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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The National-Level Central Committee on
Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
Announcement to people residing in Rakhine State
8th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(26 August 2020)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued Order 97/2020 dated on 26-8-2020 to announce that the whole Rakhine State has been put into ‘Stay-at-Home’ programme for effective control measures against the increasing confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Rakhine State.
2. The government will provide healthcare services, food supplies and the disease control measures required in Rakhine State, and that people residing in this state are to live in the respective places, and to avoid unnecessary travelling around and going outside the state.
3. People in Rakhine State are to seek approval from the respective departments and organizations for necessary travelling in case of health issues and other emergencies to other regions or states. They need to undergo medical examinations in cooperation with relevant departments and organizations at the destination place. They will also have to spend 21 days at the respective community-based facility quarantine in strictly following the orders and directives for COVID-19 control measures.
4. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by orders and directives under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The National-Level Central Committee on
Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
Public Announcement
8th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(26 August 2020)

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has recorded 181 confirmed cases of local transmissions of COVID-19 in Rakhine State, and has found the related cases have reached other regions and states.
2. Therefore, those from Rakhine State who made their visits to other regions and states for any reasons since 10-8-2020, or those who visited Rakhine State and returned to their regions and states are to inform the nearest health centres, relevant departments and organizations for undergoing medical examinations. They also need to stay at the designated community-based facility quarantines for 21 days in adhering to orders and directives strictly for control measures against COVID-19.
3. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by orders and directives under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Union Accord Part III, signing BIMSTEC Agreement



The 13th-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 13th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday, approving the Union Accord Part III,

signing the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Agreement.

Union Accord Part III
Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo sought the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the

Union Accord Part III.
The Attorney-General said that the government and the ethnic armed organizations

signed the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement on 15 October 2015, and it was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8 December 2015; the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee was formed as per NCA with the President’s Office Order 48/2016, and it was chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with the 48 members of Government-Hluttaw-Tatmadaw group, the ethnic armed organizations group and political parties group.

The UPDJC convened its 19th meeting on 17 August 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw, and submitted its agreements in three sections to the 4th session of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong organized from 19 to 21 August this year.

The three sections in the Part III are: the Agreement 1— 15 points of the framework agreement on implementing

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PYIDAUNGSSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Union Accord Part III, signing BIMSTEC Agreement

FROM PAGE-1
the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, the Agreement 2— the stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step in the post-2020 and the Agreement 3 — the five-points agreement of fundamental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system.

The Part III was signed by the representatives of relevant groups in accordance with Paragraph 20 (e) of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and it needs to be submitted to and ratified by the nearest session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw according to the procedures in the Chapter 8 of the Framework of the Political Dialogue, and the Paragraph 3 (l) of UPDJC work plan said that all the parts of Union Accord and the whole Accord will be submitted to and ratified by the nearest session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw according to the procedures.

After the discussions of the Attorney-General, the Hluttaw unanimously approved the Union Accord Part III.

BIMSTEC Agreement

The Hluttaw MPs then discussed the President’s proposal to sign the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Agreement.

MP Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt from Bago Region constituency 3 supported the agreement, saying as it stipulates



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin

that the decisions of BIMSTEC could be made only by the consent of member countries, and it also prohibits interference in internal affairs of the member countries.

She also made suggestions that relevant Hluttaw committees are needed to closely work for required legislation and other cooperation in relation to the issues of the agreement.

MP Naw Hla Hla Soe from Yangon Region constituency 10 discussed that the agreement could promote cooperation among the member countries which already have relations in geographical situations, abundant natural and human resources, historic background and abundant cultural heritage.

She added that the agreement could help mutual cooperation among the member countries to fight against in-



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo

ternational terror acts and cross-border crimes, natural disaster and climate changes, as well as elimination of infectious diseases.

MP Dr Than Win from Mandalay Region constituency 1 discussed the BIMSTEC Agreement supported the agreement as it includes cooperation of member countries in trade, investment, transport, communications, energy, tourism sector, technology, fisheries sector, agriculture, culture, environmental and natural disasters, public health, social communications, poverty elimination, terrorism acts, cross-border crimes and environmental changes, while the agreement was developed on the basis of sovereignty, border demarcation, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, peaceful co-existence and mutual interest for each other.



Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win

The topic was also discussed by MP U Ye Lwin from Ahlon constituency, MP U Maung Maung Ohn from Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 and MP U Kyaw Toke from Mandalay Region constituency 7.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained that Myanmar will sign the agreement with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at the 5th session of BIMSTEC Summit that will be hosted by Sri Lanka.

The Hluttaw then announced the approval of Hluttaw for signing the agreement.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe represented the amending bill for controversial Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens.

The Speaker announced his Hluttaw will handle the bill in line with its law.



Vice-Chairperson of the Joint Public Accounts Committee U Aung Min

Vice-Chairperson of the Joint Public Accounts Committee U Aung Min tabled each paragraph of the Union Budget Bill for 2020-2021FY, and it was approved by the Hluttaw with the agreements of Union-level organization members.

Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe also discussed each provision of Union Budget Bill for 2020-2021FY.

Followed by the discussions of Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, the Hluttaw approved the whole bill.

The Hluttaw also put the bill to amend 1959 Defence Services Act into record.

The 14th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 28 August.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoTC further extends international flight ban to end-Sept

THE effective period the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel issued on 29 March 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports was extended up to 31 August 2020 23:59 Hours Myanmar Standard Time, in line with the approval of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

In order to continue to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar effectively, the existing period has been further extended, in accordance with the approval of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, till 30 September 2020, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time.

Ministry of
Transport and Communications

New postage stamp honouring Myanmar bronze casting to be issued

THE Myanmar Post will issue a new postage stamp (200 kyats), featuring the Myanmar bronze casting work, on 28 August.

The new stamp is aimed to raise awareness among young people of the 10 Myanmar cultural art and crafts.

The stamp can be bought at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office, Mandalay Post Office and the post offices in every state and region starting from 9:00 am on 28 August.

The Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will stamp the date on the stamps and the First Day Cover on 28 August.—MNA

The new postage stamp depicting a sculptor at work is valued at K200. PHOTO: MNA

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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UEC chairman receives Swiss ambassador to Myanmar



UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received the delegation led by Mr Tim Enderlin, the Switzerland Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting focussed on preparations for 2020 General Election under the COVID-19 health guidelines, Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates, publication of booklets for the Code of Conduct by the embassy of Switzerland, formation of code of conduct monitoring committee and the election observation programmes.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with Swiss Ambassador Mr Tim Enderlin in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses 2020 Union Tax Bill

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on 2020 Union Tax Bill sent by Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairperson of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin, Vice-Chairpersons, Secretaries,

Joint Secretary and members of the Joint Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, MPs who submitted the amendment proposal, officials from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Construction, the Office of Union Attorney-General, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Vice President and Deputy Executive Officer and officials of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses a meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee focussing on the 2020 Union Tax Bill. **PHOTO: MNA**

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.



“People are the key”

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 97/2020
8th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(26 August 2020)

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in exercise of the rights contained in Section 21, sub-section (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time, people residing in respective townships are required to “Stay-at-Home” in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.

