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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar brings back its citizens stuck in Jordan, Israel

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday, bringing back 164 Myanmar nationals stranded in Jordan and Israel under the arrangement of Myanmar Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel. Among them, 104 were from Jordan and 60 from Israel.

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 14-day facility quarantine period and 7-day home quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

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

So far, five relief flights had been conducted to pick up Myanmar nationals stuck in Jordan to date. Myanmar nationals from Israel were also brought back in the same flight yesterday.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border on 13 September

Authorities provide temperature screening to returnees from Thailand at Myawady Border. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

A TOTAL of 190 Myanmar nationals returned from Thailand through No 2 border bridge in Myawady, Kayin State, on 13 September, according to the local authorities.

According to statistics, the authorities accepted 11,680 workers from 1 to 31 May, 25,338 from 1 to 30 June, 18,597 from 1 to 31 July, 15,998 from 1 to 31 August and 5,770 from 1 to 13 September respectively. The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 76,933 from 1 May to 13 September.

The latest group of returnees included 115 males and 75 females from different regions and states and officials send them to facility quarantine centres.

Myawady District Administrative Officer U Tay Zar Aung, Deputy District Administrative Officer U Aung Chan Nyein and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by TTN)

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I don't want all of you to think in a carefree manner

I am sure all of you know that the infection spread in Yangon is faster than the rate of infection spread in March and April earlier on. Not only is the infection spreading faster, we can say that the number of people who have passed away has increased at a faster rate compared to the previous period. Before it was 6, and now it is 8, so in total it is 14. Among those 8 persons who passed away, two are not that old. We can say they are in the prime of life. They don't have any underlying diseases. That is why we have to assume that they passed away because of the COVID. That is why I don't want all of you to think in a carefree manner "let COVID happen, it is not life-threatening".

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report to People regarding need for strict compliance with regulations, instructions, directives issued for containment of COVID-19, on 10 September 2020)

337 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 September, total figure rises to 2932

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **2932** after **337** new cases were reported on 13 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **2932** confirmed cases, **20** died, **699** have been discharged from hospitals and **270** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 13 September 2020

Total Cases	2,932
New Cases	337
Total Death Tally	20
Discharged from Hospital	699

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 13 September 2020

New PUIs	*270*

Ministry of Health and Sports

MSF offers Yangon-Kawthoung bus service to offshore seamen for embarkation

THE Myanmar Seamen's Federation (MSF) has been providing Yangon-Kawthoung bus service to Myanmar offshore seamen for embarkation during COVID-19.

The federation arranged two journeys from Yangon to Kawthoung on 12 and 13 September by abiding by social distancing rules that 58-seater Scania coach was carrying 28 passengers.

"Seamen who will embark need COVID-19 Clearance certificates issued by the National Health Laboratory (NHL). Local residents don't need to be worried as the buses that will transport the seamen don't stop at the towns along the way. We carried out programme after obtaining permits from relevant ministries," MSF executive committee member U Kyaw Swe Win said.

MSF introduced the bus service to reduce travel expenses between Yangon and Kawthoung and to fulfill requirements in passing through the regions and states on the way.—Than Hteik *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Seamen who will be embark in the sea in kawthoung are seen on 13 September. **PHOTO: THAN SOE**

Campaign speeches of La Hu National Development Party National Democratic Party for Development (NDPD) to be broadcast on 14 Sept, published on 15 Sept

CAMPAIGN speeches of La Hu National Development Party and National Democratic Party for Development (NDPD) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 14 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 15 September.—MNA

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

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

MoSWRR discusses providing cash assistance for persons with disabilities

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) organized a virtual ceremony to discuss providing cash assistance for persons with disabilities (PWDs) under COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) yesterday.

Speaking at the online meeting, Director-General of Social Welfare Department Dr San San Aye suggested setting up of hotline phone numbers for PWDs so that they can contact for CERP cash assistance.

She said that Social Welfare Department has negotiated with Rehabilitation Department by sending the lists of those who have not yet received get cash assistance and that providing cash assistance for PWDs would be effective if cooperated by Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA).

Officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discuss providing cash assistance for PWDs via videoconference on 13 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rehabilitation Department's Director-General U Win Naing Tun said the meeting was organized to discuss providing cash assistance for PWDs by effectively cooperating between Social Welfare Departments in regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA).

He added that the department has been conducting COVID-19 awareness programmes for PWDs and provided cash assistance to 658 visually impaired persons from 13 private schools.

The department was providing cash assistance for PWDs from poor households, quarantined at home, undergoing facility quarantine and infected with COVID-19 in cooperation with COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee for Persons with Disabilities, he said.

He continued that the department was distributing cash assistance of K30,000 to each of 200,000 PWDs.

Heads of social welfare departments in regions and states and MPHA officials discussed the progress of providing cash assistance, ongoing requirements, difficulties during COVID-19 and ongoing cooperation. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Drug trafficker from Lashio arrested in Mandalay

POLICE captured a drug dealer from Lashio in Mandalay yesterday morning, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The suspect was identified as Sai Win Naing (a) Ar Chain. Police arrested him on 26th Street between 56th and 57th streets in Mandalay.

Around 5:30 am on 13 September, police had conducted law enforcement activities at the entrance of Pyin Oo Lwin Town and confiscated 1,320 soapboxes containing 13.2 kg of heroin worth K792 million from a six-wheel vehicle that came from Lashio en route to Mandalay.

During the interrogation, the vehicle's driver Wa Thon Min Htet and Sai Than Myint on board disclosed that Sai Win Naing (a) Ar Chain, who was driving a Toyota Land Cruiser ahead of them and would meet them at the entrance of Mandalay, has hired them to transport the drugs from Lashio to Mandalay.

Police together with them went to the entrance of Mandalay. On seeing the police, suspect Sai Win Naing tried to drive away and was then arrested after his right hand was injured from the police's gunshots.

The three suspects were charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and further investigation in connection with the case is underway. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Sai Win Naing (a) Ar Chain, Wa Thon Min Htet and Sai Than Myint are seen together with narcotic drug and their motor vehicles. **PHOTO: MPF**

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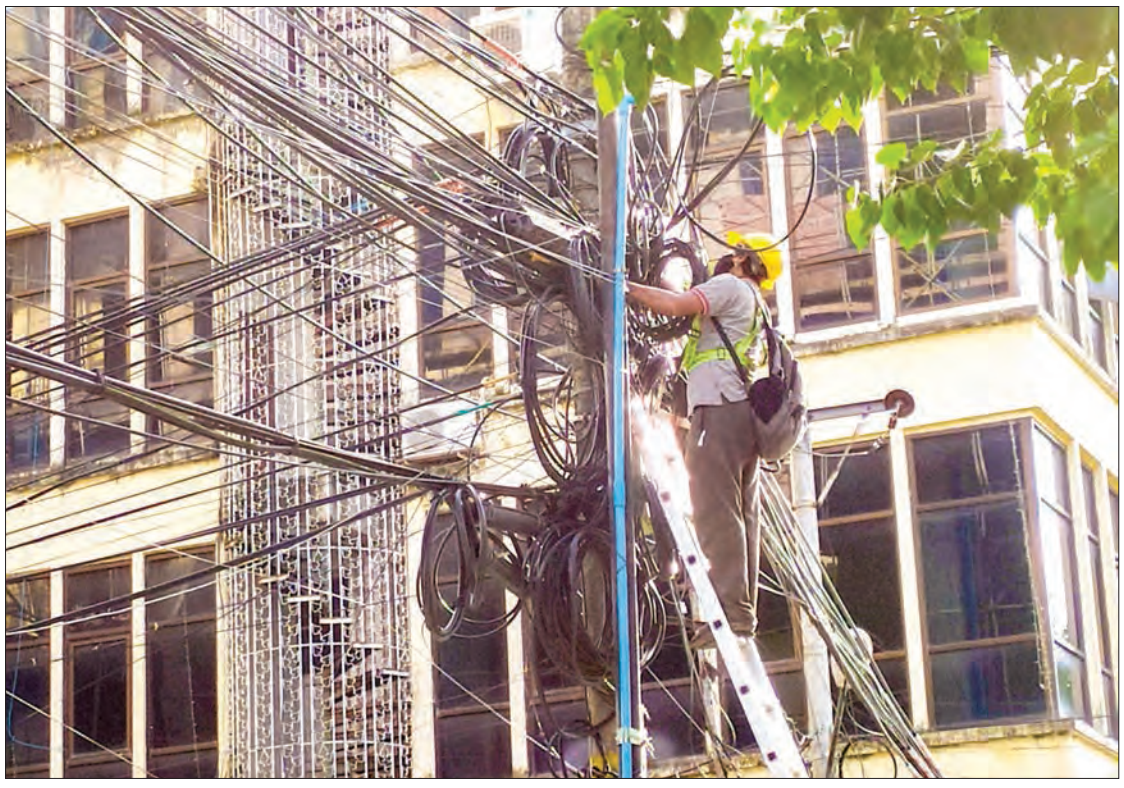
Fibre service providers see strong market amidst coronavirus crisis



A man carries out maintenance of internet cables at a street lamp post in Yangon on 3 September 2020. **PHOTO : MYINT MAUNG**

THE coronavirus pandemic has made the fibre-optic market stronger, and the fibre internet usage has remarkably surged in Myanmar, internet service providers in Myanmar said.

