UPDJJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes the opening remark at the 20th meeting of UPDJC in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 August. PHOTO: MNA

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee organized the 20th meeting yesterday at the Ruby Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre 1 (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was to approve the proposals of UPDJC secretaries for the Part III of Union Accord which was slated to be signed at the third and final day of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong today.

The UPDJC is proportionally comprised three groups—the government side includes the officials from administrative sector, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw; the NCA-S EAOs group and the political parties group.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of UPDJC, made an opening speech. (Speech of State Counsellor is covered on page 4)

Five new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 20 August, total figure reaches 399

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 399 after 5 new cases were reported on 20 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. The case No. 395 had contact with case-375 and case-398 with case-395. The case Nos. 396, 397 and 399 had no contact with positive cases and overseas travel history. Out of the 399 confirmed cases, six died, 333 have recovered, 331 have been discharged from hospitals and 24 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 20 August 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>New Cases</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>399</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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Recovery Update on 20 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Recovered</th>
<th>New Recoveries</th>
<th>New Persons under Investigation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
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<td>24</td>
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New PUIs: 24
Second Pyithu Hluttaw convenes 10th day meeting of 17th regular session

THE 10th-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday with two committee members substituted, two bills and a motion approved for further debate, and a motion on alleviating agricultural debt of farmers put on record.

Substitution of committee members

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the substitution of two Tatmadaw members from two Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

Q&A session

In the Q&A session, MP U Win Win from Minbu constituency raised a question on whether a sluice gate can be installed on the Kyauk Nwar Thoe dam (a) Mahn Kyaw Lin replied that the department will consider and follow regulations to add the remaining rural roads if the relevant state or regional government brings it to light.

MP U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency asked whether there were plans to compensate the 167 local residents who had their land damaged during the construction of the railway bridge, part of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon), during the 2020-2021 FY. Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin replied that the department will consider the local residents’ claims.

MP U Kyaw Soe from Bamauk constituency asked if the Department of Rural Road Development will consider adding the remaining roads of Bamauk Township to the official list for rural roads and from the remaining towns to the national list for rural roads. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied that the department will consider and follow regulations to add the remaining rural roads if the relevant state or regional government brings it to light.

Two bills set for further discussion

Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine submitted a report on the microfinance bill that had been sent back with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw. The report stated that the amendments should be accepted and 10 left unchanged as previously approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw while the Bill Committee makes one more amendment.

Hluttaw representatives debate a motion tabled by MP U Thein Tun from Kyaukphyu constituency urging the Union Government to upgrade and reinforce Myanmar’s police force. He said the police are a security force that has the most daily interaction with the public and their main duty is to conserve the environment. He said they are formed democratically and need to respect democratic frameworks while building trust with the public and following regulations.

The motion was seconded by MP U Tin Soe from Phakant constituency and approved for debate by the assembly. The Speaker called for MPs to debate the motion to enrol their names.

Hluttaw representatives debate a motion tabled by MP U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency and approved for debate by the assembly. The Speaker called for MP’s interest in discussing the motion to enrol their names.

Ammyotha Hluttaw discusses report on uncovering methods to reduce and protect cancer

THE 10th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s 17th regular session convened in NayPyi Taw yesterday.

Q&A on construction, squatters, IDPs

MP U Hla Oo from Sagaing Region constituency asked whether there were plans to expand the road from milepost 8 to 14 of the Monywa-Thazi Naung Gyi-AI-Mu Kam Gyi-Seik-kun-Shwebo road from 12 feet to 18 feet wide within the 2020-2021 financial year. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw replied that they only received funding for expanding 4 furlongs from mileposts (7)4 to (8)0 but will submit budget proposals for the remaining road in successive financial years.

MP U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint from Mon State constituency asked whether squatters in Kyai Kyo’s wildlife sanctuary will be dealt with in a legal manner. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Soe responded that squatters and poachers were dealt with by the joint management group consisting of members from the forestry department, the police, Kyai Kyo’s board of trustees, fire fighters, the General Administration Department, and the regional military group.

MP U Myint Naing from Rakhine State constituency asked whether there were plans to install proper shelter from the rains for displaced persons in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, and to swiftly implement IDP camps. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that the Department of Disaster Management has given out K380 million in financial assistance to displaced persons in Kyauktaw Township between December 2018 to 30 July 2020.

The Deputy Minister said they are planning to construct 4 rows of accommodation and 16 toilet units to meet the needs of increased IDPs in Kyauktaw Township. He said it will cost around K38.720 million but will accommodate around 500 to 600 IDPs once completed.

See page 5
UPDJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong

FROM PAGE-1

Vice–Chairperson of UPDJC Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong said that the 20th meeting of UPDJC is in progress at the Ruby Hall of MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 August.

He said that the statement was working both day and night in 2019 despite some worries about the delay of peace dialogues after the 10 Phas 10 Meeting in 2018. A working committee has been formed to implement the decisions of JICM made on 8 January 2020; the work groups discussed the needs of the country; it is believed coordination with these work groups could help in the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union.

He also remarked that the next step should focus on close and friendly discussions among senior leaders, rather than the members, of UPDJC; for ensuring a stronger UPDJC, its secretaries, work groups and commit tees will need to work more; the next administration is believed to continue the existing peace processes after the upcoming elections soon per the provisions of Part III of Union Accord. He also concluded that the country is implementing peace process and democratic reform simultaneously; the ethnic armed groups have some restrictions on access to the common people; more public participation is required in peace efforts with the view of ‘peace is essential’. UPDJC Vice–Chairperson Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said, quoting the speech of State Counsellor, that the Part III of Union Accord slated to be signed at the conference on 21 August could create a new route for post-2020. He added that the political talks were really effective and fruitful, and agreements were reached for identifying future steps to implement the peace process.