2. It is hereby announced that people residing in ALL Townships in Rakhine State are included in the Stay-at-Home programme:

3. People from the ALL Townships included in the Stay-at-Home programme must follow the following rules:

a. To stay only at their homes (Those who need to perform their duties at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces not included)

b. Only one person per one household to go out for necessary shopping

c. Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if a need arises

d. To wear masks when going outside

e. To allow only authorized vehicles, and ferries providing transportation service to those who are to going to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards

f. The vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for going shopping in

the ward, and only a driver and two persons for going to hospital or clinic

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

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

6. This order comes into effect from 8 am 27-8-2020.

7. This order will invalidate Order 93/2020 dated on 20-8-2020, and Order 96/2020 dated on 25-8-2020.

Sd/
Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister
Ministry of Health and Sports

Virtual meeting held to support in drafting Occupational Safety & Health Law

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held virtual discussions to support in drafting the Occupational Safety and Health Law in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung, Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li of ILO office in Yangon, Senior Technical Advisor Ms Mariana of ILO Vision Zero Fund, International Association of Labour Inspection Chairman Mr Kevin Myers, General Secretary Mr Ho Siong Hin, experts and officials of Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower joined the meeting.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said he welcomed the participation of ILO members and international experts in enacting the rules to protect the workers with safe and secure working environment and to promote scoping safe workplaces and health issues.



Union Minister U Thein Swe engages in a virtual meeting to support the drafting of the Occupational Safety and Health Law from his office in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Occupational safety and health issues play key role for the economic productivity of the country while challenges are faced daily in these sectors together with the development of the country, said the Union Minister, adding that productive capacity, safety and hygiene workplaces could be developed by the occupational safety and health law framework.

The workplace safety and health system are being carried out in the respective sectors under the separate laws, rules and organizations in Myanmar and the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department drafted the Occupational Safety and Health Law and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it in March 2019, he said.

The further rules, orders and directives will be released depending on the situation and they will be in place with the approval of the President, said the Union Minister, adding copying laws and rules of other countries will not be suitable for Myanmar.

Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li pledged to support the technical support in making law and ILO members, officials of IALI and Director-General for Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department U Nyunt Win discussed their suggestions and performance regarding with the rules.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

A challenge is not something to be feared

A challenge is something to be overcome



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.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor's report to people about latest situation regarding outbreak of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 25 August 2020)

China, Myanmar launch joint research projects

CHINA-MYANMAR joint research projects launching ceremony was held at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun and the Directors-General, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Consul Ms Yang Chenceng and other officials attended the ceremony.

The Union Minister said that 15 million Yuan will be provided for 10 joint research projects by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the universities and research organizations from both countries will cooperate in the projects.

The projects were chosen at

the first meeting of the Joint committee of China and Myanmar on science and technology cooperation held on 23 November, 2017.

The Union Minister said that 10 out of the 63 research projects from agriculture sector, water security sector, natural disaster mitigation and prevention sector, environmental conservation sector, traditional medicine sector, renewable energy sector, precision measurement technological sector and standard capacity development sector were chosen.

The Union Minister also expressed words of thanks for annual scholarships to Myanmar students and said that China and Myanmar began the diplomatic relations in 1950 and it had been 70 years in 2020; that cooperation on research and technology



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai on launching joint research projects between Myanmar and China. **PHOTO: MNA**

and exchange programme for young scientists would be carried out starting from that year to strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

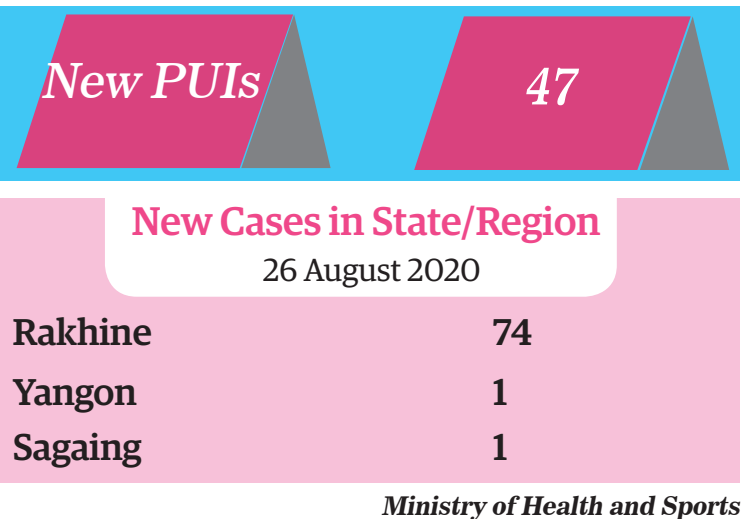
Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai made remarks and the Union Minister returned the certificate of honour.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

76 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 August, total figure sharply rises to 580

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases sharply rose to 580 after 76 new cases were reported on 26 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case-580 returned from USA. 27 cases had no contact with positive cases and no overseas travel history. Others had contact with positive cases. Out of the 76 cases, 74 are from Rakhine State, Case-506 from Yangon Region and Case-580 from Sagaing Region. Among these 580 confirmed cases, six died, 345 have recovered, 339 have been discharged from hospitals and 47 were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 26 August 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

Govt, public hold ‘trust building’ discussion under UN75 Initiative



Government officials and representatives from the private sector and general public hold an online discussion for trust building between government and the public in line with UN75 Initiative, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Anti-Corruption Commission led a videoconference under the theme ‘Building Trust Between the Government and the Public’ to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

As part of its strategy to supplement its 75th anniversary

ry, the UN has launched the UN75 Initiative to gather public opinion and crowdsource solutions to global challenges. The videoconference was attended by representatives from Union-level ministries and institutions, civil society and youth organizations.

In his opening address,

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi said there may be gaps between the gradual increase in the hope, services and freedom the public expects from the government and the government’s actual range of capabilities. This is a challenge not only in developing nations but even in developed ones and there needs to

be a solid foundation of trust between the government and the people to tackle these challenges.

The government needs to successfully achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and international and regional policy objectives to increase public trust. The

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is divided into 3 pillars; peace and stability, prosperity and partnership, and people and planet.

The Keynote Speaker, Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, explained the UN’s SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions – and discussed the 8 basic principles to cooperation and building trust between the government, the people and the private sector.

ACC member U Zaw Win acted as the moderator for discussion between representatives from 16 Union ministries, 2 Union institutions, 1 business organization, 3 civil society organizations and 1 youth organization. Interested individuals from banks, entrepreneurs, civil servants and universities observed the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, China hold videoconference on trade promotion

THE working group for easing and promotion of bilateral trades between Myanmar and China held the first meeting on videoconferencing on 25 August.

The Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce representing Myanmar and the Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (MOFCOM) took part in the discussions.

Director-General U Min Min of Myanmar’s Trade Department and his associates and Commercial Attache Mr Tan Shufu from the Chinese Embassy with three representatives attended the

meeting in Nay Pyi Taw while Mr Yang Weiqun, the deputy director-general of MOFCOM’s Asian Affairs Department attended the videoconference from Beijing with 12 other representatives.

The meeting discussed upgrading infrastructure to promote border trade, solving the traffic issue in the Muse-Shweli region where the bulk of border trade occurs, coordinating with Yunnan Province for transporting fruits, vegetables and fishery products faster, increasing bilateral cooperation on cultivation of opium substitution crops, continuing implementation of the Five-Year Development Programme

for Economic and Trade Cooperation, and supporting regional trade.

