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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 0.76 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 50,921, 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.

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VP 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 Kyaik Thalun pagoda in

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio presides over the coordination meeting on tackling possible food shortages caused by global climate changes at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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"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, Tatkon, Pyinmana, Lewe and Ottarathiri 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 co-operating 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 ensuring accurate and complete second voter lists.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa (L) hands over ICT equipment to Deputy Minister U Tin Myint in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August. PHOTO: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.

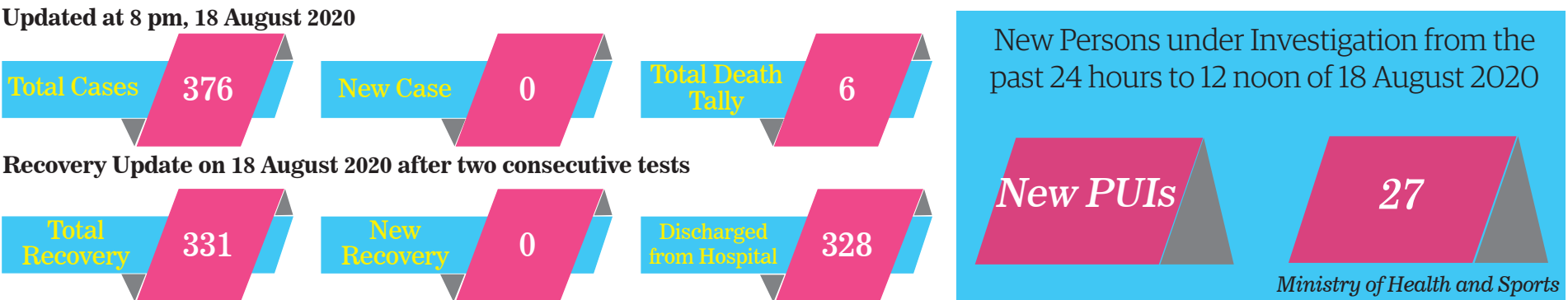
During the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint delivered words of thanks.

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





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

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



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)

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

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in Mawlamyine Township in 2018 and at Ma Lat 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

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.

... environmental conservation is very significant for trying to protect natural disasters, including floods and droughts.

from a shortage of food.

Myanmar needs to ensure food self-sufficiency and encourage export of agricultural produce 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

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.

Committee members Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung and Dr Than Myint, explained various matters including food production, food exports, damages caused by natural disasters, preparatory and preventive measures for natural disasters, combatting climate changes, building more dams, using water systematically, promoting trade, keeping food reserves, providing enough electricity, and building more roads and bridges for better transport.

Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and U Soe Aung discussed matters related to planning and finance as well as preparing reports on how to resolve food insecurity caused by floods or droughts.

In his closing remarks, the Vice President said that environmental conservation is very

significant for trying to protect natural disasters, including floods and droughts. He highlighted the importance of creating more arable lands to produce more crops, using the farmlands systematically, rainwater harvesting, the need to build more dams, and plans to maintain arable lands in optimum conditions. He said that modern freezing and refrigerated storages should be jointly built by the government and the private sector. He suggested that foods should be exported only if food security is guaranteed in the country. The Vice President concluded that by linking with the MSDP, 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



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi speaks at the Steering Committee meeting of Myanmar-UK Partnership for Education in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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 for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, the Directors-General, the Deputy Directors-General, officials of

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 AERS (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 Rurik 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, AERS, 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 10 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 151 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

All Tatmadaw MPs tested negative
for COVID-19

All Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, who will attend the meetings of Second Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws' 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.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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, 29 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



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

and arranged for 21-day quarantine. To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease

2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 11,247 citizens to date.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

“If we could be more creative and work to make these products able to penetrate foreign markets”



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 10 August were KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Vice-Chairman Pado Saw Kwal Htoo Win, Saw Moe Shay from DKBA, KNU/KN-LA-PC Chairman Saw Htot



Leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and political parties arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and political parties, who will attend the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference, arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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 Kee, 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,



