

PARLIAMENT

Second Amyotha Hluttaw brings the curtain down on 17th regular session

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Myanmar will continue to combat all acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 134, 10th Waxing of Wagaung 1382 ME

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

Friday, 28 August 2020

Pyithu Hluttaw concludes 17th regular session after 12 meetings



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat presides over the 12th or final day of 17th regular session on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw concluded its 17th regular session yesterday after the 12th day meeting with asterisk questions and discussions about a motion.

MP Daw Khin Than Nu from Mindon constituency asked about family registration (Form 66/6) for children who were born of Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing said the application for birth reports is recorded at the Myanmar embassies and consulates of respective countries, and the family registration can be made by the parents or father or mother in bringing the child with them when they legally

come back the country.

The respective immigration offices also handle the application of parents or guardians when they live back in home country for family registration of the children who were born of Myanmar citizen parents living abroad, or father/mother with foreign spouse.

The deputy minister also explained that the children born of legal Myanmar migrant workers abroad, or the children born of Myanmar migrant workers working in foreign countries under any circumstances will be obtained family registration in accordance with the existing rules and regulations.

MP U Wun Hla from Nanyun constituency asked about the re-

turn of original name of village by the consent of local people in 16 villages in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint replied that the ministry has instructed local authorities to prepare for the cases to return the original name of the villages at the request of local people from 14 villages in 8 village-tracts in line with Article 54 of the Constitution, and to hold coordination meetings with the locals in this process.

MP Dr Khin Soe Soe Kyi from Pyay constituency asked about upgrade of rural health centre in Hmaw Zar village. Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that it will be implemented af-

ter official land documents have been approved as the health centre will benefit to 12,745 persons from 31,143 houses in 18 villages.

MP U Thaung Aye from Pyawbwe constituency asked for appointment of a doctor for the employees of No.8 Garment Factory in his constituency. It was replied by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein. MP Daw Khin Hnin Thit from Padaung constituency asked for expanding lines of demarcation into original area of religious land at Phoe Oo Mountain pagoda in Ywatharyar village-tract of her constituency, and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min replied it. MP U Lagan Zal Gyone from Waing-

maw constituency asked for getting back the cemetery land into the state-owned property and MP U Thein Tan from Hlegu constituency about amendment of Ward and Village Tract Administration Law, and it was replied by Deputy Minister U Tin Myint.

MP Daw Khin Saw Wai from Yathedaung constituency asked for supplies of specialists and medical equipment for treatment of eye, heart and cancer diseases at the 500-bed General Hospital in Sittway Township. MP U Aung Than Sein from Khamti constituency about legal actions against the company for failing to construct rural clinic building and staff houses and against the management groups

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar Constitutional Tribunal Chairman joins 4th Congress of AACC

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Soe Win discusses with ADB on establishment of Credit Guarantee Corporation

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

MoI launches books on reform activities of government

PAGE-6

LOCAL NEWS

Nga Moe Yeik embankment construction almost completes 100pc

PAGE-14

LOCAL BUSINESS

YRIC clears five foreign projects, one domestic proposal in manufacturing sector

PAGE-11

PYITHU HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw concludes 17th regular session after 12 meetings

FROM PAGE-1

of the township for their approval on completion of the project although it was finished just 50 per cent, and the MP also called for accomplishment of this project in 2019-2020FY. Dr Than Aung Soe from Min Hla constituency asked for drawing a national strategic plan for the 'One Health' project that will link human and animal health with the environmental conservation. MP U Ar Moe Si from Khaunglanphu constituency asked about the wrong names mentioned in its reply to the question about opening a necessary rural clinic in his constituency and the establishments of rural health centres in five villages. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein replied the questions.

MP Dr Maung Thin from Meikhtila constituency tabled a motion, calling for negotiations of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 or relevant ministries with the micro-finance companies of exemption or 50 per cent reduction of interest on their loans taken from these financial firms as the borrowers are suffering serious impacts of COVID-19 on the employments and economy of the country.

The 6 MPs discussed the motion.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win discussed the international small-scaled financial institutions helped their clients with delay in repayment with financial assis-

tance of their governments, the suspension of repayment period from the financial firms to the banks, relaxing the rules in loan loss provision and developing more opportunities for the micro-finance institutions to get more loans. However, the policy makers or supervisors did not remove or cut the interest in other countries because policies of exemption or cutting the interest will impact the small financial institutions.

The deputy minister added such policy would create doubt from local and foreign investors and loan organizations on the practices of rules and regulations in Myanmar, as well as damaging to the mutual trust among the financial firms and the members.

Moreover, the government

should not interfere in the loan contracts and policies of lending firms and their clients as the micro-finance businesses are independent businesses and they are providing financial services in their own capitals for low-income people and small-scaled businesses. And that clearance of loan or reduction of interest is directly concerned with the decision of these firms, and the government has directed the microfinance businesses to negotiate with their members through facilitating associations.

He added that the ministry will continue discussions with the small financial businesses in this sector, and asked to put the motion into record.

There were 220 votes for and 125 against the motion and it was just taken for the record.

During the 17th regular session, the Pyithu Hluttaw raised 107 asterisk questions and 338 ordinary questions, tabled 13 motions including the important one. A total of 5 motions were approved and 3 were recorded, while 1 motion was turned down without discussion. There were 4 motions which could not be discussed. Out of 20 bills for discussions, only 8 bills were approved.

In his concluding remark, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the voting of eligible voters could strengthen the democracy foundation of the country. He also advised the Hluttaw representatives to contest the elections in line with the electoral laws.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Second Amyotha Hluttaw brings the curtain down on 17th regular session

THE 12th-day meeting of the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw concluded yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Q&A Session

MP U Ye Htut from Sagaing Region constituency 5 asked whether there were plans to hire part-time staff working in government departments as full time staff. U Saw Valentine, member of the Union Civil Service Board, replied they work closely with Union-level ministries and institutions to convert part-time staff into full time staff according to their level of capability and job vacancies available.

MP U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked whether a budget proposal to construct a concrete culvert on the Pae Pyit Taw-ChaungU Nwe Kway road in ChaungU Township, Monywa District, in 2020-2021FY. Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin replied the ChaungU culvert is a Class-B Level 2 designation and its budget proposal has been added to the 2020-2021FY.

MP U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 asked whether there were plans to install a modern urban water distribution system in Laukkai, Kokang Self-Administered Zone. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that there are no aquifers discovered in the area



MP U Ye Htut. PHOTO: MNA

so far and they plan to conduct a field investigation of building dams on local water resources in October. He said they will discuss with JICA on including this under their list of operations. He said they will use the state budget if a relevant organization submits a proposal.

MP U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay Region constituency 12 asked the progress on drafting a bylaw for the 2019 Myanmar Gemstone Law to which Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe answered that they have submitted the draft bylaws to the the Security, Peace and Stability and the Rule of Law Working Committee and the Political and Security Department of the President's Office. The bylaws can be enacted after an



U Saw Valentine. PHOTO: MNA

approval from the Union Government.

MP U Kyi Win of Ayeyarwady Region constituency 12 asked whether there are plans to issue SMEs loans to 546 salt farmers in Labutta and Ngapudaw townships. Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe replied that the salt farmers can apply for loans from the COVID-19 Fund or MSMEs loans from banks with the proper loan application documents.

MP Dr Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 asked whether there were plans to construct a new one-storey RC building for the public branch high school in Tuumyaung village, Minhla Township. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied they will include the budget proposal for a Type-C one-storey steel struc-

ture in the 2020-2021FY.

