State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds videoconference with ASEAN Ambassadors in commemoration of ASEAN Day and exchanges information in response to COVID-19 pandemic

In her welcome remarks, the State Counsellor said that although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from holding usual ASEAN Day celebration, the virtual Meeting of today has enabled us to maintain ASEAN’s tradition of solidarity and togetherness on annual ASEAN Day. She acknowledged the important role the ASEAN Missions in respective ASEAN Member States in raising ASEAN awareness and fostering a sense of belonging among the peoples of ASEAN. She also appreciated the ASEAN Missions in Yangon for their effective cooperation in arranging relief flights for Myanmar citizens. She commended the exemplary leadership role of Viet Nam as the ASEAN Chair amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19. In the collective responses to the global pandemic, she stressed the need to work towards a speedy implementation of the “Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 pandemic”.

In sharing the measures taken by the Government of Myanmar in the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19, the State Counsellor stated that while undertaking real-time responses and updating the public on the situation in a timely manner, the Government has put in place stricter ‘stay-at-home measures’ in five townships in Rakhine State and seven townships in Yangon Region. She added that restrictions on the entry of international travellers to the country and temporary visa restrictions have been extended until the end of September. She stated that adhering to the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the Government has come up with a Plan of Action which focuses on vulnerable groups, including IDPs and people with disabilities.

She acknowledged the important role the ASEAN Missions in respective ASEAN Member States in raising ASEAN awareness and fostering a sense of belonging among the peoples of ASEAN. She also appreciated the ASEAN Missions in Yangon for their effective cooperation in arranging relief flights for Myanmar citizens.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds meeting online with ASEAN Ambassadors in commemoration of the 53rd Anniversary of the Founding of ASEAN Day on 4 September 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

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Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds videoconference...

She stated that adhering to the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the Government has come up with a Plan of Action which focuses on vulnerable groups, including IDPs and people with disabilities.

MoPFI hands over 4 ambulances to MoHS

THE Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) handed over four ambulances to the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A ceremony to hand over the ambulances was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports and attended by Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win said the ministry has sold a total of 12 ambulances to the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports in 2019-2020FY.

The four ambulances were handed over in first batch yesterday, and remaining eight vehicles will also be handed over in this month.

Inside the vehicles were installed with 12 medical equipment.

Depending on order letters, the ministry will manufacture the ambulances of basic type and advance type.

If the Ministry of Health and Sports additionally purchases medical supplies with CERP fund, the ministry is prepared for fulfilling the required medical supplies.

The ministry will distribute the medical supplies in accordance with international standard GMP guidelines.

Union Minister U Thaung Tun said COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP was adopted on 27 April 2020. Relevant state/region governments are carrying out the CERP tasks with seven goals.

Under CERP, a total of US$1.2 billion and Japanese Yen 30 billion loans were obtained, and the assistance of US$84.53 million, €6.2 million, K10 million, and Japanese Yen 2 billion were received, he added.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said that the four ambulances would be used in COVID-19 control processes.

He expressed thanks to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry for manufacturing the vehicles and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations for international assistance.

The assistance of the ministry is very beneficial for the public in battling against COVID-19.

The ministry is also producing paramedics who can well operate the medical equipment on the ambulances, he added.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein handed over the documents for the four ambulances to Deputy Minister of Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein.

The Union Ministers and officials then inspected the ambulances.

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development projects in southern Chin State; meets town elders in Kanpetlet, Mindat

Vice President U Henry Van Thio made an inspection tour to southern Chin State on 3 September.

The Vice President and party arrived in southern Chin State on 3 September afternoon. They inspected the construction project for extending the patient ward at the No.2 public hospital in Kanpetlet.

He also met with the local people at the meeting hall of the township General Administration Department office.

During the meeting, the Vice President explained the purpose of his visit was to witness at first hand the implementation status of regional development programmes during the term of the present government, to continue implementation and to listen to the requirements of the local people with respect to regional development.

He remarked that the development of a good transport network is the most crucial for least-developed Chin state, and that he made this visit to see the worst conditions for transporta- tion during the rainy season.

He said the government was working for multi-sectoral development in Chin State, and that it would be possible to see the progress made when compared to the previous period.

Development projects would include upgrading Mindat college into university level, upgrade of Kanpetlet-Sami-Paletwa road into Myanmar-India trade route, development of road network in the state, constructions of Surbung airport in the northern part of the state and Laideni airport in the southern part which was now 75 per cent complete and project of Leimyo hydropower plant for Chin State.

The Vice President also provided suggestions for commercial plantation and production of elephant foot yam tuber, coffee and avocado, finding ways to get loans for the local businesses in agriculture and SMEs, and also spoke of the need of local people to cooperate with the government in development programmes.

Local people in Kanpetlet Township requested for construction of a mini airfield near Kanlaung village, new GAD office, town hall and converting the Kyindwe-Laungshe motor road into a tar road.