"Mobile internet usage had tremendously increased when the number of mobile users started to rise. It outpowered fibre-optic internet then. Also, fibre internet was less popular than mobile internet. During the coronavirus crisis, fibre internet usage sharply increased. It has become essential for online learning and businesses," said U Thein Than Toe, CEO of 5BB Broadband.

Earlier, only four telecom operators were allowed to provide fibre internet service. After the new Telecommunications Law was enacted, private fibre providers entered the market. That is why fibre internet usage has increased. The benefits of fibre internet are faster internet speed, and unlimited data offers, while the mobile internet costs as much as you use, said a fibre service provider.

At present, about 200 companies have been granted the licences to be engaged in the telecommunications industry, and 100 of them are engaged in network service. However, there are just about 25-30 broadband service providers in the country, and only three to four are successful.

The coronavirus made the peak internet usage into the new normal, in response to social distancing requirements. The internet usage has surged due to video conferencing, webinar, online learning, online sales, real-time information access and service businesses, stated the internet service providers. — Myint Maung
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Heavy rains cause floods in Wuntho, rescue teams help locals

A street flooded by heavy rain in Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region on 13 September 2020. **PHOTO : NGWE OOE (KATHA)**

HEAVY rains in Wuntho, Sagaing Region on 13 September inundated roads and forced some families to evacuate their homes, according to the local authorities.

A rescue team composed of departmental officials and local people in Wuntho carried out rescue operations at the flooded area starting from 7am.

Next, Myananda and Myakanda wards in Wuntho were also flooded around 9 am on the same day and firefighters led by Chief Officer U Kyaw Myo Thu from Wuntho Township Fire Station helped to remove the belongings from houses in the flooded areas.

"Seven miles from Wuntho and three miles from Kawlin are still flooded, and roads and some places could not be accessible. The fire brigade is monitoring the situation to provide necessary assistance", said U Kyaw Myo Thu, Head of Wuntho Township Fire Services Department.

In Wuntho Township, the rainfall reached 1.16 inches at 1:30pm. The rainfall in Kawlin Township was 6.30 inches as measured at 1:30pm, according to the Department of Meteorology.—Ngwe Ooe (Katha)
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

MRCS conducts World First Aid Day activities countrywide

Myanmar Red Cross Society commenmorates Wrold First Aid Day nationwide on 12 September 2020. **PHOTO : WIN AUNG (MRCS)**

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) conducted World First Aid Day 2020 activities at the MRCS branch offices located in different regions and states on 12 September, according to the statement with the MRCS.

In commemoration of the World First Aid Day, the Myanmar Red Cross Societies members in different states and regions read a message sent by the MRCS President Dr Maung Maung Myint.

Next, they donated blood at respective township hospitals and National Blood Bank.

The Red Cross Volunteers also conducted awareness-raising campaigns for COVID-19 prevention plus distribution of surgical masks across the nation.

The World First Aid Day celebration were held at Red Cross Branch Offices of Yangon Region, Kachin State, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region respectively.

World First Aid Day is celebrated on the second Saturday of September every year.

"First Aid practices should be adapted to epidemics" is a slogan for this year World First Aid Day, according to the MRCS. —Win Aung (MRCS) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

CMP raw material import plunges to $1.99 bln as of 28 August

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses have been valued at US$1.99 billion in the past eleven months beginning in October in the 2019-2020 financial year, which plunged from $2.148 billion registered in the corresponding period of last fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is concentrated mainly in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the COVID-19 negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

Covid-19 badly battered the labour-intensive enterprises, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

A woman sewing on the production line in a garment factory in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

To deal with the shortage of raw materials for the CMP garment factories in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) have jointly imported raw materials through border trade channels and airlines.

However, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses as of 28 August in the current FY dropped by $152 million compared with a year-ago period.

The CMP garment sector in Myanmar has been hit hard by the coronavirus impacts amid the global demand slump, said an official of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Supply chain disruptions and cancelling customer orders following the coronavirus outbreak hurt the global textile industry. Similarly, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is bracing for downward trend because of the cancellation of the order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic. Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued about US$4 billion around the past eleven months in the current financial year 2019-2020, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Since an outbreak like Covid-19 might happen in the future, it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our own sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories. Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union. The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.— Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

SEZs rake in $1.34 bln under incumbent govt

FOREIGN investments of US$1.348 billion have flowed into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, over the four years under the incumbent government, according to the figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 2016-2017 financial year and as of July-end in the 2019-2020FY, 58 enterprises from 17 countries have ploughed in $1.348 billion, including $12 million valued domestic investments by existing businesses, the DICA's statistics indicated.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trading, other services, logistics, hotel and tourism, and real estate sectors.

Japan has topped the list of foreign investors so far, accounting for over 33 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. FDI has also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR), the UK, Australia, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Denmark, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpyu, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading to better infrastructure and successful businesses.

At present, more than 80 businesses are operating in the Thilawa SEZ. The SEZ has employed more than 12,000 permanent workers, including permanent and construction workers, according to the management committee.

More than 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa is domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises. In comparison, 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd in June 2019.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value has registered as a Free Zone investor. It is exempt from paying corporate tax for seven years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be listed as free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies, and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for the free zone and promotion zone investors on the importation of capital goods, raw materials and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. Further details about the tax system are available on http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm.

Myanmar has attracted over US$24.6 billion over the four years under the incumbent government, and Singapore tops the FDI line-up, the DICA stated

MIC is prioritizing the labour-intensive businesses. In the incumbent government period, domestic and foreign projects employ over 500,000 residents, according to the DICA.

Those enterprises have created over 19,000 jobs in the 2016-2017FY, 110,000 jobs in the 2017-2018FY, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the 2018-2019FY and over 182,000 (Oct-July) in the 2019-2020FY respectively. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports top $1.68 bln in 11 months

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have shown a marked increase this budget year, touching US$1.68 billion between 1 October and 28 August in the current financial year, an increase of $322.7 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the corresponding period of the previous financial year, mineral exports were pegged at just $1.36 billion.

Both private and public sector mineral exports have recorded an increase in the current FY, with private sector exports valued at $1.19 billion and public sector exports estimated at $484.19 million. So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to the limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry. Within two years of the implementation of the Myanmar Mines Law, the Mines Department has approved more than 140 out of 3,000 proposed mining blocks, and many more blocks are to be granted the permit.

At present, evaluation teams in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, and Kayin states and Sagaing, Taninthayi, and Magway regions are screening mining applications, based on the opinions of the respective departments and the region and state governments. The Myanmar Mines Law was enacted on 24 December 2015, but the law came into force when the rules were issued on 13 February 2018.

The ministry undertakes the screening process of the proposals for medium and large-scale mining blocks. At the same time, regional and state governments are allowed to process applications for small-scale mining blocks.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks which cover up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares), while local firms can invest in all kinds of blocks. Investors can seek a permit to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The licences cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar's mineral products constitute 10 per cent of overall exports. About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sesame farmers use machine planters to cope with labour shortage

SESAME growers in some villages of Salingyi Township in Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region has been sowing sesame seeds using machine planters to deal with labour shortage, according to the officials of the Region Agriculture Department who visited the farms on 12 September.

Head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department U Win Hlaing Oo led the inspection tour to the sesame cultivations in Kyunpho, Kani, Sonetar, Ohpho and Myayzon villages in Salingyi Township.

At the sesame plantation of Daw Swe in Kanni Village in Salingyi Township, the officials observed the sowing of sesame seeds using machine planters.

