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Saturday, 15 August 2020

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



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

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected voters' lists displays at the wards and villages of Ottarathiri, Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri, Dekkhinathiri

and Zabuthiri townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday. She went to the Zawana-dipa ward in Ottarathiri, Pyi San Aung ward in Zeyathiri,

Yan Aung Myin village-tract in Dekkhinathiri and Zeyatheikdi ward in Zabuthiri. During the inspection tours, the State Counsellor asked about capacities of polling

stations and numbers of voters, voting hours, plans for the convenience of voters, and advised to conduct public awareness on voters' lists displays. SEE PAGE-3

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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



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 14 August 2020



SEE PAGE-3

VP U Henry Van Thio looks into development works in Falam, Thantlang



Vice President U Henry Van Thio hears reports on Surbung airport construction project in Falam on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio is making an inspection tour for the development works in Chin State.

He visited the development projects in Falam and Thantlang townships yesterday.

City hall construction in Falam

The three-storey new city hall in Falam Township will be 100 ft long, 60 ft wide and 42 ft high. The Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development constructed the hall with K456 million granted by the Indian government and K50 million from the fund of state development committee.

New building of Falam General Administration Department

The new building of GAD in Falam Township will be 100 ft long, 70 ft wide and 43 ft high, with an estimated cost of K700 million.

During the meeting with the locals in Falam Township at the nursing training school, the Vice President said that his visit to Chin State was to witness the difficulties of local people in transport during rainy season.

The Chin State has enjoyed development significantly thanks to the unity between the government sector and local people, said the Vice President, emphasizing the need to follow COVID-19 prevention guidelines, orders and directive of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

He also advised the locals to vote in the upcoming parliamentary election as it is the only chance in every five years.

The Vice President heard reports on requirements of infra-structural development, upgrade of cyclone shelter and electricity

supply from diesel-fuel generator in Falam Township and promoting Reedhorda town into a township level.

Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and U Khin Maung Win, state government minister U Soe Htet and the directors-general responded to the discussions.

The Vice President also presented cash awards to the volunteer groups that took part in COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bwe and Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing gave the national scrutiny cards to 318 locals.

The Vice President and party also looked into the construction of nursing training school, with 140 ft length, 30 ft width of two-storey reinforced cement concrete building.

Extended building at 200-bedded public hospital in Falam

The extended building is the two-storey reinforced cement concrete building with 150 ft length, 62 ft width and 28 ft height.

Construction of Surbung Airport

The construction project of Surbung airport has completed 98 per cent, and it is included in the urban development fund to improve social, transport, health, trade and travel sectors of the region.

Officials reported on the situations of existing cyclone

shelters, construction works with the funds of National Disaster Management Committee and camps for the internally displaced persons.

The Vice President also inspected construction of a new cyclone shelter with 90 ft length, 60 ft width at an estimated cost of K238.850 million.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents cash assistance at public meeting on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

Government technical high school

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 2019-2020FY. 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 2019-2020FY 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)



Construction of 66/11 kV power sub-station is under construction in Thantlang Township. PHOTO: MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020 General Election

Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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

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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 sta-

tions on the voting day. At the sametime, 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 Zabuthiri.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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



Union Minister U Thaung Tun chairs regular meeting of MIC on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

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

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
370	72	Male	Tamwe Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, USA	Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)
371	28	Male	Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, UAE	Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
372	38	Male	Thandwe Township, Rakhine State	No	Yes, India	Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital	Positive	
373	41	Male	Muse Township, Northern Shan State	No	Yes, India	Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital	Positive	
374	36	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Dagon Myothit (South) Specialist Hospital	Positive	

Ministry of Health and Sports

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 republicismment 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 Hlaing from Tun Foundation signed the agreement and exchanged the documents in the presence of the Union Minister. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Sarpay Beikman and Tun Foundation sign framework agreement on republicismment of the Myanmar encyclopedia 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 Inthavong 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 Inthavong 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 Tranboundry 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-FOR, 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-MAHFSa) for pealand sustainability and reduction of haze pollution in ASEAN region.

Myanmar will host 16th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundry 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 Tranboundry 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)



Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-region holds virtural meeting on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar returnees from the India queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

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 (COVID-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 Khine Thazin Han)

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



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint makes the speech at meeting for emergence of an interim committee on forming the Collective Management Organizations for Copyright on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA



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 organ-

ization members.

