

NATIONAL

Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society, Myanmar National Congress, Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party and Pa-O National Organization (PNO) present their policies, stances and work programmes

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Saturday, 19 September 2020

Peace process explained to locals in southern Shan State



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explains development of peacemaking process at Shan State Government Office in Taunggyi, Shan State on 15 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, explained

Myanmar's peace process to the local people in southern Shan State from 15 to 17 September.

During the tour, he was accompanied by member of the

Peace Commission and Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo and officials and held meetings with members of local government, state Hluttaw representatives and mem-

bers of leading committees in Taunggyi, Pindaya Township of Danu Self-Administered Zone, and Hopong Township of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

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Myanmar repatriates 153 nationals from Singapore by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon, with 153 citizens who were stranded in Singapore due to suspension of international flights.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. Until now, Myanmar has organized 18 relief flights to bring the citizens back home from Singapore every Friday.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees from Singapore line up for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 18 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

CBM Governor joins virtual meeting of 23rd AFMGM

THE 23rd ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) was held via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The meeting was participated by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win, CBM Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, President of Asia Development Bank Mr Masatsugu Asakawa, the Director-General of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office AMRO, the Secretary-General

of ASEAN and the Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund.

The meeting was held under the co-chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Japan Mr Taro Aso, Governor of the Central Bank of Japan Mr Kuroda Haruhiko, Minister for Finance of Viet Nam Mr Dinh Tien Dung and Governor of the Central Bank of Viet Nam Mr Le Minh Hung.

The officials of IMF, ADB and AMRO presented the current economic outlook all over the world and regions including policy responses to the risks and challenges in COVID-19 pandemic

ic and exchanged viewed on these cases.

The ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors respectively briefed their current economic status and activities to mitigate the economic impacts caused by COVID-19.

They also discussed to continue working together for ASEAN+3 Finance Processes – (1) Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), (2) ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), (3) Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) and (4) ASEAN+3 Finance Process.—MNA
(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung joins 23rd ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting online on 18 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN Bureaux Working Group Council discusses cross-border motor insurance



Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance Enterprise Dr Sandar Oo participates in 7th Council of Bureaux Working Group (CoBWG) Meeting via videoconference on 15 September. PHOTO: MNA

THE 7th Council of Bureaux Working Group (CoBWG) Meeting was held online on 15 September in line with Protocol-5 (ASEAN Scheme of Compulsory Motor Vehicle Insurance) of ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT).

Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance Enterprise

Dr Sandar Oo chaired the meeting which was attended by delegates of ASEAN member countries.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to Council of Bureau members' ongoing works on implementation of cross-border motor vehicle insurance in accordance with 22nd ASEAN Insurance Regu-

lators' Meeting which was held in Myanmar in November 2019.

They also detailed about information and data on Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance (CALI) on ASEAN COB Website and the use of ASEAN Compulsory Motor Insurance (ACMI) System. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

400-bed tent hospital in Yangon opens to treat COVID-19 patients

A 400-bed tent hospital in Yangon jointly implemented by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ayeyarwady Foundation will accommodate coronavirus patients starting from 19 September.

"We will receive 400 positive patients tomorrow," said Ko Kyaw Zaw Han, an official of the foundation, told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

Yangon Region is seeing rising numbers daily.

Over the past seven days, Myanmar saw 424 cases on 18 September, 149 cases on 17 September, 319 cases on 16 September, 307 cases on 15 September, 263 cases on 14 September, 337 cases on 13 September and 173 cases on 12 September respectively.

"With 200 to 300 new cases daily, Yangon needs more hos-

pital facilities for giving treatment to them," said Prof. Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Rector of the University of Medicine-1, Yangon, in his recent interview with the Myanmar News Agency (MNA).

The 400-bed tent hospital is one of the emergency hospitals in Yangon for fighting against the pandemic in Yangon which is the most densely populated city in Myanmar.

Yangon Region authorities has turned a housing complex in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township to a temporary hospital which will receive patients with moderate and non-symptoms of the disease.

A building which had been used for facility quarantine in Hline University Campus will also be turned into a hospital with 500-bed capacity for giving treatment to serious patients.—GNLM



A 400-bed tent hospital opens in Yangon to treat coronavirus patients. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

iOS version of Myanmar Be Enchanted mobile application available online

MINISTRY of Hotels and Tourism has launched the iOS version 1.0 of Myanmar Be Enchanted on 15 September after its Android version was released on 1 July this year.

The new version of this app can be received by scanning QR

Code, <https://apple.co/2RrWZct> or App Store.

The application is aimed at giving concrete information of Myanmar tourism industry, promoting the positive image of Myanmar in peace and stability to the international community

and attracting local and foreign visitors by showcasing natural and cultural heritages, traditions of ethnic people and the 12 seasonal festivals of Myanmar.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

2020

General Election

Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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Peace process explained to locals in southern Shan State



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe reports on the ongoing peace development during his official visit to southern Shan State from 15 to 17 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

U Kyaw Tint Swe and party explained the peace process at the headquarters of the Shan State government on 15 September, and it was attended by Chief Minister Dr Linn Htut and his government members, while State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Long Hseng and Hluttaw representatives joined the meeting through videoconferencing.

The peace process was also explained in Pindaya of Danu Self-Administered Zone to members of its leading body led by U Nyi Nyi (a) U Nyi Lay Chan on 16 September, in Hopong Township

of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone to its Chairman Khun San Lwin and members of its leading body on 17 September morning, and at the government headquarters of Shan State in Taunggyi Township to Chairman of Pa-laung Self-Administered Zone U Win Kyaw (a) U Aik Mein and its members on 17 September in the afternoon.

The events to explain the peace process were all held in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

During the tour, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe paid respects to the leading monk of Sunlun Monastery in Taunggyi,

Chairman of the State Sangha Nayaka Committee, the Oxford Sayadaw from the Shan State Buddhist University and leading monk of Aung Myae Bon San Monastery, the 8888 Sayadaw.

The Union Minister and party also made visits to the Ywa Ngal and Kan Htaung Monasteries in Pindaya Township of Danu Self-Administered Zone, the Sasana Lankara and Naung Taung monasteries in Hopong Township of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, where they donated Waso robes to the Sayadaws.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union PFI Minister discusses with WB Vice President for Asia-Pacific online

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win held a virtual meeting with World Bank Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region Ms Victoria Kwakwa from the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed matters relating to World Bank's Myanmar Health Service Access Project, Myanmar COVID-19 Emergency Response Project and COVID-19 response in Myanmar during the pandemic.

He expressed thanks to International Development Association (IDA) of World Bank for loans and cash assistance under financing programmes. He detailed about Myanmar economic situations, policies that were being laid down and economic relief programmes that were being implemented in accordance with COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP),

World Bank's Public Financial Management Project, Financial Sector Development Project, and Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan that will be launched soon.

Ms Victoria Kwakwa acknowledged that Myanmar is now facing challenges because of COVID-19 and discussed the matters relating to World Bank's assistance for vaccine procurement if COVID-19 vaccine is successfully developed, and fulfillment of financial needs for Myanmar's reform processes and health expenses.

She also detailed about World Bank's financial and technical assistance for COVID-19 relief and prevention processes, Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar (FY 2021-2023) and pipeline projects that were drawn up by World Bank, and the projects that are being carried out with loans and cash

assistance from World Bank.

The meeting discussed matters relating to human capital development that will assist the development of Myanmar and World Bank's assistance on increasing private

sector participation. Deputy Ministers U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and departmental officials, the World Bank Group Executive Director representing for the South East

Asia (SEA) Group Ms Kulaya Tantitemit and Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR Ms Mariam Sherman also attended the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win holds discussions with World Bank Vice President for Asia-Pacific Region Ms Victoria Kwakwa via videoconference on 18 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

That is why I want each and everyone to be careful

At the moment, infections spreading from one person to the other is more prevalent within family members. I want you all to take note of this with care.

