Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National-level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
Public Announcement regarding COVID-19 Second Wave Prevention
15th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
(18 August 2020)

1. According to the news released by the World Health Organization at 9:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 18 August 2020, there have been about 21.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with over 876 million deaths, showing a gradual increase in the number of cases and fatalities.

2. India, bordering with Myanmar, recorded 2.6 million cases and its death toll stood at 56,921, ranking third in term of cases. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has topped over 270,000 and 3,657 deaths until now. The numbers of confirmed cases and deaths are increasing in these countries day by day.

3. Myanmar has seen a downward trend of COVID-19 infection in the first wave, and this is expected to end soon. There are 376 confirmed cases, with six deaths, and 331 recoveries reported in Myanmar up to this morning. From 18 June 2020 to now, Myanmar has reported 114 cases, of which only 2 were domestic transmissions and the remaining 112 were from overseas. People have played a vital role in these successful control measures against this pandemic with their strict adherence to the rules and directives.

4. However, it is seriously to be considered that more than half (61 per cent) of positive cases in Myanmar exhibited no symptoms of this disease. A lot of possibilities exist for a severe outbreak of the second wave due to the spread of infection in the wards/villages or the public from the patients with exhibiting no symptoms. Some neighbouring countries and developed countries are struggling to contain this viral disease again, although they have announced their successful control measures against the second wave and deaths.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio presides over coordination meeting on disaster preparedness, possible food shortages

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, presided over a coordination meeting on tackling possible food shortages caused by severe flood and drought resulting from global climate changes. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The Vice President talked about the effects of climate change resulting in natural disasters such as strong winds, floods, severe heat and drought, as well as landslides and soil erosions more frequently in many places. He also pointed out the deadly soil erosion and landslide cases at the Kyain Thalan pagoda in...
“People are the key”

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet 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.

Union Minister U Min Thu inspects local election commissions for ensuring correct voter lists

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu conducted a field study with the relevant officials on 17 August and 18 August in Zabuthiri, Dekkhinathiri, Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri, Taikton, Pyinmana, Lewe and Ditaratthi townships.

The Union Minister and party inspected the preparation of sub-election commissions in villages, wards and townships for the eligible voters can cast their votes for 2020 General Election and coordinated in the administrative process to support the preparation.

The Union Minister told the officials from the General Administration Department and the election commissions that the field study was to find out the real difficulties and to coordinate for the complete and correct voter lists at the second voter lists announcement for the upcoming elections in November.

The Union Minister also said that the ministry was cooperating with the relevant departments and local election commissions for the complete and correct voter lists for every eligible voter to cast their votes; the Union Government, Nay Pyi Taw Council, local governments and election commissions were cooperating to correct incomplete voter lists in the first edition. The Union Minister urged the relevant personnel to help the election commissions for ensuring accurate and complete second voter lists.—MNA

Korean Embassy provides ICT equipment to Ministry of Union Government Office

THE Embassy of Republic of Korea handed over technical assistant materials including Samsung tablets to the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the donation ceremony, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa gave congratulatory speech regarding providing the technical assistant materials.

During the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint delivered words of thanks. The Ambassador handed over the technical assistant materials to the Deputy Minister and the Deputy Minister returned the certificate of honour.

The donated Samsung tablets will be delivered to the General Administration Offices in respective states and regions to use in administrative and local data collection and in the process of COVID-19 prevention, control and response in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as well as in each state and region. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 18 August, total figure remains at 376

Updated at 8 pm, 18 August 2020

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 18 August 2020

Total Cases 376
Total Death 6
Recovered from Hospital 328
Developed from Status 30
New PUls 27

Ministry of Health and Sports
Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

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

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National-level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
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FROM PAGE-1
5. The public strictly followed fundamental rules to prevent COVID-19 in March, April and May 2020 during the upward trend in domestic transmission. Still, people have relaxed their close adherence to the directives since mid-June.
6. If the country encountered the second wave of this disease with the risk of a large and uncontrollable outbreak, then there would be a wide range of negative impacts on many sectors such as health, economy, education, employment and livelihood.
7. The second wave of COVID-19, which has grave consequences, could be prevented by the public through protective measures.

The committee, therefore, urges the public to closely abide by the following five rules and collaborate to prevent a COVID-19 second wave.
(a) Totally (totally) avoid crowds unnecessarily.
(b) Practise social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet, if possible, from other people.
(c) When going outdoors, wear face masks systematically in public spaces and gatherings.
(d) Wash hands at least 20 seconds with soap and water to kill the virus on the hands.
(e) Fully cooperate in quarantine processes for the returnees from overseas and report on illegal returnees.

