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GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 131, 7th Waxing of Wagaung 1382 ME

www.gnlnm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 25 August 2020

President U Win Myint participates in 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Video Conference Meeting; Myanmar takes over MLC Co-chairmanship for next 2 years



President U Win Myint participates in the Video Conference of the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting from his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

U WIN Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar participated in the Video Conference of the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting at 8:00 am yesterday from the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Lao PDR and Mr Li Keqiang, Premier of

the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam also participated in the meeting.

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He also stressed the importance of MLC's collective strength in promotion of peace and prosperity in the region and in addressing non-traditional security challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism and trafficking of firearms and ammunition.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Toshimitsu Motegi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (R) and Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Toshimitsu Motegi (L) meet in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received and held a bilateral meeting with Mr Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan who is on an official visit to Myanmar at 2:00 pm on 24 August at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, the Permanent Secretary, and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan also attended the meeting.

At the meeting, they cordially ex-

changed views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, Japan's continued support to Myanmar in the fight against the COVID-19, continued arrangements of relief flights for citizens of both countries and gradual reopening of cross-border travel between Myanmar and Japan, sending an observer team and Japan's assistance for the general elections to be held in November in Myanmar, Japan's continued support for Myanmar Government's efforts for democratization, peace and national reconciliation processes, plans to cooperate between Myanmar and Japan to facilitate the rapid economic recovery of Myanmar in the post COVID-19 period,

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves National Planning Bill, hears loan proposal for Thanlwin River crossing bridge

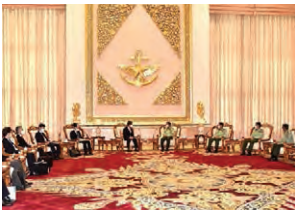
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PYIDAUNGSSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves National Planning Bill, hears loan proposal for Thanlwin River crossing bridge

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held the 12th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday, approving one bill and heard a loan proposal for construction of Thanlwin River crossing suspension bridge.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe put forward each paragraph of the National Planning Bill for 2020-2021 financial year.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win submitted a proposal for the bill which was then approved by the Hluttaw with the agreements of relevant Union-level organizations.

Thanlwin River crossing bridge



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win brought a proposal before the parliament for getting 8.4 million euro loan that

carries a zero interest rate from the UniCredit Bank of Austria.

Explanation of Union Minister U Han Zaw about the bridge

The loan is intended for

construction of a suspension bridge that crosses Thanlwin River in Tarsan. The bridge number 1/187 is located on Namhsan-Mongnai-Mong-ton-Monghsat-Tachilek road that linked the southern and the eastern Shan State.

It is expected to become crucial for border trade between Myanmar and Thailand.

The new bridge in Tarsan will have the 60-tonnes capacity and it will be constructed upstream from the existing bridge that is allowed for only 16-tonnes load, prohibiting 10-wheeled trucks from crossing it.

Moreover, iron railings for the bridge will be imported from Europe, and that Myanmar engineers will get new experiences on installation of iron railings

for the suspension bridge.

Proposal of Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win for the loan

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win asked for the approval of Hluttaw for the loan proposal as it will be under the Union Budget Law for 2019-2020 FY, the Public Debt Management Law, the 2018 Mid-term Debt Management Strategy and the development policies.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the proposal. The 13th-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 26 August.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Updated numbers from inspection of high schools for reopening

Officials from the General Administration Department and the Public Health Department, local authorities, Basic Education Department, teacher-parent associations and relevant persons carried out inspections of preparations to reopen high schools under the prevention and control measures against COVID-19.

Out of 7,173 high schools, the inspection was conducted at 7,129 schools from 17 July 2020 to 21 August 2020. The number of schools in A category for reopening totalled 6,573, the number of schools to be scrutinized again amounted to 530 and the remaining schools that need more preparations were 26.

According to the updated results of inspection from 21 July 2020 to 21 August 2020, the number of A-category schools has been 6,526, while more schools will be allowed for reopening after providing possible assistance as soon as possible.

Some schools in Rakhine State have been suspended to be able to conduct effective measures against COVID-19 spread although they were recently allowed for reopening. Moreover, some schools under preparations for reopening in this state will also be delayed.

The reopening of schools in Rakhine State will be arranged depending on the results of COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment.

Ministry of Education

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Statement on Ceasefire and Eternal Peace (6th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME) (24 August 2020)

1. The Tatmadaw issued a statement on 9 May 2020 in line with the international standards to enforce a ceasefire in the areas from 10 May to 31 August 2020, except in the areas where terrorist groups declared by the government take positions. The statement was aimed for effectively and rapidly carrying out containment, prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in Myanmar and restoring eternal peace, as well as the participation of the Tatmadaw in control measures of this disease with might and main for the interest of the country and the national affairs.
2. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of the United Nations on 23 March 2020 urged all groups to stop armed conflicts throughout the world, and his Appeal for Global Ceasefire was also released. In support to this appeal, the UN Security Council made a decision on 1 July 2020, calling for a halt to ceasefire of relevant groups in armed conflicts at least 90 days and to participating in COVID-19 control measures in providing humanitarian assistance amid COVID-19 outbreak. As a member country of the United Nations, Myanmar is also responsible for adhering to following international practices and the UN decision like other countries.
3. The Tatmadaw will continuously strive for control measures of COVID-19 in carrying out the interest of the country and the national affairs in its duties. For effective measures against this disease and for successful implementation of Union Accord Part III signed at the 4th session of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, the Tatmadaw will extend the period of military operations from 1 to 30 September 2020, except in the areas where terrorist groups declared by the government take positions.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

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.



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS
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President U Win Myint participates in 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Video Conference Meeting; Myanmar takes over MLC Co-chairmanship for next 2 years



President U Win Myint (L) participates in the Video Conference of the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting from his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020.
PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

A short video clip on the progress of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) was shown at the opening. During the meeting, the leaders reviewed the work and progress made under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, and cordially exchanged views on the future development of cooperation framework.

In his statement, President U Win Myint expressed his condolences and sympathies for the loss of lives and hardships caused by the COVID-19 throughout the world, and congratulated the governments of China and the Mekong-Lancang countries for their able management to bring the pandemic under control.

He also expressed his gra-

atitude to the People's Republic of China for the generous assistance rendered to Myanmar in its fight against the COVID-19.

The President stated that Mekong-Lancang Cooperation has contributed to the socio-economic development of the peoples of Mekong region, narrowing development gaps and complements to ASEAN Community building and implementation of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2030. He also stressed the importance of MLC's collective strength in promotion of peace and prosperity in the region and in addressing non-traditional security challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism and trafficking of fire-

He welcomed the timely expansion of new cooperation areas, in particular health sector, in order to cope with current and future global challenges. The President added that MLC needs to enhance cooperation in research and development of vaccine, for the COVID-19...

arms and ammunition.

Furthermore, he welcomed the timely expansion of new cooperation areas, in particular health sector, in order to cope with current and future global challenges. The President added that MLC needs to enhance cooperation in research and development of vaccine, for the

consideration of MLC's future work plan.

The President thanked the Government of China for its generous contribution to the MLC Special Fund which enables the implementation of the projects by the Mekong countries in synergy with respective national sustainable development strategies.

The Meeting adopted the "Vientiane Declaration" which will serve as a policy guideline for future work plan and the "Co-chairs' Statement on Cooperation of Synergizing the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor of the Third Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Leaders' Meeting".