MP Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 asked whether authorities will construct a new dormitory to accommodate the number of students in the University of Computer Studies, Sittway. Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied they will submit a budget proposal for the new dormitory once a suitable location of land has been acquired.

MP U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 and MP U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 debated a report on the motions tabled and questions raised from the 1st to the 16th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw. The report was submitted by the Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee. Committee member U Pyu Lwin replied to MP's debates and motioned for the report to be approved. The report was approved with no opposition from the assembly.

U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than, Chairman of the Public Complaints Committee, motioned for the committee's report to be approved. The report was approved with no opposition from the assembly.

Activities of past regular sessions

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

Mahn Win Khaing Than then read the performance of parliament during the 17th regular session from 13 July to 27 August 2020. MPs raised 82 oral questions and 127 written questions, sent the Bill of the Law on Public Procurement and Asset Disposal with amendments to the Pyithu Hluttaw during the 16th regular session, and re-submitting the Hluttaw representatives' discussion on the medical equipment bill to the Bill Committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw began discussions on the Myanmar Health Assistant Council Bill and approved the bill with amendments made by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Microfinance Bill and the Bill amending the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens were first discussed at the Pyithu Hluttaw first in the 16th regular session and then sent back with amendments to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Aung Tun Lin had submitted a bill to amend the 1956 Defence Services Act. The Bill Committee read their report and sent the bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw who approved it with no amendments. The bill was enacted into law with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.12 and signed by the President earlier this year.

SEE PAGE-4

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

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

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

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS
72

Chief Justice of Union holds meeting with regional high courts

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo presided over a meeting with senior legal officers from the high courts of states and regions yesterday.

The meeting was held at the office of Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw, and the Chief Justice discussed matters related to following guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 in court proceedings, helping clients, lawyers and visitors as much as possible without stopping court proceedings in order to provide rule of law, access to justice, and judicial remedy, conducting court trials in accordance with laws and regulations to prevent visitors, judges, and court staff from being infected with the disease, making adaptation to situations of relevant areas in trying to control the spread of the disease, using social media for raising public awareness



Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo organizes a meeting with senior legal officers from high courts of states and regions on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA

about judicial information and statements. He also talked about various matters including the efforts to draft a bill to amend the Code Of Civil Procedure for court led meditation, providing the power to deliver verdicts for cases related to the Discrimination Act,

issuing bylaws for the Discrimination Act, and copying case files.

The meeting focused on response of the judicial sector to the COVID-19 outbreak, and making necessary preparations.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Justice of the Union, Union Supreme Court judges, Region/State High Court Chief Justices, Permeant Secretary, Director-General, Deputy Directors-General, Directors, and Judicial Officers from Regions/States. The Rakhine State High Court Chief Justice and the Rakhine State Judicial Officer participated in the meeting via videoconference. The meeting was held in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Myanmar will continue to combat all acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations

THE Security Council adopted resolution S/RES/2532 (2020) on 1 July 2020, in support of the Secretary General’s Appeal for Global Ceasefire issued on 23 March 2020.

Myanmar welcomes the ceasefire initiative which is supportive of much needed stability and peace amidst the devastation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Tatmadaw, Myanmar Defence Forces, following the

Appeal by the Secretary General, declared a ceasefire from 10 May 2020 to 30 August 2020. The ceasefire has been extended to 30 September 2020.

In the interest of sustainable stability and peace, it is the responsibility of every State to combat terrorism. Myanmar supports Security Council resolution S/RES/1269 (1999) which “unequivocally condemns all

acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed”.

Myanmar will continue to combat terrorism and will fulfill its responsibility to protect its people from all acts of terrorism.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Correction

Please read “Natural Disaster Management Law” instead of “Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease Law” in Paragraph 4 of Announcement to people residing in Rakhine State and in Paragraph 3 of the Public Announcement of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 on front page of August 27 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Please also read “the existing laws” instead of “Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease Law” in paragraph 6 of the Order 97/2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports on page-4 of the same issue.

The GNLM regrets the errors.

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

“People are the key”

Myanmar Constitutional Tribunal Chairman joins 4th Congress of AACC



Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and its member U Myint Win join the 4th Congress of AACC on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA

CHAIRMAN of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and its member U Myint Win joined the 4th Congress of AACC (Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions) which was held via video conferencing on 26-27 August.

The Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the rotating chair country, presided over the congress under the theme of “The XXI century Constitution – the Rule of Law, the Value of Person and the Effectiveness of the State.”

Attending the congress alongside President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev were constitutional tribunals and courts from 18 other countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Thailand, Russia, Indonesia and India, and chief justices of Constitutional Court, Council and Tribunal, chairpersons, judges, representatives of the Venice Commission from Europe, Eurasian Association of

Constitutional Review Bodies, international organizations and legal officers from the universities of Kazakhstan.

During the congress, the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar read a paper titled ‘Challenges and the Ways of Solutions: Myanmar Experiences’.

The paper discussed challenges of Myanmar’s Constitution, definition of Constitution by constitutional tribunal, review on laws approved by lawmakers, judgements on proposals and other related facts.

Permanent Secretary U Hla Htay and Director U Nyi Nyi Lwin joined the Secretary General Meeting of AACC held yesterday afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker launches factbooks on constituencies

U TUN TUN HEIN, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development, presided over the launch event of Factbook of Parliamentary Constituency for MPs held at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the event, the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker said that the factbook consists of detailed information on regional population census, health, education, businesses and land matters of relevant townships.

The facts were obtained from three main sources: the township-level General Administration Departments, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and the official



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein makes a speech at launching ceremony of Factbook of Parliamentary Constituency for MPs on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA

website of United Nations Population Fund, formerly known as United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The factbook was com-

piled by researchers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Hluttaw Offices.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker called on all the MPs to effectively use the book to bring about benefits to their relevant constituencies.

The event was attended by MPs, and officials from UNDP, IPU and Hluttaw Offices. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw brings the curtain down...

FROM PAGE-2

MP U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency 8, chairman of the Committee on Immigration and Myanmar Internal and Migrant Workers, submitted bills amending the bylaws on conservation of water resources and bodies of water to the Amyotha Hluttaw which sent them to the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

The Committee on the Development of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries submitted their report on reducing negative effects of chemical residue on Myanmar’s agriculture which was approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Committee on Immigration and Myanmar Internal and Migrant Workers submitted a report on their workings from 1 March 2018 to 13 July 2020. The

various committees have held a combined 85 meetings.

The Speaker wished the MPs a safe return to their homes and hoped for them to continue serving the nation and their constituents to the best of their abilities and announced the 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw as successfully concluded. -Aung Ye Thwin (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoE close schools due to sharply rise of COVID-19 cases

IT is found that students and teachers are among the confirmed cases among COVID-19 local transmission cases in the Rakhine State.

Therefore, the Ministry of Education has closed all the schools (including private schools and monastics schools) in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, States and Regions commencing 27 August.—Ministry of Education

I want all of you to look at this matter as a national effort



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 can succeed only if all of us join in and work together. I believe we will succeed.

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

Union Minister U Soe Win discusses with ADB on establishment of Credit Guarantee Corporation

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win discussed the establishment of Credit Guarantee Corporation with the assistance of the Asia Development Bank.

