TIME TO STAMP OUT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DUE TO FALLOUT FROM COVID-19 PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Khamee Nation Development Party, National Democratic Force (NDF) and National Development and Peace Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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168 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Malaysia by MAI relief flight

THE Myanmar Airways International flew a relief flight to bring 168 citizens back home from Malaysia.

As they arrived in Yangon yesterday afternoon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for immigration process, medical tests, and arrangement for their 14-day quarantine at the specific areas or the designated hotels, and 7-day quarantine at home.

The Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur is working closely with the relevant organizations in Malaysia to bring back Myanmar citizens who have no national verification and who were in detention centres, after their citizenship has been identified in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar has organized 14 relief flights for repatriation of nationals from Malaysia.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar returnees from Malaysia queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 16 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

319 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 September, total figure rises to 3,821

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to **3,821** after **319** new cases were reported on 16 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **3,821** confirmed cases, **40** died, **908** have been discharged from hospitals and **280** were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 16 September 2020

Total Cases	3,821
New Cases	319
Total Death Tally	40
Discharged from Hospital	908

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 16 September 2020

New PUIs	*280*

Ministry of Health and Sports

Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

1. People should not illegally come to Nay Pyi Taw. If a person comes back from other places to Nay Pyi Taw, he/she needs to inform and receive medical examination. The charge for COVID-19 tests has been considerably reduced.
2. It has been learnt that some people get out of the cars on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and some old roads, and then they entered Nay Pyi Taw via motorcycle roads and inter-village roads. So, authorities are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force to take strict measures to control these illegal entries.
3. The ward/village administrators have been instructed to report, manage and send individuals who entered or came back to the ward/village to the quarantine centres.
4. To make the flow of goods smooth, truck drivers will be given the slip at the entrance gate, from which the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be left. The truck drivers are not allowed to go to other places between the entrance gate and the exit gate.
5. Face mask rule has been imposed in Nay Pyi Taw townships and COVID-19 awareness has been raised via loudspeakers. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in force, and surprise checks have been carried out on restaurants.

UK launches $3.4 million project to redesign two major streets in Yangon

THE British Embassy in Yangon has announced a US$3.4 million project of the UK government to redesign two prominent streets in the city yesterday.

Under the 'Myoe Lann Thar project', Pansodan street and Kyun Taw road will be upgraded in close collaboration with the Yangon City Development Committee.

Consultations will also be held with local residents, businesses and street users before implementing the project which will focus on gender equality and inclusivity for ensuring that changes benefit all communities including people with disabilities, women, girls and those of all ages, according to the embassy's press release.

The assessments were conducted in selecting these two roads for the project. Pansodan street, in the downtown grid, is an important historic site, while Kyun Taw road is a typical suburban road.

British Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Dan Chugg, said, "I am delighted that the UK will be using its expertise in urban development to help Myanmar's cities grow sustainably, for the benefit of all local communities. We hope this project can act as a model for the future of Myanmar's cities, and will demonstrate how urban development can go hand in hand with social inclusion and environmental sustainability."

Pansodan street will be redesigned under 'Myoe Lann Thar project' funded by UK government. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

The engineering and consultancy firm, Mott MacDonald, will lead the project with a team of local and international specialists working in close collaboration with YCDC and other government partners.

The project team has now started its engagement with local residents, distributing a newsletter in the communities around the chosen streets and launching the MyoeLannThar Facebook page to share updates and gather feedback.

Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, the Secretary of YCDC, said, "YCDC is very happy to be part of Myoe Lann Thar. This project provides us the opportunity to work together to solve problems that we cannot do alone. In addition to the support from the project, our city can gain benefits by closely working with experienced local and international organizations as well as individuals. We hope we can all work together to solve the problems we face."

The project will explore the use of other online tools to ensure continued collaboration with local communities while respecting COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

After this participatory design process, construction work will begin in 2021.

Daw Hla Hla Toe, a local resident of Kyun Taw road, said, "I have lived on this road for 50 years since I was born. I welcome this kind of project, which I had never heard of before, and hope it can bring a better quality of life for the residents and businesses. I hope to get a better car parking management system after this project."— Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Transport Planning Department suspends services

THE Department of Transport Planning has announced suspension of its services (process for business licences) in accordance with the permission of Ministry of Transport and Communications, commencing 16-9-2020 (Wednesday), to prevent transmission of COVID-19. The works will resume only when the situations return to normal, and the availability of services will also be announced in advance.

Department of Transport Planning

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

Advice to people in Yangon Region

1. About 6,000 people have been quarantined in Yangon. Within two days, quarantine spaces were arranged for 1,000 people who came back from Rakhine State. Now, the number of people who had contacts with COVID-19 patients has increased, so seven new quarantine centres have been established for 1,000 more people. The civil society organizations and volunteers are invited to help the persons at the quarantine centres.
2. People in Yangon need to send the persons who had contacts with confirmed cases in the contact tracing to the quarantine centres without making them worried.
3. People should adhere to the required rules and regulations in the quarantine centres. When sending food to people in quarantine centres, alcohol and cigarettes should not be included in the delivery.
4. People in Yangon have lots of difficulties, challenges and burdens. Therefore, they need to strictly follow the rules by staying at home in two to three weeks during this period. In going outside for necessary reasons, they must wear masks. As Yangon City has a large number of population, people are also advised to abide by the rules of Ministry of Health and Sports amidst the increasing number of confirmed cases.

ASEAN ministers' meeting on human resources development held via videoconferencing

VIETNAM'S Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs yesterday organized the ASEAN ministers' meeting on human resources development in a changing world of work in the form of videoconferenceing.

The virtual meeting was participated by Myanmar's Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, other relevant Myanmar officials, Ministers of ASEAN member countries, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, officials of ASEAN Secretariat, leaders of Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), leaders of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), the ASEAN TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Council Chairperson, officials from ASEAN partner countries including China, the Republic of Korea and Japan, and ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, and World Bank.

During the meeting, Mr Dao Ngoc Dung, Vietnam's Minister for Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs delivered an opening speech.

ASEAN TVET Council Chairperson Dr Isidro Lapena explained the organizational structure of the council. The meeting focused on the roles of human resources development partners, the roles of human resources development in the post COVID-19 era, the roles of leaders from private sectors for human resources development, and preparing for future learning systems based on 21st century skills.

Union Minister U Thein Swe participates in the ASEAN ministers' meeting on human resources development in a changing world of work held via videoconferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar's Union Minister U Thein Swe said that new teaching and learning approaches are essential for developing 21st century skills. He added that in accordance with Myanmar's long-term balanced development project, the country would create equal opportunities regarding high-quality life-long education for people in order to develop 21st century skills of the people. He continued that Myanmar's new basic education curriculum would focus on people acquiring 21st century skills, soft skills, critical thinking skills, necessary knowledge and attitudes

He said that Myanmar was cooperating with the ministries and organizations concerned to enhance 21st century skills development through TVET programmes. He claimed that Myanmar drafted the National-level Skills Standard and had issued national-level skill certificates to workers in order to improve the labour market.

Currently Myanmar has Employment and Skill Development Law to support TVET system and to help job seekers and employers, according to the Union Minister. He said that from the virtual meeting, he gained good ideas to develop human resources in Myanmar.

Vietnam's Minister for Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Mr Dao Ngoc Dung delivered the concluding speech of the meeting.

During the meeting, Human resources development stakeholders of ASEAN countries discussed the member countries' current efforts for human resources development, and sought solutions to implement the relevant tasks. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Commerce Minister attends Myanmar-Korea meeting

The 1st Meeting of Joint Commission for Trade and Industrial Cooperation between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea was organized via videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint and Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy Mr Sung Yun-mo jointly chaired the meeting.

In his discussion, Union Minister Dr Than Myint discussed enhancement of the economy, trade ties, investment, industry and energy sectors between the two countries, measures to overcome the economic crisis through such cooperation.

Korean Minister Mr Sung Yun-mo talked about their investments in Myanmar in the sector of garment industries.

He also discussed increasing investment of his country and assistance to Myanmar for its products to the global consumer markets.

The ROK minister also remarked the bilateral trade volume will increase in other sectors such as trade, investment, industry and energy.

Director- General for Trade Department of Trade U Min Min, in his capacity as the joint-leader for Joint General Trade Working Group Committee presented setting goal for bilateral trade, cooperation in promotion of trade, export of potential products, easing some restrictions on trade sector and establishment of Korea Desk.

