was moved to Gandakuti Chamber of Shwekozyria Pagoda for public obeisance and then returned to Kon Monastery.

Visiting sites in Ahmyint

Travellers can visit the lacquerware Buddha Image in the precinct of Kon Monastery at Thadingyut to 1st waning for more than 90 years. Travellers can visit the lacquerware Buddha Image in the precinct of Kon Monastery at Thadingyut to 1st waning for more than 90 years. When Kon Monastery was repaired, the Buddha image was moved to Gandakuti Chamber of Shwekozyria Pagoda for public obeisance and then returned to Kon Monastery.
Arsenal sign Willian on free transfer

London on a free transfer with Chelsea unwilling to offer the multi-year contract he desired. “I believe he’s a player that can really make a difference for us,” said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. “He has the experience of everything in the football world but to still have the ambition to come here and contribute to bring the club where it belongs. I have been really impressed with all the talks I have had with him and how much he wanted to come.”

Willian sat out the FA Cup final when Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 earlier this month due to injury, but said the impact made by Arteta in his first season in management encouraged him to join the Gunners.

“I think that with Arteta, Arsenal have a great opportunity to fight again for titles in the Premier League and in Europe so I’m very happy because of that,” said Willian. “When I talked to Mikel, the conversation was good, he gave me confidence to come to Arsenal. He said a lot of good things to me and that’s why I have come to Arsenal.”

Although Arsenal will not have to pay a transfer fee, the move for Willian, who is reported-ly set to earn £200,000 ($261,000) a week, has been criticized just a week after the club announced they are planning to cut 55 jobs due to damaging economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP

Serena rallies past Venus, builds confidence for US Open

WASHINGTON — Serena Williams rallied past sister Venus Williams 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 on Thursday in a second-round matchup of Grand Slam champions at the WTA Top Seed Open.

Top-seeded Serena, a three-time Grand Slam winner, said the victory will boost her confidence heading into the US Open as she improved to 19-12 in the 22-year-old rivalry with Venus.

“I wanted to win this for my game and my confidence,” said Serena, whose only title as a mother came in January at Auckland.

“I honestly didn’t come here to win (a title) for the first time in my career. I just came here to get some matches. I haven’t had this much time off since I had the baby.”

Ninth-ranked Serena is one shy of matching Margaret Court’s all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles and she is preparing to chase a seventh career US Open singles crown at Flushing Meadows.

Serena smacked a cross-court forehand winner to break Venus for a 2-1 lead in the third set, then dropped the next four games, only to break again in the seventh on another forehand cross-court winner, then hold to 4-4.

Serena zipped a backhand cross-court winner past Venus to break for a 5-4 lead and served out the match, aided by an umpire over-rule ace to reach 30-30.

Serena followed the call with her 14th ace and won after two hours and 19 minutes when Venus sent a forehand beyond the baseline.—AFP

Unbeaten Benavidez defends super middleweight crown

UNCASVILLE, Connecticut — Undefeated American David Benavidez defends his World Boxing Council super middleweight world title for the third time on Saturday against Colombia’s Alexis Angulo.

Benavidez, 22-0 with 19 knockouts, returns to action in the feature bout at Uncasville, Connecticut, some 11 months after stopping countryman Anthony Dirrell in the ninth round.—AFP

MYANMAR National League-leading committee yesterday announced fixture for the football matches followed by the MNL committee meeting with football clubs’ owners held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on the same day.

Myanmar Football Federation has released an official announcement for restarting the football matches on 22 August, and defending champions Shan United will play against Southern Myanmar FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 3:30 pm on 22 August.

At the same time, Yangon United will meet Magwe FC at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

Next, on 23 August, Yangon United will play ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

After playing four matches on two consecutive days, MNL will reach Week 11 and the week will also comprise with thrilling events.

In the Week-11, Southern Myanmar FC will play with ISPE FC at Padonmar Stadium on 26 August, and Yadanarbon FC will meet Magwe FC at Yangon United Sports Complex on the same day.

Next, MNL standing table first place sitter Hanthawady United will play against Yangon United at the Thuwunna Stadium on 26 August.

On 27 August, Shan United FC will play with Rakhine United FC and Sagaing United will take on Ayeyawady United FC at Thuwunna Stadium on the same day, according to the Myanmar National League. —Lynn Thit (Tg).

MNL announces fixture for football matches

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