State Counsellor highlights importance of Union spirit during videoconference with COVID-19 frontline fighters in Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a videoconference from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment measures with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Public Health and Medical Services Officer Dr Sai Win Zaw Hlaing and Volunteer Saw Thaw Moe Al who is from Insein Township and now in Sittway Township.

First of all in making some introductory remarks, Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that no matter where an outbreak occurred, it concerned the whole Union; if there is a pain in any part of the country, it is a pain for the entire Union; that is the spirit in approaching COVID-related activities; there was no discrimination with regards to place; among those who returned from Thailand, the majority came back from Myawady; although it was in Kayin State, although it was in Kayin State, it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds meeting online with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 August 2020. PHOTO : MNA

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL BUSINESS
Domestic gold price slumps below K1.3 mln per tical

NATIONAL
Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds meeting on COVID-19 control measures in Rakhine State

NATIONAL
UNICEF delivers medical assistance for Myanmar’s COVID-19 fight

NATIONAL
Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds videoconference with UN Resident Coordinator, UNICEF Representative

PAY HEED TO COVID-19 HEALTH PROTOCOLS

PARLIAMENT
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves bill, loan plan on final day meeting of 17th regular session

NATIONAL
MoI strives to form Myanmar Digital Media Association
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves bill, loan plan on final day meeting of 17th regular session

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its final meeting of the 17th regular session yesterday, with the approvals of Union Taxation Law 2020 and the 8.4 million euro zero-interest loan from UniCredit Bank of Austria.

Dr Kyaw Linn sought the approval of Hluttaw on the loan proposal, saying that the bridge with the load capacity of 75 tonnes will be useful for vehicles between Taunggyi and Thailand and helpful in development of Shan State.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry agreed on the loan proposal and explained the ministry’s plan for preparing the loan agreement with the UniCredit Bank in line with the rules and regulations.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the unanimously approval of Hluttaw on the loan.

Concluding Speech for 17th regular session
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Kyaw Myat made a concluding speech to the 17th regular session of Hluttaw which approved the National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill 2020 and the Union Taxation Bill 2020.

He also advised the MPs who will contest the upcoming November 8 elections to abide by the rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission, while the legislative, administrative and judiciary pillars need to cooperate with the UEC for ensuring the free and fair elections.

He also called for the return of remaining funds for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s development budgets to the Treasury Department as only 103 townships have submitted the accomplishment report on using these budgets and other townships are to present their report within the fixed date.

— Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds videoconference with UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF Representative to Myanmar

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin (C) meets UN Resident Coordinator to Myanmar Mr Ola Almgren (R) and UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms June Kunugi (L) via videoconference on 28 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Mr Ola Almgren and UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms June Kunugi, in their capacities as co-chairs of the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) in Myanmar for prevention of recruitment and use of children, on 28th August 2020 at 12:45 pm via videoconference.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on matters pertaining to sustainably preventing the recruitment and use of children following the delisting of the Tatmadaw from the list of parties that recruit and use children in the UN Secretary-General’s Annual Report; possible avenues for cooperation with the United Nations for prevention of killing, maiming and sexual violence against children in armed conflicts; Myanmar’s possible participation in the Safe Schools Declaration; and possibility of including provisions on protection of children, schools, education and advancing mine action in Myanmar’s peace dialogues.

— MNA
State Counsellor highlights importance of Union spirit ...
State Counsellor highlights importance of Union spirit ...

FROM PAGE-3

The directives of Ministry of Health and Sports are published in real-time through videoconferences, hand speakers; pamphlets are distributed to Rakhine people and IDP camps; medical supplies are provided to the respective areas.

He also explained sending the swabs of suspected patients to Yangon by flights after the polio project car in carrying the first batch of swabs was attacked; local authorities emphasized the public announcement when the first positive case was found in Rakhine State; although active cooperation of people in social distancing in March, April and May has gradually declined.

The local health officials have adopted the Rakhine State Health Sector Contingency Plan based on the Health Sector Contingency Plan of the Ministry of Health and Sports; the plan includes the route for carrying positive patients, the designated hospitals for patients from IDP camps, emergency reaction plans and further requirements for Rakhine State; this plan also has been distributed to the ministries and partner organizations.

In responding to the discussions, the State Counsellor said approval has already been given for donations to be used in Rakhine State and not to be sent to the central authorities; with respect to the submission made regarding food supplies, she guaranteed that there would not be any shortage of food supplies; the necessary food supplies would be sent with available means of transport; she also hoped that the respected States/Regions would provide necessary assistance; financial assistance would also be provided; although Myanmar is not a wealthy country, any part of the Union which needed assistance would always be provided with assistance.

She also believed that the people would all participate and cooperate; this was such a strength; although the country is not rich, our people are rich in generous spirit; because there is a sense unity in a time of need and a cooperative spirit, it would be possible to make sufficient financial assistance; we would provide all necessary assistance for the health of a part of our Union.

She said it was important not to lose sight of the long-term goal of the Union and the goals of all the children of the Union; there were conflicts based on race and religion in Rakhine State; there were those who were fanning the flames of hatred and those who were inciting conflicts among each other instead of promoting Metta; in the present fight against COVID in Rakhine State, we need to show in what way we can show good will to each other and at this time it would become clear who had genuine goodwill; it was very important to have the spirit of “the Union for Rakhine and Rakhine for the Union”.