VP U Henry Van Thio presides over coordination meeting on disaster preparedness, possible food shortages

FROM PAGE-1
In Mawlamyine Township in 2018 and at Ma Laat Mountain in Paung Township in 2019 in Mon State; flood caused by damage to the spillway of the dam on Swa Creek in 2018, accident to the embankment of Shwe Gae sluice gate near Amarapura Township in 2020, and the recent landslide incident in Phakant.

While deaths and damages to infrastructure are significant losses for the country, the long term plans must be adopted to address the decline in agricultural products caused by flood and drought, the Vice President added.

He also advised keeping watch on the changing situations of neighbouring countries which could impact on Myanmar because of information, technology, products, employment, culture, economy and politics.

The Vice President said that the COVID-19 pandemic had posed many challenges in the health and economic sectors; it has impacted negatively on the employment situation; and the pandemic has placed a heavy burden on the economy. He added that climate changes could worsen these situations and that proper plans should be adopted to avoid bad experiences resulting from a shortage of food.

Myanmar needs to ensure food self-sufficiency and encourage export of agricultural products by using agricultural techniques appropriate with climate change, giving technical assistance to farmers, creating local and foreign markets to promote the trade sector and coordinating with relevant ministries to lessen the losses from natural disasters.

He added that Myanmar formed a coordination body in 2018 to assist in the immediate recovery of disaster-affected areas, and that it was being co-chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The Vice President concluded his speech with the remark that success in the agricultural sector could elevate the socio-economic status of the people as 70 per cent of the population live in rural areas.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Committee, explained the committee’s works and activities on resolving potential food insecurity caused by climate change, plans to provide social welfare services during natural disasters and using technology in preventive measures and collaborative efforts with other countries.

The committee concluded that by linking with the MSDP of a “master plan” must be drafted in order that plans to safeguard food security can be continuously and effectively carried out.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Than Myint and Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and U Soe Aung, directors general and officials.—MNA

Translated by Maung Maung Swe
Myanmar-UK education steering committee holds meeting online

THE Steering Committee of Myanmar-UK Partnership for Education was held via video-conferencing at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, the Directors-General, the Deputy Directors-General, officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) and other organizations joined the meeting.

Firstly, the Union Minister said Myanmar-UK Partnership Education was initiated in 2019 and received significant achievements in May 2020. It has been two years and is expected for the positive results and futures, said the Union Minister, adding his appreciation on the TREE (Towards Results in Education and English) project as it conducts online courses on inclusive education for improving the English skills of teachers and instructors during COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister said that his office is preparing for conducting PPTT (Pre-Service Primary Teacher Training) course, helping in five prioritized sectors under AERIS (Assessment and Education Reform Support) and assisting in conducting researches under EELC (Evidence Evaluation Learning Component).

UK Department for International Development (DFID) Head of Office Dr Runik Marsden and Deputy Head of Office Mr Will Niblett also said words of thanks.

During the meeting, they discussed Myanmar-UK Partnership for Education related matters like TREE, AERIS, EELC, Learning Together, MEC (Myanmar Education Consortium) and STEM (Strengthening pre-service Teacher Education and Myanmar) and processes for National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030).—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electricity and Energy Public Notification

15th Waning of Second Waso 1382 ME 18 August 2020

1. The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) deems it necessary to continue implementing preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and made an announcement on 13 August 2020 that all directives, notifications, requests to the public, and orders issued by Union-level institutions and ministries regarding the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 until 15-8-2020 (excluding those that have been ordered to be eased) will be extended to 31 August 2020.

2. An announcement was made on 19 July 2020 for the exemption of 75 units from the electricity bills of consumption from 1 July to 15 July when COVID-19 preventive measures were increased.

3. An additional exemption (free of charge) of 75 units will be deducted from the electricity bill from 16-7-2020 to 31-7-2020 as COVID-19 preventive measures were extended. Thus, a total of 150 units from domestic consumption between the dates of 1 July and 31 July 2020 will get exemption (free of charge) from the electricity bill.

4. Due to economic and psychological hardships amid COVID-19, the exemption (free of charge) of 150 units from the electricity bills of consumption will be extended until 31 December 2020 from 1 August 2020.