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“People are the key”

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



President U Win Myint participates in 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders’ Video Conference Meeting; Myanmar takes over MLC Co-chairmanship for next 2 years

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According to the “Vientiane Declaration”, the MLC’s future course of action will attach priority to the post COVID-19 economic recovery, enhancing regional connectivity, facilitating sustainable development, enhancing cooperation on Public Health and addressing non-traditional security challenges.

After the session, a brief ceremony of handing over of Co-chairmanship to Myanmar

from Lao PDR was held and President U Win Myint took over the Co-chairmanship of the MLC from the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and delivered an acceptance speech as incoming Co-chair. Myanmar will serve as Co-chair of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation together with the permanent Co-chair, China for a tenure of two years.

Officially established in 2016, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation is composed of Cambodia, China, Laos, My-

Formulation of a mechanism to provide equitable assess without discrimination. Enhancement of regional connectivity and economic integration in facilitation of a smooth flow of trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contact were some of the points he stressed ...

anmar, Thailand and Viet Nam with the aim to assist regional efforts to achieve sustainable inclusive development and narrowing development gaps in the region, while promot-

ing peace and prosperity. The MLC Special Fund has provided funds for implementation of (51) projects in Myanmar to date in support of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Myanmar with a total value of US\$16.3 million.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretaries of the President Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting.—MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Toshimitsu Motegi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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further enhancement of investment and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

On Rakhine, the Japanese Foreign Minister stated their understanding on the complexities of Rakhine issue and expressed Japan’s willingness to continue extending support to Myanmar’s own initiatives including efforts for fostering harmony and stability in both communities.

The State Counsellor stated that the most valuable support is to assist the Myanmar Government in strengthening its own capacity to resolve its challenges. She, therefore, thanked Japan for its support in capacity building of security and administrative sectors in Rakhine State. Furthermore, the two sides also cordially exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the visit, the two sides reached agreement to continue discussion in mid September to reciprocally allow the resident track pro-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party (L) hold meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Toshimitsu Motegi and party (R) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

gramme after reviewing the situation of the COVID-19. Both sides will also continue to negotiate to relax restrictions for the entry of Myanmar technicians and businessmen to Japan under business track programme and for the entry into Japan of Myanmar scholarship recipients of the Japanese Government’s sponsored programme.—MNA ■



State Counsellor speaks on successful conducting of elections

The State Counsellor said she wanted to show that Myanmar was able to conduct the elections successfully and safely from the health point of view, in accordance with the rights and duties of the citizens for the dignity of the country; she wanted to show that the calibre of Myanmar citizens did not depend only on financial wealth but also on being dutiful, being disciplined and being loyal towards the country and that they were able to pull this off successfully.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions at videoconference on 6 August 2020 on preparations for conducting elections during COVID period)

State Counsellor's report to people about latest situation regarding outbreak of COVID-19 in Rakhine State

My fellow Union citizens of Myanmar,

When matters important for our country happen, our Government believes that the most effective way is to report to the people and cooperate with the people. I am reporting based on this belief. As everyone knows, beginning from last week, the infection spread of COVID-19 in Sittway has been very rapid. Because of the rapid infection spread, anxieties and concerns have risen. I want you all to see this as a challenge. A challenge is not something to be feared. A challenge is something to be overcome. I believe that we can overcome this challenge as one of the efforts of the State. Because of the infection spread in Sittway, we had to impose restrictions to make sure that people from Sittway do not go out of Rakhine State. It is not because we wanted to impose controls and restrictions. We intend to provide protection. In providing protection, we are protecting the whole country as well. We are also protecting the people in Sittway as well as people in Northern Rakhine.

How are we providing protection? We have made arrangements to provide special healthcare and support to Sittway and related areas. The Ministry of Health and Sports has made very careful arrangements. We will conduct health checkups on people in Sittway and other townships which might be impacted by the infection spread. We will also provide medical treatment. We will do all that is necessary. We have already adopted special programmes. We will announce in the government newspapers the kind of plans made by the Ministry of Health and Sports. It is to gain public trust by keeping the people informed. For us to succeed in this matter, efforts are to be made not only in Sittway and in Rakhine state. It is a matter for the whole Union. As I have said before, I want all of you to look at this matter as a national effort. We



PHOTO: MNA

can succeed only if all of us join in and work together. I believe we will succeed. At this time, some people in Rakhine State wish to leave the state. They think they will have more safety outside of the state. Once you are infected, it does not matter where you go, the infection will be carried by you. If you remain in Rakhine State; remain within Sittway, and you remain in the infected area, if you are infected, it would be quicker to detect the virus. Treatment could be given. The COVID virus is not incurable. The earlier this virus is detected, the more effective is the treatment. At the present moment, the borders between states and regions have been closed. The reason we do not want people from Sittway and from Rakhine State to go out to other areas is that we do not want the virus to spread. All respective re-

gions and states will have to participate effectively in these closures. Closures mean giving protection. We want you to think of this as protective measures. In doing thus, we need to be very vigilant. I have said this repeatedly. There is no such thing as being too vigilant. Compassion can go overboard. If we let someone go because we feel compassion for this person, the infection could spread all over the country. We are in such a situation. That is why we have to do our work with great care and vigilance. I have learnt that our citizens in Yangon have started to wear their masks again. This is in a way producing excellent results. Only now some people realize to be vigilant. I want Yangon to be extremely careful. I have estimated that the infection spread happened from 16 August; after that, I have heard that

there were some people who went from Sittway to Yangon by plane. If that type of incident has occurred, please contact the nearest health centre. After contacting this, please participate in a tracking interview where you will be asked where you have been and where you have travelled. If needed, they will give you medical treatment immediately. People in the neighbourhood also need to report if you learn that some people or friends from next-door neighbours and other streets have returned in this manner. It is not gossiping. It is not saying falsehoods with malicious intent. I want you all to understand that this is doing something that needs to be done. Rakhine State is a big challenge for the whole country. We had to experience a great deal of external pressures because of events that occurred in Rakhine State. In our efforts to solve the problems in Rakhine State, instead of effective cooperation and providing assistance, there has been too much criticism and pressures. We don't need to become disheartened because of these things. We can confront all these things with the collective strength of our people. In solving the problems of our country, there has been no discrimination with respect to religion or race. All our Union citizens should show that they have the desire to protect and take care of all those who are living within the borders of our Union. However, having such a desire is not enough. We need to show with actions. We need to show that we can do it. There is one very adorable custom of our Union citizens. As soon as they learnt about the disease outbreak in Rakhine State, one group of volunteers has now arrived there. One group of volunteers is now in Rakhine State to provide medical assistance and give necessary help. They are now in Sittway providing assistance.

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State Counsellor's report to people about latest situation...

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We have also invited other volunteer groups. We have not only invited them, but our Union Government will also pay all costs with respect to the medical assistance given by volunteer groups in Rakhine State. I feel very thankful to these volunteer groups. I am also very grateful to all our Union citizens who have donated various kinds of medicines and health-related materials. If we continue working like this, we will be able to overcome this challenge. Of course, we need to be very vigilant. We have a lot of work on our hands.

The Ministry of Health and Sports will issue guidelines. It's not anything new, some of it has been implemented elsewhere. Staying at home, restrictions on travelling, putting on facemasks which are extremely important right now, washing hands or using hand sanitizers to cleanse your hands, refraining from going outside as much as possible, preventing large gatherings, and keeping at least 6 feet in distance, if possible, between

one another. If each and every one of us follows these rules, then there is no reason for the virus to spread.