The meeting discussed at length on swiftly signing the agreements on ensuring agricultural and fishery products from Myanmar were free from diseases, compiling a list of new products Myanmar wants to import on basis of priority and submitting it to GACC, having GACC prioritize it, reopening Hosaung Gate No.4 and Kyein San Kywat (Mahnman-Nwanyin) Gate, and completing construction of infrastructure for border crossings.

They also discussed organizing the 3rd CIIE, 17th CAEXPO



The ministries of commerce of Myanmar and China hold an online meeting on trade promotion. **PHOTO: MNA**

and other trade fairs to promote bilateral trade, having trade coordination meetings, signing an MoU on e-Commerce between the commerce ministries of both nations, and promoting cooperation between the central banks of both nations to facilitate smoother banking and financial activities between Myanmar and China. The working group aims to hold its second meeting in March 2021.

The working group was established under the MoU signed Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint and Chinese Minister Mr Zhong Shan on 18 January earlier this year. The Chinese minister was part of the entourage of the President of China, Mr Xi Jinping, during his state visit to Myanmar from 17 to 18 January this year.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

ASEAN Tourism Crisis Communication Team holds 2nd special meeting on COVID-19

THE ASEAN Tourism Crisis Communication Team (ATCCT) held its 2nd special videoconference meeting on COVID-19 yesterday.

Malaysia chaired the virtual meeting and representatives from ASEAN tourism authorities, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ASEAN tourism marketing coordinator participated in the meeting.

The meeting aimed to present the progress of the implementation of the team on COVID-19

impacts, exchanging experiences of reducing COVID-19 impacts and the information related to the disease on the ASEAN website by respective ASEAN nations.

Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Than Win and officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the preparation of the analysis report on COVID-19 impacts on ASEAN region’s tourism sector; the coordination with related sectoral bodies to implement the ASEAN

Travel Bubble/Travel Corridor; the information related to COVID-19 on the ASEAN website, and ASEAN tourism market promotion.

The ASEAN nations coordinated to implement Digital Economy in Tourism Workshop and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework to be held in September, which was proposed by US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC).—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Members of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism participate in the 2nd special videoconference meeting on COVID-19 organized by the ASEAN Tourism Crisis Communication Team. **PHOTO: MNA**

UAGO receives distance learning equipment from US embassy

THE Embassy of the United States of America in Myanmar transferred US\$30,000 worth of equipment for distance learning capacity during a handover ceremony held at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the ceremony, Mr George Sibley, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Myanmar, briefed the aims of donation and further cooperation works.

Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo said that the donation is very supportive for the development of distance learning capacity of the UAGO especially for improving the works of the office and skills of legal officers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that he ex-

pressed thanks for the technical and physical support of the U.S. Embassy which provide distance learning system for legal officers and also for the equipment which have been already installed at the Region/State Advocate-General's Offices in Taunggyi, Loikaw, Magway, Haka, Hpa-an, Dawei and Sittway in addition to Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

(Translated by
Khine Thazin Han)

Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo addresses the handover ceremony of distance learning equipment from the US Embassy. **PHOTO: MNA**



Tatmadaw provides COVID relief aids to Rakhine State



THE Tatmadaw sent its medical units, medical equipment, food and necessities in a second humanitarian assistance trip to Rakhine State, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The military cargo plane left Yangon Airport and arrived in Sittway with the assistance to prevent, contain and treat COVID-19. The medical unit consists of an anesthesiologist, a lab technician, a physician, 2 medics and 10 nurses. The equipment include an oxygen plant, an ICU Ventilator (SV-300),

2 ICU beds, 3 suction machines, 3 pulse oximeters, 3 patient monitors, 3 infusion pumps, 3 syringe pumps, a video laryngoscope, a mini-centrifuge, 10 oxygen cylinders (40L), an oxygen concentrator (5L), 3 BP Cuffs, 5 UV lamps, and 134 different types of medicine and apparatuses.

The oxygen plant is capable of producing 6 oxygen cylinders per day and will help fulfil the oxygen demand for patients in Rakhine State. The medical unit and humanitarian assistance were received by Colonel Thet Naing Oo and officials from Sittway cantonment. Furthermore, the medical regiment and the Defence Services hospital in Sittway are prepared to take in 120 patients tested positive for COVID-19. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

3rd special cargo flight carrying medical supplies of UNICEF arrive in Myanmar

A special cargo flight carrying medical supplies of UNICEF to support Myanmar in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

The flight arrived in Myanmar under UNICEF programme and brought US\$836,568 worth of PPE sets and other medical supplies.

The UNICEF has pledged to provide \$2.8million worth of PPE sets and other equipment for Myanmar's efforts to combat the pandemic and this logistical arrangement is its third batch.

The 1st and 2nd special cargo flights arrived in Myanmar on 24 and 25 August and the 4th one is scheduled for 28 August.

The medical supplies will be transferred to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

UNICEF delivers COVID-19 test kits and medical supplies to boost the control measures and also supports with their skilled staff in the relevant sectors, according to the UNICEF—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by
Khine Thazin Han)



A special cargo flight of COVID-19 supplies from UNICEF arrives in Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Stay-At-Home order remains best option to contain COVID-19

ON Wednesday night, the Ministry of Health and Sports finally announced what many of us expected: imposing Stay-At-Home order on all townships in Rakhine State.

The order takes effect at 8 am today. Rakhine State has seen a surge in Coronavirus infection cases in a short period, compared with other parts of the country. In its announcement, the Ministry of Health and Sports said that it issued the order to effectively contain the spread of the infectious disease.

The need for this move is not in doubt. The coronavirus is infecting more people every day in the Rakhine State. Rakhine State is expected to see more infections, which also means more hospitalizations.

Those who travelled to Rakhine State have a responsibility as a good citizen to inform the authorities and to receive medical check-up for the virus infection even if they have no symptoms.

Because someone could be infected without showing any symptoms for several days, they could be unknowingly infecting other people ... who in turn could spread the disease to others.

Incidents like this reinforce the need for the rest of us to do all we can to prevent the spread of the virus. Covid-19 is going to be with us for a long time to come, so we must continue washing our hands, sanitizing, wearing our masks, social distancing, avoiding crowded places like funerals, weddings, clubs and other places.

This disease will not magically disappear. It will only recede when it is not transmitted to so many new victims. For the sake of our family members, and everything else we hold dear, let's all try to do what this order says: stay at home.



MANAGING FOOD SAFETY DURING COVID-19

Food safety in the time of COVID-19

By Wendy Pek Kui Lim

Citing from a published document by the WHO, the COVID-19 virus and other viruses cannot multiply in food; they need an animal or human host to multiply.

RECENTLY an operator of a restaurant in Kedah, a state in northwest Malaysia, who flouted the mandatory home quarantine rule after returning from India tested positive for COVID-19 on 28 July – resulting in the infamous Sivaganga cluster, involving his restaurant employees and patrons. Health director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Kedah cluster has a faster rate of transmission compared with nine other clusters in other states, possibly due to a ‘super-spreader’ strain of the COVID-19 virus.

This begs the question; how safe is it for us to dine out? How can we protect ourselves, not just as consumers but also as food handlers and operators?

Can I Get COVID-19 From Food Or Food Packaging?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), United States’ (US) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and many other public health organizations, there is currently no evidence that the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted through food or food packaging. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness and it spreads mainly through person-to-person contact and direct contact with respiratory droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Citing from a published document by the WHO, the COVID-19 virus and other viruses cannot multiply in food; they need an animal or human host to multiply.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) added that consumption of cooked meat (of domestic or wild origin), eggs and milk are not considered a means for acquiring the disease. However, contamination of the food supply with other pathogens, such as Salmonella spp., Campylobacter spp., Escherichia coli, and Listeria monocytogenes, represents a major concern for food safety worldwide.