Those who make postings on the social media should have genuine goodwill and sense of duty in their postings; what is important is for the facts to be correct; some people make postings on social media without much thought or without caring whether their postings were correct or not; in posting on social media, the first thing was to be correct; then it should be considered whether the posting was beneficial for the public; she said everyone should be very careful not to make the present tasks more difficult by postings made on social media.

The State Counsellor added the government is striving for lesser impacts of COVID-19 on Rakhine people; this situation is an opportunity for making ‘unity’; we all could breathe a sigh of relief when the pandemic becomes under control in next 3 or 4 weeks; it is required to strictly follow the rules during this period, and it is expected for public cooperation; this success would be a good step for all in the long term as an neighbourly, loving-kindness and trust could be built from cooperation in this situation; it will become a potential strength to overcome common challenges and difficulties of the Union.

She also said that quality protective equipment will be sent in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports in time; some persons do not know that following rules and disciplines is the best protective equipment for every one; if the rules are regarded as the protection for all, it will not be difficult to follow them; the disciplines should not be seen as restrictions of others, but just as the protection for all; imposing rules and restrictions is intended for effective control measures; disciplines must be seen as protection; the volunteers need to convey this message to the PUI at the quarantine centres; these PUIs have more contacts with the volunteers than health workers; while health workers are responsible for medical services, the volunteers should make motivations; civil service staff members were criticized for deficient practices in the past half-decade; the government is trying to change this situation to serve for the people professionally; the shortage of drinking water must be solved in the first priority; the cost for daily meals will be reviewed if the existing amount 3,000 kyats is not enough; it is expected that more Rakhine youth would join the volunteer programmes if they see other persons outside the Rakhine State are helping them regardless of social and faith grounds; the works of these volunteers could persuade the participation of local people in civil services societies.

The challenge for the Ministry of Health and Sports is the common challenge for the entire country. Some are negligent due to a slight weakness in health knowledge; if the health education is announced two or three times a day at quarantine centres through speakers, the people will get health knowledge; my concern is that some people think that if they recovered from the infection, it will be over; as far as I understand according to the world’s experts, there is no guarantee that COVID-19 will not reoccur; some do not know about that and therefore they are not serious about the disease; before the emergence of the COVID-19 vaccine and treatment, it cannot be concluded that disease that won’t occur again; mindfulness is not excessive; we must be careful and I would like to remind this to the people again and again; some do not understand how the government has struggled to gain control the disease; it has been working properly for about four months until early August, especially health workers had to struggle a lot; we will find out what the public needs to know about COVID-19 disease; it is not easy to find so and we have to think about both short and long terms.

The requirements must be fulfilled as these are necessary for our people; it needs to think in advance for post-COVID-19 at the same time; it should have ability to fulfill the needs of the country in post-COVID-19 period; I do not want the country to turn into difficult situations and fail to do anything in post-COVID-19 period; so, we have to consider for both of the short and long-term; public participation plays critical role in conducting such move; the main challenge and weakness of Rakhine State is the weakness in unity; it must be proved that the unity is strength during this period; it must be considered whether individuals or any groups damaging to the unity of people have genuine goodwill for people; only the unity will help to overcome the problems and challenges that we face currently; it will fail to overcome these struggles without unity; we want them to understand that the lack of unity is not suitable for our country; the world is misunderstanding our country relating with Rakhine State; they do not see how hard we are trying and how we are working to find a solution; whether they want to see it or not, we have to show it through works.

Finally, the State Counsellor urged the people of Rakhine State and the people across the country to work together in unity to overcome the current challenges in Rakhine State.—MNA (Transounced by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)
We do not want the virus to spread

At this time, some people in Rakhine State wish to leave the state. They think they will have more safety outside of the state. Once you are infected, it does not matter where you go, the infection will be carried by you. If you remain in Rakhine State; remain within Sittway, and you remain in the infected area, if you are infected, it would be quicker to detect the virus. Treatment could be given. The COVID virus is not incurable. The earlier this virus is detected, the more effective is the treatment. At the present moment, the borders between states and regions have been closed. The reason we do not want people from Sittway and from Rakhine State to go out to other areas is that we do not want the virus to spread. All respective regions and states will have to participate effectively in these closures. Closures mean giving protection. We want you to think of this as protective measures.

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

MoI strives to form Myanmar Digital Media Association

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met the persons related to media sector at the Central Press building of the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday, and discussed the emergence of Myanmar Digital Media Association.

Spoke on occasion, the Union Minister stressed the need for more digital media related persons to participate in the committee.

Today’s digital media are getting bigger and broader than traditional media, and all can see that they are not only reaching expansive such as news contents, entertainments, online shopping etc. but they are also growing economically. It is necessary to get more skills as well as to settle possible copyrights problems in this regard, he highlighted.

He added it is essential to have an organization that will operate with collective strength for developing digital media businesses and getting full rights in working with international organizations and institutions, calling for a round of discussions to emerge a digital media association.

Information and Public Relations Department Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe reported on the plan to form the Establishment Committee on Myanmar Digital Media Association.

The 17-member committee was set up and consisted of Chairman U Thaung Su Nyein, Joint Secretary 1 U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, Joint Secretary 2 IPRD Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Htet.

The committee office is temporarily open at the second floor of IPRD Office at No 22/24 on Pansodan Road in Yangon. The committee will be working on the formation of Myanmar Digital Media Association within its targeted six-month implementation period.

Present at the meeting were U Thaung Su Nyein of 7 Day Media, U Ko Ko (Ko Ko–RIT), Vice-Chairperson 2 Daw Nant Kalayar Win, Secretary 1 U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, Secretary 2 Daw Nant Kalayar Win, Joint Secretary 2 Daw Nant Kalayar Win, Joint Secretary 2 IPRD Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Htet.