The 4th session of the Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong will be held from 19 to 21 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 30/2020
14th Waning of Second Waso, 1382 ME
(17 August 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psycho-tropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 15 August 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Zaw Lin Aung who lives in Pauk-taw (east) Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	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.
2.	Information received of Zaw Min Naing who lives in Hlawphugon Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 August 2020, police searched a motor cycle on the Khan-tha-Hsinkon 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.
3.	Information received of U Myo Hsan Kyaw who lives in Phaekazet Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 August 2020, police searched the house of Myo Hsan Kyaw, 42, son of U Aung Win, who lives in Phaekazet Village, Mawlaik Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mawlaik) MaYa(pa)61/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Pyinhtaunglay Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region.	On 11 August 2020, police searched the house of Aung Zaw Oo, 41, son of U Win, who lives in Pyinhtaunglay Village, Katha Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Inywa) MaYa(pa)18/2020 under Section 19(a)of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Zarni Tun who lives in Aukleik Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 August 2020, police searched the house of Zarni 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.
6.	Information received of Ma Phu Pwint Thet who lives in west Thiri Marlar Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	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-Aung-myethazan)MaYa(pa)24/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

7.	Information received of Maung Maung and Daw Soe Pa Pa Aung who live in No 7 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, using, distrib-uting and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 August 2020, police searched the house of Maung Maung (a) Maung Maung Myint, 48, son of U Tin Maung, who lives in No 7 Ward, Hlinethaya Township and arrested him and his wife Daw Soe Pa Pa Aung, 43, daughter of U Aung Myo together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa-Hlinethaya (East part)MaYa(pa)82/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Phoe Than Aye who lives in No 10 Ward, South Okkalapa Town-ship, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	Police interrogated the name of Phoe Than Aye in No 10 Ward, South Okkalapa Township on 9 August 2020. Acting on the in-terrogation, police searched the house of Phoe Than Aye (a) Than Aye, 35, son of U Nyunt Khin, who lives in No 14 Ward, South Okkalapa Township and arrested him together with marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Moe Di Di who lives in Yadanathiri Ward, Taunggyi Town-ship, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 August 2020, police searched the house of Moe Di, 19, son of U Aung Myint, who lives in Yadanathiri Ward, Taunggyi Township and arrested him and Khant Wai Htaik (a) Charle, 39, son of U Maung Maung Tin, together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(pa)42/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,288 cases have been opened files as of 15 August 2020. A total of 1,979 people, including 1,653 men and 326 women had been arrested with 10,049.9694 g of heroin, 1,435.42 g of ICE, 44,387.22886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,363.76 g of speciosa powder, 19,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 665,063 stimulant tablets, 13,474.36 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 630.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 26 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activ-ity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts
Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Return of Myanmar workers continues through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge

331 Myanmar migrant work-ers (197 men and 134 women) from Thailand returned home through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady on 18 August. District Administrator U Tayzar Aung and other rele-vant officials welcomed the re-turnees, who received medical examinations and had other necessary arrangements su-pervised 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 re-

turned home from 1 May to 18 August.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

A woman returned from Thailand (L) is seen at the Myawady border on 18 August. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**



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

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Director-General of Department of Rural Development U Khant Zaw (Centre) chairs the virtual meeting on preparation for ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) on 18 August 2020. **PHOTO: 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 national ethnic languages on Myanmar radio and 11 national ethnic languages on Myanmar television to promote a broader understanding of the diversities

of ethnic 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.

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 of



Training course on production of a TV series to present traditional culture and beauty of ethnic nationalities is in progress at the MRTV Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 2018.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



1,380 kilograms of ICE were seized on the vessel anchored near Maung Dauk Creek in Kyeintali Township on 16 August. **PHOTO: 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 charge 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 Khine Thazin Han)

Beware of COVID-19 second wave

THE world is facing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases as the pandemic continues to accelerate, the World Health Organization has warned.

Some of our neighbours are among countries that are struggling today to control the resurgence of the infection though they had done well in controlling the transmission in the early days.

Thanks to the participation of the people in containing the coronavirus infection, our country has contained the infection to a certain extent in March, April and May. But, it has been found that people have been less vigilant in following the COVID-19 health guidelines since June.

But, we should be aware that about 61 per cent of COVID-19 positive patients in our country had no symptoms of the coronavirus. Hence, our country has the potential to see a second

We will have a more difficult time controlling coronavirus if a large number of cases occur quickly. If we care, we must take steps that are increasingly preventive.

completely rule out the possibility of contracting COVID-19, it can greatly help minimize yours and others' chances.