Food can become contaminated with microorganisms that cause human illnesses from mul-



Patrons toast their glasses of beer between a plastic partition, used as a preventive measure against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Hanoi.. **PHOTO: AFP**

iple sources along the entire food chain, starting from infections in live animals up to the point of consumption. Preventing such contamination will reduce foodborne illness and decrease the likelihood of new viruses emerging in the food chain.

Consuming Raw Foods

The WHO placed particular emphasis on good hygiene practices when handling fresh foods that may be consumed raw and/or without any further processing. Examples include fresh fruits and vegetables and ready-to-eat (RTE) foods for consumption without further heat treatment. These foods are mostly prone to contamination from the environment and food handlers.

Generally, it is crucial to keep food contact surfaces, equipment, and tools clean, observe good handwashing practices, separate raw and cooked foods, and use clean water to reduce the risk of exposure to any foodborne bacteria and viruses.

While foodborne transmission of COVID-19 has not been reported, avoiding raw and undercooked foods of animal origin

(meat, eggs, milk products) will reduce exposure to all viruses and other foodborne pathogens. This is advisable for high-risk populations such as the elderly, children aged five years and below, pregnant women, and patients with weakened immune systems caused by medical treatments.

Cooking food to an internal temperature of 70 degree Celsius is adequate to kill the virus and any other pathogens in meat and other raw foods, because the virus is not heat resistant. Always remember that viruses cannot reproduce and grow in numbers in foods.

However, whether before or after cooking, meats should always be stored in a way that ensures that they do not contaminate other foods and will not be re-contaminated after cooking. Additionally, sufficient cooking of frozen food is also encouraged as studies reveal that viruses resist freezing and can be found in frozen foods for up to two years at -20 degree Celsius.

Dining Out - Safety First

Theoretically, the COVID-19 virus can spread directly from per-

son-to-person when an infected person coughs or sneezes, producing droplets that reach the nose, mouth, or eyes of another person. Alternatively, as the respiratory droplets are too heavy to be airborne, they deposit on objects and surfaces surrounding the infected person. Thus, potentially, the COVID-19 virus can also spread when a person touches contaminated surfaces and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Therefore, proper cleaning and sanitising is essential to prevent cross-contamination – this involves sanitisation of inanimate objects such as knives, saws, transport containers and conveyor belts made of metal, plastic and wood.

The FAO revealed that most pathogens, including coronaviruses, can be destroyed with most common disinfectants and sanitizers used in food processing. A 0.05 per cent hypochlorite solution, equivalent to a 1:100 dilution of household bleach, is effective in killing most pathogens and can be used to disinfect surfaces after cleaning.

It is important to follow man-

ufacturers’ recommendations regarding disinfectant use, notably the need to first remove organic matter that can inhibit contact and neutralize the efficacy of disinfectants; dilution of the disinfectant; and the contact time required to be effective. If alcohol is used as a disinfectant, it should contain a final concentration of between 60 to 85 per cent. However, all chemical-related disinfectants or sanitizers might leave a residue on the surfaces, and an unintentional overdose of chemicals could be of particular concern.

Alternatively, food business operators can consider a greener and more sustainable way of cleaning and sanitising by using ozonised water – a disinfecting method using water infused with ozone that effectively destroys the cells of viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens. Since ozone rapidly reverts to oxygen, it does not leave any residue after cleaning.

Currently, an industry and academic collaboration between both Malaysia-based Taylor’s University’s Culinary programme and Medklinn International will facilitate research, promote and

increase awareness on the application of ozone technology food safety as an alternative disinfectant solution without using chemicals – a highly useful addition to Medklinn’s ongoing research on the effects of ozone technology on COVID-19 viruses.

Food Handlers’ Personal Hygiene

The food industry should not overlook the importance of food handlers in managing the transmission of viruses. Historically, scientists have discovered that insufficient handwashing among food handlers is responsible for many foodborne disease outbreaks. An example was Typhoid Mary (Mary Mallon) who was attributed with infecting over 50 individuals during her work as a cook while asymptotically shedding Salmonella Typhi – the most remarkable example of poor personal hygiene.

A Silver Lining

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized many food businesses due to temporary closures, there were some unexpected positive impacts. The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has noted a significant drop in the number of foodborne illnesses in Finland between March and May 2020. The institute believes this is because the coronavirus pandemic resulted in various restrictions and recommendations for food businesses and since there was frequent handwashing and food prepared for smaller groups, there were fewer foodborne illnesses.

Perhaps then, has the pandemic made us more aware of the critical importance of food safety and environmental sanitization to our wellbeing? It is left to be seen if people will adapt to the ‘new normal’ and live healthier lives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Wendy Pek Kui Lim is Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the School of Food Studies and Gastronomy at Taylor’s University, Malaysia.

SOURCE: THE ASEAN POST

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 23/2020

8th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(26 August 2020)

Appointment of Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Nay Lin Tun, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with Colonel Kyaw Lin Aung, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who has been appointed as Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 26-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Nyaung Oo has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) 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 Ayeyarwady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpaan has exceeded by about (4) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (1) foot 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 NyaungOo, Hpaan Townships and seiktha to take precaution measure.

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Ancient objects found in Wayar village in Kani Tsp

ANCIENT objects were discovered on 25 August while a man was digging the ground to renovate a pagoda in Wayar village in Kani Township. He won K1.5 billion lottery jackpot.

“Our Wayar village has a pagoda precinct which is next to a historical pagoda named Shwe Mu Htaw. There are also many trees in those areas. One of our villagers won K1.5 billion lottery jackpot. The lottery winner family wants to renovate an ancient religious edifice. After this Buddhist Lent, they will start to renovate the walls in the first phase and then renovate the pagoda. Today we found many ancient objects while we were digging the ground,” said a monk named Sayadaw U Wai Pon.

The discovered antiques are ancient Buddha statues, stone stupas, pots and palm-leaf manuscripts. The villagers are still discussing how to manage those found old objects.



Buried ancient objects accidentally discovered near pagoda in Wayar Village, Kani Township. PHOTO:MNA

“The Buddha statues have no heads and arms. The palm-leaf manuscripts date back to the Inwa period. But we haven’t examined all the palm-leaf manuscripts yet,” said Sayadaw U Wai Pon. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

List of 2nd COVID loans to be announced in September

THE list of 2nd COVID loans will be announced in the second week of September, which will amount K100 billion for the local SME businesses and enterprises, according to COVID-19 loan scrutinizing committee, UMFCCI.

“We expected that the committee would announce the list of loans granted for the second time COVID-19 loan in the first phase in the second week of September. Those entrepreneurs who have won the grant have to take out the grant loan books at UMFCCI. And, the businessmen can withdraw the loans through the banks. We have found many coronavirus-positive patients these days. So, people are worried about infection. So, the sales of businesses have become cool

these days. So, our UMFCCI is making arrangements to scrutinize the proposals as quickly as possible to be able to provide the loans as soon as possible,” said UMFCCI General Secretary U Aye Win.

The COVID-19 loan scrutinizing committee comprising the officials and staff from the related departments, UMFCCI-affiliated associations and SMEs are analyzing the proposals from across the country at the UMFC-CI office in Yangon to provide the COVID loans for the second time in the first phase.