The committee will be working on the formation of Myanmar Digital Media Association within its targeted six-month implementation period.

In the morning, the Union Minister inspected the operations at PPD-owned office building at No 378/38 on Bo Aung Kyaw Road and the headquarters of News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) at No 212 on Theinbyu Road in Yangon.

While meeting with Forev er Group CEO U Win Maw Tun and officials, the Union Minister listened to the report on preparations for the construction of infrastructure facilities including studios to shoot and broadcast MTV about environmental conservation and greening in Pindaya region of Danu Self-Administered Zone. The Union Minister discussed the assistance to the Ministry of Information which will provide in this regard.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds meeting on COVID-19 control measures in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held meeting on COVID-19 control measures with health officials of Rakhine State and other regions and states via video conferencing yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that Rakhine State has reported a total of 216 COVID-19 cases from 16 August to 28 August morning, while 6 cases from other regions and states had travel history to Sittway.

The virus spread rapidly in recent days and the ministry will also make efforts to control the disease in order to slow down its spread. The sudden increase in the numbers of cases is that the infected persons made some trips without knowing that they have been infected.

According to the initial examination of Medical Research Department, the 9 lab tests of Rakhine State shows the gene of COVID-19 is mutated. The 79 per cent of COVID-19 patients diagnosed after 16 August in Rakhine did not show any symptoms and so the people need to be aware of their surroundings and should follow the health guidelines in avoiding mass gatherings, staying at home, wearing mask and face shields and washing the hands for 20 seconds frequently to inform the authority if they found some returnees from Rakhine State. If so, it helps reduce the spread of virus.

The relevant departments should raise public health awareness by using loudspeakers at least five-time a day in the townships and more than 5,700 people arrived in other regions and states by air from Rakhine State and some of them are infected with COVID-19. Therefore, all those with recent travel history to Rakhine State after 16 August must inform to the nearest health department.

The ministry will speed up the control measures to prevent the spread of infection from one person to another across the country and only the timely-response can stop the spread of disease in Rakhine State.

The preventive and control measures for Rakhine State will be different from other regions and states as the ministry has adopted new strategy and procedures in accordance with the changing situations by studying the nature of epidemic.

The currently practicing directives and procedures will be updated in line with the new findings on COVID-19 and way of infection and they should be timely informed to respective departments.

It also needs to take into account that the fact of human resources, time, budget and equipment in carrying out the control measures of COVID-19 in Rakhine State. Those with travel history to Rakhine State can be seen in other regions and states and so the relevant officials need to supervise the factories and industries with the large numbers of employees.

The ministry will also provide the requirements for those who had close contact with infected person while tracing them and also raising public health awareness at IDP camps and reception centres.

The cooperation work of General Administration Department and development committee plays key role to prohibit people without wearing masks from entering the markets or from taking buses during this period.

The ministry accelerates its activities in conducting COVID-19 lab tests and buys the required medical equipment in advance and the GeneXpert machines were installed in Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Thanwedwe, MraukU and Maunglaw townships. It will also provide beds and ventilators to Sittway General Hospital and the nurse training schools. Traditional medicine hospitals are currently used as temporary hospitals for patients in Sittway.

The Union Minister also said words of thanks for the concerted efforts of ministerial staff, voluntary medical staff, organizations and the people and urged the attendees to give suggestions regarding the spread of COVID-19.

Head of the Rakhine State Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Win Zaw Hlaing explained the current COVID-19 outbreak in the State, protection and control activities and the difficulties in field survey of laboratory samples in Yangon, social distancing, and cooperating with the relevant organizations and departments in searching contact persons.

Deputy Director-General of the Central epidemiology Unit Dr Tun Tin explained the difficulties in field survey of laboratory samples in Yangon, social distancing, and cooperating with the relevant organizations and departments in searching contact persons.

Director Dr Nyan Win Myint, the leader of central field survey team, explained the epidemiological findings from the visits to healthcare centres and temporary camps, protection and control activities and the difficulties in searching contact persons of the patient.

Deputy Director-General of the Central Epidemiology Unit Dr Tun Tin explained the current outbreak and epidemiological analysis.

Deputy Director-General for Medical Services Dr Thidar Hla presented the treatment of the COVID-19 patients in various hospitals and that a total of 216 COVID-19 patients found in Rakhine State since August 26 were in good health and 16 of them were elderly and had other allergies.

The attendees participated in the discussion and gave suggestions accordingly.

The Union Minister concluded the meeting by saying that the specific assignment will be given as many organizations carry out in control measures of COVID-19 in Rakhine State under multiple sectors and timely performance will be also conducted.—MNA

Ayeyarwady Foundation provides medical supplies to Sittway hospital

OFFICIALS from Ayeyarwady Foundation donated protective gears of COVID-19 and financial assistance to Sittway General Hospital yesterday.

The foundation donated K16 million worth of emergency medical equipment and K28 million to the medical workers at the Sittway Hospital where over 100 COVID-19 infected patients are being treated. The equipment included suction devices, 5 units of oxygen concentrators, 10 blood pressure monitors, 5 infrared thermometres, 150 gown sterilizers, 5 units of N95 masks.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation will also continue its supports to other townships in Rakhine State.—Ye Yint Shine (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
Domestic gold price slumps below K1.3 mn per tical

By Nyein Nyein

THE gold price in the domestic market has decreased again to under K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces), according to the domestic gold market.

