COVID-19: OUR COUNTRY IS AT CROSSROADS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts the Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka PAGE-3

NATIONAL
VP U Henry Van Thio attends 2nd coordination meeting for Hanthawaddy Int'l airport construction PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President receives Political Bureau member of Chinese Communist Party CC

President U Win Myint (R) receives Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee member Mr Yang Jiechi at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint received a courtesy call from Mr Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

> ... assistance of China in the peace making processes of Myanmar for the stability of border areas, ...

At the call, they discussed fostering bilateral relations, expanding cooperation in agriculture, health, education and trade between the two countries, continuing joint projects of the two countries during the post COVD-19 period, supply of COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar, assistance of China in the peace making processes of Myanmar for the stability of border areas, maintaining consistent implementation of agreements reached during the visit to Myanmar of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping in January 2020, systematic organization of the 'Myanmar-China Year of Culture and Tourism 2020' to strengthen social and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, joint celebrations for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations and successful holding of Myanmar's elections in November.

They also exchanged views on close cooperation between the two countries in regional and international arenas.

The call was also attended by Union Ministers U Min Thu, U Kyaw Tin, senior Chinese officials and Chinese ambassador Mr Chen Hai.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor receives Political Bureau member of Chinese Communist Party CC

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (R) receives Political Bureau of Communist Party of China Central Committee member Mr Yang Jiechi at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

China provides Yuan 200 mln for uplifting livelihood of people in Rakhine State

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, and Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Chen Hai.

Following the meeting, Myanmar-China bilateral talks was held led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Mr Yang Jiechi,

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the strengthening of high-level interactions between the two countries, China to provide the Covid-19 vaccines to Myanmar once it starts distribution, implementation of projects under the Belt and Road Initiatives and Myanmar-China Economic Corridor which were agreed during President Xi's State Visit to Myanmar, maintenance of peace and stability along the border, China's continued constructive assistance in the Myanmar Government's national reconciliation and peace processes, joint combat against illegal activities including gambling at the border, enhanced cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, China's debt service suspension for Myanmar, the conduct of series of commemorative activities in celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the Myanmar-China diplomatic relations and the implementation of Myanmar-China Cultural and Tourism Year 2020 once the pandemic is brought under control, promotion of cultural and youth exchange programmes with the aim of fostering people-to-people contacts between the two countries and implementation of the

SEE PAGE-3

"People are the key"

Republic of The Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 166/2020

14th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(1 September 2020)

Announcement for voters living outside their constituencies to fill and submit Form (3-A) to apply for inclusion of their names in the voters lists of their current constituencies

1. In accordance with section 10 of by-laws of the respective parliamentary elections, if those who have been living outside their constituencies for more than 90 days do not want to cast their votes in their original constituencies, they can vote in the constituencies where they are currently living by doing the following:
   (a) At least 30 days prior to the election date, at the sub-election commissions of the relevant residential quarter/ village-tract, civil servants (with recommendation of their superior officials), workers (with recommendation of their employers or agents of the employers), and non-workers (with self-admission) can fill Form (3-A) to apply for inclusion of their names in the voters lists of the constituencies where they are currently living. In addition to the form, a recommendation of the relevant residential quarter/village-tract administrator must also be submitted. Along with the documents and evidences, the applicants must fill their respective voter number included in the voters lists of their original constituencies.
   (b) If the applications submitted in accordance with the rules mentioned in section 1 (a) of this notification meet required criteria, the sub-election commission of the relevant residential quarter/village-tract will enroll the names of the voters into the eligible voters lists of the constituencies where they are currently living.
   (c) After enrolling the names of the applicants to their current constituencies, the sub-election commission of the relevant residential quarters/village-tracts must inform the township sub-election commission in order that the names can be removed from the voters list of the original constituencies. The current township sub-election commission, by using Form (3-B), must also timely inform the sub-election commission of the township where the applicant formerly lived.
2. The Union Election Commission will hold the 2020 General Elections on 8 November 2020. So, those who have been living outside their constituencies for more than 90 days can fill and submit Form (3-A) at the sub-election commissions of relevant residential quarters/village-tracts commencing 17-9-2020. The deadline for the application is 10-10-2020.

Hla Thein
Chairperson
Union Election Commission

102 Myanmar citizens stranded abroad get home on 1 Sept

THE 20th relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening of 1 September, bringing back a total of 102 Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries. Among them, 52 persons were from South Korea, 1 person from Switzerland, 2 from Belgium, 3 from Brazil, 3 from Canada, 3 from France, 3 from Indonesia, 4 from the Great Britain, 4 from Italy, 3 from Norway, 2 from South Africa and 22 from the US.

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 from 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 and brought back a total of 13,172 citizens to date.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar nationals returned from foreign countries line up for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

37 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 September, total figure reaches 919

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached **919** after **37** new cases were reported on 1 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports.

Out of the **37** cases, **17** are from Yangon Region, **8** from Mon State, **6** from Bago Region, **4** from Rakhine State, **1** from Magway Region and **1** from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Among these **919** confirmed cases, six died, **357** have recovered, **348** have been discharged from hospitals and 61 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 1 September 2020

Total Cases	New Cases	Total Death Tally
919	37	6

Recovery Update on 1 September 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
357	3	348

New PUIs
61

New Cases in State/Region
1 September 2020

Yangon	17	Rakhine	4
Mon	8	Magway	1
Bago	6	Nay Pyi Taw	1

Ministry of Health and Sports

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts the Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

MR Lindamulage Nalin Kumar De Silva, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and U Min Thein, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

President U Win Myint (L) accepts the Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor, Political Bureau member of Chinese Communist Party Central Committee hold talks

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds meeting with Mr Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

action plan for the establishment of Myanmar-China Community for a Shared Future.

Regarding the Rakhine issue, China reaffirms its commitment to lend its continued support to Myanmar's initiatives in addressing the challenges, to facilitate the repatriation process, closer cooperation and coordination in the international arena. China announced the provision of Yuan 200 million grant to the Myanmar Government for uplifting the livelihood of the people in Rakhine State. Myanmar expressed its deep appreciation to China for its consistent support at the multilateral fora and reiterated its long-standing position of One China Policy and One Country, Two Systems.

The two leaders also discussed strengthening cooperation between China and Mekong countries under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework during Myanmar's Co-Chairmanship of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (2020-2022) and further enhancement of cooperation on issues of common interest in regional and multilateral contexts.

Regarding the Rakhine issue, China reaffirms its commitment to lend its continued support to Myanmar's initiatives in addressing the challenges, to facilitate the repatriation process, closer cooperation and coordination in the international arena.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minsters U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Soe Win, U Thaung Tun, U Kyaw Tin, U Thant Sin Maung and Dr Than Myint, as well as senior officials of the Chinese delegation and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai.—MNA

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

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

VP U Henry Van Thio attends 2nd coordination meeting for Hanthawaddy Int'l Airport construction

Vice President U Henry Van Thio presides over the coordination meeting on construction of Hanthawaddy International Airport on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio presided over the 2nd coordination meeting of steering committee on Hanthawaddy International airport construction project yesterday to discuss the infrastructural works for the project.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw, and attended by committee members and Union ministers U Thaung Tun, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing and U Han Zaw, Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo; chief ministers U Phyo Min Thein and U Win Thein; deputy ministers U Maung Maung Win and U Kyaw Myo; and officials.

U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of steering committee, explained the work of his committee which was reformed by the President's Order 31/2020 on 11 February 2020. The previous committee held a coordination meeting in December 2016 and decided to set up the Hanthawaddy International airport as a national project, to sign contract with HIA Myanmar Co,Ltd., to do collaboration among relevant ministries in applying for Official Development Assistance Loan and to provide assistance for infrastructure and utilities.

The framework agreement with Yongnam-CAPE-JGC Consortium was expired on 30 January 2018 although the company won tender for construction of Hanthawaddy airport under the Public-Private-Partnership system.

Discussions were made with the JICA and MLIT to implement the airport project with 100 per cent ODA loan. The preparatory committee on implementation of project was formed with the representatives of Myanmar and Japan, and the committee held 11 meetings from February 2018 to July this year.

