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

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

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

VP U Henry Van Thio attends 2nd coordination meeting for Hanthawaddy Int’l airport construction

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 anniversa- ry celebrations of the establishment of the two countries, joint celebrations for the 70th anniversary 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)

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 My- anmar, maintenance of peace and stabil- ity 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 commemora- tive activities in celebrations of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of 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

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 COVID-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, ...
MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 919 new cases were reported on 1 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. After 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>919</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Cases</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deaths</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recovery Update on 1 September 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Recovery</th>
<th>357</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Recovery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharged from Hospital</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers 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 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 Tin 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 Development Assistance Loan and to provide assistance for infra-structure and utilities.

The framework agreement with Yonnam-CAPE-JGC Consortium was expired on 30 January 2018 although the company won tender for construction of Hanthawaddy airport under the 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 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 and 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
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 other 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-Contributions 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Detail on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Information received of Daw Kway Gyi who lives in Ramu pa ward of Myitkyina, Kachin State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 26 August 2020, police searched the house of Dawkway Gyi (a) Ar Nyaaw, 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Information received of Thati Soe, son of U Maung Sein, who lives in Koe Tar Village of Hgyiang Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 26 August 2020, police arrested Thati Soe, 38, son of U Maung Sein, together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Hgyiang) MaYa(pa) 121/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Information received of Aung Nge who lives in Kyun Kauk Village, Palaw Township, Thaninhtayi Region using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 23 August 2020, police searched the house of Aung Nge (a) Aung Huy Lwin (a) Aye Lwin, 52, son of U Than Tin and arrested him together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Palaw) MaYa(pa) 48/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Information received of people who live in Ka Ward, Than gyunyang, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>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 &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Thawanna) MaYa(pa) 51/2020 under Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Information received of Paing Zeyer Kyaw (a) Kyaw Kyaw (a) Kyaw Aung, 20, son of U Zeyer Soe, who lives in No (1) Ward of North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 24 August 2020, police searched the house of Paing Zeyer Kyaw (a) Aung Kyaw, 20, son of U Zeyer Soe, who lives in No 5 Ward of North Okkalapa Township and arrested him together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (North Okkalapa) MaYa(pa) 67/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Information received of Hninwe Gyi and Zin Ko Oo who live in Bule Seikkan Ward of Kyimyinda Township of Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 25 August 2020, police searched the house of Suthe Heina (a) Hninwe Gyi, 20, son of U Zaw Mii Min Tan, who lives in Bule Seikkan Ward of Kyimyinda Township and arrested him together with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets, 0.1 litre of liquid speciosa, 1,675 g of opium powder, 0.6 litre of liquid opium, 60.0 g of opium blocks, 660.0 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 27 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 1.0 g of crushed opium. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Setsan) MaYa(pa) 25/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Information received of Suthe San selling and distributing illegal drugs to No (13) ward of South Okkalapa Township from Mingaladon Township in Yangon Region.</td>
<td>On 25 August 2020, Suthe 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 NaMaSa(South Okkalapa) MaYa(Pa) 37/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Bie Pu lived in No (71) ward of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 26 August 2020, 20-year-old Bite Pu (a) Zaw Htut (a) Luu Lai, lived in No (71) ward, Dagon Myothit (South), son of U Salim, was arrested with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets at his house. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (South Dagon) MaYa(Pa) 69/2020 under Section 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Information received of Soe Thu lived in No (80) ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 28 August 2020, police searched the house 27-year-old Soe Thu, son of U Soe Lwin, who lived in No(80) ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and arrested him with &quot;WY&quot; stimulant tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Dagon Seikkan) MaYa(Pa) 39/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,119 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, 47,10,29966 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, 60.28 g of opium blocks, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 27 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 1.0 g of crushed opium. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
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.

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 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.

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 Linh 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 Susopraseth 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)
COVID-19: Our country at the crossroads

W

We in the number of people testing positive for coronavirus in Myanmar; the virus is quickly spreading throughout the country. On the other hand, 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 we see the best chance of overcoming the crisis.