He said that the statement saying “Nothing but goodwill is needed to achieve peace” is genuinely true. He insisted that the discussions and negotiations were successful because all UPDJC members have goodwill. He said that the objective of the UPDJC is “to build a Union based on principles of democracy and federalism in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue; in the spirit of Panglong, which fully guarantees democratic rights, national equality and the right to self-determination; on the basis of liberty, equality and justice; and upholding the principles of non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty”. He urged all groups to resolve long-lasting political problems to meet the objective of the UPDJC, and to build mutual trust to clear up historically–rooted doubts.

Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong said that the meeting has made an agreement on the Part III of Union Accord; the UPDJC is tasked with organizing and supervising political dialogues which are aimed for the establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism.

He added that the UPDJC 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.
Speech of State Counsellor and Chairperson of UPDJC at 20th meeting of committee

(20 August, 2020)

I WISH to extend my well-coming greetings to all the representatives who have come to attend the UPDJC (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee) 20th meeting. I pray for your good health with Metta.

We will discuss and approve at today's UPDJC meeting the three parts of Part III of the Union Accord, which was tabled at the conference yesterday. We still need to do further work for it to be ready for signature at the conference.

The first point I wish to say is about the matter of the basic principles, which are already included in Part I of the Union Accord that was signed at the UPC – 21st Century Panglong Second Session and Part II of the Union Accord that was signed at the UPC – 21st Century Panglong Third Session.

We have already been able to obtain 51 basic principles from the various parts of the Union Accord, which we have already signed at the aforesaid two conferences. What are we going to do with these basic principles? Aren't we going to use them? Such kinds of questions exist. I want to say, don't worry about them. In Part II of the Union Accord which deals with the step by step programme and step by step implementations in the post-2020 period which will be signed at the present conference, we have achieved agreement only on (8) main headings. These (8) main headings are 8 TORs and one SOP which have been drawn up based on the framework for political negotiations.

Since our TORs and SOPs were drawn up based on the framework for political negotiations, it contains more about conducting meetings and negotiations. This is because we were working towards obtaining basic principles for the Union Accord; that is the reason it has taken on this kind of shape and form. If we look further ahead to survey the political climates and various conditions, the UPDJC be-formed with three sides in proportional participation of representatives from the government, the Brrutaw and the Tatmadaw at one hand, the NCA-S EAOs are another side, and the political parties include in the remaining front.

These groups have different backgrounds and diversities of stance. However, these groups worked together in the UPDJC for the common goal to develop a peace and stable Democracy Federal Union; in line with its tripartite structure, the committee could help for holding the upcoming Conference. You had already made heated arguments and suspension of talks in awkward situations before respective groups made negotiations. Some unexpected issues delayed the discussions which were assumed as the productive talks. Among these political climates and various circumstances, the UPDJC becomes gradually mature. In the past, discussions could be made only at the formal sessions, and some delays occurred in making agreements. At present, infor-mal talks and prior negotiations were also held in a new approach among the committee members. As a result, some severe disputes could be avoided at the formal UPDJC meetings.

Better understanding and mutual trust could be made each other. One side has come to realize the other’s feelings. These are the good results of UPDJC in taking future steps. Instead of grasping firmly on individual desires of each group, it will be better to consider the interests of the Union and all the national people. Right deeds could generate excellent results. It is essential to understand that all are getting a historic opportunity for the better future of the Union where we are living together.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt thanks. We all have realized that only a genuine Federal Union could ensure peace; equal nationality rights could make national unity. It is our goal as well as the dream of our national people. Stronger and united efforts of all UPDJC members have helped in holding the 21st Century Panglong up to its fourth session. The UPDJC is the focal body to address political problems. Practically, it is not an easy task to solve decades-old armed conflicts rooted in political issues. However, the UPDJC could move forward steadily despite a lot of ups and downs along with its move. I would like to conclude my speech by extending thanks, on behalf of the Union, to all the members of UPDJC, its secretaries, stakeholders and workgroup members for their hard efforts.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Kin)
The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in exercise of the authority mentioned in the Section 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time. There were 22 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Rakhine State up to 20-8-2020 morning. Six new confirmed cases were reported from 16-8-2020 to 20-8-2020 morning. Therefore, people residing in Sittway Township, Rakhine State are required to “Stay at Home” in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.

Therefore, it is hereby announced that people residing in Sittway Township, Rakhine State are included in the “Stay at Home” programme.

People in the township who are included in the Stay at Home programme shall follow the following rules:

(a) To stay only at their homes (those who need to perform their duties at governmental departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces not included)
(b) Only one person per one household to go out for necessary shopping
(c) Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if such a need arises
(d) To put on masks when going outside
(e) To allow only authorized vehicles, and buses providing transport services to those who are going to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards
(f) Each vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for going shopping in the ward, and only a driver and two persons for going to hospital or clinic

4. Regarding matters relating to clauses b, c and f of paragraph 3, if more passengers need to ride on the vehicle or to go for other emergencies, they are to seek approval from the respective Ward Administration Offices, and the reasonable persons of the respective Ward Administration Office shall not allow anyone to go out or come in to their wards except those who are going out and coming in to assume their charge of duties.

5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by this order under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

6. This order comes into effect from 8 pm on 20-8-2020.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister

UDPJC finalizes part III of Union Accord to be signed at 4th session of 21st Century Panglong

The National Peace Council (NPC) has started to finalize the draft of the final part of the Union Accord for the 4th session of the 21st Century Panglong to be held in late October in Maungdaw. The draft was tabled to the Permanent IROs of the respective ethnic armed groups at a meeting held on 18-8-2020 to finalize the draft.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the seven ethnic armed groups who are in the process of finalizing the draft agreement.

Vice-Chairperson of UDPJC Dr Lian Hming Sakhong

Vice-Chairperson of UDPJC U Thu Wai

NCA-S EAOs were UDPJC

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses ...

