

NATIONAL

Myanmar Farmers' Development Party, United National Congress Party (UNC) and Democracy and Human Rights Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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State Counsellor updates government measures against COVID-19 pandemic

I WANT to report about the COVID situation in Myanmar. As all of you know, the spread of COVID infections is, especially in Yangon. That is why we have issued strict “stay at home” rules and regulations in all townships in the Yangon region except Cocogyun. It is necessary to impose such restrictions. It is known to the majority of the people that the disease is spreading. Please don't be too afraid because the disease is spreading. However, you all need to be very vigilant. I have said repeatedly about this matter. Why am I reporting to you about this? There is nothing wrong by being over cautious. What we are going to talk about are things you might have already read in the newspapers and seen on television. However, I am reporting to you about these matters because you might not have read the news or missed the TV broadcasts.

Furthermore, I want the people to understand how much importance our Union Government has given to this matter and how much effort is being put in for the health and security of the people to the best of our ability. I want everyone to know what is happening. At present, the spread



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives a televised speech on containment of COVID-19, especially in Yangon, on 21 September 2020. PHOTO : MNA

of COVID infections has not tapered off in Yangon Region; this is not a cause to be disheartened. Why is this? If we make a projection of infection spread from the time of the first outbreak, it is not

practical to expect the infection spread to lose momentum. The reason is that after the first person gets infected, the infection spreads to all those who came into contact with this person.

Then the infections spread from these contacts to other persons. It has been quite some time when we began to issue strict rules and regulations. We issued these rules and regulations in March.

The people already know whether they followed these rules and regulations strictly or not. It is my understanding that at the moment, rules and regulations are being followed strictly. In Yangon, the movements of people have lessened compared to the previous period. It has come to my attention that the movements of people have decreased and that people are wearing masks. I am very happy to know this.

It would have been better if the people had acted this way in the first instance. However, there is no use to be remorseful about this at this time. That is why I would like to report briefly about the measures that have been undertaken by our Union Government, to the best of our ability, for all the people living in our country to be safe from the COVID disease.

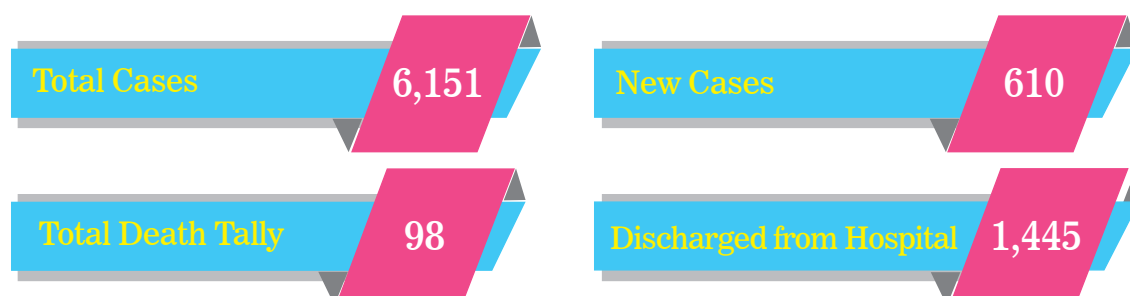
First of all, we feel very grateful; indeed we welcome the fact that all the people in our country have all joined in and participated in our struggle. Among those are the public service personnel from the Ministry of Health and the volunteers helping at the quarantine centres.

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610 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 September, total figure rises to 6,151

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 6,151 after 610 new cases were reported on 21 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 6,151 confirmed cases, 98 died, 1,445 have been discharged from hospitals and 345 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 21 September 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 21 September 2020

New PUIs

345

Ministry of Health and Sports

Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

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

UEC Chairman joins online meeting for promotion of child rights

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein took part in a virtual meeting organized by the NGO Child Rights Working Group yesterday.

In his opening remark, the UEC chairman emphasized physical and mental development of Myanmar children who contribute one-third of the country's population.

He also discussed prevention of discrimination against the children on the grounds of gender, social strata and faith, and they need protection from negligence, violence, hindrances to education, using in armed conflicts and sexual abuses.

He continued to say that as the children are the future generation of the country, their rights must be protected.

The online meeting was attended by the representatives from political parties, civil society organizations and local/international organizations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein (R) discusses promotion of child rights during the virtual meeting organized by the NGO Child Rights Working Group on 21 September 2020.

PHOTO : MNA



Social Welfare Dept, UNICEF discuss work plans for public awareness of Child Rights Law

THE Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts and the

UNICEF held a videoconferencing yesterday on work plans for public awareness of the Child

Rights Law under their Multi-Year Work Plan (2020-2021).

The government formed

the committee on 7 January 2019 to prevent the six grave violations (1) Killing and maiming of children (2) Recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups (3) Attacks on schools or hospitals (4) Rape or other sexual violence against children (5) Abduction of children (6) Denial of humanitarian access to children, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) and related resolutions.

The online meeting was joined by Director-General U Win Naing Tun, in his capacity as Secretary of working committee, from the Department of Rehabilitation, under the Minis-

try of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the work committee members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Attorney-General's Office and Myanmar Red Cross Society, Ms Noriko Izumi, the chief of Child Protection from the UNICEF Myanmar, and officials.

—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Committee on Preventing Grave Violence against Children in Armed Conflicts and the UNICEF discuss work plans for public awareness of the Child Rights Law via videoconference on 21 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Embassy in Saudi Arabia organizes relief flight for repatriation of 126 citizens

THE Embassy of Myanmar in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, managed to bring 126 Myanmar citizens back home by a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International. Two Myanmar citizens from Qatar, 47 from the United Arab Emirates, 48 from

England, two from Bhutan, and two from Czech Republic, as well as 24 seamen from Qatar and the UAE, landed at the Yangon International Airport by the relief flight yesterday afternoon.

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 international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level

Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. Myanmar has organized 9 relief flights from the UAE for repatriation of citizens stranded in foreign countries until now.

—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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State Counsellor updates government measures against COVID-19 . . .

FROM PAGE-1

As time goes by these public service personnel get weary and tired. The people know already that among these personnel from the Ministry of Health, some of them got infected with the disease. Furthermore, the volunteers also get weary and tired. As these people get weary and tired, the number of people that need healthcare and protection also increases. That is why it comes as no surprise that as the number of people needing care and protection increase, sometimes the healthcare provided may not be as desired by the patients or to their satisfaction. For this, I want our people to be patient. Please be patient. Please have empathy. The reason is that these personnel, those from the Ministry of Health as well as those volunteers are exerting great efforts to the best of their abilities.

However, when they are confronted with a great number of patients, please be patient if there are shortcomings sometimes. Furthermore, with regard to these matters, I would like to seek your help to make the big problems smaller, and the small problems disappear; please try to placate the dissatisfactions and try to boost the morale. I want to make a request to all of you not to fan the flames or to make the small problems become bigger and to make the big problems unmanageable. This may be because of deep concerns. However, even if a person speaks out of concern, such a person needs to speak with discretion. Something you say with concern; is it really beneficial? I have spoken repeatedly about this matter. According to the Buddhist teachings, what-

ever you say should be truthful, beneficial and bearable to the listener. Some words are difficult to bear. Therefore, firstly the words should be truthful. Even if the words are true, will they be beneficial? I want all of you to be prudent and wise to consider whether certain words if spoken, would make the people more afraid; or whether such words would not make the people more vigilant or diligent.

We are not preventing freedom of expression among the public, but just reminding them

local governments, supplying these centres with volunteers, staff members and equipment, sufficient medicines and medical supplies to the hospitals. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry is working to make sure that we have sufficient financial resources.

The government has both short term and long term views in relation to COVID-19. We could face difficulties in our economy in the post the pandemic period. People might have noticed the spread of pandemic across the

treat it with seriousness. Due to the magnitude of our carelessness, we have to exert more efforts in this problem. We will have to try our best to overcome the consequences.

The directives of our Union Government are basically not too much in this issue, even for individuals. The guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports include wearing face masks, washing hands at least 20 seconds, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, staying apart from others in unavoidable gatherings and staying at least 6-ft from each other. Adherence to these rules and practising healthcare guidelines would help in the control of COVID-19.