The committee received more than 10,000 loan applications including over 76,000 applications through the entrepreneurs from states and regions, over 1,500 in person at UMFCCI



UMFCCI staff review 2nd COVID loan applications for SMEs. PHOTO:MNA

office and over 800 through online. Then, the businessmen can withdraw the loans from the respective township banks. The loans will be provided through Myanma Economic Bank branches and eight private banks. The interest rate will be only one per cent of the total loan amount, according to UMFCCI. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

British Council, BBC air teaching programme via Myanmar Education Channel

AN English teaching programme named “Word on the Street” produced jointly by the British Council and BBC is now on Myanmar Education Channel at 10:30 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting from 24 August, according to an announcement of the British Council.

Ten daily English usage lessons, each episode lasting half an hour will enable the audience to

learn from the Word on the Street Programme. The programme highlights an active part of the British youth culture. Each lesson is filmed in a different place in the United Kingdom (UK). This programme is a magazine type, and it features as the short stories, interviews and news reports to support the students in their efforts to improve their proficiency in the English Language.

Word on the Street Programme is suitable for the intermediate level learners who are not very much in touch with daily English usage. This programme is also ideal for those who are interested in learning the culture of the British people.

The British Council acting director Ozan Revi said that this programme, which has over 60 million viewers, has been broad-

cast in 55 countries including Brazil, Iraq, Uganda and Myanmar, among others.

Those who wish to learn English through Word on the Street Programme can follow <https://learnenglish.british-council.org/general-english/word-street> website which has contained exercises.— GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

Sagaing Agriculture Dept plans to grow commercial-scale straw-mushroom in Tamu

SAGAING Region Department of Agriculture is planning to cultivate straw-mushroom on a commercial scale in Tamu town as it is highly consumed in India, said U Win Hlaing Oo, director of the department. "India demand on the mushroom is growing, and so, there might have requirements. We have cultivated them on a trial basis in Tamu Township, and growing acres will be extended to send them to India," he added.

U Win Hlaing Oo, regional head of Agriculture Department inspected the mushroom cultivation at the department's nursery, and township head of Agriculture Department U San Oo explained the cultivation condition.

The regional head urged them to extend growing acres and plan the commercial-scale growing, in coordination with the private sectors.—Myo Win Tun (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Sagaing Region Agriculture Department head U Win Hlaing Oo and officials inspect a mushroom plantation in Tamu. PHOTO: MNA

Over 15,000 import, export licences granted online in 4 months

By Nyein Nyein

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has issued US\$5.25 billion worth 15,362 import/export licences through an online platform in the past four months (April-July), to ensure smooth trade amid the coronavirus outbreak, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

The ministry launched the online licencing system for export and import businesses starting from 1 April, intending to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Of the items, available online licencing system, medicines and raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry are exempt-

ed import licence fee and the number of things is not restricted. The allowable limit is up to 50 MB for ten attachments, and the Trade Department recently notified again.

That is why, the process of licence applications, fee payment and receiving licences can be done online. As of 31 July, the trade department has offered online system for export/import items, including CMP garment and necessary import goods such as pharmaceuticals and related supplies, hospital equipment, foodstuffs, fertilizers, palm oil and oil products, milk and dairy products, electronic devices, fuel oil, lubricants, motorbikes and bicycles, agricultural products, lead, sugar, natural gas

and other products.

Licence applications can be processed on www.myanmar-tradenet.com.mm. The companies need to sign up membership, and application fee can be paid with the MCB eCommerce Pay of the Myanmar Citizens Bank. Additionally, the MPU eCommerce pay started on 8 May 2020.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has been granting reliefs to facilitate trade amid the COVID-19 period. For custom clearance processes, the electronic data must be sent to the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) of the Customs Department.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI inflows surpass \$24.6 bln in 4 years, Singapore tops the list

MYANMAR has attracted over US\$24.6 billion over the four years under the incumbent government, and Singapore tops the list, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the respective investment committees granted permits and endorsements to 1,004 foreign enterprises between 2016-2017 Financial Year and as of July-end in the 2019-2020FY, with estimated capitals of \$24.6 billion.

Of them, Special Economic Zones raked in investments worth \$1.348 billion from 58 enterprises under the Special Economic Zone Law in the past four years, while FDI of \$23.26 billion

flowed into the country under the Myanmar Investment Law, the DICA's data showed.

The FDIs flow into oil and gas, power, transportation and communication, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, trading, logistics and other service sectors. Under the Myanmar Investment Law, transport and communications sector tops the investment lineup, followed by manufacturing in the second place and real estate in the third place.

Of 36 foreign countries investing in Myanmar in the past four years, Singapore put the most massive investments, followed by China and Hong Kong

SAR. Meanwhile, Japan is the largest investors in the special economic zones under the Special Economic Zone Law, followed by Singapore and Thailand. Manufacturing sector pumped in the most massive investments in the zones. MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 residents, according to the DICA. Those enterprises have created over 19,000 jobs in the 2016-2017FY, 110,000 jobs in the 2017-2018FY, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the 2018-2019FY and over 182,000 (Oct-July) in the 2019-2020FY respectively.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Value-added Myanmar snacks planned to penetrate China market

By Nyein Nyein

VALUE-added Myanmar snacks with quality packaging are going to export to China market as a potential new export item, according to a notification released by Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, China.

Myanmar Embassy has negotiated with China Chambers of Commerce and Industry and private sectors regarding new export items.

The items include Myanmar food snacks, juice and spice, with quality packaging.

The items will be first introduced to Chinese traders, importer companies and the business chambers in order to penetrate the China market.

The samples will be displayed in Beijing, Sanya, Tianjin, Chengdu, Kunming, and Changsha for their observation. They can exhibit their products free of charges.

Additionally, virtual business matching events will be held between Myanmar exporters and China trade partners during the meantime.

Myanmar value-added food producers and companies can initially send the form to Myanmar Embassy in Beijing through info@myanmarembassy.com or fax number +86 10-65320408.

At present, Myanmar mainly exports agro products, food and vegetable, fishery products and minerals.

Food snacks from Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines are witnessed in China market. The yearly income from exports of snack foods is worth billions. Products made in European countries, the US, Canada and South American countries are also found in the market.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Thai GROOVE Days Meeting invites Myanmar businesspersons

BUSINESSPERSONS from Myanmar are invited to join B2B Meeting at Thai GROOVE Business Online Matching 2020 that will be held via Zoom from 15 to 17 September.

Jointly organized by the Department of International Trade Promotion and the Ministry of Commerce in Thailand, the B2B Meeting will discuss the creation sectors in food, well-being, furniture, fashion and lifestyle.

Myanmar businesspersons who will attend the meeting need to register via email at dityangon@gmail.com and ird@umfcci.com.mm not later than 12 pm on 2 September.

Information relating to the virtual meeting will be viewed at www.thaigroove.com starting from 1 September.—Aung Thura

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar safe marine products reach more foreign markets

MYANMAR is exporting more fishes, prawns and other marine products to 40 countries including China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, the US, the Middle East countries and European Union.

The country has gained high demand from foreign markets as more marine products are produced safely, according to the Basic Training Course for Safe Maritime Production Batch (1/2020) opening ceremony.