FROM PAGE-2

Approving medical equipment bill

The medical equipment bill was debated by MP U Soe Thein from Taninthayi Region constituency 10, MP Dr Tin Win from Bago Region constituency 5, and LLPD represented by the Union Minister U Aung Min (NMSP), Kyaw Solomon (LDU), Mi Su Pwint (ABSDF), Salai Tha Hee (NFP), Dr Sai So (RCSS), Saw Samit Dun (DKBA), Khain Lin Khain (ALP) and P’ho Saw L K’auh Se from KNU. Those from political parties group were Vice-Chairperson of UDPJC U Thu Wai (Democratic Party of Myanmar), U Naing Ngaing Lin (NLD), U Myint Soe (USDP), Sai Kyaw Nyunt (SNLD), Tar Hla Pe (Ta’ang – Palangpu), U Thein Tun (NUP), Aung Kyi (NLD), Dr Aung Myat Oo (USDP), U Oo Hla Saw (NP), Khun Tun Shwe (PNO), U Zam Htun Lin (ZCID), U Shwe Min (LNDP), Dr Tu Jar (KSPD), Tai Na La (MUP), Saw Tun Yin Yin (KDU), Saw Tun Aung Min (KPP) and other NCA-S EAOs (Translated by Aung Khin, Maung Maung Swe).

FIRST PAGE ...

MPs debate cancer report

Hlutaw representatives then debated a report from the Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee uncovering methods to reduce and protect from the spread of cancer and its mortality rate.

MP U Hla Hla Soe from Yangon Region constituency 10 said there is a risk of cancer in each stage of production of food to the dining table and the Food and Drug Administration and other relevant organizations should strictly manage quality control of food packaging. She also advised the committee to examine the FDA’s activities to ensure sound public health.

MP U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 then suggested a comprehensive contact list of philanthropic cancer foundations should be made available for low-income cancer patients without access to treatment. He also suggested adding in successful cancer treatment methods from around the world in the report to encourage cancer patients.

The report was further debated by Daw Shwe Shwe Sein from Bago Region constituency 3, Tatmadaw representative Captain Daw Win Thiri Swe, Dr Win Myint from Bago Region constituency 11, and Dr U Kwe yel Kweyel from Mandalay Region constituency 6.

The secretary of the Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee, Dr San Maung Maung, responded to the MPs’ debate and motioned for the report to be approved. The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hlutaw, received no opposition, and announced the report has been approved.

Two committee reports approved

MP U Thet Naing Soe, member of the Amyotha Hlutaw Farmers’ Affairs Committee, reading the committee’s report on its processes from 1 March 2018 to 30 July 2020 to the assembly. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enrol their names.

MP Daw San Maung, a member of the Committee on Immigration and Myanmar Internal and Migrant Workers, read the committee’s report on its processes between 1 March 2018 and 30 July 2020 to the assembly. The Speaker then called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enrol their names.

The 11th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hlutaw’s 17th regular session will convene on 25 August—Aung Ye Tiwin (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses controversial bills

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the controversial bill for amending the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens, and 2020-2021 National Planning Bill in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice-Chairmen, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries of Joint Planning and Budget Review Group (5), (13) and (15), Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs who submitted the amendments, officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Finances and Industry, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar Press Council presents media guidebooks for 2020 General Election

MYANMAR Press Council presented media guidebooks for 2020 General Election to the Union Election Commission yesterday.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, MPC Chairman U Ohn Kyaw (Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaw), UEC members and officials from Myanmar Press Council attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, a total of 1,000 guidebooks were given for the media.

The books were jointly produced by the UEC and MPC to give information about covering news on the 2020 General Election, with the contribution of MPC in printing and publishing the books.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

165 Myanmar citizens repatriated from foreign countries

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 165 Myanmar nationals stranded in UAE, Oman and other foreign countries, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Among these returnees, 28 persons are from Oman, 1 from Bahrain, 82 from UAE, 9 from Egypt, 4 from Belgium, 2 from the Maldives, 7 from Israel, 3 from Bangladesh, 10 from Brazil, 8 from French, 2 each from Spain, South Africa and Nigeria, 3 from Panama and 1 each from the US and Djibouti.

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights per the instructions from 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 11,577 citizens to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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

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

Part III of Union Accord approved at 20th UPDJC meeting

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee reached an agreement to sign the Part III of the Union Accord during its 20th meeting held at MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A press conference was held after the meeting with UPDJC Secretariat members Tar Hla Pe, U Zaw Htay and Nai Aung Ma Ngay where they explained the structure of Part III of the Union Accord, which will be signed at the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

U Zaw Htay said the content of Part III of the Union Accord was submitted to the peace conference on its first day and approved by the UPDJC in this meeting. It will be signed at the peace conference today.

The third part of the Union Accord includes a framework to implement the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), a framework for implementation of various processes beyond 2020, and basic principles to establish a democratic federal union.

Nai Aung Ma Ngay said they will incorporate the implementation framework for the NCA, a framework for processes after 2020, and the basic principles of a union based on democracy and federalism at the peace conference. The peace conference will have 11 programmes in addition to signing the Part III.

U Zaw Htay then replied to a question on how the government will persuade non-signatories to sign the NCA. Both sides are negotiating towards a meeting and after KIA-3 submitted their position and thoughts, the government held a meeting with the Tatmadaw and Hluttaws as well.

Certain factors in these groups led to some restrictions in the invitation for the peace conference and this might require the Government and Tatmadaw to talk on how discussion with those 4 groups will be arranged. An official response will be sent to them after a decision has been made, said U Zaw Htay.

He added that there are negotiations and discussions as the EAOs seem to be observing the upcoming election and the situation that will follow it. The resurgence of COVID-19 in Rakhine State recently is a cause for concern and the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued directives to prevent a second wave. This will make travelling and meeting face-to-face a challenge if, for example, a meeting was organized in China where they will have their own quarantine rules and measures and returning from there means people will have to go into quarantine again here. The government also has to work out details with the Tatmadaw on this matter and these reasons are why it is not easy at the moment to persuade non-signatories.

