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Wednesday, 23 September 2020

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 Myanmar 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**

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 108/2020
6th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1382 ME
(22 September 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in the exercise of power conferred under section 21 (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. Due to the higher number of confirmed infections of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the immediate increasing cases who had neither travel history nor close contact with positive patients, the Ministry of Health and Sports has already issued Order 107/2020 dated 20-9-2020 for the Stay-at-Home rule and disciplines for the people in all the townships (except Cocogyun Township) of Yangon Region for effective containment of pandemic.

2. Employees under the following businesses are added to the exceptional categories from the Stay-at-Home rule in the paragraph 3 (a) of the previous order.

(a) In private sector, those who are working in banking and financial services, filling stations, food production, cold-storage facilities for meat and fish, production and distribution of medicines, medical supplies and drinking water, factories of daily personal hygiene products and related businesses.

(b) Those who are working at airlines/general aviation services for relief flights, cargo flights and chartered flights, ground services, filling aviation fuels, trades in air transport, freight forwarder companies, Customs services agencies, in-flight catering services and airplane maintenance services.

(c) Those who are working at private-run ports which are providing services for international cargo vessels at the International Terminals in Yangon Port, representative offices of shipping lines, freight forwarder companies, Customs services agencies, container-carrying vehicles services, trucks for export/import goods at the ports, vessels, inland container depots and dry ports.

(d) Those who are working in communications businesses such as post office services, landline and mobile phone communications services, Internet services (not including the vendors selling mobile phones and Internet data), and services for communication towers and fibre networks.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister

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 58th 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 reconcili-

ation, 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 My-

anmar. 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 solidar-

ity 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.—Htein 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



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020

General Election

Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

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Union Minister 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 Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun yesterday received Lord Goldsmith, Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment, from the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and Mr Dan Chugg, British Ambassador to Myanmar at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations via videoconference.

The Union Minister welcomed the opportunity for dialogue with Lord Goldsmith in his capacity as a Minister within the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office while also noting Myanmar’s long-standing relationship with the UK aid programme, and its reputation for impact, value for money and transparency.

After exchanging updates on the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries the conversation turned to issues of environmental sustainability

as part of post-COVID-19 recovery plans. Both the Union Minister and Lord Goldsmith were in firm agreement that the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis presented all countries with an opportunity to calibrate their economic recoveries in ways that promote sustainability and address climate change but also in ways that protect people, communities and livelihoods.

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,



Union Minister U Thaung Tun (centre) meeting with the minister (left) and the ambassador (right) of the United Kingdom via videoconferencing on 22 Sept. PHOTO: MNA

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.

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,

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.—MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin accepts credentials from UNDP Resident Representative in Myanmar



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds talks online with newly-appointed Resident Representative of UNDP in Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin held discussions with Mr Titon Mitra, the newly-appointed Resident Representative of UNDP in Myanmar, at 10:00 am, on 22 September 2020 via videoconference. During the occasion, the presentation of credentials by Mr Titon Mitra to the Union Minister was conducted through video link.

During the meeting, the Union Minister congratulated the new Resident Representative of UNDP on his appointment and extended warm welcome to Myanmar. They exchanged views

on the brief background on cooperation between Myanmar and UNDP as well as the progress of ongoing projects being implemented under UNDP Country Programme (2018-2022) covering the areas of peace and good governance, environmental management, rule of law, anti-corruption, and poverty reduction as well as the implementation of ongoing projects in Rakhine State.