Sesame farmers said that they have to pay K12,000 to 14,000 per hour if they hire the machine planter that can cultivate 1 to 1.5 acres of sesame field an hour.

The price of a Kubota machine planter is K8 million. Farmers can purchase the machine with a two-year installment and can provide rental service.— Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun

A machine planter can cultivate 1 to 1.5 acres of sesame field an hour. **PHOTO: NYI NYI THAN (NAY PYI TAW)**

'Alternative normalization' with Saudi Arabia seen in Bahrain-Israel deal

Bahrain on Friday became Saudi Arabia's second Gulf ally to announce plans to formalize relations with Israel over the past month, after the United Arab Emirates' landmark agreement. **PHOTO: AFP**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Bahrain's move to formally establish relations with Israel could not have happened without Saudi Arabia's green light, another step in what observers call Riyadh's "alternative normalization" of ties with the Jewish state.

Bahrain on Friday became Saudi Arabia's second Gulf ally to announce plans to formalize relations with Israel over the past month, after the United Arab Emirates' landmark agreement.

The move put a spotlight on the potential role of Riyadh, which has so far fended off pressure from US President Donald Trump to follow suit.

The development, billed by Trump as "truly historic," was unlikely to have happened without the silent endorsement of Riyadh, which holds enormous leverage over Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's biggest economy, was among the Gulf powers that pledged $10 billion in financial aid in 2018 to cash-strapped Bahrain, and it sent troops in 2011 to shore up the ruling family following an Arab Spring uprising.

"I trust that the kingdom of Bahrain consulted with the Saudis on this decision out of respect for them," Marc Schneier, an American rabbi who is an adviser to Bahrain's king, told AFP.

"The Bahrain government has been very respectful of the Saudi position throughout this process."

Saudi officials have publicly remained tight-lipped over the development, but a source close to the establishment hinted it was a concession to Trump after he exerted enormous pressure on Riyadh to form diplomatic ties with Israel.—AFP ■

UK to invest £23.8m in strategic Omani port

LONDON — Britain on Friday announced a £23.8 million ($30.5 million, 25.7 million euros) investment to triple the size of its base in an Omani port close to the sensitive waters of the Gulf.

The expansion of the "logistics hub" at Duqm will "facilitate Royal Navy deployments to the Indian Ocean" and "further support British Army training in Oman," the Ministry of Defence said.

"The long-standing friendships between the UK and the Gulf states are more important than ever," said Defence Secretary Ben Wallace as he visited Oman and Qatar.

"Whether tackling Daesh (the so-called Islamic State group), or making our streets in the UK safer thanks to our intelligence networks, these are hugely valuable relationships that I am pleased to be able to renew this week," he added.

The port has a dry dock facility which could support Britain's two aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, the ministry said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. gears for rising death toll in West Coast wildfires

PORTLAND — US officials girded Saturday for the possibility of mass fatalities from raging wildfires up and down the West Coast, as evacuees recounted the pain of leaving everything behind in the face of fast-moving flames.A prediction of cooler weather offered some hope of respite in coming days, but the true scale of the destruction from dozens of massive blazes in California, Oregon and Washington states remained hard to gauge.

There were 16 deaths confirmed this week, with wide stretches of land still cut off by flames fueled by tinder-dry conditions of the kind caused by climate change. More than 20,000 firefighters are battling the blazes. The White House announced Saturday that President Donald Trump will visit California Monday to be briefed on the disaster.—AFP ■

EU wants 'credible' Lebanon govt before more blast aid

BEIRUT — The European Union's commissioner for crisis management on Saturday called for the urgent formation of a "credible" government in Lebanon before a second phase of financial support for the crisis-hit country can be released.

Janez Lenarcic said the EU had mobilised 64 million euros ($79 million) for the emergency response to a devastating port blast that killed more than 190 people and wounded thousands in Beirut on August 4.

The next round of funding would be for reconstruction, he said, but warned it would have to go hand in hand with reforms because the international community was not willing to support practices "that led to financial collapse and economic crisis".

The tragedy occurred when hundreds of tonnes of ammonium nitrate fertiliser that had been left unattended in a port warehouse exploded.—AFP ■

BATTERED ECONOMY

Fed to meet as Congressional deadlock stretches onward

THE Federal Reserve's policy-setting committee will meet on Tuesday amid a prolonged deadlock in Congress over how to support the US economy battered by the coronavirus downturn.

The central bank deployed its most potent tools including trillions of dollars in liquidity lines and an emergency rate cut to near-zero in the pandemic's opening days, but the new fiscal support Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other officials have said the economy demands has yet to be approved by Congress.

The Fed is however loathe to wade directly into political debates and economists don't expect that to change at the regular two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). Rather, officials will perhaps offer details on their new inflation targeting strategy while underscoring that, despite some positive economic signs, unpredictability reigns.

"I would also expect them to say something along the lines of 'uncertainties abound because of the pandemic,' something we all know," said Jay Bryson, chief economist at Wells Fargo's corporate and investment bank.

The meeting will be the first after the Fed unveiled a new strategy that will keep interest rates lower for longer in a bid to achieve maximum employment for the benefit of the poor.

SOURCE: AFP

The fall in the unemployment rate has removed some of the pressure on Republicans on Capitol Hill, and Trump administration officials, to strike a deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN

Ninety Lebanon peacekeepers contract coronavirus: UNIFIL

NINETY UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, a spokesman for the UNIFIL force said on Sunday, the first reported cases of the illness.

The confirmed cases were transferred to a special UNIFIL facility equipped to deal with Covid-19 cases, UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti said in a statement. He said 88 of those infected belonged to the same contingent, but he did not specify the nationalities of the 90 peacekeepers.

"We have undertaken robust contact tracing, and applied a thorough regime of testing and isolation" to prevent a larger outbreak, he said.

Some 45 countries contribute peacekeepers to UNIFIL, which was set up in 1978 to patrol the border between Lebanon and Israel which are technically at war.

In August, the UN extended the peace mission's mandate by one year but reduced the force's troop capacity from 15,000 to 13,000. Tenenti said that UNIFIL's operations along the Lebanon-Israel border are not affected by the new virus cases. Lebanon has seen a spike in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases since an August 4 explosion ripped through the Beirut port, killing more than 190 people and ravaging swathes of the capital.

The small Mediterranean country has recorded a total of 23,669 Covid-19 cases, including 239 deaths since an outbreak began in February.

On Saturday, authorities announced 22 coronavirus cases at the Roumieh prison, the country's largest detention centre which has long been infamous for the poor conditions in some of its blocks, including overcrowding and harsh treatment.

SOURCE: AFP

United Nations peacekeeping force (UNIFIL) patrol near the village of Mais El Jabal, along the southern Lebanese border with Israel.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CASES SPIKE UPWARDS

Austria experiencing second virus wave: chancellor

AUSTRIA is experiencing the start of a second wave of coronavirus infections, its chancellor said Sunday, as cases spike upwards in line with other EU countries.

From Friday to Saturday, the Alpine nation of nearly nine million people reported 869 new cases -- more than half of those in the capital Vienna.

"What we are experiencing is the beginning of the second wave," Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said in a statement, appealing to the population to stick to anti-virus measures and reduce social contacts.

He warned that the mark of 1,000 cases per day would be reached soon.

France reported 10,000 new infections on Saturday, close to the level of the peak of the first wave in April, while Britain introduced new restrictions on gatherings last week as the number of new daily infections surged to around 3,500.

On Friday, Kurz announced the government would expand mandatory mask-wearing and slap new restrictions on events from Monday.

Masks will be compulsory in all shops and public buildings, in addition to places where they must already be worn such as supermarkets and public transport.

The conservative leader has warned the government could introduce further measures if cases kept rising but would try to avoid a repeat of the lockdown imposed in March, which entailed severe restrictions on movement and the closure of shops and restaurants.

SOURCE: AFP

DECLINE IN CASES

South Korea eases virus curbs in Seoul region

SOUTH Korea will temporarily ease coronavirus curbs in the greater Seoul area after a decline in cases, officials said Sunday.

The country largely overcame an early Covid-19 surge with extensive tracing and testing, but has battled several spikes in recent weeks raising concerns of a second wave of infections.

The new cases -- mainly in the greater Seoul region, home to half the country's 52 million population -- prompted authorities to tighten social distancing measures last month. But the measures on the metropolitan area will be eased starting Monday for two weeks, South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun told a government meeting, as new local cases declined.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 is a test of our commitment to a society that values all citizens equally

TIMES of crisis ask us who we are as a country. People suffer from much anxiety and pain during this time of crisis. The number of COVID-19 cases reached over 2900 yesterday in our country.