His meeting with Country Director of Asia Development Bank Mr Newin Sinsiri was held online yesterday morning from Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting focused necessary financial and technological

assistancess from the ADB for the CGC in Myanmar, appointment of necessary experts and staff, the time frame for the project and cooperation with ADB in it.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and officials attended the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Union Minister U Soe Win joins virtual meeting with Asia Development Bank on establishment of Credit Guarantee Corporation on 27 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Than Myint joins 2020 ASEAN Leadership & Partnership Forum



Union Minister Dr Than Myint discusses unity and effective works at 2020 ASEAN Leadership & Partnership Forum on 27 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint participated in the 2020 ASEAN Leadership &

Partnership Forum via video-conferencing yesterday afternoon, saying that ASEAN na-

tions need to be united, work together effectively in harmony, and strengthen business cohe-

sion of ASEAN under the theme “Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN”.

He said that all ASEAN member nations need to cooperatively and collectively resolve the challenges caused by rapid changes in the ASEAN region and the world.

He urged the participants to resume focus on the Free Trade Agreements (FTA), which have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to create new opportunities.

He highlighted the importance of digital technology in trying to make ASEAN a major digital economy in the world and in alleviating COVID-19 economic impacts.

He said that the virtual forum is a milestone prior to further discussions between governments, privately-owned businesses, research organiza-

tions, civil society organizations, scholars and leaders from the media sector to make ASEAN a major digital economy.

He urged ASEAN nations to value diversity, and to take intense efforts to create a great environment for peace and development.

The forum was attended by Brunei Foreign Affairs Minister, Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Minister of Malaysia, Viet Nam ASEAN Business Advisory Council Chairman, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice Chairman, QI Group Executive Chairman, Malaysia's Economic Club of Kuala Lumpur Chairman, Advisor from KSI Strategic Institute, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific President and international business persons.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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.

MoI launches books on reform activities of government

THE Ministry of Information has published the books on the reform processes of government.

The launching ceremony of books was held at the ministry's headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, permanent secretaries, departmental heads, officials from the executive, legislative, and judiciary pillars and journalists attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister said that the Printing and Publishing Department played a key role for the ceremony and the event aims for sharing knowledge about the reform activities of the government.

He added that the MoI is a bridge between the government and the public for information, knowledge and entertainment.

The books on reform activities are for the public information reported by the elected government and the MoI has put its efforts in this task.

There are 17 kinds of books, including speeches of the Heads of State, journeys and one-year performances, he said.

The first book included President U Win Myint's speeches, directives and felicitation messages in 2018, and the second book carries his speeches, directives and felicitation messages in 2019.

Another series of books feature speeches of former President U Htin Kyaw made between 2016 and 2018 while the other expresses speeches, remarks and felicitation messages of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and her messages to the public in 2019.

The MoI made concerted efforts to achieve the full documents, the audio files and collections of answer and question during the meeting with the public.

Thoughts, opinions, views and political stance of the leaders could be known through these books and the books will be the reference books for the people working in respective departments and in media field.

Moreover, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made her trip to 14 Regions and States. She



Books to honour the reform activities of government are displayed at the Ministry of Information on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA



Books on the 2nd-year performance of government are on display at the Ministry of Information on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents books to U Kyaw Soe, Permanent Secretary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents books to Deputy Permanent Secretary U Thant Zin who represents judiciary pillar from the Union Attorney-General's Office. PHOTO: MNA

met with the local people in her every trip. So, her activities have been collected as a book about her trips around the Union from 2016 to 2020. It is not a speech collection but her travel records. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd sessions of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong books include records on meeting and photos will become reference for national reconciliation, national solidarity, efforts for peace and history of 21st century Panglong.

Similarly, the ministry has compiled the first 100-days performances of the governmental organizations and ministries and first 1-year performance of the Union Government by making interviews with the ministries and broadcasting via MRTV and they are also printed in papers as special feature.

The yearly performance records are now out and Union Gov-

ernment's 5th-year performance will be released by the end of year.

These books contain performances of Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, Union Supreme Court, respective ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Central Bank of Myanmar, Union Attorney-General Office, Union Auditor-General Office, Union Civil Service Board including Chief Ministers of Regions and States government.

The part 1 of the reform activities of government in 4th-year term includes performances of the respective ministries and Union-level organizations, while the part 2 carries performance of region and state governments. So, it can be regarded as the real records of the Government.

The Union Minister also expressed his hope to print the Union Government's 5th-year performance in coming year

and continued that the ministry will collect all records of Government's performance for the public knowledge and next generations.

Then, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presented the books to Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Soe from the Office of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Permanent Secretary U Aung Naing Oo who represents the executive pillar, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Thant Zin who represents judiciary pillar from the Union Attorney-General's Office. Colonel Soe Than from the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, Deputy Director-General Dr Myo Min Kyi Win from the National Archives Department, Director Daw Mya Oo from the National Library and Snapshot Journal's Nay Pyi Taw Office in Charge Ye Ye (Pinyinmana).

Permanent Secretary for

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry U Tun Tun Naing expressed words of thanks on behalf of all ministries.

The published books include speeches, remarks and felicitation messages delivered by President U Win Myint in 2018 and 2019, speech, remarks and felicitation message delivered by former President U Htin Kyaw in 2016, 2017 and 2018, speeches, remarks and felicitation messages delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in 2017, 2018 and 2019, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's trips around the Union from 2016 to 2020, and the performance of government on holding first, second and third sessions of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.—MNA

(Translated by
Khine Thazin Han)



Where The Finest Meet

A time for closing schools to prevent COVID-19 infection, to save lives

MINISTRY of Education announced yesterday that high schools including private and monastic education schools nationwide will be closed as from 27 August, 2020 after some students and teachers tested positive for COVID-19.

The decision came after the new clusters of the coronavirus cases which are believed to locally transmitted have been identified in recent days. Following a sudden surge in cases of coronavirus in Rakhine State, the Union Government has also imposed the Stay-At-Home order on the whole state in attempts to prevent the outbreak.

The Education Ministry's decision to close schools has been welcomed by parents. The decision is made with consideration given

Hence, we all have a moral duty to get all children back into schools once we contain the coronavirus infection in our country.

transmitted cases.

We have witnessed that China and South Korea closed all their schools, and they're seeing a significant flattening of the curve.

While schools are closed, the public including teachers and parents are highly encouraged and advised to follow the health guidelines such as social distancing measures, wearing face masks, washing hands in efforts to safely send our children back to their classrooms as soon as possible. Safety depends on us when reopening schools.

This is not a time for fear. This is a time for taking action to prevent infection and save lives now.

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

IMPROVING ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING DATA

New WHO technical package to help countries improve health data for COVID-19 response and beyond

TODAY (27 August, 2020), as part of its commitment to strengthening health information systems and improving health[1], especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO announced a new approach to improving access to life-saving data: the SCORE for Health Data Technical Package.

TIMELY AND RELIABLE DATA

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for timely and reliable data to drive strategic health action. Too many countries still lack both the infrastructure to routinely gather health data and the analytical capacity to use these data for effective health actions and emergency response.

"Countries must be able to measure progress to make progress," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Particularly during COVID-19, reliable data is the best way to coordinate response efforts and improve health in all areas."

Accurate health data are necessary to understand specific country needs in order to improve health and save lives. Data also helps direct scarce resources to where they are needed most.

TECHNICAL PACKAGE

The SCORE (Survey, Count, Optimize, Review, Enable) Technical Package aims to improve the availability of timely, reliable,

validated, and comparable health data. For the first time in a single, harmonized package, it represents all the key elements for optimized health information system performance. Simply put, SCORE will help governments around the globe set benchmarks and improve standards in healthcare.