They also discussed enhancing cooperation to mitigate the impacts on socio-economic lives of the people caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Ma Kyi Po who lives in Law Sont Village of Mohnyin, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Kyi Po (a) Ma Kyi Kyi Poe, 24, daughter of U Aung Shein who lives in Law Sont Village of Mohnyin Township and arrested her together with stimulant tablets and heroin and her husband, Mg Tuu, 35, son of U Sein Pe. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Lon Ton) Ma Ya (pa) 48/2020 under section 19(a)/20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Ma Yin, who lives in Mapyin Village of Mohnyin Township of Kachin State, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Yin, 48, daughter of U Lu Tin who lives in Mapyin Village in Mohnyin and arrested her together with opium and low quality opium. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Lon Ton) Ma Ya (Pa) 49/2020 under section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Ma Nu who lives in Sar Kyin Village, Monwya Township of Sagaing Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	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 MaMaSa (Monwya) Ma Ya (pa) 28/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Min Naing who lives in Taung Kyar Village, Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 September 2020, police stopped and scrutinized the motorcycle driven by Htike Htike, 30, son of Aung San and Min Naing, 33, son of U Maung Kyi 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 MaMaSa (Kawlin) Ma Ya (pa) 175/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Win Myint who lives in Maut Saphar Village, Phaungpyin Township of Sagaing Region distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 September, police searched the house of Win Myint, 54, son of U Lu Htwe, who lives in Maut Saphar Village of Phaungpyin Township and did not find him. Police arrested his wife, Ma Ei, 50, daughter of U Thaung Dan together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) Ma Ya (pa) 165/2020 under Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of the people who live in Wet Kya Village in Pale Township of Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 September 2020, police searched the house of Nay Win, 53, son of U Tin Pe Lay, who lives in Wet Kya Village of Pale Township and arrested him together with heroin, opium and low- quality opium and another four compatriots, Yan Naing Soe, 25, son of U Win Sein, Aye Ko, 25, son of U Kyaw Swe, Paing Soe Oo, 25, son of U Tin Oo and Naing Lin, 41, son of U Ba Kan. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Pale) Ma Ya (pa) 1/2020 under Section 16 (c), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Phyu Toke who lives in Nyaung Thapyay Village of Mawlaik, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 12 September 2020, police searched the house of Phyu Toke (a) Nyo Tin, 57, son of U Maung Aye, who lives in Nyaung Thapyay Village of Mawlaik Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik) Ma Ya (pa) 72/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Ma Htay who lives in Mezali Village of Myothit Township of Magway Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 13 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Htay (a) Khin Khin Htay , 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 MaMaSa (Myothit) Ma Ya (pa) 2/2020 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of people in Kyauk War Tuu camp, Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, using, selling and distributing the illegal drugs.	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 Myint 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 Nyaungpin Thar Village near Kyauk War Tuu camp in Thabeikkyin and arrested them together with stimulant pills with WY label. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Tagaung) Ma Ya (pa) 21/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of U Myint Aung and Daw Hnin Aye, who live in Hnit Kine Village in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 6 September 2020, police searched the house of U Myint Aung and Daw Hnin who live in in Hnit Kine Village in Thanbyuzayat Township and did not found them and arrested their son Yan Naing Soe (a) Naing Soe, 35 together with speciosa . A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (K-yaikkhami) Ma Pa (pa) 11/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of Thura who lives in 37 ward of Dagon Myothit (North) in Yangon Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 7 September 2020, police searched the house of Thura (a) Set Paing, 23, son of U Min Thein, who lives in 37 ward of Dagon Myothit (North) in Yangon Region and arrested him together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (North Dagon) Ma Ya (pa) 34/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Kyin Hwat who lives in Insein, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 September 2020, police searched the house of That Zin Aung (a) Kyin Hwat, 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 MaMaSa (Insein) Ma Ya (pa) 154/2020 under Section 19(a) of the the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	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.	On 9 September 2020, police searched the house of Pyae Phyo Lwin (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 MaMaSa (North Okkalapa) Ma Ya (pa) 74/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of Pyae Sone Bo who lives in No (47) Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) of Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	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 Myothit (North) of Yangon Region and arrested together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (North Dagon) Ma Ya (pa) 36/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.



Please be patient. Please have empathy

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.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's update on government measures against COVID-19 pandemic, on 22 September 2020)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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(21 September 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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15	Information received of people using, distributing and selling 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 Hlinethaya 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.
16	Information received of people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kagyi Ward of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region.	On 14 September 2020, police arrested Soe Myint Aung (a) Kit Kit, 19, son of U Ba Tun, who lives in Yan Aung ward of Thingangyun, together with stimulant pills with WY label on Artharwaddy road in Kagyi Ward. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Thuwunna) MaYa(pa)56/2020 under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
17	Information received of Aung Kyaw (a) Kalar Gyi who lives in No (14) Ward of Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of AungKyaw (a) Par Kyal (a) Kalar Gyi, 47, son of U Than Win who lives in 14 Ward near BOC in Hlinethaya Township and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label and marijuana. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Thaung Gyi) MaYa(pa) 82/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18	Information received of Ma Cho Thae who lives in Nga Oh Village, Mabein Township of Shan State (North), distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 8 September 2020, police searched the house of Ma Cho Thae (a) Thae Thae, 35, daughter of U Win Aung who live in Nga Oh Village of Mabein Township and arrested her together with stimulant pills with WY label and heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Mabein) MaYa(pa)59/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
19	Information received of people who live in No (5) Ward of Lashio Township, Shan State (North), using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	It is announced that the police uncovered 18 cases and took action against a total of 24 suspects — 19 men and 5 women in accordance with the law in previous weeks. On 13 September 2020, police arrested Aung Myint (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.