So, it is advised to follow these rules and guidelines. Doing so also uplifts the strength of the nation and also supports our stance on the global stage. There are different faiths and ethnicities in Rakhine State. These differences have led to acts of terrorism, turned into instability and pushed our entire nation into a level of embarrassment in the world.

I want everyone to see this as an opportunity to counter those claims and make things better. Please don't treat the spread of the disease in Sittway with panic, but with the firm conviction that we will surely overcome these issues. The Ministry of Health and Sports finds the markets to be the primary source of the infection because close inspection of the community and lifestyle of the infected people show that markets are the highest cause of infectious disease.

So, be careful when you go to the market. As we have

mentioned many times before, you must wear a mask, and the vendors need to wear gloves in addition to face coverings. Don't make large groups, too. Despite the warnings, our people seem to have grown a bit lax as time passed on. You might have thought there is nothing wrong anymore, but I hope you realize now that is not the case. Some people are asking if this is the second wave of COVID-19. It is not, and it is the disease just spreading in Sittway.

We can all work together to prevent the surge of the second wave in our country. We will protect Rakhine State in our nation. Cooperation is key. We do not choose a faith nor an ethnicity in doing this. We shall give equal assistance to all the people living in this country. I wish for all citizens to develop this mindset and help each other.

Another thing we have to consider is a possible change in the genetics of this disease, from a medical perspective, as the reason for the disease to be spreading this quickly in

Sittway. The answer is not clear yet, but we are trying to get to the bottom of this. If it does turn out to be accurate, there is no need to be alarmed. Follow our guidelines and be careful. It is only a consideration in our nation and other southeast Asian countries as well, and it's not a 100-per cent certainty. The genetics of the coronavirus that arrived is not that serious, and that's why there are remarks that it is not spreading that fast. But this is not to be taken as a fact yet, and it is merely an assumption.

It seems to be a slight variance in the genetics of this disease in Sittway. It could be making it spread faster as it most certainly is. But we have mentioned that we are capable of treating this. Treatment will be more effective if the disease is discovered early. Anyone who thinks they have been in close contact with people who have been infected should notify their nearest medical centres. Be careful of visiting strangers and report to the authorities as well.

We must be careful of peo-

ple coming in from restricted regions. We have designated plans to make surprise inspections in Sittway, and I urge you to comply with it willingly. There is no issue in being tested, but it will be a significant problem if an infected person goes unchecked. We will give immediate treatment to everyone who tests positive. No one will be left out. We will give everyone equal treatment. So, don't worry too much. The important thing is for us to work together. We must keep a calm head and follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

We will put these guidelines in our state-run newspapers again, and it will be disseminated through various media channels as well. The public needs to be mindful of and adhere to these instructions accordingly. May all citizens achieve the greatest gift of good health and find peace in your heart.

Thank you.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Zaw Htet Oo)

■ ■ ■

Rubber laboratory in Hlegu can issue quality certificates, says MRPPA

By Nyein Nyein

THE international standard rubber laboratory, constructed in Hlegu can issue certificates for rubber quality, said U Khaing Myint, the secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

"The issuing of the certificates for rubber quality will take five more months because we have to obey the ISO process. We could not do what we want, although our Ministry set up the lab. Our international standard rubber lab will run under the supervision of the International Rubber Association (IRA) and the ISO 17025," he said.

The price of rubber exported from Myanmar is lower than that of the international

market because our product doesn't meet international standard. The rubber growers need to produce the rubber in such a way as to meet the international standard to get the global market price, he added.

"We have to continue our process. Some people have the misconception that the laboratory can issue the certificates, and the certified products will fetch the international market price. The rubber growers are showing a high-quality sample of the lab, but they are producing lower quality products. That is why they could not get the global market price. Their product should meet 100 per cent international standard quality. We are trying to issue the certificates from the lab, recognized by IRA and the international traders can buy the

products safely," the MRPPA secretary said.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and MRPPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2016 and set up Myanmar Natural Rubber Quality Testing Lab in Hlegu Township.

Malaysia Rubber Board audited the lab in December 2016, and the lab passed Round Robin Test (or) Proficiency Test four times in 2017. International Rubber Association-IRA will become one of the accredited laboratories.

There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, and 80,000 of them can be produced later. Over 200,000 tonnes of rubber raw materials are exported to international market every year.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar nationals stranded in Singapore fly back home on 24 August

A total of 153 Myanmar nationals stranded in Singapore due to suspensions of international flights landed at Yangon International Airport by the Myanmar National Airlines yesterday evening.

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

and medical checks.

As per the directives of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and in coordination with other relevant ministries in Myanmar and the Myanmar embassies in respective countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged 15 relief flights and chartered planes to bring back Myanmar people from Singapore.—MNA



Myanmar citizens returned from Singapore queue for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 24 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Senior General receives Japanese foreign minister

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Toshimitsu Motegi and party at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed maintaining the good relations between Myanmar and Japan, the changing political situations in Myanmar, practices of COVID-19 guidelines by the World Health Organization, the joint control measures of the Government and the Tatmadaw against the recent increasing case of pandemic in Rakhine State, food security amidst the impacts of this disease on the global economy, medical supplies from Japan and its assistance to small-scaled industries in Myanmar.

The meeting also focused on military operations of the Tatmadaw on the conflicts in Rakhine State in line with the existing laws while protecting the defending spirit of security forces in this area, and extending



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Toshimitsu Motegi at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020. PHOTO:MNA

the period to suspend military actions from 1 to 30 September 2020, except in the control areas of terrorist groups announced by the government, in accordance

with international norms for effective containment measures against the COVID-19 and lasting peace. They exchanged views on

the successful holding of 2020 General Election on 8 November, ensuring the free and fair elections and sending observing groups from Japan, according

to the report from the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Japanese foreign minister visits Myanmar



Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Toshimitsu Motegi arrives at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 24 August 2020. PHOTO:MNA

FOREIGN Minister of Japanese Government Mr Toshimitsu Motegi made an official visit to Myanmar yesterday after he left Lao People's Democratic Re-

public during his regional trip. The Japanese foreign minister and party were welcomed by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe

Han, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut visits Taunggyi District Fire Station

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut visited Taunggyi District Fire Station in Shan State yesterday morning. During his visit, Lt-Gen Soe Htut met firefighters at the training centre of the District Fire Services Department where he inspected the demonstration of firefighting skills, and 15 new fire engines, two new rescue vehicles, and two new

ambulances purchased by 2019-2020 Financial Year budget of Shan State. Director of the Shan State Fire Services Department U Tin Min explained the operation of activities of the fire department. Lt-Gen Soe Htut then looked around the displays of firefighting and rescue equipment. —MNA(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut views the displays of firefighting equipment at Taunggyi District Fire Station in Shan State on 24 August 2020. PHOTO:MNA

Looking to Nov-8 general elections: responsible media help to ensure integrity of democratic process

THE Union Election Commission is committed to holding the 2020 general elections meeting five standards: they are free, fair, transparent, reliable, and harmonious with the people's desire.

Free and fair elections are a matter of dignity for country and the people.

A free and fair election does not depend only on voting rights, but also people's participation and the right of freedom of expression and freely receiving information. Only then can the public exercise power by voting for public policies they want to see enacted.