In response to the challenges of data availability highlighted in the WHO World Health Statistics 2020 report, SCORE includes more than 90 universally-accepted tools and standards for health information systems strengthening. "Using data to inform public health priorities and strategies has never been more important," said Dr Kelly Henning, Director of Public Health Programmes at Bloomberg Philanthropies[2]. "The SCORE Technical Package provides country governments around the world with high-quality, essential technical guidance so that countries can strengthen their own data systems." WHO is proud to partner with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative to deliver this timely resource to countries.

Below are some examples of how SCORE can improve individual lives and communities:

- The birth of a child is registered so they can access essential health services, attend school, and apply for a passport;
- A death is registered with

cause-of-death accurately captured so that policy-makers have a better understanding of all-cause and COVID-specific mortality and associated risk factors and implement programs and policies to save lives;

- Health data are disaggregated by age, sex and cause of death to illustrate the root causes of health disparities and help direct resources to the most vulnerable groups such as those who do not speak the local language or face stigma and discrimination in their community;
- Health facilities have the capacity to regularly measure the quality of their services, workforce and patient data and can make a compelling case for increased funding to national and international stakeholders;

- Health data are integrated with other sectors so that social determinants of health such as pollution, sanitation and nutrition are addressed to reduce the overall burden of disease.

The package's initial release includes two documents:

- SCORE Essential Interventions – including an overview of health information systems, underlying elements, and indicators to assess progress with sample actions; and
- SCORE Tools and Standards – including resources to ad-



The SCORE (Survey, Count, Optimize, Review, Enable) Technical Package aims to improve the availability of timely, reliable, validated, and comparable health data. **PHOTO FROM PIXABAY.**

dress critical health data gaps and strengthen country health data.

"We must keep score to save lives. WHO is committed to working with countries and partners to rapidly scale up capacity for data collection and use in order to improve policy and performance," added Dr Samira Asma, Assistant Director-General for Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact at WHO. "We must act now to invest in statistical systems in countries, respond to this pandemic and meet the SDGs and the Triple Billion targets. Our window of opportunity is closing, and we cannot wait to address data gaps. Data use to

address country needs has to be a priority today.

SUSTAINABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Country-owned, disaggregated data will be essential for more resilient and sustainable health systems going forward. COVID-19 is both a wake-up call and a stark reminder of the challenges we still have to address. But it is also an opportunity to build back better through solidarity, information-sharing and collaboration.

SCORE is one example of how a collaborative approach can benefit countries by providing a common set of tools based on

shared standards. This package is designed to be practical, actionable and flexible. We will only be successful in combatting COVID-19 if we work together.

Future components of the SCORE Technical Package are due to be released later this year, including the SCORE Assessment Instrument and global, regional and country status reports. Together, these will provide a complete package of information to plan and monitor progress against national and subnational priorities as well as global targets.

SOURCE: WHO

A NEW CORONAVIRUS MUTATION

COVID-19 reinfection seems not to be a 'regular event', says UN health agency

SPEAKING to journalists in Geneva, World Health Organization (WHO) spokesperson Dr Margaret Harris addressed concerns that the development could herald a new alert.

"The important – other important – thing to note is the numbers are very, very small," she said. "So this is one documented case in over 23 million and we will probably see other documented cases. But it seems to be not a regular event we would have seen many more cases."

Nonetheless, Dr Harris noted that the reinfection signalled on Monday was significant.

According to the University of Hong Kong scientists who

announced the development, the virus strains that infected the man more than four months apart were different.

"The important thing here is that this is clear documentation," the WHO spokesperson said. "So, we've had anecdotal reports every now and then from people who've tested negative, then tested positive. And it hasn't been clear up until this case whether that was simply a problem of testing or whether people were getting infected a second time."

Priorities for the UN health agency include understanding "what this means in terms of (people's) immunity", Dr Harris

continued.

Tracking process ongoing

"This is why we have got a lot of research groups actually tracking people, measuring antibodies, trying to understand how long the immune protection lasts – the natural immune protection – and that should be understood as it is not the same as the immune protection that a vaccine provides."

SOURCE: UN News

People wearing masks walk in the Central area of Hong Kong, south China, July 27, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG SHEN**



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 17:00 hrs MST on 27-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyarwady River

According to the (16:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Zalun 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.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in ZalunTownship, to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 27-8-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung is observed as about (1) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

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



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 27th August, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 28th August, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan (North and East) State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay-pyitaw, Ayeyawady Region, Kachin, Southern Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th August, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th August, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th August, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာဖတ်သူတို့လိုပါကသတင်းပို့နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. HOTLINE 09-45237515

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်တစ်စုံတစ်ရာ အား ခိုင်းငံတကာဆင့်
ပို့နိုင်စေလိုပါက ခေါ်ဆိုပါ။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 01-8604530

Question on implementing National Strategic Plan for One Health, concerning relations of human and animal health and environmental protection

(At 12th day of second Pyithu Hluttaw’s 17th regular Session on 27 August 2020)

Question on whether there is a plan to implement a National Strategic Plan for One Health, which combines the health of human and animal and environmental protection.

MP Dr Than Aung Soe (Minhla constituency): :“Honourable Speaker, I am MP Dr Than Aung Soe from Minhla constituency. I would like to know if there will be a National Strategic Plan to implement “One Health” which combines human health, animal health and the environmental protection. The honourable Hluttaw Speaker and members of the Parliament, health is a blessing. Human needs to have both food safety which is to eat safe milk, meat and eggs and food security which is to have enough food. Now, COVID-19 is killing many people and threatening world’s economy. These kinds of disease start from animals and are called Zoonoses. 75% of human diseases are transmitted from animals such as Glanders and Farcy disease, Q Fever, Leptospirosis disease, H1N1, Swine fever, SARS, MERS, Psittacosis, COVID-19 and many more. Until now, 61.6% of 1,415 diseases are based on animals.”

“The reasons of the transmission of such diseases are because population explosion leads to invading animal world and being close to them, transport of meat around the world and wild life markets. Besides, carrying alive animals among the people in markets can spread the disease. If we look at the newly discovered diseases, they come from a place where the disease usually occurs and is transmitted to new places. Another form of the disease is that the virus doesn’t infect to normally infected people or animals but others and the disease occurs due to the mutation. At that time, the virus has become stronger and varieties of diseases can multiply unbelievably. COVID-19 is now mutating and changing from D614 to G614 as ten times more infectious disease. The diseases can be invented as a Bio Weapon by terrorists, too”

“ Honourable Hluttaw Speaker and Members of Parliament, cooperation of diagnostic doctors, veterinarians, lab technicians, environmentalists, researchers and experts from related fields to implement “One Health National Strategic Plan” can prevent the unthinkable terrifying new diseases. That is why I would like to ask through the Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much.”

The Speaker: Ministry of Health



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

and Sport to answer.

Answer by Dr Mya Lay Sein (Deputy Minister for Health and Sports),

“ Honourable Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Members of Parliament, I will answer the question of the MP from Min Hla constituency. I would like to request to let me use Power Point and English language. In International Health Regulation-IHR (2005) enacted by WHO, a new framework was added to response among member nations if there is international emergency for public health. The framework calls for a link between the two spheres of human and animal health to effectively carry out disease surveillance and response in rare cases, including zoonotic diseases. Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department and the Department of Public Health have been working together to prevent and control the H5N1 virus since the outbreak of the Avian Influenza A-H5N1 pandemic in Myanmar in 2013.”