As regional governments are preparing for opening new hospital facilities and stockpiling medical resources, many people with disabilities are worried about the answer to that question.

> Under the CERP, hotlines should be established for the people with disabilities to ensure that no one is left behind in this plan.

A civilized society should put those most at risk from coronavirus at the top of the agenda not relegate them to an afterthought.

People with disabilities are entitled to life, human decency and the pursuit of happiness, just like all Myanmar people and the government and the people must fight together to protect these rights, especially during this time of crisis.

It is worth noting that the Rehabilitation Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is working, together with the COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee, to provide financial assistance to people with disabilities, due to hardships caused by the stay-at-home order, home quarantines and facility quarantines, and being infected with the coronavirus.

Under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP, K30,000 cash assistance would be provided to each of the 200,000 people with disabilities throughout the country.

As the financial assistance under the CERP is limited and allocated from the public budget, all governmental departments and organizations concerned with PWDs are obliged to cooperate with each other to ensure that the financial assistance effectively benefits the targeted populations.

The programme is managed in accordance with human rights and democratic norms to ensure that all can enjoy equal benefits, especially during the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

Unfortunately, previous efforts to provide relief and support to the people with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis have not included some PWDs.

We would like to urge our regional authorities and PWDs organizations to do more to make sure our friends, relatives and neighbors with disabilities are not left behind.

Patients with disabilities may require more resources than the nondisabled. In a crisis, the nondisabled can be saved more efficiently.

Under the CERP, hotlines should be established for the people with disabilities to ensure that no one is left behind in this plan.

This pandemic is not just a test of our healthcare system. It is also a test of our commitment to being an inclusive society that equally values all citizens.

Myanmar eliminates trachoma: WHO

"Myanmar's multi-pronged approach promoting access to good hygiene infrastructure and clean water, strengthening eye care system, and complete community buy-in have enabled the country ensure that people of all ages can now look towards a trachoma-free future," : Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region

THE World Health Organization has validated Myanmar for eliminating trachoma, a preventable disease that causes irreversible blindness, and which continues to be one of the leading causes of blindness globally.

"Myanmar's multi-pronged approach promoting access to good hygiene infrastructure and clean water, strengthening eye care system, and complete community buy-in have enabled the country ensure that people of all ages can now look towards a trachoma-free future," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region, felicitating the country at the virtual Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia Region.

Myanmar became the latest country to eliminate trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, as a public health problem. **FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION/TWITTER**

Myanmar joins Nepal

Myanmar joins Nepal in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 12 countries globally to achieve this feat. Though trachoma is preventable, blindness from trachoma is irreversible. Trachoma continues to be a public health problem in 44 countries and is responsible for the blindness for about 1.9 million people.

In 1964 the Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar had initiated a trachoma control project with support from WHO and UNICEF. The community-based interventions to eliminate trachoma consisted of surgical treatment, topical antibiotic treatment and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health education promoting behavior change to decrease transmission. The program further expanded to include accessible interventions in rural areas

In 2005, trachoma was responsible for 4% of all cases of blindness in Myanmar. By 2018, the prevalence of trachoma was down to a mere 0.008% with trachoma no longer a public health problem.

In a virtual event, the Regional Director presented a citation for trachoma elimination to Myanmar's Minister of Health and Sports, Dr Myint Htwe.

Sri Lanka was felicitated for eliminations of rubella and mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis. The Regional Director presented citations for the two achievements to the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Ms Pavithra Wanniarachchi.

Dr Khetrapal Singh said, "Strong leadership and commitment of the Government, support from partners, and the dedication and commitment of the health care workers and communities in the country have contributed to these successes in Sri Lanka".

Commendable achievement

Maldives was felicitated for eliminating rubella. On the country's success, the Regional Director said, "this commendable achievement has been possible by the strong leadership and commitment of the Government, sustained collaboration with partners, and active support of health-care workers, volunteers and communities at all levels of health services." The citation was received by Ms Aishath Samiya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Maldives.

Home to one-fourth of the world's population, the Region has eight flagship priority programmes – eliminate measles and rubella by 2023; prevent and control noncommunicable diseases through multisectoral policies and plans, with a focus on "best buys"; accelerate reduction of maternal, neonatal and under five mortality; continue progressing towards universal health coverage with a focus on human resources for health and essential medicines; further strengthen national capacity for preventing and combating antimicrobial resistance; scale-up capacity development in emergency risk management in countries; finish the task of eliminating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and other diseases on the verge of elimination; accelerate efforts to end TB by 2030. The Region has been making remarkable progress around the flagships and beyond.

SOURCE: WHO

THE CAFE RELIEVES WHAT'S MISSING

With travel limited, plane cafes take off in Thailand

On board a retired commercial airplane in the coastal city of Pattaya, coffee drinkers make themselves comfy on first-class-style seats and pose for photos by the overhead lockers.

WITH millions around the world stuck at home due to the pandemic, "plane cafes" in Thailand are offering customers the chance to pretend they are in the sky -- and the idea seems to have taken off. On board a retired commercial airplane in the coastal city of Pattaya, coffee drinkers make themselves comfy on first-class-style seats and pose for photos by the overhead lockers.

Boarding passes in hand, some "passengers" even opt for a tour of the cockpit.

"With this cafe I can sit in first class and also mess around in the cockpit pretending to be the captain of the plane," 26-year-old Thipsuda Faksaithong told AFP.

"It's a lot of fun."

Chalisa Chuensranoi, 25, said her visit was as good as any trip she had taken before the pandemic, which shuttered Thailand's borders in March.

"Sitting right here in the first-class section... really gives me the feeling of actually being on a plane, cruising through the air," she said.

In another cafe at the headquarters of national carrier Thai Airways in Bangkok, hungry diners appear even to have missed plane food as they gobble up spaghetti carbonara and Thai-style beef served on plastic trays by cabin crew. But for Intrawut Simapichet, 38, who came to the cafe with his wife and baby, the experience is about more than a meal.

"Normally I'm a person who travels very often, and when we are forced to stay at home... it's kind of depressing," he said as fellow passengers posed with luggage by a fake airplane door.

"(The cafe) relieves what's missing."

A low toll

Thailand was the first country outside China to detect a coronavirus case, but it has since registered a low toll, with about 3,400 infections and 58 deaths.

Travel restrictions have nevertheless eviscerated the tourism-reliant economy, while Thais have founded themselves stuck due to quarantine requirements in other countries.

The government is currently mulling travel bubbles with select countries that also have low tolls.

SOURCE: AFP

At the headquarters of Thai Airways in Bangkok, diners appear even to have missed plane food as they gobble up spaghetti carbonara served on plastic trays by cabin crew. **PHOTO: AFP**

The slogans for Ozone Layer

* Preserve the Ozone layer for human health
* The Ozone layer, the UV blocker
* Let's work together to improve the Ozone layer and climate
* Let's preserve the Ozone layer to protect the living things under the Sun
* Continue to protect the Ozone layer to reduce global warming
* Save Ozone, save life
* Save Ozone, make future cool

Environmental Conservation Department

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 13 September, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal (off north Andhra Pradesh coast, India) still persists. Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 September 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine, Kayah and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Modern People Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Modern People Party General Secretary Daw Yee Yee San presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 13 September.

Greetings for all

I am General-Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Modern People Party, Daw Yee Yee San (Penname - Khin Win San). The Modern People Party was formed with a tradition of political experience. It was also formed from a students' study group that studied modern political science and pointed out the modern scientific political economy that came about as the highest form of market economy and democracy (capitalism) after the mistake of global centralized socialism in 1980s and after 1980. We have done policy research for 30 years as well.

The party's logo has three stars -- small, medium and large – on a globe represent the party's objectives for peace, democracy and freedom for all. The party has seven executive committee members, ten central committee members and 12 reserved central committee members. U Tun Aung Kyaw is the party Chairman and will be contesting in regional elections.

Guideline policy

Anthropologists say humans are the most intelligent beings in the world. Since the beginning of human history, they have progressed through quantity and quality through all sorts of calamities. Starting from a few numbers of people there are now over 8 billion people around the world, and we have progressed from the Stone Age to the modern electronic and information technology age. We will continue to move into the future. Democracy is not the conclusion of history. We will go from capitalism to a modern scientific socialist system gradually.