7 August saw the price of gold rising and standing up at K1,322,500 per tical, which hit the highest record in the domestic gold history. After three weeks, the gold price has dropped to K1,207,000 per tical, which is a drop by K35,000 per tical on 28 August.

Also, the global gold prices were record high with US$2,026 per ounce on 7 August and then, they fell to $1,953 per ounce on 28 August, a drop by over $120 per ounce in three weeks.

Similarly, the dollar versus kyat exchange rate was K1.371 per dollar on 7 August. After three weeks, the exchange rate was reopened on 18 May with a minimum rate of K1,214,100 (27 May) and a maximum rate of K1,236,000 (18 May). The price was moving in the range of K1,209,600 on 6 June and K1,219,500 on 1 June. The local gold reached the lowest level of K1,216,500 (1 July) and the highest level of K1,296,500 (27 July), according to the gold traders. (Translated by Hay Mar)

Visa extension won't be approved unless taxpayers' documents found accurate, says DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE request for a visa extension of the expatriates in Myanmar will not be approved if the copies of the taxpayers’ companies are found inaccurate or falsified, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

At present, the companies need to apply for the recommendations for visa extension via DICA’s website, https://visaonline.dica.gov.mm.

DICA found that some companies are showing false or falsified documents of tax payment with the Internal Revenue Department, according to DICA.

Therefore, DICA will not approve the recommendations for a visa extension of the expatriates in Myanmar if they found the false or falsified documents of the company.

The online platform aims to reduce opportunities for dishonesty in applying for the visa extension. It needs to check the lists of the recommended companies for the visa, enabling easy access to the data of the expatriates and stay period to reduce paperwork as well as to ensure social distancing and process facilitation, he stated.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar earns $726 mn from nearly 2.4 mn tonnes of rice export

Myanmar exported nearly 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in 2019-2020 financial year (FY) from 1 October to 14 August, earning US$726 million, according to an announcement released by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). During the period, over 1.5 million tonnes of rice worth more than $485.5 million were exported to 66 countries while more than 891,830 tonnes of broken rice worth over $340.6 million were exported to 60 countries.

This financial year’s rice and broken rice export surpassed that of the last budget year’s figures by 327,683 tonnes when Myanmar exported over 2.06 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

Myanmar exports rice through the land border and via maritime trade. During the period, 84 per cent of total rice export is done through sea route while 16 per cent through border checkpoints. Myanmar’s rice goes to China through the Muse border and to EU and African markets through a maritime trade route.

From 1 October to 14 August, 29 per cent of Myanmar’s rice and broken rice were exported to African countries, followed by China with 28 per cent, EU member states with 20 per cent, ASEAN countries with 18 per cent and other countries with 5 per cent respectively, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). The targeted rice export for 2019-2020FY is 2.4 million tonnes, and the peak recorded export was 3.6 million tonnes in 2017-2018FY.

—Zin Yaw Aye
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Local fuel prices rise K150-235 per litre over four months

LOCAL fuel prices go up by K150 to K235 per litre over the past four months as the global oil price stood around US$41 per barrel, according to the local filling stations.

From 3 May to 27 August 2020, the price of one litre of fuel oil has increased by K235 for Octane 92, K210 for Octane 95 and K150 each for diesel and premium diesel.

Myanmar imports 98 per cent of fuel oil and produces the remaining 2 per cent locally. Myanmar imports the fuel oil primarily from Singapore with a monthly volume touching 200,000 tonnes for petroleum and 400,000 tonnes for diesel.

There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar. —Aye Maung
(Translated by Hay Mar)
The COVID Comorbidity Crisis

By Dr Heanui M Noofuer

The elderly are at increased risk of both, NCDs and more severe complications caused by COVID-19. In an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that 80 per cent of those who had died of COVID-19 in the US up to that point were 65 or older. Applying that rate to the US death toll as of 21 August, it follows that around 139,000 of the 174,442 deceased in the US have been elderly. Moreover, more than three million Americans have now recovered from the virus, and among them are elderly survivors and other high-risk individuals who will need long-term care in home or institutional settings. In Nigeria, the health tech platform Gericare provides affordable care to the elderly in the comfort of their homes. Its least expensive plan offers three home visits per month for just US$9. This approach to care needs to be scaled up significantly. The more we can reduce the heart evoluted and other comorbidities, the more lives we will save.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Heanui M. Noofuer, a medical doctor and Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity at George Washington University, is the CEO of the HealthTech Platform, Director of Policy and Advocacy at African Health Watch.

SOURCE: THE AFRICAN POST
UNICEF delivers medical assistance for Myanmar’s COVID-19 fight


Officials from the Ministry of Health and Sport and UNICEF Myanmar pose for a picture at the Yangon International Airport on 28 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

The 36 persons included 32 men and 4 boys who need protection and were handed over the $2.8 million worth of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment PPEs, that arrived in Myanmar in three separate batches during the week. Medical Research Department’s Director-General Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun accepted them.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Research Department’s Division and General Hospital while undergoing swab tests.berry.

UNICEF delivers medical equipment including test kits, lab equipment and medicines as has sent medical experts to help Myanmar’s fight against COVID-19.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Thai government’s cash assistance and their wages from Thailand will be given out to them while they are repatriated to their homes.

UNICEF welcomed the medical supplies that were transported by a special cargo flight at the airport. UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Mrs June Kunugibon handed over the $2.8 million worth of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment PPEs, that arrived in Myanmar in three separate batches during the week. Medical Research Department’s Director-General Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun accepted them.

UNICEF delivered the three-batches of medical assistance in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP). Additional $224,284 worth of PPEs and related items from Thailand via Muse will be received soon.

A shipment of 30,000 COVID-19 Specimen carriers and 370 oxygen tanks will arrive in Myanmar in early September, according to a UNICEF statement.

Upon the assistance, the UNICEF Representative said that despite logistics challenges, UNICEF was stepping up its efforts to deliver the essential medical supplies that were internationally in high demand to Myanmar on time.

We must fight COVID-19 by joining our hands to protect children and most vulnerable people from the disease, she added.

UNICEF has delivered medical equipment including test kits, lab equipment and medicines as has sent medical experts to help Myanmar’s fight against COVID-19.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

THAI authorities transferred a total of 36 Myanmar citizens via the border friendship bridge (2) in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

The 36 persons included 32 victims of trafficking in person and 4 boys who need protection under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The officials of Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security led by Tak Province Administrator Mr Wannan Yimmongkong handed over these human trafficking victims and young boys together with Thai government’s cash assistance and their salary 173,183 baht to the officials of Myanmar: Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Social Welfare U Kyaw Naing Thu, officials of Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (Myawady), Labour Department, Immigration Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Public Health Department and General Hospital accepted these returnees.

The authorities have made arrangements for 21 days quarantine at Thabawa Medical Centre in Than Gan Nyi Naung Village of Myawady Township and the returnees will have to undergo swab tests.

The Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will also provide $290,000 to each of them from the national COVID-19 relief fund.

Thailand has repatriated a total of 188 trafficked victims to Myanmar this year.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
Huawei Video Conferencing System Connects Myanmar’s Office of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 3rd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting

THE world’s leading information and communications technology (ICT) provider Huawei contributed $4000 worth three sets of its video conferencing system and technological services to Myanmar’s President’s Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 3rd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) bringing back 139 Myanmar nationals stranded in the Philippines landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening. As they arrived in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

For the repatriation of Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries, and has organized 8 relief flights to pick up Myanmar nationals stuck in the Philippines to date.—MNA

41 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 August, total figure reaches 643

Update at 8 pm, 28 August 2020

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SPORTS

Total Cases 643

New Cases 41

Total Deaths 6

Total Recovered 339

Recovery Update on 28 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

Updated at 8 pm, 28 August 2020

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SPORTS

New PUIs 61

New Cases in State/Region

Rakhine 35

Yangon 5

Bago 1

Ministry of Health and Sports
Leaders, gov’ts around world express concern about Abe’s health

TOKYO — Leaders and governments in the Asia-Pacific region expressed concern over Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s health on Friday after the 66-year-old offered to resign for health reasons. Some also praised his leadership during nearly eight years in office.

After news reports that Abe expressed his intention to resign, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian declined to comment, citing Japan’s internal affairs. But he told reporters that China, along with Japan, “wants to continue to promote improvement and development of ties” between the two countries.

South Korean President Moon Jae In’s office said Abe’s offer to resign was “regrettable” as the prime minister “played multiple roles in improving relations between South Korea and Japan.”

“Our government will continue to work together with a new prime minister and Cabinet to improve South Korea-Japan ties,” presidential spokesman Kang Min Seok said. “We hope he gets well as soon as possible.”

There was no immediate reaction from the North Korean government via the country’s state media.

In Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong issued a statement on Facebook saying he is “sorry” to learn Abe is resigning for health reasons. Saying he had worked well with the Japanese leader over the years, Lee said, “Under his leadership, our bilateral relations have deepened.”

Lee also credited Abe with playing a “critical role” in concluding an 11-member Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, after the United States withdrew from its original framework in 2017 under President Donald Trump.

Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai told reporters that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha expressed concern about the Japanese prime minister’s health and wished his quick recovery.

The foreign minister said a coming leadership change in Japan would not shake Bangkok’s confidence in Tokyo as the latter has a stable political system.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Teddy Locsin said on Twitter that Abe is a “very good friend of the Philippines” and a “close personal friend” of President Rodrigo Duterte.

He called him “an imposing political presence in person.”

Perhaps one of the most personal and sympathetic reactions came from Australia.

“On behalf of the people of Australia, I would like to thank Abe “for his enduring commitment to Australia-Japan relations over his long and successful career,” Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement.

- Kyodo ■

Philippines to join China int’l services trade fair online next month

MANILA — The Philippine Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said on Friday that the Philippines will participate online in the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) to be held in early September in Beijing.

In a statement, the DTI said its Export Marketing Bureau (EMB), in partnership with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Beijing, will showcase Philippine service exporters in the first and the largest comprehensive exhibition in the service trade field both in China and globally.

The DTI said the online Philippine pavilion will feature the country’s competitive advantages and offerings in the services industry through exhibiting photos and videos from the different industries such as the information technology (IT)-business process management, software development, animation, game development, film, digital content, intellectual property, construction, engineering, and education.

The DTI added that Philippine exhibitors include 18 companies, five private sector associations, and three government agencies from the following sectors: construction and engineering outsourcing; IT-enabled services such as software development, digital marketing, business process outsourcing (BPO); Customer Relationship Management; animation, and game development; e-learning and training; film production and visual effects; and higher education services.

- Xinhua ■

Chinese online teaching platforms provide over 500 courses to global students: ministry

BEIJING — The international versions of two Chinese online teaching platforms have provided over 500 free courses in English to students in more than 100 countries, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said Thursday.

The international versions of xuetangX and iCourse, launched by the MOE in the first half of this year, have also provided educational solutions to international university students facing the suspension of classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Wu Yan, an official with the ministry.

We added that over 1 million Chinese teachers have provided about 1.1 million online courses, attracting nearly 22.6 million university students during the spring semester this year.

He also noted that China will hold the first global conference on massive open online courses in November this year, contributing its online teaching experience on a larger scale and at a higher level.

- Xinhua ■

Singapore sets higher pay to tighten entry of foreign workers

SINGAPORE — Singapore said Thursday it will increase the minimum salary requirement for foreigners applying to work in professional and other higher-paying jobs, in a move aimed at encouraging companies to employ more Singaporeans for such jobs.

The Manpower Ministry said it will raise the minimum salary required for those applying for an “employment pass” — the highest category of pass in terms of salary that is issued to those applying for professional jobs in the wealthy city-state — by S$800 (US$440) to S$4,500.

More experienced foreign applicants — for example, those in their 40s — might be required to have a higher salary to apply for an employment pass, which could even be double of the minimum requirement of S$4,500, the ministry said.

- Kyodo ■

More experienced foreign applicants — for example, those in their 40s — might be required to have a higher salary to apply for an employment pass, which could even be double of the minimum requirement of S$4,500, the ministry said.

- Kyodo ■

More experienced foreign applicants — for example, those in their 40s — might be required to have a higher salary to apply for an employment pass, which could even be double of the minimum requirement of S$4,500, the ministry said.

- Kyodo ■

More experienced foreign applicants — for example, those in their 40s — might be required to have a higher salary to apply for an employment pass, which could even be double of the minimum requirement of S$4,500, the ministry said.
Tokyo stocks drop sharply on news PM Abe will resign

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks fell and the yen strengthened Friday after media reports on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s resignation shocked markets, with the Nikkei briefly diving more than 2 percent.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 326.21 points, or 1.41 per cent, from Thursday at 22,882.65. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 11.02 points, or 0.68 per cent, lower at 1,604.87.

Decliners were led by information and communication, electric appliance and retail issues.

The yen drew buying after the reports rattled Japan’s financial markets, with the US dollar falling to the 106 yen line after rising to 106.94 at one point early in the afternoon.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 106.96-08 yen with the dollar briefly traded at 106.00 yen, compared with 106.52-62 yen in New York and 106.00-02 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Thursday.

The euro was quoted 1.1836 and 125.44-48 yen in Tokyo late Thursday afternoon.

The yen drew buying after the yen strengthened Friday after media reports on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s resignation shocked markets.

Chinese consumers could boycott Apple if US bans WeChat: ministry warns

BEIJING — Chinese consumers could boycott Apple if the United States bans WeChat, China’s foreign ministry spokesman warned Friday as the clock ticks down on a US order to block the popular social app.

US President Donald Trump this month announced a ban from mid-September on We-Chat and another Chinese-owned app, TikTok, accusing them of threatening national security, further stoking tensions between Beijing and Washington.

But foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian tweeted Friday that “If WeChat is banned in the US, and accused the US of “systematic economic bullying of non-US companies” by targeting the Chinese app. The comments mark a rare direct reference by Beijing to boycotting an American product and come as the superpowers spar on multiple fronts including military activity in the South China Sea, Hong Kong and blame for the coronavirus.—AFP

SoftBank to sell $12.5 bln shares of its Japan telecoms unit

TOKYO — SoftBank Group said Friday it will sell shares of its Japan telecoms unit SoftBank Group Corp worth approximately $12.5 billion as part of a massive fund- raising programme.

SoftBank Group was initially expected to raise 4.5 trillion yen ($41 billion).

In a statement, SoftBank Group cited “the ongoing uncertainty in the market environment due to concerns about a potential second or even third wave of COVID-19.”

In light of those fears it said it was “necessary to expand cash reserves beyond the JPY 4.5 Trillion Programme to ensure flexible options to respond to changes in the market environment.”

It said the offering replaced no change in its relationship with SoftBank Group Corp and that the firm’s “strategic importance to the entire SoftBank Group remains unchanged.”—AFP

SoftBank Group is selling shares of its Japan telecoms unit SoftBank Group Corp worth about $12.5 billion as part of a massive fundraising programme.

SoftBank Group remains “necessary to expand cash reserves beyond the JPY 4.5 Trillion Programme to ensure flexible options to respond to changes in the market environment.”

A consumer shows a WeChat Pay receipt on her smartphone after purchasing at Yorkdale Shopping Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto

Tokyo stocks fell and the yen strengthened Friday after media reports on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s resignation shocked markets.

A consumer shows a WeChat Pay receipt on her smartphone after purchasing at Yorkdale Shopping Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto

Claims Day Notice

Tokyo stocks fell and the yen strengthened Friday after media reports on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s resignation shocked markets.

A consumer shows a WeChat Pay receipt on her smartphone after purchasing at Yorkdale Shopping Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto Centre in Toronto, Canada, May 11, 2017. Tourism Toronto

Chinese consumers could boycott Apple if US bans WeChat: ministry warns
Relief plaques from Thagyar Pagoda

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

The statistics collected by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2017 showed 442 stupas and temples in Thaton Township of Mon State comprised the most eminent Shwesayan Pagoda, Myathabeik Pagoda, Bronze Buddha image, Nemindara Pagoda, lacquerware Buddha image and Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Pawdawmu Village. Likewise, Kalyani ordination and Pitakat treatise chamber are historic buildings. The stone inscription chamber in the precinct of Shwesayan Pagoda is being maintained by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

**Ancient Thaton City**

Thaton, 42.6 kilometres south of Bilin on Yangon-Mawlamyine motor road, is an ancient city.