The ROK officials discussed the Myanmar-Korea Apparel Testing Research Institute (MKATRI), the Technology Advice and Solutions from Korea (TASK), investments in Myanmar textile sector, bilateral cooperation in foodstuffs production and packaging sectors, plans to develop rules and regulations for motor vehicles including MSMEs related matters.

Director-General for Department of Electric Power and Planning of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Daw Mi Mi Khaing, in her capacity as joint-leader of Joint Energy Working Group Committee also explained Dala power supply project, Kyaukphyu LNG project, Shwe Taung power plant project, Economic Innovation Partnership Programme (EIPP) for natural gas, KOICA and other cooperation works.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint joins the 1st Meeting of Joint Commission for Trade and Industrial Cooperation between Myanmar and ROK on 16 September. **PHOTO : MNA**

At the meeting, both sides agreed on more cooperation in trade, industry, energy and investment based on bilateral friendship, sustainable development for economy and social affairs. It was the first meeting to implement the MoU for the establishment of the Joint Commission for Trade and Industrial Cooperation signed by ROK's President Mr Moon Jae-in during his visit to Myanmar in September 2019.

The Joint Working Group Committee has held meetings in accordance with their relevant sectors on 11 September.

The 2nd Meeting of Joint Commission for Trade and Industrial Cooperation is scheduled in September 2021 in Seoul, Korea.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

207 Myanmar migrant workers return home via Myawady border

A total of 207 Myanmar migrant workers came back home from Thailand through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, his deputy U Aung Nyein Chan and officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

A total of 77,531 returnees have come back home through the border since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) *(Translated by TTN)*

Myanmar officials welcome migrant workers who return from Thailand via Myawady border bridge (2) on 16 September.. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

Myanmar arranges repatriation of 8 Thai nationals at Tachilek border

MYANMAR officials helped the return of 8 Thai nationals (2 men and 6 women) to their home from Tachilek through Myanmar-Thai Friendship bridge yesterday afternoon.

They underwent medical tests with taking their body temperature before being transferred to their home .

These Thai nationals worked in Tachilek and they are remaining persons of workforce who have left for their home after the shutdown of the factories.

Myanmar officials led by Assistant Director of the Tachilek Immigration Department (Division 6) U Maung Maung Myint and the Caring and Negotiating Committee for Myanmar Citizens (CNCMC) transferred the 8 Thai nationals and a team led by Chief of the Department of Health Priawpurin Manopeauw, Police In-charge of the bridge (2) Pathpon Onnoul and Immigration Officer Songsok Pakiang received the returnees.—Yar Sae (IDRP)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Thai nationals are seen at the immigration checkpoint of Myanmar-Thai Friendship bridge on 16 September. **PHOTO : YAR SAE (IDRP)**

Don't go outside of Yangon unnecessarily

With regard to travelling, as soon as positive cases were reported in Rakhine State and many cases were found in Sittway, travel restriction from this state to other areas was imposed. Although our people in Rakhine State wanted to go outside as usual, we did not pander to their wishes and persuaded them not to do so. This was not because of hatred towards them, but to prevent the spread of this disease to the other areas of the country. If the whole country had to suffer from this pandemic, we would not be able to focus on Rakhine State. This was the reason for imposing restrictions on the places with many cases. This disease is spreading in Yangon with a faster pace in comparing with that of other areas. So, we have to impose restrictions in Yangon. Don't go outside of Yangon unnecessarily. Authorities from other areas will conduct medical tests to those who come from the Yangon Region, and the visitors will have to stay under quarantine.

(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)

Union Minister for Education calls for development of competitive human resources

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins ASEAN High-Level Ministerial Conference on Human Resources Development on 16 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi joined the ASEAN High-Level Ministerial Conference on Human Resources Development held on 15 and 16 September, and emphasized the need of competitive human resources. In his discussion, the Union Minister said that the young persons are now facing technology development, globalization, climate changes and changing labour market, and he also remarked the youth needs to learn the importance of human resources development which has competitive advantages for securing decent jobs, how to become a good citizen, coordination, responsibility, accountability and initiative. The Union Minister also discussed the needs of capacity for problem solving to tackle challenges from technology development, learning, communications, personality and social affairs which have become fundamentals for private sector development, including small and medium scaled businesses. He also concluded that quality education, and technical and vocational education could fulfil the need of labour market, while knowledge, quality and skills must be applied in jobs.

The Union Minister also took part in the question and answer session of the panel discussions. The conference also announced the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work.—MNA *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

MoHT discusses COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan

Union Minister U Ohn Maung presides over COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan meeting on 16 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung presided over the videoconferencing meeting for the performance of the ministry regarding its completed works and future functions for COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) of government yesterday morning.

The MoHT has adopted the Myanmar Tourism Relief Plan to provide the development of Myanmar tourism industry in the outbreak of COVID-19 and in post-COVID-19 period.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Latt, Director-General for the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Kyaw, ministry officials, chairpersons and executive members of Myanmar Tourism and its 11 associate members joined the meeting.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Ohn Maung explained the tourism relief plans of his ministry in detail which was carried out within a fixed duration in COVID-19 period including future working plans.

He also urged the attendees to give suggestions for the COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan.

He also added that the infection rate of COVID-19 is now increasing significantly as second wave and the domestic and foreign travels are suspended and it seriously affects the hotel and tourism businesses.

As an appendix of CERP, the ministry implemented the road map for COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan which included 3 strategic keys to help rebuild Myanmar's tourism during the outbreak of COVID-19 and in post-COVID-19 period.

Moreover, the ministry also conducted COVID-19 Impact Assessment Survey to draft Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2015-2025) to have better Myanmar tourism industry in post-COVID-19 period by co-operating with the international organization called LuxDev.

The ministry will also consider the condition of New Normal Situation that might be faced when the COVID-19 hit businesses resume their operations and will put the main facts in the action plans for the future development of tourism sector.

It will continuously provide to implement the new market and tourism marketing strategies, to conduct training courses and to offer scholarship programmes for the staff for human resources development.

It will conduct healthcare trainings in line with the SOP (Standard Operation Procedure) for New Normal and provide the training schools of hotels and tourism.

The Union Minister also called on the chairpersons and officials of Myanmar Tourism Federation and its 11 associate members who attended the meeting to give suggestions on how to resist the second wave of COVID-19 based on their experiences.

Then, Deputy Minister U Tin Latt and Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw presented the facts in COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan while Deputy Director-General U Aung Aye Han briefed the completed works and future action plans.

The officials of Myanmar Tourism Federation and its 11 associate members respectively explained their implementations based on COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan and the Union Minister instructed the necessary things.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

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YBS lines to face legal action if violate advertising terms: YRTA

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has said that legal action will be taken against the YBS lines which fail to comply with the terms and conditions when placing advertisements on the buses.

"The bus lines must follow the 2020 Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law and 2018 Yangon Municipal Law, which are related to placing advertisements," said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the YRTA.

At present, some YBS bus lines are conducting election campaigns by flying political party flags on the YBS buses operating in Yangon region.

Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) holds a press conference on 16 September. **PHOTO: GNLM**

"We have found that it can cause unnecessary problems among the passengers if the bus lines are launching election campaign by hoisting party flags on the public buses," he said.

"Therefore, we have informed the bus line companies and the privately supervised bus lines that they need to comply with those rules and regulations or face legal action," he added.

Therefore, YRTA has an announcement that YBS bus lines will have legal action taken if they fail to comply with those terms and conditions, which are related to the posting of the advertisements on the YBS buses, according to YRTA.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Pansodan-Dala ferry reduces routes due to commuters' decline

PANSODAN-DALA ferry line has reduced its operation routes because of the declining number of commuters and prevention of coronavirus transmission, according to the Delta Division of Inland Water Transport (IWT).

Yangon Pansodan-Dala ferry operations have reduced their routes to 30 starting from 12 September because there are fewer passengers onboard the ferry boats and because they want to control and prevent the pandemic spreading, according to IWT.

"Previously, three "Cherry" ferry vessels were providing their transport services with 46 routes between Pansodan and Dala jetties. With the rising number of coronavirus positive patients, the express buses between Dala and Ayeyawady Region were suspended. On the other hand, the number of passengers has also dropped.

So, the operation of the water ferry was also reduced to 16 routes fewer than normal routes," said an official from IWT.

On 11 September, the staff from IWT under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications launched the mask campaigns for the Wahdan-Dala ferry passengers at the jetties and distributed the masks to the passengers.

The Pansodan-Dala jetty is the only gateway for the local people in southern Yangon—Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships and some townships in Ayeyawady Region to link themselves with the commercial hub of Yangon City.