Chin State Chief Minister U Shwe Htee Yoe then proceeded to the factory where Secretary of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association U Kyaw Thu reported on the joint-venture production of this tropical tuber crop in contract farming system.

In response to the discussions, the Vice President advised the farmers to promote the cultivation of this crop and production of its value-added products which could increase income up to three times.

The factory uses modern technology to dry the natural elephant foot yam tuber by hot air circulation and can produce 300 tonnes of dried products which will be sold to foreign countries.

On arrival at the Government Technical High School in Mindat, Principal U Aung Htike presented a briefing about the school.

The Vice President gave instructions on the upgrade of the school road for all seasons, construction of a dormitory and a land retaining wall at the place where the landslide occurred.

The school is conducting the following courses: construction course, electronics course, automobile course, electrical course and research methods, as well as short-term courses for computer, motorcycles and home electrical wiring.

During the meeting with Mindat town elders, the Vice President talked about regional development, upgrade of college, cultivation of elephant foot yam tuber, coffee and avocado, export markets, mithun (Cattle of Mountain) level upgrade of road infrastructure and the 620-MW hydropower project.

He also reminded adherence to the prevention guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports from COVID-19 and cooperation of people in this measure, voting in multiparty democracy elec- tions on 8 November this year and cooperation of people and government in development programmes.

Local people then requested for local requirements such as construction town hall, house- hold water supplies, office for the Road Transport Administration Department, the appointment of dentist, the school for nursing and midwives, the appointment of school teachers, school build- ings and establishment of town- ship level government offices.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, state government ministers U Soe Htet, U Shwe Htwe Yo and Director-General Dr Soe Oo gave replies to the discussions.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented cash awards to the volunteers who took part in COVID-19 measures in Kanpetlet, and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing provided cash assistance to the staff members of Mindat Township GAD.

The meeting came to a close after concluding remarks by Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and Major-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Permanent Secretary U Ye Naing, the directors-general and officials during the meetings with local people in Kanpetlet and Mindat townships.

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Union Minister U Min Thu meets Tatkon election sub-commission

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu held a meeting with chairperson and members of Tatkon election sub-commission at the Government Administration Office in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the sub-commission to work together on ensuring voting rights of eligible voters and voter list accuracy for 2020 General Election and to strictly adhering to the COVID-19 instructions.

The meeting was attended by Township Administrator U Zaw Min, Township election sub-committee chairperson U Soe Tint Thein, head of the township election sub-committee office Daw Mya Thanda Htay, and Head of Township Immigration and Population Office U Tun Tun Min. Tatkon Township announced first voter list from 25 July to 14 August in which 2,939 people added their names with Form 3, 1,325 rejected with Form 4 and 1,313 submitted data-correction with Form 4 (c).

There are 55 wards and village-tracks in the township with over 170,000 eligible voters. The township designated a total of 135 polling stations for coming election.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Everyone should be very careful

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

(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)

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) holds meeting (12/2020) via videoconference

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) (12/2020) Meeting held its regular meeting via videoconferencing system, yesterday morning. Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Vice-Chairman, Union Minister Dr Than Myint and members of the Commission participated in the meeting from their respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The meeting approved (8) new projects in the manufacturing sector and other services sector as well as additional investments in (10) existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD (129.573) million, Kyat (139,438,332) million and (1,157) job opportunities are expected to be created.

By the end of August 2020, the countries/regions with the largest investments in Myanmar are Singapore, People’s Republic of China and Thailand. The power sector accounted for 26.32%. This was followed by the oil and gas sector, accounting for 26.23% and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.31% of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects MRTV, printing factory in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint looked into the works of Myanmar Radio and Television in Tatkon Township and printing factory in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister and party, together with Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing, arrived at the Small Studio (II) and inspected preparations in line with the directives of Ministry of Health and Sports for making broadcast campaign programmes of political parties which will contest the 2020 General Election.

This programme will be aired commencing 8 September.

They also inspected control rooms, and discussed productions of clear pictures of party flags and logos, laboratory test of swabs from the production crew and other preparatory works.

The Union Ministry and party also looked around the Small Studio (I) for Farmer Channel and National Races Channel, the U-matic and Betacam where audio discs for radio and videotapes of television division are stored, archive of digital records, news studio, the HD system broadcast room Presentation II, MRTV HD broadcast room and the Auditorium where election campaign songs are being produced.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party visited the printing factory at the Kha Ye Pin junction of Zeyathiri Township and inspected the works.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
National Advisory Committee holds meeting on rights, opportunities for women migrant workers

THE National Advisory Committee held a meeting on the rights and opportunities for women migrant workers in ASEAN region yesterday under the Safe and Fair Project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the International Labour Organization and the UN Women Myanmar.

Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Kyawing, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung, Director-General for Department of Labour U Win Shein, Director-General for Department of Social Welfare Dr San San Aye, members of national consultative committee, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Ota Almgren of UN Resident Coordinator Office, EU chargé d’affaires Dr Johann Hess, Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li of ILO Myanmar and Country Representative Mr Nicholas Burniat of UN Women Myanmar joined the meeting.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the meeting was held with the aim of providing the effective ways in implementing the Safe and Fair Project, sharing advices to ILO and UN Women Myanmar, emerging of safe and fair migration, reducing the negative impacts of trafficking in persons, reviewing the results and reports of project.