Thaton, the name derived from Gohzwegaton in Mon language, which means the cave under banyan tree with thick foliage. The book with the title of Yamanya, the residences of Mon ethnics, mentioned a spirit chamber was built under a large banyan tree by villagers in the place of current Thaton. It was named Gohzwegaton. In the long time, it was renamed Gatton, and then, changed to Thaton.

According to the data released in October 2017, Thaton Township was home to 233,867 people, 74,296 people of whom resided in eight wards. Thaton Township, the residences of Bamar, Kayin, Mon and Shan ethnics, is on seven square miles of area. 93.56 per cent of township’s total population believe in Buddhism.

Development of Thaton was undertaken by Thaton town municipal committee formed in 1887 and its district administrative council constituted in 1923.

Sir Saint Andrew Johnson wrote a report on finding of the ancient city in volume II of British Burma Gazette. According to the findings of Sir Saint Andrew Johnson, the ancient city was on 700 acres of land, and its stakes of the walls were in square shape to rectangular shape but it was not accurate corner of rectangular. Moreover, the second wall, 150 feet from the first wall, was 7,700 feet long from the east to the west and 4,000 feet wide from the north to the south rounded by a moat. One each of gate was built at the southern and northern walls. But, anyone could not guess the eastern and western walls might be built with gates. All the walls were of earthen works.

According to the Thaton history, the ancient city was built with six walls in the northern side. But, the satellite photos showed the city was rounded by five walls only, mentioned in the book on Suvannabhumi research. The satellite photos clearly depicted the eastern and northern walls of the city but unclearly showed the western and southern walls included in the public residences.

Sir Saint Andrew Johnson wrote that a mound of royal palace with 1,150 feet in length from the east to the west and 1,000 feet in width from the south to the north was located in the centre of the city and that there was no building on the venue.

Myanmar encyclopaedia mentioned the mound of royal palace was located in the centre of the city with 1,122 feet by 1,122 feet. At present, the Department of Agriculture, Sasana Yeiktha and Nandawya Monastery take positions on the mound.

It was also mentioned that Thaton was an infamous fishery village in the past resided by Wa ethnics and then Mon and Pa-O ethnics.

**Shwesayan Pagoda**

The findings proved stu-
flanked by 37 encircled Cetas. Objects of Buddhism were found in Thaton Township.

The walls of the pagoda were built of laterite. The pagoda takes a position in Thoeingon Ward, southern part of Thaton.

Thagyar Pagoda
Located in southeast of Shwesayan Pagoda, Thagyar Pagoda was built of laterite with 104 square feet of circumference based on three terraces. Circumference of the pagoda to the first terrace was 18 feet high, from the first terrace to the second 34 feet high and from the second to the third 46 feet high, totalling 85 feet. Each ladder was built at west, south and north sides of the pagoda. The first terrace was 104 square feet wide, the second 79 square feet and the third 48 square feet. More than 60 baked earthen reliefs were installed on the two square feet arches on the first terrace. A total of 13 plots of Jataka mentioned on the reliefs outside the town. With regard to Mahosadha Jataka, the plot bore Mahosadha who brought his wife to be Amara Devi by palanquin after taking gifts. Moreover, other moves of plots illustrated Mahosadha at the pottery industry. Another one portrayed Amara Devi and a minister in form of white monkey in the presence of King Brahmudatta and his queen.

The plot of Bhuridatta Jataka carried discussions among King Dragon, hunter and son of Bhuridatta after Bhuridatta brought hunter and his son to the country of dragons.

Two plots of Vidhura Jataka mentioned the ogre meeting with female celestial being in the jungle and the play of Punnaka ogre and the king. The plot of Vessantara Jataka portrayed people throwing gravels at the Ponnas who took white elephant from King Vessantara.

A relief kept in the stone plaque chamber from Thagyar Pagoda was carved to create a plot of Nemiya Jataka.

Sir Saint Andrew Johnson defined the backgrounds of reliefs from Thagyar Pagoda by observing glaze terracotta plaques from Shwezigon, Ananda, Mingsa and Phathal edifices in Bagan. But, stone inscription officer Mr Taw Sein Kho assumed these reliefs were not related to Buddhism but Ramayana Jataka plots from Hinduism.

Other reliefs
Other reliefs bore a statue in royal regalia of the king holding a fork in addition to plots of 10 major Jataka. Such kind of object took a position at southwest corner on the first terrace of Thagyar Pagoda. Some assumed such statue might be Shiva statue. However, stone inscription officer U Mya made a field trip to Thaton. He did not support assumption of above-mentioned concept and submitted a report that reliefs from Thagyar Pagoda were excerpts from Buddhology.

Some experts assumed the styles of reliefs mentioned the plots of Buddhism but some scholars, the statues related to Hinduism. As such, a conclusion came out that Buddhism and Hinduism might contemporarily flourish in Thaton area.

The education department of the Indian government released the list of ancient buildings in Thaton District in February 1919, comprising Shwesayan, Zingaya, Kawgun, Zwekabin and Kyahdityo pagodas as well as Thagyar Pagoda. Currently, reliefs from Thagyar Pagoda were painted with lime, so their original colours could not be seen.

Historic Kalyani ordination hall was located outside the southern wall of Shwesayan Pagoda. Border posts of the ordination hall were made of shale stone. These posts bore the plots of Jataka from the Nipata of the Lord Buddha. The reliefs from Thagyar Pagoda can be compared with that of the border posts of ordination hall.

Paintings, sculptural statues, glaze terracotta plaques and votive tablets depicting plots of Buddhology can be seen at various areas of the country. Among them, reliefs from Thagyar Pagoda in Thaton are cultural heritages of Buddhism, so it needs to properly preserve them.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

References:
Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume XII
Suvannabhimu Research (U San Win)
Yamana, the residences of Mon ethnics (Mamaka, Researcher)
SPORT

29 AUGUST  2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

U Min Tun Lin appointed as YUFC new head coach

YANGON United appointed new head coach U Min Tun Lin in a place of former head coach U Tin Maung Tun on 27 August, according to the official statement.

The contract with the new head coach will go on until end of the 2021 MNL season, said the official statement.

U Min Tun Lin, formerly served as an assistant coach for Myanmar National Football Team, and he has got tremendous experiences in Myanmar football world and currently acting as a head coach and giving training to the team’s players starting on 28 August, said the source with the Yangon United.

U Min Tun Lin also served as Zwekapun United head coach in 2018, and he did a brilliant job as he could raise Zwekapun United to the third place of the Myanmar National League standing within a year.

“Im overwhelmed to be a head coach of Yangon United. It was an amazing offer for me. I’ll try my best with the team to receive all the challenges that are waiting for,” said U Min Tun Lin. Yangon United terminated the contract with former head coach U Tin Maung Tun on 27 August, and consequently, he was assigned at Yangon United Football Academy for youth football development.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Manchester United’s Paul Pogba tests positive for COVID-19

PARIS—Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba was omitted from the France squad announced Thursday (Aug 27) for next month’s Nations League matches against Sweden and Croatia after testing positive for COVID-19, coach Didier Deschamps said.

World Cup winner Pogba has been replaced by teenager Eduardo Camavinga, who was called up for the first time alongside Lyon midfielder Houssem Aouar and RB Leipzig defender Dayot Upamecano.

“Unfortunately he under went a test yesterday (Wednesday) which was revealed to be positive this morning,” Deschamps said of Pogba’s absence from the group.

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot was also recalled for the first time in over two years after he refused to go on the standby list for the 2018 World Cup.

He’s found a very good level again. We can’t go back, I’m not someone who likes to take radical decisions. He remained selectable,” explained Deschamps.

Blaise Matuidi, 33, was overcooked following his recent move to David Beckham’s Inter Miami in Major League Soccer as Deschamps decided to give a chance to some younger players in midfield.

Kylan Mbappe was one of two Paris Saint-Germain players included alongside defender Presnel Kimpembe, both starters in last weekend’s Champions League final defeat by Bayern Munich in Lisbon.

France will travel to Sweden for their opening Nations League game on Sep 5 before returning home to play Croatia three days later. Their last international was the 2-0 victory over Albania on Nov 17.—AFP ■

Henderson expects Liverpool to make statement against Arsenal

LONDON—Jordan Henderson has urged Liverpool to show their hunger to retain the Premier League title when they face Arsenal in the Community Shield on Saturday.

Just five weeks after Liverpool captain Henderson lifted the Premier League trophy, Jurgen Klopps’s side kick off the new season in the glamour friendly at Wembley.

While their Premier League title defence doesn’t get underway until September 12, the Reds are keen to lay down an early marker to their title rivals.

Henderson knows FA Cup winners Arsenal will pose a good test of Liverpools’s desire for more silverware after beating the champions 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium late last season.

Liverpool have been getting back to business at a training camp in Austria and England midfielder Henderson is pleased with the attitude he has seen from his team-mates so far.

“We’ve been cracking on, really working hard. New season, new start and a lot more things we want to go on and achieve,” Henderson told Liverpools’s website.

“I’m really excited to see what we can do this season, another big season for us. Hopefully we can take confidence from the last year or two but we need to stay hungry and need to keep the desire to go and want more.

“I can certainly see that from the first days that I’ve watched training in pre-sea son.”—AFP ■

Eze does it as Palace boss Hodgson signs forward

LONDON—Eberechi Eze became Roy Hodgson’s most expensive signing in his time as Crystal Palace manager on Friday, joining for a reported £20 million ($26.5 million) from second-tier Queens Park Rangers.

Hodgson saw off rivals West Bromwich Albion and West Ham to secure the signature of the 22-year-old forward, who penned a five year contract.

Eze, who scored 20 goals in 112 appearances for QPR and has been capped at Under-20 and Under-21 level by England, said Palace offered the chance for him to develop as a player he

“As a football club, I feel like there are great players here and it’s a brilliant opportunity for me to come and be with these players, to link up with them and to really push on,” he said in a club statement.

Palace succeeded at the third time of asking after having bids of £15 million and £22 million rejected. “Eberechi is a player whose development we have followed closely,” said Palace chairman Steve Parish.

“We are delighted he has chosen to sign for us over the other clubs that were interested and we feel that this is the right club for him to continue his development.” —AFP ■

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba vies for the ball against Tottenham Hotspur’s Eric Dier. PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson wants his team to lay down a marker against Arsenal. PHOTO: AFP/PAUL CHILDS

Yangon United new head coach U Min Tun Lin showing tactics to his team in yesterday’s training session. PHOTO: YUFC

It was an amazing offer for me. I’ll try my best with the team to receive all the challenges that are waiting for,” said U Min Tun Lin.