5. All relevant households that have consumed from 1 to 150 units of electricity will have their meter bill and service fees exempted (free of charge) while consumption of 151 units and above will have K11,550 for 150 units deducted from the total meter bill.

6. Domestic consumption of 131 units and above will have to make payments according to the different levels of consumption rate. Local civil society organizations in the NGO category are the only type of non-domestic consumers that will have the exemption applied to them. The other non-domestic types will have to continue payments in regular rates.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Myanmar brings 109 nationals back home by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), from Incheon International Airport, Republic of Korea, landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing back 109 Myanmar nationals stranded in the foreign countries.

The returnees included 1 Myanmar national from United Arab Emirates-UAE while 1 from Czech Republic, 2 each from Austria, Viet Nam and Italy, 3 each from Switzerland and Brazil, 4 from Indonesia, 3 from UK, 4 from Canada, 5 each from Belgium and Egypt, 28 from the US, 28 from Republic of Korea, and 17 seamen.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections at the Myanmar True News Information Team’s statement. A total of 166 Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives had their swabs tested at the Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw with COBAS 6800 machine on 17 August, and none of them tested positive for the virus.

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar citizens returned from foreign countries line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 18 August 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

All Tatmadaw MPs tested negative for COVID-19

All Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, who will attend the meetings of Second Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw’s 17th regular sessions, have tested negative for COVID-19, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team’s statement.

A total of 166 Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives had their swabs tested at the Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw with COBAS 6800 machine on 17 August, and none of them tested positive for the virus.

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
In the fisheries and prawn breeding sector, much profit could be gained if we could implement marketing initiatives to popularize fish and prawn varieties still unknown in foreign markets, make these products more desirable and increase demand. Myanmar products are very expensive in certain countries; soft shell crabs and oysters are very difficult to get and expensive in certain Western countries; if we could be more creative and work to make these products able to penetrate foreign markets and also make these products more delicious to the foreign plates, then they could become very valuable products for export.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s discussions on livestock and fisheries sector with stakeholders on 7 July 2020.)

Leaders, representatives of EAOs, political parties ready for Union Peace Conference in Nay Pyi Taw

THE leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and political parties have arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong to be held from 19 to 21 August 2020.

Those who arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August were KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Vice-Chairman Pado Saw Kwal Htoo Win, Saw Moe Shay from DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC Chairman Saw Htott Lay, Vice-Chairman Saw Yin Nu, ABSDF Chairman U Than Khe and General Secretary U Sonny, CNF Chairman Pu Zing Cung and Vice-Chairman Pu Thang Ning Koe, PNLO Patrons Phyar Tan Khun Okkar and Phyar Tan Khun Ti Saung, ALP Vice-Chairman Khaing Soe Naing Aung and Deputy Leader Saw Mya Yazar Lin, RCSS Chairman Sao Yawd Serk and Leader of negotiation group Sao Baung Khay, NMSP Chairman Nai Han Thar and Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min and LDU Chairman Kyar Khun Sar and representatives of NCA-S EAOs. Patrons, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of 21 political parties are also now staying at the designated places under the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
### Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Details on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Information received of Zaw Lin Aung who lives in Pauktaw (east) Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10 August 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Lin Aung, 37, son of U Kinn Maung, who lives in Pauktaw (east) Village, Kalay Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kalay) MaYa(pa)113/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Information received of Zaw Min Naing who lives in Hlawphugon Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 9 August 2020, police searched a motor cycle on the Khantha-Hinshon road in Kawlin Township. It was driven by Zaw Min Naing, 41, son of U Maung Nyunt who lives in Hlawphugon Village, Kawlin Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin) MaYa(pa)145/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Information received of Myo Htay Kyaw who lives in Phaekacet Village, Mawlaw Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10 August 2020, police searched the house of Myo Htay Kyaw, 42, son of U Aung Win, who lives in Phaekacet Village, Mawlaw Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaw) MaYa(pa)601/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Pyinthaunglay Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region.</td>
<td>On 11 August 2020, police searched the house of Aung Zaw Oo, 41, son of U Win, who lives in Pyinthaunglay Village, Katha Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Innya) MaYa(pa)38/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Information received of Zaw Tun who lives in Aukleik Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8 August 2020, police searched the house of Zaw Tun, 37, son of U Tun Shwe, who lives in Aukleik Village, Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa(pa)24/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Phu Pwint Thet who lives in west Thiri Marlar Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10 August 2020, police searched the house of Ma Phu Pwint Thet, 29, daughter of U Nge, who lives in west Thiri Marlar Ward, Aungmyethazan Township and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (5-Aungmyethazan) MaYa(pa)24/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
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### Return of Myanmar migrant workers continues through Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge

331 Myanmar migrant workers (197 men and 134 women) from Thailand returned home through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady on 18 August.