The agreements were made to construct the phase-1 of facility that can handle 8 million passengers each year, to conduct feasibility study by the JICA, to prepare for the report on this study with the collaboration of relevant departments and to take part in infrastructural works.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung explained the project of Hanthawaddy airport, followed by presentation of the Joint-Secretary of steering committee and the Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation, U Aung Kyaw Tun, about the background history of the project, preparation for feasibility study report, land utilization and compensation for the lands.

Mr Uehara, the Deputy Team Leader of Feasibility Study Team, presented work plans for the study.

The Union Ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, chief ministers of local government and the deputy ministers discussed the works of their departments.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice President said the advantages of Hanthawaddy airport, including its location, air routes for international flights, the lack of obstruction, sufficient land areas to expand the airport, linking with major cities, highways and railways, access to electricity from Lawpita and Zaungtu hydropower plants, water supply from Za Let Htaw and Ma Zinn reservoirs and a major hub for local and foreign commodity flows.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Senior Chinese diplomat makes official visit to Myanmar

CHINESE delegation led by Mr Yang Jiechi, the member of Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight yesterday noon.

They were welcomed by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin welcomes senior Chinese diplomat Mr Yang Jiechi at the Yangon International Airport on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Guaranteed that there would not be any shortage of food supplies in Rakhine State

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 wouldprovide 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.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020)

SSB holds meeting on relief measures amid COVID-19 pandemic

Union Minister U Thein Swe holds meeting with Social Security Board (SSB) on relief measures and further processes during in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2020 . **PHOTO: MNA**

OFFICIALS from the Social Security Board (SSB) under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population yesterday held meeting on relief measures and further processes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that the COVID-19 is spreading throughout the world so far and causes burdens for people regarding health issues and economy sectors and so the ministry has set strategic plan to response these negative impacts.

The government provided social security benefits including 40 per cent of social security fees to insured workers from the factories and workshops which are temporarily suspended for the inspections whether they are in line with the rules released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The SSB needs to study the challenges of other international social security boards in analyzing whether the current relief measures are effective.

Director-General of SSB briefed the contribution of K26,576.762 million for social security fees during COVID-19 pandemic, Pilot project with Wave Money, medical supplies to social security hospitals and clinics, educating programmes via videos, pamphlets, posters and viber stickers, relief measures and further processes under CERP.

The Union Minister added that to implement unemployment benefits system with the helps of ILO, to continue receiving aids of EU, to expand contributions via Wave Money, to conduct pilot project with CCT Function for e-Contribution of business people in paying fees, to review the remaining workplaces for 40 per cent of social security fees and 60 per cent for pregnant women.

He also met with new 18 assistant doctors and instructed to carry out the duties in line with the mission and visions of the ministry and civil servant regulations. He said that the health workers of SSB play key role and they need to serve the patients with proper treatment to raise the trust in public hospitals and clinics. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

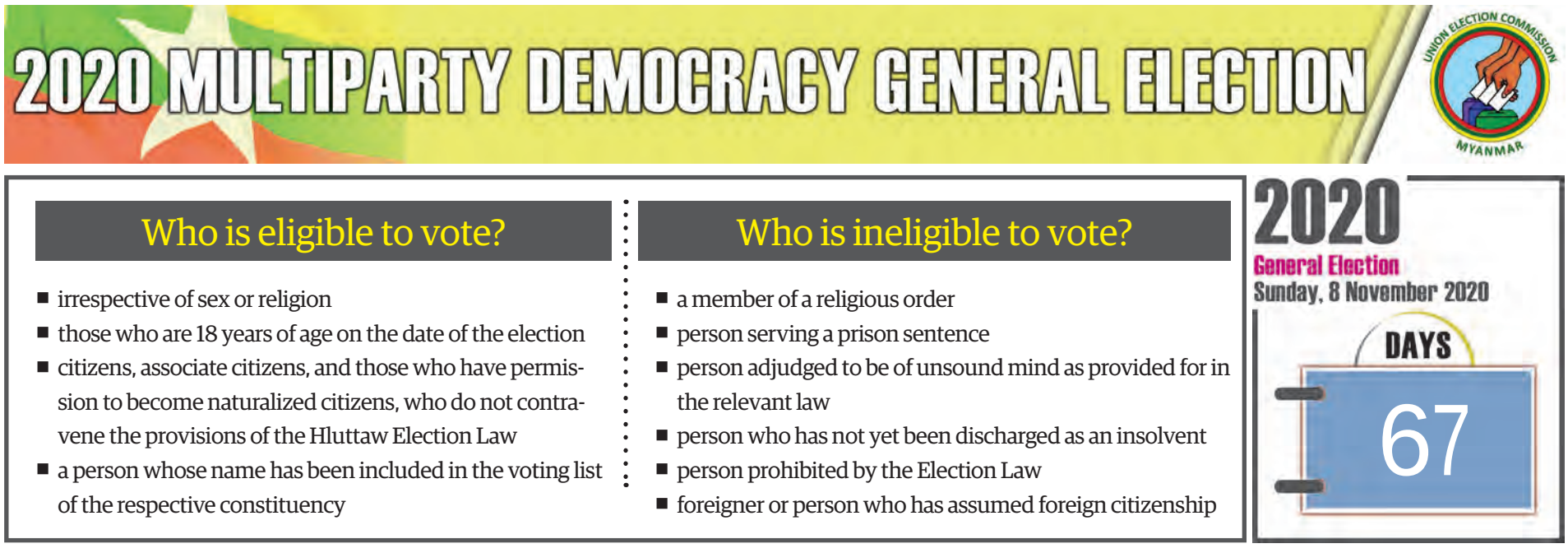
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 100/2020

14th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(1 September 2020)

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

1. As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time. Due to the increasing number of positive cases and the number of patients who have neither travel history nor close contacts with COVID-19 patients, people residing in some townships are required for "Stay-at-Home" in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.
2. It is hereby announced that people residing in the following townships in Yangon Region are included in the Stay-at-Home programme:
   (a) Thingangyun
   (b) Insein
   (c) North Okkalapa
   (d) Thakayta
   (e) Hline
   (f) Pazundaung
   (g) Mingaladon
3. People from the above-mentioned SEVEN townships, who are included in the Stay-at-Home programme shall follow the following rules:
   a. To stay only at their homes (Those who need to perform their duties at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops not included)
   b. Only one person per one household to go out for necessary shopping
   c. Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if a need arises.
   d. To wear mask when going outside.
   e. To allow only authorized vehicles, and ferries providing transportation service to those who are to going to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards.
   f. The vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for going shopping in the ward, and only a driver and two persons for going to hospital or clinic.
4. Regarding matters relating to Clauses b, c and f of Paragraph 3, if more persons need to ride on the vehicle or to go for other emergencies, they are to seek approval from the respective Ward Administration Office to go outside, and the responsible persons of the respective Ward Administration Office shall not allow anyone to go out or come in to their wards except those who are going out and coming in to assume their charge of duties.
5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by this order under the existing laws.
6. This order comes into effect from 8 am 2-9-2020.