20	Information received of Ko Aung Phyu who lives in War Pyar Tung Village in Taunggyi of Shan State (South), 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.
21	Information received of Ko Htaw who lives in Kyauktan Village of Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State (South), distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 16 September 2020, police searched the house of Ko Htaw (a) San Win, 42, son of U Kywal who lives in Kyauktan Village of Nyaungshwe Township and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Nampan) MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
22	Information received of Nay Htet Oo who lives in Oaktada Ward, Yaksawk Township of Shan State (North), using, distributing and selling the illegal drugs.	On 17 September 2020, police searched the house of Nay Htet Oo, 22, son of U Min Thein Oo, who live in Oaktada Ward of Yaksawk Township and arrested him together with stimulant pills with WY label. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Yaksawk) MaYa(pa)52/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,342 cases have been opened files as of 19 September 2020. A total of 2,051 people, including 1,711 men and 340 women had been arrested with 10,422.4094 g of heroin, 1,435.42 g of ICE, 47,388.87886 g of opium, 1,407.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,363.76 g of speciosa powder, 53,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 673,722 stimulant tablets, 14,851.48 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 630.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 27 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts
Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds virtual meeting with states/regions government officials to help volunteers for COVID-19 response



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds the virtual meeting with government officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states on 22 September. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Secretary of the National Volunteer Corps, held a virtual meeting with government officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states yesterday afternoon via videoconferencing to discuss how they can help volunteers working for prevention and control of COVID-19.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the regional government officials need to effectively help the volunteers at quarantine centres. He called on the officials to cooperative with the volunteers in implementation of the current COVID-19 response strategy, and to provide necessary assistance to them.

The Union Minister said that the COVID-19 has widely spread in the whole country, especially in Yangon Region and Rakhine State. He added that the government is obtaining advices from relevant experts to control the spread of the disease. The volunteers' needs for COVID-19 response tasks must be identified in order that government officials can fulfil the needs, said the Union Minister.

He said that the National Volunteer Corps also needs to effectively cooperative with Nay Pyi Taw Council and regional governments.

The Union Minister said that he also organized a virtual meeting with members of Youth Affairs Committee, charity organizations and volunteers in Yangon Region on 21 September.

During the virtual meeting with states/regions government officials on 22 September, the Union Minister said that the second wave of COVID-19 is stronger than its first wave, so 30,000 PPEs will be purchased for Yangon Region.

The Union Minister also called on regional government officials to motivate the volunteers.

During the meeting, Regional Ministers for Social Affairs, and other participants explained about matters related to quarantine procedures and their co-operation with volunteers and charity organizations. They said that affected townships will compile and submit lists of the needs for COVID-19 response activities.

The meeting also focused on efforts for reducing local transmission of COVID-19 and providing proper and effective medical treatments to COVID-19 patients.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

New members of Bar Council hold first meeting

THE newly formed Bar Council held the first meeting via videoconferencing yesterday morning since its election last month.

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, in his capacity as the chairman of Bar Council, delivered an opening speech at the meeting.

He said the meeting was the first time of council after it was reformed in accordance with the new Bar Council Act approved at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 10 June last year.

The new Bar Council is chaired by the Union Attorney-General, with the participation of two judges from the Supreme Court of the Union and the Deputy Attorney-General as the members, 11 elected advocates as vice-chairpersons, secretary and members.

Rules and regulations were adopted under the Act and the council held its election on 2 August this year. Over 3,300 advocates across the country elected 11 advocates out of 110 candidates in the election.

The council's bylaw has also defined the first election must be held within two months after the election.

The first meeting was taken part by the newly elected advocates from different regions and states through videoconferencing, and it selected Advocate U Mya Thein as the vice-chairperson and Advocate U Khin Maung Zaw as the secretary of the council.