Among those who passed away, the majority are elderly persons with underlying diseases. Young people sometimes do not show symptoms because they have good immunity. About 70 per cent of infected people do not show symptoms of the disease. This, in itself, is a danger. When a person does not show symptoms, this person does not think he is infected. Family members can become infected by this person. Therefore there can be older adults in the family. There can be people with underlying diseases. That is why if one person becomes lax in following rules and regulations, this person could become a great danger to those around him. That is why I want each and everyone to be careful.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report on status of COVID-19 infection spread in the country, on 16 September 2020)



Union Minister for International Cooperation holds discussions with Malaysian Foreign Minister via videoconference

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held discussions with Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia via videoconference at 9:00 am on 18 September 2020

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the videoconference, the Ministers cordially exchanged views on ways to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia, including

possibility of reviving the mechanism of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation at a mutually convenient time. To that end, both sides discussed on possible cooperation in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigating its economic impacts,

provision of medical supplies such as PPEs, ventilators and other basic medical equipment by Malaysia to assist in Myanmar government's efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, facilitation of repatriation of Myanmar nationals stranded in Malaysia including undocumented Myanmar nationals, possibility of exporting rice and other foodstuffs from Myanmar to Malaysia and middle east markets to contribute to Myanmar's efforts for economic recovery in the post COVID-19 period.

cordance with bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh. They also stressed the importance of understanding each other's challenges and concerns to strengthen bilateral relations and to resolve such issues in ASEAN way in the spirit of ASEAN unity. Union Minister U Kyaw Tin thanked Malaysian Foreign Minister for his gesture of revitalizing the bilateral relations, and for Malaysia's active role and support to bring in Myanmar to ASEAN in 1997.

The two Ministers also candidly and cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to regional cooperation in combatting human trafficking to stop the flow of boat people and finding sustainable solution of displaced persons in Rakhine State in ac-

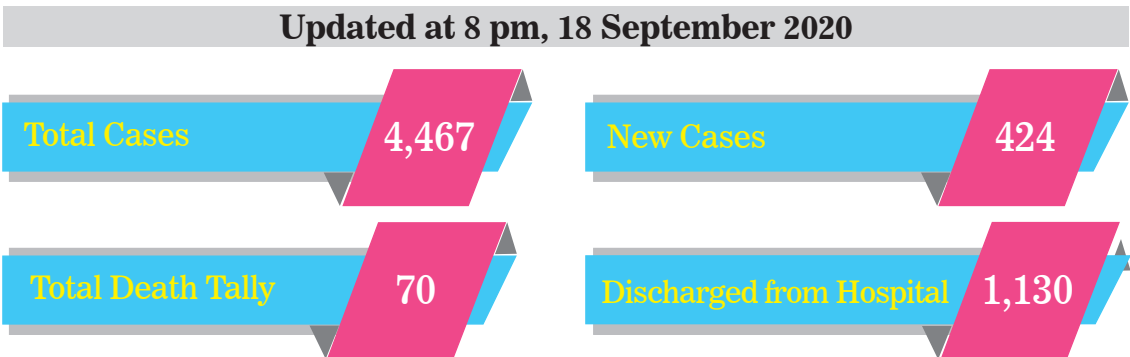
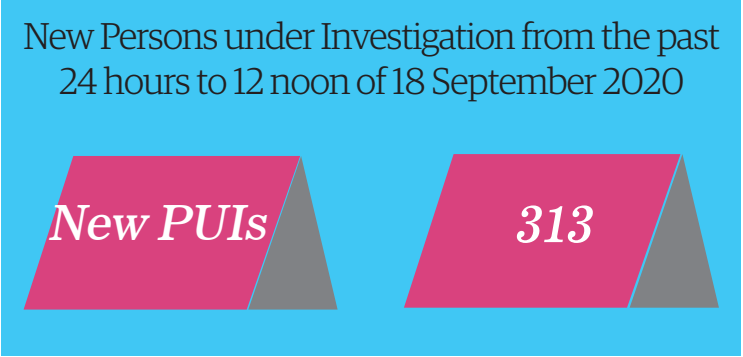
Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein had served in various capacities including Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Education before assuming the current capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on 9 March 2020.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds virtual meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein on 18 September 2020. PHOTO:MNA

424 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 September, total figure rises to 4,467

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 4,467 after 424 new cases were reported on 18 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 4,467 confirmed cases, 70 died, 1,130 have been discharged from hospitals and 313 were held under investigation.—MNA



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.

MoHS coordination meeting discusses control measures against COVID-19

MINISTRY of Health and Sports held a coordination meeting on the update situation of COVID-19 yesterday, with emphasis on contact tracing to put the pandemic under control.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discussed the three major strategies of contact tracing, enforcement of treatments and systematic management in quarantine centres.

He also called for public cooperation in disease control measures in health, politics, economic and social issues, and the important role of local governments in addressing the second wave of pandemic.

The Union Minister em-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over coordination meeting on control measures against COVID-19 on 18 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

phasized early contact tracing of the disease, while people need to prevent further transmission to strictly abide by the rules. The ministry is also reviewing the periods for discharge

from hospitals and quarantine centres, while the private hospitals have principally agreed to give medical treatments to the COVID-19 patients at their facilities.

He also discussed the important role of health workers, assistance of the ministry to them, temporary quarantine centres at the building and hotels, volunteers in Yangon and Rakhine regions .

The Union Minister and senior health officials also exchanged views through video-conferencing on update situations of pandemic and other control measures.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Deputy ministers for MoPFI join Annual Ministerial Meeting of LDCs online

THE Annual Ministerial Meeting of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) during the session the United Nations General Assembly was held at 9 am local time of New York, the United States, on 17 September.

Deputy Ministers of Planning, Finance and Industry U Sett Aung and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein joined the virtual meeting which was chaired by Malawi Foreign Minister Mr Eisenhower Mkaka M.P, followed by opening remarks of Qatar Foreign Minister, the President of the Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of Economic and Social Council of the UN, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Vice-Chairman of International Finance Corporation and the Undersecretary General of UN-OHRILLS.

The representatives

from LDCs countries and partner countries delivered their addresses.

Deputy Minister U Sett Aung discussed the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2020; the last year for implementing this action is coincided with the outbreak of COVID-19 which have serious impacts on the health, social and economic sectors of global countries including LDCs.

He added that Myanmar is preparing for an implementation report for Istanbul Programme of Action and expressed thanks for assistance of international organizations and partner countries.

He also talked about the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan of Myanmar to lessen the impacts of pandemic.

The meeting was attended by 140 partic-

ipants from LDCs, the UN and international organizations and partner countries, as well as those from the Office of Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations.

They discussed poverty, inequality, environmental changes, impacts of pandemic on social economic sector, special development assistance, more assistance for LDC graduation, the 10-year work plan which will be approved at the 5th Least Developed Countries Conference (LDC-V) scheduled to be held in Doha of Qatar in 2020, and its supports for LDCs and the 2030 agenda.

The Ministerial Meeting also adopted the Ministerial Declaration of LDCs.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Warning about Tropical Storm “NOUL”

1. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) issued Tropical Storm “NOUL” Warning (02/2020) at 14:00 hrs on 18 September that the “NOUL” Storm over the South China Sea had crossed Viet Nam coast near Danang that morning and lies over Laos. It is forecast it continues to move westwards and reach to Thailand as a tropical depression that evening and then reach as a wave to the southeast Myanmar areas on 19 September 2020. Due to the Tropical Storm “NOUL”, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls and isolated heavy falls during the evening 18 to 22 September 2020. It can also occur heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash flood and landslide near the hilly areas and also small rivers.
2. People residing along the path of “NOUL” storm, especially people in Mon and Kayin states and Bago Region, are advised to stay alert about strong winds, flash floods and landslides by abiding by the following facts:
 - Be alert to heavy rains and floods and that the time to move away from flash floods is too short. Be careful especially in night time.
 - People residing along the banks of rivers and creeks, and farmers who are cultivating on the banks are advised to move safer places temporarily.
 - People living in flooded areas are advised to not go to the banks of rivers and creeks as erosion could occur at the banks. People residing in the hills and hill slopes should be aware of landslides.
 - Don’t cross mountain streams during flood as water current can carry people, animals, motorcycles and cars away.
 - Stay away from electric cables and electric poles during and after floods. Don’t touch electrical appliances with wet hands. Be aware of snakes and poisonous animals.
 - Don’t use phones during strong wind, heavy rain, lighting strike and thunder.
3. For information and assistance relating to natural disasters, people can call the hot line numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at 067-340466 and 067-3404777.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