UPDJC Secretariat member Tar Hla Pe replied to a question on the government’s role and involvement in the peace process. He said there is the UPDJC sector, JICM sector, JMC sector, NRPC sector and Peace Commission sector to the peace process. He said the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw are one side, the EAOs are one side, and while the political parties are technically one side they are linked to the government’s side. He said it would be difficult to connect with the international community and arrange national level events without the involvement of the government. Thus, while we are negotiating and discussing at an equal level, the government has the role to lead implementation, said Tar Hla Pe.

Responding to the same question, U Zaw Htay said the peace process is a local process and that is why there is no leading or negotiations from foreign entities. This is why the government has to lead and the government of any given time has to take that role. He said the government has to lead negotiations with non-signatories and signatories in addition to political dialogues and ceasefire matters.

U Zaw Htay said there is a peculiarity as all 10 NCA signatories are not necessarily of one mind and a collective agreement has to be negotiated. It is the same case with the 21 political parties that won the election where a common stance has to be negotiated at the UPDJC. The government also has to negotiate within itself between the government officials, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw before going into talks with EAOs and political parties.

U Zaw Htay said they have to renegotiate with the Tatmadaw if topics they have not discussed yet emerge. He said most other nations don’t have three different factions in the government sector for their peace processes. He said this is why they have to divide the government and Hluttaw to one group and the Tatmadaw to one group when drawing frameworks and the Tatmadaw and EAOs coordinate with each other as well.

U Zaw Htay then answered a question on whether the government will request the Tatmadaw to extend their ceasefire announcement after 31 August. He said the UN Secretary-General requested a ceasefire around the world during the COVID-19 period. Some nations with international conflicts responded at the national level, some responded with date restrictions, and some responded with regional restrictions. He said the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council decided to announce the call to ceasefire with the exception of conflict with those labelled as terrorist organizations.

The Tatmadaw’s announcement is also similar to that principle and it was negotiated with the government as well. The ceasefire period will depend on the COVID-19 situation and status of the world, said U Zaw Htay.

The Part III of Union Accord will be signed by UPDJC Vice-Chairperson Dr Tin Myo Win in representing for the Government, Dr May Win Myint for the Hluttaw, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win for the Tatmadaw, Dr Lyan Hmone Sar Khaung for EAOs and U Thu Wai for the political parties.

U Zaw Htay continued to say, “We will proceed the political issue in three steps. This agreement is a great success to implement the step by step peace process beyond 2020 in working for peace, democratic reform, federalism and national reconciliation. The Conference could promote the future peace processes to a better level.”

(Translated by Zau Htet Oo, Aung Khin)
Dangers of fake medical supplies in a pandemic

By Athira Nortajudin

The falsification of medicines bears risks for public health as products may not properly and effectively treat a disease and may facilitate the development of drug resistance, stated the United Nations. With the worst-case scenario they (fake medicines) probably won’t treat the disease for which they were intended,” said Perumal Boopathying Eevari from the World Health Organization (WHO). “What worst-case scenario is unlikely to occur, but if it does, it can cause a lot of harm.”

Back in March, Interpol coordinated a global operation targeting the online sale of illicit medicines and medical devices and seized more than 34,000 fake medical products. Based on their report, the most counterfeited products are medicaments (antivirals, herbal medicines and malaria treatments), medical equipment (face masks, face shields, fake coronavirus test kits, gloves and ventilators), and sanitizers (standard hand sanitizers, soap and cleaning wipes).

According to local media, one fake certificate bearing the official letterhead of a hospital in the capital, Rangoon has been sold online for as low as K30,000 (US$40), while others were going for much higher prices.

Illegal Trade

According to a United Nations report, counterfeit medicines and falsified medical products, “constituted more than 3 per cent of the global trade in medicines (US$200 billion to US$250 billion) and the quality of imported medicines is one of the leading causes of deaths.”

“Counterfeit medicines are medicines that are marketed under a false or unauthorized name, package, label, or container and contain a non-therapeutic substance or an active ingredient that is different from the one stated on the label,” states “The initiative for global action against counterfeit medicines and falsified medical products,” explained the UNODC.

The research found that a high demand for medical products during the pandemic led to a jump in the supply of counterfeit and falsified medical products,刑事 gangs are exploiting both uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus as well as inconsistencies in national regulation regimes.

“Transnational organized crime groups target abuse of gaps in national regulation and oversight to purchase and sell counterfeit and falsified medical products,” explained the UNODC.

To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and

To mobilize all stakeholders, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),traditional and faith-based organizations and civil society groups are strengthening partnerships and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase the number of cases and effectively address not only the crimes of violence and abduction but also the wider phenomenon of trafficking as a national duty; and

To share knowledge and information

The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the order to effectively contain the spread of the infection disease after the township saw 22 positive cases in four days. The need for this move is not in doubt as the country does everything possible to avoid further spread of the virus. It is crucially important that all the local authorities and individuals follow the guidelines for their safety and the lives and longevity of the country at large.

The government has imposed disease control and health guidelines. Local authorities have given strong advice to authorities to ensure individuals obey those rules and guidelines. The rules aren’t complicated. Please stick to the basics: wear masks over the face and nose, wash your hands thoroughly, stay at home; only one person per household should shop; observe social distancing in every situation. People are obliged to understand the prohibitions and to follow the official advice.

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both. Meanwhile, another threat to public health in this time of crisis is fake news. Those who spread fake news can face 6 month jail terms, fines or both. Any threat to public health is classified as a “crime”.

On the other side, local authorities are obliged to inform the public with updated information on the COVID-19 outbreak in our country; to cease the public’s fear and anxiety.

The time has come to increase our efforts, especially in Sitwe Township, in raising awareness among the local communities that they can protect themselves from the infection by following health guidelines and social distancing. No one knows how long this order will remain in effect. All we can do is comply and help our families and neighbours, as much as possible.