A water ferry seen in Yangon River.
PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)

Three motor vessels named Cherry 1, 2 and 3, donated by Japan have been running 46 times per day for 30,000 commuters approximately. The port is one of the crowded places in the town. The ferry vessels are running from 5:30 am to 9 pm daily. —Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

65 Myanmar seamen spend hotel quarantine in Kawthoung

A total of 65 Myanmar seamen who signed off from the ships anchored in the Andaman Sea arrived in Kawthoung on 15 September and are currently held under quarantine.

Out of 65 seamen, 5 signed off from MV Koryu-8 of Brazil, 9 signed off from MV Nymph of South Korea, 9 signed off from MT Super Eastern of Bangladesh, 7 signed off from MT Eastern One of China, 2 from MV Melbourne Spirit of India, 18 signed off from MV Koto Anggerik of Bangladesh, 2 signed off from MV Haoyue of Singapore, and 13 signed off from MV Maersk Songkhla of Bangladesh.

The local port authorities and health officials helped them with medical tests, other supplies and the 21-day hotel quarantine, while their swabs are sent to the National Health Laboratory of Yangon.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) *(Translated by E'i Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Myanmar seamen arrive in Kawthoung on 15 September after they signed off their vessels.
PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

Myanmar eyes US fish market with local fisheries exports

MYANMAR fisheries sector is hit hard by the coronavirus fallouts, and the Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to penetrate the US's fish and seafood market, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated.

The offshore fishing season commenced on 1 September, and fish and shrimp supply has entered Yangon starting from 7 September. Myanmar fishery products exports to the countries in Asia have been severely affected by the global coronavirus outbreak. To effectively mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, the ministry is exerting the concerted efforts to enter the US fish market.

A breeding pond for Anabas fingerling. **PHOTO:THAN HTIKE, HTET MYAT**

"The coronavirus consequences hurt the stability in Asia fish market. The Commerce Ministry is trying to connect with their counterparts. To export the fishery products to the foreign market, we monitor that the offshore fishing vessels have to use nets with turtle excluder devices to protect endangered sea turtles. Imported seafood from the neighbouring countries are displayed at city marts, and local people are consuming them. That is why we like to encourage seafood fish processing plants to widely distribute in domestic markets, rather than depending on unstable markets. It will also stop cash flow out of the country. It will benefit local consumers as well as entrepreneurs. Furthermore, I like the processing plants to improve production quality," said Dr Yin Yin Moe, head of Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production, including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish, is far better than the regional countries. If the State can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy and earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain.

When the offshore fishing season ends, the business people can supply freshwater fish to the city mart holdings, and it will help curb the inflow of fish and seafood from the foreign markets.

Myanmar's fishery products have been placed on over 40 countries in Asia. Myanmar, which has a long coastline, had better keep up with the regional governments to explore more foreign markets.

Additionally, the wild-caught fish are sent to the UK, Italy, France, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Greece, Belgium, and Germany markets.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted to be exported to the EU market. As exports of Myanmar farmed fish to the European Union have now been allowed, breeders are undertaking necessary measures to ensure Myanmar fishery products meet the rules and regulations of the EU market, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

The European market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) certificates to ensure food safety.

The fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAqP to meet EU import standards. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAqP system. Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Export earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 4 September in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$797.88 million, an increase of $119.9 million from the year-ago period, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth $530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth $480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth $500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth $600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth $700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tonnes worth $728.257 million in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Than Htike, Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Govt to disburse second COVID loan in September last week

By Nyein Nyein

THE second batch of COVID-19 loan will be paid out to the businesses stricken by the coronavirus impacts in the last week of September, said U Aung Naing Oo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MoIFER).

At present, the loan applications are being screened, and about 1,000 businesses will be provided with the second COVID-19 loan for the first time in the last week of September.

"We will start to disburse the loan for the first time. Approximately 1,000 loan applications will be approved," the MoIFER permanent secretary said.

The COVID loan applications by the businesses stricken by the coronavirus impacts were received between 29 July and 10 August.

Over 7,600 businesses from the regions and states other than Yangon manually applied for the loan at the relevant offices. The federation received more than 800 online applications. More than 1,500 businesses were sent loan applications to UMFCCI office in Yangon.

Over 10,000 businesses put in the loan application in the second batch of the COVID loan, and 75 per cent of them are from the regions and states outside Yangon, which accounts for 25 per cent of the applications.

The priority sectors for K100 billion from the second batch of COVID loan are agriculture and livestock enterprises, manufacturing businesses, import-substitution businesses, food and beverage businesses, overseas employment agencies, export and import businesses, and vocational schools.

The 2019-2020 additional budget of K100 billion is to be put into the second COVID fund to remedy the businesses hit hard by the pandemic.

The government started the first COVID fund to the business stricken by the coronavirus impacts, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving fund and another K50 billion from the social welfare fund. The loan is set to pay off within one year, at one per cent of the interest rate.

In the first batch, more than 4,250 businesses applied for the loan and 3,393 of them received the loan in line with the loan procedures. Over K101 billion have been disbursed under seven batches, announced the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355

External trade tops $34 bln as of 4 September

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 4 September in the 2019-2020 financial year touched a high of US$34.35 billion, an increase of $1.84 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at $32.5 billion, according to the data released by the ministry.

Myanmar's foreign trade has shown a 10-per cent increase, year over year, under the incumbent government. Myanmar has already reached a total trade value of $34 billion for the current FY, said an official from the ministry.

The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export, enhance value-added production, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services.

In the current budget year, both maritime and border trade recorded an increase compared with the year-ago period, with exports estimated at over $16.4 billion and imports valued at $17.9 billion.

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

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from CMP (cutting, making, and packing) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

At present, CMP garment sector which contributes to over 20 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is facing hardship due to the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid coronavirus consequences. As a result of this, manufacturing export, mainly CMP garment, and raw materials imported by the CMP businesses showed a drop amid the pandemic shock, highlighted the business people.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Time to stamp out trafficking in persons due to fallout from COVID-19

THE impact of COVID-19 is not confined to sickness and death. Individuals without an income and other forms of support due to impacts of COVID-19 are at greater risk of being fraudulently recruited and falling victim to trafficking.

The United Nations has also warned that the fallout of COVID-19 - from business closures to shut borders - could drive more people into forced labour or sexual exploitation, and mean victims are less likely to be rescued or receive support.

> Due to COVID-19, there are fewer employment opportunities, creating more vulnerabilities and increasing the need to migrate elsewhere for job opportunities, which in turn may lead to increased cases of human trafficking.

Now, our country is also facing the same challenge. Due to COVID-19, there are fewer employment opportunities, creating more vulnerabilities and increasing the need to migrate elsewhere for job opportunities, which in turn may lead to increased cases of human trafficking.

Despite efforts being taken to fight human trafficking, in accordance with the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Law, trafficking-in-persons cases have not declined significantly year by year.

Trafficking is occurring in different forms — from exploitation of internal migrants and migrants crossing the border, and from sexual exploitation to forced marriage in neighboring countries.

From the 7th Anniversary of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day which fell on 30 July last year to 8th anniversary this year, 148 trafficking in person cases have been identified and actions have been taken on a total of 475 offenders comprising of 170 males and 305 females.

A total of 222 victims of trafficking comprising 45 males and 177 females including 6 male and 40 female child victims have been rescued. A total of 388 offenders comprising 145 males and 243 females have been prosecuted and a total of 231 offenders, comprising 92 males and 139 females have been punished.

Our achievements in tackling trafficking in persons in recent years must not be undone by the coronavirus pandemic.

Now is the time for our country, which is grappling with internal armed conflicts, natural disasters and the global pandemic of COVID-19, to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts during the global COVID-19 crisis.

To tackle human trafficking amidst and post COVId-19, we must ensure equal access to healthcare, services for unemployed persons, and other welfare services for vulnerable individuals and must guarantee that those who need this support the most can effectively access it.

Ending trafficking in persons requires a firm commitment, and not just at the institutional level. It also requires a broad involvement of international civil society organizations which are working tirelessly with governmental organizations at large. And, most of all — we need the involvement of men.

WHO ISSUES PLEA FOR US $35 BILLION TO FAST-TRACK COVID-19 VACCINES

WHO's three messages for UN75

Pooling investments globally, the ACT-Accelerator provides a chance for all countries to access a greater number of tools more quickly, sharing the risks and costs together.

As the world comes together at an unprecedented virtual session of the 75th UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 15 September, WHO has three messages to share.