The headquarters of Bar Council is located in the compound of Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, and its branch is in the lower block of Maha Bandoola Park Road in Yangon.

The Union Attorney-General said that the council is responsible for generating the lawyers on the subjects of bankruptcy, intellectual property, employment, corporate, tax and family affairs.

Participants at the meeting discussed capacity building of advocates, their ethics, issuing advocate licences and registration of lawyer associations.—MNA

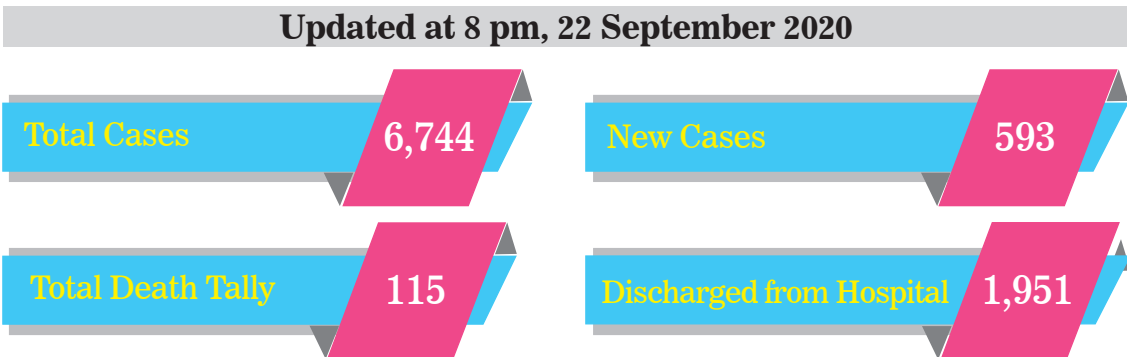
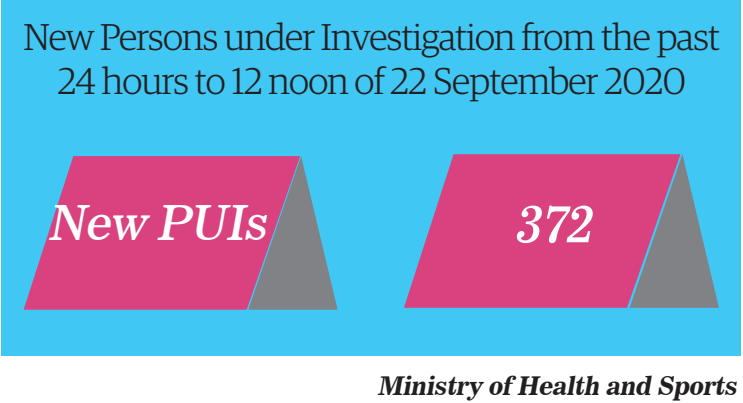
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Bar Council holds the first meeting online with new members after its election in August. PHOTO: MNA

593 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 September, total figure rises to 6,744

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 6,744 after 593 new cases were reported on 22 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 6,744 confirmed cases, 115 died, 1,951 have been discharged from hospitals and 372 were held under investigation.—MNA



Myanmar repatriates 108 nationals from foreign countires

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 Viet Nam.

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.

— MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



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

Ayeyarwady centre to be expanded to 770-bedded quarantine facility



Unit A of Ayeyarwady Centre for COVID patients in Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 22 Sept. PHOTO: KO MOE

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 (Translated by Aung Khin)

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



Local authorities inspect security measures along the Thaungyin River to prevent illegal crossings between Myanmar and Thailand border on 22 Sept. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG

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) (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

A need for 'right equipment at the right time'

WITH the ongoing surge in coronavirus cases during the second wave of the fast-spreading virus, reaching 6743 cases yesterday, the demand for personal protective equipment is becoming greater day by day.

Arrangements have been made 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 disinfectant wipes, hand hygiene products, gowns, masks, sanitizers, gloves and much more.

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

gional governments and health authorities in a timely manner to fulfill their needs, as they carry out the current strategy to combat the disease.

One of the first ways we can work towards more sustainable efforts is to first focus on daily PPEs counts. This is a good measure to establish as a standard infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

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 PPE they need, 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.