Development of digital media was discussed by U Thaung Su Nyein from 7 Day media, U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-YIT) from TV Yangon, Daw Nan Kalyar Win from Popular News Agency, U Aung Myo Myint from Myanmar Celebrity, U Ko Ko Lay from the Standard Time, U Han Thar Nyein from Kamayut media, U Win Hlaing Oo from Wunzin, U Kyaw Myo

Min from Akonethi News Agency, U Khin Maung Soe from DVB, U Thein Tun Pe from Cytron Computer, U Min Swe Hlaing from Lar Lar Kyie, U Moe Aye from One News and U Thet Phyo Aung from Cele Gabar. 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 AIPA Caucus is in progress online on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

The 11th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus was held through videocon-

ferencing yesterday morning.

The meeting carries the theme “We Heal As One: Par-

liamentary Cooperation Towards Mitigating Risks and Strengthening Economic Resilience in the Period of Pandemic”, aims to deepen the parliamentary coordination on the economic impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Southeast Asia.

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 Sein presented the report of Myanmar on the status of implementation of the resolutions adopted during the 40th AIPA General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thai-

land in 2019.

Pyitthu 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 programmes 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 to build the systems that farmers can themselves solve their

farmlands disputes, manage their farmlands, and ensure their accountabilities in future.

The "Collective Strength" exerted by all the nationalities plays a key role in carrying out the works.

More than 2,000 Water Utilizer Groups have been formed so far for water management sector, he added.

The farmers should use the water resource systematically depending on the climate change.

Most of the farms are fed by rain water, and only 15 per cent of the farms are fed by irrigation water. Therefore, plans were already set up to meet climate changes and improve water access in future, he said.

The Bago Region Chief Minister discussed the implementation of CERP procedures in the region, the region's development, and cooperation between departments concerned and farmers.

The Union Minister provided K31 million for 58 farmers' production of seeds in 207 acres.

The Chief Minister gave K 27.5 million for 88 farmers' production of seeds in 94 acres.



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

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

A total of K 81.8 million for 551 acres of seed production was provided at the ceremony.

Under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, Toungoo District will grow 3,141 acres

of paddy to produce monsoon seeds, Bago District 8,439 acres, Pyay District 9,824.50 acres, and Tharyarwaddy District 10,340 acres.

A total of 31,744.50 acres of monsoon paddy will be cultivated in Bago Region to produce monsoon paddy seeds.

Monsoon paddy seed production will be implemented in 287 townships of all states and

regions except Chin State.

A total of 100,000 acres of paddy -- 69,335 acres of good yield rice and 30,665 acres of good quality rice -- will be cultivated this year.

The ministry will provide a total of K149,11.33 million from CERP for the seed production works.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

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 Yazar 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 Nang Ngan Lin (NLD), U Myint Soe (USDP), 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 (USDP), U Oo Hla Saw (Arakan National Party), U Khun Tun Shwe (Pa-O National Organization), U Shwe Min (Lisu National Development Party), Dr Tu Ja (Kachin State People's Party), Daw Yin Yin May (Kokang Democracy and Unity Party), U Saw Tun Aung Myint (Kayin 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 (Arkhar 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 (PLWD) 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 mon-

ey supply and support socioeconomic 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 elderlies in



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye is providing cash assistance for IDP camps in Lashio on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

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 Waso robes and other offertories to the presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Sadama Jotikadaja Dr Bhaddanta Punna Nanda, who

is also Chair of Lashio Township Sangha Nayaka Committee. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Japan, UNDP Myanmar exchange notes on aid for electoral assistance



Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar signs notes on aid for electoral assistance to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA



Ms Dawn Del Rio from UNDP signs notes on aid for electoral assistance to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

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 with a maximum provision of 181 million Japanese Yen.

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 vot-

ers 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 in-

dividually and asked them 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)



MHRC officials inspect Myingyan Prison on 14 August. PHOTO: MNA

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)

Avoiding stigmatizing is a must in fighting TB, COVID-19

A COMMUNITY fever clinic in Yangon announced yesterday that it has diagnosed 50 suspected tuberculosis cases after testing 400 people, and over 30 of these cases need to receive medical treatment.

Some of those tested have refused treatment, while others are hesitant to go to health services due to the fear and stigma associated with COVID-19.