Equitable access to COVID-19 tools

The first is about equitable access to COVID-19 tools. At UNGA, WHO will call on world leaders to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)-Accelerator, a unique international collaboration to fast-track the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines globally, while strengthening health systems.

Pooling investments globally, the ACT-Accelerator provides a chance for all countries to access a greater number of tools more quickly, sharing the risks and costs together.

The ACT-Accelerator needs US$35 billion to fast-track the development, procurement and distribution of 2 billion vaccine doses, 245 million treatments and 500 million tests over the next year.

The investment needed in a global solution aimed at equitable access pales in comparison to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the domestic stimulus packages designed to keep economies afloat.

Equitable access enables all countries to achieve full recovery by supporting all economic sectors, protecting the global value chain, and securing long-term global growth.

Achieving the sustainable development goals

The second message is about maintaining the momentum towards achieving the sustainable development goals. The pandemic risks unravelling decades of gains made in health and development.

According to a recent WHO survey, 90% of countries are experiencing disruptions to essential health services due to the pandemic. The most frequently disrupted areas reported include routine immunization, non-communicable diseases diagnosis and treatment, family planning and contraception, treatment for mental health disorders, and cancer diagnosis and treatment.

COVID-19 offers a stark reminder of why we need to invest in stronger health and data systems, rooted in primary healthcare, to achieve universal health coverage and to meet the health-related targets of the SDGs.

The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (GAP) works to accelerate country progress on the health-related targets of the SDGs, with the support of 12 multilateral agencies engaged in health, development and humanitarian response. This week we'll learn about the progress made in laying the groundwork for a decade of delivery and action.

Prepare for the next pandemic

Finally, we must prepare for the next pandemic together, now. COVID-19 has shown us that the world was woefully unprepared – despite the many warning signs and warnings.

Medical staff preparing pre-screening procedures at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases building at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore on Jan 31, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/ROSLAN RAHMAN**

A year ago at UNGA, the independent Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) warned of the threat of a pandemic, calling for global leaders to take urgent, united action to prepare.

Earlier this week, the GPMB issued its 2020 report "World in disorder". The report looks at a world disorientated by COVID-19, suffering from a lack of leadership and timely action. It calls for a renewed commitment to multilateralism and to WHO.

At UNGA, WHO will call on all citizens and leaders to support the five actions outlined in the GPMB 2020 report: responsible leadership; engaged citizenship; strong and agile systems for health security; sustained investment and robust global governance of preparedness.

Our actions today will define our collective future.

SOURCE: WHO

UNWTO PUTS HALF-YEARLY LOSS FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AT US$460 BILLION

Virus cost global tourism US$460 billion in January-June: UN

Revenue lost between January and June amounted to "around five times the loss in international tourism receipts recorded in 2009 amid the global economic and financial crisis," the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization said in a statement.

The coronavirus crisis cost the global tourism sector $460 billion in lost revenue during the first six months of 2020 as the number of people travelling plunged, the UN said Tuesday.

Revenue lost between January and June amounted to "around five times the loss in international tourism receipts recorded in 2009 amid the global economic and financial crisis," the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization said in a statement.

International tourist arrivals fell by 440 million during the period, or 65 per cent, with Asia, the first region to feel the impact of COVID-19, seeing the steepest decline, it added.

Airport terminals were largely deserted during coronavirus lockdowns. **PHOTO: AFP**

Despite the gradual reopening of many destinations since the second half of May, the anticipated improvement in international tourism numbers during the peak summer season in the Northern Hemisphere did not materialize. Europe was the second hardest hit of all global regions, with a 66 per cent decline in tourist arrivals in the first half of 2020. The Americas (-55 per cent), Africa and the Middle East (both -57 per cent) also suffered. Asia and the Pacific, the first region to feel the impact of COVID-19 on tourism, was the hardest hit, with a 72 per cent fall in tourists for the six-month period.

"This represents an unprecedented decrease, as countries around the world closed their borders and introduced travel restrictions in response to the pandemic," the Tourism Organization said.

"The latest World Tourism Barometer shows the deep impact this pandemic is having on tourism, a sector upon which millions of people depend for their livelihoods. However, safe and responsible international travel is now possible in many parts of the world, and it is imperative that governments work closely with the private sector to get global tourism moving again. Coordinated action is key," Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General, UNWTO said.

While tourism is slowly returning to some destinations, the UN body warned that "reduced travel demand and consumer confidence" would continue to hurt the sector for the rest of the year.

It predicted international tourist arrivals will plunge by around 70 per cent in 2020 owing to the coronavirus.

International tourism arrivals rose by four per cent in 2019 to 1.5 billion, with France the world's most visited country, followed by Spain and the United States.

The last time international tourist arrivals posted an annual decline was in 2009 when the global economic crisis led to a four per cent drop.

The UN body said it expects it will take two to four years for tourist arrivals to return to 2019 levels

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 16th September, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Khamee Nation Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Khamee Nation Development Party Secretary 2 U Oo Than Htay presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 16 September.

Esteemed national brethren and people of the Union

I am U Oo Than Htay, Secretary 2 of the Khamee Nation Development Party. I wish all the voters of the country physical and mental wellbeing.

The vision of the party

We founded the Khamee Nation Development Party in June 2010 and applied for party registration at the Union Election Commission, which approved our application on 9 July the same year. Our registration number is at 37. Our people are mainly living in various parts of northern Rakhine State. We are a backward community. We are a minority party of the north of Rakhine State with the mission to ensure equal rights for our people as the citizens of the Union. In other words, our mission is to enjoy civil and political rights as all the nationalities of the Union. Another task is to preserve our Khamee nation identity.

Our head office is at No 144, Hsinku Street, Ward 1, Sittway, Rakhine State.

Our policy

The following is our four-point policy:

1. Joining hands with all the other nationalities of the Union for eternally standing as a federal democratic nation in the world;
2. Effective establishment of a genuine federal democratic system through the joint efforts among all the ethnic races;
3. Support the development of other ethnic races while striving for the physical, intellectual and moral development of the ethnic Khamee people;
4. Preserve our traditions, culture and customs and national characteristics and embrace and nurture innovative ideas in accordance with the age.

Future action programmes

They are as follow:

1. For all the ethnic peoples of the Union to stand firm in the world with national solidarity, which represents the sovereignty of the country;
2. Implementing the multiparty system through equality, mutual respect, individual rights and freedom among the nationalities;
3. Strive with might and main for development of Khamee people and other ethnic races;
4. Solidify our ethnic races living in diversity due to the geographical and ethnical differences;
5. Cooperate with other ethnic races and organizations, if necessary, in the interest of Khamee people.

I have already presented a brief account of the party's vision, mission, and policy and future action programmes. Now I will present the flag of the party, which is also the flag of Khamee people, and the logo of the party.

The flag bears green, white and blue stripes with equal width. It has a blue patch at the top, and the centre is a white spot, and the base is green. On the left side of the blue patch is the red morning star or the "makhi-ark-sink" in our language.

The blue colour stands for the sky and represents peace and stability, while the red morning star signifies courage, activeness and decisiveness. The white colour stands for purity of mind and honesty, and the green represents the world which is green, clean and stable.

Logo

It is a yellow bird which is called "Wa-ma-yark" in the Khamee language, resting on a branch. The background colour is blue. The picture represents the steadiness and tranquillity.

Slogan

We adopt 'Collective coordination, individual responsibility'.

Esteemed voters and the national people in Rakhine State

The party will take part in the coming election for a seat each in the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Rakhine State constituency 1. U Phyu Tun will stand for the MraukU Township constituency of the Amyotha Hluttaw, U Hla Tun Kyaw, for the Kyauktaw constituency of the Pyithu Hluttaw, and U Kan Sein, for the Buthidaung Township constituency 1 of the Rakhine State Hluttaw.

Esteemed nationalities and ethnic voters of Rakhine State

We are the brethren of the ethnic races of Rakhine, and we have been living in weal or woe with them throughout the long history. Mutual assistance among the nationalities of Rakhine State is essential for ensuring peace, tranquillity and prosperity for them.

The party wishes to serve the interest of the state and the country from the respective sector as a national task. As we are a minority of the ethnic Rakhine races, we request the people to vote our party, with the yellow bird logo, and rally behind it, so that we may have the opportunity to take part in the serving the interest of the Rakhine State and the Union in accord with the Constitution.

May all the national brethren of the Union and the people and the voters of Rakhine State enjoy good luck and be free from all dangers.

Thank you all.