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

Monywa suspends operation of all ferry vessels

MONYWA has suspended all ferry vessels operating along Chindwin River starting from 17 September, said an official from Sagaing Region Private Vessels Supervisory Committee.
"The regional government has permitted the suspension of ferry vessels' operation com-

mencing from 16 September. We have already sold the tickets, and so, we have had to allow the ferry vessels to go this morning. Then, we will close their operations starting from this evening. We are going to issue the official order," he added.
There are a total of 10 mo-

tor vessels operating in Chindwin River in the upper region of Monywa town daily. However, the cargo vessels will be operated regularly.
The number of passengers has significantly dropped during COVID-19 period. Only a few passengers are travelling for cases

of emergency like health issues.
From 10 to 17 September, there have been 12 COVID-19 confirmed cases in Kalay, Myinmu, Kawlin, Myaung, Mawlaik, Indaw, Daze, Budalin, Ahyardaw and Dabayin townships in Sagaing Region.—Aye Maung
(Translated by Hay Mar)

38 Myanmar nationals enter Chinshwehaw border town in returning home



Health workers are testing body temperature of Myanmar returnees from China on 17 September.
PHOTO: ZIN ZIN

CHINSHWEHAW'S COVID-19 Containment Working Committee handed over a total of 38 Myanmar nationals who returned from China on 17 and 18 September to their natives yesterday.
The returnees included 27 males and 11 females. Of them, 1 person was from Mandalay Region, 13 from Magway, 14 from southern Shan State and 10 from northern Shan State.
The Chinshwehaw's COVID Committee handed over a total of 15,248 returnees -- 8,455 males and 6,793 females -- to the townships concerned since 30 April.—Zin Zin (IPRD)(Chinshwehaw) (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

215 Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand return home through Myawady border on 18 September

A total of 215 Myanmar migrant workers (133 males and 82 females) returned home through the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady Border town yesterday.
Local authorities welcomed the returnees and the responsible persons from respective townships arranged the necessary medical check-up and send them to quarantine centres in respective regions and states in accordance with the COVID-19 health guideline.
From 1 May to 18 September, 78,057 migrant workers have returned home through the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge-2.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



A Myanmar migrant worker returned home from Thailand via Myawady border is being tested for body temperature on 18 September. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.
Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Myanmar earns \$764 mln from 2.5 mln-tonne rice export this FY

MYANMAR has exported over 2.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice as of 4 September in this financial year (FY), stated Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) on Wednesday.

According to the figures released by MRF, the country has exported over 1.56 million tonnes of rice to 66 countries and 934,197 tonnes of broken rice to 60 countries, earning over US\$64 million.

Myanmar has set a target to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice

in present financial 2019-2020 which started from 1 October, according to MRF.

Myanmar has sent over 402,528 tonnes of rice to the neighbouring countries through border trade while over 2.098 million tonnes of rice and broken rice shipped to foreign trade partners via maritime trade, totalling over 2.5 million tonnes.

China is the primary buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Madagascar. Myanmar has also exported broken

rice mostly to Belgium, followed by China and Senegal.

From October 2019 to 4 September of 2020, China consumes 29 per cent of total export followed by Africa market with 28 per cent, European Union market with 20 per cent, Asian countries with 19 per cent, and other countries with 4 per cent consumption of the total export.

—GNLM ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)



Myanmar exported over 2.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice as of 4 September in this financial year. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

YRTA urges reduction of CNG price for YBS lines' survival in COVID resurgence

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has urged the Yangon regional government to reduce CNG prices for further survival of YBS bus lines during COVID-19 pandemic period, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of YRTA.

YBS transportation companies and the bus lines are running their buses, struggling hard for survival with the high daily operation costs and management costs before the pandemic period. With the outbreak of the pandemic, the income of YBS has dropped because the number of passengers has declined, he added.

"The number of passengers using YBS has significantly dropped. So, the income of the

YBS has also declined. However, we could not stop our operation as well. We have the costs for YBS drivers and the office staff in addition to other overhead expenses. That's why we have great difficulties. Therefore, YRTA has moved the exemption period deadline for paying in the management charges of K4,000 to 30 September. As a way to help our YBS bus lines, we have also requested the government to reduce CNG prices," he confirmed.

"The costs of CNG for regular routes account for over K20,000 per day. If we can reduce the costs of CNG, it will be more supportive of our bus lines' further survival," he added.

At present, 3.66 kilogrammes of CNG equal to one gallon of fuel oil is sold for K1,000, which is not

a profit-making price for the government, said U Hla Win Htay, the general manager of the Natural Gas Vehicle Division (CNG), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).

The extension of the due date will be moved up to 30 September for the six times to assist the YBS companies and the bus lines. By doing so, YRTA is supporting YBS companies in one way or another," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, the Managing Director of YRTA.

The operation of YBS buses has dropped to 2,300 from 4,500, which are running on 126 routes because of the declining number of passengers. The number of daily commuters is estimated to be over 400,000. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Suspension of Sino-Myanmar trade depends upon COVID diagnosis

By Nyein Nyein

SUSPENSION of Sino-Myanmar border trade is dependent upon coronavirus diagnosis, said U Min Thein, vice-chairman of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

After COVID-19 positive patients were found in Ruili (Shweli in Myanmar language) in China on 12 September, China has restricted travelling into and out of the town and has imposed lockdown except for hospitals and supermarkets in Ruili since 14 September.

China has locked down a city bordering Myanmar and will open the crossing after they have conducted COVID-19 tests. So, it will take a week. China's Customs clearance office was also suspended starting from 15 September.

"After China has imposed lockdown, they have been testing around 50,000 people a day starting from 16 September. It will take four days to know the results. There are more than 200,000 people to test. After testing, the gate will be opened within seven days if only a few people are found positive in Ruili. We also assume that the Customs clearance office will also be reopened. If the Customs clearance office remains closed, the border trade will be stopped completely," he confirmed.

At present, the trucks are

permitted to enter via Muse border. But the trucks can go up to Jiegao only. The goods could not be exported directly to Ruili. Moreover, the exported goods from China reaching Jiegao can only be imported to the country, he added.

"The export items such as rice, onion, chilli, aquatic products and other products cannot enter Chain while the imported goods such as construction materials, electronics and medicines also cannot reach Myanmar. One hundred per cent of business activities with China have halted as of today," he said.

There are 18 border trade camps in Myanmar. The country is carrying out border trade with China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India.

The total trade value at all border trade camps exceeded \$9.9 billion in this financial year (FY) of 2019-2020. And, the value of the Sino-Myanmar border trade touched over \$5.4 billion, which accounts for 60 per cent of the total border trade.

The trade between Muse-Ruili route has reached over \$4.5 billion in this FY. The traded products are rice, agricultural products, crabs, prawns and aquatic products.

Moreover, the natural gas exported through the pipelines is also being traded via Muse-Ruili border trade route.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YRTA to pay income tax on vehicle supervision, land lease

By Nyein Nyein

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) will pay income tax on its earnings from the leasing of land and vehicle supervision charges, said YRTA Joint Secretary U Hla Aung.

Yangon Region government has already directed the YRTA to pay annual income tax for each financial year, he continued.

At present, YRTA is managing to pay income tax on its earnings derived from the vehicle supervision charges and the lease of land in line with rules and regulations.

"We are managing income

tax in compliance with policies and procedures. We will follow the guidelines of Yangon Region government in this matter," the YRTA joint secretary added.

According to a report on the Yangon Region government's spending in 2017-2018 financial year, the YRTA's net income was over K7.6 billion. The net income was derived from the lease of land and vehicle supervision charges, after deducting spending. But, the YRTA did not pay an income tax. The YRTA's gross income was estimated at K9.487 billion, while spending was approximately K1.796 billion, as per the Yangon Auditor-General's report.

The YRTA was formed to improve transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was appointed as the chairman of the transport authority, with 16 members, as per the order issued by Yangon Region government on 8 July 2016.

In April 2019, the number of members was increased to 22, with the YRTA appointing the Security and Border Affairs Minister as vice-president 1 and the Yangon Mayor as vice-president 2, besides officials from relevant departments and organizations. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local governments on the frontlines of the coronavirus response

WITH the COVID cases on the surge, our country is inching towards 4,500 positive cases yesterday with 70 deaths.

The situation is setting off alarm bells that the second wave of the virus is spreading faster than previous infections in other regions and states.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is doubling its efforts in response to the fast-spreading virus, making the best use of its resources, while giving priority to three strategic responses: contact tracing, treatment and restriction.

Community transmission is inevitable and the daily surge in the number of cases would require more medical facilities.

Keeping this reality in mind, the Ministry of Health and

Sports has agreed with the private sector to bring in private hospitals in fighting the disease, in principle, and this measure should be speeded up as soon as possible after details about the programme have been discussed.

When it comes to fighting the pandemic, we need a robust healthcare system to tackle such pandemics. The public and private hospitals need to work in sync to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

This pandemic must be tackled in a calibrated manner, and only when local and regional governments take a leading role in preparing and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the infection would be put under control in a short time.