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



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 32/2020
13th Waxing of Wagaung, 1382 ME
(31 August 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 29 August 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Daw Kway Gyi who lives in Rampu ward of Myitkyina, Kachin State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 26 August 2020, police searched the house of Daw Kway Gyi (a) Ar Nyaw, 34, daughter of U Swe Li and arrested her together with opium and heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Myitkyina) MaYa(pa) 116/2020 under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Than Soe, son of U Maung Sein, who lives in Koe Tae Village of Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 26 August 2020, police arrested Than Soe, 38, son of U Maung Sein, together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(pa) 121/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Aung Nge who lives in Kyauk Kar Village, Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 August 2020, police searched the house of Aung Nge (a) Aung Htay Lwin (a) Aye Lwin, 52, son of U Than Tin and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Palaw) MaYa (pa) 40/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of people who live in Ka Ward, Thingangyun, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 August 2020, police searched the house of Aung Aung (a) Site Phite Lar, 21, son of U Hla Win and arrested him together with his brother called Kyaw Myo Hein (a) Happy Site Lar, 19, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Thuwunna) MaYa (pa) 51/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Paing Zeyar Kyaw (a) Kyan Kyaung who lives in No (1) Ward of North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24 August 2020, police searched the house of Paing Zeyar Kyaw (a) Kyan Kyaung, 20, son of U Zeyar Soe, who lives in No (1) Ward of North Okkalapa Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (North Okkalapa) MaYa (pa) 67/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Hmone Gyi and Zin Ko Oo who live in Baloke Nyunt Ward of Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 August 2020, police searched the house of Sithu Hein(a) Hmone Gyi, 20, son of U Zaw Min Tun, who lives in Baloke Nyunt Ward of Kyimyindine Township and arrested him together with Naing Oo, 16, son of U Maung Maung and 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Setsan) MaYa(pa) 25/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police searched the house of Zin Ko Oo, 19, son of U Tun Win Myint, who lives in same ward of and arrested together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Setsan) MaYa(pa) 26/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Sithu San selling and distributing illegal drugs to No (13) ward of South Okkalapa Township from Mingaladon Township in Yangon Region.	On 25 August 2020, Sithu San, son of U San Tin, was arrested on Kawliya road in No (13) ward of South Okkalapa Township along with Marijuana. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa) MaYa (Pa) 37/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to the further investigation, he admitted that he bought the drugs from Kyaw Thiha, son of U Than Soe, lived in the No (13) ward of the same township. Police continued searching in his house and arrested him along with the Marijuana. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa) MaYa (Pa) 38/2020 under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Ko Bite Pu lived in No (71) ward of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing illegal drugs.	On 26 August 2020, 20-year-old Bite Pu (a) Zaw Htet (a) Luu Luu lived in No (71) ward, Dagpm Myothit (South), son of U SaLin, was arrested with 'WY' stimulant tablets at his house. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (South Dagon) MaYa (Pa) 69/2020 under Section 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Soe Thu lived in No.(88) ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 28 August 2020, police searched the house 27-year-old Soe Thu, son of U Soe Lwin, who lived in No(88) ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and arrest him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Dagon Seikkan) MaYa(Pa) 38/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,309 cases have been opened files as of 29 August 2020. A total of 2,004 people, including 1,675 men and 329 women had been arrested with 10,092.3194 g of heroin, 1,435.42 g of ICE, 47,187.22886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,363.76 g of speciosa powder, 51,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 667,215 stimulant tablets, 14,713.48 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 630.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 27 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

MoHS discusses increasing nationwide control measures against COVID-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports organized a virtual meeting on speeding up containment measures against COVID-19 yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said the ministry was responding to COVID-19 by effectively using resources preparing for the worst situations as the virus was rapidly spreading in short time.

The virus would be under control only if it is responded without hesitation. Abiding by the central committee's instructions, the ministry is implementing COVID-19 containment works by considering social, economic, education and political perspectives, the Union Minister said.

He appreciated the participants in the COVID-19 containment process, and stressed the importance of cooperation from social affairs ministers in regions and states to effectively carry out the virus containment processes on the ground.

Contact tracing is the most effective and important prevention strategy at present.

Officials are telephoning those who recently visited Rakhine State, and cooperation from the public is needed, he added.

The ministry is also undertaking prevention and monitoring works at transit centres, reception camps and IDP camps in Rakhine State to prevent from the spread of coronavirus.

The Central Epidemiology Unit is analyzing the rapid spread of the virus in the country by making daily discussions with relevant officials from regions and states and is reporting the findings and requirements to relevant department heads at a punctual manner.

The ministry will immediately carry out the works that can be done by the ministry alone, and the tasks that the ministry can't implement will be reported to the central committee in time. Special flights are transporting medical professionals and medical supplies to Rakhine State, and the ministry is increasing its testing capacity to detect more infected persons with no symptoms.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over the meeting to increase momentum of COVID-19 control measures on 1 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

After updating current guidelines and rules and regulations on coronavirus in accordance with additional findings, types of infections and changing symptoms, they will be distributed to regions and states, he added.

Head of Rakhine State Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Sai Win Zaw Hlaing and central survey team leader Director Dr Nyan Win Myint discussed the matters relating to random testing with rapid test kits, additional testing with PCR machine to those who tested positive and COVID-19 control processes in Rakhine State.

Sittway General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Lwin reported on the situations of medical treatments, patients, intensive care units, and ventilators at the hospital, and heads of the departments from other regions and states detailed about the conditions of patients, treatments and quarantining at the relevant hospitals. Rector of University of Medicine 1 Prof. Dr Zaw Wai Soe reported on this morning's discussions with clinical professors, and other matters including security, internet connection and foods.

The attendees discussed increasing of testing with PCR machines and GeneXpert machines, and Director-General of Medical Research Department prof. Dr Zaw Than Tun and Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) Dr Thanda Lwin detailed about telephoning those who travelled to/from Rakhine State.

Central Epidemiology Unit Director Dr Toe Thiri Aung reviewed the situation of COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar, and medical superintendents of Thandwe People's Hospital and Kyaukpyu People's Hospital reported on the conditions of patients and medical treatments at the hospital. In the afternoon, officials discussed updates of current COVID-19 guidelines and rules and regulations based on the additional findings, types of infections and changing disease symptoms. — MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

ARMAC holds 13th steering committee meeting via video conferencing

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) holds its 13th steering committee meeting online on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) held its 13th steering committee meeting through video conferencing yesterday morning in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Director of the Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Nyan Myint Aung, Lieutenant Colonel Aye Win from the Office of Director of Military Engineering participated in the meeting via video conferencing from Nay Pyi Taw together with Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia U Thit Linn Ohn.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors from ASEAN countries, delegates from the Steering Committee, Executive Director of ARMAC Mr.Ly Panharith and officials.

The election for the new Executive Director of ARMAC was held by voting system and Mr Prum Suonpraseth was appointed as the new Executive Director of ARMAC by 10 votes in favour of the ASEAN countries.—MNA *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

2 SEPTEMBER 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

COVID-19: Our country at the crossroads

With the number of people testing positive for coronavirus in Myanmar, the virus is quickly spreading throughout Rakhine State. Meanwhile, other parts of the country are seeing a resurgence of the virus infection.

The authorities have imposed stay-at-home orders in Yangon Region's seven townships taking effect from today. Yangon is expected to see more infections, which also means more hospitalizations.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is doubling its efforts in response to the fast-spreading virus, making the best use of its resources, while expecting the worst case scenario.

Our country is at the crossroads right now: can we quickly contain the fast-spreading virus, or will we see the situation worsen?

Only when we quickly respond to the spreading virus will the outbreak be contained in a short time.

> Our country is at the crossroads right now: can we quickly contain the fast-spreading virus, or will we see the situation worsen?

Taking not only health approach but also social, economic, education and political approaches to the pandemic, the ministry is making all-out efforts to effectively contain the spread of the infectious disease.

To effectively implement the COVID-19 control measures at the ground level, it should be worth noting that the leadership and supportive role of social affairs ministers of regional and state governments is sine qua non. Meanwhile, the current situation of the pandemic demands quick tracing and testing, which is critical to containing outbreaks.

The authorities have been tracing those who had travelled to Rakhine State after 10 August, and have implemented travel restrictions to Rakhine State to fight the spread of the coronavirus infection within the state.

We would like to warn the people that one case can quickly be too many.

The people who had a travel history to Rakhine State after 10 August are highly advised to fully cooperate with the authorities in containing the infectious disease.

The outcome of our country's battle against the pandemic depends on our ability to follow the health guidelines and rules.

Meanwhile, it has been found that announcing health guidelines and information over loudspeakers in wards and villages is a very effective strategy in fighting the infectious disease. Hence, we must use this strategy more in all parts of the country.

It has long been said that information is a very powerful tool in overcoming the crisis.

People are urged to comply with the rules and health guidelines as there are still no signs of an end to the emergency in the country.