Campaign speeches of Bamar People's Party, National League for Democracy (NLD) and Kokang Democracy and Unity Party to be broadcast on 17 Sept, published on 18 Sept

CAMPAIGN speeches of Bamar People's Party, National League for Democracy (NLD) and Kokang Democracy and Unity Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 17 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 18 September. — MNA

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

National Democratic Force (NDF) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

National Democratic Force (NDF) Chairman U Khin Maung Swe presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 16 September.

Esteemed voters and people

I am U Khin Maung Swe, Chairman of the National Democratic Force (NDF). Our party has nominated 100 persons in the coming election. We were able to work with might and main for the people from the parliament during the first five years of our ten-year political journey. We never lose sight of the general public requirements during the remaining five years while taking part in the politics from outside the parliament. There will be no freedom if the social problem of insufficiency in the basic needs still exists, and that is our belief. In this regard, we are embracing the policy of social liberalism, which states that a democratic society cannot be materialized in the presence of social hardships. We will adopt the market-based mixed economic system that will ensure equal economic opportunities. Only then will the people of the poor category also have a secure life, apart from a handful of wealthy people.

Esteemed voters and people

Now, Myanmar is facing the changing trends, as the issue of the federal Union has become its main political requirement in addition to democracy. Economy and politics come together. So, economic development, including the basic needs of the people, has become a case NDF is taking into account seriously. In so doing, we have already prioritized the agro-economy, which the great majority of the rural people are relying upon. In this regard, we will steer the country to become the top rice exporter through the application of modern farm machinery. The following are our programmes for national development:

1. Development of the agro-economy as the main issue;
2. Establishment of ecotourism sites at the snow-capped mountains in the north of the country and the evergreen islands in the south;
3. Encourage micro, small and medium enterprises through the joint production of farm machinery and multiple-used machinery in the country. The topic NDF will put forward in the parliament is the development of agriculture, industry and service sectors based on their ratio in the GDP growth.

Esteemed voters and people

NDF will never leave the people. We are not a party that will not stay idle while the workers have no life security. So, the party promises to stand by the workers in conducting legal amendments in their interest.

For example, we will ensure:

— salaries for workers in accord with the social security law during the layoffs;
— legal protection and compensation against occupational sexual harassment; and
— a secure life for workers by prioritizing the continuous and long-term running of factories and workplaces. So, the factories and workplaces will have sufficient power supply in the future.

Esteemed voters and people

NDF places in the fore the interest of the nationalities, and its adopted political duty is the development of the socio-economy of the people. It will never ignore the farmers who are feeding the people and generating income for the country.

— Land ownership under grant system for all the nationality farmers working on ancestral land including retrievers or land re-claimers;
— Increase in the agriculture loans and exemption from re-paying the loans for farmers who have lost their ground due to natural disaster or war;
— A two-year suspension period for farmers who are heavily in debt and facing difficulties in settling the loans, and a call for direct distribution of international agriculture loans in the agriculture sector;
— Promise to raise in the parliament the issue of reducing the mediums in exporting rice, establishing direct links between the producers and the market and finding new markets.

Esteemed national people

NDF will never ignore the people, and it will be politically loyal to the people. So, the socio-economic development and ensuring the basic needs of the people is its priority number one. It will protect languages, literature, culture and religion of the ethnic races. Hence, flourishing of the love for the country, patriotism, Union spirit is the second priority. The perpetuation of sovereignty is its third priority. The party will never tolerate any harm to the national interest, and it is its standpoint. If elected, the NDF that is loyal to the people makes a solemn promise that it will be staying away from any act that may make people unhappy. We promise real change, in conclusion.

Wearing 'Khamauk' (traditional cap), we must change!

Cinema is not 'comfort food,' Scorsese warns Covid-hit festival

LOS ANGELES—Martin Scorsese warned that cinema is becoming "marginalized and devalued" as a "form of comfort food" during the coronavirus pandemic, as he addressed the Toronto film festival Tuesday.

Scorsese, no stranger to controversy after last year slamming popular superhero blockbusters as "not cinema", spoke as movie theatres remain closed in major US cities including Los Angeles and New York.

Toronto, North America's largest film festival, is taking place mainly online this year, along with a handful of drive-in and limited capacity indoor screenings.

In a short video introducing the event's annual career achievement gala, Scorsese praised the festival for going ahead at all.

"The fact that film festivals are continuing to happen -- improvising, adapting, making it all work somehow -- is very moving to me," said the Oscar-winning "Goodfellas" director.

"Because in the press and the popular culture, what's happening... it's becoming sadly common to see cinema marginalized and devalued, and in this situation categorized sort of as a form of comfort food."

Millions around the world have spent the past few months locked at home due to the pandemic, with many binge-watching television and films from their living rooms.

In a blistering New York Times op-ed last November, Scorsese said movie theatres are the place "where the filmmaker intended her or his picture to be seen," and warned superhero movies were crowding auteurs off the big screen.—AFP ■

More French schools closed after virus cases detected

PARIS—More French schools have closed after multiple students tested positive for Covid-19 while a further 2,100 individual classes have also been called off, Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said Wednesday.

Early last week, just 28 schools were closed shortly after the school year resumed but that number has climbed to 81 over the past week.

"We have around 1,200 new Covid cases among students compared with last week," Blanquer told LCI television. "We shut down a class as soon as there are three cases."

He noted that the closures represent just a small fraction of the 60,000 schools across France, calling the beginning of the new school year "the best possible given the health crisis."

French officials have warned nonetheless that new restrictions might be required to stem a worrying increase in coronavirus cases since August. Late Tuesday, the University of Montpellier in southern France said it had suspended classes at its medical school after some 60 students tested positive after a party.—AFP ■

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

National Development and Peace Party Chairman U Zaw Min presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 16 September.

Greetings to all esteemed citizens.
May you possess peace of mind and prosperity and be free from COVID-19.

I am the Chairman of the National Development and Peace Party, U Zaw Min.

Objective

Our objective is to establish a modern, developed and peaceful democratic nation. We will peacefully achieve this objective through united cooperation with all citizens that are peacefully coexisting together.

Belief

The National Development and Peace Party believes in the three causes of preventing the disintegration of the union, ethnic solidarity and perpetuating sovereignty as national duties towards a sus-tainable nation.

Esteemed voters

Policy

The policies of the National Development and Peace Party are as follow:

(a) National policy – Preventing disintegration of the union, preserving ethnic solidarity, and perpetuating sovereignty. We will prioritize these three causes and endeavour for the emergence of a de-veloped and peaceful nation.

(b) Political policy – We will prioritize the wellbeing and development of all citizens born and living in the Union of Myanmar through a disciplined multiparty democratic system.

(c) Economic policy – We will implement a free and fair market-based economic system.

(d) Foreign policy – We will prioritize policies on peaceful coexistence and practice foreign policy free of bias yet active and free.

(e) Defence policy – We will strive for a defence force that can fully protect the nation from internal and external dangers.

(f) Human rights policy – We will ensure the full rights and entitlements of all citizens in line with the Constitution.

(g) Religious and social policy – We will respect and implement the right to freedom of religion. We will support philanthropic efforts.

(h) Education policy – We will continuously strive to improve education for the entire population and ensure they meet international standards. We will develop the human resource of the nation.

(i) Collaboration policy—We will collaborate with political parties in line with our political policies.

(j) Health policy – We will strive for good health and longevity of all citizens.

(k) Cultural policy – We will preserve and promote our literature, culture and art heritage.

Esteemed voters

Work programmes

(a) National work programme – We will implement the following steps for non-disintegration of the union, preserving ethnic solidarity and perpetuating sovereignty:

(1) We will steadfastly hold on to the constitutional stipulation to prevent any region of the nation from breaking away.

(2) We will strive for equal development of each region's socio-economy and infrastructure and peace.

(b) Political work programme – We will implement the following steps to ensure practical implemen-tation of a disciplined multi-party democratic system for the Union of Myanmar:

(1) We will perpetuate human rights in line with the designated standards and within the legal framework.

(2) We will strive for the emergence of democratic practices that balances freedom, fairness and peaceful coexistence in Myanmar's new society.

(3) We will implement checks and balance between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government essential to national sovereignty.

(c) Defence work programme – We will implement the following steps to ensure full protection from internal and external dangers on the nation:

(1) We will develop the Defence Services into a modern military.

(2) We will manage all citizens to be a part of national security.

(d) Economic work programme – We will implement the following steps to ensure a free and fair market-based economy in Myanmar:

(1) We will continuously strive for equal participation of the government, all regional organizations and private sector entities in relevant economic activities.