District Administrator U Tayzar Aung and other relevant officials welcomed the returnees, who received medical examinations and had other necessary arrangements supervised by relevant district/ township officials. All the returnees have been sent to relevant quarantine centres. 11,680 Myanmar nationals returned home in May; 25,338 in June; 18,597 in July; and 10,355 returned home from 1 to 18 August. So, a total of 65,968 Myanmar migrant workers returned home from 1 May to 18 August.—Hein Lin Aung (IPRD)  
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)
ASEAN senior officials prepare for ministerial meeting on rural development, poverty elimination

SENIOR Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) yesterday held a preliminary meeting via videoconferencing to prepare for upcoming ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) to discuss COVID-19 response.

During the virtual meeting, Department of Rural Development Director-General U Khant Zaw, in his capacity as SOMRDPE rotating Chairperson, said that SOMRDPE’s activities on rural development and poverty eradication are being affected by COVID-19 pandemic. He called on the SOMRDPE to effectively and timely collaborate on COVID-19 response and poverty eradication. He pledged that Myanmar will continue its collaboration with ASEAN member countries in those matters.

ASEAN Secretariat Assistant Director Dr Sita Sumrit and other senior officials from ASEAN member countries made discussions and suggestions for the special meeting of AMRDPE on COVID-19 response.

Officials from ASEAN Secretariat and senior officials of SOMRDPE participated in the virtual preliminary meeting.

—MNA

MRTV, SFCG jointly conduct training course for ethnic film production

THE Myanmar Radio and Television and the Search for Common Ground is conducting a training course for production of a TV series to present traditional culture and beauty of ethnic nationalities.

The opening ceremony of the course was held at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. At the ceremony, Director-General U Ye Naing said that MRTV is broadcasting 17 ethnic film production and the Search for Common Ground is conducting a training course from 22 August for 30 MRTV staff members and Technical Media Production course from 22 August to 26 August for 25 members of the staff.

The MRTV and the SFCG have jointly produced the 12 series of ethnic traditional cultures and beauties. Dr Aung Min from Yangon Film School and Director Kyi Phyu Shin with other 12 experts in film industry will lead the course.

The Film-Directing course will be held from 18 August to 20 August for 30 MRTV staff members and Technical Media Production course from 22 August to 26 August for 25 members ofethnic people and to support peace-building and unity. He also explained that in order to support those objectives, the training course is aimed for production of ethnic traditional cultures and beauties.

The Film-Directing course will be held from 18 August to 20 August for 30 MRTV staff members and Technical Media Production course from 22 August to 26 August for 25 members of the staff. The MRTV and the SFCG have jointly produced the 12 series of Let’s Think Let’s Change in 2017 and another 12 series of youth and narcotic drugs in 2018 for radio programmes, as well as an anti-narcotic TV programme in 2019.—MNA

More than K31bln worth of ICE confiscated in Rakhine State

POLICE seized K31.74billion worth of crystal methamphetamine (ICE) on board a vessel near Kyeintali Township in Rakhine State on 16 August, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a motor boat anchored near Maung Dauk Creek, which is about two miles away from south west of Kyeintali Township, in the afternoon of 16 August, and a total of 1,380 kilograms of ICE in 61 gunny sacks from the boat were confiscated.

During the raid, five men ran away from the boat swimming. Police arrested them later.

Of the suspects, Kyaw Moe Swe, Phyo Min Aung, San Lin, and Tun Tun Win were arrested on Thandwe-Kyeintali Road in the evening of the same day and Maung Pu (a) Hla Ngwe near San Chaung Village in Gwa Township on the following day.

According to the police’s investigation, the confiscated drugs taken from a ship near Kin Maw Village in Thandwe Township are the things that will be transported to the territorial waters of Malaysia near Indonesia.

Suspect Tun Tun Win is in-charged of the seized boat that was being anchored near the Maung Dauk Creek due to the strong winds on the sea.