To date, over 22 mil- lion people have been infected with the deadly coronavirus dis- ease, which has claimed some 800,000 lives. Aside from the health crisis, there has been a surge in demand for medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to combat the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, this has led to criminals taking advantage of the situation to earn huge and illegal profits.

Back in March, Interpol coordinated a global operation targeting the online sale of illicit medicines and medical devices and seized more than 34,000 fake medical products. Based on their report, the most counterfeited products are medicaments (antivirals, herbal medicines and malaria treatments), medical equipment (face masks, face shields, fake coronavirus test kits, gloves and ventilators), and sanitizers (standard hand sanitizers, soap and cleaning wipes).

Those who violate the restrictions imposed by the health authorities under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law can face six month jail terms, fines of K50,000, or both. Meanwhile, another threat to public health in this time of crisis is fake news. Those who spread fake news can face 6 month jail terms, fines or both. Any threat to public health is classified as a “crime”.

On the other side, local authorities are obliged to inform the public with updated information on the COVID-19 outbreak in our country; to cease the public’s fear and anxiety.

The time has come to increase our efforts, especially in Sitwe Township, in raising awareness among the local communities that they can protect themselves from the infection by following health guidelines and social distancing. No one knows how long this order will remain in effect. All we can do is comply and help our families and neighbours, as much as possible.
About 9,000 smart cards issued to YBS drivers

By Neyin Neyin

ABOUT 9,000 smart cards have already been issued to YBS drivers, said Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nai Maw of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

YRTA has issued the smart cards to 8,933 YBS drivers who have applied for the YBS smart cards. Among them, there are also female YBS drivers.

Following the issuing of the smart cards, the YRTA inspection teams are also checking the YBS buses whether the drivers are holding the smart cards or not.

Moreover, the passengers are urged to report to YRTA inspection teams whenever they find undisciplined vehicles calling Viber numbers 99448147149, 09448147153 and 09448147154 and also sending the videos or photos as evidence, according to YRTA.

The YRTA will have the personal information of every single driver. So, it will be more straightforward for the authority to deal with the complaints and take action against the undisciplined drivers.

YRTA will maintain a centralized database detailing the job history and work experience of the YBS drivers. This database will enable YRTA to quickly find the year of the work experience of the drivers.

At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,500 buses on 135 routes along with the Airport Shuttle and the city transit. The number of daily commuters estimates at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Chance Myanmar acquires global-standard courses from Hong Kong company

Chance Myanmar, a pioneer in e-learning platform, has recently acquired two global-standard online training courses to boost its educational portfolio offerings to 16 courses.

With over 100,000 students from Myanmar and other parts of the world, Chance Myanmar has always been on the look-out for effective and relevant learning opportunities for its customers. It has recently added the English for the Workplace and Communications and Self Leadership courses from LEARN Education Group, a Hong Kong-based education company that provides end-to-end learning and performance solutions to companies and organizations.

Phyo Phyo Aung, Chance Myanmar Founder & CEO, said, “Chance Myanmar has been designing or acquiring existing innovative skills training courses that are relevant to the market. I have founded Chance Myanmar as a platform to empower people with our training and enable the Myanmar youth to cope with the requirements of the changing professional, business and economic environments.”

Chance Myanmar also strengthens its position as a market leader with its partnership with LEARN Education Group. LEARN represents international brands including Manchester Metropolitan University, Westford Education Group and Rang Sit University International. The Group also operates a portfolio of education brands including LEARN Competency-based Learning Institute, ASK Tech International and LEARN Global Institute.

“At Chance Myanmar, we are redesigning what learning in the 21st century should look like in Myanmar. We are super excited about working with LEARN to expand our product offering, as we continue to help our students excel in whatever they do, from career to relationships.” Phyo Phyo Aung stated.

Chance Myanmar focuses on courses not typically taught in the Myanmar formal education system such as psychology, communication, cultural competence to self-betterment, among others. Through its online courses, the students learn from various renowned authors, expert trainers and influencers, the relevant soft skills they need to become a better version of themselves, thereby affecting their business and professional performance.

Chance Myanmar which also recently released its own mobile application, will start offering the new courses in beginning of September 2020.

A staff of YBS demonstrates how to use a smart card with the card payment system. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

5,000 nationwide fish breeding ponds to get fingerlings: MoALI

MINISTRY of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will spend K8,000 million on providing the fingerlings for 5,000 fish breeding ponds across the country, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The ministry is supplying the fingerlings to boost the fish breeding sector. There are a total of 27 fish hatchery camps across the country. The Fisheries Department will provide the fingerlings from those camps to the fish breeders across the country.

The department is scrutinizing the fish breeding ponds and also sending the videos or photos as evidence of the drivers.

About 9,000 smart cards have already been issued to YBS drivers, said Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nai Maw of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

(Translated by Hay Mar)

To shape the future with your vote, let’s check the voters’ lists.
**Exports top $14.84 bln as of 7 August**

**MYANMAR’S exports between 1 October and 7 August in the 2019-2020 financial year shot up to US$14.84 billion from $14.6 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous budget year, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.**

The figure reflects an increase of $218.224 million compared with the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, minerals and other goods showed an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products and finished industrial goods declined.

Export values have registered at $3.35 billion for agro products, $69.56 million for livestock, $757.35 million for fishery products, $1.59 billion for minerals, $129 million for forest products, $69.56 million for livestock, and $871.256 million for other commodities.

**Tourist arrival drops in Myanmar by 65 pc as of July 2020**

**Myanmar has seen significant plunge of tourist arrival due to global coronavirus outbreak.**

While export earnings from the country stood at US$3.35 billion for agro products, $69.56 million for livestock, $757.35 million for fishery products, $1.59 billion for minerals, $129 million for forest products, $69.56 million for livestock, and $871.256 million for other commodities.