Besides, people are also highly advised to inform the authorities if they find those who return from neighbouring countries illegally.

Legal action has been initiated against those who do not abide by orders and do not comply with mandatory quarantine regulations.

If everyone were to still be precautions and courteous to others, we will greatly reduce the number of new cases in our country. COVID-19 is still a threat and can affect yourself and your loved ones. While quarantine may be gone, we still need to take precautions to prevent the spread.

The situation demands that the Ministry of Health and Sports gear up its current efforts for fighting the disease to prevent the second wave of COVID-19 from affecting a lot of businesses and cause a lot of people to lose their jobs.

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To address gender-based violence amid COVID-19, we need creativity, collaboration and courage

By Bjorn Andersson

ONE glaring truth the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced when it comes to gender-based violence is that it is a humanitarian, development and socioeconomic crisis - a persistent and daunting triple threat whose solutions must be grounded in gender equality and human rights.

Even before the pandemic, gender-based violence was a debilitating challenge globally, with on average one out of three women experiencing some form of violence in her lifetime. In Asia and the Pacific the percentage of women disclosing experience of physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner ranged widely across different countries, from 15 per cent in places like Lao PDR and Japan to 64 per cent in several Pacific countries like Solomon Islands and Fiji.

Not long after WHO declared a COVID-19 pandemic in March, UNFPA forecast that an estimated 31 million additional incidents of gender-based violence could be expected globally, if lockdowns last for at least six months, with women confined indoors with their abusers. For every three months such restrictions continue, an additional 15 million incidents could be expected.

We've already seen huge spikes in the numbers of women seeking support, including through calls to dedicated helplines. Resources to address gender-based violence, already stretched thin in many places before the pandemic, are all the more challenged now. And we know that this escalating violence will have long-term and

damaging socioeconomic consequences on women's health, safety, security and economic participation.

Another truth that's also been revealed is that responding to gender-based violence in the context of unprecedented challenge requires creativity, collaboration and courage - as displayed by the humanitarian heroes supporting survivors in so many different ways in country after country, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

In Nepal, teams of community psychosocial workers already present in remote far-western and eastern rural districts before the pandemic are being provided with additional air-time on their mobile phones to step up psychological first aid and referral support to

survivors, connecting them to locally available services. Saraswati Rai Chaudhury and her colleagues roam far and wide to also reach migrant workers in quarantine centres, mothers' groups and their children, relatives of COVID-19 patients and elderly people. Since Nepal's lockdown began, more than 4,500 women have been assisted.

For refugees in the sprawling camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, service providers have expanded the support available in women-friendly spaces to include midwives like Tania Akter alongside psychosocial counsellors, integrating essential gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services under one roof. A huge proportion of those contracting

COVID-19 worldwide have been frontline health workers like Tania who put themselves at risk, working long, gruelling hours to meet demand and needs, and sacrificing time away from their loved ones for months on end.

In Myanmar, realizing the crucial need to scale-up services, government, civil society and UN partners came together to boost helplines by training responders to provide immediate remote psychological first aid, as well as directing callers to women support centres which are safe spaces, linking up women to various types of assistance. Also, many health actors have been trained and mobilised to support survivors.

After earthquakes struck the Philippine province of North Cotabato last year, local organ-

izations established evacuation centres that included timely and quality care gender-based violence response services, helping women navigate the local system to seek lifesaving support. Availing of this extended support into the pandemic, dozens of Filipino women are now benefitting through these centres from a new initiative called Cash for Protection which provides 10,000 PHP (~USD 200) as part of a wider social safety net for survivors.

In Rawalpindi, Pakistan, the Women Safety smartphone app, introduced two years ago, was urgently upgraded by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) earlier this year as pandemic lockdowns intensified. Women who install the app can alert the police on an emergency helpline or send a text via WhatsApp to the PSCA. As soon as the message with location co-ordinates is received, designated teams are mobilised for an immediate response, heading to the caller's precise location.

We've learnt useful lessons - and promising practices - from the numerous critical interventions led by humanitarian heroes like Saraswati, Tania and so many others.