Police filed a case against the suspects in connection with the case, and further investigation was underway.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

PHOTO: MNA

TRAINING COURSE

PHOTO: MNA

L380 kilograms of ICE were seized on the vessel anchored near Maung Dauk Creek in Kyeintali Township on 16 August.  PHOTO: MNA
To address gender-based violence amid COVID-19, we need creativity, collaboration and courage

By Bjorn Anderson

This article is part of the series "The Coronavirus: The Global Health Crisis and the Need for Human Rights".

The situation demands that the Ministry of Health and Sports consider the need to scale up support into the pandemic, ed support into the pandemic, and ensure that new and increased funding makes its way to the national budget.

The current phase of the contagion

COVID-19 cases in Asia-Pacific countries are growing, with over 50,000 cases reported by the age of 50 who may not have access to health care. The World Health Organization said Tuesday that new cases in Asia-Pacific countries are on the rise, with more than 230,000 new infections reported in the past week. The WHO said that the number of new cases in the region has been increasing by more than 15% per week in recent weeks.

Some countries that had brought their outbreaks under control, such as Vietnam and South Korea, have seen a recent increase in cases. Other countries, such as India, have also seen a rise in infections.

WHO warns people under 50 driving virus spread in Asia-Pacific

According to the WHO, the number of new cases in the Asia-Pacific region has increased by more than 15% per week in recent weeks. This is the highest increase reported in any region during the pandemic.

The WHO said that the increase is due to a combination of factors, including increased travel and the emergence of new variants of the virus. The agency also noted that some countries, such as India, have seen a rise in infections despite efforts to control the outbreak.

The WHO warned that the increase in cases is a cause for concern, and called on countries to take action to control the spread of the virus. The agency recommended that countries should continue to implement public health measures, such as social distancing and the wearing of masks, to help control the spread of the virus.

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THE 6th ship named MV Ginto carrying rails from Japan to use in CP-103 Nyaunglebin-Toungoo railway docked at Sule No 5 Wharf on 17 August, according to Myanmar Railways (MR).

MR is upgrading Yangon-Mandalay railway, which is 385 miles in length with JICAs official development assistance (ODA) loans to ensure the convenience of the train commuters.

“The 6th ship reached Myanmar carrying 2,957.835 tonnes of railway tracks which are 82 feet long. Although Myanmar Railways has planned to unload them from the ship on that night, the rails will be unloaded depending upon the weather condition because there are heavy rains in Yangon Region these days,” said U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, the Assistant Manager from MR.

“The unloaded rail tracks will be carried by coaches to Yvarthagyi dry port. Then, the rails will be transported to the project areas. Normally, MR is running 12 coaches from Sule port to dry port. About six coaches will be needed to carry the rail tracks to reach the project areas in the dry port,” he added.

MR is reportedly upgrading the railway project in two phases — Yangon-Toungoo railway, which is 166 miles in length and Toungoo-Mandalay railway, which is 219.5 miles in length. — Soe Myint Aung

Sixth ship carrying rails for Nyaunglebin-Toungoo railway docks in Sule Whararf

THE government stockpiles 50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil as reserved foodstuffs to provide 872-tonne palm oil to over 4 million residents in Magway Region amid COVID-19.

Sufficient rain helps sesame high yield in Magway

SOME villages in Magway Region get a high yield of sesame thanks to sufficient rainfall, according to the local sesame growers.

However, over 0.13 million out of over 1 million sesame plants were damaged in the Magway Region because of the drought.

The production of black sesame in our village is normal. Each acre of black sesame has produced around ten baskets, whereas that of the white sesame has produced around 15 baskets. We are fortunate that we get sufficient rainfall,” said U Myint Soe, a local farmer from Sipintha Village in Magway Township.

The price of black sesame is K70,000 per basket and the white sesame is sold for K48,000 per basket in the market. It does not mean we get a good price, however; it is a fair price, said U Thaung, a local sesame grower.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the leading producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Myanmar exports 90 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the primary buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Organization.

Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practic- es (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. — Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Regional trade tops $9.94 bln this FY, reports Ministry of Commerce

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade worth $9.17 bln in Oct-June

Myanmar Rubber Forum to be held in Yangon

MoC restricts 6 export items including minerals
Libya unity govt signs military accord with Qatar, Turkey

TRIPOLI—Qatar and Turkey have signed an accord to send military advisers and instructors for the armed forces of Libya’s Government of National Accord, the UN-recognized GNA said.

“We have reached an agreement with Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and Qatar’s (minister) Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah on tripartite cooperation to build a military institute for training,” said the GNA’s deputy defence minister, Salah al-Namrouch.