156 ECONOMIES ARE NOW COMMITTED TO OR ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VACCINES THROUGH THE FACILITY

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

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

64 higher income economies have joined the COVAX Facility, a global initiative that brings together governments and manufacturers to ensure eventual COVID-19 vaccines reach those in greatest need, whoever they are and wherever they live. These 64 economies include commitments from 35 economies as well as the European Commission which will procure doses on behalf of 27 EU member states plus Norway and Iceland.

By pooling financial and scientific resources, these participating economies will be able to insure themselves against the failure of any individual vaccine candidate and secure successful vaccines in a cost-effective, targeted way.

The 64 members of the Facility will be joined by 92 low- and middle-income economies eligible for support for the procurement of vaccines through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a financing instrument aimed at supporting the procurement of vaccines for these countries. This means that 156 economies, representing roughly 64% of the global population in total, are now either committed to or eligible for the COVAX Facility, with more to follow.

With the Commitment Agreements secured, the COVAX Facility will now start signing formal agreements with vaccine manufacturers and developers, which are partners in the COVAX effort, to secure the doses needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2021. This is in addition to an ongoing effort to raise funding for both R&D and for the procurement of vaccines for low-

er-income countries via the Gavi COVAX AMC.

"COVAX is now in business: governments from every continent have chosen to work together; not only to secure vaccines for their own populations, but also to help ensure that vaccines are available to the most vulnerable 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 industry, we now stand a far better chance of ending the acute phase of this pandemic once safe, effective vaccines become available."

The COVAX Facility is part of COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which is co-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 country vaccine manufacturers, UNICEF, the World Bank, Civil Society Organisations and others.

The allocation of vaccines, once licenced and approved, will be guided by an Allocation Framework released today by WHO following the principle of fair and equitable access, ensuring no participating economy will be left behind. Policies determining the prioritization of vaccine rollout within economies will be guided by recommendations from the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which has recently released a Val-



Self-financing economies, which include 29 from 'Team Europe' participating as part of an agreement with the European Commission, join 92 lower income economies eligible for financial support through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment. **PHOTO: GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE**

ues Framework laying the groundwork for subsequent guidance on target populations and policies on vaccine use.

"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's in every country's own best interests 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 is leading COVAX vaccine research and development work, which aims to develop at least three safe and effective vaccines which can be made available to economies participating in the COVAX Facility. Nine candidate vaccines are currently being supported by CEPI; eight of 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 that it is only through equitable and simultaneous access to new lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines that we can hope

development (R&D) work and the Gavi COVAX AMC to support participation of lower income economies in the COVAX Facility.

Governments, vaccine manufacturers (in addition to their own R&D), organizations and individuals have committed US\$ 1.4 billion towards vaccine R&D so far, but a further US\$ 700-800 million is urgently needed to continue to move the portfolio forward in addition to US\$ 300 million to fund WHO's SOLIDARITY trial.

The Gavi COVAX AMC has raised around US\$ 700 million from sovereign donors as well as philanthropy and the private sector, against an initial target of US\$ 2 billion in seed funding needed by the end of 2020. Funding the Gavi COVAX AMC will be critical to ensuring ability to pay is not a barrier to accessing COVID-19 vaccines, a situation which would leave the majority of the world unprotected, with the pandemic and its impact continuing unabated.

The Commitment Agreements also commit higher income governments to provide an upfront payment to reserve doses by 9 October 2020. These funds will be used to accelerate the scale-up of vaccine manufacturing to secure two billion doses of vaccine, enough to vaccinate one billion people assuming the vaccine requires a two-dose regimen. Further details on these upfront payments are available in Gavi's COVAX Facility Explainer.

As well as procuring doses for participating economies, the COVAX Facility will also maintain a buffer of doses for emergency and humanitarian use.

SOURCE: WHO

THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES IN A SINGLE WEEK

World sees record weekly number of Covid-19 cases, deaths down: WHO

THE coronavirus pandemic appears to be accelerating worldwide, with new cases soaring last week to a new seven-day high of almost two million, even as new deaths decreased, World Health Organization (WHO) statistics showed.

In a fresh global update, the

WHO said late Monday (Sept 21) that during the week ending on Sept 20, 1,998,897 new cases of the novel coronavirus were registered around the world.

That marks a six per cent increase over a week earlier and "the highest number of reported cases in a single week since the beginning of the epidemic", the

UN health agency said.