I have no doubt to overcome it immediately or gradually. However, it should be contained immediately for the relief of our country and people in hoping for a return to normality. There might be some questions of how long the pandemic would spread and what we need to prepare for it.

These are the questions of our government, as well as myself, all the time. Some countries are making strenuous efforts to produce medicines for COVID, while some countries are working for producing its vaccine. Some countries are focusing on the production of both medicines and vaccines.

Although our country has no capacity to produce the vaccine, we have prepared for getting it as soon as it has been produced. The Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Health and Sports are discussing with the diplomats from the countries which are trying to produce the medicines and vaccines to get these medical sup-

plies. The government will also use vaccines or medicines for the people with the approval of the World Health Organization.

Therefore, we all need to focus on containment of COVID infection spread in Yangon. Every person in Yangon needs to take care of health and not to be infected with the COVID. If someone is not infected, it will not transmit to others. Healthcare practice of someone means protecting others from the pandemic. Yangon people don't need to feel depressed about the disease.

It is widely known that Yangon people are brave. Courage must be used in the right situation. I want to request people in Yangon to overcome COVID bravely. On behalf of the government and the people, I am also grateful to the Yangon government, staff members, volunteers, civil society organizations and other supporters. It is not just the words. We will provide the possible assistance to the staff members with sufficient protective gears and comfortable accommodations.

The outbreak of COVID has been for over six months or half a year. Our people have become tired during this period. But we would be satisfied with our tiredness in the future when we have gained success after our strenuous struggle. I would like to conclude by saying that our understanding that victory was achieved through our collaborative efforts would turn into a great strength for us.

May all people be healthy and comply with the rules and regulations.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

The government has both short term and long term views in relation to COVID-19.

to speak with responsibility. As I have mentioned before that I appreciate inclusive efforts, the government has formed a technical supporting team. It will be led by former health minister Professor Dr Kyaw Myint. The participation of such veterans and retired experts is well recognized. No one wants to take retirement when the country required their efforts. They consider how to take part in solving the problem immediately with their voluntary efforts, although they could live safely in their home as they are senior citizens. We are encouraged by their efforts. They are providing us with both physical and moral inspiration. We are helping people with practical assistance such as the establishment of hospitals by the Ministry of Health and Sports, quarantine centres jointly set up by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the

world. Even the countries with most economic progress and the nations with the most developed economies have suffered the impacts of COVID-19. However, we have made preparations so that our people will suffer the least impact.

For example, in the general surplus fund, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has set over 1,000 billion kyats for aid in disaster management. The fund is related to the COVID-19. However, the fund was planned just for measures against COVID-19, not for other natural disasters. There is a separate fund for natural disasters. Over 1,000 billion kyats was allocated to tackle the impact of COVID and the needs in this issue.

This message is just to inform the public about the preparations of our Union Government and not to have serious worry. However, it doesn't mean not to

Union Minister U Soe Win holds virtual meeting on foreign assistance

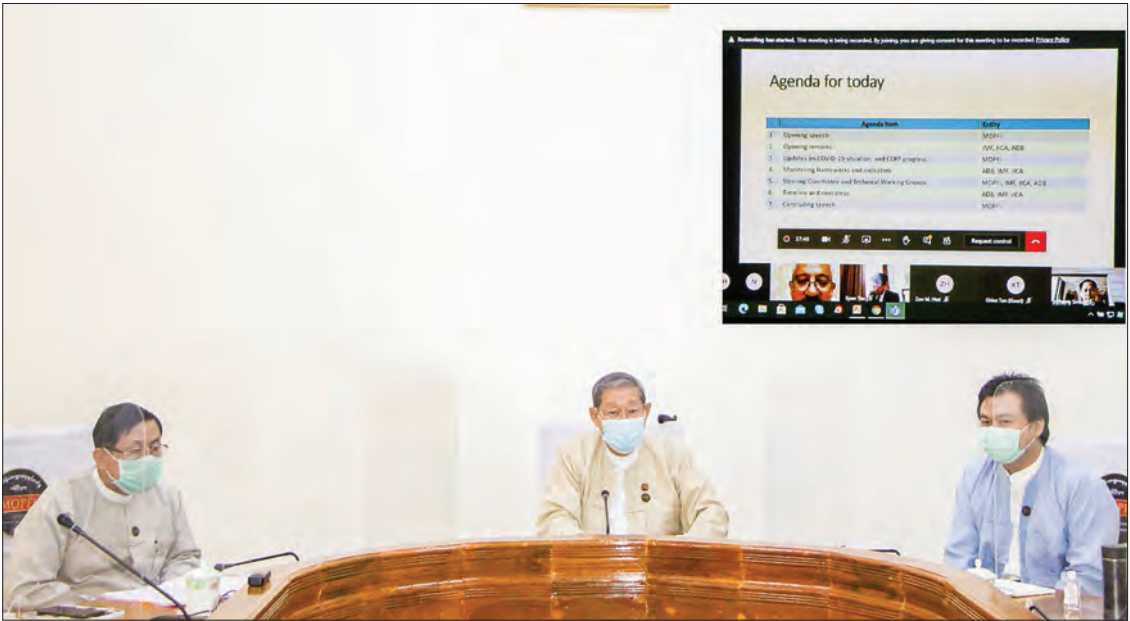
UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win participated in a teleconference meeting yesterday morning with Mr Newin Sinsiri, the Country Director for Myanmar from the Asian Development Bank, and the officials from International Monetary Fund, and Japan International Cooperation Agency about financial and technical assistance for Myanmar's COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan.

They discussed COVID-19 related situations in Myanmar, implementation of the CERP, the Myanmar Recovery and Reform Plan, efforts to minimize COVID-19 impacts on businesses by using state budgets and international financial assistance, cooperations between ADB, IMF and JICA and future plans.

ADB, IMF and JICA officials explained their assistance for implementation of CERP, and future plans based on CERP Monitoring Framework and indicators.

At low interest rates, ADB provided loan to Myanmar on COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Programme, IMF provided loans to Myanmar on Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) programmes, and JICA provided loans to Myanmar on COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan programme. Those loans are for the CERP, so implementation of the CERP will be monitored and assessed.

The virtual meeting was also participated by Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung



Union Minister U Soe Win (centre) participates in meeting with the representatives of Asian Development Bank via videoconference on 21 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Win, U Sett Aung, and Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and other officials, IMF's Representative Mr Neil Saker and JICA's Chief Representative Mr Noriji Sakakura.—MNA
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds discussions with Australian foreign & women minister via videoconference

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held discussions with Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of Australia via videoconference at

10:00 am on 21 September 2020 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the videoconference, the Ministers cordially exchanged views on further advancement of the existing bilateral relations and

cooperation between Myanmar and Australia including the holding of a High-level Consultations on Development Cooperation between two countries before the end of the year, preparations for holding of the forthcoming

Myanmar's General Elections successfully in November in line with the COVID-19 preventive health guidelines and sharing of Australia's experiences in holding elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to Australia for its contribution of 1 million Australian Dollars to the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund and Australia's support for the GAVI COVAX facility Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) that will provide access to the South-east Asian countries including Myanmar to have safe, effective, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines. The Ministers also discussed matters related to the arrangements and facilitations of relief flights to repatriate their citizens stranded in Myanmar and Australia and Australia's two-year assistance programme for Myanmar in health security and economic recovery to mitigate the socio-economic impacts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Union Minister gave a brief account of

Myanmar's preparation for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine in accordance with bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the ongoing cooperation between the Myanmar Government and the UN agencies, ASEAN and other development partners in creating a conducive environment for the returnees, the collaboration between the Myanmar Government and ICRC and WFP in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic for the vulnerable groups, including IDP Camps. He also stressed the importance of understanding each other's challenges and concerns as well as the need to support each other in a constructive manner in addressing the challenges. The Australian Foreign Minister expressed Australia's understanding of the complexity of challenges faced by Myanmar including the Rakhine issue and reaffirmed its willingness to provide constructive support and assistance to Myanmar's efforts in overcoming the challenges in its democratic transition. —MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds meeting with Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of Australia, via videoconference on 21 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

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



The fruitful results would come out within one or two weeks

The spread of COVID-19 began in late August. People have noticed the transmission of this disease in early September, and have developed more awareness of the disease. Now it is the third week of September. If we could take control measures systematically, the fruitful results would come out within one or two weeks. No one likes to stay under the restrictions for a long time. However, systematic and careful cooperation from all of you is needed for us to be able to get out of these stressful restrictions.