Local and regional governments are on the frontline, dealing with the health emergency, and mitigating the real-time social and economic impact on the poorest.

They also play a critical role in fostering the solidarity of communities and making it possible for civil society to come together and contribute to the resilience of our communities.

The experts and health workers from the Ministry of Health and Sports will take responsibility for providing technical support to the local and regional authorities to ensure public health services function properly through the response.

The situation demands the Union Government, local governments and communities to engage and share the healthcare burden, challenges and successes with each other.

There needs to be new forms of collaboration between urban health experts, government agencies at all levels, sanitation experts, social scientists, innovators and urban planners.



COVID-19 expanding risks to peace everywhere, warns UN chief

"Beyond war zones, the pandemic is highlighting and exploiting inequalities of all kinds, setting communities and countries against each other..":Guterres

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday that the COVID-19 pandemic is expanding risks to peace everywhere.

"It poses an enormous threat to people caught up in conflict, which is why I made an immediate appeal for a global ceasefire," the UN chief said at the UN peace bell ceremony on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the International Day of Peace, which is observed around the world each year on Sept. 21.

"I will repeat the call during the General Debate next week. We need to silence the guns and focus on our common enemy: the virus," said the secretary-general.

The annual meeting of world leaders at the UN is going virtual this year for the first time in its 75-year history because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first day of the General Debate is on Sept. 22.

Noting that peace is never a given, the UN chief said that "it is an aspiration that is only as strong as our conviction, and only as durable as our hope."

"It can take decades, even centuries, to build peaceful, stable societies. But peace can be squandered in an instant by reckless, divisive policies and approaches," the UN chief noted.

"Beyond war zones, the pandemic is highlighting and exploiting inequalities of all kinds, setting communities and countries against each other," Guterres said.

He called for efforts to "push for peace wherever conflict is raging and wherever there are diplomatic opportunities to silence the guns."

The peace bell ceremony was beamed globally via live feed, with the UN chief and the new UN General Assembly president, Volkan Bozkir, standing at appropriately distanced podiums, in line with COVID-19 measures.

Bozkir said the pandemic has threatened health, security and the way of life of people everywhere.

"Today we stand separated and masked. The pandemic has brought unexpected levels of misery and hardship to many. But it is the most vulnerable who



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (C), Volkan Bozkir (L), president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, and Kimihiro Ishikane, permanent representative of Japan to the UN, pose for a photo in front of the peace bell at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 17, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

suffer most, and are still suffering, both in conflict, and at the hands of this disease," he said.

Under normal conditions, UN messengers of peace, such as renowned American cellist

Yo-Yo Ma, would travel to New York to take part in the peace bell ceremony.

Ma participated virtually in this year's commemoration, as did Jane Goodall, the British

primatologist famous for her pioneering research on chimpanzees.

Prior to the official ceremony, the two UN messengers of peace participated in a student

observance of the international day, held online. Their colleagues -- violinist Midori, conductor Daniel Barenboim, and Paulo Coelho, author of "The Alchemist" -- provided inspirational video messages.

Goodall was adamant that the world will get through the pandemic. "But when we get through it, we must get together as a human family," she said. "We must set aside differences between nations, religions, cultures, to tackle a far greater threat, which is the climate crisis."

Ma spoke of the need to build trust between various generations as a means to achieve peace.

"Intergenerational exchange is incredibly important," he told the young audience. "It's your world, and we need to hand you over as best a world as we can, and trust that you are going to be the great stewards over the next half century."

SOURCE: Xinhua



COVID-19: CONSIDERATIONS FOR WEARING MASKS

Using a Face Mask to Guard Against the Covid-19 Virus

By Lokethar

THE Novel Corona Virus-19 is spreading rapidly throughout the world. The word "Novel" attests to it's "newness" which means humanity had not encountered it before. Hence it has been groping in the dark to shed light on the nature of the virus. Because of the threat posed by the new virus the world is living through a period torn out of the pages of science fiction novels and their movies. Perhaps just like in the movies humanity will win the day.

Take all measures

Humanity must take all measures to protect itself and

avoid contracting the virus to the best of it's ability. To prevent the virus from getting an upper hand, rules of living are being increasingly mandated in Nations around the world. These rules of living are rooted in the science of Health and Safety in relation to communicable diseases and approved by World bodies.

In Myanmar, which has been affected by the virus, though not to an alarming level like in many other countries, the people have to live by the Rules that Government has formulated to rough over the Novel Corona Virus -19 pandemic as best as they can. The Ministry of Health and Sports with the guidance of the Covid-19 Virus Detection, Prevention and Treatment

Central Committee has issued various rules for the citizens to abide by to prevent spread of the Corona Virus -19. The rules include proper use of the "face mask" together with frequent washing of hands as prescribed and "social distancing". In the meantime it is hoped that the development of a viable vaccine against the virus would be forth coming soon.

Mean while use of a face mask is accepted by most health experts as the being a means among others, of controlling the spread of the virus. The face-mask prevents the transmission of the virus through the mouth or nose, identified as the portals of entry of the virus into the body of the wearer. It also prevents

the wearer, if he has the infection, from spreading the virus to others through his exhalations, and particularly when coughing and sneezing. In fact it is now mandatory to wear a mask in public in most countries of the world.

The use of the face mask

The use of the face mask to stop the Corona Virus can perhaps be compared to "David's" slingshot to stop "Goliath", although some may not agree with the comparison. The efficacy of prevention function of the face mask, like David's slingshot, is entirely dependent on it's proper use. The face mask must be put on systematically. It must be worn and adjusted without

touching the mask surface, so as to be snug fit on the face. This involves "fitting" the top-side of the mask with the pliable insert to clamp closely over the ridge of the nose. The mask is a one-time use item. After use it must be taken off systematically and disposed off so that no one can come in contact with it. One should not touch the mask now and then and afterwards touch the face or any part of it. It can be temporarily removed to take food or drink. But it or another one need to be worn again after thoroughly washing the hands. It does require some patience to wear or remove a mask systematically.

The Authorities have allowed work in factories accord-

ing to strict rules prescribed. The rules include wearing a face mask at work all the time. Workers should be "trained" to wear their masks properly and to keep them on without touching the outer surface. As people may get the infection without showing any signs, workers must use the masks at all times even after work when in their "Asaungs" (place of stay) together with other workers. It's the least they can do to prevent the spread of the disease and prevent being quarantined. Work is essential for their livelihood. So they must observe the rules prescribed to keep on working.

With charity to all and malice to none.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 18th September, 2020)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the tropical storm "NOUI" has crossed over Laos and now lies over Thailand. It is moving West ward and forecast continues to move West-Northwest wards as a land depression and then reach to Kayah, Kayin and Mon States(Myanmar) on (19.9.2020).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Southern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and Kayah State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (8 - 12) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5 - 8) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in NayPyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th September, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, widespread in Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

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

Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society Chairperson U Zin Aung presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 18 September.



Esteemed people

Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society was born from the 8888 Uprising and was at the forefront of democratic revolution during that time. We were unfairly labelled as an illegal organization by the State Law and Order Restoration Council after the 1990 election. Our remaining colleagues and we have continuously endeavoured for democracy in all forms and made numerous sacrifices.

We have participated in politics in the field, and as the remaining members of the 20 years of democratic struggle, our master strategy is:

1. To legally revive the Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society that we respect.
2. To allow our various colleagues abroad to return to the nation with dignity.
3. To free our colleagues who have been imprisoned for years and will enable them to participate in the democratic transition.

We formed our party with these objectives in mind in 2010. As a political party, we prioritize our goals, cause and progress over our results in the election.

Esteemed people

We were involved in the second struggle for freedom under the heading of democracy and human rights in 1988, and so the revolution has been a long journey. The more prolonged conflicts drag on, the more various hardships the nation and its people suffer. Politics is similar to fighting on the battlefield as we have to review our strategies. The first struggle for independence was driving out the British colonialists and fascist Japanese from our homeland, so it was easy enough. We changed our strategy as we pushed forward to implement democratic practices.

We have decided, as a political party, to grab the opportunity to try our best to make amendments under the 2008 Constitution, rather than the military administration, accordingly to a win-win theory.

Esteemed people

Societies in modern developed nations have social and livelihood security. They can live under fair laws, and there is mutual trust between different communities so that each citizen can live with dignity.

Societies in underdeveloped nations do not have livelihood security.

There is no equality of trust between their societies, and so the nation is bogged down in political conflict and stand as those seeking assistance on the global stage. The life of being dependent is the worst situation.

Politics is about deciding on a stance on political issues from history and finding solutions through responsible political opinions, action plans and methods.

We will not spend time trying to point out the people responsible for our political issues of poverty and underdevelopment. The best resolution after the careful review is genuine democracy.

Esteemed people

The Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society was formed to political oppose any sort of authoritarian system against democracy and instil equality and mutual trust between all societies in Myanmar.

Our party's policies are for the emergence of a genuinely democratic system, coexistence between all societies based on equality, and the emergence of a society based on freedom and fairness.

The red background and white star is the symbol of our historic fascist revolution victory. By respecting and imitating the traditions of the historic moment and flag, our party has adopted a red flag with five white stars of the same size stacked equally in the upper right corner.

Esteemed people

The entire population does not want to worry about basic needs today. They want to live under accurate and fair laws. They want unique opportunities and rights. It is a reality that should exist in this period, and it requires genuine democracy for it to take place. Democracy is simply a system where citizens elected by other citizens are given the task to govern the rest of the citizens responsibly.

We are implementing democracy for the future, and that requires a balance between public participation and political leadership to face and overcome all challenges.

Esteemed people

Change is intrinsic to time. It tends to drag people who wish to stop time and cling to the past. Disappointment and pain can arise when that happens. When leaders of the nation implement guided democracy through a top-down approach but don't take place in real-time, public participation automatically brings about change. We are mainly aiming to implement democracy so we will continually strive for balance with the public involvement in politics.

The democratic transition and peace process are two sides of the same coin and are both hopes for the people. We need parliaments and governments that respect and value the law that will lead us to this goal. There needs to be fairness in politics, business and social affairs.

We need to nurture the drive to oppose injustice and unfairness in students instead of punishing

them in prison. We must amend the law that jails the employee for requesting increased wages and fundamental rights due to the rising cost of living and lets employers off the hook with a fine. It is the duty of the governments and Hluttaws striving for democracy.

We will prioritize the interest of the workers and farmers who are facing general challenges in our journey for the welfare of the nation and its people while viewing the people as equal partners. We will hold firm to freedom, equality and fairness and give priority to high-quality manufacturing machinery, high-end agricultural produce, and experts from diverse fields as our policies while having noble and capable people as our party's primary policy.

We will comprehensively implement market-based economy. We will change the national economic system from basing on land and natural resources to a policy based on human resource. As we will be establishing human resources, we will give priority to capable professionals from the economic field. We will put an end to land and resource disagreements and armed conflicts to elevate human value and develop the national economy.

We will also prioritize quality in the industrial sector to increase production quantity as our policy.

Farmers who till the soil should be the owners of the farmland and policies to reduce production costs of crops and increase production rate should be implemented. We must protect monopolization and profiting off of foreign and domestic markets and establish a bank system with collective ownership by farmers to achieve this goal. We must recognize farmer unions and organizations as legal entities and partners.

We must implement a well-rounded education system that combines theory and practice. The education system must be equipped with all necessary teaching apparatuses and cultivate experts and professionals with practical experience. Since it will be an all-rounded education, we must get rid of policies that place restrictions, approve the legal formation of student councils, and enact a compulsory and free education system.

Everyone, who has passed the age of 18, should have the opportunity to take on the tasks of the party according to their level or expertise regardless of age.



Esteemed people

We request you to give as the duty to be the opposition that stands for the people and carry out politics for the people in the Hluttaw amid any government that takes office. We pledge to take full responsibility and accountability.

Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.

Myanmar National Congress Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Myanmar National Congress Party Chairperson U Kaung Myint Htut presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 18 September.



Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

Myanmar National Congress Party supports State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We will amend the 2008 Constitution to be free of the lingering aura of military authority. Vote for Myanmar National Congress Party only if you genuinely like our policy.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

As long as people are pretending to endeavour for the development of the nation while working to fulfil their self-interests, our nation will never be lifted from the ashes. The interest of the people is the priority number one of the Myanmar National Congress Party. We stand for those in poverty who have suffered for generations of bad systems. Vote for Myanmar National Congress Party only if you genuinely like our policy.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

We need to eliminate festering political sore rooted for in the nation for years if we want Myanmar to be prosperous. We need practical and useful peace

process to end the armed conflicts that have streamed drops of blood for many decades. Ethnic groups need to be able to create their own desti-nies. Genuine ethnic leaders need to be allowed to lead the nation in a democratic federal union. Vote for Myanmar National Congress Party only if you genuinely like our policy.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

Both majority and minorities are living on Myanmar soil. We need to respect and emphasize the human right requirements of the minorities. Instead of turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the criticisms of Myanmar's lacklustre human rights standards, we need to deal with the issue directly with courage. Vote for Myanmar National Congress Party only if you genuinely like our policy.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

The world is changing. We should not cling on to old ways of doing things or thinking. Every person must have the freedom to express their gender orientation, feelings, desires and beliefs. Same-sex orientation is not a deficiency of moral character. We need to respect the integrity and job opportunities of all gender orientations in society. Myanmar National Congress Party stands for all gender orientations. Myanmar National Congress Party will respect and protect the rights of all gender orientations. Vote for Myanmar National Congress Party only if you genuinely like our policy.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

Summarizing what was said earlier, we wish to explain our party's pledge and work programme for succeeding in the 2020 election. If the Myanmar National Congress Party wins the election:

- 1. We will immediately implement peace dia-

logues that will effectively produce solutions with all ethnic armed organiza-tions.

- 2. We will find practical solutions to issues of human rights for minori-ties.

- 3. We will strive to enact laws that recognize same-sex marriages in the Hluttaw.

- 4. We will immediately find practical solutions for unemployment among the working class.

- 5. We will support and assist Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy to amend the 2008 Constitution.

Esteemed citizens of Myanmar

As a political party, we are honoured and appre-ciate this opportunity to voice our beliefs.

When you firmly hold onto a political belief, you will undoubtedly have support from people you are close to and from like-minded people. Still, you will also have people from opposing sides who may harbour animosity.

This is the nature of politics.

Notwithstanding, Myanmar National Congress Party will bravely stand for the working class and the poor who have felt the full brunt of the negative impact of mismanaged systems and aim for the deepest desires in their hearts.

Myanmar National Congress Party will heed only the will of the people.

That is all.



ASIA NEWS

Suga instructs minister to achieve lower mobile phone fees

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday instructed the minister overseeing telecommunications to achieve lower mobile phone fees, which are said to be high compared to other countries.

“We will make every effort to hammer out solu-tions as soon as possible, as the matter is directly related to the daily lives of people,” Ryota Takeda, minister of internal affairs and communications, told reporters after meeting with Suga at the prime minister’s office.

Takeda said the gov-ernment will aim for a considerable cut, adding, “It wouldn’t be much of a

reform if we settle with (a cut of) 10 percent or so.”

The communications ministry’s survey earlier in the year found that a monthly fee for heavy mo-bile data usage in Tokyo of 8,175 yen (\$78) for 20 gigabytes was the high-est charged by carriers in six major world cities, as of March. London’s 2,700 yen was the lowest.

As for data usage up to 2 and 5 gigabytes, New York’s monthly charges were the highest, followed by Tokyo.

Suga has been calling for a drastic cut in mo-bile phone fees in recent years through increased competition among carri-ers. He said in a speech in

August 2018 when he was chief Cabinet secretary that mobile phone charg-es could be reduced by 40 per cent.

Japan’s wireless communication market has been dominated by three major operators, NTT Docomo Inc., KDDI Corp. and SoftBank Corp.

“In some countries such as Germany and France, (mobile phone fees) have been lowered by 70 per cent” after pro-moting fair competition, Takeda said.

He also said he will listen to the opinions of both mobile phone ser-vice operators and their customers before draw-ing a conclusion.—Kyodo

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

TRANSFERING DISTRIBUTOR FOR REGISTERED PESTICIDE

The manufacture of Viet Trung Pesticide Joint Stock Company (Viet Nam) has registered the following products in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board to distribute in Myanmar by Viet Trung Myanmar Company Limited.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	REG. No	Registration
1	V.T Laung 32 WP	(Bensulfuron -methyl 4% + Quinclorac 28% WP)	2017-3938	Provisional
2	V.T Zeal 25EC	(Quizalofop-P-ethyl 25% EC)	2017-3943	Provisional
3	V.T King 300 EC	(Pretilachlor 300 g/l EC)	2016-3147	Provisional
4	V.T Xim 25 WP	(Acetamiprid 20%+Lambda- Cyhalothrin 5% WP)	2016-3134	Provisional
5	V.T Yoo 15 WP	(Emamectin 5%+Lambda-Cyhalothrin 10% WP)	2016-3138	Provisional
6	V.T Bat 77 WP	(Copper Hydroxide 77% WP)	2016-3141	Provisional
7	V.T Sun 325 SC	(Azoxystrobin 200g/l+Difenoconazole 125g/l SC)	2017-3937	Provisional
8	V.T Cone 5 SC	(Hexaconazole 5 % SC)	2017-3940	Provisional
9	V.T Buii2SL	(Kasugamycin 2% SL)	2016-3142	Provisional

Now Viet Trung Pesticide Joint Stock Company has changed distributor from Viet Trung Myanmar Company Limited to Naing Toe Aung (Myanmar) Agro Group Co., Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days from this advertisement date.

Viet Trung Myanmar company Limited
No 86, First floor coner of Shwe Phue Myaw & Bayint Naung street,
Daw Pone, Yangon, Myanmar

Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party (TNP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party (TNP) General Secretary U Myln Ownn Khaine, and member of the Executive Committee Tar Hla Pe presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 18 September.



Esteemed national people

I wish you all good health and happiness.

I am U Myln Ownn Khaine, General Secretary of the Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party. I am delighted to have this opportunity to present our party's political standpoint, vision, mission, belief, conviction, policy and action programmes. Now, I would introduce our Palaung people and Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party.

The party was established on 24 May 2010 under the registration No. 12 and will launch its organizing campaign in the whole Union.

Its base areas are Namhsan, Manton, Lashio, Kyaukme, Namtu, Hsipaw, Muse, Namkham, Kutkai and Momeik townships in Shan State (North), Namhsan and Mongkai townships in Shan State (South), Mandalay and Mogok townships in Mandalay Region, and Yangon city in Yangon Region.

We, the Palaung nationalities, have been living in unity together with their counterparts of the Union in weal and woe since yore, and we are proud of calling

ourselves Ta-arng or Ta-arng".

Although ethnic Palaungs are called Palaung, Pale, Palang, En, Riang, Loi, Tai-loi or Yin Net in the respective regions, we all are proud to recognize ourselves as Ta-ang or Ta-arng. We believe that we are the descendants of the sun dragon.

Ethnic Palaungs are living in Shan Plateau in Myanmar, Yunnan in China, hilly regions in Thailand and Assam State in India. Palaungs are the people living in plateaus and mountainous regions, and tea is our primary way of making a living. So, 'Palaung and Tea' or 'Tea and Palaung' always come together. As there is even a saying, which goes, "If you want to consume quality tea leaves, the Palaung must slowly ascend the mountain", we would invite people desirous of enjoying good tea leaves to mountain trekking in Palaung region.

Palaung people have the sky blue flag with the picture of the sun at the centre since time immemorial. It is the old banner of the Palaung people honouring the Father Sun. Hence, our party inherit this ancient flag of our people.

As for the Myanmar national brethren, Palaung always comes in parallel with tea. Besides, tea plays a pivotal role in the ancient tradition of Myanmar traditional culture, and it is still an essential element of Myanmar society. So, Palaung people regard tea as their master of life and benefactor. So, our logo honours this tea leaf.

Esteemed national people

Six candidates of our party stood for the 2010 General Election to represent the people in the three

chambers of the parliament, and 12 candidates for the 2015 General Election to represent the people in the three houses. We played the leading role in establishing the supreme body of the Palaung Self-Administered Zone. Moreover, we have been carrying out the regional development undertakings with accelerated momentum and looking into the requirements of the people in all seriousness.

Our solemn belief is that success comes through the goodwill services in the interest of the nation and the people.

As we are the party formed with the members to serve the interest of the Union and all the nationalities, we have trust in our utmost efforts in realizing our vision and mission.

Our party candidates will contest in Namhsan, Manton, Lashio, Kyaukme, Namtu, Hsipaw, Muse, Namkham, Kutkai and Momeik townships in Shan state, and Mogok township in Mandalay region. We have ten candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, six for Amyotha Hluttaw, and 20 for state/region Hluttaws. There are a total of 36 candidates from our party.

Tar Hla Pe, a member of the Executive Committee the of Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party will now explain the political ideology, vision, mission, policy and action programmes. Thank you.



Esteemed national people

I am Tar Hla Pe, member of the Executive Committee the of Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party and Union Peace Discussion Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretary. With respect, I wish you all the people good health and happiness.

It's a pleasure for me to present our political ideology, vision, mission, policy and action programmes here.

The political ideology of our party calls for the emergence of a federal democratic Union, the assurance of the fundamental rights of the citizens, the flourishing of an independent and fair market economy, the national solidarity, freedom, justice and equality, and the advancement of political, economic and social sectors.

Our vision involves the task of establishing a federal democratic Union, liberty and guaranteeing a secure socio-economic life for the people.

We believe in nationalism based on liberty, justice, empathy and the strengthening of the national and cultural identity and the love for the country and the race.

The mission of the party is the strengthening of national unity, the guaranteeing of the fundamental rights

of citizens and ethnic rights and self-determination, the restoration of genuine peace and the establishment of a true federal democratic Union.

Now, I will present the policy and action programmes of the party in all seriousness.

Myanmar is a Union formed with various national races, and it calls for a real Union where a sustainable unity is ensured. So, we have assigned ourselves with the task for the emergence of a genuine federal democratic Union.

Moreover, we will strive for the adoption of a constitution that fully guarantees the rights of the citizens, ethnic rights and equality.

We value the inherent rights of all while ensuring legal rights and political rights for women. We will promote and protect women through the enactment of specific laws.

We will broaden the scope of the youth sector through the nationalistic drive.

As human resources play an essential role in the future State, the party will internationalize the education field through the adoption of a national education system that encourages pioneering ideas and innovation.

The involvement of ethnic literature, languages, cultural heritage, fine arts, historical traditions in the school curriculum is also included in our action programmes, and we will prioritize the work of protecting and promoting ethnic rights and interest and unity.

The party promises protection for agriculture the main livelihood of the rural people, including farmers, and farmland and ancestral land and promotion of the socio-economy by generating jobs and alleviating poverty.

The party pledges the utmost efforts for social de-

velopment undertakings that will empower the masses.

It believes that the political evolution of the country calls for settling or solving all differences and disagreement through a dialogue, which is a new political culture, to restore national reconciliation and a genuine peace permanently.

All-inclusiveness and equal rights are part of the country's political evolution as peaceful co-existence of multiple ethnic races is an essential need. The objective existence of ethnic groups and minority races must be recognized, and diversity must be respected. So unity and diversity is a priority issue.

The essentiality of cultural freedom must be fully recognized in protecting ethnic characteristics.

The party understands the particular importance of public involvement in adopting and realizing its action programmes. It assumes that the people, as well as the political parties, have their responsibility for the correctness of actions. It seems that the participation of the people has become more systematic because of the brighter signs of the maturing democracy and the improvement of democracy culture.

We will strive for the sustainability of the existing positive foundations of people's socio-economic life and for relaying them to the posterity.

Democracy is a government by the people, so we accept the vital importance of public involvement. So, I would request the people to thoroughly study the visions, missions, policies and work programmes of individuals and parties before casting a vote.

In conclusion, I would request the people to support the Ta-arng (Palaung) National Party in the constituencies its candidates are standing for the election.

Praying for all be free from the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish you all physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Pa-O National Organization (PNO) party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Pa-O National Organization (PNO) Central Executive Committee Member Nang Yee Yee Win presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Firstly, I would like to talk about the Pa-O National Organization (PNO) before delving into our policies, stance and work programmes. Even though we are named the Pa-O National Organization, we have been working together with all ethnic groups living together with us from the time of struggle for independence up to this day with no discrimination.

Our contribution to ethnic security, road networks, electricity, sufficient drinking water, primary businesses, education, healthcare and social affairs can be observed through the development and changes in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone and related areas.

Next, I wish to explain the history of our party. There are 135 distinct ethnic groups in Myanmar, and the Pa-O are the seventh-largest ethnic nationality in the list. We can be found residing in Shan State, Kayah State, Mon State, Kayin State, Bago Region and Mandalay Region. The Pa-O have actively participated in rebelling against colonialism, fascist Japanese and the struggle for independence. The Pa-O national leader U Phyu also signed one of the objectives of Myanmar independence, the Panglong Agreement.

After the Second World War, many people around the world began to have political awakenings and the Pa-O established the Pa-O Union in 1947, also called the Pa-O Lwaung Buu, and reorganized as the Union Pa-O National Organization in 1950. They contested in the elections in 1952, 1956, 1960 and 1990 and won a parliamentary seat in the 1956 election and three seats in the other polls.

The Pa-O National Organization was formed after a unanimous decision was made at the fifth conference to create a party that represents the entire Pa-O ethnic group in the 2010 Multiparty General Elections. PNO contested in the 2010 and 2015 elections and won 10 seats for ten constituencies with the unity and support of residents. They have witnessed the PNO Hluttaw representatives who were elected in both elections fulfil their duties within the Hluttaw, in the leading body of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone and in developmental processes outside the Hluttaw.

We prioritize education and have initiated educational action plans as a public movement since

1991. We have fulfilled the requirements of teachers and have increased the number of graduating youths every year who go on to accomplish their duties in various fields. The efforts of the Hluttaw representatives and cooperation from the public have resulted in development in multiple sectors. The representative candidates will continue to maintain the rate of growth in addition to improving standards of living and economic development. PNO will compete with the motto "Lo mu jipwar yam htanghtoonwangsawt-maenagaryo" which translates to "Vote the dragon for socio-economic development" for the success of PNO in the coming election.

The party's stance is as follows:

- 1. We will maintain the three national causes in line with the Constitution.
- 2. Pa-O nationals will work hard to share challenges and benefits with other ethnic groups and implement fairness, freedom, equality to achieve peace, prosperity and ethnic rights.
- 3. We will work hard to develop a multi-party democracy system and nurture the Union spirit from genuine nationalism in ethnic equality regardless of regional location.
- 4. We will contribute to establishing a democratic federal union that every ethnic group is hoping for.

Our party's objective summarized is mutual respect and equality among all the ethnic groups across the nation will perpetuate genuine nationalism and peaceful coexistence that shares the challenges and benefits within a legal framework. Developing human resources will balance out urban and rural social and regional development. We will move towards a modern and developed new Republic of the Union of Myanmar in substantial unity.

The party's seven work programmes are as follows:

- 1. To preserve Pa-O language, literature, culture, customs and traditions, national identities and historical heritage and develop them to pass down prestigious heritage to the next generation.
- 2. To implement mutual respect and regional stability and peace, with ethnic solidarity and peaceful coexistence in mind.
- 3. To advocate for more youth and women inclusiveness in political leadership roles.

4. To work together with other ethnic groups in establishing a democratic federal union that guarantees fundamental human rights and democratic rights.

5. To prioritize healthcare, education, infrastructure and human resources for regional all-rounded development.

6. To strengthen businesses based on information and technology with minimum harm to the natural environment.

7. To fully receive the authority of the self-administered zone as stipulated in the Constitution, and to achieve the rights of Pa-O people which correspond to the characteristics of Pa-O, with serious consideration of three main causes.

The party emphasizes ethnic solidarity and peaceful coexistence with mutual respect. We will not be contesting nationwide but rather in areas with large Pa-O residents. We will put forward more youth and female candidates as part of our aim to ensure them to participate in the role of political leadership. If our party representatives get elected, then we will strive for equal rights for all ethnic groups in the Hluttaw. We will also cooperate with the Hluttaw representatives who will arrive for national development. We will work together with the new government administration for national development as well.

We request members of the public to cast your votes for candidates from our party and support them at the General Election on 8 November 2020. Our party's flag is the national flag of Pa-O, and our symbol is an entire dragon going steadfast towards its objective. In the Pa-O language motto of "Lo mu jipwar yam htanghtoonwangsawtmaenagaryo" which translates to "Vote the dragon for socio-economic development."

In conclusion, please use the precious single ballot you will receive to vote for Pa-O National Organization to reach the Hluttaw at the General Elections on 8 November 2020. May all citizens be happy and prosperous!



Campaign speech of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) to be broadcast on 19 Sept, published on 20 Sept

CAMPAIGN speech of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 19 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 20 September. — MNA

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

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



Invitation for Bids

Date:	21, September , 2020
Bid No. and Title:	3(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2020-2021 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Nyaung Bin Gyi - Gan Gaw Transmission Line
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	6 November, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Nyaung Bin Gyi- Gan Gaw Transmission Line** (“the Facilities”). The Facilities are all located in Sagaing and Magwe region.

3. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with Single - Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least two (2) transmission line contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US\$ 45.0 million.
- For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
Overhead transmission line of 220kV or higher shall not be less than (120) km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

5. To obtain further information bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410282
Email: dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, ddlptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com,
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410282

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

7. Bids must be submitted to the following address above **on or before the deadline: 6 November, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time)** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

8. **Electronic Submission is not allowed.**

9. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 6/11/2020.

10. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

Asian finance chiefs vow to promote cooperation amid pandemic



People wearing face shields eat together at a pub in Osaka on 25 May, 2020. Japan has lifted the coronavirus state of emergency in Osaka and the two neighbouring prefectures of Kyoto and Hyogo. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

TOKYO — Asian finance chiefs on Friday pledged to promote regional financial cooperation to minimize the prolonged economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, while noting that they have seen some “green shoots of recovery”.

“The importance of regional financial coopera-

tion is further underscored while our region is facing new challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” the finance ministers and central bank governors of Japan, China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations said in a joint statement following a videoconference.

“We agreed to continue working together to further enhance regional economic and financial stability,” they said. Among specific measures, they decided to increase the operational flexibility of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization scheme, which came into force in

2010 and is designed to address balance-of-payment and short-term liquidity difficulties in the region in times of crisis.

The scheme evolved from the Chiang Mai Initiative, the first regional currency swap arrangement launched by the ASEAN-plus-three countries in May 2000 with the aim of preventing a repeat of the 1997 Asian currency crisis.

As for recent developments, they said “green shoots of recovery” in their economies have been observed, while the outlook “remains uncertain” this year. The online talks were held on the sidelines of a two-day Asian Development Bank meeting starting Thursday, which was also switched to a teleconference due to the pandemic. The ADB’s annual meeting was initially scheduled in the South Korean city of Incheon in May.—Kyodo ■

Shanghai’s foreign trade up 5.9 per cent in August

SHANGHAI — Shanghai’s foreign trade grew by 5.9 per cent year on year to reach 312.51 billion yuan (around 46.25 billion U.S. dollars) in August, with its exports and imports both registering robust increases, the city’s customs said on Friday.

Among the trade, ex-

ports totaled 121.87 billion yuan, up by 5.8 per cent year on year. Imports notched up 190.64 billion yuan, up by 5.9 per cent. In the first eight months of this year, Shanghai achieved a total import and export volume of 2.19 trillion yuan, up by 0.5 per cent year on year.

— Xinhua ■

Uzbekistan to resume int’l tourism next month



Tour operators will be able to bring in foreign tourist groups of between five and 15 people. Identical twins Zuhra and Fatima Rakhmatova are members of the Tourist Police in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TASHKENT — Uzbekistan has allowed tour operators to organize group tours for foreign citizens to visit the country from Oct. 1, the country’s special commission on COVID-19 said Friday.

Tour operators will be able to bring in foreign tourist groups of between five and 15 people, and must ensure that visitors are free from COVID-19

and other infectious diseases, the commission said.

Members of foreign tourist groups with a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests should not be subject to 14-day quarantine restrictions, and should not face additional tests upon arrival in Uzbekistan, according to the commission’s decision.— Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (199W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (199W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Contact:

Majority women among five still in running to head WTO

GENEVA — Three women -- two Africans and a South Korean -- were among the five candidates still in the running to take the helm of the World Trade Organization on Friday after the field was whittled down.

No woman, and no African, has ever headed the global trade body.

The initial pool of eight candidates to replace Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down as the WTO director-general last month a year ahead of schedule, was narrowed down to five on Friday.

The WTO had hosted consultations, dubbed “confessionals”, with all 164 member states to determine which of the initial eight were the most likely to garner the needed consensus.

Women candidates Amina Mohamed of Kenya, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria, and Yoo Myung-hee of South Korea remain, alongside two men: Liam Fox of Britain and Mohammed



In this file photo taken on September 19, 2016 former Finance Minister of Nigeria Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala looks on during the Opening Plenary Session: “Partnering for Global Prosperity”, at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. PHOTO: BRYAN R. SMITH / AFP

Al-Tuwaijri of Saudi Arabia, the WTO said.

The three with the least support, Jesus Saede Kuri of Mexico, Tudor Ulianoschi of Moldova and Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh of

Egypt, were then cut from the list.

“Honoured to be through to the second round,” Fox, Britain’s first post-Brexit international trade secretary, tweeted after

the decision was made public.

“I look forward to continuing to campaign on the issues that matter to WTO members and making the case for global free trade.”—AFP

FBI worried about clashes between violent groups before US vote



The FBI is increasingly worried about potential violent clashes between extremist groups on the right and the left ahead of the November election, Director Chris Wray said. PHOTO: JEFF KOWALSKY AFP/FILE

WASHINGTON — The FBI is increasingly worried about possible violent clashes between ideologically-motivated extremist groups before the November election, director Chris Wray said Thursday.

Wray said the Federal Bureau of Investigation is keeping a close eye on groups who have faced off in protests in various cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In those places, anti-rac-

ism and anti-police groups have squared off with right-wing and white nationalist activists who are often armed.

Wray told a Congressional hearing that the FBI was deeply concerned about the growing tension on US streets, and groups that are “hijacking” protests to incite violence.

“Now you’ve got an additional level of combustible violence,” he said, citing “violent extremist groups or individuals committing violence.”

“Now you have both groups from the opposite sides adding to the combustibility and danger of the situation,” Wray told the House Homeland Security Committee.

“We have certainly seen that in a number of cities. That’s a force multiplier, in a bad way, that

I’m concerned about.”

Several people have been killed in those situations.

In August, a 17-year-old with ties to arch-conservative groups was charged with shooting dead two people protesting against police mistreatment of blacks in Kenosha.

And at the end of August in Portland, an activist aligned with the leftist Antifa movement shot dead a supporter of a far-right Patriot Prayer group during a protest.

The Antifa shooter, Michael Reinhoehl, was killed by police days later.

Wray told lawmakers that, aside from “lone wolf” attackers inspired by foreign jihadist groups like Islamic State, white supremacists remain the biggest domestic terror threat.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polish parliament passes animal rights law

WARSAW — Poland’s parliament on Friday passed an animal rights law that had angered fur farmers and kosher meat producers and divided the country’s right-wing governing alliance.

The junior partners in the three-party ruling coalition had refused to vote in favour, provoking the ire of Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the powerful leader of the Law and Justice (PiS) ruling party that put forward the legislation.

Kaczynski, who is known for his love of cats, has threatened to exclude his coalition partners from the government during a planned cabinet shuffle or even call snap elections.

After a marathon session that began hours earlier on Thursday and with the support of the liberal opposition, the legislation passed the lower house of parliament with 356 votes in favour, 75 against and 18 abstentions. The measure, which still requires the approval of the senate, bans the breeding of animals for fur and stops exports of halal and kosher meat.—AFP ■

New sex assault allegation made against Trump

WASHINGTON — A former model has accused US President Donald Trump of groping and forcibly kissing her in 1997 -- the latest allegation made against the Republican incumbent just weeks before he seeks reelection.

Amy Dorris told Britain’s The Guardian that Trump sexually assaulted her in his VIP suite at the US Open tennis tournament in New York -- claims he denied via his lawyers.

“He just shoved his tongue down my throat and I was pushing him off. And then that’s when his grip became tighter and his hands were very gropey and all over my butt, my breasts, my back, everything,” Dorris said in an interview. “I was in his grip, and I couldn’t get out of it,” she added.—AFP ■

Germany to ban cigarette street ads from 2022

BERLIN — Germany will finally ban outdoor tobacco advertising from 2022, the parliament announced Friday, becoming the last country in the European Union to do so.

The German upper house put the final stamp of approval on new legislation tightening restrictions on tobacco ads, after doctors campaigned for years

to make tobacco less attractive to teenagers and young people.

Tobacco advertising is already outlawed in German media, but the country has long been the only EU member state that still allowed street posters and cinema advertising.

Julia Kloeckner, the minister responsible for consumer protection, told DPA news

agency that the far-reaching restrictions were long overdue. “Health protection must be the top priority here,” she said.

The new legislation also stipulates that from January 2021, cinemas must stop advertising tobacco products before films where children and young people may be present.

The bans will be widened

to include electronic cigarettes from 2024. Cigarettes will also no longer be allowed to be given away for free at events or in competitions from the start of 2021. An effort to push through similar bans in 2016 failed because of opposition from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative bloc, but the party changed its position late last year.—AFP ■

MNL Week-17 matches to be shown live on free-to-air channels

THE Week-17 matches of the Myanmar National League 2020 will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels: MRTV, MWD and streamed live on MyCujoo application, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar National League yesterday.

In derby match, which will decide the two teams' position in the MNL standing, Hantharwady United will play against Yangon United at Yangon United Sports Complex at 3:30 pm on 19 September 2020. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application.

Next, Rakhine United, will take on Ayeyawady United at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon at the same time and the match

will be streamed live on MyCujoo application. In the meantime, defending champion Shan United will play with ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and streamed live on MyCujoo application.

On 20 September, Sagaing United will take on Southern Myanmar FC at Yangon United Sports Complex at 3:30 pm, and the match will be shown live on MRTV and streamed live on MyCujoo application.

Also on the same day at 3:30 pm, Yadanarbon FC will take on Magwe FC at Thuwunna Stadium, and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo application.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Yangon's centre-forward player Emmanuel attempts to pass Shan United defenders (white) during their MNL Week-16 match played at Thuwunna Stadium on 16 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

Yangon's key defender to miss match against Hantharwady



Yangon United's Htike Htike Aung (NO.4) seen at the match against Magway FC at Thuwunna Stadium on 7 September 2020.

PHOTO: MNL

OWING to his exclusive offence, Htike Htike Aung, a vital defender of the Yangon United, will miss the upcoming Week-16 of Myanmar National League 2020 match against Hantharwady United,

according to the statement by the Myanmar National League.

The match will be played at 3:30 pm on 19 September (today) at the home stadium of Yangon United.

The reason he will miss the crucial match against Hantharwady is that he was fined three yellow cards in the previous MNL matches within 2020 season.

The Yangon United defender played every match for his team except Week-4 MNL match against Sagaing United.

Htike Htike Aung is well known for his blocking skills plus full attention on the match.

Currently, Yangon United is standing in the fourth place of the standing table with 29 points earned, and Hantharwady United is taking the second place of the table with 36 points.

In their previous meet within the MNL 2020 season, Yangon United had suffered 1-3 loss to Hantharwady.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Premier League agrees to new broadcast deal in China with Tencent

LONDON — The Premier League announced on Thursday (Sep 17) that it had agreed a new broadcast deal in China for the rest of the season with Tencent Sports following the termination of its previous agreement.

Viewers will have access to all the remaining 372 matches of England's top-flight football league via Tencent's digital platforms from Saturday.

More than half of all matches will be available for free to fans in China, with the remaining fixtures available on Tencent Sports' membership service.

The Premier League, which restarted last weekend

after a seven-week break, terminated its contract with Chinese broadcaster PPTV earlier this month after a dispute over a missed payment.

PPTV had agreed a reported US\$700 million deal for the right to broadcast all 380 Premier League matches per season from 2019 to 2022.

However, the first season of that deal was hit by the coronavirus pandemic, with a three-month shutdown between March and June, before the campaign was completed behind closed doors.

PPTV reportedly failed to make a payment due in March for coverage of the 2019/20 season.—AFP ■

US Open champion Osaka withdraws from French Open with injury

NEW YORK — Freshly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka pulled out of the French Open with a sore hamstring on Thursday, in a fresh blow to the coronavirus-hit Grand Slam which is already missing world number one Ashleigh Barty.

Japan's Osaka made the announcement just days after lifting her third major title behind

closed doors at the US Open in New York, the first Grand Slam tournament possible since the pandemic. "Unfortunately I won't be able to play the French Open this year," Osaka said in posts on Instagram and Twitter. "My hamstring is still sore so I won't have enough time to prepare for the clay -- these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this year."

The French Open is due to start on September 27 at Roland Garros, rescheduled from earlier in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The withdrawal of third-ranked Osaka means Roland Garros will be missing two of the world's top three, after reigning champion Barty said earlier this month that she wouldn't return to defend her title.—AFP ■



US Open champion Naomi Osaka of Japan has pulled out of the upcoming French Open with a left hamstring injury. **PHOTO: AFP**