Since the novel coronavirus first surfaced in China late last year, it has infected more than 31 million people around the globe and has killed nearly 962,000, according to an AFP tally from official sources on Monday.

Nearly all regions of the world saw new cases rise last

week, WHO said, with Europe and the Americas seeing new cases swell by 11 and 10 per cent respectively.

Only Africa, which has remained relatively unscathed by the pandemic, dodged the upward trend, reporting a 12 per cent drop in fresh cases from a week earlier.

Even as cases shot up across much of the world, the number of new deaths is going down, the WHO statistics showed.

DECLINING DEATHS

Last week, some 37,700 new deaths linked to the virus were recorded worldwide, marking a decline of 10 per cent compared

to the previous week.

The decline was driven by the Americas, long the hardest-hit region, where new deaths were 22 per cent lower than a week earlier, and by Africa where new deaths dropped 16 per cent.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 22nd September, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23rd September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Magway Region and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (8 - 12) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (5- 7) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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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 Ugyi Hting Nan and Du Wa Dein Ratan who participated in implementing the Panglong Agreement in 1947 and with Saya S Gum Gam, Du Wa Shawng Gyung 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 and Namtu State 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.
--Implementing tax systems and governance mechanisms for fiscal policy.
--Implementing fiscal stability for monetary principle.

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

KNC’s stance
We will implement the pledges and vows of the Panglong Agreement of 1947 and have a policy for Kachin and citizens first.

- 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 estab-

lishing 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.

The election promises, as mentioned above, will be implemented without fail by KNC candidates in all Hluttaws. That is an explanation of the possibilities and possible course of action to the public.

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 Phlone-Sqaw Democracy Party and Asho Chin National Party will be published in the state-owned newspapers— the Myanma 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 requested the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (on 21 September for the feedstuff processing factories to keep running and to ensure smooth flow of trade.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued a 'stay at home' order for all the townships in Yangon Region although the employees of food, meat and fish cold storage plants are allowed to go to their work. However, those employees of animal feed processing factories are mandatory to stay at home.

Myanmar Livestock Sector plays a pivotal role in nutrition efficiency and food security of the people. Myanmar has a total of 388 million chickens, including broilers and layer chickens, 9.5 million draft cattle, 0.11 million dairy cattle, 1.8 million



Myanmar Livestock Federation has sought permissions to run feedstuff processing factories to fulfil demand of feedstuffs. **PHOTO: THAN HTAT**

buffaloes, 2.1 million small ruminants, 5.4 million pigs and 8.9 million other poultry animals, MLF stated.

About 4,300 tonnes of feed are daily produced for the livestock industry. Moreover, the factories are running at full capacity to fulfil the requirement of daily feed consumption.

If they are forced to suspend their businesses, it will

possibly incur the shortage of feed problem and losses and hurt the production. Moreover, it might negatively affect market stability and food security.

Additionally, the livestock industry must strictly take preventive measures for biosecurity measures to control the viral disease of animals.

Therefore, the feed processing factories have already

enhanced biosecurity and taken precautionary measures for the employees to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The food and cold-storage plants have been permitted to continue running, the ministry's order stated. However, the logistics of livestock inputs such as feed, baby chicks, hogs, meat and dairy products including in the supply chain processes are

restricted to a certain extent and trade disruption occurs.

The livestock sector is required to maintain market stability for the people to have self-sufficiency amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The industry needs daily inputs. And the region itself cannot cover the total sales of the whole industry. The products are required to be distributed to the regions and states outside Yangon, MLF stated.

The restriction on the flow of input and products can result in the enormous impacts on the livestock industry and food security for a short and long term.

Hence, the federation called for the permit for animal feed processing factories which is related to food, fish and meat cold-storage plants to keep running and to exempt the employees engaged in the industry from the Stay-at-Home order.

Furthermore, the federation also asked to coordinate the relevant departments and organizations to have smooth trade within the region and to the states and regions outside Yangon.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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 Yedagon, located offshore from Taninthayi and discovered in 1992.

The Zawtika Project in the Gulf of Mottama mainly supplies natural gas to neighbouring Thailand.

Production at Yadana and Yedagon is declining, and those projects will be halted in the coming years.

Myanmar's exports of natural gas in the previous financial year totalled \$3.88 billion, as per Commerce Ministry data.—Ko 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 from 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 exist 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 cus-

toms 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\$9.9 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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITOR
Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR TRANSLATOR
Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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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 Lanmadaw 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)

ITC border trade hits K40 bln in 11 months

MYANMAR'S 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 imports exceeded K37.9 billion.

Out of border trade camps, Myawady border trade zone is reported to have the biggest volume of trade with a value of K26.6 billion and followed by Mawtaung border trade zone with 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, intermediate 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 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016FY and 248

cards in 2016-2017FY, 168 cards in 2017-2018FY, 92 cards from 1st April 2018 to 30 Sep 2018 interim period, 163 cards in 2018-2019FY and 83 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 closed amid COVID resurgence

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 COV-

ID-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)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

US economy to recover only when people feel ‘safe’ from virus: Powell



Fed Chair Jerome Powell, left, and Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin, pictured in June 2020, are set to appear before the House Financial Services Committee.
PHOTO: AFP

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 in the second quarter due to business shutdowns to

stop the virus’s spread.

Though some sectors of the economy, such as retail sales and housing, have seen sharp rebounds, viral infections remain rife and Congress is deadlocked on additional spending to help the recovery.

“A full recovery is likely to come only when people are confident that it is safe to reengage in a broad range of activities,” Powell will tell House Financial Services committee members on Tuesday in an appearance with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, according to the prepared remarks. —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 2.25 billion yuan (\$330 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 ■

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 con-

ditions 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 1978 rejecting atomic energy.—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. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (265W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (265W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (172 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (172 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA 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-001(20-21)	24" Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline Freespan Rectification	Kyats

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, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Building No.(44), Nay Pyi Taw (OR) Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Yangon), No. (47) Sein Lae May Yeik Tha Lane, Yankin Township, Yangon.

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Let's run service businesses

By Naing Oo (DOCA)

IUSE 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 face worse situation and developing countries to encounter least losses. The developing countries are agro-based ones with no worries over basic needs of food, clothing and shelter and they can give help to even other countries and even services can

develop more.

Three same answers were received when asking friends who made several frequent foreign visits. They said they miss cuisine, beauties of nature and cultures of Myanmar. They are sorry to lose money spent on visiting renowned places of other foreign 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 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 visi-

tors, historic structures, and conventional farming and livestock methods, royal occasions in time of monarchy, practical capture of animals, moral courses and unique views of hilly region. The collaborative efforts of the government, private entrepreneurs and local people are very encouraging.

Tourism-related businesses such as hotels and motels, souvenir shops, restaurants and rental service will appear around the above mentioned places, thereby resulting in new employments for 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-visiting places in Myanmar such as waterfalls, springs, safaris, zoos, travel sites, elephant camps, community-based sites, world heritage listed ancient archeological are-



Htan San Cave. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

as, unearthed-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 Shweli rivers in Myanmar. Mountaineering expeditions to iced mountain and other mountains should be arranged commercially. Planning relaxation trip to the unique places like Myitson 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



Natmataung ASEAN Heritage Natural Park in Chin State. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS



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

spotlight Myanma’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 envi-

ronmental 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 giving service charge, similarly, 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 to receive the service. For example, a customer has to go to the branch university run from abroad where his children are to enrol to pursue education. Similarly, a customer has to go to the branch hospital run from abroad to undergo medical treat-

ment. The franchise restaurants run from abroad are also the same matter.

The fourth one is, the customers have to receive the services provided to them. For instance, a schoolteacher from abroad comes to the branch university opened in the country of the customer and serves part-time teaching. 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). The entrepreneurs must give a guarantee of quality,

precise weight and safety. If the customers faced losses and sufferings, the entrepreneurs would take responsibility and accountability as long as the victims are pleased. It concerns the decision of Myanmar Consumer Affairs Commission.

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))



Dolphins in the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR



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



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

PHOTO: RICCARDO ANTIMIANI POOL/AFP

ROME — Novak Djokovic claimed a record 36th Masters crown on Monday, beating Ar-

gentine 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.

Serb 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 lead 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 ■

Morata undergoes medical before Juve return

ROME — Atletico Madrid forward Alvaro 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 ■

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 ■



Arturo Vidal has played 115 times for Chile since his debut in 2007. **PHOTO: AFP/HANDOUT**

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



Fans attend a pre-season friendly between Brighton and Chelsea on a socially distanced basis. **PHOTO: GLYN KIRK AFP/FILE**

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 ■