(2) We will strive to close the gap in economic inequality and between urban and rural development.

(3) We will strive to protect the possessions of all citizens.

(4) We will strive to ensure all citizens have access to basic needs, improving their livelihoods through employment opportunities, and increasing individual income.

Esteemed voters

In conclusion, the National Development and Peace Party will combine international and domestic experiences, while basing on human resources, to faithfully boost national economic development. Thus, we respectfully request you to cast your vote for us, and we pray for you to achieve all your wishes.

Be successful Myanmar.

Be peaceful Myanmar.

Be prosperous Myanmar.

Thank you.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (916 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (916 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WARNOW TROUT VOY. NO. (091W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WARNOW TROUT VOY. NO. (091W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HUI FENG 9 V.2010

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HUI FENG 9 VOY. NO. (2010)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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

EU chief says Brexit deal 'cannot be changed' by law

BRUSSELS—EU chief Ursula von der Leyen complained Wednesday that hopes of a post-Brexit trade deal are fading and warned Britain not to unilaterally modify the withdrawal deal. "With every day that passes, chances for a timely agreement do start to fade," the president of the European Commission said in her annual State of the European Union address."Negotiations are always difficult, and we are used to that... But talks have not progressed, as we would have wished. And that leaves us very little time."Von der Leyen warned the attempt by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to override parts of the withdrawal treaty he signed last year is illegal and unacceptable. "This withdrawal agreement took three years to negotiate," she said. "And we worked relentlessly on it line by line word by word, and together we succeeded." The result "guarantees our citizens rights, financial interests, the integrity of the single market and crucially, the Good Friday Agreement," she said.—AFP ■

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture MAC Chem (Asia) Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name-

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Mega Shwe Yaung	Shwe Nofos	Profenofos 50% EC	Full	F 2016-1070

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: **Mega Grow International Co., Ltd.**
No.216/222, 9- Floor, B8-C8, Bo Myat Tun Housing, Bahabadoola Road, Pazudaung Township, Yangon Region. Ph.01-292 772

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR

The foreign manufacturer ZHEJIANG TIDE CROPSCIENCE Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing distributor form former Myanmar Golden Byter Co., Ltd. to Golden Key Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Tide-Paclo 15 WP	Paclobutrazol 15% WP	Provisional	P 2019-4692

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing distributor.

Address: **Myanmar Golden Byler Co., Ltd.**
No (125-127). Kha 11 street, Myo Thit (A+B) Quarter, Insein Townships, Yangon.
Phone: 09- 799 570 490.

Trademark Caution Notice

EtonHouse International Holdings Pte. Ltd, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Singapore, with the Company Registration No. 199407004R and having its registered office at 178, Clemenceau Avenue #06-00, Haw Par Glass Tower, Singapore 239926 (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is the owner of and has registered the following trademark at Office of Deeds of Registration, Yangon.

MIDDLETON

Registration No: (4/2764) (Date: 4.3.2020)

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U Moe Myint Yan Aung, (H.G.P) No. 51260
For **EtonHouse International Holdings Pte. Ltd**
Dentons Myanmar Limited.
Unit 1601, Level 16, OfficeTower 2A, Times City Complex, Between Kyuntaw and Hanthawaddy Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon
Email: mm.dml@dentons.com
Date: 17th September, 2020

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9/2020–2021)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L–158(20–21)	Spares for CAT 3508 Water Pump Engine (57) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L–159(20–21)	Spares for Cooper Well Servicing Truck (1) Item	Ks
(c)	DMP/L–160(20–21)	Spares for Dong Feng Nissan Tractor (62) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L–161(20–21)	Spares for Reintjes Gearbox (WAF264L) Ex MTBN–5 River Craft (84) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L–162(20–21)	Spares for Hitachi Sumitomo Crane (44) Items	Ks
(f)	DMP/L–163(20–21)	Spares for Grove (KT 530E–2) Crane (28) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L–164(20–21)	Spares for SR–700L Kato Rough Terrain Crane (20) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L–165(20–21)	Spares for Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor (43) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L–166(20–21)	Spares for Caterpillar G3516C Generating Set Gas Engine (100) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L–167(20–21)	Assorted Kinds of Shaker Screen and Shaker Accessories For Drilling Rigs (5) Groups	Ks
(k)	DMP/L–168(20–21)	Spares for K 280 and PZG 7 Rig Pump (2) Groups	Ks
(l)	DMP/L–169(20–21)	Assorted Diameters of API 5L Steel Line Pipes (2) Items	Ks
(m)	DMP/L–170(20–21)	SJS SERVA (TPB600) CMTG Unit Spares & Cementing Accessories (5) Groups	Ks
(n)	DMP/L–171(20–21)	Echometer Digital Well Analyzer, Wellbore Cleaning Tools, Fishing Tools for Tubing & Sucker Rod, Spares for T–8 Wilden Pump (4) Groups	Ks
(o)	DMP/L–172(20–21)	Hand Tools for Production Testing & Well Servicing (1) Lot	Ks
(p)	DMP/L–173(20–21)	Gas Control and Metering System (1) Lot	Ks
(q)	DMP/L–174(20–21)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (3) Groups	Ks
(r)	DMP/L–175(20–21)	Kingdon Suite Soft Ware, Petrel Geophysics Core System, Seismic Design & Software (3) Items	Ks
(s)	DMP/L–176(20–21)	ရေနံချောင်း-မကွေး ၂၀" သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ပိုက်လိုင်း သံချေးစားကာကွယ်မှုစနစ် (CP System) တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း	Ks
(t)	DMP/L–177(20–21)	ပြည်-မြန်အောင် ၁၀" သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ပိုက်လိုင်း သံချေးစားကာကွယ်မှုစနစ် (CP System) တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း	Ks
(u)	DMP/L–178(20–21)	နေပြည်တော်ဒေတာစင်တာနှင့်ဆက်စပ်သော သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ဖြန့်ဖြူးမှု စောင့်ကြပ်ထိန်းချုပ်သည့်ဗဟိုစံနစ် (Central Control Integrated Monitoring System (CCIMS) အား Turn Key စနစ်ဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(v)	DMP/L–179(20–21)	ရွာမပင်မသဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ထိန်းဖြန့်စခန်းအဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ခြင်း (System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements For Ywarma GDS) အား Turn Key စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(w)	IFB–001(20–21)	Cement Additives	US$
(x)	IFB–002(20–21)	Geological Scale Ruler, Geo X Discovery Package 1 User License Latest Version Includes, SQL Server 2019 Standard License (Server and Client)	US$

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 **16 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 **15 October 2020.**

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **15–10–2020, 12:00 pm**

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALENTEJO V.202001

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALENTEJO V.202001 VOY. NO. (202001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V YAN DUN JIAO 1

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V YAN DUN JIAO 1 VOY. NO. (NB2020059)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MSTL-4** 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

Yoshihide Suga took office as Japan's first new prime minister in nearly eight years on Wednesday, forming a Cabinet of familiar faces as he pledges to stay the course set by his predecessor Shinzo Abe. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan neighbours hope to improve ties with Tokyo as Suga succeeds Abe

TOKYO—Japan's neighbours, including China and South Korea, on Wednesday voiced eagerness to work to improve their ties with Tokyo after Yoshihide Suga was tapped as prime minister to succeed Shinzo Abe, regarded as a hawkish conservative.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory message to Suga that Beijing and Tokyo should "promote the construction of a relationship that is suitable for the new era", according to the People's Daily, the Communist Party's mouthpiece. Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters that Beijing "will promote development of relations" with Japan by "strengthening exchanges and cooperation" in various fields, with its tensions with the United States escalating. Wang, however, urged Japan to respect the mainland's "one China" policy, when asked about Suga's appointment of Nobuo Kishi, Abe's younger brother and a former senior vice foreign minister, as new defence minister.

In Japan, conservative politicians, like Abe, have traditionally stressed the significance of the alliance between Japan and the United States, especially when the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region has worsened amid China's military buildup. As for South Korea, whose relationship with Japan has slumped to its worst level in years, President Moon Jae In sent a letter congratulating Suga on his election and expressing hope for improved bilateral ties.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry also said the nation will continue to cooperate with Japan's prime minister and his Cabinet in improving relations between Seoul and Tokyo.

Given that Suga has promised to inherit Abe's diplomatic policy, South Korea may face difficulties in improving its relations with Japan, local media said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, meanwhile, sent Suga his "heartiest congratulations" on becoming the new Japanese leader, tweeting, "I look forward to jointly taking our Special Strategic and Global Partnership to new heights."

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a letter to Suga that Japan continues to be a valued partner of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and that he looks forward to continuing "a wide-ranging and substantive partnership across many areas, ranging from economic cooperation and disaster management to connectivity and capacity-building."

On Aug. 28, Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, announced his resignation due to his health problems. His right-hand man, Suga, was elected as new president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Monday. Abe became prime minister in December 2012 following his first one-year stint in the post between 2006 and 2007. Under his Cabinet, Suga served as chief Cabinet secretary for around eight years.—Kyodo ■

State of emergency extended for another 3 months in Thailand's restive south

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday told the media that the emergency decree will be extended for another three months in three southern provinces of the country.

They are Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani Provinces.

"The Royal Gazette had already published the announcement on its website after I signed the approval," confirmed Prayut.

The extension announcement was signed by Prayut on Sept. 11 under the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in an Emergency Situation. The emergency extension had also been approved by the Cabinet. The areas under emergency include all districts in the three provinces except Srisakhon, Su-Ngai Kolok and Sukirin in Narathiwat, Betong in Yala and Maikaen and Maelan in Pattani.

The announcement said the extension would enable officials to track down and arrest insurgents who aim to undermine national security through violence and terror actions, as well as ensure the safety of people in the areas.—Xinhua ■

A separatist armed campaign in southern Thailand has left about 7,000 people dead since 2004. **PHOTO: TUWAEDANIYA MERINGING/AFP**

India's drug controller orders Serum Institute to resume COVID-19 vaccine trials

NEW DELHI—The Drugs Controller-General of India (DCGI) has ordered the Serum Institute of India (SII) to resume its phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials of the Oxford University's Covishield vaccine along with pharma major AstraZeneca, local media reported Wednesday.

The DCGI, VG Somani, in a letter to the SII on Tuesday said the institute's reply has been "carefully examined" as also the recommendations of the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) in India and Britain.

The drug controller last week put on hold the trials in the wake of AstraZeneca pausing the clinical trials in other countries because of "an unexplained illness" in a participant in the study.—Xinhua ■

China appreciates WTO's ruling on U.S. tariff case

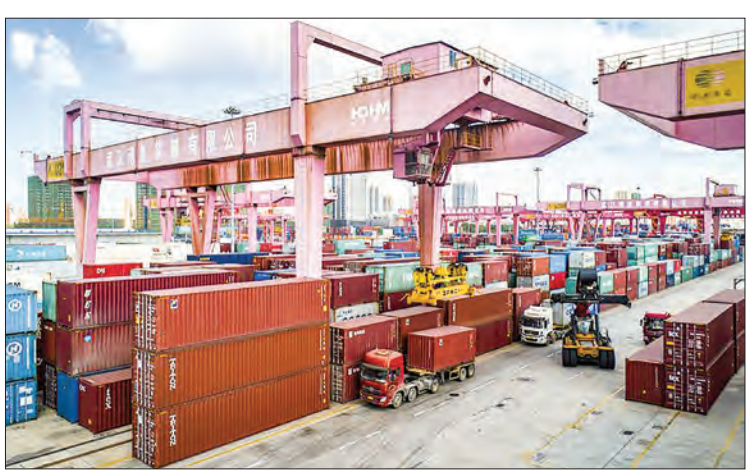
BEIJING—China expressed its appreciation for the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling that the United States' Section 301 tariffs on Chinese products were in breach of its WTO obligations, a spokesperson with the Ministry of Commerce said Tuesday.

Calling the ruling made by a WTO expert panel "objective and fair", the spokesperson said it's a must for China to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests by resorting to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism to tackle the wrongful practices of the U.S. unilateralism and trade protectionism.

It also demonstrates China's firm determination to respect WTO rules and safeguard the authority of the multilateral trading system.

Noting that the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core is the cornerstone of international trade, the spokesperson said China has always firmly supported and safeguarded the cornerstone and respected WTO rules and rulings.

China also hopes that the U.S. side will fully respect the ruling of the WTO expert panel and the rules-based multilateral trading system, take concrete actions and work with China and other WTO members to jointly safeguard the multilateral trading system and promote stable and sound development of the world economy, the spokesperson said.—Xinhua ■



Aerial photo taken on Aug 13, 2018 shows containers at the Yangluo port in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

74th session of UN General Assembly closes

UNITED NATIONS—Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, president of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, declared the annual session closed on Tuesday, and passed the baton to the next president of the assembly, Volkan Bozkir. "The emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has shown that we have to continue to deepen multilateral cooperation in the health sector, as in other areas, and implement the commitments of our heads of state and government to scale up national and global efforts to build a healthier world for all," Muhammad-Bande told the closing session. "It is important that in achieving this, we must continue to deepen cooperation to ensure that, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we will meet the goal and target we set for ourselves for (the) 2030 (Agenda)."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (R) addresses the closing session of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 15, 2020. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, president of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, declared the annual session closed on Tuesday, and passed the baton to the next president of the assembly, Volkan Bozkir. **PHOTO: MANUEL ELÍAS/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

He emphasized the importance of the General Assembly, the most representative body of the United Nations. "We cannot underestimate the importance of this assembly, which is founded on the equality of voice and vote. Its resolutions reflect the aspirations of humanity, helping (with) the normative development of international law with far-reaching ramifications across a wide breadth of issues for individuals and for states."

"This is a moment of reckoning for our shared planet and future. This is a time for action, ambition, equality, inclusion and partnership," he said, stressing the importance of engaging and empowering the youth and underrepresented groups such as women and people with disabilities. Seventy-five years ago, the founders of the United Nations did not allow cynicism to prevail. It shall not be allowed to prevail now, he said. —Xinhua ■

In her first State of the European Union address. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged a green recovery from the coronavirus crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU chief pledges green recovery from corona crisis

BRUSSELS—EU chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed Wednesday that Europe would lead the global search for a coronavirus vaccine while rebuilding its shattered economy with a green recovery plan.

In her first annual State of the European Union address, the president of the European Commission also warned Britain not to breach its Brexit withdrawal treaty and Turkey not to threaten its neighbours.

And she recommitted to bloc to fighting racism and homophobia, denouncing the so-called "LGBT-free" zones set up by some towns in EU member state Poland, and urging member states to step up for refugees.

Addressing the European Parliament in Brussels, von der Leyen said: "The people of Europe are still suffering."

In an implicit swipe at US President Donald Trump's approach to the pandemic, von der Leyen said Europe would lead the world in the search for vaccine and support multilateral bodies like the World Health Organization.

"None of us will be safe until all of us are safe — wherever we live, whatever we have," she said. "Vaccine nationalism puts lives at risk. Vaccine cooperation saves them."

Europe's own economy has been devastated by the epidemic and the ensuing economic and social lockdowns, but von der Leyen touted her Commission's green recovery plan as a way back. She said that Brussels would urge member states to set a more ambitious goal of cutting greenhouse emissions by 55 per cent by 2030, up from a target of 40 per cent.

"For us, the 2030 target is ambitious, achievable, and beneficial for Europe" she added.—AFP ■

Explosions spark huge fire in Italian port, no casualties

ANCONA—Explosions and a huge fire ripped through the port area of the Italian city of Ancona early Wednesday, destroying warehouses and lorries, but there were no casualties, firefighters said.

The flames created vast mushroom clouds of smoke in the city on Italy's Adriatic coast.

The explosions sparked the fire shortly after midnight. The blaze was under control Wednesday morning after the intervention of 16 firefighting teams, the fire service said on Twitter.

It was not yet clear what caused the explosions.

Warehouses in the area were likely to have stored flammable liquid, according to Rai news, which said there was a company nearby that produced liquid nitrogen, as well as a power station and methane plant.

As the smell of burning filled Ancona, the capital of the Marche region, the council said it had "temporarily ordered closed all schools, the university, the parks, open-air sports facilities".—AFP ■

"Rule of six" to fight COVID-19 comes into effect in UK

LONDON—In order to curb the rise in coronavirus cases, tough new limits on social gatherings came into force in Britain on Monday, meaning that in most regions, it is now illegal for groups of more than six to meet up.

The "rule of six" kicked off at midnight across England, Wales and Scotland in the latest push to curb the recent surge in coronavirus infections. The new rule applies across indoor and outdoor settings, with police able to disperse gatherings of over six people and fine individuals involved. The new restrictions were imposed after the country's reproduction, or R, number escalated to between one and 1.2 for the first time since March. On Sunday, more than 3,000 COVID-19 cases were reported for the third day in a row -- the first time since May that the grim threshold was hit on three consecutive days.