“In March 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, One Health Strategy Workshop was held with representatives from UN agencies such as FAO, OIE, WHO, USAID and international organizations, environmental conservation, human health and animal health sectors in Myanmar and based on the findings of the workshop, a roadmap for one health priority and a strategic roadmap was developed.

Based on this information, various sections were discussed and datas were collected and finalized in the last week of September 2019, and the National One Health Strategic Framework and Action Plan of Myanmar 2019-2023 was finalized. The key ministries which are Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation have reached an agreement in order to implement the strategic process.

The goal of implementing a single health plan is to reduce the burden of animal-to-human transmission of the



MP Dr Than Aung Soe.

disease, to prevent the new Zoonotic Diseases and Re-emerging Diseases and to response effectively if they occur and to prevent antibiotic problems and foodborne illness.

In the National One Health Strategic Framework and Action Plan of Myanmar (2019-2023), Antimicrobial resistance-AMR and six priority diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans- Rabies, H1N1, TB, food poisoning, Japanese encephalitis and Rabies have been put in place to prioritize and are being implemented in the relevant sectors.

Public Health Department has distributed the guidelines for prevention and control of the diseases such as SARS, Food-Borne and Water-Borne Diseases, Ebola, MERS, Salmonella, Leptospirosis, Brucellosis, Tazoplasmosis, Pararsitic Infestation.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health and Sports is responsible for food safety activities for the health and safety of human, animal, meat, fish and Agriculture; Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation are responsible for the quality and safety of meat, milk, eggs, and fishery products.

With the cooperation of public health care services and breeding and veterinary services , National-Level IRS- PVS National Bridging Workshop was held in 2019 and discussed making Road Map for Human Health and Animal Health and promoting the skills of staff to serve for Zoonotic Diseases.

The health guidelines and prevention, control and treatment measures of COVID-19 pandemic, which breaks out across the world including Myanmar, directives for isolation, diagnostic guidelines are also sent to the regions and states Public Health and Medical Services Department.

Moreover, regarding with the control of Anti-Microbial Resistance, the

National Coordinating Centre is affiliated with National Health Laboratory and five Technical Working Groups- Awareness, Surveillance, Infection, Prevention and Control, Antimicrobial Usage and Research & Innovation are being organized under NCC. One Health Strategic Framework and Action Plan is carried out under One Health Approach with Anti-Microbial Resistance control, labs under the Ministry of Health and Sports and animal health labs under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The Medical Services Department and National Health Laboratory conduct diagnostic test on One Health Priority Diseases as (a) National malaria control department recognized by WHO, (b) National Japanese Encephalitis Laboratory, (c) laboratory test on Rabies by PCR, (d) diagnosis of bacteria that can cause food poisoning, (e) screening bacteria that can cause Rabies.

The Public Health Laboratory of Mandalay conducts Japanese Encephalitis as Sub-National Japanese Encephalitis Laboratory. The laboratories under the Ministry of Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department also test for rabies, H1N1 and marine products whether they contain microorganisms.

The COVID-19 tests are being carried out at NHL, DMR, Public Health Laboratory (Mandalay), Public Health Laboratory (Mawlamyine) with Real Time PCR and with GeneXpert in 26 townships of regions and states including General Hospital (Sittway).

The Department of Public Health Laboratory will be open soon in Taunggyi and Lashio townships to continue diagnostic works. The currently used PCR laboratories are included in External Quality Assessment Programme (EQAP) of the World Health Organization.

For the capacity building of the National Health Laboratory, the staff are given trainings for Quality, Biosafety and Biosecurity. The Laboratory Network Strengthening includes information exchange training of public hospitals and laboratories across the country. Thank you all.

The Hluttaw Speaker : :Members of Parliament, according to 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Law Section 150, it is a question and answer that benefits the citizens. I would like to inform you that it will be published in the Gazette and state-owned newspapers.

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

YRIC clears five foreign projects, one domestic proposal in manufacturing sector

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) has approved five foreign projects from Japan, Samoa, Seychelles and China, and one domestic enterprise at a videoconference held on 26 August, according to Yangon Region Investment Committee.

Those projects are to be brought in an estimated capital of US\$10.652 million and K6 billion.

They will create 1,828 jobs. They will execute manufacturing of bags and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, milling, modern furniture production, artificial jewellery product and production and distribution of sesame oil and cookie, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Yangon Region).

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and

garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

The investments in the regions are also flowing into the hotel services, and other services sectors as well. To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

Yangon Region tops foreign investments among the regions and states, attracting more than 600 enterprises over the four years of the incumbent government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to statistics released by the DICA, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar, Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. At the same time, the other regions and states receive only a small share of assets.

To simplify the verification



Front of the Yangon Region Investment Committee office building. PHOTO: GNLM

of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. — GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

US dollar weakening despite CBM dollar purchase at auction

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar has been sliding against the Kyat in the local currency market. However, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been purchasing dollar in the auction market, according to the local forex market.

The CBM reportedly purchased about 3.8 million dollars in the auction market on 25 August through foreign exchange auction. However, the exchange rate touched a low of K1,340 which slumped from the opening price of K1,360 on 27 August.

The instability in the ex-

change rate posed difficulties to those stakeholders engaged in the agriculture and livestock supply chains, including farmers and exporters. Having said that, Dr Soe Tun, a businessperson, pointed out the stable exchange rate is of vital importance for the businesses.

“It is such a good move of the CBM. It can help govern the market not to have a steep fall. It is good if the local forex market is more stable than that. When Myanmar traders export agro and livestock products, the dollar exchange rate usually moves in the volatile range. Some coun-

tries make their local currency weak while exporting their products. Yet, it turns out opposite in our country. What matters most is the stability in the exchange rate for the exporters,” said Dr Soe Tun.

At present, the local forex market sees the weak sentiment amid the coronavirus outbreak and the trade disputes between the US and China, he continued.

This year, the exchange rate moves in the range of K1,456-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June and K1,367-1,410 in July.

Last year, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market.

Six Myanmar-Thailand borders to provide CO Form online from 1 September

By Nyein Nyein

SIX Myanmar-Thailand borders will provide online service for traders in seeking Certificate of Origin (CO) starting from 1 September, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Since May 2019, the Trade Department, which has CO issuing authority, has offered ten types of electronic CO Form to the certified traders. More than 70,000 CO forms have been published online as of August 2020.

Additionally, Electronic Certificate of Origin (ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement ATIGA (e-Form D) is exchanged through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and Myanmar is joining Live Operation to integrate National Single Window (NSW) of ASEAN Member States. Later on, data exchange will be carried out through ASW, the Trade Department stated.

Besides Myawady, six more Myanmar-Thailand borders -- Myeik, Kawthoung, Tachilek, Hteekhee, Maese and Mawtaung will commence online system to issue Form D for

both maritime and border trade channels starting from 1 September.

Myanmar is endeavouring to issue electronic CO including ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Form AK), ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (Form AJ), ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (Form AANZ) and ASEAN-Hong Kong CO (Form AHK) shortly.

The exchange of CO will be tested through data verification platform with ASEAN member states soon.

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 of Commerce launched the online service for export and import businesses, intending to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of the pandemic.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



US and Myanmar banknotes on display. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MNHRC attends 2nd meeting of SEANF



Chairman of MNHRC U Hla Myint joins videoconference on Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum. PHOTO: MNA

THE Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) convened its second meeting from 25 August to 27 August through video conferencing.

Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Hla Myint, Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun and the commission members U Paw Lwin Sein, Dr Than Myint and Dr Tin Maung Maung Than participated in the virtual meeting.

The Indonesia National Human Rights Commission, acted as the rotating chair for 2020, delivered the opening speech on the meeting’s first day.

Human rights commission representatives from Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste, the chairperson of Indonesia National Human Rights Commission, its members and officials attended the meeting.

The first day of the meeting discussed the performance of the member countries and the improvements after the first meeting of the forum and approved the report of the first meeting held from 12 May to 14 May.

The second-day meeting discussed setting guidelines of SEANF’s social media, its rules on prevention of torture, the forum’s paper on migrant workers in South East Asia and protecting human rights defenders.

The third day agenda included the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat for SEANF, the progress on launching SEANF Website, holding annual meeting of SEANF for 2020, the cooperation between SEANF and The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) .

MNHRC Chair U Hla Myint and commissioner members participated in the discussion in accordance with the subjects of matter and the Chair of the forum concluded the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
Internal Revenue Department

Announcement for Tax Payers

1. The Internal Revenue Department established a project office at the Yangon Region Revenue Department on 17 August to provide quick services for those who want to increase their investments during the COVID-19 crisis.
2. It was learnt that some tax payers were concerned about the establishment of the project team, and that it is informed that the project office will not scrutinize shares initially acquired by existing shareholders.
3. The following are the objectives of the establishment of the project office.
 - (a) In accordance with Section 25 of the 2019 Union Tax Law, income taxes collected on the incomes exempted from tax collections for 2019-2020FY are exempted and the plan could be enjoyed before the end of this financial year.
 - (b) To provide ‘one stop services’ for the shareholders who want their shares to be taxed at the project office, rather than going to relevant township revenue departments to pay their taxes.
 - (c) Shareholders who want to contribute new shares can pay their taxes at a single place.
 - (d) Shareholders who have yet to pay their taxes will now be able to pay their taxes quickly and easily with their consent at the office.
 - (e) By levying taxes on shares at one place, the collection of the taxes will be fair and equal.

Internal Revenue Department
The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

155 Myanmar nationals return from Japan

AN All Nippon Airways (ANA) relief flight brought 155 Myanmar citizens from Narita International Airport in Japan and 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 21-day quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.

A total of 5 relief flights have been organized between Myanmar and Japan and another relief flight is scheduled for 3 September.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

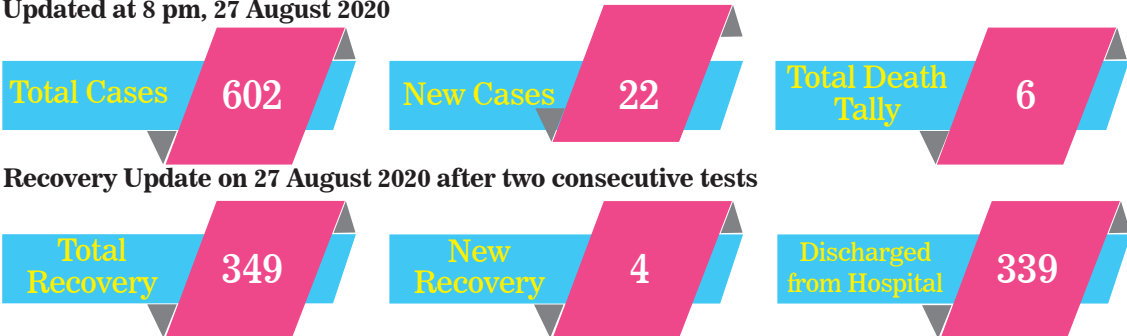
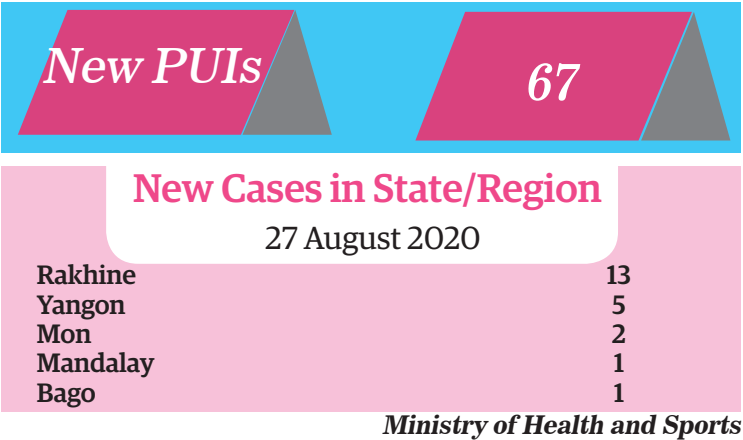
Myanmar citizens returning from Japan line up for immigration process at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA



22 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 August, total figure reaches 602

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reach 602 after 22 new cases were reported on 27 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 602 confirmed cases, six died, 349 have recovered, 339 have been discharged from hospitals and 67 were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 27 August 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

Mandalay medical volunteers travel to Rakhine State

To assist in the COVID-19 measures in Rakhine State, a group of 35 medical volunteers departed from Mandalay International Airport yesterday.

This is the first volunteer group to travel to Rakhine State to assist in COVID-19 preventive and containment measures. They were escorted at the airport by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr

Zaw Myint Maung, Regional Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Dr Khin Maung Htay, Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin, Regional Minister for Immigration and Human Resources U Aung Kyi, government secretary U Myint Lwin, local public health and treatment department head Dr Than Than Myint and other officials who also handed over provi-

sions.

The volunteer group consists of 4 assistant doctors, 28 nurses 3 lab technicians and medical experts from district, township and community hospitals of Mandalay Region. They will be assisting in hospitals of Sittway and Kyaukpyu. —Min Htet Aaung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Zaw



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung praises volunteers at the airport before they leave for Rakhine State to perform volunteering services.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AAUNG (MANN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Third group of medical volunteers arrive in Sittwe



Third group of medical workers land Sittway for their volunteering works to control COVID-19 on 27 August. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

THE third batch of volunteers, including doctors and nurses, travelling to Rakhine State of their own will to assist in the preventing, containment and treatment measures of COVID-19 arrived in Sittway by an MAI flight

yesterday evening.

They were welcomed at the airport by State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar, local public health and treatment department head Dr Soe Win Zaw Hlaing, Director Dr Nyan Win Myint of the

Central Field Unit (Communicable Disease Eradication), Sittway General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Lwin and other officials.

The 41-member volunteer group consists of doctors, medics, nurses,

lab technicians, pharmacists and midwives who will be temporarily serving in Sittway General Hospital.

The COVID-9 Rapid Response Team and the medical volunteers are civil servants from the health ministries of Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Mandalay Region. They include a director, a deputy director, 6 assistant doctors, 5 senior nurses, an assistant medic, 2 lab technicians, 2 pharmacists, 20 nurses and 3 midwives.

The special flight also transported medical supplies and equipment for use against COVID-19 in Rakhine State.—Tin Tun (IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

COVID volunteers depart for Rakhine State

A special MAI flight carrying 25 volunteers who will be assisting in COVID-19 measures for a month in Rakhine State departed from Yangon International Airport for Sittway yesterday.

The volunteer group consists of 18 men and 7 women and they were escorted to the airport by officials from the Yangon Region social welfare office and disaster management department.



Volunteers to join measures against COVID-19 depart Yangon for Sittway on 27 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

These volunteers already have experience with preventing, containing, treating and responding to COVID-19 while volunteering at commu-

nity-based facility quarantine centers. They have received training from volunteer doctors organized by the National Volunteer Steering Unit.

The government will be taking care of the food, accommodation, travel and health affairs of the volunteers travelling to Rakhine State. They have

also received medical examinations from the Ministry of Health and Sports and are reportedly in good health.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (048N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (048N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISOBEL VOY. NO. (033S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများလွယ်ကူစွာရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE 09-45237515**

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်စာစောင်များ အား ခိုင်ခံ့စာတင်အပ်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. **Contact: 01-8604530**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITOR
Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR TRANSLATOR
Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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.
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/thegnlm



Write for us

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.

Negotiation made to provide diphtheria vaccination

THE Public Health Department held a meeting to negotiate matters relating to providing of diphtheria vaccination on 26 August in Tachilek district public general hospital compound in Shan State (East).
The meeting was attended by District Administrator U Myint Naing, Township Administrator U Chan Myat Saw and personnel from Women's Affairs Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross and the Charity associations and the public health staff.

At the meeting, district public health officer Dr Khin Aung delivered a speech while the paediatrician explained facts about diphtheria disease.



Tachilek District Public Health Officer Dr Khin Aung addresses a meeting on providing diphtheria vaccination. **PHOTO: YAR HSAY (IPRD)**

Then, a doctor explained the methods and planned to avoid being crowded when we carry out the vaccination activities in the wards. At present, six people died of diphtheria while 45 others were

infected with it in Tachilek town. The vaccination was conducted on 27 August in wards and villages in the townships in Tachilek district at the same time.
To be able to prevent the peo-

ple from being thronged, some 42 teams provide diphtheria vaccination to over 12,000 children who are under the age of 15 years.
—Yar Hsay (IPRD)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Nga Moe Yeik embankment construction almost completes 100pc

THE construction of Nga Moe Yeik embankment was nearly 100 per cent complete, and it is expected to complete at the end of August, according to Yangon Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (Region 1).

The project is implemented at the corner of Parami Street and Shwepyikhinnyar Street, near the Bailey bridge beside Nga Moe Yeik creek, (South Okkalapa Township), Yangon.

"This project is almost completed. This project implemented with spending of this year budget is part of the five Nga Moe Yeik projects. This project is targeted to complete at the end of August. We are also planning to grow a mangrove forest to sustain the river banking. We have planned to provide awareness to the residents not to throw the rubbish," said U Kyaw Win Hlaing, deputy director of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (Region 1).



Nga Moe Yeik embankment construction nearing completion in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

The construction of Nga Moe Yeik embankment is implemented by the tender winning company named San Nyone Thit under the supervision of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems. The project has been implemented since March and is set to finish at the end of August. The project is implemented at the spending of K 1,205 million, according to the Directorate of Water Resources

and Improvement of River Systems (Region 1). Upon completion of the project, the embankment can reduce flooding in Ward 15 in South Okkalapa Township which has Nag Moe Yeik creek in its area, and people can breathe in the fresh air, do exercise and walk along the Nga Moe Yeik Creek.
There are 25 bends along the creek which experiences bank erosion every year. Now, it is the third year that the Directorate has

been renovating the Nga Moe Yeik Creek with five bends per year. This year, the Directorate will restore 15 turns. The prevention works of the remaining ten curves will be conducted depending on the budget in the coming years, according to the Directorate of the Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (Region 1).—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MNA, MAI to fly relief flights to five countries

MYANMAR National Airline (MNA) and Myanmar Airway International (MAI) will fly the relief flights to New Delhi, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Dubai for Myanmar citizens to bring back home.

MNA will fly the relief flight to Manila in the Philippines on 28 August to bring back Myanmar citizens and will also fly Yangon-New Delhi relief flight on 29

August for Myanmar citizens to come back to their country and for those who will go to India.

MAI flew Yangon-Kuala Lumpur relief flight on 26 August and Yangon-Seoul relief flight on 23 August. MAI will also fly Yangon-Dubai relief flights on 1st and 2nd September 2020.

The relief flights have been conducted for 14 times for Myanmar citizens who have difficulty

coming back from Singapore, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With the suspension of international flights, MAI relief flights brought back a total of 124 Myanmar nationals including 94 from the United States and 30 from the Republic of Korea through Incheon International Airport, the Republic of Korea. They arrived back in the country on 23

August.
On arrival at Yangon International Airport, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region Government provide them with proper medical checks and arrange 21- day quarantine for COVID-19 prevention and control. —Zin Yaw Aye
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Pence warns US voters: ‘You won’t be safe’ under Joe Biden



US Vice President Mike Pence delivered the main speech on day three of the Republican convention. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

BALTIMORE — Donald Trump’s vice president Mike Pence took centre stage at the Republican convention Wednesday to warn voters they “won’t be safe in Joe Biden’s America” – and cast Trump as their protector against the “radical left”

Pence was the keynote speaker in a parade of Trump acolytes who sought to uplift the president as a champion of American values and civil rights.

They also spoke of dark forces intent on ending the American dream and said losing to their Democratic rivals is not an option.

Pence addressed the four-day convention from Fort McHenry in Baltimore, the site of an 1814 British bombardment against American revolutionaries that inspired the poem later turned into the US national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The backdrop gave Pence a cinematic opportunity to make the patriotic case for Trump getting a second term instead of allowing the nation to be “fun-

damentally transformed” by a Biden administration they say would take an uncharted path towards socialism and mob rule.

“The hard truth is...you won’t be safe in Joe Biden’s America,” said the 61-year-old Pence.

Touting Trump’s strong record on the economy before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and his ongoing efforts to revive it – he urged voters to ask themselves “who do you trust to rebuild this economy?”

“A career politician who presided over the slowest economic recovery since the Great Depression? Or a proven leader who created the greatest economy in the world?”

Pence’s address came amid a new flare-up of racial tensions in the United States, with protests

spreading over the latest police shooting of an African-American man, Jacob Blake, who was shot in the back in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Trump has announced he is sending in additional federal forces to quell unrest in the Midwestern city, where two people were shot dead during anti-police protests on Tuesday. A 17-year-old has been arrested on murder charges over the deaths.

Addressing the latest unrest – Pence struck a tough tone.

“Let me be clear,” he said. “The violence must stop whether in Minneapolis, Portland or Kenosha,” he said.

“We will have law and order on the streets of this country for every American of every race and creed and color.”—AFP ■

France offers surveillance help for Iraq war on IS

BAGHDAD — French Defence Minister Florence Parly held talks in Baghdad on Thursday, pledging continued support for Iraq’s fight against remnants of the Islamic State group.

Parly is the second French minister to visit the Iraqi capital this summer after Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian last month. She held talks with her counterpart Jumaa Inad and President Barham Saleh, and is due to meet Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi before travelling to the autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq. During a brief press conference with Inad, she said France was hoping to resume its training and arming of Iraqi security forces “as soon as possible”. Support was suspended earlier this year in the

face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Parly said she and Inad also discussed boosting Iraq’s surveillance methods, “by land and in its airspace”, to squeeze IS sleeper cells still operating in desert areas.

“We are convinced that the fight against (IS) is not over,” she said. “We are by your side.”

Ahead of her trip, the French defence ministry said it wanted to make sure operations against IS in Iraq would not be derailed by heightened tensions between the US and Iran. Iraq has been caught for years in the power struggle between its two main allies but has had to walk an increasingly fine line since 2018, when the US began a “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.—AFP ■

Iran allows UN access to alleged nuclear sites

TEHRAN — Iran agreed Wednesday to allow the UN watchdog the access it has requested to two alleged nuclear sites, as the head of the agency ended his first visit to Tehran.