There are differences between the 2015 and 2020 general elections. The coming general elections will be held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. And the number of users of Facebook in 2020 is much higher than at the time of the 2015 elections. These two facts should also be taken into account when it comes to holding the 2020 general elections.

We are confident that the people will receive complete news about elections through balanced reporting by the nation's media, though with different approaches. At the same time, the media are obliged to uphold their integrity by preventing distribution of hate speech and defamation through their platforms.

Coverage of elections places the same type of responsibility on professional journalists as coverage of any other subject. It goes without saying that they must respect professional ethics.

Fairness and balance are important aspects of journalistic responsibility. Fair and balanced election coverage means that individual stories, as well as the pattern of stories over a period of time, contain points of view from different parties and/or candidates. It is not always possible to make every story equally balanced but a fair or representative balance between the competing parties and candidates can be achieved in the multiple stories likely to be published or aired during the election period.

Media people have a key role to play in this: providing information and analysis, functioning as watchdogs and being a conduit for voters' voices.

Only responsible media can make it possible for well-informed voters to freely make up their own minds.



At the same time, the media are obliged to uphold their integrity by preventing distribution of hate speech and defamation through their platforms.

The New Normal

By Lokethar

THE Corona Virus 19 Pandemic has affected countries around the world. With leading epidemiologists predicting that the pandemic will be around and continue spreading until an effective vaccine is developed, concern has been raised that humanity will have to adjust to a "New Normal" way of life to live in the Corona Virus-19 Pandemic period.

The word "normal" generally means "conforming to a standard". Hence a "New Normal" would mean conforming to a new set of standards on how to conduct our daily life. A "New Normal" would guide us as to how we should live, work and spend our leisure hours in the period of the Covid-19 Pandemic. How we live also depends on where we live. It could be in the cities and towns or in the rural areas.

According to epidemiologists, the Corona Virus 19 can be transmitted from human to human through the breathing system. The virus gets on to body parts, primarily the hands, so that touching the face with the hands, which most of us unconsciously do several times a day, may transmit the virus through our nose and mouth into our body. Hence frequent systematic hand washing for at least 20 seconds, is the standard set to disinfect the hands. It will halt the contracting and transmission from touching objects like door handles, banisters of staircases, push buttons of lifts and so on, which an infected person may have touched earlier.

Transmission could also be from breathing the "air" exhaled by an infected person, particularly when coughing and sneezing. Hence the use of a "face mask" to prevent transmission from others as well as transmission to others in case the wearer is an infected person himself/herself but shows no sign of it. Hence, both "systematic hand washing" and wearing a proper "face mask" are part of the "New Normal" to be observed in our daily life during the pandemic period. As a significant percentage of the transmission is from people who show no signs of the infection, from the safety aspect, it would be well to wear a face mask when we are in the company of friends or in a crowd of people. The most common complaint for not using a mask is that it makes breathing difficult. This is because people

are not used to the practice as yet. However in time, wearing a face mask will become a habit.

With regard to person to person transmission, it seems that the best way to avoid contracting or transmitting the infection is to confine ourselves to our dwelling place as far as possible. But many people are either unable or unwilling to "stay at home" because either they are not fully aware of the danger of the virus spreading or are just indifferent to it. Many are just bored with staying at home. Hence in countries/areas affected, the authorities have to step in and

use of the mobile phones and the suitable "apps", people manage to keep in touch with one another and this relieves the boredom of being in "lock down". With apps which allow group interaction with visual imagery, group chats and "seeing one another virtually" are also a "boredom breaker". This has become a "New Normal" in the context of socializing.

The "New Normal" involving the Internet has "spin-offs" to other aspects of living as well. Using the Internet for "home delivery" of food, medicines and other articles, is becoming increasingly popular

On line shopping seems to have increased considerably because of the Corona Virus Pandemic and the "lockdown" regimen imposed by the Authorities. In fact nowadays it has become more or less a "needed service" which will probably expand in the future.

Increase in "home delivery" system of buying food, medicines and other goods has seen a rise in the number of "courier service workers" who undertake the "delivery" to the customer's door. Increasing number of young persons are using bicycles to deliver the goods. It's good in the sense that a



People are seen wearing face masks in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

impose "restrictions" on peoples' movements and gatherings for the public good. "Lockdowns" have to be imposed to check the spread of the infection/disease. Where limited gathering is allowed, Social Distancing is to keep a distance of at least 6 feet between one another. The "Stay at Home" and "Social Distancing" are some of the "New Normal" people have to live with during the Covid-19 Pandemic period. In case staying at home is just not possible because of some urgent business or may be for buying essential food or medicines, then the recommended measure is to wear a surgical face mask properly and keep it on all the time while among people.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also, among other things, witnessed an increase in the use of the Internet communication. With the

in the current pandemic period. "food home delivery" is a sensitive area as the "shops" or "suppliers" who lack morality can "deliver" through the "courier service", food of inferior quality. Many customers don't bother to complain, but just may stop ordering food from the same shop or supplier. Perhaps "food home delivery" needs to be regulated by the authorities to conform to health and safety standards. Ordering "medicines" through the Internet is a very convenient mode of getting needed medicines when one can't go out to purchase them. The only snag is that "home delivery of medicines needs "more speeding up". In the case of the big pharmacies, a 24 hour service would be of great help, as most medicines ordered over the Internet is usually the ones needed urgently.

"New Normal" of delivery system has emerged creating employment for many young persons who can ride bicycles, bobbing and weaving through the traffic to make the deliveries. They should be required to wear cycling helmets to protect themselves in case of traffic accidents. Carrying many goods in huge baskets strapped to the carrier of the bicycle should be avoided.

A "New Normal" which again we would likely expand in the future would probably be "On Line Learning and Teaching". With new normal of "Social Distancing" set for gatherings of people, the same would apply to students attending the schools. To maintain "Social Distancing", the number of students per class room may have to be reduced. This would mean either two sessions, one

in the morning and one in the evening. Probably in the not too distant future hopefully, schools and their students would possess the devices needed, so that class room teaching could be alternated through the Internet with "Home Learning". Using the appropriate "apps", On Line "Group Teaching" could also be "blended" with face to face teaching in schools. The spin off would be saving time travelling to school and hence contributing to lessening of traffic jams. It would likely be sustainable even after the Pandemic period.

Another aspect of a "New Normal" is in the area of manufacturing. The other economic activities like agriculture, fishery, livestock breeding, oil and gas, mining and so on are not too sensitive as regards social distancing. As for manufacturing, if it is undertaken by many workers under the same roof, "Social Distancing" criteria may be difficult to impose. Hence observing social distancing would mean spreading out the workforce over a larger area or alternatively running the factory on shift system.

A further "spin off" of the Covid-19 Pandemic is "Working from Home". Although according to a local survey, during the Covid-19 period, working from home did not involve a large percentage of the work force, it is significant however that some big private sector companies have used the modality. For the Government Ministries and Departments to use "Work from Home" modality would require "digitalizing" of the documents that are now maintained in practically every Ministry and Department as "hard copy" files. However, "On Line" registration of companies has been successfully undertaken by the ministry concerned. On Line transfer of money is being undertaken by private "agents". On line banking is offered by many banks and On Line payments of bills is being successfully undertaken. On Line conducting of more routine matters would be welcome by the people. All in all, it can be said that the Covid-19 Pandemic is "speeding up" somewhat the digital transformation in Myanmar.