“There are currently 124 aquatic processing industries and 27 of them have permission to export to EU. As per the export countries’ requirements of food safety, the relevant country’s department has to issue necessary health certifications and quality assurance. As every country asks for the food safety system now, the Department of Fisheries is focusing on serving in accordance with the foreign markets. This year’s marine export volume is



Workers work at a fish processing factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

over US\$ 750 mln, an increase of \$110 compared to the year-ago period. The Basic Training Course for Safe Maritime Production Batch (1) has started from 23 August. In this financial year, 50 quality controllers from fish and prawn processing facto-

ries will attend the training, and 50 people in the next budget year in coming September,” said the Deputy Director from Quality Control and Research Section of the Department of Fisheries.

“As Myanmar is a member of World Trade

Organization (WTO), fish and prawn processing factories are implementing the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and following the guidelines of ASEAN, China, France, the US and the European Union.

The fishery products such as alive or freezing products, dry or salted products are being exported to over 40 countries. Those who involved in the whole process such as fishing boats, fishing ports and fish breeding ponds are implementing the Good

Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) and the processing plants are implementing the Good Manufactured Practice (GMP), the Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure (SSOP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP),” said Director Dr Yin Yin Moe.

The maritime products from 49 fishery breeding ponds of Rakhine State, Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region are being implemented as per National Residue Monitoring Plan and 23 factories were permitted to export to the EU.

In 2020, the Department of Fisheries has been cooperating with private business persons and giving basic training courses to helmsmen and 120 marine workers from 4 standard fishing ports and training courses to produce the fishery products safely.—Thant Zin Win

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar’s exports to Hong Kong SAR surpass import in Q3

THE value of Myanmar’s bilateral trade with Hong Kong SAR touched US\$193.328 million in the third quarter of the current financial year 2019-2020, with exports surpassing imports, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between October and June, Myanmar shipped

goods worth \$189.436 million to Hong Kong and imported goods valued at \$4.89 million.

Myanmar’s significant items of export to Hong Kong include precious stones, agricultural products, fishery products, and garments. The nation mainly imports telecommunications equipment

and optical goods.

Myanmar - Hong Kong trade was valued at \$232.395 million in the last FY 2018-2019, \$238 million in the mini-budget period (April to September 2018), \$385.63 million in the 2017-2018 FY, \$234.46 million in the 2016-2017FY, and \$316 million in the 2015-2016FY, the Commerce Ministry’s

data showed.

Hong Kong is one of the world’s leading financial centres, logistics hub, and an international legal and dispute resolution services centre for Asia. It has positioned itself to play a prominent role in facilitating trade and investment flows and has been working towards closer

economic integration with ASEAN countries, including Myanmar.

The economic interaction between Myanmar and Hong Kong has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the largest investor in Myanmar in the current financial year with 41 Hong Kong-based firms pump-

ing in \$1.346 billion in real estate development, electricity, and garment businesses as of June-end, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (033S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (033S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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Emblem, slogan contest for Mekong-ROK cooperation to be organized

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea is holding contests to find an emblem and slogan that best captures the spirit of Mekong-ROK cooperation, and the contests are open to any Myanmar national, according to the Sub-region Cooperation Division.

A total of two first prizes will be awarded to the winners of the emblem and slogan contests, and a total of two second prizes will be awarded to the runners-up of the two contests. Each of the first prize winners will receive the award money of KRW 3,000,000 (about US\$2,500) and each of the second prize winners will receive the award money of KRW300,000 (about \$250). The deadline to submit the entries is 6 September 2020. Contestants can contact to southeastasia2@mofa.go.kr to get entry forms, consent form for collection and use of personal information, and fast facts about Mekong-ROK cooperation.

For further detailed information, contestants can contact to the Sub-region Cooperation Division of the International Organizations and Economic Department.—MNA
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

162 Myanmar nationals fly back home from Malaysia



Myanmar citizens returning from Malaysia line up for immigration process at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 162 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for a 21-day quarantine. To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights following the instructions

of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur cooperates with the relevant organizations of Malaysia per the instructions of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send back the undocumented Myanmar nationals and those detained at cells, by relief flights.—MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry No. (3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

The High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung) and Newsprint Paper Mill (Thabaung) are located near Hlaygyit Village, Thabaung Township, in the Ayeyarwady Region of Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar through the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry is willing to invite Eoi Proposal from interested local and International companies for recommissioning and operation of the two Mills as implementing Plup and Paper Industrial estate.

The interested companies can get these Eoi form during office hours at Technology Development Department, No. (3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Planning, Finance & Industry, Office No 37, Naypyitaw:

(a) Available date for Eoi Form - (4.9.2020) to (2.10.2020)
(b) Deadline for submission of Eoi - (5.10.2020), (16:00) pm, Myanmar Standard Time

For further detail information, please make an inquiry on phone number 95-67-3408293, 95-67-3408193, 95-67-3408129 and email: mpcipl@gmail.com during office hours.

No. (3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise
Ministry of Planning, Finance & Industry

Caution declaration of business trade mark

Whereas H.I.S. MYANMAR TRAVELS COMPANY LIMITED, registered with Company Registration No.107555501, located at No.66, Room No. (206), 2nd Floor, Yuzana Tower, Shwe Gone Daing Street, Bahan Township, Yangon Region and has been registered following mentioned Trademark on (6-8-2020) for use by copyright of their company.



Registration Deed No.(4/8002/2020)

Use to above business trade mark "H.I.S." upon our "Inbound/ Outbound Travel and Tour Business" relevant matters with made various size, design and performing in the whole Republic of the Union of Myanmar and reputation. Company copyright using to above mentioned trade mark, therefore do not use as direct or indirect, partly or whole by imitate, similar to our trade mark from anyone, except us and if find to unofficial use by imitate, similar of our trade mark from anyone, must be litigate action by law and whoever may be objection to that trade mark with (same name) on (7) days from including in newspaper date, notice for now to public by declaration. Fraudulent or unauthorized use to actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

By assignation drective,
Daw Seint Zar Oo, (Sr.34702),
Higher Grade Pleader
No (1182), Tharaphy 7th Street, Ward (34), Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region.

Transferring Distributor Registered Insecticide

Distributor of the insecticide, Fendona SC (Alpha-cypermethrin 10% w/w SC) with its registration number P2016-3048 is transferring from **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd.**, No.242, Kanaung Minthar Gyi Road, Industrial Zone (2),Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar to **Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Company Limited**, Kha -11th Street, No.125-127, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayinthaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

BASF Myanmar Limited
Phone – 01 544041

To whom it may concern

The manufacturer of Map Pacific Pte. Ltd., (Singapore) has registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar.

Sr. No.	Name of Product	A.I	Type	Regis; No.
1.	Map Famy 35% SC	Fenoxanil 20% + Tricyclazole 15% SC	Provisional	P2020-3667

Now, we have to change from old distributor name **"Map Pacific Company Limited"** to new distributor name **"Aventine Limited"**.
If there has any objection on the changing of distributor name, it can be objected to the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Department, Gyogone (West), Insein Township, Yangon within 2 weeks.

Map Pacific Pte. Ltd., (Yangon Branch)
No. 29, Room – 203, 2nd Floor,
38th Street (Lower Block),
Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Ph: 01-8392168

Public Announcement on Commencement of Hanthawaddy New International Airport Development Project (HIA Project) and Commencement of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Studies for the Project

The Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar (DCA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications is planning to develop, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a new airport in the west side of Bago City in order to accommodate for the growing demand for international and domestic passengers and cargoes thereby contributing to the economic and social development in the region and country. Associated facilities include access roads, wastewater treatment plant, and water and power supply and telecommunication system. Feasibility Study for HIA Project had commenced in August 2020, and Phase 1 construction works of the Project are planned to be completed in 2027.