The announcement came only hours after Iran’s arch foe the United States suffered a humiliating defeat when the United Nations blocked its controversial bid to reimpose international sanctions on the Islamic republic. The US move had threatened

to torpedo a historic 2015 accord under which Iran had agreed to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

The deal known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has been hanging by a thread since US President Donald Trump’s unilateral decision to withdraw from it in 2018. Iran has retaliated by gradually reducing its commitments to the JCPOA ever since.—AFP ■

Pompeo heads home after pushing Israel deal on Mideast tour

MUSCAT — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headed home Thursday after a Middle East tour aimed at encouraging Arab countries to follow the UAE’s move and normalize relations with Israel.

However, stops in Bahrain, Oman and Sudan failed to produce any public commitments to recognize the Jewish state, after the landmark US-brokered deal with the United Arab Emirates announced earlier this month.

“Met today with Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al-Said on the importance of building

regional peace, stability, and prosperity through a united Gulf Cooperation Council,” Pompeo tweeted as he left Oman, the last stop on his itinerary.

“Grateful for our strong security partnership and economic ties.”

The official Oman News Agency said that “aspects of the existing bilateral cooperation between the sultanate and the United States were reviewed within the framework of the strong relations that bind them,” but made no reference to relations with Israel.

Pompeo was the first

high-level Western official to meet Sultan Haitham, who succeeded Sultan Qaboos on his death in January after some five decades in power.

Oman has long had dialogue with Israel and welcomed the UAE’s August 13 announcement that it had normalized ties, while reaffirming its support for the Palestinians.

The US chief diplomat had said he was hopeful other nations would follow the UAE, which became only the third Arab country to establish relations with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan.—AFP ■



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets Sultan Haitham of Oman on the final leg of a Middle East tour that failed to produce any public commitments to follow the UAE in normalizing relations with Israel. **PHOTO: OMANI ROYAL PALACE/AFP**

Ayeyawady trounces Sagaing 6-1 in MNL Week-11

AYEYAWADY United yesterday struck a big victory over Sagaing United 6-1 in a Myanmar National League Week-11 match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Head coach U Myo Hlaing Win's Ayeyawady United yesterday lined up with Captain Thiha Zaw, Rapheal Success, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Captain Thiha Zaw, Thann Htet Aung and Lwin Moe Aung. In contrast, head coach U Zaw Lin Tun's Sagaing United used key players Captain Toe Sat Naing, Friday Barnabas Akanmidu, Soulemanou Mandjombe and Htet Zaw Tun.

Ayeyawady players were brave enough to take full domination over opponents from the start of the match.

Ayeyawady United got an early goal just after the kickoff, and the goal was beautifully scored by its foreign player Rapheal Success.



Sagaing United's keeper Toe Sat Naing (dark blue) jumps and grabs the ball kicked by Ayeyawady United's Win Naing Tun (No 28) in an MNL Week-11 match at Thuwunna Stadium on 27 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

The goal produced more energy for the team's players, and Thann Htet Aung scored

the second goal for the Ayeyawady United at 16 minutes. The first half ended with

two goals leading by Ayeyawady United. Sagaing United launched

their open attack at the very beginning of the second half while Ayeyawady were still dominating the remaining minutes of the second half with stable play.

Sagaing United got a consolation goal at 48 minutes, and the goal was scored by Sagaing's striker Patrick.

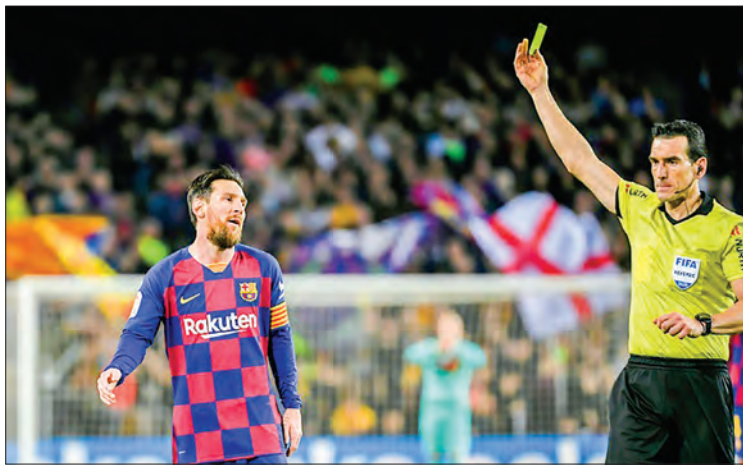
By using the power play and accurate passing, Rapheal Success again scored the third goal for his team at 52 minutes.

Next, Win Naing Tun scored the fourth goal at 72 minutes, and the goal raised the tempo of their team.

Again Thiha Zaw scored the fifth goal at 79 minutes, and Kaung Myat Thu scored the sixth goal at 81 minutes to end up the match.

In the final whistle, Ayeyawady United's players celebrated their sweet 6-1 victory over Sagaing United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Messi has shown he is ready to put the boot in at Barca



Naughty boy: despite his image, Lionel Messi has sometimes misbehaved at Barcelona. **PHOTO: AFP**

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi has provoked a football frenzy by announcing he wants to leave Barcelona, the club he joined as a 13-year-old in 2000 and has led to four Champions League titles.

This has been a season of problems, on and off the field for Barcelona, but Tuesday's declaration of divorce, though more extreme than anything in his past, is not the first sulk in Messi's 20 years at Camp Nou.

2012: Patience wears thin

Despite a reputation as a discreet and approachable team-mate, the Argentine has repeatedly lost patience with other Barca players.

In September 2012, he gesticulated angrily at Spanish striker David Villa, forced to play on the wing, for failing to cross the ball quickly enough against Granada in La Liga. Messi's gestures effectively confirmed rumours circulating for several months of tensions between the two, who were no longer speaking to each other. Once, in training, Messi reportedly told striker Cristian Tello: "You're new here and you're nothing at all. Pass me the ball. You're here to play for me."

Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez, who arrived in 2011 at a cost of 37 million euros (\$53 million at the time), is said to have attracted Messi's wrath.—AFP ■

Naomi Osaka withdraws from WTA semi-final over Blake shooting

NEW YORK — Japan's Naomi Osaka withdrew from her WTA Western & Southern Open semi-final match Thursday in New York to protest the police shooting of an unarmed black man in Wisconsin.

Osaka, a two-time Grand Slam champion, was to have faced Belgian Elise Mertens in the same quarantine bubble where the US Open will be played starting Monday.

"Before I am an athlete, I

am a black woman. And as a black woman I feel as though there are much more important matters at hand that need immediate attention, rather than watching me play tennis," Osaka posted in a statement on Twitter.

"I don't expect anything drastic to happen with me not playing, but if I can get a conversation started in a majority white sport I consider that a step in the right direction."

Her move comes in the wake of African-American Jacob Blake being shot on Sunday in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks boycotting their scheduled playoff game Wednesday.

All NBA playoff games Wednesday were eventually postponed and Major League Baseball and Women's NBA clubs followed suit before Osaka became the trailblazer in tennis.—AFP ■



Japan's Naomi Osaka withdrew Wednesday from her scheduled WTA semi-final on Thursday against Elise Mertens of Belgium to protest the police shooting of an unarmed black man in Wisconsin on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP/AL BELLO**