According to the Safe and Fair Project, the preliminary training was provided to staff of committee on migrant workers and the Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) were opened in Hinthada, Aunglan and Loikaw and the new one will be in Mohinyn.

The officials of Ayeayawady Region need to conduct the educating programmes regarding the migration in line with the health guidelines of National-level on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The relevant ministries and organizations also need to cooperate to overcome the challenges and to provide the women migrant workers not to lose their legal rights in workplaces, to protect them from violence, to provide job opportunities for than 150,000 migrants who returned to the country during COVID-19 pandemic and to prioritize all the workers including migrant employers who were seriously hit by COVID-19 in forthcoming process of Safe and Fair Project.

Then, the officials of UN Resident Coordinator Office, EU chargé d’affaires, ILO and UN Women Myanmar delivered remarks and briefed the migration, women’s development programmes, 2020 working plans of Safe and Fair Project and other activities in ASEAN regions.

—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe emphasizes ‘contact tracing’ in containment of COVID-19

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held a coordination meeting at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to review the control measures against COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe explained the reason of daily meetings to get information on real situations, to make response in real-time to share experiences in treatments and to reform control strategies.

He added the ministry’s cooperation with the Rakhine State government and other relevant organizations, and recognized the efforts at the hospitals.

A total of 128 health workers are providing volunteer services in Rakhine State until now.

The Union Minister re-marked the number of confirmed cases is likely to increase in next one and two weeks, and that the contact tracing to the people who have travel history to Rakhine State.

People who returned from Rakhine State are being investigated and control measures would be carried out especially in the areas where these persons reached.

As 75 per cent of positive cases have no symptoms, the disease has spread rapidly.

He also discussed the need of public participation in contact tracing scheme for the people with travel history to Rakhine State, and advised to increase control measures in other regions and states.

The MoHIS is cooperating with the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 as social, economic, education and politic issues must be considered in addition to healthcare sector.

Medicines and medical supplies are being sent to the Rakhine State by flights, while the state funds for control of COVID-19, financial assistance of UN agencies, international development partners, ADB, World Bank, Gavi, Global Fund, USAID, Access to Health Fund and grants from Japan are being used in control measures; these supplies are also being sent to other areas in addition to Rakhine State.

After the discussion of the Union Minister, senior health officials presented the ongoing situations of COVID-19 at regions and states.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and Permanent Secretary Dr Thein Khawng Win also presented their discussions.

—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Presidential pardon awarded to 55 inmates who passed matriculation exams

THE President of Myanmar has granted a pardon to 55 inmates who passed the matriculation examination in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years, and they were released from the respective prisons yesterday morning.

The pardon was granted under Section 401, sub-section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and it was aimed for praising their success in the exams, consideration of social ground and continuing their education as ordinary persons with understanding of the government’s good intention.

Among these 55 inmates, the remaining prison terms for 13inmates is about one-year term; 29 inmates passed the exams with 2 distinctions and above and 13 inmates with 1 distinction and without distinctions.

Additional 38 inmates could enjoy parole. Among them, two inmates passed with two distinctions and 36 persons with 1 distinction and without distinctions in the exams.

—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.
MoWR P provides CERP cash assistance to PWDs in Magway, Yangon, Bago

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a meeting for cash assistance to the people with disabilities in Magway Region, Yangon Region and Bago Region yesterday.

The assistance was given under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to remedy the country’s economy during the COVID-19 period, and the meeting was held online.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Director-General and the Social Affairs Ministers for Magway and Yangon regions, the Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs in Bago Region and relevant directors from Social Welfare Departments in respective states and regions, responsible persons from disability organizations and people with disabilities participated the ceremony online.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said that the CERP was to reduce the economic impacts caused by COVID-19 in the country; the government had been working for a genuine democratic nation that can ensure basic human rights to all people and the ministry needed policy, law, strategy and plan for human rights activities. For that, the Early Childhood Development Law was amended in 2018; as children need not only care and development but also protection, the new Child Law (2019) was enacted; then, a Youth Policy for young persons had been formulated and the ministry was trying to implement the strategy.

The Union Minister also said that the bill for Prevention of Violence against Women Law had been submitted to the Hluttaw; the ministry is working for drafting regulations of the law for PWDs, while trying for the rights of each PWD by forming local committees under the national committees. He also talked about the social pension for the elderly persons; establishment of a genuine democratic government, a Democratic Federal Union and cash assistance especially to more vulnerable such as pregnant women, the PWDs and the elderly persons under the CERP.

The Union Minister also thanked the staff and the relevant departments for their efforts in the mechanism of the ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The social affairs minister of Magway Region said greetings and the regional director of Social Welfare Department handed over K36,720,000 cash assistance for 11,224 PWDs. Then, the minister provided the cash assistance to the PWDs who attended the ceremony.