JICA has dispatched a study team (JICA Study Team and a local consulting firm by the name of Total Business Solution Co., Ltd.) to support DCA in carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Project so that it is in accordance with relevant laws and regulations in Myanmar and the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (2010). The draft final EIA report is expected to be submitted to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in October 2020.

In this regard, Department of Civil Aviation would like to invite ANYONE who wants to make any suggestion, opinion and concern, etc. on the Project to contact the following address at office time:

Aerodrome Standards and Safety Division, Department of Civil Aviation,
Yangon, Phone +95 1 533013, Email: mgshwedca@gmail.com.
The Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar (DCA)
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,
09251022355,09974424848

China, Canada ministers meet as tensions rise over detainees



Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou exits her vehicle at her home after her court appearance on 17 January, 2020, in Vancouver. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

OTTAWA—Canada's foreign minister has called the release of two citizens detained in China a "top priority" for his country during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Italy.

Relations between Beijing and Ottawa have been increasingly bitter since an executive for Chinese tech giant Huawei was arrested in Vancouver in December 2018 and China detained two Canadian nationals in apparent retaliation.

Canadian foreign minister

Francois-Philippe Champagne on Tuesday said the cases of former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor "remain a top priority for the Government of Canada".

He called for their immediate release at a meeting in Rome with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, Ottawa said in a statement.

Kovrig and Spavor were charged with espionage in June, while Beijing has called the arrest of Huawei executive Meng

Wanzhou a political manoeuvre on behalf of the United States, which is seeking her extradition on fraud charges.

China accuses Washington of attempting to curb telecoms firm Huawei's rise.

Wang said the blame for poor ties lay with Ottawa and urged it to "remove the main obstacles currently affecting the development of China-Canada relations", according to a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry Wednesday.—AFP ■

NEC selling unmanned hotel check-in system in Southeast Asia

SINGAPORE—Japanese information technology giant NEC Corp. has launched in Southeast Asia a hotel check-in system requiring no physical interaction with staff amid the coronavirus pandemic.

NEC Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. expects to sign the first contract for the biometric technology system with a hotel in Singapore, Shinya Hashizume, a spokesman for the company's regional headquarters in the city-state, told on Tuesday.

Guests can complete check-in and check-out procedures, including receiving a card key, using a kiosk terminal that reads passports and recognizes faces.

The cost of installing two kiosk units and biometric identification software starts from about 4 million yen (\$37,600), the spokesman said. The Japanese group is in talks with multiple hotel operators to introduce the system, he added, but declined to give a sales target.

"Hoteliers in the region working to resume operations in the coming months face tough challenges," Yeo Jack Ming, vice president of the Singapore unit, said in a statement Tuesday, adding that hoteliers can deploy NEC's smart crowd analysis and thermal screening solutions alongside the check-in system for efficient entry management.—Kyodo ■



Japanese information technology giant NEC Corp. has launched in Southeast Asia a hotel check-in system requiring no physical interaction with staff amid the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: NEC CORP./TWITTER**

WORLD IN BRIEFS

Two Hong Kong opposition lawmakers arrested over protests

HONG KONG—Two prominent Hong Kong opposition lawmakers were among more than a dozen people arrested on Wednesday in a police operation focused on last year's huge protests, part of a widening crackdown against the city's democracy camp. Lam Cheuk-ting and Ted Hui were detained after early-morning raids on their homes, according to their political party and the police. Opposition figures decried the arrests, which add to a mounting toll of prosecutions targeting Beijing's critics in the restless financial hub.—AFP ■

US spy plane enters no-fly zone during Chinese live-fire naval drill

BEIJING—The US has sent spy planes over a live-fire Chinese military drill – including a U-2 which entered a declared no-fly zone – triggering a protest from Beijing and heightening the risk of an armed conflict. The development followed weeks of increased US activity in the region, with numerous military jets and vessels deployed to keep a close watch on Chinese activity. The Beijing-based think tank South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative said a US Air Force RC-135S reconnaissance aircraft flew across the South China Sea on Wednesday, during the Chinese military drill. But it said it appeared the plane was on a transfer, rather than a reconnaissance mission.—Xinhua ■

Suicide bombers in Philippine attack were militants' widows: army

MANILA—Two female suicide attackers who carried out a double bombing in the southern Philippines were the widows of militants who had worked for the Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf group, the army chief said Wednesday.

The pair blew themselves up in a coordinated attack on Jolo island in Muslim-majority Sulu province on Monday, killing or wounding scores of security forces and civilians in the country's deadliest attack this year.

The death toll from the

blasts has risen to 15 with 74 wounded, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said in a statement, blaming Abu Sayyaf for the attack.

"The Abu Sayyaf Group will not deter us from nor shake our resolve to bring an end to their violence," AFP Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Gilbert Gapay said.

"Our troops on the ground continue to be on high alert to deter similar attacks." No group has claimed responsibility.

Army chief Lieutenant General Cirilito Sobejana identified the female bombers as Inda Nay and Nanah.

In a text message to reporters, Sobejana said Nanah was the wife of Norman Lasuca, who is considered the Philippines' first homegrown suicide bomber.—AFP ■



Suicide attacks were once very rare in the Philippines, but since July 2018 there have been five. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two shot dead in protest-hit US city of Kenosha: police

KENOSHA—Protests erupted in the US city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, after police shot a black man in the back several times from close range as he got into a car on Sunday evening, according to cellphone video of the incident.

Two people were shot dead on Tuesday night in the US city of Kenosha as groups clashed during protests over the police shooting of a black man.

Violence broke out as hundreds of protesters marched for a third night in the Wisconsin city after Jacob Blake was seen in video footage being shot several times at point-blank range by a white police officer. Blake was trying to get into his car, with his three children inside, when he was shot on Sunday.

The most recent police shooting of an African American has sparked renewed outrage and protests in US cities, including New York and Minneapolis, as part of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Kenosha police department said local officers, along with assisting agencies, responded to reports of shots being fired and multiple gunshot victims shortly before midnight.

“The shooting resulted in two fatalities and a third gunshot victim was transported to a hospital with serious, but non-life threatening injuries,” the department said in a tweet, adding the investigation was “active and ongoing.”

Earlier, footage was posted online showing people running through the streets of Kenosha as gunshots rang out, while other videos showed wounded men lying on the ground.

The police statement said: “Investigators are aware of the social media videos being circulated regarding this incident.” The majority of protests have passed off peacefully, though some demonstrators also burned cars and buildings on Sunday and Monday nights in Kenosha.—AFP ■



The most recent police shooting of an African American has sparked renewed outrage and protests in US cities, including New York and Minneapolis, as part of the Black Lives Matter movement. **PHOTO: KEREM YUCEL/AFP**

US court rejects Polanski’s bid to rejoin Academy

LOS ANGELES—Director Roman Polanski’s legal battle against his expulsion from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was thrown out by a Los Angeles judge Tuesday. The “Chinatown” and “Rosemary’s Baby” filmmaker fled the United States in 1978 after admitting to the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl. He was expelled from the Los Angeles-based Academy, which awards the Oscars, four decades later amid the MeToo movement, and filed a legal petition to force the prestigious organization to reverse its decision.