However, TB must not be ignored amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Putting the blame of acquiring or transmitting TB or COVID-19 infection on the person, or stigmatizing those who are infected, is likely to be big deterrents for those with symptoms to seek care voluntarily.

Our country, which is still among the 30 countries most affected by TB, needs to ensure the continuity of TB services in the time of COVID-19. This includes being proactive to protect the most vulnerable, including protection against economic hardships, isolation, stigma and discrimination.

Free X-rays for respiratory tract infections have been added to the services provided by fever clinics under the plan of the National TB Project, to maintain the country's achievements in fighting TB.

Nowadays, TB is disproportionately a disease of the poor. We find it in slums, amongst the rural poor, and amongst those living with HIV.

Nearly one-third of the world's population have latent TB, carrying the bacteria while not showing symptoms, while nearly 10 million a year fall ill – of which 15% die.

Fever is a common symptom of TB and COVID-19 (and also malaria). Cough and breathlessness are common to those with TB and COVID-19.

For instance, a person with persistent cough (which could be because of TB or COVID-19 or some other reason) may feel hesitant to go to health services due to the fear and stigma associated with COVID-19.

While fighting the COVID-19, we should promote a culture which avoids stigmatizing all infectious diseases (and not just TB, HIV or COVID-19).

The Ministry of Health and Sports alone cannot carry it out. Community engagement at every level plays a pivotal role in reducing stigma, discrimination and shaping a rights-based health response.

It will take the combined strength of the concerned ministries and departments, international non-governmental organizations, local NGOs, and civil society organizations to give protection to our people not only from the pandemic but also from the consequences of its control measures.

■ ■ ■

WHO-LED ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS (ACT)-ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

WHO urges countries to gamble on shared coronavirus vaccine search

- **World Health Organization chief pleads for investment in ACT-Accelerator programme that aims to beat Covid-19**
- **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says cost is 'tiny fraction' compared to pouring trillions into stimulus packages as pandemic ravages world economy**

THE WHO on Thursday urged countries to invest billions of dollars in searching for Covid-19 vaccines and treatments – calling it a snip compared to the vast economic cost of the coronavirus crisis.

The World Health Organization insisted it was a smarter bet than the trillions of dollars being thrown at handling the consequences of the global pandemic.

The UN agency's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pleaded for investment into the WHO-led ACT-Accelerator programme, which aims to share global research and development, manufacturing and procurement in a bid to beat Covid-19.

Citing the International Monetary Fund's predictions of the pandemic wiping out US\$12 trillion over two years, he urged countries to spend on shared solutions.

"It's the best economic stimulus the world can invest in," Tedros told a virtual press conference.

Funding the ACT-Accelerator, with US\$31.3 billion needed immediately, "will cost a tiny fraction



Researchers work in a lab that is developing testing for the COVID-19 coronavirus at the Hackensack Meridian Health Center on 28 February, 2020 in Nutley, New Jersey. **PHOTO: AFP**

in comparison to the alternative, where economies retract further and require continued fiscal stimulus packages".

He said spreading the risk and sharing the reward is a better bet than the option some countries have taken, of going it alone in backing one of the dozens of vaccines in development.

"The development of vaccines is long, complex, risky and expen-

sive," he said. "The vast majority of vaccines in early development fail."

Tedros said multiple vaccine candidates, of different types, were needed to identify the best one.

Russia on Tuesday declared itself the first country to approve a vaccine, even though final stage testing involving more than 2,000 people was only due to start on

Wednesday.

The WHO says 168 candidate vaccines are being worked on around the world, of which 28 have progressed to being tested on humans. Nine of those 28 – not including the Russian vaccine – are in the ACT-Accelerator programme.

WHO access to medicines chief Mariangela Simao said that with so many vaccine candidates being worked on, backing just one or two could not be the best bet.

"We don't know which one will be the front-runner, which one will actually prove to be safe and effective," she said.

"We are encouraging countries to join a global facility, because you will have access to more candidates, and you have a better chance to have concrete access ... to procure one of the successful candidates."

The European Union said earlier on Thursday that it has reserved up to 400 million doses of a potential new coronavirus vaccine being developed by US giant Johnson & Johnson. On July 31, the European Commission said it had reserved 300 million doses

of another potential vaccine being developed by French firm Sanofi.

The coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 750,000 people and infected more than 20.7 million worldwide since it first emerged in China in December, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan warned that only a small proportion of the global population had actually been exposed to the virus.