Politics

To reach the age of universal freedom, we believe that capitalism has to be fully developed. The 21st Century is an age of education, and political education has become a decisive factor. The Modern People Party has four education politic guidelines:

1. To rely on science rather than on faith, on sensibility rather than on sensitivity;
2. To rely on reason and enlightenment rather than on personal prejudice and subjective thinking;
3. To rely on sober philosophy rather than intoxicated speculation and the cult of personality – the cult of the individual;
4. Ignorance is less remote from the truth than personal prejudice and subjective thinking.

Policy and work programmes.

We will implement a multiparty democratic system that ensures people's political freedom and freedom to create their own destiny. We practice the four truths that centred on the public.

They are:

(1) Nothing can be achieved without the people;
(2) Nothing can be achieved without public elections;
(3) The people should be allowed to choose the policy that benefits them;
(4) Otherwise the people will choose their own path.

We will implement First Past the Post System and Proportional Representation System. We will also amend the Constitution to benefit the nation and its people.

Economy

We will employ an open-door market economy system that guarantees public economic development. We will allow for free production and competition. The people need to have high intelligence since democracy is made on the decision of the masses, and this can be achieved with public economy developed, which is why we will work for the emergence of ethnic entrepreneurs for private sector development.

Defence

The Defence Services must be modern and capable as they give their lives for national freedom, sovereignty, solidarity, and protecting the people and their homes.

Ethnic people

Narrow-minded nationalism will be removed, and a democratic federal union will be established that guarantees equal opportunities for all ethnic groups. We will take it as our national duty to ensure freedom, solidarity, and the chance to create our destiny.

National reconciliation and internal peace

Modern People Party will set out to do work in a peaceful manner. We do not accept the thinking of resorting to violence if there is no alternative. We will honestly point out the accountability of both sides of a foreign or domestic armed conflict. We will work hard to end the conflict and instil peace. Death cannot be avoided in war, and while disputes happen for various reasons, there is never a good war.

Myanmar has one of the longest-running civil war that has caused large numbers of deaths on both sides and destruction to the people caught in the crossfire. It also destroyed the nation's economy and source of revenue. We will take this painful historical lesson and work hard for national reconciliation, nationwide ceasefire, lasting peace, and solving political issues through political means.

Faith

People are allowed to practice their faith of choice and proliferate it. We will not allow religion and politics to be intertwined.

Foreign affairs

We will practice a free foreign affairs policy and cooperate with the United Nations for international development.

Gender equality

Democracy cannot be achieved without gender equality, nor will it flourish. Modern People Party will free women from the three burdens, improve women abilities and capacity, eliminate gender discrimination as described in CEDAW, and for equal inclusiveness for women in the three branches of government.

Education

We will practice an education system that develops human resources and allow private entities to participate freely. Youths are the future, so we will set policies that build their human resource.

Health

The State must take responsibility for public healthcare. Modern pharmaceutical production and medical research will be supported. Private businesses will be allowed to participate as well freely.

Farmers

Myanmar is attempting to establish a democratic nation and 70% of its population are farmers that require development. We will practice a free land system that is devoid of absolute landlordism and constitutional landlordism. We will study the strengths and weaknesses of the land systems from the times of kings to colonialism, post-independence, Myanmar socialist party age, post-1988 military regime administration and the multiparty democratic system to erase poverty, development, establishing industrial agriculture through our party's 11 land policies.

Workers

Employers and employees are the driving force of society. There will be no employees without employers and no employers without employees. That is why the conflict of interest that arises from the two need to be resolved peacefully. Some right-wing people think capitalists are taking unfair advantage on the working class. Big companies are not able to take the unfair advantage over employees because a businessperson can cast one vote while a group of employees are lots of voices that can create State Power. State Power is administrative and legal ratification authority. Development of the working class and improving their livelihood is the cause of our party. We will create free labour unions.

In conclusion, the truth decides everything. Having a valid policy does not automatically mean success. The Modern People Party views criticism as a method to cleanse impurities such s weaknesses and shortcomings. Self-criticism is valuable for improvement. Improving leadership skills require discipline, rationalism, experience, vigilance, integrity, honesty, and pursuing the interest of the majority as secure as the longyi you wear.

Fear of challenges will hinder improvement, and people who yearn for gain should not fear challenges or any pain. These are the maxims that our party holds on to, and we pledge to achieve this historical duty.

We wish physical and mental well-being for esteemed people.

■■■

Mro National Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Mro National Development Party Member of Central Committee Daw Mar Mar Aye presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 13 September.

Esteemed national races

May you have good health, happiness and may your wishes come true.

I am Daw Mar Mar Aye representing Mro National Development Party, and I will contest for the Yangon Region parliamentary seat for Mingaladon constituency No 1 in Northern District of Yangon Region in the 2020 General Election set to be held on 8 November. On behalf of Mro National Development Party, I would like to express thanks to the Union Government and the Union Election Commission for your kind permission to present our party's policy, objective and tasks via Myanma Radio and Television.

Esteemed national races

The party adopted its current name on 7 January 2015, and its former name was Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization (Party).

Mro people lacked political knowledge, so, ethnic Mro people were divided into two groups: Mro and Khami. When the multiparty democracy system was established in 1988, we founded Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization to achieve unity. In 2014 national census, the name of the ethnic group "Khami" was changed to "Mro", and consequently, in accordance with all ethnic Mro groups' consent, the name of the party was changed into Mro National Development Party. The party was formed in 1988, so it has been 32 years. It is an ethnic party representing Mro ethnic people, and it is based on Kyauktaw, MraukU, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, and Pauktaw townships in northern Rakhine State and Mee Chaung area in Paletwa Township in Chin State.

A Pyithu Hluttaw candidate of Mro National Development Party will contest Kyauktaw Township constituency in the Rakhine State in the Multiparty Democracy General Election on 8 November 2020. We have an Amyotha Hluttaw candidate of the party will contest MraukU constituency No 4. There is a Rakhine State Hluttaw candidate of the party who will contest MraukU constituency No 2. Also, a Yangon Region Hluttaw candidate of the party will contest Hmawbi Township constituency No 1. And we have a Yangon Region Hluttaw candidate of the party will contest Mingaladon constituency No 1. So, a total of five candidates of the party will stand for the elections.

In the multiparty democracy general elections in 1990, U San Tha Aung, our party's Chairperson, won a seat. The party Chairperson U San Tha Aung could participate in the pre-coordination meeting at the premises of Presidential Palace in June 1992 to prepare for the National Convention. Elected representative U San Tha Aung, alongside five members of the party's Central Executive Committee, attended in the National Convention, which commenced in 1993, participating in the process of drafting the 2008 Constitution.

Mro National Development Party has risen to many challenges to date, taken up honest and loyal stance, and continued its efforts to reach the target of national politics. But we would like to apologize for all ethnic Mro people for not being able to contest all initially planned constituencies because of lack of stability.

There are 135 national, ethnic groups in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Only 35 national, ethnic groups have a population of more than 10,000 people. The other 100 national, ethnic groups have a population of fewer than 10,000 people. Small national, ethnic groups live in states of ethnic people. They have minimal opportunities to express their feeling and hope because of the lack of development in their areas and lack of knowledge. They live in conflict areas. We cannot know how much they suffer from discrimination and oppression. Democracy can survive only in peaceful nations.

With loving-kindness and sympathy, all national, ethnic people of Myanmar need to look after members of small national, ethnic groups as if they are own children.

I would like to urge all to protect the security of the lives of ethnic people, their languages, their literature, and their culture while building a new genuine democratic federal union.

Esteemed national races

Our Mro National Development Party is working for the benefits of the country and the citizens by using appropriate policy, setting objectives and carrying out practical tasks.

Policy

Mro National Development Party will focus on the three leading national causes: non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. It will respect the rule of law and be active in national politics.

Mro National Development Party will lay down the policy by which the party will work together with national, ethnic people and citizens to establish a genuine democratic federal union.

Mro National Development Party will practise the policy by which the party will cooperate with any political party or organization that has the same objective for the benefits of the nation and the citizens.

Objective

Mro National Development Party will always work for peace and development of the state.

Independently creating our own fates is our duty, so we will faithfully perform the task.

Rights of national, ethnic people and equality are the essence of genuine democracy.

We will cooperate with all stakeholders to achieve genuine democracy and a federal framework.

With 'Union Spirit', we will foster strong national solidarity based on 'Panglong Spirit."