But Los Angeles superior court judge Mary Strobel found the Academy board “had cause to expel” Polanski, and that its decision “is supported by the evidence” and “was not arbitrary or capricious.” Polanski “was given the opportunity to present any evidence” on the matter of whether he “should or should not remain a member of the Academy” in light of his criminal conviction and fugitive status.—AFP ■



A rafale fighter jet takes off from the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle sailing in the Mediterranean sea on September 29, 2016 as part of the Operation Arromanches III. **PHOTO: ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/FILE**

France says law must be respected in eastern Med as exercises begin

PARIS—France on Wednesday said military exercises in the eastern Mediterranean along with Greece, Italy and Cyprus were aimed at promoting respect of international law as tensions soar with Turkey in the region.

Defence Minister Florence Parly said on Twitter that three Rafale jets, a frigate and a helicopter would take part for France in the exercises which get underway on Wednesday.

“The eastern Mediterranean is turning into an area of tension. Respect for international law must be the rule and not the exception,” she said. “Our message is simple: priority for dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy so that the eastern Mediterranean becomes an area of stability and respect for international law.” In an apparent jibe at Turkey, she added: “It should not be a playground for the ambitions of some — it’s a shared asset.” The discovery of major gas deposits in waters surrounding Crete and Cyprus has triggered a scramble for energy riches and revived old rivalries between NATO members Greece and Turkey. Tensions are already high between France and Turkey over the conflict in Libya where both Paris and Ankara have accused the other of interference.—AFP ■

Melania Trump brings compassion on pandemic, immigrants at Republican convention



US First Lady Melania Trump addresses the Republican Convention during its second day from the Rose Garden of the White House August 25, 2020, in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON—Melania Trump put a kinder, gentler sheen on Donald Trump’s reelection campaign with a star turn at the Republican convention Tuesday where she broke ranks to speak compassionately about coronavirus victims and recalled her own immigrant story in an appeal for racial harmony.

Unlike often aggressive speeches by two of Trump’s children from previous marriages, Eric and Tiffany, the first lady brought a soft touch to her keynote address from the White House’s Rose Garden.

The coronavirus, which has killed 178,000 Americans and wreaked economic chaos, was almost entirely ignored by other speakers - and the president himself.

Melania Trump began by offering prayers for the “ill and

suffering”.

“My deepest sympathy goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one,” she said.

The simple acknowledgement of the tragedy shaking the United States was a jarring change in the mood of the convention, which has mostly been a steady drumbeat of attacks on what Republicans call a “radical left” under Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

“I don’t want to use this precious time to attack the other side,” she said.

The 26-minute speech, which she delivered in her heavily accented English, also was remarkable for her defence of the immigrant experience and acknowledgement of soaring racial tensions - two combustible topics that her husband is often accused of stoking for political gain.

“I have reflected on the racial unrest in our country. It is a harsh reality that we are not proud of parts of our history,” she said.—AFP ■

Yangon United suffers 3-1 loss to Hantharwady United



Yangon United's Maung Maung Lwin (No 11) dribbling the ball as he tries to get a short pass over three defenders of Hantharwady United (Red) in a Week-11 MNL match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 26 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

YANGON United faced a 3-1 defeat to Hantharwady United in a Week-11 of Myanmar National League match played yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Head coach, U Myo Min Tun's Hantharwady United, used its reliable players Nan Wai Min, keeper and captain Ko Ko Naing, Donal Bissa, Emeka Ndubuisi and Kekere Moukailou.

In the meantime, head coach U Tin Maung Tun's Yangon United lined up with key players including captain cum keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Maung Maung Lwin, Yan Naing Oo, Kaung Htet Soe and Emmanuel.

Both teams played with energy from the start, but Hantharwady United was more robust than their opponents for yesterday's match, exhibiting flawless defence and good tackling.

In 39 minutes, Yangon United missed a goal opportunity as there was a big misunderstanding seen between Maung Maung Lwin and Barfo in front of the goal post. But, with another chance, Yangon United's striker, Emmanuel scored an icebreaker over an assist of his teammate Maung Maung Lwin at 42 minutes.

The first half ended with 1-0 lead by Yangon United.

In the second half, the intensity on the field increased, and Hantharwady United launched their open attack with fast and furious plays.

By taking opportunities over the freezing defence of Yangon United, Hantharwady Hein Htet Aung scored an equalizer at 52 minutes. Consequently, Hantharwady got a leading goal at 58 minutes and the goal was scored by foreign player Donald Bissa.

The win was ensured for Hantharwady United with a third goal scored by Hantharwady star Emeka Ndubuisi at 81-minute mark. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Man City chairman confident over Guardiola future

LONDON—Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak is “comfortable” about Pep Guardiola's future as the Spanish boss enters the final year of his contract.

Guardiola is yet to extend his current deal with the Premier League club and speculation about his future is sure to ramp up in coming months. There were claims that Guardiola might quit City if they did not win their appeal against a two-year European ban, but that legal battle was successful.

Al Mubarak insists there is no rush to resolve the future of the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager, but he is not panicking about a potential exit. “This conversation with Pep is a natural conversation. Pep and I have a very clear understanding about what is right for the club and what is not,” Al Mubarak told City's website on Tuesday. “We have a clear alignment in terms of where we see the future and what we want in terms of success for the club. “I think, again, it will be a comfortable conversation and it will work out in the best way for Pep, for me and for the club. I'm very comfortable about that.” Guardiola took charge at City on an initial three-year deal in 2016 and extended that by a further two seasons in 2018.—AFP ■



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. **PHOTO: AFP/MIGUEL A. LOPES**

Flustered Williams crashes out, Djokovic reaches quarter-finals



Reigning Australian Open champ Novak Djokovic needed six match points before beating American Tennys Sandgren in straight sets at the Western & Southern Open tournament in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK—An out-of-gas Serena Williams crashed out of the Western & Southern Open on Tuesday, losing in three sets to 13th seeded Maria Sakkari 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in New York.

The 23-time Grand Slam winner finished with a whimper at the end of the two-hour, 17-minute match as Sakkari clinched the victory with a backhand down the line that a dejected Williams just watched without making an effort to move. At other points in the match, Williams flung her racket into the spectator-less stands and rebuked the chair umpire for slapping her with a time violation. Sakkari, of Greece, advances to the quarter-finals of the no-spectator event where she will face Johanna Konta who cruised past Vera Zvonareva in straight sets 6-4, 6-2. The joint WTA and ATP tournament was moved from Cincinnati to New York where the same quarantine bubble will house the US Open starting on August 31. It was the second straight

two-hour-plus match for Williams who at 38 was trying to become the oldest winner of the event. She still holds the record, having won this event in 2015 at age 33. Williams survived a scare in her opening match, prevailing in a two hour, 48-minute marathon over qualifier Arantxa Rus. It was her longest match since 2012.

“It is hard to play the way I have been playing and stay positive,” Williams said. “To play nine hours in a week is too much. I don't usually play like that. It is all new for me.” Williams made seven double faults and won just 66 percent of her first serve points against Sakkari. After losing the second set in a tiebreaker she tossed her racket over her shoulder into the empty stands behind her. Williams, who has lost her cool at events in New York before, also admonished chair umpire, Aurelie Tourte of France, during a changeover for calling a time violation for slow play.—AFP ■