"This virus has a long way to burn, if we allow it," he said. "The vast majority of people remain susceptible to this infection. We may be in the eye of the storm and we don't know it."

Meanwhile Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's Covid-19 technical lead, said there were examples from some countries suggesting that an individual may have been reinfecting by the virus, but "it's still not confirmed". She said experts would need to look for false positive or negative cases, immune response after infection, and sequencing.

SOURCE: AFP

CORONAVIRUS AND FOOD SAFETY: WHY THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC

WHO says food safe from coronavirus

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

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

The virus was found Tuesday in the Chinese city of Shenzhen during a routine check on samples of frozen chicken wings imported from Brazil, city authorities said.

The authorities said they immediately screened people who had been in contact with the contaminated products, plus their relatives, and all the tests came back negative.

In China's eastern Anhui province, the mayor of Wuhu announced Thursday that the virus had been discovered on the packaging 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 disease being transmitted through food.

"People are already scared enough and fearful enough in the COVID pandemic," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a virtual press conference in Geneva.

"People should not fear food or food packaging or the processing or delivery of food.

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

"Our food, from a COVID perspective, is safe."

Maria Van Kerkhove, the

WHO's COVID-19 technical lead, said the United Nations health agency was aware of the reports and understood that China was looking for the virus on food packaging.

"They've tested a few hundred thousand samples of looking at packaging and have found very, very few, less than 10 positive in doing that," she said.

"We know that the virus can remain on surfaces for some time.

"If the virus is actually in food – and we have no examples of where this virus has been transmitted as a food-borne, whereas someone has consumed a food product – the viruses can be killed, like other viruses as well, if the meat is cooked."

SOURCE: AFP



Xu Pengfei(R) takes body temperature of a staff member in front of the restaurant in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi Province, Feb. 25, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**



Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 1st August, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Coastal Odisha and West Bengal coasts (India) still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours and it is forecast to move West-North-westwards. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and vigorous elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON THE 15th August, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Naypyitaw, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 – 14) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th August, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th August, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th August, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, widespread in Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Samanea Yangon wholesale market prepares to open in November

SAMANEA 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



Samanea Yangon wholesale market is scheduled for opening in November this year. PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

length and 15 feet in width. The trading centre Phase-1 project contains not only the wholesale market but also warehouse, apartments and logistics enterprise.

The shops at the wholesale market will be rented only with an aim for SME businessmen 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 on Yuzana 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 8.7% 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 bal-



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

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

anced, 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.

G Bank opened its first

branch in Monywa, Sagaing Region, in the month of September in 2018 and bases its mission on developing the agricultural sector, which can be regarded as the lifeblood of the nation.

G Bank’s objectives also include making banking services

accessible to everyone through the use of technology while incorporating ingenuity, responsibility, accountability, ethics and rules and regulations issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar in its services. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

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 32 CCTVs will be fitted on eight lamp posts, which were erected around north and

east of the lake. Out of 32, 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)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Over 10,000 enterprises apply for COVID loans in second time

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 10,000 enterprises have applied for the coronavirus emergency loans for the second time, said UMFCCI General Secretary U Aye Win.

To be able to provide the government's coronavirus emergency loans for the second time to the enterprises adversely affected by the pandemic, the applications are being accepted starting from 29 July up to 10 August. Over 1,500 applications were received through UMFCCI head office, over 7,600 through states and regions UMFCCI and over 800 through online.

This time, more than 10,000 enterprises have applied for the COVID emergency loans, and more applications were received compared to those of the first time. The first time, only over 4,250 enterprises used for emergency loans, he added.

Out of 10,000 applications, 25 per cent are from the Yangon region and the remaining 75 per cent are from other states and regions, he said.

The second time loans will be provided to agricultural, live-

stock and aquaculture sector, export manufacturing sector, import substitutes manufacturing sector, manufacturing sector involved in the supply chain from the domestic production to export sector, food production sector, overseas recruitment service sector and livelihood training school.

We do not know the exact amount of the emergency loans to the priority sector, he noted.

"The loans do not have limitations, including minimum and maximum amount borrowable. We will make a decision depending upon the application forms and their types of enterprise activities," the UMFCCI general secretary stated.