(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)



Govt officials discuss financial support for staff of suspended factories in Yangon Region



Union Minister U Thein Swe (L) discusses the financial support and salary affairs of staff of factories in Yangon Region temporarily closed due to COVID-19 during the virtual meeting with UMFCCI officials on 21 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held a videoconference with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to discuss the financial support and salary affairs of staff of factories in Yangon Region temporarily closing down due to COVID-19.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint

Kyaing, the permanent secretary, directors-general and department officials, the president of UMFCCI and business representatives.

The Union Minister said they are implementing COVID-19 preventive measures by the Ministry of Health and Sports but the recent rapid spread of COVID-19 has prompted all townships in Yangon Region, excluding Cocogyun Town-

ship, to have their citizens stay at home with the exception of emergency or necessary trips outside.

The Union Minister said business owners should ensure family members interacting with their employees should follow the proper health guidelines. Because of COVID-19, factories and workshops in Yangon Region will be closed for 2 weeks starting from 24 September 2020.

The Union Minister urged the UMFCCI president and officials to discuss the intricacies of wages and salary of the staff for the closed days and to suggest good ideas concerning it.

The stay at home period is set for 2 weeks and if the public closely follows this regulation, it will effectively slow the spread of COVID-19, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Union Minister said

everyone must understand this situation and the discussion was aimed at supporting the employees who will be temporarily out of work during the closure. The ministry will provide social assistance for the workers with social security in accordance with the law and the Union Government will organize assistance for those who don't have social security but urged business owners to participate in that effort as well.

Next, the UMFCCI president and attending business representatives explained the challenges they are facing, the parts of the MoHS regulations that required more clarity, suggestions and other queries to which the Union Minister replied. The UMFCCI president then said they will discuss with the different organizations to support the workers who will be staying at home during the temporary closure.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in online workshop on university charters

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi participated in an online workshop on university charters and university council, jointly organized by the ministry and Germany's DAAD yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, German Ambassador to Myanmar Thomas Neisinger, officials from DAAD and Central European University (CEU), education officials of Myanmar, the National Education Policy Commission Chairperson, the commission members, and rectors.

During the workshop, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that Myanmar is carrying out educational reform, and the country needs to draft and approve university charters, and form university councils in accordance with the charters. He invited the participants, including officials from universities in Germany and Viet Nam, to share their experiences in university development, promotion of quality in teaching and learning, capacity building for teachers and staff, promotion of collaboration with the private sector, undertaking research, hu-

man resources development and creating infrastructure.

In the workshop, Dr Stefan Hase-Bergen, Head of the DAAD regional office Hanoi; DAAD Secretary General Dr Dorothea Rüländ; Dr Christoph Strutz, Vice President of University of Hannover; and Vietnamese-German University President Professor Tomas Benz discussed their experiences on university charters, university councils and independent university management.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the online workshop on university charters and university council on 21 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds virtual meeting with volunteers to discuss COVID-19 response efforts

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Secretary of the National Volunteers Steering Unit, held a virtual meeting with members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee (Yangon Region), charity organizations and volunteers yesterday afternoon to discuss efforts for prevention and control of COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

The Union Minister said that the meeting is intended to help provide assistance to volunteers in making efforts for prevention and control of COVID-19 in Yangon Region,

and invited suggestions from the participants.

Volunteers and charity organizations in Yangon Region and members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee (Yangon Region) discussed various matters related to medical accessories, management, increasing motivation to volunteers and suspected patients in quarantine centres, necessary training, the differences between the first wave and the second wave of COVID-19, and other related matters. The Union Minister, the Deputy Minister and other participants also made discussions.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the participants and pledged that the Ministry will cooperate with other departments to help volunteers and charity organizations in their efforts to control COVID-19 in Yangon Region.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses COVID-19 response efforts during the virtual meeting with Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee and volunteers on 21 September 2020. **PHOTO : MNA**



Ayeyarwady Foundation building COVID-19 Critical Care Unit for emergency patients



Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation U Zaw Zaw (L) oversees the setting up of COVID-19 Critical Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 September. **PHOTO : KO MOE**

UNDER the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports and supervision of Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Vice-Chairperson of Yangon Region’s Coordination Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, the Ayeyarwady Foundation is constructing COVID-19 Critical Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre, which will house COVID-19 emergency patients at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The COVID-19 Critical

Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Centre will consist of a 20-bedded Intensive Care Unit and a 55-bedded High Dependency Unit.

Ayeyarwady Foundation has also already built a COVID-19 Care Unit (Thuwunna) – Ayeyarwady Centre at National Football Academy (Yangon), and it has capacity of 425 beds and rooms for 150 health workers and volunteers.

The COVID-19 Critical Care Unit – Ayeyarwady Cen-

tre at Thuwunna Stadium will become a 500-bedded care centre, and 250 health workers and volunteers will be appointed.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation has also provided food for patients, volunteers and health workers at the COVID-19 Care Unit (Thuwunna) – Ayeyarwady Centre at the National Football Academy (Yangon) daily. —Ye Yint Shine

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Relief assistance provided to flood victims

THE Tropical Storm Noul turned into low depression as it passed through Myanmar. It caused strong winds, heavy rains and tides, resulting in damages of property in some areas of the country.

A total of 3,700 people from over 900 households were affected by floods in Kawthong, Myeik, Pulaw, Bokpyin, Kyunsu, Launglon, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Taninthayi Region from 17 to 20 September.

The tides in Ye, Paung and Kyaikto townships of Mon State on 19 September has caused 3 deaths and damages to 90 houses.

In some villages of Kawa Township of Bago Region, torrential rains and tides from

Sittoung River on 18 and 19 September caused evacuation of over 7,000 residents from 1,500 houses.

Tidal waves destroyed over 70 houses in Pyapon and Dadeye townships of Ayeyarwady Region, and 300 locals from 70 household were taken to the safe shelters.

Officials from the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided relief assistance to the victims of these disasters.

People in the disaster-prone areas have been advised to follow weather warnings and to contact the hot-line numbers 067-3404666 and 067-3404777 for helps. —MNA



An MoSWRR official (L) provides assistance to a flood victim. **PHOTO : MNA**

Region/state investment committees endorse domestic projects worth K184.9 bln, \$32.195 mln over past 11 months

By Nyein Nyein

DOMESTIC investments by Myanmar citizens approved by the region and state investment committees have reached K184.9 billion and US\$32.195 million over the past 11 months of the 2019-2020 financial year since October, according to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October and 4 September in the current FY, the relevant region and state investment committees gave the green light to 67 local enterprises

to invest in various sectors. As of 4 September, Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee cleared 13 businesses, allowing an estimated capital of US\$3.428 million and K41.26 billion, while Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the go-ahead to 12 enterprises with \$5.886 million and K26 billion, Taninthayi to 10 projects with \$10.5 million and K40.48 billion, Sagaing to eight enterprises with \$2.344 million and K12 billion, Mon to five businesses with \$4.328 million and K13.6 billion, Kayah to four enterprises with K8.2 billion, Mandalay to three enterprises with \$2.957 million

and K12.14 billion, Nay Pyi Taw Council to two businesses with \$1.634 million and K6.147 billion, Chin to two enterprises with \$0.17 million and K2.535 billion, Bago to two enterprises with K5.265 billion, Shan to two projects with K5.67 billion, Kayin to one enterprise with \$0.7 million and K5.6 billion, Magway Region to one with \$0.042 million and K2.5 billion, Rakhine to one with \$0.192 million and K2.499 billion, Kachin to one with K965 million respectively.

The domestic investments are flowing into the executing manufacturing, hotels and tourism, other services, electricity,

agriculture, real estate development and mining sectors.

Of them, manufacturing sector pulls the most massive investments, followed by hotel and tourism and other service sectors.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require the permit

from the commission. Besides, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and that may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICA's proposal assessment team and the relevant ministries.

With a fast-track way to set up a business in Myanmar having been introduced, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional Investment Committees to get their investment proposals endorsed, depending on the business type.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-Thailand trade reaches \$18.86 bln in past 4 years



Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand over the past four years was estimated at US\$ 18.865 billion. PHOTO: FILE PHOTO

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with neighbouring country Thailand in regular trading and border trade was estimated at US\$18.865 billion in the past four financial years, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand in the past four years, with exports reaching over \$10.73 billion and imports valued at over \$8.13 billion.