Firstly, services to support survivors of gender-based violence are truly lifesaving and more crucial than ever. Governments cannot and must not compromise or sacrifice this support when funding the pandemic response. It's quite literally a matter of life and death for thousands upon thousands of women and girls.

Second, national governments must invest much more in gender-based violence pre-

vention and response resources, including a skilled and empowered workforce of frontline service providers. This will build on a regional and global evidence base of what works to create a strong foundation, so that this lifesaving work can be quickly expanded during emergencies like COVID-19.

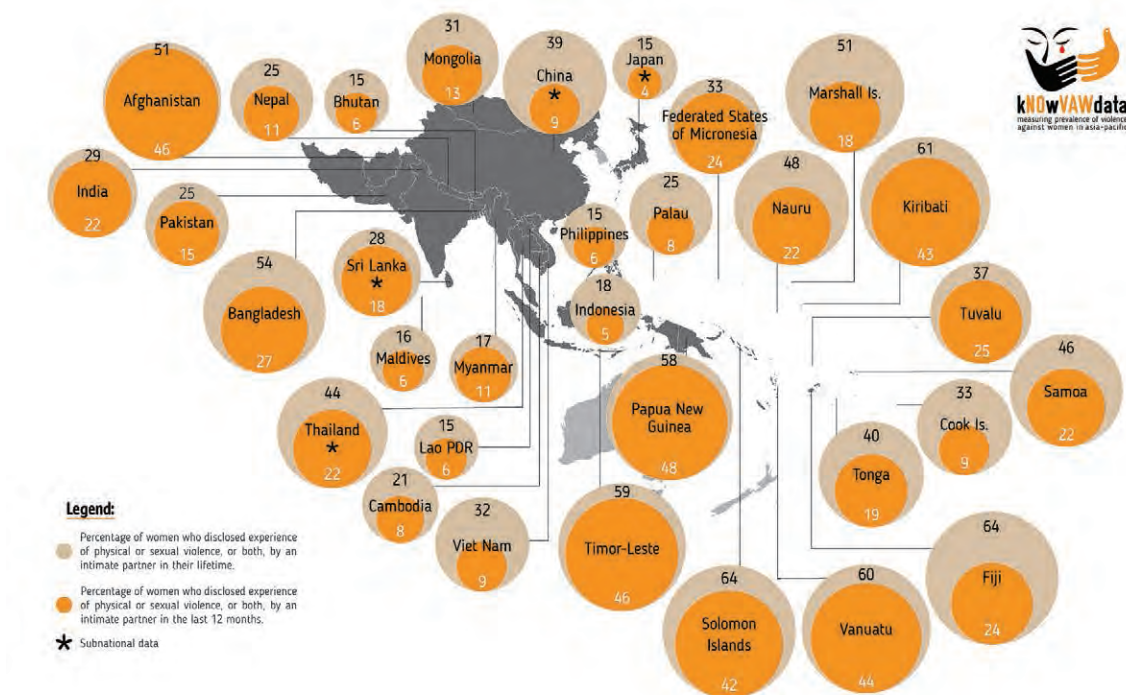
Third, necessity is indeed the mother of invention. Some of the most effective interventions we've seen embrace creative thinking despite COVID-19-related restrictions, as well as adapt user-friendly technology to reach gender-based violence survivors safely. In this, partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector are key to ensure we innovate to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Fourth, but not least, countries can and should learn from one another by sharing what works.

We've heard a lot about the post-COVID-19 need to build back better to ensure no one is left behind.

To convert rhetoric into reality, we must all prioritize the health and wellbeing of women and girls - from achieving optimal sexual and reproductive health to ending gender-based violence and harmful practices - beginning now.

Bjorn Andersson is the Asia-Pacific Regional Director for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, 2000 - 2020
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region

Source: Country reports from the most recent surveys conducted with the methodology of the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence or the Domestic Violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey, between 2000-2020.

For more information: asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowledge/data
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THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE CONTAGION

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

CORONAVIRUS cases in Asia-Pacific countries are now being driven by people under the age of 50 who may not know they are infected, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, warning of a "new phase" in the pandemic.

Many have mild or no COVID-19 symptoms and risk infecting

the elderly and other vulnerable populations, the WHO's Western Pacific regional director Takeshi Kasai told a virtual briefing.

"The epidemic is changing. People in their 20s, 30s and 40s are increasingly driving the threat," Kasai said.