Both Sheikh Khalifa, Qatar’s minister of state for defence, and Akar were in Tripoli on Monday for meetings with the GNA’s military and for talks on three-way military cooperation.

Under the accord between the three countries, Turkey and Qatar will send military advisers and provide training at their military academies for Libyan cadets, Namrouch said.

Also visiting Tripoli on Monday, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned that Libya faces a “deceptive calm” since fighting stalled in June around the coastal city of Sirte. Outside powers are “continuing to massively arm the country”, said Maas, whose government has tried to broker peace in the war-torn North African country.

“In Libya at the moment we are observing a deceptive calm,” he told journalists in Tripoli, seat of the GNA. Libya has been in chaos since a Western-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive in April 2019 to seize Tripoli. After 14 months of fierce fighting, the Turkish-backed pro-GNA forces expelled Haftar’s troops from much of western Libya and pushed them eastwards to Sirte, a gateway to Libya’s rich oil fields and export terminals.

While the GNA has also been supported by Qatar, Haftar has had the backing of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Russia.—AFP

Anti-government protesters defy virus measures in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES—Thousands of opposition demonstrators took to the streets in cities across Argentina on Monday to protest against President Alberto Fernandez and his plans to extend containment measures against the coronavirus.

Demonstrators defied social distancing rules to answer calls to protest against a government announcement last Friday to extend containment measures in the Buenos Aires region until August 30.

The capital is home to 90 percent of the country’s growing coronavirus caseload.

Demonstrators shouting “freedom, freedom” gathered around the landmark Obelisk in central Buenos Aires, waving Argentine flags and chanting anti-government slogans.

Demonstrators also protest ed against Fernandez’s planned judicial reform to expand the number of federal courts in an effort to dilute the influence of judges suspected of making politically motivated decisions.

The protests in Buenos Aires and other main cities took place despite a recent easing of restrictions, even as the country battles a steady rise in infec tions.—AFP

Israeli planes bomb Gaza as Egyptians seek to restore calm

JERUSALEM—Israeli warplanes pounded Hamas-ruled Gaza early Tuesday in response to Palestinian fire balloon attacks across the border, the Israeli army said.

The strikes came as visiting Egyptian security officials strove to defuse the latest uptick in violence, a Hamas source said.

“Fighter jets and (other) aircraft struck underground infrastructures belonging to the Hamas terror organization in the Gaza Strip,” an Israeli military statement said.

It linked the air strikes to “explosive and arson balloons launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel”.

The Hamas source told AFP the Islamists had held talks with the Egyptian delega

JUDGMENT — A UN-backed tribunal will hand down its verdict Tuesday on the 2005 murder of former premier Rafic Hariri, two weeks after the Lebanese capital was rocked by a massive explosion.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon’s long-awaited judgment comes days after a catastrophic blast at Beirut port blamed on state negligence left at least 177 people dead and deepened public distrust toward the government.

Initially scheduled for August 7, the Dutch-based international court postponed its own verdict 15 years after Hariri’s assassination “out of respect for the countless victims”.

Four alleged members of the powerful Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah were on trial in absentia at the court in the Netherlands over the huge Beirut suicide bombing on 14 February 2005 that killed Sunni billionaire Hariri and 21 other people.

The judgment harks back to an event that changed the face of the Middle East, with Hariri’s assassination triggering a wave of demonstrations that pushed Syrian forces out of Lebanon after 30 years.

The court is hailed as the world’s first international tribunal set up to probe terrorist crimes, and it has cost at least $600 million since it opened its doors in 2009 following a UN Security Council resolution.

But the tribunal faces doubts over its credibility with Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah refusing to hand over the defendants, and the case relying almost entirely on mobile phone records.—AFP

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Prime Minister of Libya’s UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayez al-Sarraj (C) meets with Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar (R), and his Qatari counterpart Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah (L) in the capital Tripoli. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Lebanon’s Prime Minister Saad Hariri in front of a portrait of his father, assassinated former premier Rafik Hariri. PHOTO: AFP/FILE
Huawei’s Meng seeks classified docs in extradition fight

VANCOUVER—Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou’s lawyers went to court on Monday to press for the release of classified documents related to her arrest that they claim will show her rights were violated.

Meng, the Chinese telecom giant’s chief financial officer, was arrested on a US warrant in December 2018 during a stopover in Vancouver.

She is charged with bank fraud related to violations of US sanctions against Iran, and has been fighting extradition ever since.