On the negative side the Corona Virus 19 Pandemic has adversely affected Myanmar's econ-

omy and it's robust growth rate. Consequently many people in all walks of life have been adversely affected. The worst affected by the pandemic are the workers, the poor and vulnerable. The National level Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Covid-19 has drawn up and undertaken the Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). Measures to address economic recovery, include monetary stimulus, budget reallocations, Covid-19 Fund and Contingency Fund, improving health care and so on. The CERP has established a Contingency Fund to finance several measures of "social protection" to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the most affected of the population. Help in kind and cash has been provided to them in accordance with the CERP. Social protection measures such as support in cash and kind for loss of employment, "Cash for Work" in the rural areas for rural infrastructure development and schemes to support small businesses and so on, are being undertaken in accordance with the CERP. It is hoped that the experience gained through implementing the social protection measures relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic will help in the establishment of comprehensive "Social Safety Net" in the future.

These are short term measure to see the affected people through hard times in the Covid-19 Period. Such measures need considerable funding to make significant difference to the recipients. Donors, local and foreign, individuals and organizations, have been contributing generously to the CERP Fund. The people have been providing help and assistance in cash and kind. This then is also the new "Social Protection Normal" in which all people in Myanmar need to participate to the best of their ability.

Hence all effort should be exerted towards the "New Normal" both in terms of the lifestyle we have to adapt to, the economic activities we have to re-adjust as well as to lending a helping hand to those who are most adversely affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic in Myanmar.

With charity to all and malice to none.



President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 31/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 22 August.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 22 August.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 26 August issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 18:00 hrs MST on 24-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (17:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (3½) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik has exceeded by about (3) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mingin has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Pasawng has exceeded by about (4½) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about (3) feet 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 advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in NyaungU, Monywa and Hpa-an townships to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning (Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 24-8-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Pakokku is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Chauk is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

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

8th media conference discusses election coverage



Union Election Commission Chair U Hla Thein (L) speaks at the eighth Media Development Conference at Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

THE 8th Media Development Conference was held at Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw under COVID-19 prevention guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The conference focussed on the role of media and their duties in elections.

Attending the meeting were Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, UEC members, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and department heads, Myanmar Press Council Chairman U Ohn

a fair and free election. There needs to be public participation in elections to implement democracy, right to information and making decisions based on the information, and for the people to engage in discussions as well.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivered the opening speech where he said the UEC has announced for the General Elections to be held on 8 November and it will be held in compliance with the 5 norms of being free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people. Elections are an important event for democrats

ganizations to inform people of voter education in the states and regions, and with Myanmar Music Association to produce songs and short films related to elections. The UEC is cooperating with Myanmar Press Council and the Facebook Team to ensure there is no conflict

while media personnel have been involved in drafting media laws. There are now discussions between the four pillars and press conferences from different government departments.

Dr Pe Myint said international technology development

of Information and journalists. Myanmar is transitioning into a democracy and sovereignty is achieved from the people. The UEC and MPC are conducting election information activities in advance.

Danish Ambassador Mr John Nielsen said the upcoming election can have different elements compared to the elections in 2015. The coming elections will be during the spread of COVID-19 and the use of Facebook has vastly proliferated in Myanmar. These are two things to keep in mind when planning the elections.

Discussions began after the opening ceremony on the topics of the role of the media in elections for 2010 and the comparisons and lessons learnt from the elections in 2015 and 2018. AFP Foreign Correspondent Daw Hla Hla Htay acted as the moderator for the panelists who included UEC member U Myint Naing, MPC member Daw Ei Ei Tin, Programme Specialist Mr Andrea Cairola

The people will receive comprehensive information on elections from impartial news reporting combined with different perspectives from different media organizations, said the Union Minister, adding that there should not be hate speech or targeted criticism towards a certain individual.



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint (L) and Myanmar Press Council Chairman Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing (R) deliver speeches at the eighth Media Development Conference on 24 August. **PHOTO:MNA**

arising from hate speech, disinformation and misinformation as the campaign period approaches.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said a wide variety of topics on media development has been discussed up to this 8th conference. He shared his opinion that Myanmar's media sector has continuously developed over 8 years. The censorship system was removed and private daily newspapers were allowed to publish resulting in the formation of media associations and then the press council. Media freedom became widespread and numerous discussions and training courses on media have been organized

in media should be discussed extensively and we should adapt to new media technology. He said we should discuss developing digital media systematically in Myanmar. The people will receive comprehensive information on elections from impartial news reporting combined with different perspectives from different media organizations, said the Union Minister, adding that there should not be hate speech or targeted criticism towards a certain individual.

Myanmar Press Council (MPC) Chairman U Ohn Kyaing said Myanmar's media industry has achieved success due to cooperation between the Ministry

of UNESCO's Communications and Information Sector, and Mr John Reiner Antiquerra, Programme Officer for Outreach and Communications of Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL). The panelists then answered questions raised from the online audience.

The 8th Media Development Conference will continue till 28 August and will cover topics on the elections and safety for journalists, practical use of codes of conduct during elections, elections in the age of social media, and election news, challenges and resolutions in ethnic areas and the states and regions. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Kyaing and council members, and invited persons from UNESCO, IMS Fogo, Internews, JICA, MYPOL, DW Akademie and BBC Media Action while officials from foreign embassies, UNESCO, NGOs, INGOs, foreign and local journalists, and others joined in via Zoom.

Mr Moez Chakchouk, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communications and Information said the right to vote is not the only aspect of

ic countries. The people need to get educated with election information to ensure the elections are free and fair.

The UEC has conducted election awareness campaigns and organized rules for voters and political parties campaigning to follow, which can all be viewed on the UEC's website. They are also working closely with the Myanmar Press Council to further proliferate the news, with civil society or-

Eaton extends distribution network with Myanma Power Spectrum

By Nyein Nyein

EATON, a multinational power management company, will work with Myanma Power Spectrum Co. Ltd. (MPS), a leading trading and engineering company to extend its distribution network in the country.

MPS was appointed as an authorized distributor for its Circuit Protection and Control (CPC) products in Myanmar. It includes Eaton's range of circuit breakers, distribution boards, switches, motor start-

ers and variable frequency drives to help meet the power needs of Myanmar's growing economy.

"Electricity demand in Myanmar has been rising rapidly, reinforcing the need for reliable and efficient power management solutions. Regardless of ongoing uncertainties brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, access to a safe and stable electricity supply remains a top priority, especially as organizations and businesses pursue digitalization while prioritizing safe power usage and compliance

in their daily operations," said Gary Ang, Country Manager for Indochina, Eaton.

"With MPS local expertise and customer knowledge, we're confident that this partnership will strengthen our capabilities to support the country's growing power needs, particularly in the industrial, construction, data centre and banking sectors," he added.

Kyaw Htoo Hlaing, Manager for Business Unit-1, Private Sector, MPS noted that at MPS, we endeavour to supply a diverse portfolio of reliable, quality products to support

our customers' power needs. Eaton has a long-established and proven track record of performance, efficiency and support. We're excited to be their partner to help more organizations in Myanmar, both public and private, optimize their electrical supply and distribution systems.

Eaton's appointment of MPS in Myanmar is the latest in a series of partnership agreements in Southeast Asia. With a growing network of trusted partners across the region, Eaton is better placed to support the fast-growing

economy as businesses race to embrace digital opportunities. With over 100 years of experience as a global multinational manufacturer and an established presence in the Asia Pacific since the 1970s, Eaton has carved a reputation for itself as a leader in power management solutions.