To be able to receive the emergency loans in time, the officials from UMFCCI started to scrutinize on 11 August together with the officials from SMEs Department, DICA, Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, Ministry of Education, Trade Department (Ministry of Commerce), Fisheries Department, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Directorate



More than 10,000 businesses applied for coronavirus loans in second batch. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and other 20 UMFCCI-affiliated associations.

These loans are being spent from a relief fund of K100 billion, with K50 billion drawn from the country's revolving fund and the rest K50 billion drawn from its

social welfare fund. The enterprises can apply for the loans with one per cent interest rate for one year.

The Union Government will add K100 billion to its COVID Fund from 2019-2020 financial year budget surplus.

For the first time, a total of (Translated by Hay Mar)

3,393 enterprises have received loans out of over 4,250 applications. UMFCCI provided over K101 billion for seven times, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. ■

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 a 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

THE domestic fuel oil price, which has been stable for three months, is rising by K20 per litre on 13 August.

The price of fuel oil 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 K600 for premium diesel on 13 August.

"The domestic oil price is directly related to the price prevailing in the global fuel oil market. The price of global fuel oil is also rising in the global 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, 271 in Bago Region, 196 in Magway Region, 245 in Sagaing Region, 30 in Taninthayi Region, 121 in Kachin 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)



Workers bag rice at a warehouse on 3 February 2020. PHOTO: TIN ZAR HLAING

ASEAN: at 53rd and Beyond - Remaining Resilient and Relevant to the Shift of Global Landscape

Aye Thandar Soe (MOFA)

On 8th August 2020, the Association of Southeast 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 issued a statement 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 reassuring 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 fragmentation, major power rivalries and their potential shift of new approach towards ASEAN, the global economic down-turn 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 opportune 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 context 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 Southeast Asia to become the members of the association. 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 the mid-way to completion. 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 meet the demand of the current situation, including but not limited to the impact of COVID19 pandemic.

Under the Chairmanship of Viet Nam, ASEAN has the important tasks of reviewing the ASEAN Charter, the Mid-Term Review of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and the brainstorming discussions on the ASEAN Community Post-2025 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?; From regional to global, how will ASEAN connect and lead the world?; What are

the strengths and weaknesses of ASEAN?; How can the External and Dialogue Partners be supportive of ASEAN's objectives and community-building efforts?; and How can ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners mutually fulfil each other's needs and interests?.

With a clear view of its current standing and efforts to bolster its strength, ASEAN should continue to step forward proactively and invite the potential countries and organizations outside the region to join hands in ASEAN's initiatives and efforts. To this end, ASEAN may need to take a challenge to reconsider its existing moratorium which is currently imposed on the establishment of new external relations taking into account of its capability and the genuine interest and willingness of potential partners. At the same time, ASEAN Centrality should be considered in parallel with the review of a moratorium. Criteria stipulated for the relationship with external partners must be clear, valid and strong so that nothing can undermine ASEAN Centrality and its effective cooperation.

As regards to the regional issues, the South China Sea remains the most likely spot for geopolitical tension between or among major and rising powers. Even the amidst of COVID-19 pandemic, there were a couple of developments on the ground, including military exercises by two major powers.

On 13 July, the U.S. Secretary of State also issued a policy statement reflecting the U.S.' new position towards the maritime claims in the South China Sea. The statement was issued on the occasion of 4th Anniversary of the decision of the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) over the territorial claims between China and the Philippines in 2016. Following this, China also took counter-position against the U.S.' statement.

In fact, South China Sea issue is multifaceted with divergent aspects that may roughly be categorized into three: (i) territorial disputes between and among the claimant states (or) issue of sovereignty, (ii) political and economic interests of non-claimant states in the region, and (iii) 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 deepen 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 building trust, ensuring peace, stability and safety and freedom 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 still 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 out. Most importantly to note, 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-institutionalized 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.-DPRK summits in 2018 and 2019 to facilitate to decreasing the tension and hostilities between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the issue of denuclearization 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 Plus) 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 of inclusive, 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 the cooperative efforts are going beyond the numbers of high-profile meetings, declarations and statements. And these are practically interpreted into the direct benefits for the communities swiftly and effectively, 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 lauded during Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019. The consideration of practical measures such as the utilization of COVID-19 ASEAN Respond Fund, establishment of the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and the establishment of more emergency response warehouses, in addition to 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 13.3 million shares, giving it a valuation of around \$2.8 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



Biotech company CureVac is making its stock market debut on the Nasdaq exchange in New York. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

prompted Economy Minister Peter Altmaier to declare that “Germany is not for 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 pharma giant GlaxoSmith-Kline 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 pay-

ment 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 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 monopoly 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 the company 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 ■

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“NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES”

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.