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Wagaung, the month of casting lots festival

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

Full Moon day of Wagaung is designated as the Day of Metta Sutta and Myanmar Buddhists perform meritorious deeds across the nation on this holy day. **PHOTO COURTESY: YATANAVASA BUDDHIST MONASTERY**

Wagaung (August) is the 5th month of Myanmar lunar calendar. Myanmar is a tropical country with three seasons namely hot season (gein hman) rainy season (wathan) and cold season (hei man). Wagaung falls in the rainy season. The word 'Wagaung' is a combination of two words 'Wa' and 'Khaung'. Wa means Buddhist lent and Khaung means middle or peak. So, Wagaung implies the middle or the peak of the Buddhist lent which covers three months of rainy season namely Waso (July), Wagaung (August) and Tawthalin (September). In the stone inscriptions of the Bagan Period another word for Wagaung was used. It was "Nan Kala" (နံကာလ) which means the time for ploughing, or the planting season, or the month for agricultural activities. There is a Myanmar folk rhyme which aptly describes this season "ဝါဆို၊ ဝါခေါင်၊ ရေဖောင်ဖောင်" (In Waso and Wagaung there are billows of rain water). As these two months are the peak of rainy season the countryside is inundated with rain water. Astrological name of Wagaung is Simha (သိဟ်) (Leo) and its zodiacal sign is lion. In this month in daytime the Sun and the Hpou Sha stars and at night the Moon and Tharawun stars rival in their radiance. Although all lilies and most trees and plants burst forth into bloom,khat-tar or land lily (Crinum amoenum) is traditionally marked as the flower of Wagaung.

Sayey Tan Pwe which may best be rendered into English as "Casting lots Festival" was the traditional festival held in Wagaung in days of yore. Sayey Tans are lots to decide to choose recipient of food or gift or alms in a religious offering. The custom of casting lots in religious charity originated in the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. While the lord Buddha was residing in the Weiluwun Vihara at the Capital of Yazagyoe, famine hit the city and there was scarcity of food. Buddhist devotees could no longer provide 'hswan' (food) for all monks of the Vihara.Some wanted to select ten or twenty monks to offer food. Some preferred to cast lots so as to decide the recipient monks. Some thought of offering food to the monks only on the Sabbath days when they came to the Vihara for fasting and observing moral precepts. Others chose the day after the Sabbath day for offering food because they thought that was the day the monks were in real need of food. Being unable to reach a consensus of opinion the devotees referred the matter to the Lord Buddha.

Where upon the Lord Buddha expounded seven different modes of offering food to the monks. They are as follows:

(a) Sangha-bhat which is the food offered to all monks
(b) Uddesa-bhat which is the food offered particularly to one or two monks.
(c) Nimantana-bhat which is the food offered to the invited monks.
(d) Salaka-bhat which is the food offered to the monks chosen by casting lots.
(e) Pakkhika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the waxing and waning moon days.
(f) Uposathika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the Sabbath day.
(g) Patipadika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the day after the Sabbath day.

The Lord Buddha then said that he approved all of them. Since that time offering of food to the monks by casting lots became a common practice among the Buddhist devotees. With the permission and at the direction of the Lord Buddha, the monks chose one monk from among themselves and appointed him "Bhattuddesaka" i.e. the monk who was in charge of alloting food offered by the devotees. The monk thus chosen and appointed must have special qualifications such as good health, activeness, managerial skill, freedom from bias and prejudice, and being able to keep the correct list of alloted and unalloted monks. The first monk appointed in that charge during the lifetime of the Lord Buddha was Maha Thera Ashin Datba, the son of the Malla king. He discharged the duty of alloting Uddesa-bhat, Nimantana-bhat and Salaka-bhat, with fariness and correctness.

The lots are either wooden sticks or bamboo slats or bamboo strips or palm leaves or pei leaves on which names and addresses of the donors of food are written. The lots are then put into the basket and the basket is shaken upside down many times so that the lots are thoroughly shuffled up. The monks queue up either according to their serial number if such numbers are given them or according to the seniority of their vasa (ordained age) to draw the lot. Then they go to the house as directed by their lots to partake of the food offered there. During the lifetime of the Lord Buddha offering of food to the monks by casting lots could be made at any place, on any date and in any month. There was no rule fixing its place, date and month. But Myanmar kings chose Wagaung as the month for performing this religious function because the monks observing lent vows and residing together in the same monastery might have difficulty in getting sufficient food in Wagaung. Originally casting lots was to provide food to the monks. But later, eight priestly utensils namely three pieces of yellow robe, the girdle, the alms bowl, the adze, the water dipper, and the needle and other offertories are also donated by casting lots. Such articles are hung on a tree-shaped stand which is called Padei-thabin meaning the tree of plenty and variety, comparable to the mythical cornucopia.

In Myanmar the earliest evidence of offering of food to the monks by casting lots was found in the stone inscriptions of ancient Bagan. In lines 22 and 23 of Saw Hla Wun pagoda inscriptions of A.D. 1268, 1290 and 1291, there was mention of Sayey Tan (casting lots) There is one oral history which tells how offering food by casting lots originated in Myanmar. During the reign of King Thihathu (A.D. 1298-1312) of the Pinya dynasty (A.D. 1298-1364) a big wooden monastery was built by the royal order, and the king decreed that 'he who hath the courage let him take possession of it' At that time there was one head monk named Soo Twin Pyit Sayadaw who was famous for his learning and knowledge. Hearing the royal decree the monk took residence of the monastery. Later the monk advised the king that the best way to find the deserving occupant for the monastery was by casting lots. From that time began the casting lots festival. Later, in the reign of King Thalun (A.D.1629-48) of the Nyaung Yan dynasty (A.D. 1599-1752) there appeared two religious translations namely Culavapali nisaya and Culava-pali Athakatha nisaya by the most venerable monk Shwe Umin Sayadaw of Pakhan Gyi town. In them he translated into Myanmar the two Pali words "Salaka" and 'bhatta' as 'Sayey Tan' and "Hswan'. Salaka means wooden or bamboo sticks on which letters were written and bhatta means food (hswan). Letters written on the sticks mention names and addresses of the donors of food.

Myanmar literature of later historic periods contained references to the casting lots festival. Different forms of poem such as loota, lay cho, eh-chin, tay htat, tha hpyan etc. on twelve seasons composed by eminent bards like U Yar, Lu U Min, Hpo Thu Daw U Min, Mei Khwe, U Hpyey, U Ponnya have mention of casting lots festival in Wagaung. On page 229 of one Myanmar Chronicle named Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Tawgyi Volume 11, the holding of the casting lots festival at the palace of King Bagyidaw (A.D. 1819-37) was recorded as follows:

"On the 8th waning day of the month of Wagaung, village monks (Ga ma wa thi) and forest monks (Arin nja wa thi) were invited to the palace. Eight priestly utensils and other offertories were hung on the two hundred and sixty Padeithabins.His Majesty the King and the Chief Queen donated them to the monks and poured the libation water. Their Majesties then offered Salakabhat Sayey Tan hswan (food offered by casting lots) to the monks."

It is to be noted that unlike the Sayey Tan Pwe of the Lord Buddha's time, Myanmar Sayey Tan Pwe has the names of the recipient monks written on the lots, instead of the donors' names and addresses and it is the donors who draw the lots, not the monks. List of names and addresses of the monks residing in the locality is made and these are written on the lots which are placed in the bamboo container called 'wa kyi-tauk'. At the assembly of the Buddhist devotees, names of the donors of food are called out according to their serial number to draw the lots. The following morning the donors either invite the monks of their lots to their houses to offer food or put food in the large bowl with stand and cover (usually of lacquer) called' hswan ok' and send it to the monks.

Just like on other Myanmar religious functions. A festival atmosphere is created by the gathering of lay devotees dressed in their finery, and dainty damsels carrying offertories on their heads, followed by groups of merry-making youths who joyously dance, sing and play folk music of 'do-bat', 'ozi', and 'byaw' which befit the occasion.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Kyaw Zan of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the expiry of one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General (Maintenance) U Wunna Zaw of the Rural Road Development Department under the Ministry of Construction as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 1-9-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (1) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (11:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung has exceeded by (1) cm above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Zalun and Thabaung Townships to take precaution measure.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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

Yangon govt to take legal actions against illegal operation of vehicles

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region government will take legal actions against illegal operation of the vehicles on YBS routes with more effective laws, according to the region's Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw.

MP U Aung Phone Kyaw San Oo of Htantabin Township Constituency 1 asked if Yangon regional government has a plan to take legal action against the outside illegal vehicles operating in Yangon YBS bus routes day and night. He argued how the Yangon local government would take action against those vehicles.