Work programmes

To promote and maintain traditions, cultural inheritances, and literature of national, ethnic people;

To work for the development of life standard of our Mro ethnic people and area development;

To take efforts to replace ineffective traditional businesses with modern technological businesses to enhance capacities and to catch up with the modern era;

To make other national, ethnic people, who are like our brothers, understand about the lives of Mro ethnic people, and to promote mutual help and friendship;

To promote the roles of women, to nurture young leaders, and to nurture people for developing human resources.

Esteemed national races

All political parties are exerting efforts for the welfare of national, ethnic people following their respective policies, objectives and tasks, and it is working for duty given by history.

It is learnt that a total of 92 parties including Mro National Development Party, will stand for the multiparty democracy general elections to be held on 8 November in 2020.

The emblem of Mro National Development Party is king crow bird. According to a traditional tale, king crow bird represents a lack of danger, being a good leader, unity, honesty, loyalty, being ethical, and having dignity.

In conclusion, I would like to pledge that all ethnic Mro People, as a faithful national, ethnic group, will take part in creating a future democratic federal union.

May all national, ethnic people and citizens be free from danger, and I wish you excellent health, wealth and happiness.

■■■

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Peace and Diversity Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Peace and Diversity Party Chairperson Daw Sandar Oo presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 13 September.

Esteemed people

Greetings and best wishes for you all.

I am Daw Sandar Oo, Chairperson of the Peace and Diversity Party.

In our party's policy and work programme, you might be surprised that we do not want an oversaturation of politicians so let me explain it in detail. We wish for the general public to focus on their manufacturing and service businesses. At the same time, they are regularly updated on political news, laws and regulations, national security, changes to economic policy and other political affairs.

In a democratic country, people have to work hard for their own business, so we don't want them to squander their life and time in politics, an impractical source of income. But when politicians and government officials mismanage the political system, it is the people who have to bear the burden and suffer the loss of public funds, difficulty getting work done due to government interference, and other issues. That is why it is essential to listen to political news regularly.

Esteemed people

The Peace and Diversity Party produced our own legal policy framework and process manual on 22 March 2010 and continue to work in line with those policies to this day. Our party's structure allows just one person present in a township sufficient to operate a communications office. We do not need complicated office procedures and equipment. They have to act as the contact between the party's headquarters and the public. They can discuss their regional issues with the communications officer and acquire advice from headquarters and submit their matters to the government.

Our party does not have any policy to include a large number of Hluttaw representative candidates. The Union Election Commission Law states that a political party will be abolished unless it contests in at least three constituencies. That is why we compete in elections mandatorily. We do not teach our party members to chase after the authority to form a government or attain a position as a Hluttaw representative. We guide the public and our party members to educate themselves on political systems, economic systems and religious extremism.

Our Peace and Diversity Party has always pushed for the proliferation of knowledge and wisdom since 2010. The public has seen sufficient uploads on our party website. We accept that dissemination is slow. We think the majority of the people still view politics as a contestation of power and thus do not view our work as political literature with acceptance or enthusiasm.

We do not admire the democratic system because of power and authority. In a monarchy, one can do anything if one were a monarch, prime minister or general. If we have to attain that rank to do what we want, then we should not wish for democracy with a thirst. A democratic system allows a regular citizen to use the freedom of expression to implement their aspirations. If one person's ideas and beliefs were distributed to the rest of the public and attract cooperation, then those in power inevitably have to comply. That is why our party advocates for the government to recognize and implement the will of the people through public methods.

This is the unique point of our party. There may be other parties and the majority of citizens who do not understand our party's actions. They may not understand since its something new or radical. I wish for them to realize that we have departed from the traditional thinking that a political party needs to acquire authority and instead established ourselves as a bridge between the public and successive government administrations.

Our party's logo has multiple lines in different colours. The four colours arranged into an outline of a globe represent the use of modern communications technology to spread opinions, beliefs and ideals. There were few users of the Internet when our party was established but it is now used far and wide across the land and sea. News and information are now spreading through rural and urban areas. Even the President can easily learn about what's happening in a remote area.

Injustice, corruption, mismanagement, embezzlement, armed conflicts, opinions on peace, the market economy, education and healthcare can no longer be suppressed in our daily lives.

Evil monarchs and governments are included in the five types of enemies in Buddhism, and democracy is the only place where we have the opportunity to keep them in check. Governments will change, but people continue to shape their ideals in democracy. A simple map of Myanmar without the people is meaningless. The people are the most important. The majority of people must have the knowledge and capacity to keep the government in check. But actual government officials automatically rise to the top, so the people must keep checking in the five years systematically.

Our party has always aimed for public scrutiny on the government since our formation. I see that most people are not ready to accept our modern 21st-century actions. But we see a good measure with our estimations. Our Myanmar society has only had access to modern news networks for seven years. Copying machines and computers legally became widespread only after 2012. It brings to light the fact that the dissemination of knowledge and information was severely limited. Literature improved vastly when touchscreen phones and the Internet were accessible by everyone. The Internet allowed people to view laws, religious texts, political texts and systems readily.

The Peace and Diversity Party is contesting in 3 constituencies because of the election law, but it will always stand as a civilian. The time is right for the people to voice their opinions, and we urge you to focus on how to communicate your necessities.

We need a private economic system if we are going for an approach centred on the private sector and with projects if we centre on the nation. I want to explain the difference between the two with the old MPT system and the later Telenor system. The old MPT system ran on public tax and budgets for constructing towers, printing SIM cards, installing cables, staff salary and office space.

But the later Telenor system operated on their private budget. It was merely a public service. The public budget was even used for staff pensions in the old system, but the Telenor system didn't need public funds. Profits made by MPT benefited the nation, and tax levied on Telenor was the same. If MPT had losses, then it was the public's loss as well, but if Telenor made losses, it didn't affect the people. That is the reason a private sector-centred economic system is thriving around the world.

In old systems, farmers only had opportunities during farming and were confiscated when they stopped farming. They were not allowed to pawn or sell the land. The old system was abolished on 31 August 2012, and the new farmland law was enacted. People could pawn or sell their farmland with a Form-7, but there are still challenges to using the land for other purposes.

If you calculate the cost of farming an acre of paddy and the price of the products you will find a single season creates a profit between K100,000 to K200,000 and a profit of K200,000 to K400,000 per year. But this profit was calculated with the labour costs at zero. If they were added, then there will be a continuous loss.

A lot of discussions is made on how to resolve this, but the fact is simple. Paddy price will not be favourable as long as there is surplus production. If farmers are not allowed to use their land for other purposes, then they will always have losses. If it does not fit the market economy, then I urge you to try different methods. Farmers need to change their title to landowners. Requesting farmers' rights is not the way when you should be asking for landowner rights in line with market demand. If you plant Napier grass on an acre of land and rear just two cattle, then you can make a profit of nearly K1.5 million in a year. You will see that paddy prices are down because the market does not need to.

Esteemed people

I wish for the public to contact our party and open communications offices in every town and city. If you understand the value of our words, then cooperate and learn with us that authority is not that valuable when compared to public wisdom. May you all be safe from COVID-19 and have peace and prosperity.

I conclude, and thank you.

■■■

Trump advisor elected to head Inter-American Development Bank

Mauricio Claver-Carone, who is a US citizen of Cuban descent, was the only candidate for the position and will assume office on October 1 for a five-year term. **PHOTO; AFP/FILE**

WASHINGTON — An advisor to US President Donald Trump was elected president of the Inter-American Development Bank, ending decades of Latin American leadership, the institution announced Saturday.

Mauricio Claver-Carone, who is a US citizen of Cuban descent, was the only candidate for the position and will assume office on October 1 for a five-year term.

He won the vote of 30 IDB governors, 23 of them from South American countries and, according to a Washington-based source, a total of 66.8 percent of the votes.

In a statement, Claver-Carone thanked regional partners for "maintaining the integrity of this electoral process and sharing in our common vision of a stronger and more responsive IDB."