2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding dues by 30-9-2020 at the latest.

General Manager
City Golf Resort

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME

(27-8-2020) (09:00) A.M

(EX-SITE) HARDWOOD LOG ONLY

(28-8-2020) (09:00) A.M

YANGON & EX-SITE TEAK/ HARD WOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)

(31-8-2020) (12:00) Noon

YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY

(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME

TEAK LOGS

ABOUT (1247) TONS

THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION

ABOUT (106) TONS

(EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT)

THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION

ABOUT (325) TONS

(WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT)

PYINKADO, PADAUK, IN, KANYIN, HTAUKYANT, SAGAWA, THABYE, THITMAGYI, AUK-CHIN-SA-NI, TAUNGPEINNE, THINWIN, INGYIN, THITYAR, YEMANE

ABOUT (12315) TONS

HARDWOOD LOGS (INCLUDING 2019-2020 EXTRACTION YEAR)

TAW WIH HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

(c) PLACE

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.mte.com.mm).

Contact: Office Ph: 01-528771, 01-377296, E-mail: marketing1ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (031S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (031S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (098N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (098N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GINTO VOY. NO. (125)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GINTO VOY. NO. (125)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301191, 2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MITSUI O.S.K KANKAI LTD

Ancient stupas and temples in old Ahmyint city

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

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 Phayama 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 waning 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



Ancient stupas in Ahmyint village.

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 Zawtikayama Monastery in Khinmon Village, MinO Chantha Cluster of Pagodas, Phatthad Cluster of

Pagodas, a pagoda from Minye Cluster of Pagodas, a pagoda from Yatthit Monastery Cluster of Pagodas, Thambula Pagoda, a pagoda near Pitakat Chamber of Tawya Monastery, four ChinthaeU clusters of pagoda, four pagodas of Yunkyaung cluster of pagodas, stone inscription chamber of Tawkyauinggyi, cluster of Thonpanhla Pagodas, Shweguhtuk cluster of pagodas,



A signboard being seen at the entrance of Ahmyint ancient city.



Statue and biography stone inscription of journalist Oway U Nyo Mya.



Bukon Pagoda and Laing Pagoda bearing mural paintings are involved in the protection zone of Department of Archaeology and National Museum in 2012.

Ancient Ahmyint city

Ahmyint, the native land of journalist Oway U Nyo Mya (1914-1985), Naingngan Gonyi Grade-I Thakin Lay Maung (1910-1990) and Ayeetaung pickled tea industry owner U Kyaw Thein, takes a position on the bank of Chindwin River, 7.5 miles west of ChaungU. Statues and biography stone inscriptions of those three honourable persons were erected in front of Nyo Mya Toh Village Library in Ahmyint.

Ahmyint city was ruled by Bagan King Htilo Minlo and Laungshe Queen, Inwa King Mingyi Swa Saw Ke and Min Latt Wah in Konbaung era.

Ancient Ahneint (now Thonpanhla Village), four miles south from Ahmyint, along Chindwin River bank is a native land of Sayadaw U Wisara. Ahmyint was a town assigned to recruit 800 soldiers for the royal palace and 200 in Konbaung era.

Some people assume Ahmyint was established in 224 Myanmar era. In his reign, King Narapatisithu of Bagan (1165-1201) renovated the moat of ancient Ahmyint city.

The area of ancient Ahmyint city comprised 336 stupas and temples, 11 monasteries and 63 stone plaques. The notes of Bonsin Monastery abbot in Ahmyint mentioned the city was established together with 10 pagodas, nine god statues, nine caves, nine mounds, nine lakes and five water inlet channels.

Ten pagodas are inner Ethan and outer Ethan, inner Setlon and outer Setlon, inner Uti and outer Uti, inner Myintin and outer Myintin, inner Shwegu and outer Shwegu. Seven statues of gods were kept at six gates and three on Myodwinkon and Konkyaung.