He raised this question during the fourth-day session of the Second Yangon Regional Hluttaw's 12th regular meeting held on 31 August.

Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw responded to the question saying that YBS system is being operated under Yangon region public transport sector to be able to establish a better public transport system. YBS buses have also been added to meet the needs of the public. At present, some 102 bus lines including shuttle bus lines are being operated in Yangon region. However, the action is being taken against those vehicles, which are illegally operating along YBS bus routes in some townships.

Regarding taking of an action, the traffic police seized about 154 vehicles in 2018 and took legal action against 148 cars in 2019.

Those undisciplined, unregistered, illegal vehicles have legal action taken under Section 65 of the 2015 Motor Vehicle Law, under which a fine of less than K30,000 is imposed. Now, the government has planned to take action against those disobedient vehicles under the respective law, she noted.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fishing industry faces difficulty as its season starts

Fishing vessels are anchored near a coast in Myeik, Taninthayi Region on 31 August 2020. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (IPRD)**

ALTHOUGH the onshore and offshore fishing boats have resumed business at the start of the fishing season, some of the boats have not raised their anchors due to worries about the declining market of this industry.

"We export all the fish to Ranong. We heard that Ranong could not ship the fish bought last year to other countries because of suspended transport. Only 30 per cent of fishing boats have started their operation. Some fishing boats' owners do not dare to leave for fishing. But they need to go their fishing boats because they need to look after their fishermen. The fishermen are facing difficulty for their livelihood after three months of suspension of work. This problem can be solved only by the fishing boats going out to sea, said U Thet Soe, the secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) in Taninthayi region.

We will know that there is difficulty in the sale of the fish after one or two weeks. We will not exactly see the demand of the Ranong market as well. To be able to penetrate other markets, we need to have the fish cold storage and bridges in Myeik. Only when we have such facilities, we can export the fish to other countries by keeping the caught fish in the cold storage and bridges, according to MFF.

"The caught fish are sold in Ranong by FOB. We heard that Ranong had not sold their fish yet and aquatic products bought last year because of COVID-19. So, the boat owners who have ten fishing boats are running only five boats," said U Tun Naung Oo, the head of Fisheries Department in Myeik District.

Taninthayi coast is located in the southern part of the country. It is the longest one among three other shores, and it is 1200 km long. Over 250,000 fishermen from 1,250 onshore and offshore fishing boats are reliant upon the Tanintharyi coast, according to the Fisheries Department in Myeik District. —Khine Htoo (IPRD) *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Over K3,037 million provided for disaster-affected areas in Sagaing Region

THE Disaster Management Department has provided over K3,037 million to the disaster affected areas in Sagaing Region in four and a half years, said the head of Sagaing Region Disaster Management Department.

"The department has provided over K156 million for 13,263 households in 24 townships, hit by the strong wind, over K7 million for households in five flooded townships and over K28 million for 73 victims who were killed by thunder and in motor vessel capsize. Additionally, the department has also provided over K35 million for digging of the tube wells in 15 villages in Sagaing region and distributed the instant noodle in Naga Self-Administered Zone," he added.

The National Disaster Management Committee has provided K650 million worth rescue equipment such as vehicles, motorcycles, speed boats, fibre boats, lifejackets, motor vessels and wheel loaders for Sagaing region in cooperation with the Disaster Management Department. "We have also spent over K1,686 million for construction of one cyclone shelter facility to accommodate about 600 people in Kalay township and nine school shelters to accommodate about 500 people in Kalay, Mawlaik, Paungbyin, Homalin and Kani townships for the safety of the natural disaster-affected people. Moreover, the department has provided 4,000 raincoats, umbrellas and rain boots for the children from Naga Self-Administered Zone, spending over K24 million from the regional government surplus funds," he added. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa) *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Rescue workers help locals rebuild their houses demaged by strong wind in Sagaing Region on 1 September. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Over 32,000 reserved rice bags sold at much fairer price over 1 month

By Nyein Nyein

OUT of 500,000 bags (108 pounds per bag) from reserved rice, over 32,000 have been sold between 10 July and 31 August, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Of 32,000 bags that have been sold, Yangon traders purchase the most with 21,790 bags, followed by Nay Pyi Taw with 3,300 bags.

Additionally, 2,200 bags are sold in Mon State, while 2,000 in Chin State, 1,756 in Mandalay Region, 920 in Taninthayi Region, 200 in Bago Region and 100 in Sagaing Region.

Regarding the rice purchase at a much fairer price, those interested retailers and factories can contact through mobile numbers – 09-694386994/5 of MRF and 09-694386996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.

At present, MRF purchased the rice bags at K22,400 per bag from the Consumer Affairs Department and distribute them at K22,800 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops, in order to pay storage charges.

It is the government's move to sell the rice at K1,000 per pyi (2.13 kg) which is much fairer price than the prevailing market price. MRF is supporting the government's plan with non-profit, the federation reported.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April.

Myanmar Rice Ferderation said reserved rice have been sold with fair price in Yangon and other regions/ states. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The state's emergency rice reserve is to ensure food security, keep the price stable in the domestic market, continue to export them regularly and lessen the worries of the consumers during the COVID-19.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

56 factories completely shut down in 7 months amid COVID-19 crisis

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 173 factories were hit hard by the coronavirus impacts in the past seven months (1 January and 31 July), including the closure of 56 factories and workplaces, temporary closure and layoffs, said Daw Moe Moe Su Kyi, Regional Minister for Immigration and Human Resources.

She responded to the queries raised by Daw Aye Aye Mar of Lanmadaw constituency, at the twelfth regular session of the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 31 August. Daw Aye Aye Mar asked whether the factories that were closed during the pandemic are in line with past commitments during its establishment. She also questioned the number of factories shut down, the reason for the closure and further plans.

Those 173 factories have over 42,000 workers, and some of them are applying for new jobs posted by the Department of Labour, she continued.

According to section 8 (1) of Factories Act 1951, the employer must report to the Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department at least 15 days before the starting operation. The existing law of the Department of Labour does not embody the commitments regarding the starting operations. However, during the start-up of factories and employment, the employers and workers must sign employment contract outlining 21 facts issued by the Department of Labour and have to send the EC (employment contract between employer and employee) with commitments to the relevant township offices. Workplace Coordinating Committee (WCC) that includes balanced ratios between the workers and employer representatives are also to be formed. Besides 21 facts, mutual agreements between the employers and workers are also to be committed under the EC.

Additionally, the Department has dealt with the labour rights of those workers affected by 173 factories. Regarding payment for business shutdown allowances, if the workers file complaints to the relevant township Department of Labour Relations in Yangon Region, the related township department officials will inspect and resolute the disputes under the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law and Rules (2012)

The employment termination and redundancy pay are settled as per the Notification No. (84/2015) released on 3 July 2015, under the Employment and Skill Development Law. The employment termination must be notified of the workers of one month in advance. If the employers failed to give one-month notice, one-month salary is added to the payment, she said.

When the workers want employment status rather than compensation for the closure of factories and called for more beyond the Notification No (84/2015), those files are sent to Yangon Region Arbitration Tribunal, and they are settled in accord with the existing law.

If the workers or employers are not satisfied with the arbitration, they can send further complaints to the Arbitration Council within seven days of arbitration. The disputes are inspected and settled again. The Department of Labour Relations of Yangon Region tackled with payment in line with the Notification as mentioned above. Yangon Region Investment Committee also issues notifications regarding job opportunities of domestic and foreign enterprises through notice boards and MRTV, after the committee holds bi-monthly meeting related to the endorsement of the investment proposals. Additionally, labour registration cards can be processed within one day for the citizens, Yangon regional minister added.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar aims for $16 bln worth exports, $18 bln imports for 2020-2021FY

UNDER the National Planning Law for 2020-2021 Financial Year, Myanmar intends to reach the export target at US$16 billion and import at $18 billion.

Myanmar's GDP growth forecast for FY2020-2021 is estimated at 6 per cent. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural, manufacturing and other service sectors. Export earnings from CMP (cutting, making, and packing) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources is lessening.