The bank is the main source of financing for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It comprises 48 countries: nations in the region and Europe, plus the United States, Canada, Israel, Japan, South Korea and China.—AFP ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEW CHALLENGE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEW CHALLENGE VOY. NO. (04/2020)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (196N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (196N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(7/2020–2021)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L–115(20–21)	Assorted Sizes for Float Shoes & Float Collars (2) Groups	Ks
(b)	DMP/L–116(20–21)	Flexable Wire Rope & Drilling Lines (9) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L–117(20–21)	Drawwork Spares for All Rigs (6) Groups	Ks
(d)	DMP/L–118(20–21)	Spares for All Rigs (8) Groups	Ks
(e)	DMP/L–119(20–21)	Spares for Drilling Rigs Equipment (6) Groups	Ks
(f)	DMP/L–120(20–21)	Sucker Rod & Pony Rod (2) Groups	Ks
(g)	DMP/L–121(20–21)	Magna Dewax, Wildcat 441, Demulsifier, Greenzyme (4) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L–122(20–21)	Spares for L–Type & ZW–Type Dispenser (6) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L–123(20–21)	Spares for Safe Dispenser (8) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L–124(20–21)	Spares for IMW Dispenser (6) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L–125(20–21)	Assorted Sizes of Tyres & Battery (21) Items	Ks
(l)	DMP/L–126(20–21)	Chemicals (8) Items	Ks
(m)	DMP/L–127(20–21)	Spares for Volvo Tractor (54) Items	Ks
(n)	DMP/L–128(20–21)	Spares for Kenworth Oil Field Truck (49) Items	Ks
(o)	DMP/L–129(20–21)	Spares for Cat D3406 DI Engine Ex Pacific Oil Field Truck (50) Items	Ks
(p)	DMP/L–130(20–21)	Spares for MI–2 Dozer (102) Items	Ks
(q)	DMP/L–131(20–21)	Spares for NAT C 245–125 FH Torque Convertor (21) Items	Ks
(r)	DMP/L–132(20–21)	Spares for GM 6V–71 Engine Ex Cooper Well Servicing Truck (39) Items	Ks
(s)	DMP/L–133(20–21)	Spares for Mitsubishi S6N Rig Pump Engine (36) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L–134(20–21)	Spares for NAT C 300–100 FH Torque Convertor (21) Items	Ks
(u)	DMP/L–135(20–21)	Spares for F 1600 Rig Pump Ex ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (25) Items	Ks
(v)	DMP/L–136(20–21)	Spares for 3NB 1300C Rig Pump Ex ZJ 50D Drilling Rig (25) Items	Ks
(w)	DMP/L–137(20–21)	Spares for K 700 A Rig Pump and FA 1600 Rig Pump (2) Groups	Ks
(x)	DMP/L–138(20–21)	Industrial Raw Materials (4) Groups	Ks
(y)	DMP/L–139(20–21)	Class 'G' Cement (2,000) Tons	Ks
(z)	DMP/L–140(20–21)	Spares for Cementing Unit (2) Groups	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L–141(20–21)	Spares for Air Compressor (2) Groups	Ks
(ab)	DMP/L–142(20–21)	Spares for GM 6V–53 Engine Ex Cooper Well Servicing Truck (43) Items	Ks
(ac)	DMP/L–143(20–21)	Spares for Doosan Gas Engine (11) Items	Ks
(ad)	DMP/L–144(20–21)	Spares for CAT–D3306 DI Engine Ex KB–150 Well Servicing Truck (42) Items	Ks
(ae)	DMP/L–145(20–21)	Electrical Spares for Mann / TSB Oil Field (2) Groups	Ks
(af)	DMP/L–146(20–21)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Sr1 Rig (25) Items	Ks
(ag)	DMP/L–147(20–21)	3 Ton & 1.5 Ton Battery Type for Forklift (2) Items	Ks
(ah)	DMP/L–148(20–21)	ရွှေပြည်သာ(၂) CNG အရောင်းဆိုင်(၀၂၇) ရှိ 500 KVA Transformer အား 1000 KVA Transformer ဖြင့် ပြောင်းလဲ အစားထိုးခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း(၁) ခု	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **14 September 2020** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **14 October 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **14–10–2020, 12:00 pm**

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

World Health Organization
Myanmar

Expression of Interest

The World Health Organization in Myanmar invites locally registered suppliers to partake in an Expression of Interest (EoI) exercise for the following goods:

- LOT 1: Medical equipment, supplies and consumables (PPE, medicines and vaccines excluded)
- LOT 2: Laboratory equipment, supplies and consumables

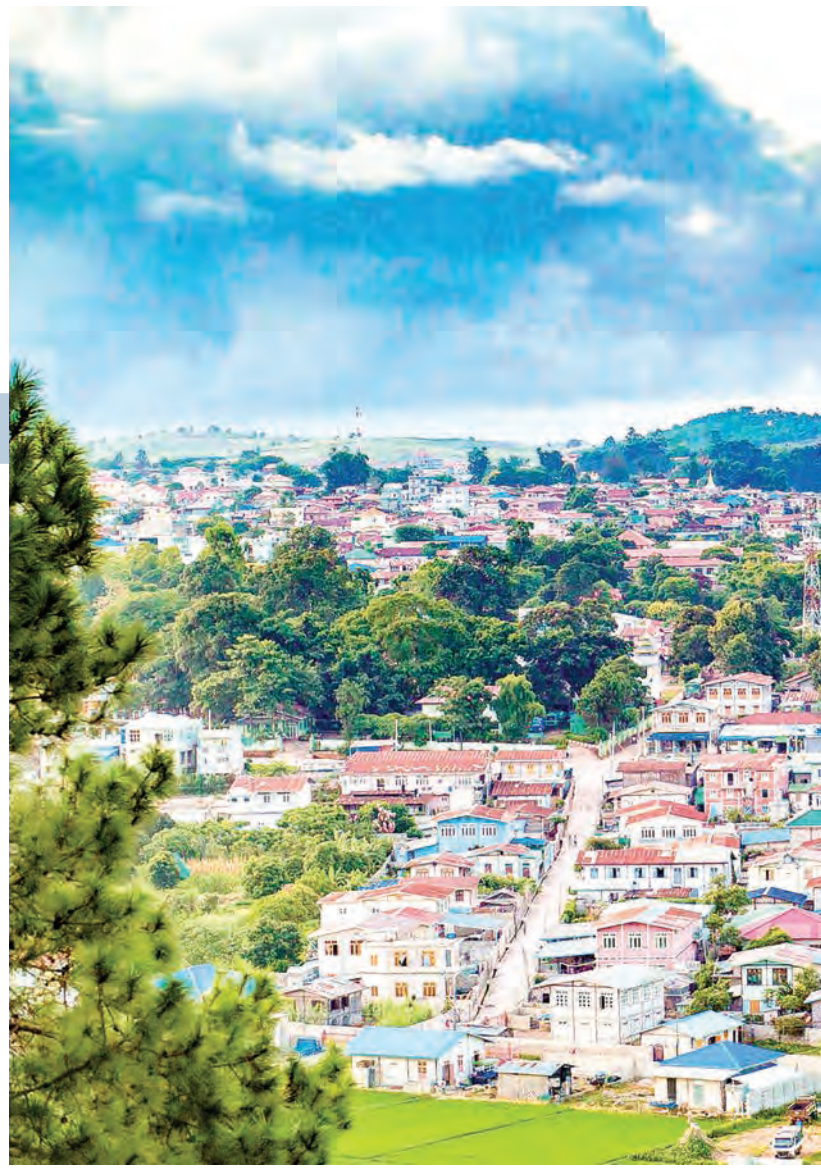
The complete Expression of Interest documentation, including submission details, is available at **https://bit.ly/31MUPdQ** or by request to **semmrlpo@who.int**

The deadline for submission is **September 21, 2020, 15:00 PM**, Myanmar Local Time.

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

A Short Visit to Aungban (1)

By (Thiha Lulin, the Traveller)
Photos : Min Hsann, Thiha Lu Lin



Aungban, trade town

WHEN we travel to southern Shan State, we usually continue to Nyaung Shwe, Inlay and Taunggyi right after the visit to Kalaw. We never thought to pay a visit to Aungban than to buy some chips while taking a break on the way. Some stay in Kalaw and visit Aungban for a while, crossing the town to see scenic views and go to Nyangan and Pindaya. I've known that Aungban is not only a trading town but also an excellent town to live in.

From Thar Mine Khan to Aungban

Aungban was established on 15 April 1913, and it is in Kalaw Township. Although Aungban was established one year earlier than Kalaw, Kalaw was built as an administrative township where mostly Danu ethnic people live.