Eaton's 2019 revenues were \$21.4 billion, and they sell products to customers in more than 175 countries, with approximately 93,000 employees.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Kachin State starts selling applications for 286 manageable-scale jade mining blocks

APPLICATIONS for 286 artisanal and manageable-scale jade mining blocks in Phakant, Kachin State are available at One-Stop Service centre in the office complex of the state starting from 24 August, said U Nyan Lin Aung, head of township Department of General Administration, who also acts as chair of township mining block monitoring and proposal assessment team.

In Phakant, a total of 376 mining blocks for artisans were first called for applications, and 332 applications were sold. However, only 141 were submitted then. Kachin State government granted permission only for 87 blocks following the existing rules and regulations.

Dashi La Seng, regional Minister for Natu-

ral Resources and Environmental Conservation said that it is the second time that the state granted artisanal and manageable-scale mining blocks which were remained from the first-time invitation.

As per the rules of manageable-scale gems mining, a block is meant an acre. An artisan who wants to operate manageable-scale mining must hold National Registration Card belong to Kachin State. Only one block can be applied per census. Additionally, those residents holding NRC registered in Phakant were given priority. There is a competitive price on deposit rather than floor price if applicants are interested in the same mining blocks.

Those operators must deposit floor price

of K500,000 per one artisanal and manageable-scale block, along with registration fee K3,000, application fee K1,000, K50,000 for inspection charges and K100,000 for Corporate Social Responsibility fund.

During one-year after permit, they must operate using only small machines such as pumps, air ventilation, generators, drilling machines at the permitted mining sites, and heavy machines are strictly banned.

Those who have been granted permits for small and medium-scale mining are not eligible to apply for those manageable-scale blocks. The applicants must not be members of the board of directors from a particular gem company, Kachin State Mining Block Assessment Team stated.

The deposit will be refunded if they are not allowed for operation. If mining operators abide by the prescribed rules and regulations, they can extend the licence.

—Tar Ling Maung (IPRD)



Miners search for jade stones at a dump site in Lonkhin, Kachin State. **PHOTO SUPPLIED**

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Int'l Class (37): "Construction; Dredging; Civil Engineering Works; Pavement Construction; Renovation for Buildings; Construction consultancy; Operation and maintenance of building equipment; Construction and maintenance of building complexes, residential buildings, housing estates, commercial buildings, shopping centers, office buildings and parking structures."

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Int'l Class (42): "Drafting Building Designs; Surveying; Geological Surveys; Designing; Architectural design; Research on building construction or city planning."

Int'l Class (43): "Providing temporary accommodation; Hotel accommodation services; Providing temporary accommodation in serviced apartments; Providing food and drink; Hotel, restaurant, cafe and bar services; Carry-out restaurant services; Reservation and booking services for hotels, restaurants and holiday accommodation; Rental of conference rooms; Providing facilities for exhibitions."

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Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations participates in videoconference of 12th CLMV Economic Ministers’ Meeting

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun participated in the 12th CLMV Economic Ministers’ Meeting (CLMV EMM) which was held via videoconference at 8:30 am yesterday.

12th CLMV Economic Ministers’ Meeting was attended by the CLMV Economic Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat. The Ministers discussed the CLMV SEOM Chair’s Report and the progress in the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan (2019-2020) and endorsed the CLMV Action Plan (2021-2022). The Minis-



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun joins the 12th CLMV Economic Ministers’ Meeting (CLMV EMM) online on 24 August. **PHOTO:MNA**

ters also exchanged views on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in overcoming the challenge.

In his statement, the Union Minister stressed that all programmes under the CLMV Action Plan 2021-2022 are in line with the requirements and priorities of the CLMV countries and highlighted the importance of capacity building of financial institutions, particularly with regard to public and private banks which are executing two-step loan programme for MSMEs in the CLMV countries.

He welcomed the inclusion of “Pandemic Recovery Plan” in the Action Plan which coincides with the current efforts of COVID-19 Pandemic responses in the region and expressed confidence that the Pandemic Recovery Plan would complement existing regional integration initiatives.

He also informed the meeting of the measures taken by the Myanmar Government to contain the pandemic and ease the impacts on the country’s economy.

The meeting adopted the Joint Media Statement for the 12th CLMV Economic Ministers’ Meeting.—MNA

Guidance on infection prevention and control of COVID-19 in relief camps

THE Ministry of Health and Sports regularly provides healthcare services for those who stay in relief camps. The biggest challenge for COVID-19 prevention in relief camps is that the camps are overcrowded.

It will be more difficult to control COVID-19 in relief camps, so the roles of management and administration teams of the relevant camps are very significant in trying to effectively control spread of COVID-19. A total of 88 COVID-19 confirmed cases were reported in the Rakhine State until 24 August morning. Seventy-two out of the confirmed cases in the Rakhine State were reported in the period from 16 August to 24 August morning. So, COVID-19 prevention in relief camps is very important.

Unlike the COVID-19 spread in Yangon Region and other States/Regions just a few months ago, the new Covid-19 strain is more infectious and it quickly spread to a lot of people in a week. So, the people need to have strong health awareness for prevention and control of COVID-19.

- Region/State health departments
- In collaboration with the relevant health departments, the relief camps must identify the groups that are very likely to be infected with COVID-19, and arrange laboratory testing for them
 - The people staying in the relief camps must immediately inform the relevant health departments whenever any health problem arises. They need to know that the Ministry of Health and Sports will provide medical treatment to them free of charge
 - Camp officials must cooperate with the Ministry of Health and Sports in order that healthcare services including expanded programme on immunization are successful
 - To emphasize environmental cleaning and person hygiene at the relief camps
 - To read and adhere to the guidelines and directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports

- They must stay only at their local station of their organizations outside their duty times
- Assign duties to those who were tested negative for COVID-19 after their swabs were examined at the laboratory
- If any member of organization gets ill, they must not be allowed (entirely) for going to the relief camps and must report it to the healthcare centres
- The remaining members need to suspend their works and await to follow the directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports
- Transfer the ill person or the COVID-19 suspected person to the hospital immediately for medical treatment

Ministry of Health and Sports

Appendix Case Definitions for Surveillance

(1) Actions that camp officials must take

- In accordance with the attached guideline “Case Definitions for Surveillance”, health experts, officials at international organizations, camp officials, and management and administration teams of the relevant camps must collaboratively undertake “surveillance activities”.
- Health instructions sent by the Ministry of Health and Sports must be announced in Myanmar and Bengali languages via handheld speakers in the relief camps five times a day.
- To keep people six feet apart in the relief camps
- To provide enough water and enough “hand washing stations” (soap, water, wash basin and hand sanitizer) in the relief camps
- To arrange in order that wastes and garbage can be disposed systematically in the relief camps
- To avoid gathering in groups when distributing necessary things and food in the relief camps
- To abide by the latest guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports in spraying disinfectant in the relief camps
- To arrange (Isolation/Quarantine Places) in advance in the relief camps for suspected patients; if a suspected case of COVID-19 has been identified, the camp officials must immediately inform the relevant health departments about it
- The lists of people in the relief camps (increase/decrease) must be submitted daily to the relevant