The forestry is expected to drop by 11 per cent. In comparison, Myanmar intends to grow by 2.2 per cent for the agricultural sector, 3.4 per cent for livestock and fisheries, 0.3 per cent in the power sector, 2.1 per cent for minerals, 7.1 per cent in the manufacturing industry, 12.7 per cent in electricity, 6.8 per cent in the construction sector, 7.9 per cent in transportation, 9.1 per cent in communication, 8.6 per cent in finance, 3.8 per cent in social and management, 9.3 per cent in other service and 7.1 per cent in trade sector respectively.

The government expects the private sector contributes to 72.73 per cent of investments.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

In the current 2019-2020FY, the country shipped in and out goods valued $33 billion in nearly 11 months, an increase of $1.8 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce. During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at $31.2 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

This year, both maritime and border trade recorded an increase compared with the year-ago period, with exports estimated at over $15.7 billion and imports valued at $17.27 billion.

Myanmar's foreign trade has shown a 10-per-cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government. The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export, enhance value-added production, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Iran nuclear deal parties meet amid US pressure

VIENNA—The signatories to the faltering Iran nuclear deal kicked off a meeting in Vienna on Tuesday as the United States is bidding to restore international sanctions on the Islamic republic and extend an arms embargo.

Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia are struggling to save the landmark 2015 accord with Iran, which has been progressively stepping up its nuclear activities since last year.

Tehran insists it is entitled to do so under the deal -- which swapped sanctions relief for Iran's agreement to scale back its nuclear programme -- following the US withdrawal from the accord in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions. In a boost to Tuesday's talks, the Iranian atomic energy last week agreed to allow inspectors of the UN nuclear watchdog to visit two sites suspected of having hosted undeclared activity in the early 2000s.International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi had travelled to Iran on his first trip since taking up the top post last year and after months of calling for access.

Iran has agreed to allow International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to visit two sites suspected of hosting undeclared activity in the early 2000s. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Results from any site visits are, however, expected to take three months, according to a diplomat familiar with the matter, so "it risks being a problem then with the Iranians" if anything undeclared and nuclear-related is found.

US 'isolated'

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's Ambassador to International Organizations in Vienna, noted Monday on Twitter that "nuclear deal participants have a lot of topics to discuss".

The meeting is chaired by EU senior official Helga Schmid with representatives from Britain, China, France, Germany, Iran and Russia attending.

Mark Fitzpatrick, an associate fellow of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), said last week's agreement on access kept "Iran generally in line with the rest of the world, against an isolated United States".

The United Nations last week blocked the US bid to reimpose international sanctions on Iran, while Washington also failed to rally enough support to extend an arms embargo set to start to lapse from October.

But Fitzpatrick pointed out that "Iran's nuclear activities remain of deep concern to those states that are dedicated to non-proliferation".—AFP ■

US on brink as vigilantes, guns and hate stoke fears ahead of election

WASHINGTON—Shootings that left three dead at protests against police brutality have stoked fears of rising violence as a deeply divided US heads into elections amid economic collapse, a deadly pandemic and the worst social upheaval since the 1960s.

President Donald Trump, hoping to secure a second term in November despite the crisis, heads Tuesday to Kenosha, the Wisconsin town which descended into violence last week after police shot a young black father seven times in the back.

The governor of the state, Democrat Tony Evers, called on Trump in vain to reconsider his visit, warning it would "hinder our healing" and arguing that the citizens of the town are already traumatized. One of them, Gregory Bennett, said he no longer feels safe in the town where last Tuesday night, a 17-year-old who had joined a far-right militia protecting private property shot dead two protesters.

Local white people "are in fear, they look for a reason to defend themselves and we have people over here [the militias] looking for a reason to attack," said Bennett, a social worker and former member of the military who said he no longer leaves his house without a bulletproof jacket and a pistol in his belt. In the United States, where the right to defend oneself is part of the national identity, some 30 percent of the adult population owns at least one firearm.—AFP ■

People fight around a Confederate flag during an extreme-right rally and left-wing counter-demonstration at Stone Mountain, Georgia, on August 15, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Psychologist-backed documentary labels Trump 'malignant narcissist'

WASHINGTON—As battle lines are drawn ahead of Donald Trump's bid for re-election, a new documentary based on the testimony of mental health professionals has labeled the US president a "malignant narcissist".

"Unfit: The Psychology of Donald Trump" -- released on streaming platforms Tuesday -- claims not to be politically motivated.

The film interviews several psychologists who argue they have a medical duty to warn the US public about Trump's alleged mental state.

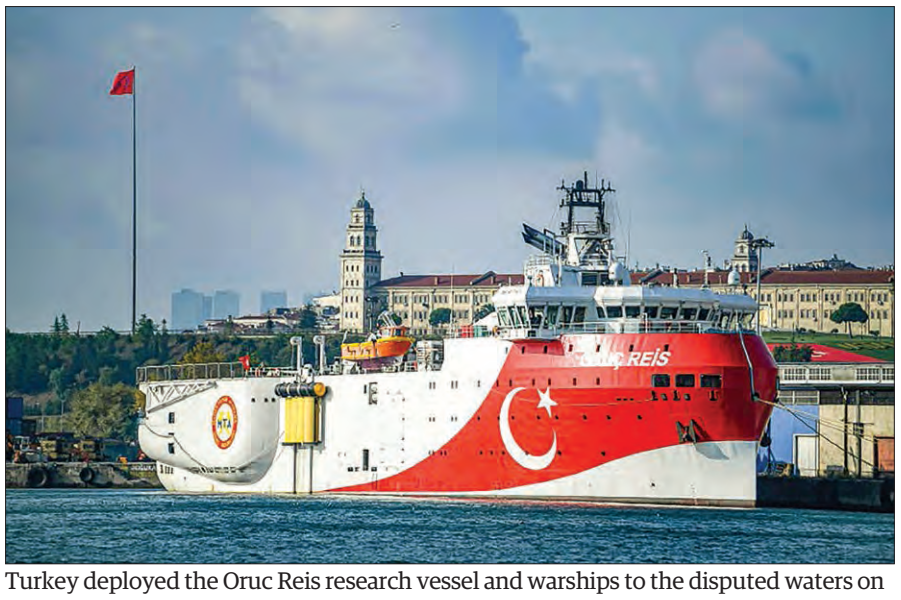
According to psychologist John Gartner, Trump clearly exhibits four key symptoms of malignant narcissism -- the "most destructive" personality type -- including paranoia, narcissism, antisocial personality disorder and sadism.

"This type of leader pops up all throughout history, and they're always extraordinarily disruptive," Gartner told AFP, noting that the same label has been applied to Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini.

"What is so strange is that we're not used to seeing this type of leader in America."

But the film's central premise of professionally diagnosing a public figure from afar is contentious.—AFP ■

Turkey extends Mediterranean gas exploration mission



Turkey deployed the Oruc Reis research vessel and warships to the disputed waters on August 10 and prolonged the mission twice. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ANKARA —President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday played up Turkey's military might after extending a Mediterranean gas exploration mission that has pitted it against Greece and the rest of the EU.

Turkey's push into disputed waters has raised the stakes in the energy-rich but volatile region, reviving long-standing hostilities between the two neighbours.

Greece accuses Turkey of violating its sovereignty, while Ankara says its NATO ally is pursuing a "maximalist" approach that offers no room for talks.

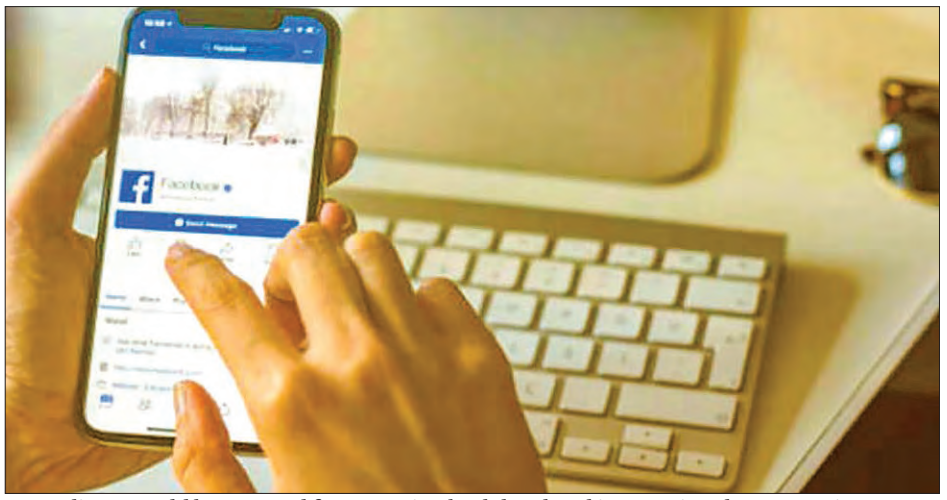
The European Union is watching the conflict with growing concern, with Germany spearheading efforts to get the sides to temper the rhetoric and settle their differences through talks.