A pedestrian wearing face masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic walk past a Pizza Express restaurant in west London on August 4. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIMITED SOCIAL GATHERINGS

The new "rule of six" simplifies and strengthens the rules on social gatherings, making Britons easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. It means that, apart from a set of limited exemptions including work and education, any social gatherings of more than six people will be against the law. Police officers are empowered to disperse any unlawful gatherings and fine individuals involved 100 pounds (about 128.87 U.S. dollars), doubling up to a maximum of 3,200 pounds (about 4,120.06 dollars).—Xinhua ■

Rivals ponder how to break Bayern Munich's grip on Bundesliga

BERLIN—European champions Bayern Munich begin the hunt for a ninth-straight Bundesliga title on Friday (Sep 18), but while their rivals ponder how to break their iron grip on the German league, the Bavarian giants have pressing issues to resolve on the eve of the new season.

Bayern host Schalke at the Allianz Arena to kick-off the Bundesliga season just 26 days after lifting the Champions League trophy in Lisbon to complete the treble.

They stand to play 57 games in a 2020/21 fixture list condensed by the knock-on effects of the coronavirus pandemic, but at least on Friday, Bayern will be able to play in front of a small number of fans for the first time since March.

However, they have already lost three of the Champions League-winning squad.

Ivan Perisic, Philippe Coutinho and Alvaro Odriozola have returned to Inter Milan, Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively after their loan deals expired.

"We have to make up for it," head coach Hansi Flick admitted with Bayern facing Sevilla in the UEFA Super Cup and Borussia Dortmund for the German Super Cup in the coming fortnight.

Bayern want to sign a new winger with Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi again on their radar. They also want a defender.

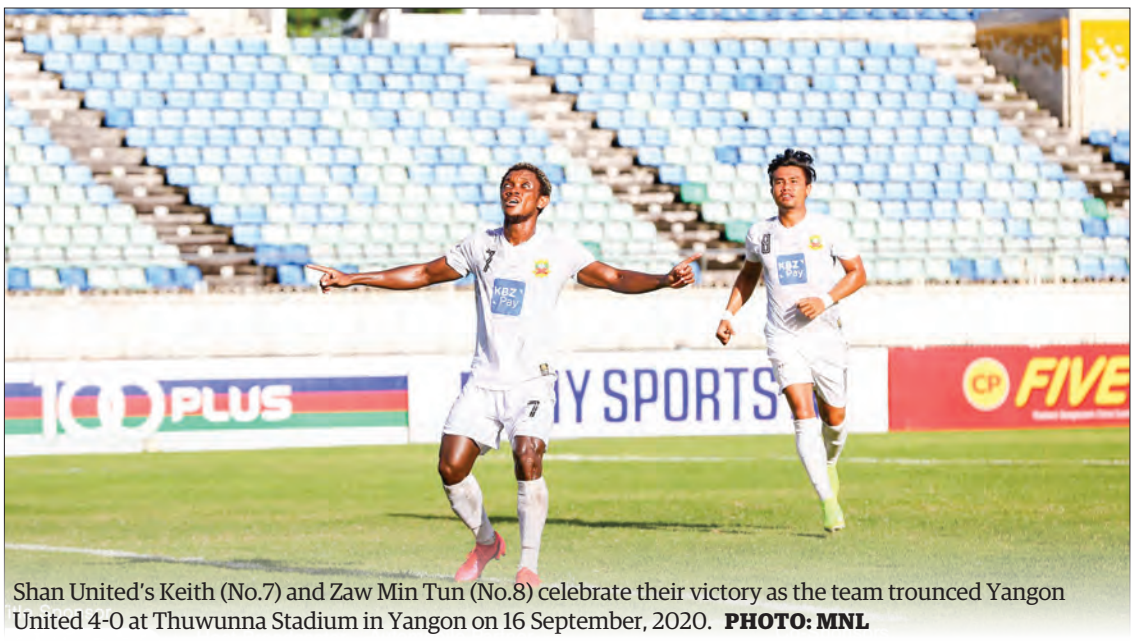
"THEY DESTROY THEM"

Flick's star-studded squad finished last season on an all-conquering 21-game winning run, including the 8-2 thrashing of Spanish giants Barcelona in the Champions League's quarter-finals.

"The current team of Hansi Flick is perhaps the best Bayern team ever," Hans-Joachim Watzke, chief executive of arch rivals Borussia Dortmund, declared last month. "They no longer beat their opponents - they destroy them."—AFP ■

Bayern Munich start the new Bundesliga season without three members of the squad who helped them romp to a ninth straight German title. **PHOTO: AFP/KAI PFAFFENBACH**

Shan United's dream still alive with a big win over Yangon



Shan United's Keith (No.7) and Zaw Min Tun (No.8) celebrate their victory as the team trounced Yangon United 4-0 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 16 September, 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

DEFENDING champion Shan United's hope for defending their championship title for 2020 Myanmar National League season is still active with a decisive 4-0 win over famous Yangon United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The win is a seventh consecutive win for the defending champion in this season.

Head coach U Aung Naing's Shan United lined up with essential players including Nyein Chan, Ye Min Thu, Keeper Myo Min Latt, Zwe Thet Paing, Nanda Kyaw and Hein Thiha Zaw.

In the meantime, head coach U Min Tun Lin's Yangon United lined up with essential players goalie and captain Kyaw Zin Htet, Emmanuel, Maung Maung Lwin, Maung Maung Win, Kyi Lin, Kaung Htet Soe, Htike Htike Aung and Yan Naing Oo.

Both teams played hesitatively in early minutes. But Shan United found a leading goal with a surprise score of Maximin at 25 minutes.

The goal gave confidence to Shan United and second goal was scored by Nanda Kyaw at 37 minutes.

Shan United led two goals ahead of Yangon United at the break.

Second half saw a better play of Shan United.

Yangon United played roughly and Shan United got a penalty kick at 50 minutes. The penalty was successfully kicked by Shan United's Keith to bring the third goal for his team.

Yangon United tried to destroy their nightmare on the pitch but its strikers could not convert their chances to goals.

The 4-0 victory was for the defending champion after Zin Min Tun's goal scored at 77-minute mark.

"Firstly, I would like to congratulate Shan United. They played brilliantly throughout the match. My team needs more preparation for improvement. Defenders could not control the Shan United's attack and some of my players hesitated for making challenges against their opponents. With seven points different with top-class teams, my team is not sure to become a Champion but in football, everything is possible and we will try our best," said Yangon United head coach U Min Tun Lin.

It was not an easy game for us as Yangon is a big team. My team was not right before 25 minutes but they could play better with strong motivation after garnering a first goal. Our team's victory proved that practice makes perfect. I trained them well and they could follow my rules. I will focus on every win in upcoming matches, said Shan United head coach U Aung Naing.

Shan United jumps to third place position while Yangon United fell to the fourth position of the standing table after yesterday's match result.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

LPGA Tour's Asia schedule wiped out as last two events fall to virus

HONG KONG—The LPGA Tour has cancelled events in South Korea and Japan because of coronavirus, meaning the elite women's golf circuit has been forced to scrap all seven 2020 Asian tournaments in the latest blow to the continent's hard-hit sporting calendar. "Given the travel restrictions and quarantine requirements" the BMW Ladies Championship from October 22-25 in Busan and the Toto Japan Classic from November 6 in Ibaraki "will not take place in 2020", said a Tour statement issued late on Tuesday. The announcement follows the axing of next month's Buick Shanghai LPGA in China and Swinging Skirts Championships in Taiwan because of stringent anti-virus measures. At the beginning of February, soon after the initial virus outbreak in Wuhan, the tour was forced to cancel China's Blue Bay LPGA on the southern island of Hainan, due to be played in early March. Just 10 days later the prestigious Women's World Championship in Singapore and LPGA Thailand also fell victim as countries began to impose lockdown and quarantine measures.

South Korea's Jang Ha-na celebrates winning the BMW Ladies Championship in Busan in October last year. This year's tournament, along with all LPGA events in Asia, has been cancelled because of the coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

The seven Asian events totalled $13 million in prize money. The LPGA Tour has been dominated by Asian players since the emergence of South Korea's former number one Pak Se-ri more than 20 years ago. The World Championship, won last year by second-ranked Park Sung-hyun, is the most prestigious event on the US LPGA Tour outside the five majors, with the top 20 and all the previous year's major-winners among a 66-player field.—AFP ■