**Imports deadline extension needs Indian response for black bean**

**By Nyein Nyein**

ALTHOUGH Myanmar’s top 10 export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, the US, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the UK, the country’s export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

While export earnings from the country stood at US$3.35 billion for agro products, $69.56 million for livestock, $757.35 million for fishery products, $1.59 billion for minerals, $129 million for forest products, $69.56 million for livestock, and $871.256 million for other commodities.

The CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment sector, which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar’s export sector, is becoming challenging because of the cancellation of order from some countries and suspension of trade caused by the coronavirus negative impacts. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, business people highlighted.

At present, imports of rice, corns and pulses are rising, while CMP garment export is dropping.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
**Heirloom bean, butter bean selling well due to China demand**

**Small-scale rubber farmers hope for Government subsidy**

By Nyein Nyein

GOVERNMENTS’ subsidy is a prerequisite for small-scale rubber farmers to grow rubber plants in Myanmar. They need this support in order to maintain quality. The government’s support in the respective parts are vital for the survival of the farmers. The MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farmers owners separately.

**Myanmar-EU trade exceeds $2.57 bln in 9 months**

The government’s support in the respective parts are vital for the survival of the farmers. The MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farmers owners separately. The government’s support in the respective parts are vital for the survival of the farmers. The MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farmers owners separately. The government’s support in the respective parts are vital for the survival of the farmers. The MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farmers owners separately. The government’s support in the respective parts are vital for the survival of the farmers. The MRPPA has requested the government to support contributions to the farmers owners separately.

**Livestock, fisheries attract 5 investment projects this FY**

LIVESTOCK and fisheries sector has attracted four foreign investment projects and one domestic business so far in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Those businesses brought in around US$380 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.
Departing WTO chief gets top job at PepsiCo

Outgoing World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Roberto Azevedo will move to a top job at US snacks and drinks giant PepsiCo. PHOTO: AFP

The company said the role had been created for the Brazilian career diplomat who will work on “solidifying PepsiCo’s external engagement efforts with national and international (authorities), regulators, international organizations and non-governmental stakeholders.”

Azevedo, who was educated as an engineer, said in the statement that he was “delighted to join PepsiCo at a time when strengthening relationships between governments, business and society has become essential to generating sustainable and inclusive long-term growth.”

Azevedo, who made the surprise announcement in May that he would end his second WTO term 12 months early, “for personal reasons”, is leaving the organization engulfed in multiple crises.—AFP

Alibaba revenue up 34 per cent as coronavirus fuels online spending

BELGRADE — Chinese e-commerce leader Alibaba on Thursday reported solid 34 per cent growth in revenue for the April-June quarter in the latest sign that the coronavirus, rather than hurting the company, had actually helped.

The coronavirus, which emerged in China late last year, hampered the Chinese economy, causing a historic 6.8 per cent contraction in the first quarter of 2020. But Alibaba and other Chinese tech titans have largely shrugged off the impact, and Chairman Daniel Zhang made clear the pandemic and its associated lockdowns and social distancing were fueling turnover by consumers opting for the safety of online shopping.

“We were well-positioned to capture growth from the ongoing digital transformation, which has been accelerated by the pandemic, in both consumption and enterprise operations,” he said in a statement accompanying Alibaba’s earnings announcement. Profit jumped 124 per cent in the quarter to $6.7 billion, due mainly to gains in equity investments, it said.

But Alibaba could find itself in the crosshairs of Trump administration efforts to squeeze Chinese tech giants.—AFP

Bread sold to mark 80th anniv. of visas that helped Jews flee Nazis

GHFU, Japan — Bread and cakes commemorating the 80th anniversary of “Visas for Life”, issued by Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara to help Jews escape from Nazi persecution during World War II, have recently gone on sale in his hometown in central Japan.

Hangzhou-based Alibaba said revenue -- a key measure of the internet giant’s business health as well as overall Chinese consumer spending -- rose to 153 billion yuan ($22 billion), slightly exceeding a Bloomberg analyst poll.

The following Written Members’ Special Resolutions were passed by all the Members of Map Pacific Company Limited in lieu of meeting on 19th August, 2020 pursuant to Section 156 (d) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

(1) Resolved that the Company be wound up voluntarily as members’ voluntary winding-up.

(2) Resolved that Daw Hnin Su Mon (KYE (Q), C.P.A, D.B.I, A.C.C.A), holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Certificate No. 12/Mya Ya Ka (Naing) 114749, Senior Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, be and hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be deemed fit or proper.

By order of the Board,
Mr Kyewe Win
Resident Director
Map Pacific Company Limited

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and
Map Pacific Company Limited
[Under Sections 345 & 348]

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and
Map Pacific Company Limited
[Under Sections 345 & 348]

The recent declaration that the vessel will be arriving on 21-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT/MIP 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.

Agent For: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

Agent For: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Claims Day Notice

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (217N/S)

Claims Day Notice

M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (0335)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (217N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT/MIP 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.

Agent For: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

Agent For: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Claims Day Notice

M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (0335)
China suspends Hong Kong’s legal cooperation with U.S. in retaliation

BEIJING — China has decided to suspend legal cooperation between its territory Hong Kong and the United States in retaliation for the latest move by the administration of President Donald Trump, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

On Wednesday, the United States stepped up pressure against Beijing’s actions to erode the freedom of the former British colony by imposing the national security law, announcing the suspension or termination of three bilateral agreements with Hong Kong that have treated it differently from the mainland.

The three agreements cover the surrender of fugitive offenders, the transfer of sentenced persons, and reciprocal tax exemptions on income derived from the international operation of ships, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement. “The Hong Kong special administrative region government has strongly opposed and condemned the unilateral decisions by the United States government in suspending or terminating the three bilateral agreements signed with Hong Kong,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in a news conference in Beijing.

“We fully agreed with the Hong Kong SAR government’s expression. With respect to the United States’ wrongful act, China decided that Hong Kong SAR suspend executing the Hong Kong-U.S. legal cooperation agreements,” he said. Hong Kong’s government has strongly opposed and denied the agreements constituted preferential treatment for Hong Kong as alleged in the U.S. President’s executive order.