Appearing by teleconference at the British Columbia Supreme Court, defence lawyers said the Crown must not be allowed to shield authorities’ misconduct by blocking the release of key documents.—AFP

S.Korea’s auto export keeps falling for 4 months

SEOUL—South Korea’s automotive export kept falling for four straight months through July due to an economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, a government report showed Monday.

The number of locally-made cars exported in July was 181,362, down 11.7 per cent from the year-ago period, boosted also by an economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of value, the auto export slipped 4.2 per cent to $3.56 billion U.S. dollars in July. It was lower than reductions of 36.3 per cent in April, 54.1 per cent in May and 33.2 per cent in June each.

The number of car sale in the domestic market 164,539 in July, up 8.9 per cent from a year earlier. The local car sale kept growing for the fifth consecutive month owing to the launch of new models and the discount event.—Xinhua

Chinese wine enacted anti-dumping investigation

BEIJING—China on Tuesday ramped up tension with Australia as it launched a probe into wine imports from the country, the latest salvo in an increasingly bitter row between the trade partners.

Relations between Beijing and Canberra have nosedived in recent months after Australian goods including beef and barley as well as tourism and higher education.

The ministry of commerce said in a statement it would investigate dumping – wherein a country sells goods in a country for less than it costs at home – throughout 2019, at the request of the Wine Industries Association of China.—AFP

Walmart profits boosted by e-commerce, US stimulus payments

BENTONVILLE—Walmart reported Tuesday a jump in second-quarter profits due to surging e-commerce sales during the coronavirus pandemic and US stimulus payments that propelled consumer spending.

Net income was $6.5 billion, up nearly 80 per cent from the year-ago period, boosted also by a large gain based on its investment in Chinese company JD.com.

Walmart reported strong earnings behind higher sales at US stores, with consumers shopping less frequently, but spending more at each visit.

PHOTO © AFP/FILE

Chinese wine enacted anti-dumping investigation

PHOTO: AFP

Australia wine exports to China hit US$900 million last year.

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China launches anti-dumping investigation into Australian wine

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PHOTO © AFP/FILE

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Myanmar’s border trade with neighbouring countries sees US$ 8.6 billion

By Kyaw Htike Soe

Myanmar’s border trade with neighbouring countries reached US$8.6 billion as of late July in the current financial year, an increase of over US$230 million compared to the same period of last financial year, according to figures from the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar’s border trade with its neighbours was US$8.3 billion in the same period of financial year 2018-2019, the ministry said.

Myanmar’s export volume through its borders fetched US$5.8 billion while the country’s import reached over US$2.7 billion. Muse border saw the largest volume and value of Myanmar’s total border trade, with an estimated value of over US$5.4 billion, followed by Myawady with US$658 million and Chinshwehaw with US$554 million during that period. The Sino-Myanmar border trade through all five border crossings has registered over US$4.7 billion in the current financial year, a decrease of US$123.5 million compared to the same period of last financial year, according to the ministry’s statistics. Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of US$3.8 billion, followed by Heekhee with US$1.6 billion, the ministry’s data showed.

Myanmar’s border trade with China was recorded over US$ 4.83 billion in the year-ago period. Border trade with China was valued at US$3.89 billion through Muse border gate in this FY, US$123.35 million via Lweje, US$436.7 million via Chinshwehaw, US$493 million via Kampaiti, and over US$4.45 million via Kengtung. The decline in bilateral trade is attributed to the suspension and delay of some commodities amid the tight security measures of coronavirus. China has been beefing up border control measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus infection. China’s investment...
Myanmar conducts border trade mainly through the Tamu, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myawady, and Inlay checkpoints with Thailand via seven borders. The two countries’ trade value went down from US$128 million to US$299 million. The country’s highest trade value of US$1.35 billion was recorded in the first quarter of this year, which included trade between 1 October last year and 31 March this year. When compared with last year’s US$1.45 billion, this year saw a significant decrease of US$103.9 million.

Myanmar, the world’s leading jade and gemstone producer, mainly exports agro products, forest products, manufacturing products, sea fishery products, minerals, and other commodities. The country mainly exports agro products, forest products, manufacturing products, sea fishery products, minerals, and other commodities. The country mainly conducts border trade mainly through the Tamu, Reed, Thantlang, and Kenglap cross-border trade camps, while a major part of bilateral trade is carried out via sea. India is one of Myanmar’s top trading partners, and the two countries inked a bilateral trade agreement in 1994. Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral trade via border checkpoints was valued at over US$747.63 million as of 26 June in the current 2019-2020 financial year, an increase of US$700 million from the corresponding period of last year. When compared with last year, FY this year saw a significant surge in the value of exports by US$427 million while the bilateral imports rose by US$302.96 million. Between 1 October last year and 26 June this year, Myanmar transported commodities worth US$443.4 million to Bangladesh and imported goods valued at over US$304.2 million. Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes.