Turkey deployed the Oruc Reis research vessel and warships to the disputed waters on August 10 and prolonged the mission twice. Greece responded by staging naval exercises with several EU allies and the United Arab Emirates not far from smaller ones Turkey conducted between Cyprus and Crete last week.

Turkey's most recent extension of the mission was until Tuesday, raising the possibility of a respite in a fast-escalating conflict that includes deals the two countries struck with war-torn Libya and Egypt.

But in a message on NAVTEX, the international maritime navigational telex system, Turkey said late Monday the seismic vessel's stay in the eastern Mediterranean would be extended until September 12.—AFP ■

Facebook threatens to ban news publication on Australian platforms



Australians would be stopped from posting both local and international news stories on Facebook and Instagram. **IMAGE CREDIT: ISTOCKPHOTO**

SYDNEY —Social media giant Facebook Inc. on Tuesday threatened to stop Australian media outlets and individuals from sharing news stories on its platforms in response to a proposed law that would require it to compensate news companies for their stories.

In July, the Australian government announced a draft of the News Media Bargaining Code, which was designed to "level the playing field" for Australian media outlets by making companies like Facebook and Google LLC pay for news content. Facebook Australia and New Zealand Managing Director Will Easton said in a statement if the proposed code were to become law, Facebook would be forced to pay for information that makes up a fraction of its service, and which news publishers voluntarily share on the platform.

"Assuming this draft code becomes law, we will reluctantly stop allowing publishers and people in Australia from sharing local and international news on Facebook and Instagram," Easton said in a written statement. "This is not our first choice -- it is our last."

Easton said the company is in favor of the Australia government's goal to support struggling news organizations, but argued that news publishers -- not Facebook -- benefit most from news stories being shared on social media.

"News represents a fraction of what people see in their News Feed and is not a significant source of revenue for us," he said. "News organizations in Australia and elsewhere choose to post news on Facebook...and they encourage readers to share news across social platforms to increase readership of their stories." Facebook's statement comes two weeks after Google made a similar rebuke of the proposed law, suggesting end users of the search engine may be forced to pay for the service.—Kyodo ■

Japan, Australia, India to jointly enhance pandemic-hit supply chains

TOKYO—Japan, Australia and India agreed Tuesday to cooperate in enhancing regional supply chains as the coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt trade and manufacturing activity, hitting economic growth. The countries aim to draw up measures by the end of the year and are also planning to call for the participation of the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Economy ministers from the three nations "underscored the necessity and potential to enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region", they said in a joint statement released after their videoconference.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-001(20-21)	Well Control Equipment (2) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-002(20-21)	A205 Rotary Table Complete Set (2) Nos	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-003(20-21)	T1750 Rotary Table Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-004(20-21)	1.5 MW Gas Engine Driven Generating Set (Container Type) Attached with Switch Gear Pannel (1) Set	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-005(20-21)	Truck Mounted Single Drum Well Servicing Unit (1) Unit	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-006(20-21)	Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment with Spares (3) Groups	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-007(20-21)	Engine Gear Box (3) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-008(20-21)	SL-450 Single Purpose Swivel (2) Nos	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-009(20-21)	YG-225 Travelling Block with Hook (1) Set	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-010(20-21)	TQ356 Casing Power Tong (1) Set	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-011(20-21)	Conventional Coring System for 8 ½" Hole Section (1) Set	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-012(20-21)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-013(20-21)	Air Compressor Complete Set Single Stage-360 cfm@175 psi Diesel Engine Driven/Skid Mounted (2) Nos	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-014(20-21)	Crude Transfer Pump & Caustic Soda Transfer Pump with Motor (5) Items	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-015(20-21)	Heavy Duty Lathe Machine with Motor Spindle Bore (30-40)CM, Motor Power (13-20)HP (1) No	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-016(20-21)	Steam Boiler Capacity (1-1.5 Ton/HR) (2) Sets	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-017(20-21)	Shale Shaker Unit and Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-018(20-21)	Single Pump SJS Serva Cementing Unit with Engine and Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-019(20-21)	Dispenser (2 Products 2 Hose), Square Drive Hydraulic Torque Wrenches, Plasma Cutting Machine (3) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-020(20-21)	Air Compressor with Engine (2) Items	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-021(20-21)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-022(20-21)	CNG Ground Storage Cascade (6) Sets	Ks
(w)	DMP/L-023(20-21)	Cooling System for CNG Station (2) Units	Ks
(x)	DMP/L-024(20-21)	SCADA System for all CNG Station & Head Office Network (1) Lot	Ks
(y)	DMP/L-025(20-21)	Skid Mounted Gas Dryer (2) Units	Ks
(z)	DMP/L-026(20-21)	Cascade Tube Skid, Cascade Trailer & Tractor (3) Items	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L-027(20-21)	Main Motor (China) for CNG Station (2) Items	Ks
(ab)	DMP/L-028(20-21)	Cooling Water Pump Motor & Cooling Fan Motor For CNG Station (2) Items	Ks
(ac)	DMP/L-029(20-21)	510 KW Gas Engine Generating Complete Set (1) No	Ks
(ad)	DMP/L-030(20-21)	Excavator (2) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **1 September 2020** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **1 October 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 1-10-2020, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (169N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (169N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (034S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (034S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (077N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (077N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

Mango stands at the top of the list of exported agricultural products. Four GAP-certified mango plantations in Kanbalu Township. **PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN (KANBALU)**

By
Kyaw Htike Soe

Myanmar exports agricultural products worth US$ 3.3 billion in current FY

THE agricultural sector is the lifeblood of Myanmar and is the first prioritized business of the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy and rice, pulses and beans are the country's leading agricultural products. In Myanmar, agricultural sector accounts for over 37 per cent of the country's GDP and employs about 70 per cent of the labour force. The agricultural sector plays an important role in reducing poverty rate in Myanmar.

Myanmar's exported agricultural products worth US$ 3.3 billion to foreign countries between 1 October last year and 31 July in the current financial year, an increase of US$500 million against a year-ago period, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar earned US$2.8 billion from agricultural products export in the first ten months of the financial year 2018-2019. In the country's export sector, the agriculture industry accounted for almost 22 per cent of overall exports. The main items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, beans and pulses and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agricultural products are also transported to other countries around the world. About 60 different types of crops are grown across the country.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products to its neighbouring countries. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN (MUSE)**

Myanmar agricultural products are primarily transported to Thailand, China, India, Bangladesh, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market for the country's agricultural products remains uncertain due to quality and unstable global demand. The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to exter-

nal markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, the involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required to meet production targets. The ministry is trying utmost to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of quality seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.

Myanmar shipped over 1.15 million tons of beans and pulses to foreign markets from 1 October 2019 to early July in the current financial year 2019-2020, fetching US$730 million, according to the figure released by the ministry. The Southeast Asian country earns about US$800 million from exports of beans and pulses every year. Myanmar exported over 2.31 million tonnes of rice and broken rice as of July 31 this financial year 2019-2020. Myanmar freighted over 1.456 million tonnes of rice and 860,592 tonnes of broken rice, earning nearly US$700 million. Being an agricultural country, Myanmar exports a wide variety of agricultural products, ranging from rice, beans and pulses, sesame, sugarcane, onion, garlic, ginger and other kitchen crops to watermelons, bananas, mangoes, avocados, cucumbers, chili, and other profitable fruits and vegetables, and rubber.