The director of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department presented K500,100,000 for 19,672 PWDs, the director of Bago Region Social Welfare Department handed over K466,290,000 for 15,543 PWDs in Bago Region respectively.

ACC officials attend first inter sessional meeting on anti-corruption

OFFICIALS from Anti-Corruption Commission attended the first intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly that was held online from 2 to 4 September 2020.

The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention, as an intergovernmental group of States parties, against Corruption also organized first resumed 11th session online from 31 August to 2 September.

Representatives from the United Nations Convention member countries including Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission’s Daw Myat Myat Soe and Anti-Corruption Commission Office Directors U Lin Wai Aung and Daw Aye Myat Mon attended the meeting.

UNGASS first intersessional meeting discussed matters relating to implementation of anti-corruption producers that are included at UN anti-corruption convention and international cooperation in preventing and eliminating corruption.

The meeting detailed about technical assistance exchange and experiencing difficulties and challenges in preventing corruption, ongoing tasks and strengthening international asset recovery cooperation.

They also highlighted the political declaration bill that was drawn up by member countries and economic alliances and that will be adopted at UNGASS-2021. ACC supported the drawing up of the political declaration bill and reported on the commission’s efforts on preventing and eliminating corruption.

They also discussed implementations of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP (2018-2030) goals in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs and Anti-Corruption Strategy Plan (2018-2021), ongoing year-by-year work plans and anti-corruption cooperation.

Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press conference

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun explained the Tatmadaw’s donation of medical supplies and food during the COVID-19 pandemic, measures to conduct COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities effectively, suspension of military activities from 1 to 30 September, except in the areas of groups declared by the government as terrorist groups, armed clashes in ceasefire areas from 1 January to 1 September, seizures of K761 billion worth of drugs including 229.6 million stimulant tablets, 8,352kg of ICE during this period, competition of Tatmadaw’s tank team in International Army Games-2020 held in Russia and the first part of Bumi Phassa Mudra Sitting Buddha Image to be convoyer to Nay Pyi Taw.

He also replied to the questions of media, according to the report of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

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MoWR P provides CERP cash assistance to PWDs in Magway, Yangon, Bago

ACC officials attend first intersessional meeting on anti-corruption

Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press conference
As Myanmar undergoes comprehensive reform, and moves towards a modern state that is peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and open, Vietnam firmly supports Myanmar’s path of development most appropriate to its national conditions: Ambassador of Vietnam

The following is an exclusive interview with H.E. Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Q: Excellency, on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, could you, please, convey your greetings and wishes to the people of Myanmar?

A: On behalf of the people of Viet Nam, I would like to convey my best wishes to the people of Myanmar and express our solidarity and support for Myanmar in its path towards peace, stability, development, and prosperity.

Q: How has Viet Nam been participating in the ASEAN community since its inception? What role has it been playing?

A: Viet Nam has been active in contributing to the development of the ASEAN community since its inception. It has played a role in promoting the ASEAN Community's goals and principles, and has been supportive of the ASEAN Community's initiatives, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Q: What is the significance of ASEAN's role in regional and international affairs?

A: ASEAN's role in regional and international affairs is significant. It serves as a platform for member states to discuss regional issues, promote peace, stability, and development, and work towards a rules-based international order. ASEAN also plays a role in regional economic integration and trade.

Q: Can you elaborate on the special relationship between Viet Nam and Myanmar?

A: The special relationship between Viet Nam and Myanmar is characterized by mutual respect, friendship, and cooperation. The two countries have a long history of social and cultural exchange, as well as political and economic cooperation. The two countries have also worked closely together on regional and international issues, such as the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

Q: What challenges does ASEAN face in the current global context?

A: ASEAN faces challenges such as the impact of climate change, the need for sustainable development, the need to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to promote peace and stability in the region. In addition, there are challenges related to the maintenance of regional and international order, as well as the need to address the issues of terrorism and extremism.

Q: What steps is ASEAN taking to address these challenges?

A: ASEAN is taking steps to address these challenges, including through initiatives such as the ASEAN Community awareness campaign, the ASEAN Community’s Development Fund, and the ASEAN Community’s Support Fund. The ASEAN Community also continues to work towards the implementation of the ASEAN Community’s Declaration on the Maintenance of Peace and Stability in the Region.

Q: What is the role of ASEAN in promoting peace and stability in the region?

A: ASEAN plays a role in promoting peace and stability in the region by providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation among member states. It encourages the peaceful resolution of disputes, and promotes the principles of non-interference and non-aggression. ASEAN also continues to work towards the implementation of the ASEAN Community’s Declaration on the Maintenance of Peace and Stability in the Region.

Q: What is the significance of ASEAN’s role in promoting regional integration?

A: ASEAN’s role in promoting regional integration is significant, as it helps to foster economic growth, trade, and investment, and contributes to the development of the region. ASEAN’s role in promotion of regional integration is also important in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, as ASEAN is a critical player in this regional initiative.
Highway accidents kill 17 in August

There were 48 reported traffic accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway in August, leaving 17 people dead, according to Nay Pyi Taw highway traffic police force.