Mass infections at S. Korea church grow to over 670 cases

SEOUL — A church in South Korea’s capital Seoul has become a new epicentre of coronavirus infections with a total of 676 cases traced to it as of Thursday afternoon, raising concern about the virus’ spread in the greater capital region and beyond.

South Korea on the same day reported 288 new cases of the virus, 276 of them domestically acquired. Out of the 276, 135 were traced back to Seoul and 85 to the surrounding Gyeonggi Province, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 3,200 people from the church have so far been tested for the virus, and the public health agency is closely monitoring those who visited a rally in Seoul last Saturday as some church members also took part in it.

The country has seen a triple-digit rise in virus cases every day for the past week. The government has already tightened social distancing rules in the metropolitan area, while ordering karaoke parlors and clubs to shut. Church services were banned on Wednesday in the metropolitan region except for those conducted online.

Kim calls rare congress for North Korea’s ruling party

BEIJING — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called a rare congress of the ruling Workers’ Party for January to address policy “shortcomings” and lay out a new five-year plan for the isolated nation’s moribund economy.

Kim made the announcement at a full meeting of the party’s central committee on Wednesday, where he “assessed achievements and shortcomings” since the last congress in 2016, the official KCNA news agency reported Thursday.

In unusually frank terms for Pyongyang, the meeting concluded “the goals for improving the national economy have been seriously delayed,” and living standards had not been “remarkably” improved.

Kim said there had been “unexpected and inevitable challenges in various aspects and the situation in the region surrounding the Korean peninsula.”

The UN Security Council, US, EU and others have imposed sanctions on the North over its banned nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, which have made rapid progress under Kim’s leadership.

The acknowledgement of falling short was “intended to justify the regime’s expected failure to achieve the economic goals it set out earlier”, Hong Min, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification, told AFP.

The timing of the meeting in January, close to the inauguration of the winner of November’s US presidential election, was intended as a signal, he added. Nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington have been stalled since the collapse of a Hanoi summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump last year.

India, China to hold WMCC meeting today to discuss disengagement along LAC, de-escalation of troops

NEW DELHI — A meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs will be taking place on Thursday as part of the dialogue between the two countries for disengagement along LAC in Eastern Ladakh and de-escalation of troops.

The seventeenth meeting of WMCC was held last month in which the two countries agreed that early and complete disengagement of the troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and de-escalation from India-China border areas is in accordance with bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquillity was essential for the smooth overall development of bilateral relations.

The WMCC talks are headed by joint secretary-level officials from both sides. — ANI
Iraq PM to meet Trump with US troops on the agenda

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi will meet US President Donald Trump for the first time in Washington on Thursday, with the presence of American troops in the country at the top of his agenda.

The meeting comes as attacks on American targets by pro-Iranian fighters have been on the rise, and with Tehran and Washington competing for influence in Iraq, the gulf between pro-Iranian factions and Baghdad’s US-friendly premier is growing.

Al-Kadhemi, who took office in May, faces challenges from factions of the Hashed al-Shaabi, a coalition of Iraqi Shi'ite paramilitary groups with close ties to Iran.

The Hashed al-Shaa- bi is officially integrated into the Iraqi state, and its political representatives have called for the expulsion of the 5,000 US troops deployed in the country as part of anti-jihadist efforts.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that “armed groups not under the full control of the prime min- ister have impeded our progress," calling for them to “be replaced by local pe- lice as soon as possible.”

Pompeo -- who was speaking at a press con- ference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein -- appeared to be referring to Shi'ite paramilitary groups, though he did not identify them by name.

Asked about the plan to cut the 5,000 US troops now in Iraq, Pompeo said he had no num- bers and urged people “not to focus on that.”

On the troop issue, a senior administration official said: “There are no hard fast timelines, and there are no hard numbers but that certainly would be part of the discussion, as we evaluate what Iraq secu- rity requirements are, and what the United States be- lieves it can do.”

The official described “armed groups” as “a persistent problem that challenges Iraq’s sovereignty,” saying that also killed top Irani- can commander General Qasem Soleimani.

The Hashed al-Shaabi denies any connection to recent spate of anti-US attacks, but videos and claims on social media hint at its involvement, through groups operat- ing under other names.

—AFP

Kremlin wishes Navalny a speedy recovery

MOSCOW — The Kreml- in said Thursday it was aware that President Vladimir Putin’s chief crit- ics Alexei Navalny was ill and wished him well, but said there was no evidence yet to back claims he had been poisoned.

“We are reading this information... We know that he is in serious condi- tion... Like with any citizen of the Russian Federation we wish him a speedy recovery,” Kremlin spokes- man Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Pavel Sheremet, who was in intensive care in a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk, said they believed he had been poisoned be- cause of his political ac- tivities.

Peskov said there was no evidence yet of any poi- soning.

“As far as we know there are not yet any test results. All assumptions are only assumptions,” he said. “Whether it was a poisoning needs to be con- firmed by a laboratory.”

If tests confirmed there was a poisoning, he said, “then there will be an investigation” just like with any Russian citizen.

Navalny, a 44-year-old lawyer and anti-corruption campaigner who is among President Vladimir Putin’s fiercest critics, was being treated in a hospital in the city of Omsk after he lost consciousness on a flight to Moscow and his plane made an emergency land- ing.

His spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh wrote on Twitter that Navalny had been placed in a coma on a ventilator and that tests were being carried out.

“Alexei has toxic poi- soning,” she wrote. “Alexei is now in intensive care.”

“I’m sure it was inten- tional poisoning,” she told the Echo of Moscow radio station.

State news agency TASS reported that Nav- alny was in the intensive care unit for toxicology pa- tients in Omsk Emergency Hospital No. 1.

“It is in a serious condition,” the hospital’s chief doctor Alexander Murakhovsky told TASS.