The government launched the Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan 2018-2023 in June 2018, which encourages good management, productivity and competitiveness in the sector. The plan aims to promote private sector interest and encourage farmers to improve the market access and information. To boost agricultural production, the country is tackling the challenges of erratic weather, capacity and technical know-how to produce value-added products and dependence on foreign market demand. The issue of high transportation costs, which cause problems in the supply chain, is also being addressed so as to keep up with the countries in the region. With rice, pulses, corn and rubber representing its major agricultural products, Myanmar is rich in land and water resources and has a favorable climate for agriculture and livestock production.

Myanmar received over US$2.93 billion from agricultural products export in the financial year 2016-17, up by US$315 million year-on-year, the ministry's data showed. The Southeast Asian country exported agricultural products worth US$2.8 billion in the financial year 2017-2018. Myanmar's income from export of agricultural goods in the financial year 2018- 2019 were valued at US$2.45 billion, an increase of US$260 million compared with the same period of last financial year.

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Workers dry coffee berries under the sunshine in Ywangan.

Farmers seen in a green peas farm. Myanmar earns about US$800 million from exports of beans and pulses every year. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING**

A farmer harvests ripening monsoon paddy plantation with the use of combine harvester in Loikaw, Kayah State. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Myeik District SPED honours participants in "Exercise is Medicine" Initiative

A participant from Fire Service Department in "Exercise is Medicine" Initiative (R) accepts the trophy and certificate of honour presented by Myeik District Sports & Physical Education Department (SPED) in Myeik Town on 1 September 2020. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

SPORTS & Physical Education Department (SPED) of Myeik District honoured the participants in State/Region (Central) "Exercise is Medicine" Initiative at the Myeik District Sports Hall in Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region yesterday.

Myeik District won 2018-2019 State/Region (Central) "Exercise is Medicine" Initiative that was organized by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The department presented trophies and certificates of honour to a total of 28 sportspersons of Myeik University, schools, training centres, organizations and departments and individual sportspersons.

At the meeting, Myeik District Deputy Administrator U Myint Tun first gave a congratulatory speech, and the Deputy Minister and officials honoured the participants in "Exercise is Medicine" Initiative with trophies and certificates.

On behalf of the honoured participants, Daw Khin Khin Htay, a teacher, expressed words of thanks. —Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)

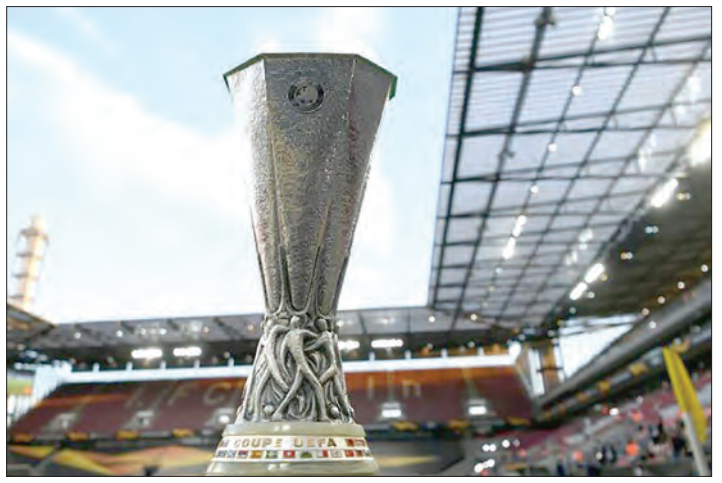
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Serena starts latest bid for 24th Slam on US Open day two

NEW YORK—Serena Williams continues her protracted pursuit of a record-equalling 24th singles Grand Slam title on day two of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday.

It has been more than three years since Williams won her 23rd Grand Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open -- when she was already pregnant with daughter Olympia.

The 38-year-old has come close since, reaching four major finals only to come away empty handed. She needs one more to equal Margaret Court's record and starts her latest bid against the 96th-ranked Kristie Ahn at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.—AFP ■



All European ties are going ahead behind closed doors. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tottenham to go to Bulgaria, AC Milan face Shamrock Rovers, in Europa League

PARIS—Tottenham Hotspur will face a trip to Bulgaria in the Europa League second qualifying round in September after being paired with Lokomotiv Plovdiv in Monday's (Aug 31) draw.

The tie will be played on Thursday, Sept 17, five days after Jose Mourinho's side kick off their Premier League campaign at home to Everton. They are due to play away at Southampton on Sunday, Sept 20.

Lokomotiv qualified for the Europa League by winning the Bulgarian Cup for the second year running. Spurs qualified by coming sixth in the Premier League.

Meanwhile, League of Ireland side Shamrock Rovers have been handed a glamour tie at home to seven-time former European champions AC Milan in Dublin.

Steven Gerrard's Rangers have been drawn away at Lincoln Red Imps of Gibraltar, the minnows who beat Celtic 1-0 at home in a Champions League qualifier in 2016 before losing the return in Glasgow.

After being knocked out of this season's Champions League at home by Ferencvaros in the second qualifying round last week, Celtic will enter the Europa League in the third qualifying round, the draw for which takes place on Tuesday.

Complications caused by the coronavirus pandemic mean that all qualifying ties are being played as one-off matches at the home of the first team drawn from the hat, rather than over two legs.—AFP ■

Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil linked with move to Saudi Arabia side Al Nassr

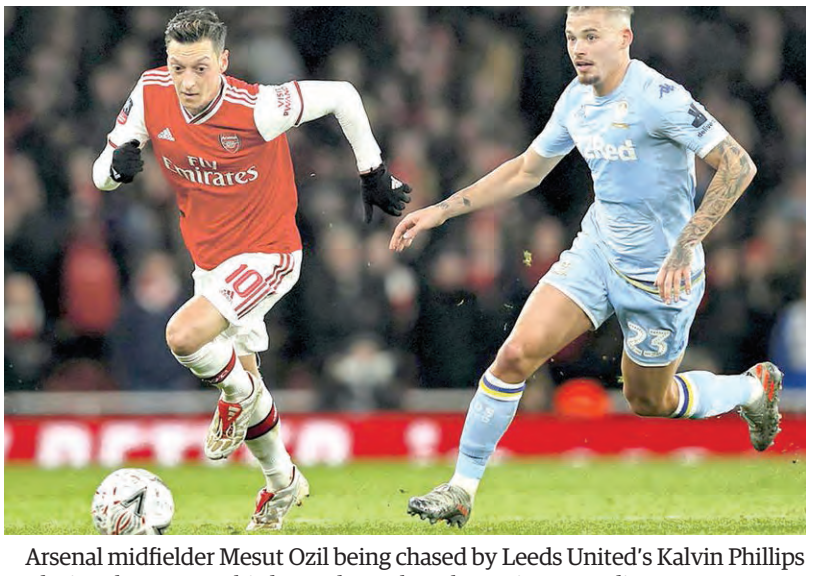
ANKARA—Arsenal playmaker Mesut Ozil is said to have attracted interest from Saudi Arabia side Al Nassr.

Reports in Turkey claimed on Monday that the Riyadh club are preparing an offer of around $20 million (Dh73.5m) per year in wages for Ozil, although the German midfielder recently said he would remain at the north London club. Ozil is believed to have interest also from Qatar.

The former Real Madrid star, 31, is understood to still be Arsenal's highest-paid player, with his weekly wages reported to be £350,000 (Dh1.7m). Despite that, he did not feature for manager Mikel Arteta following the 2019/20 Premier League's restart in June. His contract with Arsenal runs until next year. Ozil attracted heavy criticism this year by refusing to follow his teammates in taking a pay-cut during lockdown, but told The Athletic afterwards that his current deal "should be respected by everyone", implying he would stay.

Arteta, meanwhile, has hinted that Ozil would be given a clean slate heading into the new Premier League campaign, which begins on September 12. On Saturday, his side defeated champions Liverpool on penalties to win the Community Shield.

Nine-time domestic champions, Nassr are looking to strengthen their squad having this week relinquished the Saudi Pro League title to Al Hilal. The capital club sit six points behind their city rivals with two rounds to go, but lost the crown given their inferior head-to-head record.—AFP ■



Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil being chased by Leeds United's Kalvin Phillips during the FA Cup third round match at the Emirates Stadium on January 6, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**