People are urged to comply with the rules and health guidelines at the ground level, it is the role of social affairs ministers to trace and test, which is effective in containing the spread of the infectious disease.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks to keep the correct list of allotted donors of food. A fes- tival atmosphere is created by the gathering of lay devotees dressed in white and carrying palm leaves, while bats are decorated with green leaves and names of the monks.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Kyaw Zin of the Condom and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the expiry of one-year tenure of Director-General Dr Kyaw Zin, confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Kyaw Zin of the Construction and General Affairs Department as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

COVID-19: Our response to the fast-spreading virus, making the best use of its Region’s seven townships taking effect from today. Yangon is expected to be too many.

Only when we quickly respond to the spreading virus will we see the best chance of overcoming the crisis.

yangon Response to the fast-spreading virus, making the best use of its Region’s seven townships taking effect from today. Yangon is expected to be too many.

We see the best chance of overcoming the crisis.
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 effic- tive laws, according to the region’s Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw.

MP U Aung Phone Kyaw San San of Htanbin Township Constituency I asked if Yangon regional government has a plan to take legal action against the outside illegal vehicles operat- ing 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 four-day session of the Second Yangon Regional Hluttaw’s 12th regular meeting held on 31 August.

Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw responded to the question say- ing 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 pres- ent, some 102 bus lines includ- ing 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 ac- tion, the traffic police seized about 154 vehicles in 2018 and took legal action against 148 cars in 2019.

Those undisciplined, un- registered, illegal vehicles have legal action taken under Sec- tion 65 of the 2015 Motor Vehicle Law, under which a fine of less than K20,000 is imposed. Now, the traffic police seize action against those dis- obedient vehicles under the respective law, she noted.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fishing industry faces difficulty as its season starts

ALTHOUGH the onshore and offshore fishing boats have re- sumed business at the start of the fishing season, some of the boats have not raised their an- chors 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 to their fishing boats because they need to look after their fish- ermen. 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 facil- ities, 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, the head of Fisheries Depart- ment in Myeik District.

Taninthayi coast is located in the southern part of the coun- try. It is the longest one among other shores, and it is 12,000 km long. Over 250,000 fishermen from 1,256 onshore and offshore fishing boats are reliant on the Taninthayi coast, according to the Fisheries Department in Myeik District. —Hkto 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 af- fected areas in Sagaing Region in four and a half years, said the head of Sagaing Region Disaster Management Department.

“The department has pro- vided over K156 million for 13,263 households in 24 townships, hit by the strong wind, over K7 mil- lion 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 depart- ment has also provided over K15 million for digging of the tube wells in 15 villages in Sagaing region and distributed the in- stant noodle in Naga Self Admin- istered Zone,” he added.

The National Disaster Man- agement Committee has pro- vided K650 million worth res- cue equipment such as vehicles, motorcycles, speed boats, fibre boats, lifejackets, motor vessels and wheel loaders for Sagaing region in cooperation with the Disaster Management Depart- ment. “We have also spent over K1,060 million for construction of one cyclone shelter facility to ac- commodate 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, umbrell- las 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)
Over 32,000 reserved rice bags sold at much fairer price over 1 month

By Nyein Nyein

OUT of 500,000 bags (106 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 Other States, 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 — 09-9438994/5 of MRF and 09-943686966 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 K22,900 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 than the retail market price. MRF is supporting the government’s plan with non-profit, the federation reported.

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

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 Mo Mo 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 ratio 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 labor 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 register 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. 04/2015 released on 31 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 than the Notification No. 04/2015, 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.

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

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

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 2019-2020 FY, 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 2018-2019 FY, 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)
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 extended an arms embargo.

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 re-impose 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 in 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 descend ed 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 jack et 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

Turkey extends Mediterranean gas exploration mission

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 ship’s stay in the eastern Mediterranean would be extended until September 12. —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 labelled 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 extraordinar ily 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

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

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

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

PHOTO: AFP
Facebook threatens to ban news publication on Australian platforms

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

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 a move that 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 that 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 the necessity and potential to enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region, 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 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 ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2020-2021)

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

Sr. No. Tender No. Description Remarks
(a) DMP/L-001(20-21) Well Control Equipment (2) Items Ks (ad)
(b) DMP/L-002(20-21) 2050 Rotary Table Complete Set (2) Nos Ks (b)
(c) DMP/L-003(20-21) T1750 Rotary Table Complete (1) Set Ks (c)
(d) DMP/L-004(20-21) 1.5 MW Gas Engine Driven Generating Set (Container Type) Attached with Switch Gear Panel (1) Set Ks (d)
(e) DMP/L-005(20-21) Track Mounted Single Drum Well Servicing Unit (1) Unit Ks (e)
(f) DMP/L-006(20-21) Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment with Spares (3) Groups Ks (f)
(g) DMP/L-007(20-21) Engine Gear Box (3) Items Ks (g)
(h) DMP/L-008(20-21) SL-450 Single Purpose Swivel (2) Nos Ks (h)
(i) DMP/L-009(20-21) YG-225 Travelling Block with Hook (1) Set Ks (i)
(j) DMP/L-010(20-21) TO356 Casing Power Tong (1) Set Ks (j)
(k) DMP/L-011(20-21) Conventional Casing Setting for 8 1/2” Hole Section (1) Set Ks (k)
(l) DMP/L-012(20-21) Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit Ks (l)
(m) DMP/L-013(20-21) Air Compressor Complete Set Single Stage-360 cfm@175 psi Diesel Engine Driven/Skid Mounted (2) Nos Ks (m)
(n) DMP/L-014(20-21) Crude Transfer Pump & Caustic Soda Transfer Pump with Motor (5) Items Ks (n)
(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 (o)
(p) DMP/L-016(20-21) Steam Boiler Capacity (1-1.5 TpH) (2) Sets Ks (p)
(q) DMP/L-017(20-21) Shale Shaker Unit and Accessories (2) Sets Ks (q)
(r) DMP/L-018(20-21) Single Pump SJS Serva Cementing Unit with Engine and Accessories (2) Sets Ks (r)
(s) DMP/L-019(20-21) Dispenser (2 Products 2 Hose), Square Drive Hydraulic Torque Wrenches, Plasma Cutting Machine (3) Items Ks (s)
(t) DMP/L-020(20-21) Air Compressor with Engine (2) Items Ks (t)
(u) DMP/L-021(20-21) CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (2) Sets Ks (u)
(v) DMP/L-022(20-21) CNG Ground Storage Cascade (6) Sets Ks (v)
(w) DMP/L-023(20-21) Cooling System for CNG Station (2) Units Ks (w)
(x) DMP/L-024(20-21) SCADA System for all CNG Station & Head Office Networks (1) Lot Ks (x)
(y) DMP/L-025(20-21) Skid Mounted Gas Dryer (2) Units Ks (y)
(z) DMP/L-026(20-21) Cascade Tube Skid, Cascade Trailer & Tractor (3) Items Ks (z)
(aa) DMP/L-027(20-21) Main Motor (China) for CNG Station (2) Items Ks (aa)
(ab) DMP/L-028(20-21) Cooling Water Pump Motor & Cooling Fan Motor For CNG Station (2) Items Ks (ab)
(ac) DMP/L-029(20-21) 510 KW Gas Engine Generating Complete Set (1) No. Ks (ac)
(ad) DMP/L-030(20-21) Excavator (2) Items Ks (ad)

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be obtained during office hours commencing from 1 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanmar 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, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar 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

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. 95 67 - 411206

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

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (169/N/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

Agent For: M/S SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LINE

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (0348)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (0348) 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

Agent For: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

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

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LAL 001 VOY. NO. (077/N/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

Agent For: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
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$ 3.1 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 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 knowledge 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.
SPORT

Myeik District SPED honours participants in “Exercise is Medicine” Initiative

The Ministry of Health and Sports organized the “Exercise is Medicine” Initiative that was held at the Myeik District Sports Hall in Myeik Town yesterday. Myeik District Sports & Physical Education Department presented trophies and certificates of honour to a total of 28 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.

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.

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)

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 $30 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 his team kick off their Premier League campaign at home to Everton. They are due to play away at Southampton on Sunday, Sept 20.

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 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 glam-tie at home to seven-time former European champions AC Milan in Dublin.

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

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.

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.

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

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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.

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.

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 $30 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, Nass 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