—AFP

Iran says holding UAE boat over fishermen deaths

TEHRAN — Iran on Thursday said it seized a United Arab Emirates vessel and summoned the UAE envoy after two of its fishermen were shot dead in an incident in the Gulf.

The foreign ministry said the boat was seized on Monday after UAE coast- guard vessels “opened fire on several Iranian fishing boats... leading to the deaths of two fishermen,” adding that it had sum- moned the UAE charge d'affaires to protest.

“The Emirates boat was seized by coast guards of the Islamic republic of Iran because it was sail- ing illegally in our waters, and its crew have been arrested,” a statement added.

The incident comes amid high tensions be- tween the two countries following last week’s sur- prise announcement that the UAE has agreed to normalize ties with Isra- el under a US-brokered deal. —AFP

OBITUARY

Asleep In Jesus

Mr Alexander Khup Za Liun Thang @ Thango

Veteran

Age (60) Years

Mr Alexander Khup Za Liun Thang @ Thango, beloved son of the late Pu Li Ci Son Khan, former 3rd Battalion Commander, & Pa Esther Kyun, who lived at 241 Talhan, Bugoke Rd, Kalaymyo, Sagaing Region: loving brother of Pa Victor Yum Za Tin Pau & Pu Fang Lian Hsin (New Zealand), Pu Peter Khup Chin Pau & Nu Nang Lun Vang (USA), Ms Soe Din Khan Cing (UK), Nu Men Khan Cing & Pu Thawng Za Kap (USA), Pu None Nain Kyung & (Pa Kip Khu Hnai) (USA), Pu David Baftike Cing & Nu Hau San Din (Canada), (Ms. Lian Lamb Cing), (Pu Michael Van Delh Thang) & Dow Phyu Phyu Win (Kalaymyo), also survived by 17 nieces & nephews, Ms Pau Do Cing, Mr Pau Khan Lian, Ms Kim Lian Mang, Mr Mang Thuon Mung, Mr Kim Lian Mang (New Zealand), Mrs Esther Lam Cing, Mr Pau Lian Mung, Ms Mang Sian Dan (USA), Ms Thang Za Khan, Ms Mavi Nai Kim, Mr Lian Zu Thrawn (USA), Ms Lydia Man San Kyung, Ms Esther Thian Lam Cing (usa), Mr Pau Thian Mung (Canada), Ms Lily Man San Haung (Yin), Mr Pau Lam Mung (Maymyo), Mrs Ther Thian Cing (Kalaymyo), peacefully passed away on Monday 11 pm, 10th August 2020 at home, in 35, 5th Street, Qt. 4, Botataung Tsp, Yangon. Funeral worship services held on 12th August 2020 Wednesday at 4 pm, at home in Talhan, followed by the burial service with interim continually at All Denominational Christian Cemetery.

The bereaved family.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi will meet US President Donald Trump on Thursday for the first time.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was flying from Siberia to Moscow and his plane made an emergency landing after he fell ill. PHOTO: AFP
Yangon United attend MFF-conducted FIFA course

Yangon United players attend the updated FIFA Laws of the Games Course conducted by MFF on 20 August 2020. PHOTO: YUFC

COACHES, footballers and officials from Yangon United attended updated Laws of the Games Course, which was conducted yesterday at the indoor stadium of the Yangon United by Myanmar Football Federation, according to the statement with the football club.

Referee Department from the MFF visited the football club. It highlighted the new FIFA football rule as a preparation for the upcoming Myanmar National League season which will start on 22 August. Chief Executive Officer of Yangon United U Yar Zar Htwe, Yangon United head coach U Tin Maung Tun and assistant coaches and players from the football club attended the course. Firstly, Officials from Myanmar Football Federation explained new FIFA Laws of the Games to the Yangon United. Next, officials from the Referee Department pointed out some updated FIFA Laws of the Games to be used in the upcoming matches.

U Hla Tint from Referee Department also clarified the details facts of the FIFA Laws of the Games and Yangon United players and coaches participated in the course discussion. Yangon United is currently in a challenging environment as the team is in the third place of the MNL standing table with 7 points difference with the first-placed team Hantharwady.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

FIFA ethics committee clears Gianni Infantino

ZURICH—FIFA’s independent ethics committee has cleared the organization’s president Gianni Infantino of any alleged breach of its code, the world soccer regulator announced Wednesday.

The ethics committee received a complaint on June 21 regarding meeting between the FIFA chief and Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber. They received documentations from Swiss authorities and courts.

“All of this material has been duly scrutinized by the chairperson of the investigatory chamber in the context of the preliminary investigation,” the committee said in a statement.

“Based on the information available to date, no aspect of the conduct analyzed constitutes a violation of the FIFA regulations,” it added. Criminal investigations by Swiss authorities into Infantino’s conduct continue. FIFA’s ethics committee had launched preliminary investigations into several alleged transgressions, including a FIFA-booking private flight from Suriname to Geneva, and secret meetings between Infantino and Lauber. “There is no factual basis whatsoever for this criminal investigation,” FIFA deputy general secretary Alasdair Bell told a news conference this month, describing the investigation as “grotesque” and “absurd.”—AFP

Liverpool host Leeds on opening weekend as Man City, Man Utd sit out

LONDON—Leeds’ first Premier League game for 16 years will see Marcelo Bielsa’s men travel to defending champions Liverpool, while Manchester City and Manchester United will miss the opening weekend to give them extra time to recover from a late end to the 2019/20 season.

All sides were guaranteed by the football authorities to have at least 30 days off between the two seasons after the late finish to the campaign caused by a three-month stoppage due to the coronavirus pandemic.

City and United were eliminated from the Champions League and Europa League respectively last weekend, three weeks after the end of the Premier League season.

Chelsea and Wolves will start their seasons on Monday September 14th after they too were involved in European competition into August.

Leeds are back in the top-flight for the first time since 2003/04, but could not have asked for a tougher start, on September 12 against the champions who have not lost a league game at Anfield in more than three years.—AFP

PHOTO: POOL/AFP