(2) Guidelines for individuals at the relief camps

- Each person at the relief camp needs to wear face mask in dealing with the other persons within 6 feet in distance not to be infected or transmission of disease to others
- Not to make gatherings and organize events at the camps
- To avoid groups and stay at least 6 feet from each other
- Use disposable tissue paper or cover with the elbow-joint during sneeze and cough. Discard the tissue paper into the garbage bin with cover and then wash hands again
- Wash hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds frequently or clean hands with hand sanitizers in 60 per cent alcohol
- Those who are living in relief camps are (totally) prohibited from going outside the camp or crossing border area without permission. Legal actions will be taken against those who violate this rules.
- If some symptoms of this disease have shown on oneself, go to the nearest healthcare centre immediately

(3) Rules for the local/foreign organizations which are carrying out healthcare services at the relief camps

- The number of persons in the organization must be reported systematically to the state public health department

Suspected case

A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever, cough and shortness of breath) and a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset

OR

A patient with any acute respiratory illness and having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms

OR

A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath; requiring hospitalization) and in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

Probable case

A suspect case for whom testing for the COVID-19 virus is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory

OR

A suspect case for whom testing could not be performed for any reason

Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

Source: WHO – COVID-19 Case Definitions for Surveillance. 20 March 2020

MoC Minister attends opening ceremony of online expo



Union Minister Dr Than Myint joins the opening ceremony of Myanmar International Expo of Organic and Natural Products on 24 August. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint attended the opening ceremony of an online expo named Myanmar International Expo of Organic and Natural Products organized by Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization yesterday morning.

Participants at the event were from Myanmar, China, Viet Nam, Laos, South Korea, Japan, UK, Italy, Russia, United Arab Emirates, the European Union (EU), the United States and India.

During the event, the Union Minister said that like other nations, the Trade Promotion Organization organized the online expo to introduce high-quality products of Myanmar to international markets, and to find new markets. He said that Myanmar's economic policy focusses on agricultural products, and online expos will have an important role in the country's efforts to become an important food exporting country.

More than 50 compa-

nies from Myanmar, China, Viet Nam, Laos, and South Korea are exhibiting their products including rice, various types of beans, sesame, fruits, fishery products and other products. Business matching arrangements will be made during the period of the expo. More than 250 people from various countries registered their names to join the event, which is being held from 24 to 30 August. Those who are interested in the online expo can register their names at www.myanmarexpopark.com

myanmarexpopark.com free of charge.

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister and his entourage visited Resource Group Logistics carried out by National Infrastructure Holding Co., Ltd in Ywathagyi model Ward in East Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon Region. The company's Chairperson U Maung Kyay explained matters related to construction of buildings in Dry Port, construction of power regency fuel terminals, business operation, storage of fuel, and establishment of 50 fuel stations.

The Union Minister said that logistics service is very significant in trying to promote trade and pledged that he will help them for efficient operation of the Dry Port.

He also then looked around food, garment products, detergent powder, raw materials for soaps and detergent powder, flour, and other products stored in the Dry Port. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

ASEAN economic ministers, business advisory council hold virtual meeting

A virtual meeting between ASEAN Economic Ministers and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) was organized yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the participants discussed matters related to ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, ASEAN Business Awards, Digital Star Legacy Project, ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network, SGConnect, Digital Trade Connect and COVID-19 response.

Myanmar's Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh said that cooperation of private sector in efforts of ASEAN to lessen economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis is significant.

ASEAN Economic Ministers, Secretary General of the ASEAN, ASEAN-BAC Chairperson and ASEAN-BAC participated in the virtual meeting. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



ASEAN Economic Ministers hold meeting online with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on 24 August. PHOTO: MNA

Germany launches first 'green' bonds

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — Germany on Monday announced details of its first "green" bond placing, tapping financial markets to fund environmental projects for the first time.

The finance ministry said it would raise up to 11 billion euros (\$13 billion) in 2020 to support climate-related projects. The first issue in September of a 10-year bond, or Bund, will have a minimum of four billion euros in volume.

The German government announced late last year that it would launch the bonds in the second half of 2020 as part of its efforts to combat climate change. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (030W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (030W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2020** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
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M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for installation of Network configuration for Department of Medical Services at Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports.

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (4-9-2020), 12:00 noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-341163, 067-3411628, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Public Announcement

My partner organization, Pact Global Microfinance Fund(PGMF) is an official microfinance organization under the supervision of the Microfinance Supervisory Committee.

PGMF provides financial services to uplift the living standard and to develop the economic status of the grass-roots people. PGMF provides these services through its licensed offices in 89 townships across Myanmar. PGMF does not require any payment from perspective clients before loan disbursement and does not work through any kind of third party agents.

Currently, some individuals and/or organizations are deceiving people by offering financial services (loans) through using online payment with photos, information, brand and logo of PGMF on Facebook and other social media platforms.

My partner organization **never provides loans via ONLINE SERVICES under the name of Pact Myanmar Microfinance, PGMF, Pact Global Microfinance Fund, Pact or/and other similar names.** We therefore make this public announcement that we will sue any person or organization who uses the name, logo, or information of Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) for fraudulent purposes, in accordance with the existing Myanmar law.

By Authorization,
Daw Mon Moh Thet Htar (LL.B, D.B.L)
Advocate Lawyer(Sr-11770)
PGMF Consultant Lawyer

No.897, Bo Lin Yone Street, 12 Ward, East Dagon Township, Phone-09420116385

PGMF Head Office – HAGL Myanmar Centre Tower, No (192), 20th Floor, Tower (2), Kabaaye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.
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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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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.

Yangon Chief Minister inspects Myanmar-Korea Friendship Dala Bridge construction

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein inspected the construction of Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) project in Yangon downtown side on 24 August.

Dala bridge project is implemented with the loan of US\$157.83 million from the Republic of Korea and \$30 million from Myanmar, totalling \$188.17 million. The construction commenced in May 2019, and it is slated to complete in October 2022. The project is 16.15 per cent completed for now.

Mr Yun Ho Cho, project director of GS Engineering & Construction Corporation and U Kyaw Kaung Cho, deputy director-general of Bridge Management Department, explained the construction project and working process at the briefing room in the construction site.

Afterwards, Construction Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn analyzed it in detail.

The regional chief minis-



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein inspects construction of Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

ter highlighted the safety and project quality and inspected the construction site from downtown Yangon.

The bridge is 1,876 metres long and 26.5 metres wide, having a four-lane motorway.

The reinforced concrete bridge with bored piles foundation and steel cables will withstand 75 tonnes.

Construction Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Lee

Sang-hwa and officials from the Bridge Management Department and regional ministers attended the briefing.—San Kyaw Oo

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar officials join ASEAN energy meetings online

THE 38th Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) and Associated Meetings are being held from 24 to 27 August through videoconferencing.

Viet Nam is a rotating host country this year.

Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw, and government officials participated in the meetings from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw.

The senior officials meeting discussed the 7 parts to the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) which are ASEAN Power Grid, Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline, Coal and Clean Coal Technology, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Regional Energy Policy and Planning, and Civilian Nuclear Energy. They are also set to approve Phase II of the APAEC (2021-2025).

The associated meetings were held with the affiliated nations USA, Russia, Countries of



Senior officials from Myanmar join the 38th Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) and Associated Meetings via videoconference on 24 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

East Asia, ASEAN+3 members of China, Japan and South Korea, International Organizations and Dialogue Partners such as the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency, and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The ongoing meetings will focus on regional and international progress in the energy sector, protection and containment of COVID-19, and improving cooperation in the energy sector.