Nine caves were named with different meanings. Nine mounds were Hlawga, Ngakhe, Pwaypin Khaya, Bon, Kalagyi, Thaphan, Talai, Wayauk and Thittabin mounds. Nine lakes were Shwepyar, Wetchi, Inpetlet, Hlawga, Khawathe, Kyaykhaung, Laythaung, Kansee and Ngakhe lakes. Five water inlet channels were named with Hteinchauung, Pauktaw, Shinthange, Ngasikyi and Ayanwatar. Twelve city gates

were Sitha, Thudattha, Hsincha, Mingala, Mathar, Aungtha, Mathoe, Mahnyo, Tettoe, Eitha, Minma and Thazi gates.

Ten lacquerware Buddha images

People assume Bagan King Narapatisithu ordered to carve 10 lacquerware Buddha images—each of which was located at Shwelinpun Monastery in Sipoktara Village of KhinU Township, Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing, Shwesakagyi Pagoda in Samon Village of Sagaing Township, Shwetasa Pagoda in Shwebo, Shwesakar Pagoda in Mingin, Shweyattaung Pagoda in Singu, Sakarhla Pagoda in Kalay, Shwesakargyi Pagoda in Kyahnyat, Shwekumyin Pagoda in Myedu and Amyint.

These lacquerware Buddha images were found from Shwetwinaung Pagoda between Ahmyint and Ahneint in 1256 ME.

Abbot U Pannavam who resided at the monastery donated by Magway Minister near Thawtapan Village found about five feet high Buddha image from the large pit in the precinct of Shwetwinaung Pagoda. As he saw the inscription carved by Bagan King Narapatisithu in 536 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 Bhaddanta U Pannavam did not



Archy way of Shwetwinaung pagoda.



Lattawya Buddha Image seen in the precinct of Kotawpyauk Pagoda.

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 Shwekyoriz Pagoda for public obeisance and then returned to Kon Monastery.

Visiting sites in Ahmyint

Travellers can visit Shwetwinaung Pagoda, the tunnel in the precinct of the pagoda, Shwekyoriz Buddha Image, Minye Monastery built with the use of 119 teak posts and pagodas in the precinct of Minye Monastery. Mingala Bonpyan Monastery built by long-life Minister Min Latt Wah of King Mindon in 1220 ME was formed with 12 buildings and four brick ladders with the use of 136 teak posts. Lattawya Buddha Image can be seen in the precinct of Kotawpyauk Pagoda.

Buddha Pujaniya festivals for Shwekyoriz, Kodawgyi, Shinpin Myittanan, Shwethalyaung, Minye Phayagyi, Shwetwinaung, Minpaungshin, Shinpin Metali, Thettawya, Minye, NanU, Yoetawpon, lacquerware Buddha image, Bonpyan and Shwetheindaw stupas and temples are held in Amyint the days of Sabbath from the full moon day of Waso to full

waning of Thadingyut. Mural paintings can be seen on interior of a temple in the clusters of Minye pagodas. These are under maintenance of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. Although Ahmyint Village is a small village which is home to 2,613 people from 573 houses, it was an ancient city with prosperity. As evidences, old stupas and temples, collapsed ones and brick mounds can be seen in the village. Ancient Ahmyint city welcomes those wishing to search historical evidences. People can observe rare manuscripts, documentary photos, manuscripts of veteran writers, newspapers and books collected by veteran journalist U Nyo Mya at Nyo Mya Toh Village Livrary opened in Amyint Village. A picture of Minister Min Latt Wah who governed Amyint city in Konbaung era is hung in the library.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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MNL announces fixture for football matches

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, Ya-



Myanmar National League CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw speaking at the MNL meeting on 14 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

danarbon FC will play ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

On the same day at the same

time, Ayeyarwady United will play against Rakhine United at Yangon United Sports Complex.

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 Hantharwady 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 (Tgi) ■

Arsenal sign Willian on free transfer



Willian has joined Arsenal after his contract at Chelsea expired. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

LONDON — Arsenal completed the signing of Willian on a three-year deal on Friday after the Brazilian winger's contract at Chelsea expired.

The 32-year-old won two Premier League titles, an FA Cup, a League Cup and the Europa League during seven years with the Blues, but moves across

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 reportedly 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 ■

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 ■

Serena rallies past Venus, builds confidence for US Open

WASHINGTON — Serena Williams rallied to defeat sister Venus Williams 3-6, 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 23-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 ■



Serena Williams plays a backhand Thursday during her victory over sister Venus Williams at the WTA Top Seed Open. **PHOTO: AFP**