As I said in Thar Mine Khan story, the beginning of Aungban and Kalaw is Thar Mine Khan. Thar Mine Khan which can be defined as "Thar Yar Shwe Pyi", has become like a village now. Thar Mine Khan was renamed as Aungban since the British colonial rule. Min Maung Pho and Chief Minister U Khun Yone are renowned as people who established Aungban. It can be said that local people built Aungban and Kalaw was constructed by the British. Aungban had been the terminus of Myanma Railways for a long time as well. Then, the railway continued to Shwe Nyaung later. The railway was the main reason for the establishment of Aungban. As for the British, they planned to build Kalaw where the railway would pass.

Myin Thar Sayar Taw and the town's elder wanted to name the city as "Pyin Thar" or "Shwe Pyin Thar". Subsequently, they chose the name "Aungban" and Aungban village was also situated just two miles away from Aungban town.

A unique crop of Aungban is potato. The potatoes and the potato chips of Aungban are still

Mway Taw Taung View Point

"Yay Htwat Oo", source of water which provide water for 400 monks at the monastery at first and the water is even enough now for Aungban.

Cute ethnic girls at Mway Taw Taung View Point

Studying the drums of Pa-O from village Head.

Taya Shint Taung Pagoda which can be seen from across Aungban.

The pagoda is seen at the top of the mountain of View Point.

popular among people.

In the past, Myanmar people didn't dare to eat the potato. They thought it would make them sick. They just exported them to India. The potato business had become a big business in the region, and it transformed Thar Mine Khan into Aungban which could access to the railway. The railway system played a vital role to transport the potatoes at that time, and Aungban potato was very well-known in Kolkata.

As a specialty of Aungban, there are some places related to Turkish people. The Turkish prisoners of war who were defeated in World War 1 were detained in Pe Yin Taung village in Aungban and used to build the railway. Therefore, the Turkish people usually visit there, and there are wells and cemeteries still left in Aungban. Interestingly, there are many unusual stories in Aungban history. As I quoted these facts from "Aungban Kyay Hmone Pyin", the book was written by Sayar Min Lwin Oo (Aungban), I'd like to recommend his book for more facts.

Weather

It is quite cold in winter and a bit hotter than the surrounding town.

How to get there?

Aungban can be reached by car, train and flight. All the highway buses to Taunggyi arrive in Aungban. If you come by train, you need to get off at Aungban station. As for the flight, it will take around 20 minutes to drive from Heho airport to the town.

Places to visit in over 100 years old Aungban

Except for the fact that Aungban doesn't have nice bars and coffee shops yet like in Kalaw, the trade town is more bustling with activity and natural beauty. Places like:

Thar Mine Khan Village and Mway Taw

Thar Mine Khan, the beginning of Aungban, is interesting for its ancient Mway Taw Pagodas. The village can be reached after a two-mile drive from Aungban.

108-Taung Aung Chan Tha Pagoda

The pagoda locally called 108-Taung can be seen from every place of Aungban. It is a replica of Shwedagon pagoda. Although the Sayadaw is building the pagoda in details, it has not finished yet. But it gradually gest into its shape and is famous among the travellers. There are various kinds of stupas, Nat and Thagyamin statues. The people estimate as it will be the highest pagoda in Shan State. It has a cave with massive columns inside.

Mway Taw Taung View Point

It can be described as a new View Point of Aungban. There is road transportation to Mway Taw village, but we may be a little bit tired to climb up the mountain from there. It is worth for you climbing up the hill as you can see the 360 Degree panoramic views. Hotel Hnin Shwe Yee also conserves the View Point. It decorates the viewpoint with signboards, chairs and ladders by using natural materials. There is a pagoda at the top of the hill which is under construction. I recognize it as a place where we should not miss whenever we go to Aungban. We can study the living styles of Mway Taw villagers. When I reached there, the children are having their meals with Basil leaves. Their mother gave me these Basil leaves as a present when I ate some leaves from them. I also studied the long Pa-O drum from the village Head.

The arrangements can give us pleasure and we can take photos there.

Mya Nandar Yae Htwet Oo

It can be said Mya Nandar Ye Htwet Oo in Aung Chan Tha is a gift for Sayadaw. The Sayadaw who always searched the water for his 400 student monks found that places and created water purified tank on the mountain. The surplus water is distributed to Aungban.

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)

Ayeyawady United stands first after MNL Week-15

AYEYAWADY United is currently standing in the first place after thirteen matches played with one loss and 33 points earned after the Week-15 games of the Myanmar National League, according to the statement with the MNL yesterday.

Following Ayeyawady United, Hantharwady United is standing in the second place with eleven wins, and two losses from thirteen matches played.

The team took the place of former first place sitter Hantarwady United in this week with the same points but with goal differences.

In the third place of the table former champion team, Yangon United has garnered 29 points after playing thirteen matches of nine wins, two draws and two losses.

Next defending champions Shan United FC is sitting in the fourth place with earning 29 points of nine wins, two draws and two losses from thirteen matches played.

Rakhine United is in the fifth place of the standing table with earning 17 points of five wins, two draws and six losses after thirteen matches played.

In the meantime, Yadanarbon United is taking the sixth place position with 13 points of three wins, four draws and six losses after thirteen matches played. Ten teams are participating in the tourney, and Southern Myanmar FC is currently in the bottom place with no win. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Ayeyawady United's Victor (No. 42) vies for the ball against ISPE youth player Zaw Moon Aung (No.10) during their MNL Week-15 match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 12 September 2020. **PHOTO:MNL**

FIFA on trial as Valcke, Al-Khelaifi trial begins in Swiss court

Jerome Valcke (left) and Nasser Al-Khelaifi go on trial in Switzerland on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ZURICH — FIFA's disgraced former secretary general Jerome Valcke and Paris Saint-Germain chief Nasser Al-Khelaifi go on trial in Switzerland on Monday in the latest chapter of football's seemingly endless corruption saga.

The two men have been indicted for alleged corruption in the attribution of football broadcasting rights -- Al-Khelaifi is also the boss of beIN Media.

The hearing, which has already been delayed because of the coronavirus, is scheduled to last until September 25 at the Federal Criminal Court of Bellinzona. But it will open under another cloud as suspicions of collusion between the Swiss prosecution and FIFA have undermined its credibility.

Centre stage is Valcke, former right-hand man of ousted FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who appears in two separate cases of television rights corruption -- he faces up to five years in prison if found guilty.

The 59-year-old Frenchman stands accused of wanting to transfer the Middle East and North Africa rights for screening the 2026 and 2030 World Cups to the Qatari giant beIN Media, in exchange for "unwarranted benefits" from Al-Khelaifi.

According to the prosecution, the case relates to a meeting on October 24, 2013 at the French headquarters of beIN, when Al-Khelaifi allegedly promised to buy a villa in Sardinia for five million euros, granting its exclusive use to Valcke.

Al-Khelaifi, who has denied the charges, was then to hand the property over to the Frenchman two years later under certain conditions.—AFP ■

US Open winner Osaka hints at more race activism

NEW YORK — Naomi Osaka said she wants to be known for more than just tennis, suggesting she will keep campaigning for racial justice after winning her third Grand Slam at the US Open Saturday.

Osaka, of Japanese and Haitian heritage, wore different masks honoring victims of systemic racism and police brutality in the United States in each of the tournament's seven rounds.

The 22-year-old said thinking time during the coronavirus lockdown, which coincided with protests across the United States over the police killing of black man George Floyd, had led to her political awakening. —AFP ■

Chelsea's transfer spend demands title challenge from Lampard

LONDON — Against a horizon of economic doom for most of European football, Chelsea have set about making up for lost time with a £200 million ($256 million) spending spree to try and reel in Liverpool and Manchester City at the top of the Premier League.

The Blues finished 33 points behind Liverpool last season, but did achieve club legend Frank Lampard's primary objective of his first campaign in charge at Stamford Bridge by guiding the Blues back into the Champions League despite a transfer ban and losing Eden Hazard to Real Madrid.

Lampard has been rewarded with some of the most exciting young attacking talent in Europe with the signings of Timo Werner, Kai Havertz and Hakim Ziyech.

A defence that conceded 54 Premier League goals last season has also been overhauled with the arrivals of England international left-back Ben Chilwell and former Brazil captain Thiago Silva, while the spending spree is not complete with Edouard Mendy expected to join from Rennes in the coming days to solve a problem position in goal.

"For some clubs it seems less important how uncertain the future is: those owned by countries, owned by oligarchs," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, who has a far more limited budget to work with. "We're a different kind of club."—AFP ■

Big spenders: Timo Werner is one of Chelsea's marquee signings in a £200 million transfer spend. **PHOTO: AFP**