Officials from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will also take part at the respective meetings.—MNA

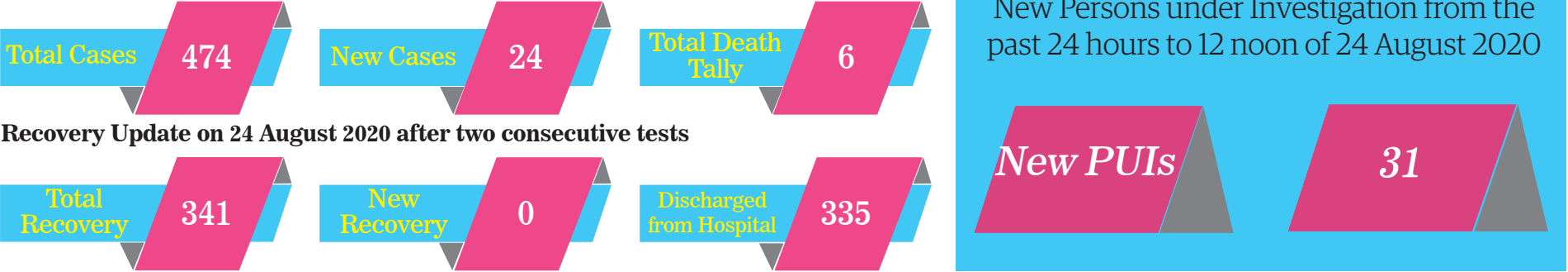
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters' lists.

24 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 August, total figure reaches 474

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 474 after 24 new cases were reported on 24 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 474 confirmed cases, six died, 341 have recovered, 335 have been discharged from hospitals and 31 were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 24 August 2020



24 new COVID-19 cases on 24 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
451	32	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-397)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
452	47	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-397)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
453	46	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-397)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
454	71	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-398)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
455	67	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-398)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
456	61	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-398)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
457	56	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-398)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
458	42	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-398)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
459	21	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-430)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
460	92	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-399)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
461	52	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-399)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
462	26	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-399)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
463	11	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-399)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)
464	23	Female	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	No	No	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
465	27	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Buthidaung Township)
466	21	Male	Paung Township, Mon State	No	Yes, (Singapore)	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	
467	75	Male	Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Buthidaung Township	Positive	
468	16	Female	Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Buthidaung Township	Positive	
469	15	Female	Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Buthidaung Township	Positive	Held under investigation (People’s Hospital, Sittway)
470	24	Male	Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case- 413)	No	People’s Hospital, Buthidaung Township	Positive	
471	28	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-413)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
472	12	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-432)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
473	57	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
474	27	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes, (Case-447)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	

Ministry of Health and Sports

To shape the future with your vote, let’s check the voters list.

WLC: First-ever female Lethwei title fight to take place on Friday

THE World Lethwei Championship (WLC)'s first-ever female Lethwei championship, WLC: Hideout Battle, will be held on 28 August, according to its social media.

The championship's main

bout is between France's Souris Manfredi and Spain's Maisha Katz in Bantamweight.

Myanmar's So Mi Ong Luk-tupfah and Uzbekistan's Artur Te will also fight in Bantamweight as the co-main event.

The other matches are Germany's Kristof Kirsch and Switzerland's Gligor Stojanov in Middleweight, Myanmar's Saw Phoe Khwar and Algeria's Nabil Anane in Bantamweight, Myanmar's Nakha

and Kyrgyzstan's Sherzod Kabutov in Light Welterweight, Georgia's Tophik Abdullaev and Belgium's Omar Mahir in Welterweight and Uzbekistan's Nur Mohammad and Mongolia's Myagmasuren Borkhuu

in Featherweight.

Canal+ Channel and UFC Fight Pass will broadcast live the event at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time (5 am Pacific Time, 8 am Eastern Time, 1pm London Time).—Kyaw Khin ■

Former cricket chief Sutherland lands top Australia golf job



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 6 June 2018 Cricket Australia chief James Sutherland speaks during a press conference in Melbourne, where he announced he will stand down in the wake of a ball-tampering scandal that rattled the game. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYDNEY (Australia) — James Sutherland was Monday appointed head of Golf Australia, two years after stepping down as the country's cricket chief in the wake of a damaging ball-tampering scandal.

The 55-year-old will take over from Stephen Pitt from October 1.

"I'm genuinely excited to have the opportunity to work in golf, obviously for Golf Australia, but more importantly for the sport around the nation," said Sutherland, who headed Cricket Australia for 17 years.

Golf Australia chairman Andrew Newbold said it was a coup to secure someone with his experience.

"He did so much in cricket at so many levels from playing to

financial and corporate to stakeholder relations," he said.

"He knows what excellent and elite look like and I can't wait for him to impart his vision on the broader golf industry."

Sutherland spent 20 years at Cricket Australia where he was credited with increasing participation in the sport, particularly among women.

He was heavily involved with the introduction of the highly-successful Twenty20 Big Bash League and day-night Test cricket. But he also endured a pay war with players in his final few years and came under intense pressure in 2018 when Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft attempted to alter the ball during a Test in South Africa.—AFP ■

Bayern Munich fight to keep hold of Champions League-winning squad

BERLIN (Germany) — Bayern Munich are already fighting to stop their treble-winning squad breaking up in the wake of their Champions League triumph despite sweeping all before them in Europe this season.

The German giants partied through the night in Lisbon after Kingsley Coman's second-half header - Bayern's 500th Champions League goal - sealed a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in Sunday's hotly-contested final.

"The best team in Europe wears red," boasted Munich-based newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung on its Monday

front page, yet Bayern are already in danger of losing some stars.

Both central midfielder Thiago Alcantara, 29, who has made it clear he wants a fresh challenge and has been linked to Liverpool, and centre-back David Alaba, 28, have stalled over extension talks with a year left on their contracts.

"I don't know," admitted head coach Hansi Flick when asked if Alcantara had played his last Bayern game.

"He doesn't know himself because all the concentration has been 100 per cent on the

Champions League final."

Flick expects to know more in the "next few days" while board member Oliver Kahn is "very, very" optimistic of keeping hold of Alaba, the only Bayern academy product in the first team.

Alaba, one of the first to console PSG's weeping star Neymar after the final whistle, has been linked to Manchester City.

One Bayern star has already left with Brazil playmaker Philippe Coutinho heading back to Barcelona after a year-long loan deal.—AFP ■



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the trophy after the UEFA Champions League final football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on 23 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

VAR to make debut in Asia's Champions League

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — VAR will make its debut in Asia's Champions League next month, officials said Monday, as the competition gears up to restart following a six-month coronavirus hiatus.

Video assistant refer-

ees have been introduced in competitions worldwide from the Premier League to the 2018 World Cup, but their decisions have often sparked controversy.

The technology will be used from the quarter-final stage of

this year's Champions League, the top Asian club competition, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement.

The quarter-finals for West Zone teams take place on September 30 and for East Zone sides on November 25, with a

single-leg final on December 5.

The AFC said the decision showed its "commitment to ensure Asian refereeing continues to set new benchmarks".

VAR was used in Asian football for the first time in the quarter-finals of the 2019 Asian Cup.

The Champions League, featuring 32 teams stretching from Saudi Arabia in the west to Japan in the East, was suspended in March due to coronavirus-related travel restrictions but is scheduled to restart next month. —AFP ■