Between 2016-2017FY and 2019-2020 (as of August), Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among the ASEAN states, followed by Singapore and Malaysia.

Thailand accounted for

18.48 pc of total trade in 2016-2017FY with an estimated trade value of US\$4.6 billion, 19.17 pc in 2017-2018FY with a trade value of \$5.57 billion, 40.38pc in 2018-2019FY with \$5.46 billion and 39.55pc in 2019-2020FY (Oct-April) with \$3.15 billion respectively.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous year. This year, corn exports to Thailand rose significantly compared with the earlier years, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns, bamboo

shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

The surge in coronavirus cases in Myanmar led Thailand to close its border area in Mae-sai recently. Only six trucks are now allowed on Tachilek-Maesai bridge per day after negotiations of the two countries, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry released the news on 16 September 2020.

Besides Tachilek, Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteekhee, Kawthoung and Maese border areas respectively. Among them, Hteekhee performed the most extensive trade in border trade with Thailand, followed by Myawady.

Apart from its leading trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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13th regular session of Second Anyonya Huttaw holds 16th-day meeting

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor holds talks with ROK President

Pyithu Huttaw debate, practical education, and upgrading accounts

an Suu Kyi assessor of spouse

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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More action needed to prevent children being harmed in armed conflicts, pandemic

THE current coronavirus pandemic is having an affect on children in conflict zones.

Ensuring the protection of children is of utmost importance as the Union Government is providing health care and food aid to the people including children in conflict areas as part of efforts for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is worth noting that the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF will work together for raising public awareness about the Child

Rights Law under the Multi-Year Work Plan (2020-2021) signed by the two bodies. At the same time, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement continues its aid to the people in conflict areas under the CERP plan to ensure that they can get good food and health care during the pandemic.

This commitment to provide aid to the civilians during the pandemic and conflicts is a positive step for the protection of children. Children were among the victims in armed clashes in our country. There is no excuse for violence against children.

Myanmar has formed a committee in 2019 to prevent six grave violations against children in conflict areas. The committee is tasked with taking immediate measures to respond to information on actions which deviate from civilian and military law and order; and to take action for violations against children during armed conflicts.

The National-level project (2020-2021) on preventing six grave violations against children in conflicts

was approved by the President on 10 August. A strong mobilization of regional governments, donors, civil society and private sector is needed to ensure that the project keeps children safe in any situation.

Hence, the authorities concerned are to scale up efforts to pull children out of conflict-ridden circumstances and to prevent the current pandemic from making the issue more complex.

Meanwhile, all warring parties in Myanmar are obliged to protect children from six violations under international law — killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, abduction, attacks against schools or hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access to children.

Also, the government will take action for violations against children during armed conflicts, as determined by the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE formed by the Office of the President.

■ ■ ■

People should not assume coronavirus will behave like other viruses: UK expert

SINCE the outbreak of COVID-19 in Britain, experts have raised concerns over how the coronavirus will impact life for people in winter.

According to Professor Andrew Easton at the University of Warwick, it is still unknown how exactly the coronavirus will behave, and what that may look like for Britain.

One thing he said is known, however, is that other common winter viruses around colds and flus will be confused with the coronavirus.

"That will make assessment difficult. If somebody presents with a flu, you wouldn't normally tell them to go and isolate for 14 days. There's going to be an increase in a number of people with these other respiratory diseases. It will make assessing COVID-19 difficult," he said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Due to a recent rise in confirmed coronavirus cases, the British government has strengthened infection prevention by implementing a number

of restrictive measures in some areas.

On Monday, the "rule of six" replaced the previous guidance on social gathering in England. The move came at a time when countries like Britain, China, Russia and the United States are racing against time to develop coronavirus vaccines.

HARDEST THING

Asking people to change their behaviour is "the hardest thing to do", he said.

"My concern here is understanding fully exactly why those numbers -- the 'rule of six' -- have been chosen and the way that has been done because it's slightly different in different parts of the country. So it is a worry that it may not be adequate," said Easton.

The rise in coronavirus cases has concerned Easton, but with a relaxation in restrictions and people allowed once again to interact, it comes as no surprise to him.

"Now we're in what would

be, for someone who studies transmission of virus, a very obvious situation where, when you then release the population and allow them to start to intermingle -- that's ideal for a virus," he said.

"We're seeing this upswing, and when that happens, you hope to contain it in localized communities -- that's been attempted," he also said.

TAKING TIME

But Easton noted that it will take time to bring down the rising cases again.

"I'm afraid I can't see this upswing coming to an end rapidly. It's going to take a bit of time before this is brought back down again and the only way it's going to be brought down is by having effective controls," he said.

The concept of "a second wave of infection" is problematic because Britain hasn't ever got the level of infection down to a low level and "it's always been there," Easton said.



Commuters rush to catch a public bus without maintaining social distancing despite fears over the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, in Kolkata on 21 September 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This principle of a second wave has come because people are making assumptions," Easton said, adding that people are too focused on using data from

the 1918 flu pandemic and other virus infections to predict the trajectory of the COVID-19.

"In the case of the 1918 pandemic, the incidence of disease

declined very rapidly and went very low. And then there really was a genuine second wave. The situation we're in now is slightly different," he noted. — Xinhua

Expert panel endorses protocol for COVID-19 herbal medicine clinical trials



PHOTO: WHO

THE Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 formed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Africa Centre for Disease Control

and Prevention and the African Union Commission for Social Affairs has endorsed a protocol for phase III clinical trials of herbal medicine for COVID-19 as well as

a charter and terms of reference for the establishment of a data and safety monitoring board for herbal medicine clinical trials.

"Just like other areas of med-

icine, sound science is the sole basis for safe and effective traditional medicine therapies," said Dr Prosper Tumusiime, Director of Universal Health Coverage and Life Course Cluster at WHO Regional Office for Africa.

"The onset of COVID-19, like the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, has highlighted the need for strengthened health systems and accelerated research and development programmes, including on traditional medicines," said Dr Tumusiime.

The endorsed technical documents are aimed at empowering and developing a critical mass of technical capacity of scientists in Africa to conduct proper clinical trials to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of traditional medicines in line with international standards.

Phase III clinical trials are pivotal in fully assessing the safety and efficacy of a new medical product. The data safety and monitoring board will ensure that the accumulated studies data are reviewed

periodically against participants' safety. It will also make recommendations on the continuation, modification or termination of a trial based on evaluation of data at predetermined periods during the study.

If a traditional medicine product is found to be safe, efficacious and quality-assured, WHO will recommend for a fast-tracked, large-scale local manufacturing, Dr Tumusiime explained, noting that through the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum, there is now a benchmark upon which clinical trials of medicines and vaccines in the region can be assessed and approved in fewer than 60 days.

"The adoption of the technical documents will ensure that universally acceptable clinical evidence of the efficacy of herbal medicines for the treatment of COVID-19 are generated without compromising the safety of participants," said Professor Motlalepula Gilbert Matsabisa, the Expert Committee Chairman. He voiced hope that

that the generic clinical trial protocol will be immediately used by scientists in the region to ensure that people can benefit from the potential of traditional medicine in dealing with the ongoing pandemic.

The 25-members of the Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 are tasked with supporting countries to enhance research and development of traditional medicine-based therapies against the virus and provide guidance on the implementation of the approved protocols to generate scientific evidence on the quality, safety and efficacy of herbal medicines for COVID-19.

The Committee members are from research institutions, national regulatory authorities, traditional medicine programmes, public health departments, academia, medical and pharmacy professions and civil society organizations of Member States. — WHO

■ ■ ■

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 34/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 19 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 19 September. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 23 September issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Hmway Hmway Khyne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 21 September 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North coastal Odisha (India) still persists. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and strong over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 22 September 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (8 - 14) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (6-8) feet off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 September, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Myanmar Farmers' Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Myanmar Farmers' Development Party Chairman U Kyaw Swar Soe presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 21 September.



Esteemed people

I am the Chairman U Kyaw Swar Soe of the Myanmar Farmers' Development Party. I am happy for the opportunity to talk with the public directly through radio and television.

I want to emphasize the lives of people in rural and urban areas as we talk about the nation's economy. Out of the 50 million people in our country, 70% live in rural areas and 50% out of that work in agriculture. Income development has been sluggish for generations, yet commodity prices are rising at a rate no one can argue with.

The lives of people in rural areas are affected by the slow development of the national economy. They are forced to find employment in neighbouring countries resulting in young people giving their youths for other countries while living rough lives. The main reason is the lack of jobs in rural areas, where there are more farmhands than farmers.

That is why our party's policy is to help people without farmlands to rear livestock instead of farm-

ing. Comparing the rate of cultivating an acre of farmland and breeding a pig, the person rearing a pig can calculate their profit in 3 to 4 months. Rural people know best that the farmer has to worry about whether his crop will be useful, sell or be in debt.

We urge rural people to pair farming with livestock breeding instead of one alone. Our party pledges to support them for rearing livestock and urban people need to give their support too. Please don't view this as irrelevant. Effects in agriculture and livestock in rural areas will affect the price of meat, fish and vegetables in urban areas directly.

If we look at Myanmar's education sector, there are an unfortunately high number of children and youths who are illiterate. A third of the nation is weak in education, and it will be hard to become a modern and developed industrial nation if that continues to be true. That is why we need to establish bigger agriculture, livestock and education sectors instead of just factories and workshops.

Myanmar Farmers' Development Party doesn't have any pure politicians but was formed to support farmers. You earn what you work hard for so we wish to send representatives for farmers and the working class to have their voice heard in the Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw has lawfully placed seats. The seats are available for those who wish to discuss politics or defence but also legal affairs, judicial matters, labour matters, education and healthcare and there are seats for farmers as well. Thus, we urge farmers to support their representatives as they bravely take their seat in the Hluttaw.

We want to tell the farmer representatives that

they don't need to be skilled in politics; they need to discuss the issues of their townships, regions and people bravely in the Hluttaw. You don't need to be afraid of other people and be receptive of your constituents.

The State represents all people, and the government is tasked with protecting the people by the people. We request the people to have compassion for those charged with your life and not be afraid. We are not in actual politics yet. The people are still labouring under the hot sun and tired physically and mentally, with no change yet. Real politicians should be able to change the lives of citizens for the better.

Working-class people in townships and rural areas face financial hardships when they get sick and have to seek medical treatment. There is no denying the weight of worrying about expenses is higher than the effect of their illnesses. That is why we wish to establish a collective medical treatment system for working-class people where a person can put in a certain amount each month and never worry about the medical costs for their loved ones. I apologize for not having enough time to explain things. We will strive for health security for all people.

In conclusion, the Myanmar Farmers' Development Party urges the working-class to persevere and climb up on the rope to freedom out of poverty and into the Hluttaw and the government to make significant changes.



UK public warned to get serious as Covid alarm bells ring

LONDON (United Kingdom) — England is on track for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a surging death toll unless the public gets serious about preventive action, top UK advisers warned on Monday.

Rates of infection in England are replicating the strong resurgence of Covid-19 seen in France and Spain, roughly doubling every seven days, government chief medical officer Chris Whitty said.

"We are seeing a rate of increase across the great majority of the country," he told a media briefing, urging the public to respect stricter guidelines on social distancing after widely shared pictures of young revelers out in British cities.

"This is not someone else's problem. It's all of our problem."

The briefing previewed an expected announcement by

Prime Minister Boris Johnson this week detailing government action to flatten the exponential coronavirus curve heading in to winter, when regular respiratory diseases typically spike.

Almost 42,000 people who have tested positive for Covid-19 have died in Britain, the worst death toll from the pandemic in Europe.

After a summer lull -- when the government urged the public to frequent pubs and restaurants -- cases have been rising rapidly to reach some 6,000 daily, according to one survey by government statisticians.

Second wave

Johnson last week said Britain was already seeing a second wave of Covid-19 -- in line with parts of Europe -- and the government introduced new restrictions for millions across northwest, northern and central England.—AFP

Partial virus lockdown in Madrid as US deaths near 200,000

MADRID (Spain) — A million people in and around the Spanish capital on Monday were under a new lockdown to contain another coronavirus surge, as the US death toll neared 200,000.

Top British advisers meanwhile warned that England was on course for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a rising death toll unless the public got serious about preventive action. The global death toll stood at 961,531 at 1100 GMT on Monday, according to an AFP tally based on official statistics, with more than 31 million infections.

The restrictions in Madrid will last for two weeks, affecting people living mainly in densely populated, low-income neighbourhoods who will be allowed only to travel for essential reasons such as work, medical care or taking children to school. Po-

lice cars stopped vehicles at random on a main avenue in Puente de Vallecas, a working class neighbourhood in southern Madrid, to check if people had a valid reason to leave the area. Most accepted the measures with resignation but some complained that the restrictions were not imposed across the affected region. "You can't close one part of a neighbourhood and not another one, one street yes, and one street no. So, either you close everything, which will be catastrophic, or you close nothing," said Alejandro Campos, a 30-year-old travel agent.

Things are not so bad'

Since January, more than 5,100 migrants have made the perilous crossing from the African coast, an increase of 500 percent from the same period in 2019.

In India, infections are surging with tens of thousands of new cases being reported every day.

Yet, with the economy reeling, the government has gradually eased what was once among the world's strictest lockdowns and reopened the iconic Taj Mahal -- despite warnings from some experts about the virus spreading across the vast nation of 1.3 billion people.

"So many people lost their job during the lockdown. People have suffered a lot and it is time the country opens up fully," said bank official Ayub Sheikh, 35, who was visiting the Taj Mahal with his wife and baby daughter.

Only 5,000 visitors are allowed daily at the monument -- a quarter of usual capacity -- and all have their temperature taken by staff wearing face shields, masks and gloves.—AFP ■

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

United National Congress Party Vice-Chairman (1) U Htoon Win presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 21 September.



I am Vice-Chairman (1) U Htoon Win of the United National Congress Party. While every eligible voter right now is unsure of for whom to give their precious vote, we dare not ask them to put it in for our party representatives. We merely request you to support us when you understand our party's political activities.

Citizens, workers, farmers, labourers, students, and people of all ages — esteemed greetings to all of you. May you possess peace and auspiciousness.

I will briefly explain our party's progress. The current United National Congress Party (UNC) was reistered on 28-2-2012. We contested in the 1990 election with the same name. Before that, Bogyoke had urged U Razak to form the Burma Muslim Congress (BMC) to unite scattered Muslims across the nation as a political strength for independence and then became a part of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL).

We were able to build unity with no discrimination between the highland and flat plains and sign the Panglong Agreement. We achieved independence. Even after independence, BMC continued to be a prominent ally of AFPFL on the political stage up till 30 September 1956 in internal peace, rehabilitation and increasing industrial production. We were successful to a point neighbouring countries looked up to us. But we were taken apart like scaffolding afterwards.

The party was disbanded, and BMC (New) was formed on 1 October, and BaPaKa was formed in 1961. They allied with PaMaNyaTa and became the opposing political force. To perpetuate the Burma Socialist Programme Party, all other political parties were disbanded in 1964.

We contested in the 1990 election as the United National Congress Party. When political parties were allowed to form for the 2010 elections, we finished registering in 2012.

If we look back at our history, no matter what

name change takes place for the political climate, all citizens united in establishing the nation and protecting it. They had equal rights and opportunities and high national integrity. We all need equal opportunity to participate in the affairs of the country as we have used to together in protection, construction and modern development.

We came into close contact with the various societies for the 2014 census, and we would want that extensive human resources to be wasted. Our neighbours who are ahead were able to use the communities because they are dependable even if there are differences. A nation whose policies ignore the minorities will never have genuine peace or development. Discrimination is now vanishing in the middle of COVID, and people are helping each other through all difficulties. That is admirable.

We organized the national conference in City Hotel, Yangon, on 24 October 2018 to prepare for this election by cooperating with everyone for the nation, implementing methods for mutual understanding, acknowledgement through patience, practising love and compassion, and believing in collaborating.

Esteemed voters and people

Everyone is born equal, and Myanmar citizens need equal rights to have equality. Every ethnic group requires self-determination and to create their own destiny. There needs to be a democratic nation that values human value and integrity, equal human rights for all nationalities, religions and genders.

The market economy system has to be healthy and thriving in a nation. State monopolies and private monopolies must be abolished, and free competition laws must be enacted. The State must support small and medium enterprises.

Labour wages need to consider clothing and living expenses as well. The State must bear the cost for health and education, and up to two-thirds of the highest payments from the State Budget should be used to cover those costs.

Farmers need guarantees to own their farmlands. They should have the choice to select the crops that make the most business sense. Large landlord systems must be prevented legally. The State must bear the cost of agricultural assistance. Confiscated land must be returned to their original owners without delay.

Homeless citizens in rural areas should be given land from public land through a raffle system. The State must provide for those who cannot afford to buy their own land. The government needs to build low-cost housing projects for the homeless in urban areas. Laws must be enacted to have companies do the same for their employees.

Liberal democratic education must be established, and students must be taught to nurture their own thinking and decision-making skills from respected and compassionate teachers. Students should also be linked to international colleges and universities where they can get practical, research-based and theoretical experiences. All university students must have a dorm room prevented from growing up among bad influence. Student and teacher unions must be allowed to form freely, and each movement must deal with integrity.

Our party representatives can come to explain these policies to the doorsteps of our voters. We have already distributed our announcement for success:

1. UNC is a political party formed to participate in resolving the nation's political issues through political methods;
2. UNC will cooperate with everyone in national political issues and clearly define their own duty;
3. UNC will cooperate with all ethnic groups, nationalities, political parties, civil society organizations and networks for the right to forge our own destiny, freedom to practice any religion and culture towards establishing a genuine federal democratic union that does not discriminate race, religion or gender;
4. UNC stands together with everyone for democratic culture, eliminating authoritarianism, freedom from majority influence, and everyone who has been involved in the freedom for farmers, workers, students, merchants, employees and religious clergies;
5. We will work for the people's interest without hate speech but with love, without separation but with unity, without restriction but with the freedom to fulfil the needs of the people;
6. We will carry out our duties within and outside the Hluttaws and hope those who have misjudged us see the truth, better understand us with clarity.

Thus, we admirably request the public to cast their votes for us as we enter this multiparty election.

Thank you.



Campaign speech of Kachin National Congress Party to be broadcast on 22 Sept, published on 23 Sept

CAMPAIGN speech of Kachin National Congress Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 22 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 23 September. — MNA

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

Democracy and Human Rights Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Democracy and Human Rights Party Information In-Charge Daw Khin Nu presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 21 September.



Esteemed voters and people

I wish you all physical and mental wellbeing.
I am Daw Khin Nu, Information In-Charge for the Democracy and Human Rights Party, and it's a pleasure for me to present the policy, stance and work programmes of the party to the people.

First, I would like to introduce our party. We set up the party under registration No. 63 on 13 March 2013, and its organization campaign covers the whole country. The headquarters of the party is at No. 24, first floor, 101st Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The following points are the vision of our party:

- 1. To ensure human rights fair and square in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; to establish genuine democracy, and to provide more excellent protection for people who are void of human rights;
- 2. To take part with might and main in observing Our Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- 3. To foster friendship with all the national brethren, apart from the aim of maintaining the unity and friendship among all the ethnic peoples of the Union;
- 4. To establish a “Political Culture” that acknowledges all the nationalities as a single citizen and guarantees equal rights for all the national races;
- 5. To seek a political solution that ensures long-term unity and equality between the minorities and the people;
- 6. To actively partner with political parties that share the political, economic and social outlooks with us.

The following points are the stance of our party:

- 1. In turning the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a genuinely democratic state, the entire citizens must have equal rights in political, economic and social sectors;
- 2. A modern and developed state will emerge soon only if the rule of law can materialize the genuine democracy in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- 3. A peaceful and tranquil state will come into being only if the issues of the ethnic races and human rights are solved employing the inclusive negotiations and discussions with the involvement of all the stakeholders;
- 4. Regardless of race, religion and locality and without any colour discrimination, Myanmar citizens must be governed under uniformed norms and laws. The administrative system where superior orders are above the law must be changed;
- 5. Myanmar citizens migrated to other countries for various reasons should have the right to reenter the country and to take part in building a new democratic nation as a reliable force.

Esteemed voters and people

I will now present some of the work programmes laid down by the party as follows:

1. Education sector-

- (a) To introduce the compulsory primary and middle

- school education and free high school education in the entire country;
- (b) To enable students who pass matriculation examination to pursue higher education at a reasonable cost;
- (c) To strive to increase government allotment for education funds required for multiple progress of vocational education;
- (d) To systematically implement all necessary programmes to uplift the country to reach the level of providing globally recognized education services.

2. Health sector-

- (a) To ensure low-cost quality healthcare services for the entire people;
- (b) To strive to attain the capability to lead the whole people in preventing infectious diseases and in providing medical treatment for all the infected patients;
- (c) To lay down and implement necessary development programs for the country's medical knowledge, therapies, pharmaceutical production and indigenous medicine to reach the international level.

3. Economic sector-

- (a) The emergence of the market economy and generation of job opportunities through the encouragement of factories and workplaces, poverty alleviation, and equal job opportunities for every region and every race;
- (b) Establishment of environmentally friendly micro and macro businesses that may bring long term benefits.

4. Peasant sector-

- (a) Farmers shall have the legal right to own, transfer and inherit farmland;
- (b) Gradual transition of traditional farming into modern mechanized farming;
- (c) Granting tenancy permits for the landless through land reclamation programme;
- (d) Efforts to transfer ownership of land, confiscated for various reasons, back to the original owners;
- (e) To carry out agricultural research, pedigree seed production and quality farm machinery production for the benefit of farmers;
- (f) Formation of a farmer association that can independently look into the sufferings and losses of farmers, ensure their rights and settle their problems in their interest.

5. Workers sector-

- (a) Guarantee rightful salary for every worker and to provide workers with unemployment protection;
- (b) To ensure equal pay for every worker regardless of race, religion, locality and gender;
- (c) Guarantee protection against forced labour and occupational mistreatment;
- (d) Ensure the right of association for workers to protect their interest.

6. Student/youth sector-

- (a) Prioritize youth efficiency promotion as youth members are the future of the State and the invaluable force of the nation;
- (b) Encourage the formation of student union within the legal framework as an acknowledgement of the role of students;

7. Judicial sector-

- (a) Ensure the independence of the judicial pillar within the framework of democratic norms;
- (b) Judges shall have the independent power to pass judgments relatively under the laws;
- (c) No administrative body shall be entrusted with the judicial authority or the ability to interfere in the judicial affairs;
- (d) Judicial procedures and judgments of the courts at

- different levels must be transparent;
- (e) The accused shall have the full right to defend in the court and to appeal, and any criminal law shall not be construed to be retrospective;
- (f) A defendant shall be innocent until proven guilty;
- (g) No legal examination, punishment or sentence amounting to tarnishing human dignity shall be made;
- (h) There shall be no direct or indirect effect against a defendant's family, race or religion in meting out punishment to him/her after he/she is proven guilty.

8. Administrative sector-

- (a) To strive for the emergence of democratic administrative machinery that ensures the rule of law, transparency, responsibility and justice, and which is free from racism/religious extremism;
- (b) To prevent the emergence of administrative machinery that is against democracy and human rights norms, and that may confuse the legal matters.

9. Foreign affairs sector-

- (a) We will practise the independent and active non-aligned foreign policy in international relations;
- (b) We will especially prioritize the role of the community-based organizations in international relations;

10. Ethnic affairs sector-

- (a) We will strive to restore national solidarity through the recognition of the equal rights of all the nationalities, as well as friendship, bilateral respect for culture and customs between ethnic races, and respect for fundamental human rights;
- (b) We will strive for the development of literature, culture and traditions of all the ethnic people;
- (c) We will foster mutual trust and friendship among the ethnic races through the exchange of views between them and the inclusive cooperation in the political affairs;
- (d) We will serve the interest of the ethnic races by building economic infrastructures, allowing independent development undertakings, alleviating poverty and promoting the human resources;
- (e) We will make cooperative efforts for ensuring the inherent rights of the ethnic races entirely and self-determination for them;
- (f) We will establish a severe political solution to realize the missions of the ethnic peoples;
- (g) We will protect the history of ethnic races from waning and preserve their cultural heritage;
- (h) We will cover every ethnic race from being denied their fundamental rights based on the differences in religion, culture and customs.

11. Defence and Security sector-

- (a) We will support the Tatmadaw to become efficient, technically developed and capable, as it is an essential force of the nation;
- (b) We will help the Tatmadaw to win the love and trust of the people;
- (c) We will support the police force to become reliable for the people in enforcing the rule of law within the legal framework and serve their duties well.

Esteemed voters and people

The logo of the Democracy and Human Rights Party is a scale symbolizing the equality among all the citizens.

I wish people of Myanmar free from all kinds of pandemics and health and happiness. Thank you.



Suga, Trump vow to boost Japan-U.S. security alliance

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. security alliance and work together to tackle the coronavirus pandemic on Sunday night in their first phone call since Suga took office.

Suga, elected by parliament on Wednesday as Japan's first new leader in nearly eight years, told reporters after the conversation that he told Trump the alliance is the "cornerstone of peace and stability in the region."

Trump was quoted by Suga as saying the alliance should be strengthened even further and that Suga is welcome to call him "24 hours a day."

The two also discussed the situation surrounding North Korea and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 25-minute conversation.

Suga asked Trump for continued U.S. support in

pushing for the return of Japanese nationals who were abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, according to a Japanese government official.

The leaders agreed the two allies will cooperate on the development and distribution of a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, the official said.

They also discussed the importance of pursuing their shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and agreed to work together to strengthen the global economy, according to the White House.

Earlier in the day, Suga had a phone conversation with Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, the first head of government he spoke to since his inauguration.

Suga's predecessor, Shinzo Abe, is known to have formed one of the closest relationships with Trump among world lead-

ers.

The two played golf together on multiple occasions and the U.S. president invited Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida twice, in 2017 and 2018.

Suga, Abe's right-hand man as chief Cabinet secretary during that time, is seen as a savvy politician on the domestic front but considered inexperienced in diplomatic affairs. "Congratulations Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. You have a great life story! I know you will do a tremendous job for Japan and for the world. Look forward to talking soon!" Trump had tweeted on Thursday.

After talking with Morrison and Trump, Suga told reporters outside his official residence that he was eager to hold phone calls with other world leaders, without naming any names.— Kyodo News ■

Ten dead, up to 25 feared trapped in India building collapse

BHIWANDI (India) — Ten people were killed and up to 25 are feared trapped after a three-storey residential building collapsed before dawn on Monday in western India, officials said.

The accident in the city of Bhiwandi, which neighbours India's financial capital Mumbai, happened around 3:40 am (2210 GMT Sunday), according to local authorities.

Emergency workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) pulled 19 people from the rubble -- including two boys aged four and seven -- to loud cheers from residents. "Total number of deaths is 10... Rescue operations are ongoing", NDRF commandant Ithape Pandit told AFP.

NDRF director general Satya Narayan Pradhan



Rescue workers search for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed three-storey residential building in Bhiwandi on 21 September 2020. PHOTO: AFP

tweeted that specialist teams and sniffer dogs were trying to rescue another "20-25 feared trapped".

An official at the Thane city authority, which oversees Bhiwandi, told AFP that more than 40 emergency workers were helping search for survivors.

Images broadcast on the NDRF's official Twitter

feed showed emergency workers combing through concrete and brick rubble with electrical wires hanging over their heads.

The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but building collapses are common during India's June-September monsoon, with old and rickety structures buckling after days of non-stop rain. — AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Reg. No. 526/2020

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Reg. No. 2924/2020

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In respect of **Class 7:** Valves or joints for gasoline pumps for service stations; dish washing machines for industrial purposes; valves (machine elements not for land vehicles); electric-driven, pneumatic-driven industrial actuators to be mounted on valves for opening and closing valves (not for land vehicles).

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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.

Yangon circular railway to run during peak hours



A train of Myanmar Railways (MR) is seen at a station in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Circular Railway operated by Myanmar Railways (MR) provides service only during peak hours while it has

temporarily halted the service on some routes, according to No. 7 Division of MR.
Yangon Circular Railway is set to ply two times each during the morning and evening

rush hours on Yangon-Hlawga, Yangon-Mingalardon and Yangon-Ywarthagyi routes beginning on 21 September.
However, two trains (B/3 and B/4) earlier running clockwise (right) and two trains (A/4 and A/5) running counter-clockwise (left) in the afternoon have temporarily suspended from 21 September.
Earlier, Yangon circular railway network, connecting the satellite towns and suburban areas to the city, ran 54 rounds per day. In a bid to control the spread of coronavirus, MR slashed its service of passenger trains.
Additionally, MR continues to run on the main six routes in the country amid the declining passengers feared by the surges in coronavirus cases, coupled with travel restriction in line with the health guidelines by Nation-

al-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). However, the service was temporarily paused on other routes on 12 September, as per the notification released by No. 7 Division (Yangon).
Those six principal routes with the available trains are Yangon-Mandalay route with No.3 and 4 (up and down) trains, Mandalay-Myitkyina with No 41 and 42 (up and down) trains, Yangon-Pyay with No. 63 and 64 (up and down) trains, Nay Pyi Taw-Chauk with No. 101 and 102 (up and down) trains and Mandalay-Lashio with No. 131 and 132 (up and down) trains.
Cargo trains and mail trains will keep running on Yangon-Mandalay and Mandalay-Myitkyina routes.
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

AYA Bank to temporarily close 43 branches in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING the coronavirus cases mounting in Yangon Region, AYA Bank has stopped its services in 43 branches in the region from 21 September, stated the bank in its press release.
They are Thuwunna, Yankin, Pansodan, Hninsi Gon, University Avenue Road, Mapo Road, Padauk Chaung, Yadana Road, Yuzana Plaza, Hotel Novotel, Laydaukkan, Bosunpat, Myanmar Plaza, North Dagon-2, Shwebonchar-2, Kyuntaw, Thilawa, Myanmar Gonyee, Lanmadaw Plaza, Kyimyintdine-3,

Bo Aung Kyaw-2, Mayangon, Mawtin, Hline Parami, Kamayut Baho Road, Natmauk Road, Dawbon-2, Junction City, Tamway, Thudamma Road, Kyaikwine, Htanchaukpin, Thameinbayan, Hlinethaya-3, MICT, Baho Road, Panhlaing Road, Thumingala, Pazundaung, Kyauktada (mini), Inya (mini), Shinsawpu (mini) and Shwe Mingala Market (mini) branches.
Among a total of 121 branches of AYA bank in the region, 78 branches will keep opening regularly.
This move is aimed to re-

duce the operation service amid the COVID-19 crisis as AYA prioritizes the health of customers and the staff during the banking service.
As per the Business Continuity Plan set by the AYA, only some branches will be opened across the country.
Last 8 September, one of their employees in Sittway was found positive for the COVID-19, and other two other staff in close contact with that person have been tested positive either.
Additionally, one employee each in AYA University Ave-

nue New Road branch (Yangon 13), AYA headquarters at River View Tower, AYA Thameinbayan Road (Yangon-93) branch in Tamway Township and AYA Laydaukkan branch have been infected with the coronavirus.
At present, the AYA Bank, AYA SOMPO Insurance and Max Myanmar group have made an initial donation of K1 billion to provide essential items, medical supply, medical facilities and infrastructure of Ayeyawady quarantine camps, Ayeyarwady Foundation stated.
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

27 Myanmar seamen stay hotel quarantine in Kawthoung

A total of 27 Myanmar seamen who signed off from three ships anchored in the Andaman Sea for crew change arrived in Kawthoung yesterday evening.
Among them, nine are from the ship MT Global Flora that came from China, three are from MV Amis Kalon from Ukraine and 15 are from MT Chemroad Queen from Malaysia.
Captain U Win Min Htet and eight seamen for MT Global Flora vessel, Captain U Kyaw Khant Zin and three seamen for MV Amis Kalon, and Cap-

tain U Min Soe Oo and eleven seamen for MT Chemroad Queen has swapped the duties with returned seamen.
Officials from departments concerned and healthcare workers examined the returned seamen's health conditions.
The twenty seven seamen are being quarantined for 21 days, and their lab samples will be sent to the National Health Laboratory.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Twenty-seven Myanmar seamen returned for crew change arrive in Kawthoung on 21 September 2020. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

Hundreds of whales stranded in southern Australia

SYDNEY (Australia) — At least twenty-five whales have died and scientists are trying to rescue 250 more that are stranded in a remote bay on the Australian island of Tasmania, officials said Monday.

Tasmania’s environment department said the whales had become stuck on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour, on the island’s rugged and sparsely populated west coast.

NicDeka, who is managing the incident response, said two large pods were stranded on sandbars a few hundred metres apart inside the harbour.

“They are in water but it’s very difficult to see how many of those whales are deceased or what condition they’re in,” he told reporters in the nearby town of



A handout photo taken and released by the Tasmania Police on 21 September 2020 shows whales stranded on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour on the rugged west coast of Tasmania. **PHOTO: AFP**

Strahan. They are believed to be pilot whales but the environment department is yet to confirm the species.

Police are on site and marine experts are assessing the situation ahead of plans to launch a rescue

mission early Tuesday morning.

“In terms of the tides, when we start making an effort tomorrow it will be with an outgoing tide, so that’ll be in our favour, but obviously tides go up and

come down so we’ll be aiming to make the most of the windows that we have,” Deka said. Mass whalestrandings occur relatively often in Tasmania, but the large numbers involved present a daunting

rescue prospect.

Authorities may call on a network of local volunteers to assist but have cordoned off the area to the general public.

The latest stranding comes as a humpback whale that was stuck in a tropical river in Australia’s north finally returned to the ocean after more than two weeks. Public broadcaster ABC reported the creature, which spent 17 days in the crocodile-infested waters of Kakadu National Park, has been spotted in open seas off Darwin.

Scientists had been weighing options for guiding the humpback to safety after it became the first known whale to travel up the muddy river, but were relieved when it returned to sea on its own.—AFP ■

Judge halts WeChat download ban in US-China tech battle

NEW YORK (United States) — A US judge on Sunday blocked the government’s ban on WeChat downloads, hours before it was due to take effect in an ongoing technology and espionage battle between Washington and Beijing.

The Trump administration had ordered a ban on downloads of the messaging platform WeChat as well as hugely popular video-sharing app TikTok, both owned by Chinese companies. Both bans have now been suspended.—AFP ■

Honduras hopes to move embassy to Jerusalem by year’s end

HONDURAS announced Sunday that it hoped to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before the end of the year, putting an end to its policy of neutrality in the face of Middle East conflict.

Israel will also open a diplomatic office in Tegucigalpa, Honduras’s capital city.—AFP ■

Duo get life sentences in Bulgaria over 2012 Israeli bus bombing

SOFIA (Bulgaria) — A Bulgarian court on Monday sentenced two Lebanese men in their absence to life in prison over a deadly 2012 bus bomb attack on Israeli tourists at the country’s Burgas airport.

The attack in July 2012 killed five Israelis including a pregnant woman, their Bulgarian bus driver and the bomber – a Franco-Lebanese national – as well as leaving more than 35 people injured.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2020-2021)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-193(20-21)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Hlaw Gar GCS (1) Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-194(20-21)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spares Requirements for PLC Daw Nyein (1) Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-195(20-21)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Kanbauk GRS (1) Lot	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-196(20-21)	System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements for Thaton GCS (1) Lot	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-197(20-21)	Mechanical Accessories (3) Groups	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-198(20-21)	Assorted Kind of Valves and Pressure Gauge (11) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-199(20-21)	Spares for Water Pump and Crude Pump (6) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 21 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 21 October 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 21-10-2020, 12:00 pm

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

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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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Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
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Ayeyawady United leads MNL standing table after Week-17

AYEYAWADY United FC was in the first place of MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) 2020 standing table after Week-17, according to the league's social media.

The football club stood first with 39 points from 12 wins and three draws, followed by Hantharwady United FC with 37 points from 12 wins, one draw and two losses.

Shan United is in the third place with 35 points from 11 wins, two draws and two losses, followed by Yangon United in the fourth place with 30 points from nine wins, three draws and three losses and Yadanarbon FC in the fifth place with 19 points from five wins, four draws and six losses.

The sixth-place team is Rakhine United with 17 points from five wins, two draws and



Players of Shan United and ISPE vie for the ball during their Week-17 match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 19 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

eight losses, the seventh-place Sagaing United with 13 points

from four wins, one draw and ten losses.

Magway United is in the eighth place with 10 points from

two wins, four draws and nine losses, followed by ISPE in the ninth position with eight points from two wins, two draws and 11 losses, and Southern Myanmar in the tenth place with four points from no win, four draws and 11 losses.

All of the MPT MNL 2020 football teams had played 15 matches each so far after Week-17. Its Week-18 games will be played on 23 and 24 September 2020.

On 23 September, Magway FC will take on Southern Myanmar FC, Yadanarbon FC will play against Hantharwady FC, and Sagaing United FC will compete against ISPE FC.

On 24 September, Shan United FC will compete against Ayeyawady United, and Yangon United will play against Rakhine United.—Kyaw Khin ■

Liverpool's Alisson shows Chelsea the value of a great goalkeeper



Chelsea's Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga keeps his eyes on the ball during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London on 20 September 2020.

PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom) — The gulf that still exists between Liverpool and Chelsea was on show on Sunday as the Premier League champions secured a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge in a match defined by the differing fortunes of the world's two most expensive goalkeepers.

Alisson Becker's record £67 million (\$87 million) move from Roma to Liverpool in 2018 lasted just three weeks before Chelsea paid £72 million to buy Kepa Arrizabalaga from Athletic Bilbao.

Just over two years on there is no doubt who got value for

money with Chelsea prepared to spend again to solve their 'keeper crisis with the imminent arrival of Edouard Mendy from Rennes.

Kepa's latest calamity saw him gift possession to Sadio Mane for the Senegalese's second goal after heading Liverpool into the lead early in the second-half.

Chelsea's decision to spend £200 million in recent months before addressing their goalkeeper situation raised questions before the season started as to their title credentials.

Just two games in, doubts

over Kepa's ability to start for a title contender have proven well founded as he also let Leandro Trossard's long-range striker under his arm in Monday's 3-1 win at Brighton.

"He's our player and it's clear there are two games where we feel (he made mistakes)," said Lampard. "Brighton was a mistake as well. He's reflected on that.

"It's a clear mistake that's cost us because at that point we go onto have a penalty which we might score and those fine margins change games at this level.

"Kepa has to keep working, he has to have support around him that's very clear but it was a clear mistake."

The Spaniard was dropped twice by Lampard in favour of 38-year-old Willy Caballero last season and Chelsea's failure to solve their goalkeeping problem before splashing out to reinforce in other areas of the field, where they are better stocked, has been a puzzling one.

Kepa had the lowest save percentage of any goalkeeper to play at least 10 games in the Premier League last season and conceded 10 more goals than he should have, according to Opta's expected goals metric.—AFP ■

DeChambeau wins US Open to capture first major victory

NEW YORK (United States) — Bryson DeChambeau captured his first major golf title on Sunday, firing a three-under-par 67 to win the 120th US Open and humble a relentless Winged Foot layout.

The 27-year-old American, who bulked up during the coronavirus lockdown in a bid to add power to his game, eagled the par-5 ninth from just inside 40 feet and rolled to a six-stroke victory over 21-year-old countryman Matthew Wolff.

"Oh my gosh. I can't believe it," said DeChambeau, renowned for his scientific approach to the sport. "It has been a lot of hard work."

DeChambeau hit only 23 fairways for the week but finished 72 holes on six-under par 274 thanks to Sunday's only sub-par round at the formidable Mamaroneck, New York, layout.

DeChambeau became the first player since 1955 to win with the only sub-par score in the final round, and just the fourth ever to do it, completing a dominating performance.

Typical deep US Open rough could not stop DeChambeau, whose exercise and protein shakes delivered powerful drives while his calculations and precise readings produced solid shotmaking on a layout that crushed rivals.—AFP ■



US golfer Bryson DeChambeau lines a putt on the 1st green, during the fourth and last round of the World Golf Championship, at Chapultepec's Golf Club in Mexico City, on 23 February 2020.

PHOTO: AFP