This year August was recorded with the highest number of casualties in eight months of 2020.

“There were a total of 48 road accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway, killing 17 – 12 males and 5 females – injuring 51 others – 30 males and 21 females in August 2020. August saw the highest number of traffic accidents. The highway accidents were mostly attributed to the human error – over speeding, negligent driving, drowsy driving and others. Weather condition is one of the causes of road accidents. Weather condition means flooding or unclear vision,” said an official from Nay Pyi Taw highway traffic police force.

Out of 48 cases, half of the possibilities of road accident were caused by high-speed, whereas three by reckless road crossing pedestrians, one by drowsy driving, nine by reckless motorcyclists, seven by reckless drivers, three by tyre bursts and one by lossey weather.

There were a total of 368 accidents, leaving 74 dead and 504 injured on Yangon-Mandalay highway from January to August 2020. Among them, a total of seven persons were killed and 15 others injured in 25 cases of the highway accident in January, five killed and 26 others injured in 27 cases of the calmity in February, nine died and 18 injured in 36 cases in March, two dead and 47 injured in 20 cases in April, six died and 33 injured in 34 cases in May, six killed and 33 injured in 41 cases in June, and seven died and 71 injured in 62 cases in July.

As Myanmar undergoes comprehensive reform, and moves towards a modern…

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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 test longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Nearly 1,000 arrested in Ygn in 2 days for curfew breach

By Nyein Nyein

NEARLY 1,000 people have been arrested in Yangon in only two days for violation of the curfew to stem the spread of coronavirus, according to the Yangon Regional Police Force.

Authorities took legal action against 467 people including 618 males and 29 females, 111 vehicles and 18 motorbikes on 2 September and 324 people including 308 males and 16 females, 73 cars and 24 motorbikes on 3 September under Section 188 of the Penal Code in Yangon region for breaking of the curfew.

Anyone who fails to comply with the curfew has to face one-month imprisonment or a fine of K20,000 or both under Section 188 of the Penal Code. Moreover, those who go against the law may endanger the life, health and security, and in that case, they may face six months’ imprisonment or a fine of K100,000 or both.

The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 imposed a nighttime curfew from 10 pm to 4 am on 18 April in Yangon region to prevent and control the pandemic. On 15 May, the curfew hour was changed into from midnight to 4 am from the previous 10 pm to 4 am local time.

(Translated by Huy Mar)

Police check a motorcycle in Yangon on 3 September after a curfew was imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Rice export meets target this year despite export volume drops via border routes

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH the volume of rice export via border route dropped, Myanmar met the export target in 2019-2020 financial year, said Vice-Chairperson U Aung Than Oo of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

MRF targeted to export 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice this FY. Myanmar has shipped over 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice including 625,214 tonnes via border routes and 1.8 million tonnes of rice and broken rice via sea route from 1 October to 21 August this FY.

The export of rice met the target this FY thanks to the rising volume of rice export via sea route, according to MRF.

“The rice export volume dropped via land border route after China had granted export of rice through a legitimate trade channel, he added.

“Last year, there was illegal trading to China. Now, the traders export rice to China legally and the export volume has also dropped this FY,” he said.

Moreover, Myanmar earned US$738.329 million from the export of rice and broken rice as of 21 August, this FY.

In the current financial year, 694,222 tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported to China, followed by African countries with 652,378 tonnes, EU member states with 489,478 tonnes, ASEAN countries with 440,569 tonnes and other countries with 181,708 tonnes respectively.

Moreover, Myanmar exports rice to 66 countries and broken rice to 60 countries, according to MRF. Myanmar has shipped over 2.3 million of rice and broken rice in the previous financial year.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting 2/2020 to be held in September

By Nyein Nyein

THE 2nd 2020 Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting will be held in Korean Business Development Centre Yangon from 21 to 23 September, according to SME Development Department, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI).

This online B2B meeting will be held under a government-to-government (G2G) programme to develop small and medium enterprises and begin businesses of Myanmar and Korea.

During the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic around the world, 2020 Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting was held for the first time from 27 to 29 July. The first meeting was jointly held by the MoPFI, the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and Korean SMEs and Startups Agency. The first meeting was held under the technology exchange programme to escalate the momentum of businesses and to re-establish the companies in the world.

Those Myanmar companies connected with the Korean businesses can make contact with sok.kbdc@gmail.com or call +95-01-9253794.

The Republic of Korea is currently the sixth-largest investor in Myanmar, with an investment worth US$88.698 million as of July, this FY, according to the official statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bilateral trade with Bangladesh rises by $727 ml in current FY

THE border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh hit US$748.36 million as of 21 August in the current financial year of 2019-2020, said a statistical report by the Ministry of Commerce.

The border trade during the period had increased by $727 million, compared with that of the same period last year when the total bilateral border trade was only $21.63 million.

Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade during the period included Myanmar’s export of $444 million and its imports of $294 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conduct mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages.

Workers load goods into a vessel for export. PHOTO: HEIN HTET

Meanwhile, Myanmar’s border trade with four neighbouring countries—China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh totalled $9.56 billion, shared by $6.45 billion in export and $3.11 billion in import. —GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)
MoHS receives N-95 masks from Embassy of Canada

The Embassy of Canada donated N-95 masks worth of 489,934 Canadian dollars to the Ministry of Health and Sports in Yangon to mitigate and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Myanmar.

At the donation ceremony, Political and Trade Counselor Ms Jennifer Hart from the Embassy of Canada in Yangon presented 70,000 masks to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Director-General for Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun received the donation with thanks and returned the certificate of honour. — Zaw Min Latt (Translated by El Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar brings 151 nationals back home by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing back 151 Myanmar nationals stranded in Singapore. As they arrived in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

For the repatriation of Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries, and has organized 16 relief flights to pick up Myanmar nationals stuck in Singapore to date.—MNA (Translated by Rhine Thazin Han)

60 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 Sept, total figure rises to 1,171

Myanmar’s COVID-19 positive cases rise to 1,171 after 60 new cases were reported on 4 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports.

Out of the 60 new cases, 34 from Yangon Region, 8 from Rakhine State, 8 from Mandalay Region, 7 from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, 1 from Magway Region, 1 from Ayeyawady Region and 1 from Mon State.

Among these 1,171 confirmed cases, 7 died, 359 have recovered, 356 have been discharged from hospitals and 86 were held under investigation.—MNA

New PU1s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>New PU1s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Cases in State/Region

4 September 2020

Updated at 8 pm, 4 September 2020

60 New Cases

Recovery Update on 4 September 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Health and Sports
Russia promoting distrust in US vote-by-mail plans

MOSCOW — Russia is actively trying to undermine voters’ faith in the US electoral system and especially in voting by mail ahead of the November 3 election, according to a Department of Homeland Security analysis Thursday.

The internal DHS analysis, first reported by ABC News and then other US media, says that at least since March 2020, “Russian malign influence actors have been amplifying allegations of election integrity issues in new voting processes and vote-by-mail programs.”

It says that through media and social networked, the Russians have encouraged Americans to fear voting fraud, large counting errors and ballot mishandling by the postal service.

This argument is one that President Donald Trump hammers away at as he trails in the polls. The online messaging activity took place during the party caucuses and primaries at the beginning of the year, but ramped up as the coronavirus began to spread and officials began promoting widespread voting by mail.—AFP

Facebook to ban new political ads on cusp of US election

WASHINGTON — Facebook said Thursday it will add a label to their posts directing people to the official bel to their posts directing people to the official website of the Democratic party as they mounted a last-minute push ahead of the November 3 election, one of its most sweeping moves yet to fight an election misinformation crisis.

Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg testifies during a US House Committee on Energy and Commerce hearing about Facebook on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, April 2, 2018. PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/FIL

The moves follow sharp criticism of Facebook’s handling of the 2016 presidential election, when it failed to restrict disinformation from Russian operatives that spread conspiracy theories and discouraged voting in some cases.—AFP

Search resumes for possible Beirut blast survivor after pulse detected

BEIRUT — Emergenc
cy crews scoured rubble Friday for a possible sur
vivor in Beirut after the detection of a pulse drew crowds hopeful of a mirac
el one month on from a devastating explosion.

“We have excavated rubble but we haven’t reached a conclusion yet,” said George Aboe Moussa of Lebanon’s civil defense. A specialist sensor device on Thursday had detected a pulse beneath a levelled building between the hard-hit Gemmayzah and Mar Mikhael districts, raising hopes that a survi
could be found more than four weeks after the disaster that killed at least 191 people.

Chilean rescue work
ers and Lebanese civil defense teams on Friday morning removed chunks of rubble with their hands, resuming an operation they had briefly paused overnight, an AFP pho

tographer said. The pulse they detect
ed on Friday had already slow
d significantly compared to a previous record, said Nicholas Saade, who coordinates between Chilean rescue teams and their Lebanese counter
parts. “After removing the big chunks we scanned again for heartbeats or respiration (and it showed low heart/respiration) lev
s of seven per minute, he told AFP.—AFP