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Lukaku, Martinez fire five-star Inter into Europa League final

DUESSELDORF—Inter Milan are destined for “great things” under Antonio Conte, according to Lautaro Martinez after the Argentine and Romelu Lukaku both scored twice to thrash Shakhtar Donetsk 5-0 in Dusseldorf and reach the Europa League final.

Daniolo D’Ambrosio was also on target for the Italian giants, who will face Sevilla in Friday’s final in Cologne.

Inter have endured a lean decade since winning the Champions League in 2010, but closed the gap on Juventus at the top of Serie A to just one point in Conte’s first season in charge and are now one win away from a first trophy in nine years.

Martinez and Lukaku’s prolific partnership has been the source of much of Inter’s success and they took their tally to a combined 54 for the season.

“It was an incredible night, something we have been dreaming of,” said Martinez, who has been strongly linked with a move to be Luis Suarez’s successor at Barcelona.

“We proved that Inter are ready for great things, we are ready for the final.”

After a slow start, Martinez put Inter on course for their 10th Europa League final as he powered home Nicolo Barella’s cross to open the scoring on 19 minutes.

Shakhtar are one of European football’s great survivors as the Ukrainian champions continue to thrive despite not playing a match in their home city of Donetsk for six years due to a war in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed separatists.—AFP

MAGFEC beats Rakhine United 1-0 in friendly match ahead of MNL

Don’t write off Rory

Before coronavirus, Rory McIlroy was flying. Six top-five finishes in a row, including a WGC win in Shanghai, had propelled him back to world number one. Then the US PGA Tour shut down for three months. Since the resumption? Six starts and one top-30 finish – tied 11th at the Travelers Championship at the end of June – are all McIlroy has been able to muster.—AFP

Busy Tiger, McIlroy’s time, major misses: golf talking points

HONG KONG—The FedEx Cup playoffs and the first women’s major of the year feature in AFP Sport’s golf talking points this week:

Tiger’s back

Tiger Woods has been seen at just four US PGA Tour events in 2020 but could double that over the next five weeks, providing the 44-year-old’s creaking body can hold up during three consecutive FedEx Cup playoff events.

The 15-time major winner has been protecting his fused back and dodgy knees – appearing only twice since June’s restart – in anticipation of a busy run starting with Thursday’s Northern Trust in Boston, which will reduce the top 125 in the standings to a field of 70 for the BMW Championship in Chicago next week.

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MFF Futsal Knock-Out Cup postponed to 2021

THE MFF Futsal Knock-Out Cup will only be held in 2021 instead of 2020 due to COVID-19 and the futsal clubs’ financial hardships, according MFF futsal committee’s meeting on Monday.

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)’s Myanmar Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee held the meeting on organizing MFF Futsal Knock-Out Cup at the MFF’s meeting hall in Yangon.

Players from Magwe FC and Rakhine United FC vie for the ball during their friendly match ahead of MPT MNL 2020 at Bahan Artificial Turf in Yangon on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: MNL

MAGFEC won Rakhine United 1-0 in the friendly match that was played at Bahan Artificial Turf in Yangon yesterday, according to Rakhine United’s social media.

MNL football clubs were playing friendly matches at present in preparation for MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) 2020, which will restart behind closed doors on 22 August.

Magwe FC will play against Yangon United FC at the Yangon United Sports Complex (YUSC) in Week 10 of MPT MNL 2020 on 22 August, which is the first day of MNL restart.

Rakhine United will compete against Ayeyawady United FC in the Week 10 at the Yangon United Sports Complex (YUSC) on 23 August. Both matches will play at 3:30pm of respective dates.

After Week 9 at present, Magwe FC is in seventh place of standing table earning six points from seven played matches, while Rakhine United is in the fourth place earning 13 points from seven played matches. The first three teams in order at the top of standing tables at present are Hantharwady United with 21 points from eight played matches, Ayeyawady United with 17 points from seven played matches, and Yangon United with 14 points from seven played matches.—Kyaw Khin

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR