Vol. VII, No. 160, 7th Waxing of Tawthalin  1382 ME


Wednesday, 23 September 2020

A NEED FOR ‘RIGHT EQUIPMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME’

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

PAGE-10

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives minister of the United Kingdom online

PAGE-3

PAGE-8 (OPINION)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
Announcement 4/2020
6th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
22 September 2020

Notification to Taxpayers

1. The period for deduction of tax relief according to the Union Taxation Law 2019 for the incomes exempted from the income tax was announced up to 30 September 2020 at the latest. Due to this announcement, the taxpayers have crowded into branches of Myanma Economic Bank during the COVID-19 outbreak to be able to enjoy the deduction of tax relief in line with the notice ‘Payment to the bank not later than 30-9-2020’ on the tax payment challan form.

2. Despite this notice, it is now re-announced that the payment of tax under this plan will be extended to 30 December 2020.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
Announcement 5/2020
6th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
22 September 2020

Notification to Taxpayers

It is not required to queue at the Township Revenue Office after receiving the receipt of Declaration of Taxpayer (patakha (wa nga)-1) for the declaration of income exempted from the income tax to be submitted not later than 30 September 2020. If more inspections are needed until 30 December 2020, telephone or other electronic systems will be used to be able to issue payment challan. The taxpayers in this process also validate the tax relief scheme under the Union Taxation Law 2019.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers statement via video link at High-level Meeting to commemorate 75th anniversary of United Nations

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin delivered a statement via video link at the High-level Meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations held on 21 September 2020 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Leaders and high-level representatives from UN Member States participated in the meeting under the theme “The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism”. The meeting adopted “Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations”.

Union Minister’s full statement is as follows:

Mr President, Distinguished delegates,
It is a great honour for me to participate in this High-level Meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Multilateralism is indeed under great strain at a time when global challenges need greater global solidarity and global cooperation. The world today is getting more polarized, geopolitical and economic tensions are rising high. Above all else, we are now faced with the COVID-19 crisis which is putting immense pressure on our societies and economies. It has caused loss of jobs and livelihoods, exacerbated poverty, disrupted education, and the hardest hit have been the most vulnerable. At this critical time, the world is more than ever in need of a stronger multilateral system for a collective response to this most consequential challenge in its history.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin emphasizes the need of stronger multilateral system in his statement to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations on 21 September 2020. PHOTO : MNA

SEE PAGE-2
Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers statement via video link at High-level Meeting to commemorate 75th anniversary of United Nations

FROM PAGE-1

Notwithstanding the challenges facing us today, we can say that the sustained efforts of the multilateral system, with United Nations at its heart, have contributed significantly to make the world a better place than it was 75 years ago. Major wars have been deterred, millions of people have been lifted out of extreme poverty and hunger, and average life expectancy is now higher than ever before. There is no other institution we can think that could replace the United Nations.

Mr President,

Myanmar joined this family of Nations as its 5th member soon after we regained independence in 1948 and our belief in the Charter of the United Nations was solid. Cooperation with the United Nations has been a cornerstone of Myanmar’s Foreign Policy. Myanmar has never shirked its responsibilities in fulfilling the purposes and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter, and in rendering its cooperation in good faith. One of our country’s great contributions to the UN was the noble service of a Myanmar diplomat U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the UN, who managed to avert serious crises at the height of the Cold War and spearheaded the Organization towards world peace. He was a true representative of the peace-loving people of Myanmar.

Mr President,

Myanmar is undergoing a complex democratic transition with multiple challenges as we work towards national reconsolidation, peace and development to build a democratic federal union. These efforts have been further complicated by mounting external challenges rising out of conflict-related human rights issues. We firmly believe that the constructive engagement of the international community is the only viable way to overcome challenges of this nature. Mutual trust is key to the success of cooperation between the UN and its member States.

Myanmar thanks all its partners including the UN system, for assistance that has been rendered towards the achievement of the goals set out in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Programme (MSDP).

Mr President,

The United Nations must remain a beacon of hope for developing countries like Myanmar. We therefore need to reinvigorate the UN to be more responsive to the needs and priorities of sovereign member states.

We wish to see the UN evolve as a trusted partner that protects smaller nations and helps not hinders, their efforts to overcome their challenges.

We need a UN that helps strengthen the capacity of member states to resolve their own problems.

We believe that the UN should be a platform for global engagement for all nations, for the good of all humanity, not a system where the value of nations is decided by the degree of political and material power they can muster.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is our latest wake-up call for strong multilateralism, and greater cooperation and solidarity among nations to address the economic and social repercussions that will continue to unfold in the coming years.

At this extraordinary juncture, we must use this historic opportunity of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations to strive together for an open, transparent and rules-based multilateralism with all Member States adhering to the core values of the UN Charter; a just and equitable multilateralism ensuring that the voices of all Member States are equally heard; and an effective multilateralism to overcome the most formidable challenges we may need to face now, and in the future.

We must work together to shape the future we want through a more equitable multilateralism fostered by the United Nations we need.

I thank you, Mr President.

292 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 22 September

A total of 292 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 22 September.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung, his deputy officer U Aung Chan Nyein and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 78,874 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 182 males and 110 females from different regions and states.—Hein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand are seen at Myawady border on 22 Sept.

PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG
UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun yesterday received Lord Goldsmith, Minister of State for Pacific and Environment, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom via videoconferencing on 22 Sept. Lord Goldsmith drew attention to a new global coalition aimed at limiting the potential of global supply chains contributing to deforestation and invited Myanmar’s participation.

Concluding the exchange, Lord Goldsmith enquired as to how Myanmar might seek to ensure forest and biodiversity protection feature as a part of the country’s economic recovery plan to which the Minister replied that Myanmar was no stranger to challenges posed by climate change, and that extreme weather events continue to impact Myanmar’s most vulnerable communities. The Minister stated: “I can confirm that our economic recovery plan recognizes the need to integrate a sound, environmentally sustainable response – from wildlife to forests to wetlands. Furthermore, and true to this government’s commitment to sustainability in all its forms – I believe our response will allow us to build back better by capitalizing upon the potential for green investments in sectors such as renewable energy, and green infrastructure.”

Both sides discussed market developments concerning renewable energy and expressed a firm commitment to accelerating the use of renewable energy, helping Myanmar leapfrog many of the pitfalls faced by other countries, including through potential UK investment into Myanmar’s solar and wind energy sectors.

Myanmar and the UK welcomed recent increases in bilateral trade as “a real success story” in part due to close working relationships established between each country’s respective trade officials. The Minister was accompanied by U Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and U Than Aung Kyaw, Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun receives UK Minister Lord Goldsmith, Minister of State for Pacific and Environment, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from UNDP Resident Representative in Myanmar
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release Press Release 34/2020
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
(21 September 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 19 September 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Detail on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Kyi Pye who lives in Law Sont Village of Mohinj, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 6 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Kyi Pye (a) Ma Kyi Kyi Poe, 24, daughter of U Aung Shein who lives in Law Sont Village of Mohinj Township and arrested her together with stimulant tablets and heroine and her husband, Mg Tin, 35, son of U Sein Pe. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lon Ton) MaYa(pa)14/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Yin, who lives in Mapyin Village of Mohinj Township of Kachin State, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Yin, 48, daughter of U Lu Tin who lives in Mapvin Village in Mohinj and arrested her together with opium and low quality opium. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSaLon Ton MaYa(pa)49/2020 under section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Nu who lives in Sar Kyin Village, Monwya Township of Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 9 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Nu, 45, daughter of U Nyo who lives in Sar Kyin Village of Monwya Township and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSaMonwyaMaYa(pa)28/2020 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Information received of Min Naing who lives in Taung Kyar Village, Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10 September 2020, police stopped and scrutinized the motorcycle driven by Htike Htike, 30, son of Aung Min and Nan Naing, 33, son of U Kyaw Kyi who lives on the road to Pan Ma Ye village in Kawlin Township and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSaKawlinMaYa(pa)175/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Information received of Win Myint who lives in Maung Saphar Village, Phaugnyin Township of Sagaing Region distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 10 September, police searched the house of Win Myint, 54, son of U Lu Htwe, who lives in Maung Saphar Village of Phaugnyin Township and did not find him. Police arrested his wife, Ma Ei, 39, daughter of U Thant Dan together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSaPhaugnyinMaYa(pa)165/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Information received of the people who live in Wet Kyu Village in Pala Township of Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 11 September 2020, police searched the house of Nau Win, 33, son of U Tin Pe Lay who lives in Wet Kyu Village of Pala Township and arrested him together with heroin, opium and low quality opium and another four compratists, Yoon Naing Soe, 25, son of U Win Sein, Aye Ko, 25, son of U Kyaw Swe, Phaing Seo Oo, 25, son of U Tin Oo and Naing Lin, 41, son of U Ba Ka. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSaPalaMaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Information received of Phyu Thoke who lives in Nyaung Thanpy Village of Mawlaik, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 15 September 2020, police searched the house of Phyu Thoke (a) Nyin Tin, 17, son of U Maung Aye, who lives in Nyaung Thanpy Village of Mawlaik Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSaMawlaikMaYa(pa)72/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Hay who lives in Mezali Village of Mawbi Township of Magway Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 13 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Hay (a) Khin Khin Hay, 45, daughter of U Khway who lives in Mezali Village of Myothit Township and arrested her together with stimulant pills with 88/1 label and opium. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSaMaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Information received of people in Kyunak War Tiu camp, Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, using, selling and distributing the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>It was announced that the police uncovered 8 cases and took action against a total of 11 suspects — 8 men and 3 women in accordance with the law in previous weeks. According to the tip-off, on 6 September 2020, police stopped and scrutinized the motorcycle driven by Phyo Min Aung (a) Ko Phyo, 33, son of U Myo Lwin, who lives in Maung Kone Village in Htigyaing of Sagaing Region and Ye Aung, 20, son of U Khin Maung Aye, who lives in Nyanungmar Thar Village near Kyunak War Tiu camp in Thabeikkyin and arrested them together with stimulant pills with WY label. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSaDagungYawMawYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 16(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Information received of U Myint Aung and Daw Hnin Aye, who live in Hnit Kine Village in Thabyuzayat Township of Mon State, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 6 September 2020, police searched the house of U Myint Aung and Daw Hnin Aye who live in Hnit Kine Village in Thabyuzayat Township and did not find them and arrested their son Yen Naing Soe (a) Naing Soe, 35 together with speciosa. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSaKyaukkhamiMaYa(pa)11/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Information received of Thura who lives in 37 ward of Dagon Mochtith (North) in Yangon Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7 September 2020, police searched the house of Thura (a) Set Paing, 23, son of U Min Thien, who lives in 37 ward of Dagon Mochtith (North) in Yangon Region and arrested him together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSaMaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Information received of Kyin Hwuat who lives in Insein, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8 September 2020, police searched the house of That Zin Aung (a) Kyin Hwuat, 24, son of U Thein Win, who lives in Kannar Ward (west), Insein of Yangon Region and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSaInseinMaYa(pa)15/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Information received of Ko Pyae Phyo Kyaw (a) Pwe Sar who lives in No(1) Ward of North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 9 September 2020, police searched the house of Pyae Phyo Layin (a) Pyae Phyo Kyaw(a) Pwe Sar, son of U Tin Oo Lwin, who lives in No(1) Ward of North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region and arrested together with stimulant pills with 88/1 label. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSaNorthOkkalapaMaYa(pa)74/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Information received of Pyae Sone Bo who lives in No 47 Ward of Dagon Mochtith (North) of Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 11 September 2020, police searched the house of Pyae Sone Bo, 33, son of U Win Bo, who lives in No 47 Ward of Dagon Mochtith (North) of Yangon Region and arrested together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSaNorthDagonMaYa(pa)36/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information received of people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs near Bayint Naung junction in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Ko Aung Pyu who lives in War Pyar Tung Village in Taunggyi of Shan State (North), distributing and selling the illegal drugs.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Sai Aung Phyu (a) Aung Phyu, 35, son of U Sai Myint Oo who lives in War Pyar Tung Village of Taunggyi and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label.

A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(pa)61/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kagyi Ward of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Nay Htet Oo who lives in Oaktada Ward of Yayksawk Township of Shan State (North), using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.

Information received of people who live in No (5) Ward of Lashio Township, Shan State (North), using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyauktan Village of Nyaungshwe Township and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label and marijuana.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Aung Kyaw (a) Kilar Mat, 39, son of U Sein, who lives in No (7) ward, together with stimulant pills with 88/1 label and heroin on Yay Kan Tung street in No (5) ward of Lashio Township.

A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Lashio)/MaYa(pa)149/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs near Bayint Naung junction in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

On 14 September 2020, police stopped and inspected the motorcycle driven by Han Min (a) Zaw Min, 40, son of U Hla Maung who lives in No (15) Ward of Hliththaya Township, at Bayint Naung junction in No (1) Ward of Mayangon Township and arrested together with marijuana.

A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Bayint Naung) MaYa(pa)26/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kagyi Ward of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Aung Kyaw (a) Kilar Mat, 39, son of U Sein, who lives in No (7) ward, together with stimulant pills with WY label and heroin on Yay Kan Tung street in No (5) ward of Lashio Township.

A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Lashio)/MaYa(pa)149/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.

On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Sai Aung Phyu (a) Aung Phyu, 35, son of U Sai Myint Oo who lives in War Pyar Tung Village of Taunggyi and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label.

A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(pa)61/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs near Bayint Naung junction in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

On 14 September 2020, police stopped and inspected the motorcycle driven by Han Min (a) Zaw Min, 40, son of U Hla Maung who lives in No (15) Ward of Hliththaya Township, at Bayint Naung junction in No (1) Ward of Mayangon Township and arrested together with marijuana.

A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Bayint Naung) MaYa(pa)26/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Information received of people using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs near Bayint Naung junction in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

On 14 September 2020, police stopped and inspected the motorcycle driven by Han Min (a) Zaw Min, 40, son of U Hla Maung who lives in No (15) Ward of Hliththaya Township, at Bayint Naung junction in No (1) Ward of Mayangon Township and arrested together with marijuana.

A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Bayint Naung) MaYa(pa)26/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds virtual meeting with states/regions government officials to help volunteers for COVID-19 response

New members of Bar Council hold first meeting

593 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 September; total figure rises to 6,744
Myanmar repatriates 108 nationals from foreign countries

The Embassy of Myanmar in Seoul of the Republic of Korea managed to bring 108 Myanmar citizens back home by a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Among them, 1 Myanmar national was from Brazil while another 1 each from Czech Republic, France, India, Italy and Sri Lanka, 3 each from Canada, Germany and Norway, 4 from Indonesia, 72 from Korea, 2 from UK, 10 from US and 5 from Vietnam.

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 23 relief flights to date to bring its citizens stuck in foreign countries via Incheon International Airport every Tuesday.

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 23 relief flights to date to bring its citizens stuck in foreign countries via Incheon International Airport every Tuesday.

Ayeyarwady centre to be expanded to 770-bedded quarantine facility

The Ayeyarwady centre will be expanded to a 770-bedded quarantine facility to provide medical treatments to COVID-19 patients in .

According to the requirement and guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Professor Dr Zaw Wai Soe, the vice-chairman of Yangon Region COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Coordination Committee, its Secretary Professor Dr Myint Myint Nyein and Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation U Zaw Zaw decided to enlarge the centre.

The foundation will lead the expansion of facility into unit A, B and C.

The unit A has been set up with 425 beds and the unit B will have 270 beds. The unit C will have 75 beds, and it will be used as the Critical Care Unit. The units B and C of the centre are expected to house patients at the end of September.

Accommodation will also be set up for 350 health workers and volunteers at the three units, while the management office for the whole centre has been opened at the headquarters of Myanmar Football Federation.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation will also provide daily meals for the patients, health workers and volunteers.—Ye Yint Shine

Security tightened to prevent illegal border crossing along Thaungyin River

Governmental departments in Myawady District tightened security measures along the Thaungyin River to prevent illegal border crossing between Myanmar and Thailand yesterday.

The inspection was carried out by Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung and officials from the local army and the Border Guard Force, Township Police Chief Myint Htwe and Executive Officer of Township Development Committee U Saw Robert Htoo and members, officials from the General Administration Department, the Immigration and Population Department, the Fire Department and the Health Department of Myawady Township.

The Township Development Committee checked the motorboat stations along the Thaungyin River with the permission of the Kayin State government.

Despite the suspension of border crossing amid COVID-19 spread, the reports on illegal crossing between the two countries have led to increase security.

During the inspection, officials warned of legal actions against violation of laws and orders.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Myanmar returnees from foreign countries are queuing at immigration counter of Yangon International Airport on 22 Sept. PHOTO: MNA)

(Myanmar repatriates 108 nationals from foreign countries)

(Ayeyarwady centre to be expanded to 770-bedded quarantine facility)

(Security tightened to prevent illegal border crossing along Thaungyin River)
Six higher-income economies have joined the COVAX Facility, a global initiative to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to 92 lower-income countries and manufactured to ensure eventual COVID-19 vaccines reach those in greatest need. The WHO in a statement said 92 economies were still in the process of making commitments from a list of 33 economies as well as the European Commission which will procure doses. There have been ongoing concerns that more support for these vaccines for those who are fatigued while those who are infected.

Now is the time to motivate health workers and volunteers, who have become fatigued while fighting the pandemic on the frontlines.

With the commitment agreements secured, the COVAX Facility will now start signing formal agreements with vaccine manufacturers and developers, which are strong signals to the global community that the countries need to ensure the vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2020. It is an important milestone on an ongoing effort to raise funding for both R&D and the procurement of vaccines for low-income countries via the Gavi COVAX AMC.

COVAX is in business: governments, manufacturers and contributors have chosen to work together, not only to secure vaccines for their own populations, but also to help ensure that vaccines are available everywhere,’ said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which is coordinating the COVAX Facility. ‘With the commitments we’re announcing today for the COVAX Facility, as well as the historic partnership we are forging with companies, we can get vaccines to health care workers and patients in a fair and faster manner.

The COVAX Facility is part of COVAX, the vaccine pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which is led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO) – working in partnership with developed and developing countries, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, Civil Society Organizations and others. The allocation of vaccines, once licensed and approved, will be guided by an Allocation Framework, work released today by WHO following the principle of fair and equitable access to vaccines. The framework is designed for the participation economy to be left withoutie justicis detemining the prioritization of vaccine rollout within economies will be guided by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which has recently released a Val-self financing economies, which include the WHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, CEPI, the financial instruments aimed at supporting the procurements of vaccines for those countries. This means that 166 economies, representing roughly 64% of the global population in total, are now either committed or eligible to be supported by the COVAX Facility for a timely rollout.

The commitment agreements secured, the COVAX Facility will now start signing formal agreements with vaccine manufacturers and developers, which are strong signals to the global community that the countries need to ensure the vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2020. It is an important milestone on an ongoing effort to raise funding for both R&D and the procurement of vaccines for low-income countries via the Gavi COVAX AMC.

COVAX is now in business: governments, manufacturers and contributors have chosen to work together, not only to secure vaccines for their own populations, but also to help ensure that vaccines are available everywhere,’ said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which is coordinating the COVAX Facility. ‘With the commitments we’re announcing today for the COVAX Facility, as well as the historic partnership we are forging with companies, we can get vaccines to health care workers and patients in a fair and faster manner.

The COVAX Facility is part of COVAX, the vaccine pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which is led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO) – working in partnership with developed and developing countries, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, Civil Society Organizations and others. The allocation of vaccines, once licensed and approved, will be guided by an Allocation Framework, work released today by WHO following the principle of fair and equitable access to vaccines. The framework is designed for the participation economy to be left without justicis detemining the prioritization of vaccine rollout within economies will be guided by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which has recently released a Value Framework laying the groundwork for subsequent guidance for equitable allocations on the basis of ongoing vaccination.

COVID-19 is an unprecedented global crisis that demands an unprecedented global response,” said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Vaccine nationalism will only perpetuate the disease and prolong the global recovery. Working together through the COVAX Facility is not charity. It is every country’s own best interest to control the pandemic and accelerate the global economic recovery.”

The commitment of fully self-financing economies will now unlock vital funding and the security of demand needed to scale up manufacturing and secure the doses needed for the Facility: CEPI’s leading COVID-19 vaccine research and development, and the global models needed to test vaccines, are currently being supported by CEPI of eight which are currently in clinical trials. “This is a landmark moment in the history of public health with the international community coming together to tackle this pandemic”

The global spread of COVID-19 means it is only through equitable and simultaneous access to new and existing COV-19 vaccines that we can hope to end this pandemic,” said Dr Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPI: “Countries coming together in this way shows a unity of purpose and resolve to end the acute phase of this pandemic, and we must work closely with vaccine manufacturers – who play an integral part in the global response – to put in place the agreements needed to fully cover COVAX’s core aim: to have two billion vaccine doses available by the end of 2021. Today, we have taken a great leap towards that goal, for the benefit of all.”

The success of COVAX hinges not only on economics signing up to the COVAX Facility and commitments from vaccine manufacturers, but also inking key funding gaps for both COVAX research and development (R&D) work and the Gavi COVAX AMC. In particular participation of lower-income economies: Governments, vaccine manufacturers’ and to their own benefit could be critical in formulating how to pay, it is not a bar to accessing COVID-19 vaccines, a situation which would leave the majority of the world unprotected, and its impact continuing unabated.

The Commitment Agreement of higher-income economies provides to governments on the right time to accelerate the scaled-up vaccine manufacturing to secure two billion doses of vaccines, enough to go to every three people who assume the vaccine requires a two-dose regimen. Furthermore, since 70% of development payments are available in Gavi’s COVAX AMC.

As well as procuring doses for economies signing up to the COVAX Facility and also maintain a buffer of doses for emergency and humanitarian use. SOURCE: WHO

A need for right equipment at the right time

With the ongoing surge in coronavirus cases during the second wave of the fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic and for personal protective equipment is becoming greater day by day. The government has been managing to purchase 30,000 sets of PPE items for the Yangon Region. In the second wave, shortages are expected to extend beyond PPEs, and include hand sanitizers, hand hygiene products, gowns, masks, sanitizers, gloves and much more. COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint, and ultimately represents the larger issue of hospital preparedness and how we integrate other aspects, such as supply chains and monitoring those who are infected.

With the situation increasingly volatile, the need for a right approach to fighting the pandemic has revealed that supply chains of personal protective equipment are vulnerable to disruptions. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed that supply chains and monitoring during the second wave of the fast-spreading epidemic appears to be an ongoing effort to raise awareness and motivation to an ongoing effort to raise funding for both R&D and the procurement of vaccines for low-income countries via the Gavi COVAX AMC.

COVAX is now in business: governments, manufacturers and contributors have chosen to work together, not only to secure vaccines for their own populations, but also to help ensure that vaccines are available everywhere,’ said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which is coordinating the COVAX Facility. ‘With the commitments we’re announcing today for the COVAX Facility, as well as the historic partnership we are forging with companies, we can get vaccines to health care workers and patients in a fair and faster manner. Now is the time to motivate health workers and volunteers, who have become fatigued while fighting the pandemic on the frontlines.

With the commitment agreements secured, the COVAX Facility will now start signing formal agreements with vaccine manufacturers and developers, which are strong signals to the global community that the countries need to ensure the vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2020. It is an important milestone on an ongoing effort to raise funding for both R&D and the procurement of vaccines for low-income countries via the Gavi COVAX AMC.

The commitment of fully self-financing economies will now unlock vital funding and the security of demand needed to scale up manufacturing and secure the doses needed for the Facility: CEPI’s leading COVID-19 vaccine research and development, and the global models needed to test vaccines, are currently being supported by CEPI of eight which are currently in clinical trials. ‘This is a landmark moment in the history of public health with the international community coming together to tackle this pandemic.’

The global spread of COVID-19 means it is only through equitable and simultaneous access to new and existing COV-19 vaccines that we can hope to end this pandemic,” said Dr Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPI: “Countries coming together in this way shows a unity of purpose and resolve to end the acute phase of this pandemic, and we must work closely with vaccine manufacturers – who play an integral part in the global response – to put in place the agreements needed to fully cover COVAX’s core aim: to have two billion vaccine doses available by the end of 2021. Today, we have taken a great leap towards that goal, for the benefit of all.”

The success of COVAX hinges not only on economics signing up to the COVAX Facility and commitments from vaccine manufacturers, but also inking key funding gaps for both COVAX research and development (R&D) work and the Gavi COVAX AMC. In particular participation of lower-income economies: Governments, vaccine manufacturers’ and to their own benefit could be critical in formulating how to pay, it is not a bar to accessing COVID-19 vaccines, a situation which would leave the majority of the world unprotected, and its impact continuing unabated.

The Commitment Agreement of higher-income economies provides to governments on the right time to accelerate the scaled-up vaccine manufacturing to secure two billion doses of vaccines, enough to go to every three people who assume the vaccine requires a two-dose regimen. Furthermore, since 70% of development payments are available in Gavi’s COVAX AMC.

As well as procuring doses for economies signing up to the COVAX Facility and also maintain a buffer of doses for emergency and humanitarian use.

Boost for global response to COVID-19 with worldwide formally sign up to COVAX facility

Six higher-income countries have now joined the COVAX Facility, with a further 38 economies expected to sign in the coming days.

The allocation of vaccines, this virus in second wave is spreading faster than the previous one, and the Yangon Region and Rakhine State are seeing high number of cases. To fight against the disease, the effective cooperation between the National Volunteer Corps, governments and regional governments should be scaled up and need the assurance that they can guarantee that every frontline healthcare worker will receive the PPEs when they need it. The novel coronavirus pandemic has revealed that supply chains of personal protective equipment are vulnerable to disruptions. We must ensure that the right equipment reaches the areas of most need at the right time.

In our uphill battle to fight the pandemic, our approach must be from the perspective of perseverance and resolve.

The allocation of vaccines, this virus in second wave is spreading faster than the previous one, and the Yangon Region and Rakhine State are seeing high number of cases. To fight against the disease, the effective cooperation between the National Volunteer Corps, governments and regional governments should be scaled up and need the assurance that they can guarantee that every frontline healthcare worker will receive the PPEs when they need it. The novel coronavirus pandemic has revealed that supply chains of personal protective equipment are vulnerable to disruptions. We must ensure that the right equipment reaches the areas of most need at the right time.

In our uphill battle to fight the pandemic, our approach must be from the perspective of perseverance and resolve.
Kachin National Congress Party (KNC) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Kachin National Congress Party (KNC) Chairman Dr. M. Kawn La presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 22 September.

Greetings to all citizens in the Union of Myanmar

Wishing you all physical and mental wellbeing

I am the Chairman of the Kachin National Congress Party (KNC), Dr. M. Kawn La. I would like to introduce our party first.

KNC was formed on 10 January 1949 to commemorate Kachin State Day. It was formed led by Du Wa Zau Lawn, Du Wa Ugi Hting Nan and Du Wa Dein Bata who participated in implementing the Panglong Agreement in 1947 and with Saya S Gum Gam, Du Wa Shawng Guang and U Htun Tin. Du Wa Zau Lawn in 1952 and Du Wa Zahta Sin in 1957 are two KNC chairmen who were able to lead the Kachin State government. We registered as a regional political party in 2013 and stand as a union-level party on 30 September 2019. We are contesting for 17 seats in Kachin State, a Kachin representative seat in northern Shan State, and a seat in Namtu Pyithu Hluttaw each for a total of 20 seats.

Esteemed people

I will now explain KNC’s policy, stance, objectives, campaign aim, and pledges.

KNC’s Policy

1. Political policy

Based on neo-conservatism political ideology to retrieve the lost national integrity and the original value of Kachin and citizens through a middle-path approach, our policy is centre-right progressive liberalism.

2. Economic policy

We will swiftly implement a manufacturing-based economy that relies on natural resources.

- A competitive policy with China, West Europe, East Asia, the USA and ASEAN nations in macro-economics.
- Promoting domestic agricultural products and putting SMEs first in microeconomics.

3. Social policy

To attain equal human rights, healthcare and education for the other territories as those from the mainland.

KNC’s objectives

1. National equality
2. Self-determination
3. Establishing a federal union
4. Implementing direct democracy such as the right to recall Hluttaw representatives and referendum power
5. Adapting election systems to changing times

KNC’s campaign call for 2020

The three most essential requirements of this nation are equality, self-determination and establishing federal democracy – “equity”, “equality” and “Rapra Lam”.

KNC’s election promises

1. Implementing a policy that puts the people first in Myanmar’s peace process instead of focusing on weapons;
2. To enact referendum power as a law in direct democracy;
3. To stabilize commodity prices and fairness as best as possible;
4. To acquire more generous funding from Union Government budget to drive up development in healthcare and education;
5. Regional and state Hluttaw to effectively manage macro and micro-investments;
6. To implement land registration as a national project to protect the land-based economy of agriculture across the nation and amend land laws that no longer serve the public interest;
7. To amend gems and jewel laws to incorporate regional and public benefit.

Esteemed people

Our KNC party has a solid history, good and stable political objectives, understands the needs of the people, possesses the political capabilities for implementation, and is a member of the muscular cooperative strength of United Nationalities Alliance (UNA). We urge the people to work together with KNC in the 2020 election to establish a Federal Democratic Union to the best of our abilities.

Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 24 September

CAMPAIGN speeches of Phoone-Sgaw Democracy Party and Asso Chin National Party will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 24 September. — MNA

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

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

To shape the future with your vote, let’s check the voters list.
MLF requests permit for feedstuff factories to keep running, ensuring smooth flow of trade

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Livestock Federation (MLF) has sought permissions to run feedstuff processing factories to fulfill demand of feedstuffs. PHOTO: THAN HTAT

Natural gas exports top $2.97 bln in Oct-July

MYANMAR’s exports of natural gas over the past ten months of the current financial year 2019-2020 amounted to US$2.97 billion, the Commerce Ministry’s data showed.

The figures reflect a decrease of $264 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY when the gas export value was registered at $3.235 billion, the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry indicated.

The drop in the value of exports is linked to the collapse of the global oil and natural gas prices, according to an expert.

Natural gas is included in the list of major export items of Myanmar. About 10 per cent of the country’s total export earnings come from the sale of natural gas.

There are 53 onshore blocks and 51 offshore blocks, totalling 104 blocks. A total of 25 onshore blocks and 31 offshore blocks are operating under foreign investment.

Natural gas extraction is being made at the Yadana, the Ye Dagon, the Shwe, and the Zaw Tika offshore blocks as well as onshore drilling blocks. Yearly extraction is elevated to cubic feet in 670.36 billion from 600 billion this year, according to the fourth-year performance statement of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The Shwe natural gas field, located offshore from Rakhine State, was discovered in 2014. Natural gas extracted from the field is exported to China. The Yadana natural gas project is being carried out by the TOTAL Company, with its pipeline supplying natural gas to Thailand. Natural gas is also extracted in Yadagon, located offshore from Taninthayi and discovered in 1992.

The Zawtika Project in the Gulf of Mottama mainly supplies natural gas to neighboring Thailand. Natural gas is also produced in Yadana and Yadagon and is declining, and those projects will be halted in the coming years.

Myanmar’s exports of natural gas in the previous financial year totalled $3.878 billion, as per Commerce Ministry data.—Ky Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Border Customs in Ruili (Shweli) to be reopened after one week

By Nyein Nyein

FOLLOWING the detection of COVID-19 cases in Ruili (Shweli), China shut down its Customs office on 15 September, and the checkpoint was reopened on 22 September, said U Min Thein, vice president of Muse rice depot. Therefore, trucks can enter and exit again, he continued.

On 12 September, people tested positive for COVID-19 were found. China has restricted border crossing from 14 September and imposed a lockdown on Ruili, apart from hospitals and supermarkets. The Customs clearance offices have been closed from 15 September. And the checkpoint would be in service after all the residents have tested for the COVID-19. They stated it would take about one week.

The closure of crucial Customs checkpoint came to a complete halt in border trade between Myanmar and China, the traders stressed.

Myanmar has officially opened 18 land border crossings with China, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Laos to conduct bilateral border trade.

Myanmar’s border trade in the current financial year was estimated at US$8.9 billion, Myanmar-China border constitutes 60 per cent of total border trade, earning $5.4 billion. The suspended Muse-Ruili border trade performed $4.5 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice and fishery products such as crab, prawn, etc. Furthermore, Myanmar’s natural gas export to China is also conducted through Muse-Ruili border.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
YGN rice depots to open 3 days per week in COVID resurgence

Labourers are uploading rice bags onto a truck in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

THE rice depots under Myanmar Rice Millers Association (MRMA) will be opened three days a week in Wahdan and Bayintnaung wholesale commodity depots during the pandemic period, according to an announcement of MRMA on 21 September. The rice depots are the main places for distributing daily food supplies to consumers from across the country, and it is a necessary place for the collection of foods.

Previously, MRMA opened its rice depots every day except Sunday. According to the stay at home announcement released by the Ministry of Health and Sports on 20 September, the rice depots from Wahdan in Lunnadaw township and Bayintnaung commodity in Mayangon township will be opened three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 am to 10:00 am. We have already made it known to the members of MRMA and buyers. If we amend the announcement, we will make a new announcement again.

Those who will come to the rice depots need to follow the COVID-19 rules and regulations laid out by the Ministry of Health and Sports, according to MRMA. These rice commodity exchanges are organizations that mainly focus on the stability of rice prices and the rapid flow of the goods across the country.

—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MYANMARS total border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITC) stood at K40 billion in 11 months of present financial year (FY) 2019-2020 which started in October, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

From October to August this FY, the ministry issued 83 ITCs and export using those cards through border earned over K2.79 billion while its import volume of trade with a value of K26.6 billion and followed by Myanmar—China border trade zone is K3 million a day with an ITC, and K6.67 billion, according to the official figures of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to foreign trade partner countries, while capital goods, intermediates goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The department issues ITCs in border trade camps for traders to encourage them to trade legally. The Trade Department issued a total of 1,734 cards so far, including 292 cards from 21 September to 1 October 2019, and 1,442 cards from 1 October 2019 to 31 August 2020, according to figures released by the ministry.

A businessman can trade K3 million a day with an ITC, and the trade department granted trade value up to K15 million a day, which amounted to a five-day trade value. —Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MANDALAY commodity depot has been suspended in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 starting from 21 September.

“Around 200-300 people are daily into and out of the commodity depot. The commodity depot will be closed to be able to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 through the depot,” said an official from the Mandalay commodity depot.

“The closing of the depot may affect the sale of the goods. However, it will not be stopped, and it may only be difficult for sellers,” he added.

The Mandalay commodity depot will be closed temporarily from 21 September to 1 October. The opening date of the commodity depot will be announced. Those who wish to sell their products can enter the Viber group as a member to sell their products.

Mandalay commodity depot is one of the markets where the corps and variety beans are sold. There are around 1,800 members in Mandalay commodity depot. The commodity depot was also closed in last April with an aim to prevent COVID-19 outbreak. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)
US economy to recover only when people feel ‘safe’ from virus: Powell

WASHINGTON — The US economy will only recover from the coronavirus downturn when people feel safe to resume their normal activities, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said in remarks released Monday ahead of congressional testimony.

The central bank chief is set for three days of testimony before House and Senate committees starting Tuesday on the response to the coronavirus downturn, which has caused tens of millions of job losses and a record plunge in annualized GDP.

“Though some sectors of the economy, such as retail sales and housing, have seen sharp rebounds, viral infections remain rife and Congress is deadlock on additional spending to help the recovery,” Powell will tell House Financial Services committee members on Tuesday in an appearance with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, according to the prepared remarks.

“Full recovery is likely to come only when people are confident that it is safe to reengage in a broad range of activities,” Powell said Tuesday.

EU court approves UK state aid for nuclear plant

BRUSSELS — The EU’s highest court Tuesday approved British government subsidies for a new nuclear power plant, throwing out an appeal by Austria to rule them in breach of the bloc’s state aid rules.

Britain has now left the EU but the case dates back to 2014 when the European Commission approved government aid for the Hinkley Point C plant in southwest England, which is due to be completed in 2025.

Anti-nuclear Austria challenged the commission’s green light and, after losing in the General Court of the EU, appealed to the higher European Court of Justice.

But the ECJ ruled that EU environmental regulations did not automatically bar governments from paying subsidies to build nuclear power plants.

“A member state is free to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply, and which does not preclude that choice from being nuclear energy,” the ECJ said in a statement on the ruling.

French energy giant EDF and China General Nuclear Power (CGN) are working together on the £19.6-billion ($26-billion, 22-billion-euro) Hinkley plant, which is key to the British government’s long-term energy plans.

London wants to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, using nuclear power to help meet the country’s electricity needs.

But as diplomatic tensions with Beijing rise, there is growing unease about the wisdom of allowing China to play such a pivotal role in major infrastructure projects.

Austria has long campaigned against nuclear power, bolstered by a referendum in 1976 rejecting atomic energy.—AFP

Luckin Coffee, associated firms fined $9 mn over scandal

BEIJING — Embattled Chinese chain Luckin Coffee is among a raft of 45 companies hit with a combined fine of nearly $9 million over a scandal involving false sales figures, China’s market regulator said Tuesday.

Luckin — Starbucks’ rival in China — had boosted transactions last year through fake coupons by $2.35 billion yuan ($320 million) and inflated its revenue by some 2.12 billion yuan, according to an earlier probe by the finance ministry.

The scandal led to the company being delisted from New York’s Nasdaq and the removal of top executives.

On Tuesday, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation said investigations found that Luckin, with the help of other companies, had falsely increased its 2019 sales revenue, costs and profit margins, and imposed a combined fine of 61 million yuan.

The coffee chain launched in 2017 and aimed to dethrone Starbucks in China via an aggressive growth strategy, enticing customers with an app-based purchasing model that prioritized takeaway and delivery options, as well as generous mobile coupons.—AFP

French energy giant EDF and China General Nuclear Power (CGN) are working together on the £19.6-billion ($26-billion, 22-billion-euro) Hinkley plant, which is key to the British government’s long-term energy plans.

London wants to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, using nuclear power to help meet the country’s electricity needs.

But as diplomatic tensions with Beijing rise, there is growing unease about the wisdom of allowing China to play such a pivotal role in major infrastructure projects.

Austria has long campaigned against nuclear power, bolstered by a referendum in 1976 rejecting atomic energy.—AFP

EU court approves UK state aid for nuclear plant

Brussels — The EU’s highest court Tuesday approved British government subsidies for a new nuclear power plant, throwing out an appeal by Austria to rule them in breach of the bloc’s state aid rules. Britain has now left the EU but the case dates back to 2014 when the European Commission approved government aid for the Hinkley Point C plant in southwest England, which is due to be completed in 2025. Anti-nuclear Austria challenged the commission’s green light and, after losing in the General Court of the EU, appealed to the higher European Court of Justice. But the ECJ ruled that EU environmental regulations did not automatically bar governments from paying subsidies to build nuclear power plants. “A member state is free to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply, and which does not preclude that choice from being nuclear energy,” the ECJ said in a statement on the ruling. French energy giant EDF and China General Nuclear Power (CGN) are working together on the £19.6-billion ($26-billion, 22-billion-euro) Hinkley plant, which is key to the British government’s long-term energy plans. London wants to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, using nuclear power to help meet the country’s electricity needs. But as diplomatic tensions with Beijing rise, there is growing unease about the wisdom of allowing China to play such a pivotal role in major infrastructure projects. Austria has long campaigned against nuclear power, bolstered by a referendum in 1976 rejecting atomic energy.—AFP

BEIJING — Embattled Chinese chain Luckin Coffee is among a raft of 45 companies hit with a combined fine of nearly $9 million over a scandal involving false sales figures, China’s market regulator said Tuesday.

Luckin — Starbucks’ rival in China — had boosted transactions last year through fake coupons by $2.35 billion yuan ($320 million) and inflated its revenue by some 2.12 billion yuan, according to an earlier probe by the finance ministry.

The scandal led to the company being delisted from New York’s Nasdaq and the removal of top executives. On Tuesday, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation said investigations found that Luckin, with the help of other companies, had falsely increased its 2019 sales revenue, costs and profit margins, and imposed a combined fine of 61 million yuan. The coffee chain launched in 2017 and aimed to dethrone Starbucks in China via an aggressive growth strategy, enticing customers with an app-based purchasing model that prioritized takeaway and delivery options, as well as generous mobile coupons.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(12 / 2020)

Open tenders are invited for service of the following operations in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No Tender No. Description Remark
(1) OS-0011(20-21) 24” Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline Kyats Free Span Rectification

Tender Closing Date & Time - 11-11-2020, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23rd September, 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Building No.(44), Nay Pyi Taw (OR) Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (Yangon), No. (47) Sein Lai May Yeik Tha Lane, Yanlik Township, Yangon.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67-411331 / +951-657671 / +95 67-411097
I USE social media and watch different news channels whenever I am at home during the outbreak of COVID-19. When I see the pages describing Myanmar’s beauties of nature, Myanmar is a land of surprises featuring places of natural beauties, magnificent stupas and pagodas, splendid structures, impressive palaces, simple lifestyles and livelihoods of national races, colourful traditional costumes, hospitality, continuous flow of waterfalls, beautiful limestones, hygienic and fresh natural foods and significant products.

The media mentioned in the review of some economists that every country will have to suffer economic crisis as long as the COVID-19 goes on occurring, especially with developed countries to encounter the worst situation and especially with developed countries. They further said Myanmar has unique places, places of perfect beauties of nature, ancient archeological area of world heritage list, splendid palaces and visiting these sites is not expensive. They take great pride of being Myanmar citizens. Only when they tell me, I deeply think about Myanmar. Myanmar is not a developed country, but it is striving for all-round development in all aspects.

Myanmar offers a wealth of unspoilt beauties of nature, famous structures, and renowned places of culture, religion, politics and military. Other countries value and maintain service businesses known as smokeless business. Myanmar is famous for its beautiful sandy beaches attracting local and foreign visitors. Myanmar is striving for all-round development in all aspects and local people and entrepreneurs, similarly contributing much toward all round development of the State.

The government is encouraging service businesses in a bid to develop in Myanmar with entrepreneurs working together with local people in order to achieve success. There is plenty of worth-visitng places in Myanmar such as waterfalls, springs, safaris, zoos, travel sites, elephant camps, community-based sites, world heritage listed ancient archeological area, unspoilt old towns and old towns under excavation, museums, Japanese-era-arsenal, hospital sites, and British-built-bridges, buildings and historic sites. These are lots of surprises and breathtaking views for local and foreign visitors. The long existence of Myanmar from the earliest era to date is due to unity with Myanmar kings revealing the greatness of their time of glory. Old monuments and buildings existing in all parts of the country are the best proof.

Entrepreneurs are earning income in suitable amount. Myanmar products are being sold and local cuisines are being introduced to the visitors. New employments are being created to local people. Hotels, guesthouses and restaurants are appearing one after another. The emergence of traditional abodes where the visitors can put up and do the cooking is positive changes.

They have least impacts on natural environment and local people can get employments with increased per capita income. The entrepreneurs are okay with their businesses, contributing toward all round development in all aspects and so local people gradually realize robust tourism related businesses and join hand with them. Moreover, there are many unexplored places of natural environment left in Myanmar. For examples, there is plenty of palaces under renovation and a large sum of money has to be well spent. Weekly royal occasions, exhibition on ancient dances and dressing of ancient attire, and sale of souvenirs are income sources. Myanmar’s great prestige of the ancient time can be revealed.

Entrepreneurs can do cruise business in Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Shweik rivers in Myanmar. Mountaineering expeditions to iced mountain and other mountains should be arranged commercially. Planning relaxation trip to the unique places like MtIson can make much profit. Myanmar’s beauties of nature are more natural than some other countries’ outdoing them. But to improve smokeless businesses needs peace and tranquility, better transport and infrastructure facilities. Different media channels are needed to

Let’s run service businesses

By Naing Oo (DOCA)
spotlight Myanmar’s beauties of nature for enabling the global people to know them.

Emphasis has to be placed on agriculture, industry and service sectors for equalitable development in all aspects of a country. When reviewing the economic development of a country, GDP plays a major role. The country is regarded as the poor when agricultural role serves the most in GDP as the developing when industrial role serves the most in GDP and as the rich when service businesses serve the most in GDP. As a result of that emphasis is being placed on service businesses having least effect on natural environment.

To be candid, service business means all enterprises earning directly or indirectly by providing services. Typical service businesses include travel, real estate, banking, insurance, technology, education, health, researches, hotels, natural environmental expedition, and camping trips. Now the government is easing some restrictions to pave the way for foreign visitors and investments. Service businesses for local visitors emerge competitively when the travel season reaches at its peak.

However, misinformation and humours are having effects on service businesses of Myanmar, thereby causing obstacles to foreign travellers to Myanmar. Furthermore, raising hotel service charges and local products as well as selling imitative products delay the development of the service businesses. Emphasis should be placed on fixed hotel service charge, clean and hygienic local products, restaurants, warm and friendly relations, courtesy and safe service.

Service is a system provides something that the customers need. It is basically divided into four types. The first type is to provide or receive service to/from a customer with both the service provider and the customer without moving. For example, a customer contacts the service business over the phone or Email or online to book hotel room, get tickets for travel and seek information and give information. The second one is, a customer has to go to the service business to receive the service. For instance, a customer goes to a hotel to put up travelling by train, by car and by plane doing like so. Likewise a customer has to go to a restaurant to receive dine-in service paying for the service charge. The third one is, a customer has to go to franchises of the service business over the phone or Email or online to book hotel room, get tickets for travel and seek information and give information. The fourth one is, the customer has to go to the franchise hospital in the country, thereby causing obstacles on service businesses of Myanmar, thereby causing obstacles to foreign visitors to Myanmar. Similarly, a foreign physician comes to a franchise hospital in the country, giving medical treatment. The relation between the customer and the service provider is of importance despite many service businesses. Fair relation is of great importance. With regard to commodity services necessary for the basic needs of the people such as food, clothing and shelter, there must have quality acceptable to the customers with precise weight and safety. According to the Consumer Protection Law (2019).

Almost all the countries across the world including Myanmar are suffering setbacks in all areas affected by COVID-19. Myanmar is among low-risk countries in the world in the face of COVID-19. Myanmar is an agro-based country striving for modern development. In an effort to cover the losses from other sectors affected by COVID-19, it is the most suitable moment to start the service businesses based on ecotourism causing damage to the natural environment as little as possible, thereby contributing toward all round development of the country as well.

(Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay))

Pyaldin Cave Ywangan Township, Taunggyi, Shan State. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Haikpa waterfall, one of cultural heritages in Mongshu Township where Palaung ethnic reside in unison in southern Shan State, is formed with seven to nine steps of waterfall. It is a natural scene filled with various species of wildlife and birds, said locals. PHOTO: MAUNG YIN KYAY
Djokovic wins fifth Rome title for record 36th Masters crown

ROME — Novak Djokovic claimed a record 36th Masters crown on Monday, beating Argentine Diego Schwartzman in the final of the Italian Open. The world number one came through 7-5, 6-3 in just under two hours to move ahead of Spanish rival Rafael Nadal (35) in the number of Masters titles.

Serbian Djokovic won a fifth Rome title, and first since 2015, in the warm-up clay-court tournament for next week’s French Open. Nine-time Rome winner Nadal, the defending champion, fell in the quarter-finals to eighth-seed Schwartzman.

Djokovic had been unbeaten this season before his US Open disqualification for hitting a line judge with a ball in frustration. The 33-year-old has won four trophies from five events in 2020 -- the Australian Open, Dubai, Cincinnati, which was hosted in New York, and Rome. It was the 10th Rome final for Djokovic who has lost three times since his last victory, including last year to Nadal. Schwartzman, 15th in the world, took Djokovic’s first two service games to led 3-0.

But Djokovic rallied for his fifth win over the Argentinian, to extend his record to 31 wins out of his 32 matches this year.—AFP

Barcelona’s Vidal joins Inter for 1 million euros

MADRID — Inter Milan have completed a deal to sign Arturo Vidal from Barcelona for 1 million euros ($1.17 million), the clubs announced on Tuesday (Sep 22).

“Barcelona and Inter Milan have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Arturo Vidal,” Barca said in a statement.

“The Italian team will pay FC Barcelona 1 million euros in variables.”

After joining in 2018, Vidal played 96 games for the Catalans and scored 11 goals, helping them win La Liga in his first year in Spain.

But the 33-year-old was seen as expendable by the club after their dreadful end to last season, with Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu admitting players would have to leave before new ones could come in.

Vidal will be reunited with Antonio Conte at Inter, the coach he played for at Juventus between 2011 and 2015, before joining Bayern Munich and then Barca.

Inter described the Chilean midfielder as a “warrior”. “From today, Vidal will be on the front line for the Nerazzurri, with the same objectives as ever: fighting, giving it his all, and winning,” the Italian club added.—AFP

Plans to allow fans back into stadiums ‘paused’ due to virus spike

LONDON — Plans to allow the phased return of fans to sporting venues in England from October 1 will be put on hold due to the sharp rise in coronavirus cases, ministers said on Tuesday.

A number of pilot test events, in which capacities have been capped at 1,000, have taken place and it was hoped venues would be allowed to welcome more spectators from the start of next month.

But Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove said a “mass reopening” would not be appropriate at the current time, dealing a devastating blow to sports bodies struggling with the financial fallout of Covid-19.

“We were looking at a staged programme of more people re-turning — it wasn’t going to be the case that we were going to have stadiums thronged with fans,” Gove told the BBC.

“We’re looking at how we can, for the moment, pause that programme, but what we do want to do is to make sure that, as and when circumstances allow, get more people back.”

Professional sport, including the Premier League and Test cricket, has largely been played behind closed doors since it returned following the coronavirus shutdown earlier this year.

Sports chiefs have warned of crippling losses due to the loss of income from gate receipts and hospitality.

The leaders of more than 100 sports bodies have reportedly written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to ask for emergency funding, warning of “a lost generation of activity”.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters earlier this month warned it was “critical” to get fans back into stadiums soon, with clubs facing enormous losses.

Plans to host 1,000-capacity crowds at four Super League fixtures next week now look set to be scrapped.—AFP

Morata undergoes medical before Juve return

ROME — Atlético Madrid forward Álvaro Morata underwent a medical on Tuesday (Sep 22) ahead of a return to Juventus, the Serie A champions tweeted.

Morata, 27, who won the Italian title twice during a two-season spell in Turin from 2014 to 2016, is set to sign a one-year loan deal worth 10 million euros (US$11.75 million), according to newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport.

“AlvaroMorata checks into J Medical,” Andrea Pirlo’s side posted alongside a video of the attacker arriving at their training centre.

Morata played alongside Pirlo for a campaign before the midfielder left for New York City FC in 2015.—AFP

Novak Djokovic won a fifth Italian Open title and first since 2015.

PHOTO: RICCARDO ANTIMIANI POOL/AFP