Claims day notice

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Invitation for Open Tender)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>DMP/L-037(20-21)</td>
<td>Mud Testing Equipment (9) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>DMP/L-038(20-21)</td>
<td>Portable Drilling Rig Complete Sets (Drilling Bit 3” y)</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>DMP/L-039(20-21)</td>
<td>Net Data Sever Machine &amp; Seismic Interpretation Workstation (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>DMP/L-040(20-21)</td>
<td>Steel Ball Valves &amp; Pipe Fittings (2) Groups</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>DMP/L-041(20-21)</td>
<td>Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (7) Units</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f)</td>
<td>DMP/L-042(20-21)</td>
<td>850 KW Alternator for Rig Engine (2) Sets</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g)</td>
<td>DMP/L-043(20-21)</td>
<td>Pipe Bendering Machine (1) No</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h)</td>
<td>DMP/L-044(20-21)</td>
<td>Pumping Unit (5) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
<td>DMP/L-045(20-21)</td>
<td>VHF Transceiver (Synthesized) (25W), VHF FM Transceiver Walkie Talkie (Synthesized) (9W) &amp; Telephone Cable (3) Groups</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(j)</td>
<td>DMP/L-046(20-21)</td>
<td>Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (4) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(k)</td>
<td>DMP/L-047(20-21)</td>
<td>10 Ton Truck with Crane, 30 Ton Hydraulic Crane &amp; 55 Ton Trawler Crane (3) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(l)</td>
<td>DMP/L-048(20-21)</td>
<td>50 Ton Tractor with Low Bed Trailer &amp; High Bed Trailer (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>DMP/L-049(20-21)</td>
<td>Accommodation Container (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n)</td>
<td>DMP/L-050(20-21)</td>
<td>Skid Mounted Engine Driven Air Compressor (2) Sets</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(o)</td>
<td>DMP/L-051(20-21)</td>
<td>33KV Current Transformer, 33/0.4 KV, 500 KVA Transformer &amp; 11-6.6/0.4KV, 500 KVA Transformer (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(p)</td>
<td>DMP/L-052(20-21)</td>
<td>Water Analysis Laboratory Kit, Chiller Instrument, Gerber Recirculation Cooler, Laboratory Centrifuge, Analytical Balance, Polarizing Petrographic Microscope (6) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(q)</td>
<td>DMP/L-053(20-21)</td>
<td>Welding Machine with Accessories &amp; Transformer Welding Set with Accessories (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(r)</td>
<td>DMP/L-054(20-21)</td>
<td>Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine (3) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(s)</td>
<td>DMP/L-055(20-21)</td>
<td>Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (3) items</td>
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<tr>
<td>(t)</td>
<td>DMP/L-056(20-21)</td>
<td>5 Ton Truck Crane (2) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(u)</td>
<td>DMP/L-057(20-21)</td>
<td>Fuel Bowser (1200 Gals) (4 x 4) (2) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(v)</td>
<td>DMP/L-058(20-21)</td>
<td>Welding Electrode (3) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(w)</td>
<td>DMP/L-059(20-21)</td>
<td>10&quot;, 8&quot;, 6&quot;, 4&quot; HERW API SL Grade X-42 MS 3 Layer PE Coated Line Pipe (4) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(x)</td>
<td>DMP/L-060(20-21)</td>
<td>14&quot; HERW API SL Grade X-46 3LP Coated Steel Line Pipe (40950) MTR</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(y)</td>
<td>DMP/L-061(20-21)</td>
<td>20&quot; LAAN API SL Grade X-46 3LP Coated Steel Line Pipe (40250) MTR</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(z)</td>
<td>DMP/L-062(20-21)</td>
<td>10&quot; x 8&quot; x 6&quot; x 4&quot; x 3&quot; x 2&quot; x 1&quot; x ¾&quot; x ½&quot; x ¼&quot; x 2&quot; Store Goodown (Steel Structure) (2) items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(aa)</td>
<td>DMP/L-063(20-21)</td>
<td>Rubber Covered Piping (150) Items</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 4 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 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 5 October 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time: 5-10-2020, 12:00 noon.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. No. 95 67 – 41206
Towards native land of venerable Sayadaw U Bud

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

Towards Nyaungkan

An express bus leaving Yangon arrived in Monywa in the early morning. Taking a break in Monywa, the bus continued the trip and arrived in Budalin at 10 am. After visiting Budalin Township General Administration Department, I continued the trip and arrived in Nyaungkan.

I made a trip to Nyaungkan in advance for making arrangements for excursion tour of undergraduate and post-graduate students from Archaeology Department of the Yangon University to make a field trip to Nyaungkan Village of Budalin Township in Myanmar’s Bronze Age area.

Museum of Venerable Sayadaw U Bud

We went to the place of birth of Sayadaw U Bud. The Museum of Venerable Sayadaw U Bud is opened in his place of birth on the village road in Nyaungkan. A Buda image is kept in the museum.

It is not a building in the time of the venerable Sayadaw but it marks the place of birth of the Sayadaw. The museum is located in Thakhaung area. Some utensils of the Sayadaw can be seen in the museum, U Soe Myint Aung explained.

Nyaungkan was located as a large village in Badoron rural area in the past. The Sayadaw mentioned salient points of his village in Pali language at the conclusion of his Pali Sadda Padarupa Siddhi Nissaya treatise. The translated story was as follows:-

"As frog could conquer snake, rat could win over cat, deer could beat tiger, a Bo tree could thrive in the land, like the area of monastery of hermit Kapila, where enemy could never achieve victory.

A large lake with full brim of water took a position near Bo tree.

