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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing Democratic Federal Union

APART III of the Union Accord was successfully signed at the third and final day of 4th session of the Union Peace Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre--II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The historic peace document is seen as a crucial step for establishing a Democratic Federal Union as it includes more detailed descriptions of procedure for future peacemaking processes.

State Counsellor and Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the conference, which was also attended by vice-chairpersons of NRPC, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers and officials, the representatives from the Government, the Hluttaw and Tatmadaw members, leaders of NCA-S EAOs, patrons, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and representatives of political parties, representatives of NCA-S EAOs for the conference, and invited guests among others.

Nai Han Thar chaired the third day of the conference, and his delegation members were Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, U Tun Tun Oo, Khun Maung Thaung and Daw Yin Yin May.

Chairman Nai Han Thar said in his opening remark that the peace conference aimed to create the best situations for the future of the country, people and organizations. National people have been trying to solve problems between each other with armed conflicts for 70 years. Still, negotiations are needed to find solutions for conflicting issues after in-depth consideration upon rooted causes.

SEE PAGE-3



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes the speech on the final day of the 4th session of Union Peace Conference– 21st Century Panglong on 21 August. **PHOTO: MNA**



Third and final day of the 4th session of Union Peace Conference– 21st Century Panglong is held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

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"People are the key"

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

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

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes 11th-day meeting of 17th regular session

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened its 11th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported the committee's findings and remarks on the controversial bill for the amendment of The Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens.

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that MPs can submit their names if they want to discuss the amendment proposals that are directly concerned with the controversial facts.

The Joint Bill Committee's Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported the Animal Health and Breeding Development Bill sent back with remarks by the President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly's opinion on the bill and said that the Hluttaw's decisions on the President's remarks for the bill will be sent back to the President in accordance with Article 109 of its bylaw.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted the National Library Bill's Paragraph (15). The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly's opinion on the bill and said that the Hluttaw's decisions on the President's remarks for the bill will be sent back to the President in accordance with Article 109 of its bylaw.



Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint committees, MPs, and Union-level organizations' members discussed the 2020-2021 Financial Year National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill.

Upon the Road Department's discussions on the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) policies and indirect tax for road construction fund, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said that BOT contract was being amended compared with the rules and regulations that are internationally applied.

The amendment bill was now submitted to the Union Government's Economic Affairs Committee after that had been discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee and Amyotha Hluttaw Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee.

The Union Minister continued that the taxes for roads and bridges would be increased if the amendment of the bill is approved.

Deputy Minister for Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that only 3.36 per cent of the Union expenditure is used for agricultural development in the country, and among regional countries, Malaysia uses 7 per cent, the Philippines 9.17 per cent, and Thailand 16.15 per cent.

Moreover, one of the main factors for agro production is access to agricultural water. We can only distribute agricultural water to 14 per cent of total cultivation in the country, which is low if compared to regional countries, he added.

He said that the ministry will successfully implement socioeconomic development projects for the public with the government's increase in agricultural investment.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win reported on the KfW loan provided by Germany. A project to electrify the villages in Taunggyi, Loilem, and Langkho townships in southern Shan State is underway with the use of €23.883 million of KfW loan and €6.535 million of cash assistance, totalling €30.418 million.

The project duration is from 2018 to 2022, and compilation of bidding document is currently 90 per cent complete. Tender for purchasing concrete pole will be invited in September 2020, and tender for remaining packages will also be invited. The ministry is trying to complete the project within the designated period, he added.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win said that the drawing up of the National Plan for 2020-2021FY included the predictions for COVID-19.

The ministry is also drawing up Economic Recovery Plan. If the National Planning Bill is approved, the projects will be implemented in cooperation with relevant departments, he added.

The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) has to be implemented to help the businesses affected by COVID-19 recover.

The ministry received the loan of US$700 million under Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) from IMF in first batch in July 2020. The second batch of the loan from IMF will be obtained during 2020-2021.

Moreover, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw already approved taking the loans of Japanese ¥30 billion from JICA, and K250 million from ADB.

The loans will be received in line with rules and regulations during 2020-2021FY.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, and Union Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phone Myat also participated in the discussions.

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluuttaw will convene its 12th-day meeting of 17th regular session on 24 August. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

UEC demonstrates voting processes at model polling stations

THE Union Election Commission demonstrated voting processes for 2020 General Election, with setting up model polling stations under the guidelines of COVID-19 measures at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The model polling stations showed how to vote for the candidates of Pyithu, Amyotha, Region and State Hluttaws and Ethnic Affairs during 2020 General Election in line with COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The event was attended by the Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, and officials from the commission office.

The demonstrations by the commission office officials included wearing masks, washing hands with hand gel, standing 6 feet apart in queue for social distancing, temperature measurement for individual voters at the entrance of the polling stations and separate arrangements of casting votes for those with high temperature.

The UEC Chairman and attendees also discussed preparations for the elections.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials look into demonstration of the voting processes for 2020 General Election at the model polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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



Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing ...

FROM PAGE-1

He added the removal of inappropriate ideologies and concepts for the country with different ethnic people in finding ways of national unity.

Bogyoke Aung San led to building a genuine Union despite many challenges. However, his promises and guidelines left neglected when regaining independence of the country after he passed away. Then, the so-called Union was developed, leading to the protests of ethnic people of the nation against negligence to implement the Panglong Agreement and the non-ethnic people against failure to gain their expected fundamental rights. Authorities used weapon power to counter these protests, and then the ethnic groups unavoidably opted for armed struggles, Nai Han Thar noted.

He continued saying that struggles over 70 years were aimed to reform the wrong political system. The establishment of a genuine federal Union is also a national building task. The armed battles were unavoidably waged for national equality. The armed conflicts have not de-escalated over 70 years until now; there was no sign to solve the disputes, and that a new and correct way is needed for it.

Nai Han Thar emphasized the importance of equal rights and freedom for nationals from different backgrounds of ethnicity and faith. Attempt to influence another group will not make unity and peaceful coexistence each other; it is required to develop a Democracy Union in line with the guidelines in NCA for the peace of the country.

SEE PAGE-4



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at fourth session of Union Peace Conference -- 21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 August. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dignitaries sign the visitors' book at UPC.



Ethnic representatives for UPC sign the visitors' book



Attendees sign the visitors' book.



Dignitaries sign the visitors' book



Dignitaries sign the visitors' book

Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing Democratic Federal Union



Chairperson Nai Han Thar at the 4th session of Union Peace Conference on 21 August. **PHOTO : MNA**



UPDJC Secretariat member retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo.



UPDJC Secretariat member Saw Mra Raza Lin. **PHOTO : MNA**



UPDJC Secretariat member Sai Kyaw Nyunt. **PHOTO : MNA**



Pa-O Ethnic Affairs Minister Nant San Wint Khine. **PHOTO : MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Zin Mar Aung. **PHOTO : MNA**



Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win. **PHOTO : MNA**

FROM PAGE-3

Every ethnic people value and preserve their language, culture and traditions, which are their ethnical identities. Sacrificing their lives for these values play a crucial role in making national unity; it is also related to the demand of self-rule by ethnic groups as it is the fundamental rights for them, he stressed.

He also remarked that Part III of the Union Accord is the initial step for a Democratic Federal Union, and more friendly discussions could be made on the issues of state constitutions and parliaments.

The members of UPDJC Secretariat then submitted proposals for the part III of the Union Accord. Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw presented the framework for implementing NCA, Table 1 for phase by phase implementation beyond 2020 by Saw Mra Raza Lin and the roadmap principles for the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union.

The representatives of Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, NCA-S EAOs, and political parties supported the proposals.

SEE PAGE-5



New Mon State Party's central committee member Nai Aung Ma Ngay. **PHOTO : MNA**



Chairman of Lisu National Development PartyU Shwe Min. **PHOTO : MNA**





Leaders and representatives from Government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, Ethnic Armed Organizations- EAOs, Political parties, Ethnic national races, and individuals attend the final day of the 4th session of Union Peace Conference– 21st Century Panglong at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 August. **PHOTO : MNA**





Final day of 4th session of Union Peace Conference– 21st Century Panglong is held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 August. **PHOTO : MNA**

Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing Democratic ...

FROM PAGE-4

The chairman of the conference announced the approval for Part III of Union Accord. Representing the Government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, NCA-S EAOs, and political parties respectively Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr May Win Myint, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and U Thu Wai signed the Part III of the Union Accord.

After signing the document by the witnesses from these groups, Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and U Thu Wai presented it to Chairman Nai Han Thar.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed thanks for the peace agreements.

(Speech of State Counsellor is covered on page 6)

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the presiding member of the conference, made a concluding remark on the conference, saying that the Part III of the Union Accord has agreed on the future peace process, the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, creating a condition for further negotiation in the post-2020.

An agreement has been made for the five basic federal principles; sensitive issues and interests of relevant groups were carefully discussed; it can be concluded that frequent meetings could reduce worries and doubts.

He also advised the stakeholders not to leave peace talks. He said that as the future negotiations are essential for the peace process of the country, the long-sightedness is needed to overcome the conflicting situations.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae added that the local people in conflict-torn had suffered hardships in livelihoods, poor education and less development. The previous Governments could try for the existence of sovereignty amidst many challenges.

He also pointed out the need to safeguard the sovereignty of the country as it is bordering with the countries with a large number of population, while the ethnic armed groups are operating at the border areas.

He continued to say that the agreements in NCA include the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, and it is required to persuade more ethnic armed organizations which are not taking part in peace talks related to the NCA.

He concluded the speech with the common goal for peace and the need to continue peace-making efforts amid COVID-19 pandemic in line with healthcare guidelines while working for the 2020 General Election.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Lt-Gen Yar Pyae makes closing remarks on the final day of 4th session of Union Peace Conference on 21 August.



Dr Tin Myo Win signs Union Accord Part III.



Dr May Win Myint signs Union Accord Part III.



Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win signs Union Accord Part III.



Dr Salai Hlyan Hmung Sakhong signs Union Accord Part III.



U Thu Wai signs Union Accord Part III.



U Htone Phoo Dagon signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



U Kyaw Win signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



Kya Sha Mwe signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



U Zein Khan Ram signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



Nang Aye Aye Thwe signs Union Accord Part III as a witness.



Chiarperson Nai Han Thar (L) accepts the Union Accord Part III presented by Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and U Thu Wai on the final day of the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference on 21 August. **PHOTO : MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – speech of thanks at UPC-21st Century Panlong Fourth Session

(21 August 2020)

RESPECTED Chairperson of the Conference Panel, members of the panel, leaders of the various groups, all representatives attending the conference, I send these good wishes so that all your good wishes would be fulfilled.

Among the people who are watching the scene of signing the Union Accord Part III today, there may be some who might be recalling the past conferences and negotiations. During the period of more than four years, all of us invested our physical and spiritual strength to achieve the best outcome. When we were not able to get agreement on important points at the UPDJC meeting during the period of the 21st Century Panglong Second Session, I saw in the eyes of some of the ethnic national leaders their sense of disappointment. At that time, I gave words of encouragement telling them not to feel disappointed or dejected and told them that we should all continue to try in the forthcoming conferences. If possible, all of us wanted a lot of agreements. However, I want all of you to take note that these are problems which have been with us since the time of our independence as long as our lifetimes. That is why we had to spend adequate time to achieve proper understanding and also, we had to discuss in detail to achieve satisfaction.

It may be said that three days of this conference is short; however, what was signed today – Part III of the Union Accord was not achieved easily. This agreement was achieved with great difficulty during the time when we were responding to protect and control COVID-19; like in all peace processes, we encountered highs and lows as well as ups and downs; we had to give time to ensure that both sides were satisfied. This is a testimony to the strength of the 21st Century Panglong Programme for Political Negotiations; it also serves as a valuable record of the good political intentions, determination and indomitable spirit of all those who participated in this process.

Part III of the Union Accord, which we signed today is more significant, is deeper in meaning and is full of essence. In Part I of this agreement, we were able to provide a path and a door for solving problems of understanding related to the NCA and difficulties being encountered during the NCA implementation.

In Part II of the Union Accord which relates to the step by step programmes and step by step implementation, we now find not only the search for basic principles but also find work programmes for establishing the Union step by step. As we negotiate step by step, we can implement the (51) basic principles which all of us have agreed upon, as needed.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech on the final day of UPC-21st Century Panglong Fourth Session on 21 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Part III of the Union Accord depicts in detail what kind of Union we want to have; this is the kind of Union we can envision in the future; the kind of Union we wish to see; it portrays with basic guiding principles the type Union we want to see emerge.

Today, at this time, no one can doubt that our country, our Union, is going to be established as a Democratic Federal Union. We have also reached, agreement as to how we will proceed with regard to Part III of the Union Accord, what steps to take and what work programmes to follow. What we still need to discuss for the future is a detailed programme with timelines that will show where we need to be, at what time, in what kind of situation.

In developed countries where they have peace and stability, they have unity, although there may be differences of opinion. You will see that all countries which can establish unity no matter whatever amount of differences of opinion they might have are peaceful, stable and developed. The ability to work together cooperatively despite different views and different opinions is the ability to find a common belief. It is natural that different views and opinions will exist.

It is known to everyone that the different opinions we have to solve are deep and broad and historic in nature; that is why they are difficult to solve. However, at this conference, we have been able to find unity in spite of our different opinions. This is Part III of the Union Accord which has been signed today. Our 21st Century Panglong was able to seek out commonalities among differences and unity among opposite tendencies. This has been signed by leaders of various groups in front of the representatives attending this conference and witnesses; this will go down in the annals of history.

My first message to the conference is about 'new plan beyond 2020 for developing a Democratic Federal Union'. We have got a lot of experiences in peace talks, political dialogues and joint monitoring processes on the ceasefire, as well as the strong points and weak points in peacemaking processes over the past four years. The three steps for this process have been announced at the opening ceremony of this conference. Implementation of these three steps will be effectively and efficiently carried out by the 'new plan beyond 2020 for developing a Democratic Federal Union' in the post-2020, based on the recommendations and the views of relevant stakeholders in the peace process.

The new plan will ensure the effective implementation of the Union Accord Part III, while it will support for strengthening UPDJC and JMC in accordance with the NCA. It could also pave the way for non-signatories of NCA. The new plan could provide technical assistance to the representatives of negotiation groups at various levels of peace talks. Moreover, it could explore pragmatic ways to solve political problems. It is the first priority in the post-2020.

The second point is 'shaping the character of a Union with common agreements of national people'. The processes for the implementation of NCA framework agreement Section 1 of the Union Accord Part III has mentioned that 'All national people are responsible for creating a value of the Union that encompasses national people and their languages by recognizing background history, traditional culture, literature, languages and national traits of national people living in the Union'.

The term 'value of Union in this paragraph defines 'a single Union in unity'. It is an extraordinarily important point. The Union, with this value, needs to be implemented in the post-2020.

The third point is to continue holding dialogues. Although the NCA has been already signed, armed clashes occurred in some areas, and the fighting in these areas intensified. Similarly, some groups left the peace talks as they failed to break the deadlocks over political agreements. Meanwhile, our government reached these groups and listened to their disappointments and their needs.

Then, we had to find ways to solve the underlying causes of the problems and held many informal negotiations with them again. Only when a common agreement has been reached with relevant groups, formal meetings were arranged. It is our experience in trying for great achievement. I strongly urged all the stakeholders to continue the way in finding solutions by the exchange of views at the meetings despite whatever challenges may encounter all beyond the conference or 2020.

In conclusion, I sincerely express thanks to the chairperson conference and its members of his delegation, the leaders of respective groups and representatives of the conference. We all have known that there are a lot of rules and directives for health at the conference as it was held under the preventive measures against the COVID-19. I fully appreciate the cooperation of all persons in adhering to these rules.

All the attendees at the conference have tested negative for COVID-19 and that they could attend the event without any worry. However, it is required to keep on following the healthcare rules as the pandemic is still making a threat.

I conclude my speech with kind wishes to the conference chairperson, members of his delegation, leaders of groups and representatives for being free from COVID-19, being healthy and wealthy in order to join your hands firmly in trying for national reconciliation, peace and development of a Democratic Federal Union.

Thank you all.

■ ■ ■

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

MoI hosts four pillars workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

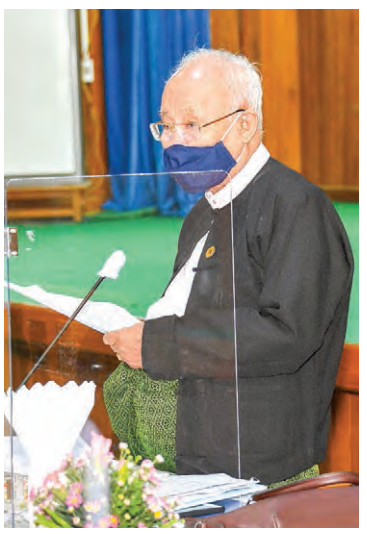
THE Ministry of Information hosted a workshop of representatives from the four pillars of democracy — the legislative, the administrative, the judiciary, and the media — yesterday morning — to discuss ways to promote balanced cooperation between the media and the three other pillars to provide reliable information to the people of Myanmar.



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint discusses ways to promote balanced cooperation between media and three other pillars to provide reliable information to the public. **PHOTO: MNA**



Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing. **PHOTO : MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Dr San Shwe Win.



Deputy Director-General U Nyo Tun. **PHOTO : MNA**



Brigadier-General Ye Yint Aung. **PHOTO : MNA**

The fourth workshop of the four pillars was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairperson Dr San Shwe Win, MPs, and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, officials from the three other pillars, Myanmar Press Council Chairperson Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing, Vice-Chairperson Dr Myo Thant Tin and the council members, representatives from Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalist Union, Myanmar Journalist Network, BNI Multimedia Group, and Myanmar Women Journalists Society.

In the workshop, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said that the fourth workshop of the four pillars was held to fulfill the right to information, to make discussions among the four pillars in order to find a solution to safeguard rights and freedom of media, to mutually recognize the nature and the roles of each other among the pillars and to collaborate with each other in trying to achieve good governance, and to review the results of the third workshop of the pillars.

The Union Minister highlighted the importance of the role of media in a democratic country.

He said that implementation of the decisions made in the preliminary meetings, the six points from a previous meeting with three pillars, the eight points from a previous meeting with media, and the 13 points from the third workshop of the four pillars would be discussed in thet fourth workshop.

Myanmar Press Council Chairperson Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing said that workshops of the four pillars are the features of a democratic country.

He pointed out that the citizens assume sovereignty according to the Constitution, and the Constitution gives the mechanism for check and balance among the pillars.

He said that media have gained an important role since the era of King Mindon, and journalists are working hard in these days to provide accurate news to the public.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun emphasized the importance of the freedom of expression for all people including journalists.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that some civil wars in some nations were sparked by false news published by media. He also warned the participants that dishonest people in foreign countries can disturb elections by using online media.

Speaking about the best way to resolve the problems, the Deputy Minister said that reliable and accountable news sources need to provide correct and accurate information in real-time. To successfully perform the duty, it is very important to have mutual understanding and collaboration among the four pillars, said the Deputy Minister.

Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairperson Dr San Shwe Win said that some of the six topics of the previous workshop — matters related to recognizing journalists; accountability of departments and organizations; capacity building and development; ethics; attitudes; and the need to be free from media bias — would be discussed again in the fourth workshop.

Office of the Union Supreme Court Deputy Director-General U Nyo Tun said that information officials from judiciary sector met with media for 210 times in 2019, and 173 times from January to August 2020.

He continued that the Union Supreme Court published four booklets on crimes, civil cases, writs, and courts, and distributed the booklets to the public to educate people about the judiciary system.

In collaboration with My Justice, three out of the four booklets were translated into Kachin, Kayah, Poe Kayin, Sakaw Kayin, Mon, Shan and Pa-O languages, and the translated books were distributed to the relevant areas via courts, according to the Director-General.

Tatmadaw True News Information Team Secretary Brigadier-General Ye Yint Aung said that the team daily answers the questions asked by local and foreign media via phone. The team also holds a press conference every month.

Officials from the three pillars — legislative, administrative, judiciary — the Union Supreme Court and the Myanmar Press Council discussed matters related to covering news regarding the three pillars and safety of journalists.

Then, officials from the three other pillars replied to the questions raised by representatives from Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalist Union, Myanmar Journalist Network, BNI Multimedia Group, and Myanmar Women Journalists Society.

After the attendees officially approved the results of the fourth workshop, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered a concluding speech.

The fourth workshop approved ten points which include matters related to media ethics and mutual respect, decision to hold further meetings, and implementation of resolutions gained from the workshops of the four pillars.

The first workshop was held on 30 December 2016, the second on 21 February 2018, and the third on 30 April 2019.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

22 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

22 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Price-gouging is violation of law

WITH more findings of locally transmitted cases of coronavirus in Sittway, we are seeing the second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Rakhine State's Sittway Township has imposed stay-at-home orders and tightened the COVID-19 health guidelines as the number of positive cases is expected to rise.

As a consequence, COVID-19 protective items, such as masks, sanitizer and alcohol are trending upwards in Yangon and other towns these days.

The Ministry of Commerce issued an executive order on 30th March invoking the Essential Supplies and Services Law, making it illegal to acquire what has been designated as scarce medical supplies, and commodities, and hoarding or reselling them at hugely inflated prices amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

The ministry labelled three goods as "important goods", which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control and treatment, medicines and food.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

> We would like to remind the people to be cautious of unscrupulous businesses or companies that may target and prey on consumers by charging excessively high prices for goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to medicines, medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in neighbouring China.

In a welcome step, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has warned the public not to sell three goods, banning those who are speculating in the market by selling products at higher prices than the street market and distribution chains call for.

As we all continue to cope with this unprecedented public health crisis, we would like to remind the people to be cautious of unscrupulous businesses or companies that may target and prey on consumers by charging excessively high prices for goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is unlawful to charge excessively high prices for goods and services during a state-declared disaster.

Under the Essential Supplies And Services Law, anyone who violates any order issued under section 4 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term from a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years, and shall also be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand Kyats.

The public is encouraged to report incidents of price-gouging to the authorities concerned.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE "SUPER SPREADER" VARIATION OF THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

D614G Strain Less Important Than Other Risk Factors For Covid-19

Lab studies suggest, but do not prove that the D614G is more infectious in humans.

By Dr Milton Lum

THE Health Ministry of Malaysia announced on 16 August 2020 that the SARS-CoV-2 D614G variant was isolated from three cases in the Sivagangga and one from the Ulu Tiram clusters. The Ministry also stated that the D614G variant was 10 times more infectious.

SARS-CoV-2 variants

All viruses undergo mutation which can occur by chance or through adaptation to its host. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is no different.

When the Covid-19 pandemic started in China, the D614 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was dominant. It mutated to the G614 variant, which was first detected in late January 2020 in China and Germany. In this case, the amino acid at position 614 changed from aspartic acid (D) to glycine (G), hence the D614 variant became D614G. The change occurred in the virus' spiked protein i.e. the protruding portion of the virus used to enter human cells.

The prevalence of the D614G variant has gradually increased in frequency and has been reported to comprise more than 70% to 97% of global isolates currently.

This has led to several questions. A critical one is whether the D614G variant is advantageous to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, i.e. better adapted to its human host. Has the virus become more infectious and/or more deadly? Will the mutation alter the course of infection in an individual and/or the outcome of the pandemic? What will be its impact on vaccine and therapeutics development?

This debate has been further fuelled by Bette Korber et al's article "Tracking Changes in SARS-CoV-2 Spike: Evidence that D614G Increases Infectivity of the COVID-19 Virus" published on 20 August 2020.

More infectious?

Korber's group provided data that the G614 variant spread more rapidly than the D614 variant and became the globally dominant form of SARS-CoV-2 within a month. They interpreted this to mean that the virus is likely to be more infectious, "a hypothesis consistent with the higher infectivity observed with G614 Spike-pseudo-typed viruses we observed in vitro (Latin for "within the glass" i.e. outside the organism)", i.e. the G614 variant was more infectious than the D614 variant in cell cultures under laboratory conditions.

Korber's group also reported that patients infected with G614 shed more viral nucleic acid compared with those with D614, and G614-bearing viruses show significantly higher infectious titres in vitro than their D614 counterparts.

A report from the Scripps Research Institute in June 2020 reported that the viral spike protein G614 is more stable than D614, which is "consistent with epidemiological data suggesting that viruses with SG614 transmit more efficiently".

Gavin Smith of the Duke-National University of Singapore ("Duke-NUS") Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme and other researchers have been reported to have stated that these laboratory studies suggest, but do not prove that the D614G is more infectious in humans.

More deadly?

Korber's group reported that they found "no significant association between D614G status and disease severity as measured by hospitalization outcomes". However, there was "highly significant associations between age and male sex and hospitalization."

Nathan Grubaugh, William Hanage and Angela Rasmussen addressed the issue of the effect of D614G on disease severity in their article, "Making Sense of Mutation: What D614G Means for the COVID-19 Pandemic Remains Unclear", published on 20 August 2020.

They stated: "Viral load and disease severity are not always correlated, particularly when viral RNA is used to estimate virus titre. The current evidence suggests that D614G is less important for COVID-19 than other risk factors, such as age or co-morbidities".

With regard to the effect of D614G on control of the outbreak, they stated "it's impossible to conclude that a single mutation alone would have a major impact in a large, diverse human population based on in vitro infectivity and fitness data.



A Covid-19 diagnostic lab at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at Setia Alam. **PICTURE FROM FACEBOOK @KEMENTERIANKESIHATANMALAYSIA.**

Paul Tambyah, senior consultant at NUS and president-elect of the International Society of Infectious Diseases, was reported to have stated: "Maybe that's a good thing to have a virus that is more infectious but less deadly."

In short, the G614 may be more infectious, but not deadlier as it is not in the virus' interest to kill the human host.

Impact on vaccine development and treatment

Koyama et al in their article, "Emergence of Drift Variants That May Affect COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Antibody Treatment", published on 26 April 2020 stated: "The coronavirus genome is highly prone to mutations that lead to genetic drift and escape from immune recognition; thus, it is imperative that sub-strains with different mutations are also accounted for during vaccine development."

The D614G mutation affects the viral spike protein, but it does not change the receptor-binding domain ("RBD") at the tip of the spike protein. The D614G mutation primes the RBD to bind to ACE2 receptors on human cells more efficiently. The target of vaccines and drugs is the RBD.

Nathan Grubaugh, William Hanage and Angela Rasmussen stated: "The D614G mutation is therefore unlikely to have a major impact on the efficacy of vaccines currently in the pipeline. Because the specific effect of D614G on spike function in entry and fusion is unknown, the impact of this mutation on therapeutic entry inhibitors is unknown.

"There is no current evidence that it would interfere with therapeutic strategies such as monoclonal antibodies designed to disrupt spike binding with ACE2 or drugs that modulate downstream processes such as endosomal acidification. However, until we better understand the role of D614G during natural SARS-CoV-2 infection, the mutation should be taken into consideration for any vaccine or therapeutic design."

Responses to Health Ministry's statement

The Health Ministry's statement that the D614G was 10 times more infectious was met with various responses, some of which are below.

Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud of the University of Malaya "allayed concerns about the higher death rates in other countries and said it might not be due to the new variant being more severe."

Angela Rasmussen, a Canadian virologist, tweeted: "Hold up…since when has D614G been "found to be 10 times easier to infect other individuals"? It hasn't. In vitro infectivity, prevalence, and phylogenetic data don't prove this mutation makes SARSCoV2 more transmissible."

Hsu Liyang, an infectious diseases specialist and epidemiologist at the National University of Singapore Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, stated that the D614G variant has been circulating in Singapore since February 2020 and that more than 100 patients have been found with this variant between February and July 2020. As only a fraction of the viral samples was sequenced, the implication was that thousands of the Singapore cases were due to the D614G mutation.

Comments in the print and social media as well as questions encountered by private medical practitioners were reflective of the public's concern about the Health Ministry's statement about the marked infectiousness of the D614G variant.

The Health Ministry subsequently stated, on 18 August 2020, that the D614G variant is more infectious in the laboratory.

This raises questions like: When did gene sequencing of viral samples begin in Malaysia? How many samples have been sequenced? Was the D614 variant the prevalent strain in the early days of the outbreak? What is the prevalence of the D614G variant currently?

The Health Ministry's statement about the degree of infectiousness of the D614G variant has not been found in a literature search on 20 August 2020.

It would be helpful if the Health Ministry publishes its laboratory findings to increase the body of knowledge about the virus.

Risk communication

Good communication helps in the building of relationships between the public, health care professionals and policymakers. It also helps the public to take more responsibility for their health.

As in the patient-doctor relationship, the closer the relationship between the public, health care professionals and the government, the better will be the co-operation in addressing the Covid-19 outbreak.

In this respect, care has to be taken with public statements to avoid unnecessary public anxiety, and even fear as well as stigmatization of positive individuals and their contacts. This issue has already been addressed in an earlier article.

The Health Ministry's statements on the D614G variant being 10 times more infectious raises questions about the quality of risk communication, which the World Health Organization ("WHO") has acknowledged, is an area of weakness in responses to outbreaks.

"It is essential to communicate risks in a responsible way that protects people's health, and share information with partners to ensure an effective response."

Readers can make their own judgments on the Health Ministry's statements on the degree of infectiousness of the D614G variant.

SOURCE: CodeBlue

Dr Milton Lum is a past President of the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners Associations, Malaysia and the Malaysian Medical Association. This article is not intended to replace, dictate or define evaluation by a qualified doctor. The views expressed do not represent that of any organization the writer is associated with.

This is the personal opinion of the writer or publication and does not necessarily represent the views of CodeBlue. CodeBlue is a health news website that reports on issues, policies and trends in health care in Malaysia.

The four objectives

1. To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting human trafficking as a national duty;
2. To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
3. To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
4. To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders — government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 12:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (3) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (3½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (3) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mingin has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (3) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa and Mingin Townships to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpaan is observed as about (1) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Hpaan Township to take precaution measure.

(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-8-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kani is observed as about (3½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Kani to take precaution measure.

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Union Accord Part III

1. With the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, to turn the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions, the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 21 August 2020.

2. At the conference, the policy proposals made from the discussions of the proposals submitted by the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) were agreed as parts of the Union Accord.

3. The Union Accord Part III includes the 20 points of agreement and work plans and implementations in the post-2020:
   (a) Agreement 1—the 15 points of the framework agreement on implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (Addendum-a)
   (b) Agreement 2— the stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step in the post-2020 (Addendum-b)
   (c) Agreement 3— the five-points agreement of fundamental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system (Addendum-b)

4. The heads of each group and the witnesses sign the above agreements at the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong as the Union Accord Part III in accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Section 20 (e).

Page 2 of Union Accord Part III

1. Dr Tin Myo Win
   Representative of the Government Group

2. Dr May Win Myint
   Representative of the Hluttaw Group

3. Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win
   Representative of the Tatmadaw Group

4. Dr Lian Hmung Sakhong
   Representative of the Ethnic Armed Organisation Grou

5. U Thu Wai
   Representative of the Political Parties Group

Page 3 of Union Accord Part III

U Htone Phoo Dagon
Ethnic Representative
Government Group

U Kyaw Win
Relevant Representative of the Government Group

Kya Sha Mwe
Ethnic Representative
Ethnic Armed Organizations Group

Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo
Relevant Representative of the Ethnic Armed Organization Group

U Zein Khan Ram
Ethnic Representative
Political Parties Group

Nang Aye Aye Thwe
Relevant Representative of the Political Parties Group

Union Accord Part III Addendum (a)
Agreement 1
Framework Agreement on Implementing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA
(21 August 2020)

1. To develop the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions, with the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit.
2. To prohibit discrimination based on nationality, religion, culture and gender against all the citizens residing in the Union, while ensuring equal rights.
3. To establish a nation where there is no misuse of religion for political purpose and where politics and religion are separated from each other.
4. To settle all disagreements between peace negotiators through the goodwill towards sustainable peace.
5. To implement the issues of the Accord effectively in order to observe mutual assurances of the Accord, achieve the peace process through transparency, responsibility and accountability and stay away from taking advantage of the could-be developments.
6. To strive for the safety of life, property and wealth of the entire people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the uplifting of their lives.
7. To identify the ones that need interpretation out of the points included in the NCA, and hold serious dialogues that will produce common understandings and definitions between the groups.
8. To review the accomplishments of the UPDJC and the JMC within the committees, and take necessary steps towards their further effectiveness and consolidation through the bilateral consent and coordination.
9. To recognize the diversity of the background history, traditions and culture, literature, languages and national characteristics of the ethnic nationalities residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and collectively establish an icon of the Union by the citizens through a diversity of ethnics and languages. Note: The icon of the Union represents the only consolidated Union.
11. To organize peace talks between troops of both sides on the points of NCA that still need further negotiations are agreed.
12. (a) It is agreed to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system towards the realization of sustainable peace through bilateral coordination of the post-2020 stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step implementations adopted by the Union Peace Conference – the 21st Century Panglong.
    (b) The Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and NCA-S EAOs must continue their endeavours with responsibility and accountability for the successful realization of the Union Accord. For the faithful pursuance the original consents of the Union Accord and the basic principles, objectives and visions of the NCA, while setting up a mechanism for the realization of the Union Accord through bilateral coordination.
    (c) As for the restoration of sustainable peace, bilateral negotiations for the security reconciliations (in accordance with the para 30 of NCA) in the Union based on democracy and federalism, the discussions on work programmes, the bilaterally agreed preparatory undertakings, and the formation of a mechanism for security reconciliations are agreed.
13. The realization of the points stipulated in the Union Accord and the security reconciliations shall be in accordance with the Road Map of the para 20 of NCA.
14. The realization of the accords of NCA shall be conducted through bilateral agreements of the regular meetings of the different levels of the JMCs legally formed under the NCA and the UPDJC, and the bilateral negotiations shall be held in parallel.
15. The amendment of the framework of the political dialogue by the UPDJC as necessary based on the outcomes of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong is agreed.

SEE PAGE-11

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Health is the greatest of blessings.

I think our people already know that the number of COVID-19 positive cases found in Sittway have been high. Although I can imagine how much pain and anguish is being felt by anyone who has tested positive, let me say this, although I don't want to, so that all the people would know.

We had to issue home stay orders and other COVID related rules and regulations in Sittway because 3 or 4 government personnel went on a trip by contravening existing regulations. As a result there was an outbreak.

We now have to spend a great deal of financial and human resources to be able to contain the disease.

Health is the greatest of blessings. All the people, please be vigilant. People are the key.

(Extract from the Facebook posting of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of 21 August 2020)



Union Accord Part III

FROM PAGE-10

Union Accord Part III Addendum (b)
The Agreement 2
Stage by Stage work programmes and step by step implementations in the post 2020
(21 August 2020)

Establishment of Union based on democracy and federal system	Democracy and Federal issues	Implementation steps		
		Political negotiation	Technical negotiation	Implementation
(Stage-1) Formulating principles for Union based on democracy and federal system	Establishing federal system Administrative reform Economy and development Rights for financial sector Land and resource Developing democracy Social harmony Security reconciliation (in line with paragraph 30 of NCA)			
(Stage-2) Implementing Union based on democracy and federal system				
(Stage-3) Strengthening Union based on democracy and federal system				

Union Accord Part III Addendum (c)
Agreement 3
Fundamental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and the federal system
(21 August 2020)

Prelude

With the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be developed into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions.

1. Democracy and federal system will be based on developing the country into a Union.
2. A separate and independent Constitutional Tribunal will be established to settle disputes related to the Constitution between the Union and the regions/states or among the regions and states.
3. (a) Power, resource, tax and finance will be divided between the Union and regions/states in line with the federal system
   (b)The three branches of sovereign pillars— legislative, executive and judiciary pillars— will be shared to the Union, regions/states, and self-administered areas. Legislative powers and joint powers among the Union, regions/states and self-administered areas will be shared in line with the Constitution.
   (c) The Union and regions/states shall have the rights to exercise the divided powers on legislative, executive and judiciary sectors.
4. Due respect and equal authority shall be developed among regions/states.
5. Fundamental rights of all citizens and their duties shall be included in the Constitution. Every citizen shall have equal rights before the law and shall have equal legal protection. Law must be enacted for the rights of national races to protect their cultures, literature, languages, faiths and traditions.

Note: Regions/states shall have equal powers. The description of names will be discussed in next meetings.)

97 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Hong Kong, Macau

A total of 97 Myanmar nationals stranded in Hong Kong and Macau special administrative regions came back home yesterday. Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) relief flight bringing back the Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returning from Hong Kong and Macau queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

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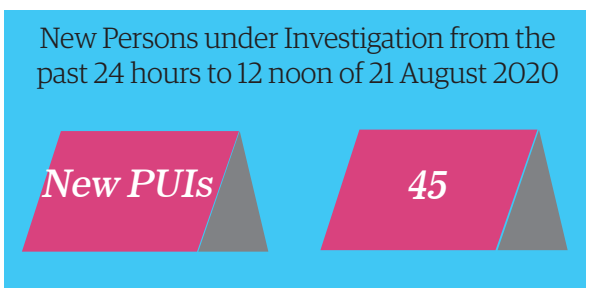
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

20 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 21 August, total figure reaches 419

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **419** after **20** new cases were reported on 21 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. The case No. 410 had contact with case-377 and case-415,417,418 and 419 with case-395. The others had no contact with positive cases and overseas travel history. Out of the **419** confirmed cases, **six** died, **337** have recovered, **331** have been discharged from hospitals and **45** were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 21 August 2020





Ministry of Health and Sports

YRTA sells over 40,000 YPS cards as of 17 August



A customer uses a YPS card to pay for YBS ride in Yangon in August 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 40,000 YPS payment cards have been sold in a month, said Joint Secretary U Hla Aung of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

YRTA started to sell YPS payment cards on 16 July. A total of 12,194 standard cards and 29,314 promotion cards have been sold as of 17 August.

At present, the YPS payment cards are available on 1,290 YBS buses including five bus lines from YBPC Company, five bus lines from Bandoola Transportation Company and 15 bus lines from YUPT Company.

YRTA has also planned to install more YPS payment machines in the remaining YBS buses.

If the YPS payment card users lose the YPS card, the card can be closed in the service centre by mentioning the code number which is shown on the back of the YPS card to prevent loss of their money for the lost cards. So, the card users need to carry photos of their YPS cards to save the code number.

Authorities are planning to arrange to buy the YPS cards through registration of the ID. Currently, the YPS cardholders need to scan the cards to pay for a single bus journey when getting on and getting off from the YBS. The YPS machines will cut the only K200 for the fare. Later, the YPS machines will change the fares depending upon the distance of the journey.

The YPS payment cards can be purchased in three service centres located in Thamaing, Tamway and Sule and 102 g&g convenient stores. Moreover, YPS cards can also be purchased at city hall bus stations, Eight Mile bus station, Myanmar Plaza bus station and Parami Nyaungbin bus station, according to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Company.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

KBZ MS grants health, life insurance coverage to top agents

THE KBZ MS General Insurance hosted a ceremony to present health and life insurance coverage to top insurance agents as its Agent Health and Wellness Safeguard Programme at Strand Square yesterday.

The Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and officials presented health and life insurance policies to the agents.

"It is the 2nd time that we give health and life insurance to the agents who conform to our specifications.

The insurance policy was given to 81 agents last year and to 79 this year.

If the agents who try to protect the lives and properties of customers incur losses due to the unpredictable negative situations, they can get the really needed aids under the proper insurance coverage.

They will need such aids during this challenging situation," said Mr Jyothish Parameswaran Monhini, Head of Commercial.

The Agent Health and Wellness Safeguard Programme will offer fixed insurance coverage in case of illness, accidents, surgical operation, abortion and death under Aryawjan programme or Sandar programme or Duwon programme of Corporate Package which is one of the insurances of KBZ MS.

IKBZ cooperated with Japanese insurance company MSI and started the business as KBZ MS General Insurance, in 2019. — GNLM



KBZ MS hosts a ceremony to present health and life insurance coverage to top insurance agents on 21 August 2020. **PHOTO: KBZ MS**

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

POSCO International donates diagnostic kits to MoHS

POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) donated RT-PCR machine and diagnostic reagents to the Ministry of Health and Sports for diagnosis of COVID-19 at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A ceremony to present certificates of honour to POSCO International Cooperation, a joint-ventured company with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and other donor companies was also held at the ministry.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Ministers for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw, officials from relevant departments, POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) Managing Director Mr Jung Hwan Lee and officials, electricity, and energy partner companies' officials and invited guests.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said that POSCO International Corporation was implementing Corporate Social Responsibility- CSR programmes in education, health, social, infrastructure and environmental conservation sectors at their projects' areas.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the corporation for not only donating to the project areas' quarantine centres and hospitals but also for contributing some US$ 200,000 for COVID-19 preventive materials for the hospitals in Yangon where most of the COVID-19 patients are being treated.

The cooperation also donated diagnostic reagents, which were imported from Korea and can do 10,000 tests, to MoHS on 18 April.

The Union Minister thanked to other Electricity and Energy partnership companies and Oil and Gas partnership companies for their donations for combatting COVID-19.

POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) explained its CSR programmes with video clips.

Union Minister U Win Khaing handed over the RT-PCR machine and other medical supplies donated by POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E& P) to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, who returned certificates of honour.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (centre right) accepts the diagnostic kits donated by POSCO International Cooperation (Myanmar E&P) on 21 August. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Than Kyaw gave certificates of honour to the officials of 23 companies which donated medical equipment for combatting COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said the lab tests are very important for combatting COVID-19, and the donated RT-PCR machine and diagnostic reagents will be greatly beneficial for combatting COVID-19 after timely testing people for the virus.

The ministry is currently working on controlling the spread of COVID-19 that was recently found in Rakhine State by issuing instructions and setting up plans in line with the central committee's guidelines not to spread the virus in other regions.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)

Govt provides cash for IDP camps, assistance for COVID-19 temporary quarantine centres in Rakhine

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held an online discussion yesterday to provide cash assistance to internally displaced persons at IDP camps in Rakhine State under the Government CERP and to construct temporary quarantine centres for the patients with suspected or confirmed cases COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, ministers of state government, directors-general, deputy directors-general of the ministry joined the meeting.

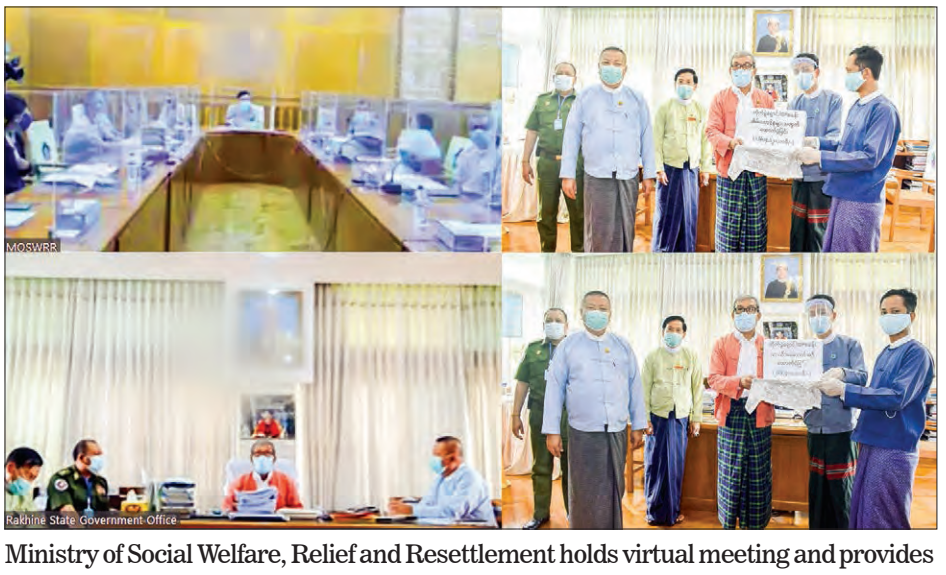
The Union Minister said that the ministry made preparations since WHO declared coronavirus a pandemic and set standard operating procedure (SOP) for preventing COVID-19 at the IPD camps and refugee camps in Rakhine State. The procedures are also set how to do if some suspected patients are found at the camps and the cash assistance is contributed to construct shelters to place such patients.

When the government conducted CERP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement mainly carried out for the sake of people, said the Union Minister, adding the cooperation works to settle the current difficulties of Rakhine State government.

The Director-General of Social Welfare Department and the Deputy Director-General of Rehabilitation Department briefed the programmes regarding cash assistance to elderly between the age of 80 and 85 years, people with disabilities and expecting mothers across the nation for one time under CERP.

They continuously explained that the MCCT programme intends to support cash assistance to the pregnant women in Rakhine State until their child reaches two years old and so they would not be concerned with this one-time cash assistance programme. But they will receive the assistance of MCCT programme in accordance with the rules set in COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Rakhine State Disaster Management Department presented a total of K1,604,120,000 cash assistance for 40,103 households at IDP camps in Rakhine State under CERP and K266,400,000 to construct 30 Long Houses to place the infected or suspected patients under the ministry's plan to the Rakhine State Chief Minister.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*



Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement holds virtual meeting and provides cash assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State on 21 August. **PHOTO:MNA**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (042W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (042W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** 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 PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KONG QUE SONG

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KONG QUE SONG VOY. NO. (79)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2020** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S COSCO SHIPPING SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO LTD

Glazed Cetis in Bagan

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



Bagan's glazed pagoda Ngakywe Nataung.

ARCHITECTURAL works, masonry floral works and mural paintings as well as glazed works can be seen in Bagan world's heritage site where there remain 3,882 ancient buildings including stupas, temples and virgin mounds. In Bagan era, people built temples and stupas decorated with earthen wares coated by glaze and shale wares coated by glaze.

As such, glazed earthen wares can be seen at 26 Cetis and glazed shale works at five Cetis in Bagan cultural area.

Art of glaze coating

Glaze wares were used on a wider scale in Bagan in 8th Century AD. Glaze was used not only in making utensils but also at religious edifices such as temples and stupas. An art of coating glaze on shale pieces developed in Bagan era from 11th to 13th centuries to create works of Jataka and make glazed terracotta decorated on the walls of stupas and temples.

Mostly, glazed terracotta plaques depicted plots of Jataka from 500 lives of the Lord Buddha. Some plots were captioned. Bagan's glazed terracotta plaques are tangible cultural heritages and its making art, intangible cultural heritages.

Glaze in Bagan

The UNESCO recognized Bagan cultural area as the World Heritage Site in 2019 as the area has been a focal point of national favours and cultural heritages.

Bagan located in NyaungU District of Mandalay Region, takes a position on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River, four miles from NyaungU. Bagan is located on 13 kilometres long and six kilometres wide. It is 612 kilometres from Yangon along motor road and 468 miles along the water course of Ayeyawady River.

Ancient Bagan City State was ruled by the dynasty from King Pyinpya (846-876 AD) to King Saw Mon Nit (1325-1368 AD) but experts remarked there was no firm historical evidence for early kings of Bagan before King Anawrahta. In the reign of King Anawrahta, Bagan became the united first Myanmar Empire.

Bagan was very prosperous in the 10th century AD when kings and people built stupas and temples, religious edifices and monasteries. Bagan flourished after deterioration of Sri Kestra, so Buddhism of Sri Kestra moved to Bagan as a support from Suvannabhumi, according to the remarks of Saya U Bo Kay. Ngakywe Nataung Stupa and other stupas with Pyu architectural works similar to Bawbawgyi and Phayagyi stupas from Sri Kestra can be seen in Bagan till today.

At that time, art of sculpture, art of painting and art of construction from India might flow into Bagan so as to emerge an



A glazed terracotta plaque from Mingala Stupa.

art of Bagan.

In Bagan era when cultural works strengthened, glazed ware production much flourished. As such, art of glaze wares developed in Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan and Konbaung eras. Some evidences were found that some parts of Rakhine area used glazed wares.

After the reign of King Anawrahta, stupas and temples built around Bagan were decorated with glazed wares on a wider scale. As of 11th century AD, stupas and temples in Bagan were seen with glaze works.

Glazed wares were used in Bagan era with evidences which showed the ink inscriptions expressed on the wall of the prayer hall of Alodawpyae Pagoda in 556 AD.

Pagoda (south of Alodawpyae Pagoda), Atwin Ceti (near Lawka Okshaung Stupa), backdrop of Yadanagara Monastery (north of Maha Bawdi Pagoda), Hman Pagoda (near Kutheinnayon Pagoda), Soe Min Gyi Ceti, the temple near Bulethee Pagoda, (southwest of Alodawpyae Pagoda) and the building, southwest of Hman Pagoda near Kutheinnayon Pagoda.

Likewise, glaze-coated shale works can be seen at Shwezigon Pagoda, Htilo Minlo Pagoda, Tayokpyae Pagoda and a temple near Bulethee Pagoda in Bagan cultural area and the glaze-coated tiles excavated from the palace of King Kyansittha.

Glaze-coated shale tiles were decorated at the diamond stands on terraces of Cetis in trance to Bagan was not found, many experts accepted King Kyansittha (1084-1113 AD) built the temple in 1090. Buildings on four sides of the temple were roofed with tiers. Interior and exterior of the temple tunnel were decorated with Buddha images, statues and pictures of Jatakas. Four standing Buddha images were kept in four dimensions of the cave of the temple.

Ananda Temple was decorated with Myanmar architectural works, stone sculpture, masonry, wooden sculptural works and bronze works. Base and roof of the temple were filled with colourful glaze terracotta plaques. More than 920 years old Ananda Temple is the most eminent among ancient stupas and temples in Bagan.

Chauk, north of Myinkapa Village. Mingala Stupa was decorated with glazed terracotta similar to Shwezigon Pagoda. A total of 1,245 glazed terracotta plaques were used in construction of the brick structure of the stupa and terraces. Among them, 749 plots lost glazed plaque.

Mingala Stupa's four corners were built with four encircled Cetis. Two of them in southeast and southwest corners were decorated with glazed bricks on which ornamental motif in stucco depicting an ogre were illustrated.

Dhamma Razaka Pagoda filled with glazed terracotta plaques takes a position near Thitmahtee Monastery in Phwasaw Village. It was built by King Narapatisithu in 558 ME. Three



A glazed terracotta line at the base of Ananda Temple.

Glazed Cetis and pagodas

Saya Minbu Aung Kyaing mentioned that baked earthen wares coated by glaze were found at Kantawpalin Pagoda, Htilo Minlo Pagoda, Mingala Ceti, Dhamma Razaka Pagoda, Shwehsandaw Pagoda, Hsinmyashin Pagoda, Yadana Manaung Pagoda, Grocho Pagoda, Taungtawet Temple, Pha Pagoda, Thayetkyin Pagoda, Ngakywe Nataung Stupa, Glaze Ceti (west of Alodawpyae Pagoda), Culamani Temple, Nagayon Pagoda, Shwegugyi Pagoda, Sintkwet Bagan for having glittering of works under sunray. Green glaze tiles were shaped with square or triangular yellow tiles. Among them, glaze wares depicting plots of 550 Jataka can be seen at Shwezigon, Ananda, Dhamma Razaka, Shwehsandaw and Mingala stupas and temples.

Glazed terracotta plaques at pagodas in Bagan

Although stone inscription on the date of building Ananda Temple taking a position in southeast of Tharapa Gate en-

The glazed terracotta plaques at Ananda Temple are the best among others in Bagan. Experts assume such kinds of glazed terracotta plaques at Ananda Temple might be made before baking. Moreover, Ananda Temple was not built with ladder leading onto the upper terrace, so things on the terrace could be kept away from touching of people.

Mingala Stupa built by King Narathihapatae called King Tayokepyay is located beside the motor road from Bagan to

terraces in pentagonal shape were decorated with 550 Jataka plots on glaze-coated bricks. Most of glaze works were damaged. Glazed terracotta plaques on the fourth terrace were shaped in diamond.

Bagan's glaze kiln

Seven old glaze kilns were found in Bagan. No 1 kiln was excavated by Senior Research Officer U Kyaw Nyein of Myanmar Research Work Group and Mr S. D. Strologo of Public Housing Rehabilitation Board-PHRB in July 1963. Such kiln was 150 yards southeast to Myinkapa Village. They found baked soil mixed with glaze, broken pieces of pots and glaze-coated earthen wares. But, it was just a kiln to bake glazed pots and cups, not related to glazed terracotta plaques from stupas and temples in Bagan, according to the year report of the Director of Archaeology (1962-63). Bagan glaze kiln No 1 was unearthed again by a glaze expert from Australia and staff from Bagan branch of Department of Archaeology.

No 2 glaze kiln located in a residence near Nann Pagoda, south of Myinkapa Village, was on the lane of cycling before 1988. So, the Department of Archaeology built a detour to the kiln and excavated it to be maintained. Brims of the kiln were dyed with green and yellow glaze.

No 3 kiln took a position, southwest of Myinkapa Village and south of ShweUmin monastery, 250 metres from No 2 kiln and near the bank of Ayeyawady River. The kiln excavated in 1989 is under maintenance of the Department of Archaeology.

No 4 kiln, east of Laytha monastery which is located northwest of Apei Yadana Pagoda, was in shape of oval, different to other shop. Fire hole of the kiln was built on the east wing. Brim of the kiln was dyed with green glaze pieces. No 5 kiln, 30 metres west of Apei Yadana Pagoda, was formed with fire hole and smoke hold. Broken pieces of glazed pots and glazed lava were found near the kiln.

No 6 kiln was located 137 metres west of Seinnyet Nyiama Pagoda, and pieces of glazed wares were found. No 7 kiln took 18 metres southeast of Apei Yadana Pagoda.

Firm evidences proved that glazed wares were produced in Bagan after glaze kilns were found in Bagan. Veteran historian Saya U Bo Kay remarked Ngakywe Nataung Stupa was the most famous one for glaze in Bagan, and glaze became a plane on some bricks of the pagoda, so glaze was coated on the pagoda after it was built of bricks.

Not only advanced Myanmar architectural works but also glaze culture polished prestige of Bagan.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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MFF holds Players' Status Committee Meeting

MYANMAR Football Federation held Players' Status Committee (1/2020) meeting yesterday at its headquarters in Yangon.

Chairperson of the Players' Status Committee U Khun Naung Myint Wai, committee members, Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein and Myanmar National League Chief Executive Officer U Soe Moe Kyaw and officials attended the meeting.

Chair U Khun Naung Myint Wai made an opening speech at the meeting. He stressed that he would try his best for the Myanmar football development and finding solutions over general issues concerned with Myanmar football players. Also, he urged the players' transfer issue to be performed with the MFF rules and regulations.

Next, MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein discussed issues on football regulatory processes during the pandemic period and matters related to about 4,700 players for Myanmar National League I, Myanmar National League II, Myanmar National League U-19, Myanmar National League U-21, Amateur League, Futsal League, Women League and MFF Academies, and rules and regulations to be used in upcoming domestic football tourneys.

Football authorities also focused on rules and regulations to be used in contracts of local and foreign players' transfer issue. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



U Khun Naung Myint Wai, chairperson of the Players' Status Committee speaking at the MFF meeting on 21 August 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

Majority of Japanese firms against holding Olympics in 2021: poll



The survey results appear to reflect falling expectations for the economic benefits that the event would bring, with fewer visitors to Japan expected. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — More than half of nearly 13,000 Japanese companies surveyed are opposed to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics being held in the summer of 2021 following a one-year postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic, a research firm said Thursday.

In the online survey by Tokyo Shoko Research covering 12,857 companies, 27.8 per cent said they want the Tokyo Games to be cancelled while 25.8 per cent said the sporting event should be postponed again.

Under the current plan, the Olympics will begin on July 23, and the Tokyo Games' organizers and the International Olympic Committee have agreed to simplify the event partly to ensure safety from the coronavirus.

The survey results appear to reflect falling expectations for the economic benefits that the event would bring, with fewer visitors to Japan expected, according to the survey conducted between July 28 and Aug. 11.

While a combined 53.6 per cent of the responding firms are not in favor of holding the Olympics as currently planned, 46.2 per cent said they want the games to go ahead in some way. The survey found 22.5 per cent in favour of holding the Olympics as planned. Some 18.4 per cent prefer the event to be held but with fewer spectators and 5.3 per cent without any spectators.—Kyodo ■

Four share Northern Trust lead as PGA playoffs begin

SYDNEY — Australia's Cameron Davis fired a seven-under par 64 to share the lead with Americans Harris English, Kevin Streelman and Russell Henley after Thursday's opening round of the US PGA Northern Trust.

Davis, chasing his first US PGA title, made eight birdies against a lone bogey on his penultimate hole to join the US pack atop the leaderboard in the FedEx Cup playoff opener at TPC Boston.

"My game suits this place pretty well," the 25-year-old from Sydney said. "We've got to hit our irons well. I felt like all I had to do was play a nice solid round of golf.

"I was able to get a few more putts to go in and that's nice to see. Nice to finally get a low one."

Davis opened and closed the back side, his opening nine holes, with back-to-back birdies on putts inside six feet and added a 12-foot birdie putt at 14.

The Aussie added 21-foot birdie putts at the par-5 second and par-4 sixth but found brush at the par-3 eighth and took a bogey.—AFP ■

Settled at last, Neymar ready to deliver for PSG on biggest stage

LISBON — Paris Saint-Germain's fortunes in the Champions League in recent years have been inextricably linked to those of Neymar, even before they bought the Brazilian for a world record fee, and if he maintains his recent form in Sunday's final it may make the difference against formidable Bayern Munich.

At 28, Neymar is desperate to get his hands on another Champions League winner's medal, five years after he won the competition with Barcelona.

If he can play the starring role in a PSG victory -- while Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus were absent altogether from the 'Final Eight' and Lionel Messi and Barcelona went home in disarray -- he will perhaps be accepted as the best player in the world, even with no Ballon d'Or in this pandemic year.

It would be good timing for Netflix too, with the streaming service currently working on a documentary series about his season in Paris according to reports in Brazil.

And for PSG and their Qatari owners, it would validate their decision to pay 222 million euros ($264 million) to take him from Barcelona three years ago, after his first two seasons in the French capital were overshadowed by injury and constant reports that he was unsettled.—AFP ■



Neymar has put his first two, difficult years in Paris behind him to play an outstanding role in their run to this season's Champions League final in Lisbon. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**