"Many are unaware they're infected with very mild symptoms

or none at all.

"What we are observing is not simply a resurgence. I believe it's a signal that we've entered a new phase of the pandemic in the Asia-Pacific (region)."

WHO data on the current phase of the contagion showed around two-thirds of Japan's infections were among those aged

under 40.

More than half of the case-loads in the Philippines and Australia were also in that age group.

Efforts to stop

"We must redouble efforts to stop the virus from moving into vulnerable communities," Kasai said.

Some countries that had brought their outbreaks under control -- such as New Zealand, Vietnam and South Korea -- have detected new clusters, forcing governments to reimpose painful lockdowns on cities and tighten social distancing rules.

But Kasai said the use of targeted interventions in the re-

gion was encouraging because it reduced the economic and social impact of containment measures and was more sustainable.

He warned, however, that the challenge will remain "as long as the virus is circulating and we don't have immunity to it".

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. Dr Omar Kyaw Pro-rector Yangon University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
2. Prof. Dr Khin Than Nyunt Professor/Department Head Department of Medical Laboratory Technology University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports

MRTV to broadcast music show in marking centenary of Myanmar film industry

THE MRTV is broadcasting famous movie songs to mark the 100th anniversary of Myanmar film industry.

The third show of this programme will be presented after 8 pm news of MRTV on 21 August with the popular singers Zaw Win Htut, Ringo, Sithu Lwin, Aung La, Wai La, Wine Su Khine Thein, Jewel, Aye Mya Phyu and May Thet Htar Swe.

The repeat show will be aired again at 10:30 am on 23 August.— MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 11:00 hrs MST on 18-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin and Phaungpyin townships to take precaution measure.

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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.

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

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 JICA's official development assistance (ODA) loans to ensure the convenience of the train commuters.
"The 6th ship reached Myanmar carrying 2,997.035 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



The rails for Nyaunglebin-Toungoo railway are being loaded onto a freight train from a cargo ship at the Sule No 5 Wharf on 17 August 2020. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG
will be carried by coaches to Ywarthagyi 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
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Govt to provide 872-tonne palm oil to over 4 mln residents in Magway

THE government stockpiles 50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil as reserved foodstuffs
for the emergency during the pandemic period to provide them to their citizens. Then, the government will distribute over 54,000 palm oil boxes weighing 872 tonnes to over 4 million people in Magway Region, according to the Regional Consumer Affairs Department.
The reserved rice bags are stocked in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw and the palm oil is distributed to the states and regions. Now, the palm oil has reached the Magway Region and is stockpiled in the five districts in Magway Region.
"The government supports to prevent a shortage of food for the public if the outbreak of coronavirus is highly spread in the country. We are ready to distribute the ration if we get the permission," said U Myint Win, the regional head from the Consumer Affairs Department.
According to 2018-2019 official statistics, there are around 3.9 million residents in Magway Region. This year, there are over 4 million people in Magway Region, according to the statistics of the Immigration Department and wards and villages-based lists. This distribution of the ration lists is based on 3.9 million people. So, we can distribute 12 kyattha (1 kyattha = 16.33 gram) to each person, he highlighted. —Zayyatu (Magway)
(Translated by Hay Mar)



Government will distribute rice and palm oil to the public in Magway Region amid COVID-19. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

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 while 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 Thaug, 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.



Farmers are bagging black sesame in their farm in Magway Region on 18 August 2020. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)
Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. — Zayyatu (Magway)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Regional trade tops \$9.94 bln this FY, reports Ministry of Commerce



(FILES) A cargo ship loaded with containers is seen in Yangon River on 16 May 2019. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

THE value of Myanmar trade with ASEAN countries through the sea route and land borders has registered at US\$9.94 billion in the nine months (Oct-June) of the 2019-2020 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry reported that imports surpassed exports in regional trade, with exports reaching over \$3.6 billion and imports valued at over \$6.32 billion.

Since October, Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade

partner in ASEAN, with trade valued at \$3.9 billion, followed by Singapore (\$3.3 billion), Malaysia (over \$1 billion) and Indonesia (\$936.5 million). Viet Nam has emerged as the nation's fifth-largest trade partner, with bilateral trade estimated at \$609.47 million.

Meanwhile, Myanmar bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$122.74 million, Cambodia \$25.7 million, while trade with Laos stood at \$1.3 million, and Brunei, less than \$1 million.

Myanmar main export items

included agricultural and fishery products, as well as minerals, while imports included food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles, and consumer goods. Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar mostly carried out its external trade with regional partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with the Southeast Asian trade partners.

— GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

The value of Myanmar trade with China through maritime trade channels totalled over US\$9.17 billion in October and June of 2019-2020FY, including \$4.03 billion worth of exports and \$5.13 billion for import, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar primarily exports agro products to China through

the borders. However, trade of agricultural products is frequently halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade in border crossings. China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus, causing traffic congestion in the border areas of two sides and delays.

In a bid to lower trade barriers

and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the related departments and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

The value of bilateral trade with China was \$11.39 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$6 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period, \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY respectively.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China. In contrast, machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

—GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Farmers unload corns from a three-wheeler. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar Rubber Forum to be held in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Rubber Forum for sustainable rubber value chain development will be held in Yangon during September, said U Khaing Myint, secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

The objectives behind the forum are to bring about the sustainable development of those stakeholders in the value chain, to boost the competitiveness of the farmers, producers and Technically Specified Rubber factories, and to get a reasonable price and maintain quality.

"We are prepping for the forum. Sure, we must follow the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. The event is likely to take place in September. We are making efforts to hold the event at the soonest," he said.

At present, Myanmar rubber raw materials are offered a lower price than that in the international market as they do not meet international standard, he continued.

"Myanmar rubber is priced only 300-350 per tonne, whereas the international price fetches about US\$1,600 per tonne. We have to reduce the price as they are of low quality," he added.

During 5 August, Union Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce met the officials from MRPPA at the

meeting hall of the ministry. During the meeting, the Union Minister gave the remark that the ministry has supported the technical requirement to some extent to have quality rubber export. Furthermore, it will employ more laboratory staff and extend the lab facilities for the development of the rubber industry.

Additionally, they discussed receiving the technical assistance by connecting with development partner like Japan International Cooperation Agency for the rubber sector development.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and MRPPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2016 and set up Myanmar Natural Rubber Quality Testing Lab at the Commodity Testing and Quality Management Division (Hlegu Township) of the Consumer Affairs Department under the MOC.

Malaysia Rubber Board audited the lab in December 2016, and the lab passed Round Robin Test (or) Proficiency Test four times in 2017. International Rubber Association will accredit it.

There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, and 800,00 of them can be processed latex. Myanmar exports over 200,000 tonnes of rubber raw materials to the external market per year.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MoC restricts 6 export items including minerals

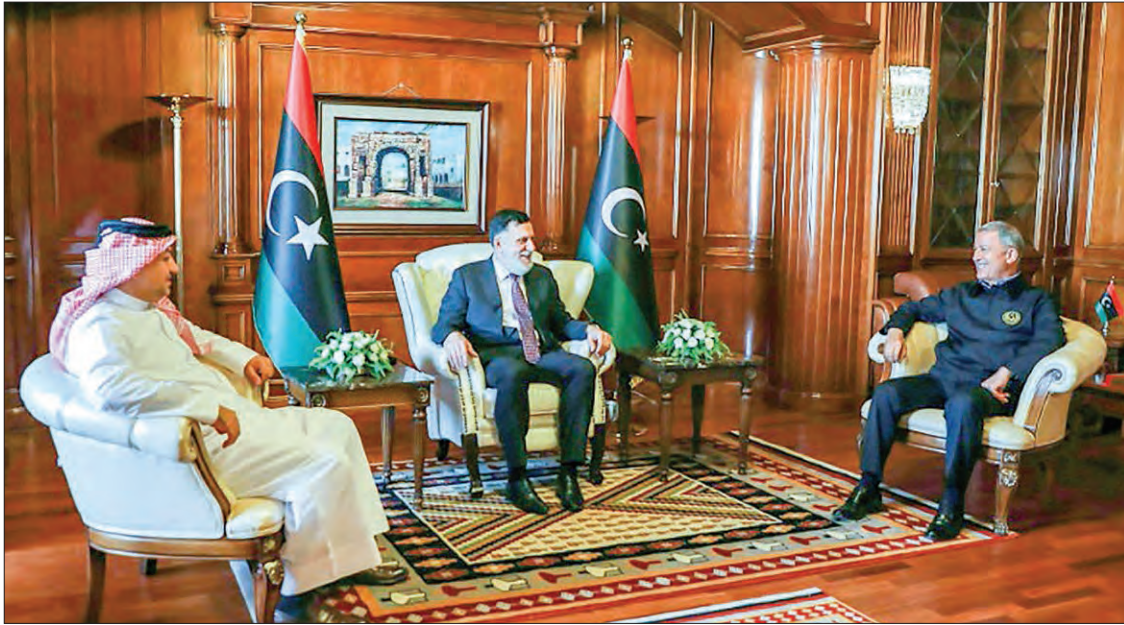
SIX items, including minerals, livestock and animal products, and general commodities, are not allowed to be exported by overseas, air cargo and land border under section 13 (B) of the Export and Import Law, stated the Ministry of Commerce in its notification issued on 17 August.

The goods prohibited are diamond, crude oil, ivory and elephant, horse, rare animals, ancient products and ammu-

nition.

The Commerce Ministry restricted 31 items by maritime trade and 32 through land borders under the Law Order 10/1999 on 16 November 1999. The commodities prohibited to export have been amended in line with the situation of local market conditions, with 15 items allowed in 2008 and more things in 2001, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Libya unity govt signs military accord with Qatar, Turkey



Prime Minister of Libya's UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayeze 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**

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 Khaled, 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 Moamer Kadhafi 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 ■

Tribunal set to deliver verdict in 2005 Hariri murder case

BEIRUT—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 judgement comes days after a cataclysmic 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 billed 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 ■



Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri in front of a portrait of his father, assassinated former premier Rafiq Hariri. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

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-

tion in Gaza on Monday before it left the territory for meetings with the Israelis and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority.

It was expected to return to Gaza after those talks were concluded, the source added.

Despite a truce last year backed by Egypt, the UN and Qatar, Hamas and Israel clash sporadically, with Palestinian incendiary balloons or rocket or mortar fire drawing retaliatory Israeli strikes.

"The occupation continued its aggression and carried out air strikes on Gaza after midnight," the Hamas source said, adding that the strikes were seen as a "negative response" to the truce feelers. There were no casualties in the strikes, he added.—AFP ■

Anti-government protesters defy virus measures in Argentina



People wave Argentine flags during a protest in Buenos Aires against the government's tight lockdown measures against the spread of the novel COVID-19 coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

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 confinement 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 protested 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 infections.—AFP ■

Huawei’s Meng seeks classified docs in extradition fight

VANCOUVER—Huawei telecom giant’s chief 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 compared to the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. It continued to retreat for four months in a row, but the sliding pace slowed from declines of 44.6 per cent in April, 57.5 per cent in May and 40.1 per cent in June respectively.

The slowing export fall came as car demand increased from North America and Europe, caused by the reopening of businesses in major economies after lockdowns on worry over the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of value, the auto export slipped 4.2 per cent over the year to 3.66 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 ■

China launches anti-dumping investigation into Australian wine



Australian wine exports to China hit US\$900 million last year. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING—China on Tuesday ramped up tensions 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

Prime Minister Scott Morrison joined US calls for an independent inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic, which was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan last year.

China, Australia’s biggest trade partner, has since threatened economic blowback on a range of 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 – when a country sells goods in a country for less than it costs at home – throughout 2019, at the request of the Wine Industry Association of China.—AFP ■

Walmart profits boosted by e-commerce, US stimulus payments



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

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.

Revenues rose 5.6

per cent to \$137.7 billion and included a lift from a 97 per cent increase in Walmart US e-commerce sales.

The world’s biggest retailer cited robust demand for groceries and heavy use of e-commerce from home-bound consumers. Sales were strong for electronics, outdoor living items and other goods with higher profit margins, the company said.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YUUZAN VOY. NO. (2001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V YUUZAN VOY. NO. (2001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-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: **2301197 / 2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES SINGAPORE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (032S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (032S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2020** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (196W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (196W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAN BINH 134

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAN BINH 134 VOY. NO. (V07/01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LTD

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\$280 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\$858 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\$430.7 million via Chinshwehaw, US\$263 million



Myawady Trade Zone is Myanmar's second largest border trading post. **PHOTO :HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

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



Photo taken in 2018 shows trucks at 105-mile trade zone in Muse, northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



in Myanmar during the period from 1988 to date was valued at more than US\$20 billion which is equivalent to about 26 per cent of total FDI in the country.

The trade volume between Myanmar and Thailand has reached US\$2.71 billion in total, a decrease of US\$103.9 million compared to the same period of last year, according to ministry. The bilateral border trade saw US\$2.82 billion in last year. Myanmar-Thailand border trade totalled US\$2.711 billion between 1 October last year and early this year, which included US\$1.95 billion in exports and US\$757 million in imports. The Hteekhee border recorded the highest trade value of US\$1.35 billion, followed by Myawady with US\$820 million and Kawthoung with US\$299 million. The country mainly conducts border trade with Thailand via seven borders Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Mese checkpoints.

Meanwhile, Myanmar-India border trade is down by over 40% for the current financial year due to the temporary closure of border posts amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The trade value went down from US\$128 million to US\$76 million for the same period, a decrease of 40% compared to the same period of last financial year. The two countries conduct 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 the sea. India is one of Myanmar’s top trading partners and the two countries inked a bilateral border 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\$730 million from the corresponding period of last year. When compared with last FY, this FY saw a significant surge in the value of exports by US\$427.42 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.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others while capital goods, intermediate goods to neighbouring countries and consumer goods, machinery and medicine are imported to the country. Around 20 percent of Myanmar’s total trade is conducted through its border crossings and the remaining 80 per cent is done by sea route.

👉 Useful Information 👈

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Town-

ship, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units- G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower (A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00- 21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No (33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No. 141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon. **Get Directions**

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No. 93 (A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone

Township, Yangon.

Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No. 37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No. 82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No. 17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No. 459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogvoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No. 65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No. 171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No. 129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

ADVERTORIAL

Samsung Myanmar starts accepting pre orders for the newly unveiled Galaxy Note 20 Smartphones

SAMSUNG, held its global Galaxy Unpacked live stream on August 5th that showcased the new sophisticated Samsung Galaxy Note 20 smartphone series. The new Samsung Galaxy Note 20 takes the Note series to the next level by providing a phone that seamlessly transitions customers between “work and play” and allows individuals to accomplish what they set out to do in every aspect of their lives.

For those users in Myanmar who cannot wait to experience this new smartphone, Samsung Myanmar has launched the pre-order period from August 6th – 26th. Valued at 1,299,000 MMK for Samsung Galaxy Note 20 and 1,659,000 MMK for Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra, the pre-order de-

vices are available in Mystic Bronze, Mystic Gray and Mystic Green colors for Galaxy Note20 while Mystic Bronze, Mystic Black and Mystic White colors for Galaxy Note20 Ultra. Both devices come with enhanced features and perks including advanced S Pen and S Note, Pro-Grade camera, Samsung DeX plus all-day intelligent battery.

With an initial deposit of 100,000 MMK, customers can pick up their new phones between 28th August and 5th September, 2020 at the mobile shops where they pre order. Additionally, pre-order customers will also receive pre-order gifts such as; Galaxy Buds Live for Galaxy Note20 Ultra pre-order customers and Galaxy Buds+ for those who pre order Galaxy Note20.—GNLM

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.

Daniilo 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 European 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 ■



Inter Milan's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku celebrates scoring the 4-0 goal with his team-mate Inter Milan's Argentinian forward Lautaro Martinez during the UEFA Europa League semi-final football match Inter Milan v Shakhtar Donetsk on 17 August 2020 in Dusseldorf, western Germany. **PICTURE: AFP**



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**

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

MAGWE FC won Rakhine United FC 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 ■

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.

The meeting was attended by MFF Myanmar Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee's Chair Dr Ye Mon Htut, Deputy Chair U Zwe Hlaing Hmi, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thien, futsal clubs' owners and officials. According to the meeting, VUC FC will compete in AFC Futsal Club Championship, and MIU FC will play in AFF Futsal Club Championship in next year.—Kyaw Khin ■

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.

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 ■



Eye of the Tiger: Woods is lining up four tournaments in five weeks / © AFP