The boy who would become venerable Sayadaw U Bud was born of U Oh and Daw Hmwe on 5th waning of Nayon, 1149 Myanmar Era, Tuesday. His
Buddha Statues in Sayadaw U Bud Monastery.

native land was Nyaungkan Village of Budalin Township called Badon area in the past. He was named Maung Poke. At 8 years old, he started learning at Sayadaw U Pyay from Yadana Myinzu Monastery called the west monastery of Nyaungkan Village. He was very sharp and talented in childhood. It was reported that he could remember a sentence or a reason when he heard it three times. Whenever he returned home, he recited a learned paragraph. When he arrived at home he did not enter the house if recitation of his sentence did not end.

He learned from Sayadaw U Pyay till 13 years old. Then, the Sayadaw entrusted him at Sayadaw U Tha Pon, the neighbour of his monas- tery. Sayadaw U Tha Pon renamed him Maung Bud with forecast that the boy would be an unrivalled in the future due to sharpening in learning. He was not end.

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Yangon beats Sagaing 3-1 in Week-13 of MNL

YANGON United beat Sagaing United 3-1 in Week-13 of Myanmar National League played yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myo Min Phyo, Kaung Htet Soe and Kyi Lin scored winning goals for Yangon. Myo Min Phyo scored a single goal for Sagaing United.

Head coach, U Min Tun Lin's Yangon United, lined up with his favourite players' captain cum goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Yan Naing Oo, Barho, Shori, Kaung Htet Soe and Maung Maung Win.

On the contrary, head coach U Zaw Lin Tin's Sagaing United used key players Captain The Sat Naing, keeper Kay Zin Hmune, Soulemoua Mandjombé and Patrick Gilles.

Sagaing United did not fear of Yangon's attacks and showed their best-attacking style at the very beginning of the match.

With the team's best understanding, Sagaing got an opening goal even at 13-minute mark.

The goal was scored by Myo Min Phyo from the left side when Yangon United's defenders were frozen under the fast attack style of Sagaing.

Yan Naing Oo, Barho, Shori, Kaung Htet Soe and Maung Maung Win. Sagaing United did not fear of Yangon's attacks and showed their best-attacking style at the very beginning of the match.

With the team's best understanding, Sagaing got an opening goal even at 13-minute mark.

The goal was scored by Myo Min Phyo from the left side when Yangon United's defenders were frozen under the fast attack style of Sagaing.

Yan Naing Oo, Barho, Shori, Kaung Htet Soe and Maung Maung Win.

Later minutes saw no goals by both teams, and the 3-1 win is enough for Yangon United to bag full points in MNL Week-13.

In another match, defending champion Shan United thrashed Rakhine United 3-0.

Ronaldo a doubt as Portugal prepare to face weakened Croatia

LISBON — Cristiano Ronaldo is a doubt as Portugal start the defence of their Nations League title against Croatia on Saturday in Porto and Sweden on Tuesday in Solna.

Ronaldo is with the Portugal squad but has a toe infection and did not train on Wednesday or Thursday. He was instead doing “gym work,” the Portuguese football federation (FPF) said.

Ronaldo has 99 goals in 164 international matches but the FPF, which has closed its training camp to the press citing health protocols, gave no indication whether he will be fit for either game. Ronaldo has not played since early August when Juventus were knocked out of the Champions League by Lyon.

At 35, the five-time Ballon d’Or winner scored 37 goals in all competitions last season, a record for a Juve player, and insists he remains ambitious, laying out his season ‘goals’ on Instagram last week: “Victories. Commitment. Dedication. Professionalism. With all my strength and with the precious help from my teammates and all of the Juve staff, we work once again to conquer Italy, Europe and the World!” he wrote.—AFP

AFC ‘confident’ of finishing Champions League season: top official

KUALA LUMPUR — Asia’s football body is “confident” of completing its coronavirus-hit Champions League this year; a senior official told AFP on Friday, as it heads into a frantic period of games with some venues still unknown.

The region’s showpiece tournament has been on hold since March, creating a heavy backlog before West Asia group games resume in Qatar on September 14.

Two of the East Asia groups will be played from October 16 in Malaysia, but no host has been announced for the two remaining pools or the knockout stages for the Eastern clubs.

Only two rounds of games were possible before the shutdown, and teams from China have played no matches at all. But Asian Football Confederation general secretary Windsor John said everything will be completed before the year’s end.

“We remain committed and confident of completing the competition within the 2020 calendar year,” he said.

John said more details on East Zone matches would be announced after an AFC executive meeting next week. The competition’s single-leg final is scheduled for December 5.

The pandemic continues to spread worldwide and several countries in Asia are battling serious outbreaks. But John said he believes the Champions League can restart safely.

“We have engaged with our medical experts to establish several guidelines taking reference the industry’s best practices to minimize the risks,” he said.

When asked separately about a Japanese report claiming the AFC had asked for a further postponement, an official reiterated that the governing body was “confident” of finishing the tournament this year.

—AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo hosted the Nations League final trophy in Porto last year but is a doubt when Portugal start theirs at the same stadium against Croatia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE