State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation

As of yesterday, there have been over 1,000 people who were tested positive with COVID-19. We understand that there would be a cause for anxiety and worries among the people because of this spike of 1,000 people within one day. Although it is natural that there would be anxieties and worries, the main thing is for us to be able to contain the infection spread as much as possible. The way to contain this virus is simple. I have said this repeatedly. Please follow the basic instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Avoid going out of the house. Not only should you avoid going outside the house; please don’t accept visitors. If you need to go outside due to unavoidable circumstances, if you need to receive visitors, please ask the visitors to wear masks. You yourself need to wear masks. Wash your hands regularly. I would like to urge you to wear masks all the time with seriousness; these two fundamental things; to wear masks and to avoid having contact with people. If we can do these two things, we would be in a situation to prevent this disease to a considerable extent. Please wash your hands regularly. As I have said before, if you wash your hands for 20 seconds it would be more effective. So we can understand that people are filled with anxiety and worries. We also understand that we need to use all possible methods to contain the rapid spread of this virus as much as possible.

We can understand that there have been anxieties and worries because of the climbing rate of fatalities. Right now there have been 172 deaths. Therefore, this situation will not improve if we just feel concerned about this. What I wish to say is that we need to detect the virus early if we are to provide effective treatment. What we have seen is that some people try to use household remedies when they think that they have been infected and treat themselves in their own homes. They go to the hospital only when their home remedies fail.

769 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 September, total figure rises to 9,112

MINANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 9,112 after 769 new cases were reported on 25 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 9,112 confirmed cases, 174 died, 2,517 have been discharged from hospitals and 445 were held under investigation.—MNA
Advice to people in Yangon Region

1. About 6,000 people have been quarantined in Yangon. Within two days, quarantine spaces were arranged for 1,000 people who came back from Rakhine State. Now, the number of people who had contacts with COVID-19 patients has increased, so seven new quarantine centres have been established for 1,000 more people. The civil society organizations and volunteers are invited to help the persons at the quarantine centres.

2. People in Yangon need to send the persons who had contacts with confirmed cases in the contact tracing to the quarantine centres without making them worried.

3. People should adhere to the required rules and regulations in the quarantine centres. When sending food to people in quarantine centres, alcohol and cigarettes should not be included in the delivery.

4. People in Yangon have lots of difficulties, challenges and burdens. Therefore, they need to strictly follow the rules by staying at home in two to three weeks during this period. In going outside for necessary reasons, they must wear masks. As Yangon City has a large number of population, people are also advised to abide by the rules of Ministry of Health and Sports amidst the increasing number of confirmed cases.

Announcement of MoPFI to transfer General Reserve Fund to Natural Disaster Management Fund


2. It is announced that the fund will be used in the COVID-19 related matters with the approval of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, according to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

UEC passes advance ballot papers to MoFA for overseas citizen voters

THE Union Election Commission Director-General U Khin Maung Oo presented fourth batch of ballot papers and envelopes for 37,490 Myanmar eligible voters abroad for advance voting to Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aung Soe Win yesterday.

The township sub-commissions of UEC scrutinized the copies of Form-15 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the voters in foreign countries.

The UEC handed over the first batch of the advance ballot papers and envelopes for 188 overseas eligible voters on 18 September, the second batch for 20,426 voters on 23 September and the third batch for 43,422 voters on 24 September.

Until now, the UEC has presented advance ballot papers and envelopes for a total of 101,526 overseas voters who will cast ballots at 45 Myanmar embassies, missions and consulates in foreign countries.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Notification of extension of temporary ban on international commercial passenger flights

THE Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel announced by Ministry of Health and Sports on 29 March 2020, was previously extended up to 23:59 Myanmar Standard Time on 30 September 2020, with the approval of National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus.

As the suspension of inbound tourists by international flights plays crucial for containment of COVID-19 spread in Myanmar, the effective period of this notification will be extended until 23:59 Myanmar Standard Time 31 October 2020, as approved by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus.

Ministry of Transport and Communications
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

State Counsellor reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation

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Then it is too late. It is too late to give effective treatment. That is why what is important is to receive treatment at an early stage.

With respect to this matter, I wish to discuss two things. The first thing is that a great majority of people wish to go to specialist hospitals. When they go to specialist hospitals, effective testing could not be done because there are so many patients at these hospitals. That is why we wish to urge people to go to the district and township hospitals. We are doing this not because we don't have a valid reason. At the moment, our Union Government has ordered one lakh antigen test kits and medicines to conduct tests quickly from the Republic of Korea. The ROK government is also going to donate USD 500,000 worth of kits. These things will arrive in our country within days. We will distribute to our district and township hospitals. These hospitals will be able to conduct tests to see whether people are infected or not. Therefore I wish to request whether people are infected or not. Therefore I wish to request people to realize that there is no vacancy in our health and well-being. Thank you.
VP U Henry Van Thio celebrates World Tourism Day 2020 online

THE World Tourism Day 2020 was celebrated online with the discussions on its theme of ‘Tourism and Rural Development’ at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor honoured the annual event, which is normally held on 27 September every year, in her video message which was screened at the celebration.

(Videomessage of the State Counsellor is covered on page 5 of this newspaper)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of National Tourism Development Central Committee, made a speech at the event through videoconferencing.

He said that Myanmar re-joined the United Nations World Tourism Organization in 2012, and since then the event was annually celebrated with the contests of travel photos, essay writing and debate and selection of the best performers in hotels and tourism industry.

The Vice President talked about the impacts of international flight suspensions on the tourism industry and the estimation of experts on the recovery of this sector that will need 2 to 8 years at least.

The UNWTO adopted a theme “Tourism and Rural Development” for the World Tourism Day 2020 in accordance with the views of tourism experts who remarked that the international visitors would prefer social distancing, natural tourism, ethnic tourism and environmental tourism in the post COVID-19 outbreak.

The Community-Based Tourism project of Myanmar developed in 2016 is conformable to the theme of World Tourism Day 2020. The objectives of CBT include to promote traditional cultures of ethnic people, to alleviate poverty and to conserve environment.

The Vice President highlighted the importance of connectivity and infrastructure in managing natural resources for the development of tourism sector and the use of online and digital technologies to explore new possible tourist destinations in addition to the existing Bagan, Mandalay and other significant areas.

He also advised to apply e-commerce in building the competitive capacity of MSMEs in tourism sector after developing digital infrastructure and ordinary infrastructures such as roads, bridges, airports, electricity and drinking water.

He added after completing construction of two new airports in Chin State, the region would become a prominent tourist destination and enjoy the benefits from this business.

The Vice President talked on the increasing number of visitors to Kayah and Kayin State thanks to better transportation, socioeconomic development of local people on these routes, and a coastal highway project that will link Ayeyawady Region with Rakhine State.

He continued to say developments of more tourist destinations which are more familiar with natural environment in regions and states, preparations for international norms to fight against the pandemic, and the role of Destination Management Organizations in respective regions and states for safe and development of destinations.

The video message of UNWTO’s Secretary-General Mr Zurab Pololikashvili was shown to the event.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung delivered a commemorative speech for the World Tourism Day, followed by the greetings of U Yan Win, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation via videoconferencing.

The development of Community-Based Tourism project in regions and states are presented by the video clips.

The development of Community-Based Tourism project in regions and states are presented by the video clips.

Offices under the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Shan State, Kayah State and Magway Region, and U Aung Min Naing, the head of social economic sector from the Action Aid Myanmar, made a videoconferencing on the Tourism and Rural Award-winning CBT project in Inn Yaung village-tract of Myaing Township of Magway Region.

The Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (2021-2025) was presented by Mr Paul Penfold and Daw Aye Aye Mar from the LuxDev.

In his concluding remark, the Vice President expressed thanks for giving assistance to organize the event, the increasing number of villages from 2 in 2016 to 41 with 19 tourist destinations under the CBT projects, future support to MSMEs with digitization, investments, human resources and technical assistance, guidelines for developing tourist destinations and cooperation of relevant ministries and private organizations.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
State Counsellor honours World Tourism Day 2020 – Stresses "Tourism and Rural Development"

Let me extend my good wishes and Metta to all the distinguished participants for their good health and well-being.

1. Today’s event is to mark the World Tourism Day, which has been organized by the World Tourism Organization every year on 27 September since 40 years ago. I attended the event at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II last year. However, this year the event is being held online all over the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The global tourism industry has been recognized as a sustainable business. According to the 2019 data of the WTO, the tourism industry has contributed 7 per cent of international trade and is creating job opportunities for 1 out of 10 people in the world. It is also a major source of employment for millions of people in developing countries, especially for women, youths, and rural communities.

3. The theme for World Tourism Day 2020 is ‘Tourism and Rural Development’. It is in conformity with the consistent efforts of our Union Government for economic development, equality and establishment of a modern and prosperous Democratic Federal Republic. The theme also corresponds to the action plans ‘to implement a comprehensive package of reforms focused on achieving a sustainable expansion of the tourism sector in ways that contribute to economic development and the socio-cultural life of our people’, and ‘to develop and protect innovative and cultural heritage and eco-tourism and related value-added services industries’.

4. Suspensions of vacation packages, inbound trips, commercial passenger flights and trips to usual tourist destinations for the resumption of local trips.

5. The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to recover from the negative impact of the pandemic includes the tourism relief plan. Under the CERR 100 billion kyats will be given out as one-year loans with 1 per cent interest rate to the CMP garment factories and SMR businesses; the hotels and tourism businesses will get one-year exemption for license fee and suspension of income tax and commercial tax; the rental fee for state-owned hotels has been reduced by 50 per cent for a specific period. Under the Cash for Training programme, online basic and advanced courses on tourism business are being conducted as well as mentoring classes of not more than 5 persons to generate income for the jobless employees from this industry and related businesses of slow-moving vehicles, roadside vendors, souvenir sellers and handicraft producers.

6. As no one can estimate the end of COVID-19, it is necessary to resume the businesses under preventive measures against the pandemic for the socio-economic survival of the people. Experts have estimated tourists would enter only in 2021, so it would be necessary for us to begin with domestic tours. In this situation, it is required to strictly follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent one more surge of the pandemic. Both employees from this industry and visitors need to make arrangements and learn the guidelines.

7. Tourism experts estimate that visitors would change their choice and opt for new destinations which are closer to the natural environment with free travel styles, rather than more popular destinations, in the post-COVID-19 period. In addition to the directives of the Union Government to develop new safe destinations across the country, local authorities, businesspersons and people need to form working groups to conserve these areas. The information must be given to the public to help them choose for appropriate hotels and tourism businesses which comply with the guidelines of COVID-19 measures. Their COVID-19 Safe Service must be recognized. Only if safe services could be given by these preparations, Myanmar would be ready for competing with other countries to attract foreign visitors when international tourism resumes.

8. Although the World Tourism Day event for this year had to be conducted online, I conclude this speech by making a wish that we would be able to resume international tourism next year and hope to meet all the attendees here again at the forthcoming World Tourism Day next year.

Thank you all. May you all be blessed with good health and well-being.

MoTC celebrates World Maritime Day online

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung delivered a speech at the World Maritime Day event yesterday morning.

During the event, he said that the International Maritime Organization leads member nations in celebration of the World Maritime Day every year to help improve maritime safety, reduce water pollution and effectively use modern technology for sustainable development in the maritime industry.

The theme for World Maritime Day 2020 is ‘Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet’, which provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. All member nations have to undertake to achieve the targets.

The Union Minister also highlighted the UN’s 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the maritime transport sector. He said that the event also intended to raise awareness about climate changes and proper management of oceans and seas.

He also talked about the implementation of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), which has five targets. He added that Myanmar National Transport Master Plan, which is eco-friendly, has also been implemented to promote the entire transport sector of Myanmar.

He said that the government and Department of Marine Administration has provided necessary services and assistance to Myanmar seamen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the event, the message sent by the Secretary-General of IMO was presented. Then PowerPoint presentations on activities of Myanmar maritime sector and maritime training in Myanmar.

The online event was also participated by Hluttaw representatives, government officials, representatives from the International Maritime Organization, international partner organizations, maritime associations, maritime training schools, and other officials.

THE Ministry of Commerce will accept the online applications for vehicle imports from auto showrooms starting from 1 October, according to the third meeting of Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Importing held online yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Than Myint said that Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Importing has allowed 143 sales centres and 62 showrooms to open till August 2020. The committee issued Notification 1/2020 on 31 August 2020 for specification of the model years of imported vehicles with the remarks of its members.

"The notification permitted the imports of the vehicles earlier than three years for private vehicles, old vehicles, vehicles for donation and passenger vehicles and the vehicles earlier than five years for commercial vehicles," he said. He added that the ministry was processing for accepting vehicle import licences applications fully online starting from 1 October to facilitate trading during COVID-19. Applications of vehicle import licences from showrooms will be first trailed fully online. During the online import application trailed period, their vehicle purchase permits will be issued manually. Applications of vehicle import licences and purchase permits from sales centres will be then processed fully online, he added.

The meeting was concluded following a round of discussions of the attendees. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MRCS Central Council organizes virtual meeting

THE opening ceremony of the 83rd meeting of Central Council of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, in his capacity as Patron of Myanmar Red Cross Society, called on the council members to work hard in accordance with the Myanmar Red Cross Law, which was approved in 2015. He also urged them to apply innovative thinking in their works.

Recently, Myanmar has experienced a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and related deaths. The Union Minister said he wanted Red Cross members to systematically participate more in COVID-19 response efforts supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports. He called on Red Cross members to hold videoconferences to effectively collaborate in COVID-19 response efforts.

The Union Minister also urged the participants to conduct necessary reviews in order to make the works of the MRCS more effective. He said that the MRCS can help the Ministry by trying the local humanitarian institution to be stronger. He also urged the members to work unitedly.

He stressed that the MRCS should inform the general public about their activities and action plans via social networks and media. The Union Minister said that every task will be successful if all the members work unitedly, and the Ministry will cooperate with the MRCS.

During the event, MRCS President Dr Maung Maung Myint presented the activities of the local institution. In the meeting, MRCS Vice President Dr Amaya Maw Naing explained the implementation of the resolutions made by the 82nd meeting of the central council. MRCS executive member Dr Mya Thu explained the works and activities carried out by the MRCS headquarters from July 2019 to June 2020, and future plans. Another MRCS executive member Dr Tin Nyunt presented their executive committee’s report. Daw Kyu Kyu Win, another MRCS executive member, explained the executive committee’s financial report for 2019 and the works of auditors.

The second day of the meeting will be held on 26 September via videoconferencing. —MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Sae)

Yangon-Mandalay express and Kyimyinda-Pyay mail trains suspended

By Nyein Nyein

Yangon-Mandalay express train and Kyimyinda-Pyay mail trains have been stopped temporarily, according to the Myanmar Railways (MR) Division 7 Yangon.

"Yangon-Mandalay 3 up and 4 down express train and Kyimyinda-Pyay 63 up and 64 down mail train have been suspended starting from 21 September," a MR officer explained.

On 12 September, MR Division 7 Yangon released an announcement that MR would suspend all the trains except the six main routes because of the declining number of passengers at the railway stations. The decline can be attributed to the travelling restrictions imposed by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 to enable the control of spreading of coronavirus disease.

The main six routes and trains are Yangon-Mandalay 3 up and 4 down, Mandalay-Mytikyina 41 up and 42 down, Yangon-Pyay 63 up and 64 down, Nay Pyi Taw-Chauk 101 up and 102 down, Pathein-Rakhine 185 up and 186 down and Mandalay-Lashio 131 up and 132 down.

The mail trains and cargo trains will run as usual on Yangon-Mandalay route and Manda- lay-Mytikyina route. Moreover, the circular trains on Yangon-Hlaingwe route, Yangon-Mingalaron route and Yangon-Ywathgyi route will run as usual with two trains each in the morning office hours and the evening office hours. The circular train B3 and B4 and A4 and A5 have stopped starting from 21 September.

Previously, Yangon circular trains were operated with 54 trains daily. Now, the operation of the trains has been reduced to control spreading of COVID-19.

(Translated by Hay Mar)
India likely to extend Myanmar’s bean export deadline, driven by demand

By Nyein Nyein

INDIA is likely to extend Myanmar’s bean export deadline because of its growing domestic demand, said an official from Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA).

On 22 May, India abruptly moved forward the import period for 400,000 tonnes of black beans by three months, i.e. 31 March 2021, set by India for the first time. Also, we heard that India bean traders have also requested their Ministry to push back the deadline. However, we still haven’t heard any response from the Indian government. We hope to hear something from them sooner or later,” said U Min Ko Oo, the association secretary.

At present, Myanmar, a major grower of black bean, has exported about 100,000 tonnes of black beans to India, out of 400,000 tonnes target, according to the association. The price of bean has risen in the local market because India is buying Myanmar beans by giving the money in advance these days as India is badly in need of the beans.

Current price of black bean is K1,070,000 per tonne while the pigeon pea fetches K830,000 per tonne in the local market, MPBSSMA said.

“After the COVID-19 situation, the pigeon pea is selling slowly in the local market,” he added.

“However, we haven’t heard any news from the Indian government in terms of black bean demand," he added. "We have submitted a letter to the Indian government requesting them to push back the deadline. We have also heard some news from the Indian traders that their purchase of black beans from Myanmar has been increased."
Safe and responsible COVID-19 services called key to revitalize tourism

WITH the resurgence of the coronavirus infection, the second wave has been a cause for concern among the tourism sector. In order to attract the tourists and local residents, various tourism activities were canceled, and tourism businesses were required to follow strict safety protocols.

In order to ensure the safety of our tourism sector, we need to ensure that all tourism businesses follow strict safety protocols and that tourists follow these protocols as well.

If we do not follow these safety protocols, we may not be able to attract tourists and may even lose those who have already visited us.

It is important to remember that the safety of our tourists is of the utmost importance, and we must work together to ensure that our tourism sector is safe and responsible.

A THLETE, welcome cere- monies, medals of honors and fireworks celebrated at a scaled-down Tokyo 2020 Games. Organizers said Friday, but a sen- sory Olympic official insisted the event “will happen.”

Power-free tickets and sav- ings on accommodations, meals and fireworks are among more than 30 cost-cutting measures agreed by organizers and Olympic officials, less than a year before the virus-postponed event begins. Despite the complications and extra costs of the delay, and continued uncertainty about how the massive international event will unfold safely, International Olympic Committee vice-presi- dent Coates said cancel- lation was not an option. “It would have been very easy for you to say ‘this isn’t possible’,” he said via video link after a meet- ing with some 700 of the 1,000 or so scions and Olympic officials in Tokyo and elsewhere. “But I think we all share the view that this has to be possible, this has to happen, because we cannot disregard generations of Olympians.” The event, delayed by 12 months and then delayed by organizers a picture of a less-than-expected event, with the size of behind-the-scenes delega- tions reduced by 30% per cent, has packed back. The number of athletes will not be reduced, organizers pledged. But officials, press and oth- ers attending the Games will be given fewer complimentary tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies — with changes to the usual dazzling contests of the events themselves under review.

The number of athletes will not be reduced, organizers pledged.

A PLAN B FOR THE 2020 GAMES: FIT FOR A POST-CORONA WORLD

Olympic organizers unveiled scaled-back Games plan while maintaining the new normal by following health safety practices, we need to ease into safely reopening our tourism industry.

To ensure no crowds at the travel destinations, restaurants, hotels and guesthouses, the tourists and local residents will be required to follow strict health orders. Seafarers critical to global trade.

Some seafarers have been stranded at sea for endless months, in some cases more than a year, due to the coronavirus pandemic. A

A BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW GAMES: FIT FOR A POST-CORONA WORLD

OPINION

A NTONIO Guterres on Monday urged the authorities to immediately designate these personnel as ‘key workers’ to facilitate sea crew changes, allowing fatigued seafarers to be repatriated and replaced by colleagues who are awaiting deployment.

Despite the unprecedented conditions brought about by the pandemic, seafarers have continued to tirelessly support the often invisible global logistical chain,” the UN chief said, in his message for World Maritime Day, observed annually on 25 September.

This year, the focus is on ‘Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet’ which underlines how the industry will play a central role in both post-pandemic recovery and future economic growth.

Seafarers critical to global trade

As Mr Guterres pointed out, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the professionalism and sacrifice of the more than one million men and women who serve in the world’s merchant fleet.

Seafarers play a critical role in shipping, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of global trade including the basic goods and vital medical supplies needed during the pandemic.

The UN and partners esti- mate that more than 300,000 members of this hidden work- force currently are trapped at sea due to travel restrictions, border closures and other meas- ures implemented by govern- ments to contain COVID-19 spread.

They said the situation is unfolding into an urgent humanitarian, safety and economic crisis.

‘The show had to go on’

Captain Hedi Marzougui, commanding a merchant vessel in the Far East when the pandemic broke out. Life on board immediately became difficult. Crew changes, shore leaves and medical leaves were suspended, and it was hard to get vital supplies or technical support to the ship.

‘Port nations changed regu- lations on a daily, if not hourly, basis. Severe strains began to show amongst my crew almost immediately,’ he said, speak- ing at a virtual event to mark World Maritime Day, held on the sidelines of the UN General As- sembley.

‘Nohealthywhen,orphor,we would be returning home took a severe mental toll on my crew and myself. We felt we were being treated as second-class citizens, with no input or control on our lives. However, even un- der these stressing conditions, the show had to go on.’

‘Collateral victims’ of the pandemic

For some seafarers, the show appears to have no end. The Secretariat noted that some tens of daily hour have now stretched more than 17 months far beyond international stand- ards.

Besides removing his appeal for Governments to declare sea- farers as essential workers, Mr Guterres urged authorities to implement protocols developed by UN agencies, alongside the Interna- tional Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers’ Federation, that would facilitate crew rotations.

The protocols also call for no new work extensions beyond 11 months, diverting vessels to ports where crew changes can take place, and recognition of internationally designated sea- farers’ documents.

Kitack Lim, Secretariat General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and a former seafarer himself, stressed that it is high time for action. “We all depend on sea- farers,” he said. “They should not be the collateral victims of the pandemic.”

Impacts at sea and on land

The head of the Information

The Tokyo organizing committee.

The Secretariat-General has again appealed for governments to act on behalf of hundreds of thousands of seafarers and other maritime workers stuck at sea for endless months, in some cases more than a year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Karen National Party (KNP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Karen National Party (KNP) Joint Secretary 1, Mahn Myint Soe (aka) Mahn Min Ye Htwe presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 25 September.

Esteemed nationalities

At the conference on the constitutional amendment of Chapter 11 of the 1947 Constitution held on 1 March 1962, the united group of states suggested the modification of the Constitution through the use of the federal policy that represented a genuine Union. U Ba Swe, leader of AFTPFL (Stable) and Widura Thakin Chit Maung, leader of Pa-ma-nya-ta of the opposition group discussed against the idea of a federal Union. U Ba Swe insisted on the unilateral system, while Widura Thakin Chit Maung pointed out socialism as a means of social improvement for the entire people.

During the federal seminar three local dailies – Bama Khit, Alhauktaw and The Nation – distributed false information saying that ethnic races were going to secede from the Union.

When only the military strength of a battalion and a hull was left, and when Prime Minister U Nu’s administration was also dubbed “Yangon Government”, ethnic leaders, Sao Khun Cho and Sao Wunna, defended the Union with the military force formed with Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan. So, the issue of the federal Union was raised at the meeting, without any intention to leave the Union under the Chapter 10 of the 1947 Constitution.

Esteemed national people

The main requirement of Myanmar is:
1. Formation of the nationality states and the federal Union
2. The solving of the problem of internal strife through political means

The global situation proves that the acts to dominate one ethnic race by another leads to instability and a political breakdown in multi-nation states.

For example:
1. The breaking up of Czechoslovakia into Czech and Slovak republics
2. The secession of Croatia and Slovenia from Yugoslavia
3. The disintegration of the Soviet Union

On the other hand, the genuine federal Unions, including:
1. Switzerland
2. Australia
3. The United States of America continues to grow with political stability.

When we analyze the countries that broke up, we can find that they are:
1. authoritarian states
2. unions in name only
3. unions where the division of power between the central and the states is unequal

As Myanmar is a multi-nation-state, it must embrace the global culture of unity in diversity while acknowledging diversity as an objective condition.

A genuine Union is like a voluntary association, formed with unity and equality. In fact, a union does not exist by itself, only its units exit. So a union is a formation of the states.

The area of a state does not matter in establishing a union.

In the United States, the State of Georgia is much larger than the State of Rhode Island, and in Switzerland, the area of Zurich and Bern cantons are much larger than that of Basel-City canton. Likewise, during the Soviet era, the size of Russia was many times larger than Estonia.

Moreover, the population does not matter in a federal Union. Nevada State in the US has a population of three million and Wyoming and Delaware states have a population of 900,000 each. Some of the breakaway states of the former Soviet Union have large or small Russian people. In 1998, Barcelona proclaimed self-determination that must be observed by global countries.

The benefits of a federal Union are:
1. A check and balance system between self-rule in the states and the shared-rule in the centre is protecting a federal Union from disintegration;
2. There is no racial problem thanks to the mutual recognition between the majority and minority;
3. In the federal system, all the citizens have equal voting rights, and all the units that form the Union also have equal voting rights regardless of their area. In this way, it embraces equality.

Military coups are impossible in a federal Union as it opposes Authoritarianism.

Esteemed national people

Let us build an unbreakable Union, and we pray for the soonest emergence of a genuine Union.

Mingalaba! May you all enjoy health and prosperity and may all your wishes be fulfilled. Thank you.

Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 26-27 September

CAMPAIGN speech of People’s Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 26 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 27 September. However, that of Daingnet National Development Party will only be published on 27 September— MNA

Elections are the foundation of democracy.
as virus surges across globe

**Rio scraps famed carnival as virus surges across globe**

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil has postponed Rio de Janeiro’s famed carnival for next year, the latest spectacle hit by the pandemic as governments across the globe struggle to contain a surge in coronavirus infections.

Rio’s carnival, famous for its gyrating Samba dancers, drummers and dancing crowds, draws millions for all night parties in packed streets, making social distancing all but impossible.

Brazil now has the world’s second highest death toll after the United States — nearly 140,000 fatalities — and is still battling to bring the virus under control.

Rio’s samba schools had already warned in July that without certainty of a vaccine this year it would be difficult to organize the February 2021 festival.

“It’s not a cancellation, it’s a postponement,” said Jorge Castanheira, president of the group that organizes the parades. “We are looking for an alternative solution, something we can do when it’s safe to contribute to the city.”

It was the first time the carnival had been postponed since 1922, joining a growing list of major entertainment markets and further limiting lockdown activities.

**Israel restricts outgoing flights to bolster virus lockdown**

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government slapped restrictions on outgoing flights on Friday as part of a slew of measures to bolster a second virus lockdown imposed last week.

“The arrangement agreed upon enables leaving the country for whoever bought an airplane ticket prior to the beginning of the lockdown, i.e. today, the 25th, at 1400,” Transport Minister Miri Regev said in a statement.

“People who buy a ticket beyond then won’t be able to use it,” she said, noting Israelis would be able to return to the country “without limitations”.

From 1100 GMT, Israel was set to tighten its second virus lockdown, after the first week failed to bring down the world’s highest coronavirus infection rate.

The new rules, which will close workplaces, shutter markets and further limit prayers and demonstrations, had yet to be finalised in parliament just hours before they were due to come into force.

—AFP

**North Korea’s Kim apologizes over ‘defector’ shooting: Seoul**

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologized Friday over the killing of a South Korean at sea, calling it an “unexpected and disgraceful event”, Seoul’s presidential office said.

The fisheries official was shot dead on Tuesday by North Korean soldiers, and Seoul says his body was set on fire while still in the water, apparently as a precaution against coronavirus infection.

It was the first killing of a Southern citizen by North Korean forces in a decade, and provoked outrage in the South. Kim apologized for “disappointing” President Moon and South Koreans” rather than helping them in the face of the “malicious coronavirus”, said Sub Hoon, the South’s National Security Adviser.—AFP

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**Mro National Democracy Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes**

Mro National Democracy Party Vice-Chairperson U Maung San Aung presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

**Esteemed people**

Mingalaba! Mro National Democracy Party will contest four seats at the request of Mro people. The party’s emblem is a giant gong.

**Esteemed people**

According to Rakhine history, Mro people live in the area since before “King Marayu” established the first Danyawady city in 3335 BC. In our hearts, we presume that ethnic Rakhine people and ethnic Chin people, who live together with us through thick and thin, are our close relatives.

Mro people live in the Rakhine State and Paletwa Township (Chin State). In the Myanmar Census 2014, the ethnic Rakhine groups are categorized as Rakhine groups (701-Rakhine, 702-Kaman, 703-Khamwee, 704-Daingnet, 705-Mayamagyi, 706-Mro and 707 Thet). In addition to it, ethnic Mro people are also included in Chin groups (446-Wakim/Mro and 707 Thet).

The National Convention of Myanmar in 1994 compiled a list of the 35 national, ethnic groups, each of which as a population of more than 10,000.

Number (22) – Mro – a population of 36,000 (until 31 March 1992), which is a total population of Mro people in the two states.

**Esteemed people**

After Myanmar achieved Independence, in (previous) parliament democratic era, after elections on (28-2-1960), Rakhine State Mro National League party was founded at the house of Captain Kya Hla Aung (a revolutionary leader who fought Japan) at 7 am on 4th Waning of Nayon, 1323 ME (1-6-1961). It has been about 60 years, so to nurture Japan) at 7 am on 4th Waning of Nayon, 1323 ME (1-6-1961). It has been about 60 years, so to nurture

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Number (22) – Mro – a population of 36,000 (until 31 March 1992), which is a total population of Mro people in the two states.
Union Construction Minister discusses development of transport infrastructure

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw discussed the construction progress of building, road, bridge and urban and housing development in resurgence of COVID-19 during the virtual coordination meeting with the ministry’s officials yesterday.

Firstly, the Union Minister said that the ministry is working to facilitate the transport for the public while accelerating the projects in the respective regions and states. All the engineers in the project sites across the nation need to follow the health guidelines of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports and to conduct prevent measures for natural disaster like storm, said the Union Minister urging that to follow the terms and conditions of the tenders and to present the progress in each financial year.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin also discussed the completion of projects in time in accordance with the rules and regulations during the end of budget year and it needs to make efforts to complete the pledged projects, to follow the terms and conditions of tender system and to cooperate with the relevant regions and states to have good drive in implementing the projects by following the instructions released by government to have good drive in implementing the projects by following the instructions released by the Ministry of Health and Sports while facing the resurgence of COVID-19. The Directors of Road Management Department respectively presented about the progress in construction sectors including road and bridge construction works in each FY via video clip. The Union Minister and his Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin coordinated the discussions, and instructed to make concerted efforts to complete in time and to ensure quality of AC roads.— MNA (Translated by Khin Than Han)

Cash for Work Project under CERP creates 2.8 million jobs

THE Department of Rural Development has implemented the Cash for Work Project which could create 2.8 million job opportunities for rural people in 2,505 villages in 259 townships from July to September.

The project was fully completed. The government carried out the project under COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to allow people living in rural areas to work for rural development themselves and receive income at the same time.

The project, which was undertaken with 4,402 subprojects in 2,505 villages in 259 townships in regions/states, provided K 10 million cash assistance each to the villages.

Under the project, the department carried out digging up sewers and canals, cleaning dirty water, paving roads in the village, maintaining bridges, removing debris that can cause landslides, fencing water tanks and reservoirs and building them, linking water pipes, building and maintaining harbour bridges, building small-scale dams, retaining walls, sports grounds, school buildings, clinics, community halls, markets, and planting trees near water bodies and recreational areas.

Some 2.8 million rural people from 390,000 households secured jobs and earned incomes from the labor intensive project.

Although the project planned to use only 60 percent of the cash assistance as wages for the labours, on the ground up to 70 percent amounted nearly K 17 billion could be provided.

For ensuring transparency in project implementation, a feedback mechanism was established to address challenges in time.

For ensuring gender equality, the project supported equal participation of males and females at all levels, and ensured equal rights for all people including disabled persons.— MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

191 overseas Myanmar citizens fly back home on 25 September

A total of 191 overseas Myanmar citizens; 150 from Singapore and 41 from Thailand, who were stranded abroad due to the suspension of commercial flights, returned home by relief flight yesterday.

Myanmar Nationals Airways (MNA)’s relief flight that carried the Myanmar nationals from Singapore and Myanmar Airways International (MAI)’s flight which brought back the nationals from Thailand landed at the Yangon International Airport in the evening.

Yesterday’s flights are nineteenth batch of repatriation from Singapore and ninth batch of repatriation from Thailand.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Transport and Communications have been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local missions 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. Until now a total of 16,651 Myanmar nationals abroad were repatriated by relief flight and special flight.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Claims Notice

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (050N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (050N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-9-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT/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: 2301928

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (101N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (101N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-9-2020 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

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

M.V PAGONA V.0620

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PAGONA VOY. NO. (0620) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-9-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SWP-7 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD
Japan to ease entry restrictions for all countries in October

TOKYO—Japan will reopen borders for all foreign visitors with permits to stay in the country for some time, including students but excluding tourists, from October, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Friday, in a major easing of entry restrictions imposed to tackle the novel coronavirus pandemic. “To revitalize the economy, it is indispensable to resume international travel,” Suga told a government task force on coronavirus response. Japan will take the measure as the number of new virus cases has been tending downward. Roughly coincides with the global pandemic due to the global pandemic—Kyodo

Vietnam exports 850 mn masks in 8 months

HANOI—Vietnamese businesses exported nearly 850 million medical masks in the first eight months of this year, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. More than 70 enterprises exported over 135 million medical masks in August alone, daily newspaper Vietnam News cited the department’s data as reporting on Thursday. The largest importers included Japan, South Korea, Germany and the United States. Maske were also exported to Australia, Thailand, Laos, Poland, and Singapore, said the report. Masks have been a highlight of Vietnamese exports during the COVID-19 pandemic. Textile and garment enterprises have also quickly adapted machinery and raw materials to make medical masks, anti-bacterial fabric masks and protective gowns to fill the gaps when processing orders were delayed, according to Vietnam News. —Xinhua

Invitation for Bids

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Agriculture
Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project

Invitation for Bids

Date: 26 September 2020
Loane Grant No. and Title: Loan 3724- & Grant 617-MYA; Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project (CFAVC)
Contract No. and Title: (G&O); Supply of Farm Equipment and Associated Services (Lots 1 to 4)
Deadline for Submission of Bids: 12 November 2020, 2:00 PM MLT
1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under contracts to be awarded to bidders. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as described in the Bidding Documents.

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

Financial:
The Bidders shall have a minimum average annual turnover of:

For Lot 1 USD 245,000
For Lot 2 USD 1,000,000
For Lot 3 USD 1,000,000
For Lot 4 USD 500,000

4. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, Bidders should contact:

Dr. Khan Zar Kyaw
Project Manager, U. MoE (Director & Procurement Officer)
Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains (CFAVC) Sector Project Management Unit (PMU), Office No.43, Department of Agriculture, MOALI
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 67 3410623, +95 67 3410623
E-mail: cfae.vc.pmu.doa@gmail.com, zarkyaw@gmail.com, asomomu@gmail.com

5. To obtain the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for Seed Farm Equipment. The document will be sent by email. Since the procurement is planned to proceed in 2020-2021 fiscal year. Eligible Bidders are requested to request Bidding Documents starting from 1st October 2020.

6. Deliver your bid:
• to the address above
• on or before the deadline: 12 November 2020 at 2:00 PM
• in accordance with a Bid-Securing Declaration as described in the Bidding Document.

• Online submission of the Bid also eligible due to Covid-19 related restrictions

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend.

The Employer will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Japanese economic revitalization minister Yasutoshi Nishimura (front) now speaks during a government meeting on anti-coronavirus measures on Sept. 25, 2020, in Tokyo. The minister who heads the task force against the novel coronavirus, said the government plans to continue the wider easing of COVID-19 restrictions amid rising infections. Japanese Ministry/Handout / POOL / AFP

The Claims Day

Damage cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now.

Details of cargo claims:
• Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now.

Email: cfavc.pmu.doa@gmail.com, zarkyaw@gmail.com, asomomu@gmail.com
Maha Muni Buddha Image and two holy bells

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

MAHA MUNI BUDDHA IMAGE, the symbol of Mandalay City, takes a position in Kyunlon Okshaung Ward of Chamayathazi Township. The Buddha image is named Maha Myat Muni as well as Phayagyi. Actual title of the image is Maha Muni. The image arrived in Mandalay in 1784 in the reign of King Bodaw who established Amarapura City.

The image is 12 feet and seven inches in height, 9.5 feet in diameter at waist, four feet and 11 inches in diameter at arm and six feet and one inch in width between the two shoulders. The sitting image cast of 6.5 tonnes of bronze is in Bhumi Phassa Mudra. Maha Muni King Bodaw constructed a golden building on which nine tiers were hoisted on the plain for the image, 1,000 tars north of Amarapura Royal Palace.

Kings, queens, royal families and court officials had donated gold forehead, gold headdress, golden stairways and golden public rest houses in successive eras. The Maha Muni Buddha image, stairways and tier-roofed building were ablaze on 7 April 1884. The fire destroyed a gold headdress, gold earring, gold sash and gold foils but the image structure escaped from burning. Gold melting from the structure of the image was collected and it weighed 5,450 but its unit was not mentioned in the record. New headdress was offered to the image on 23 June 1884.

King Thibaw offered the gold plates weighing 60 viss made of the melt gold foil from the fire to the Buddha image on 16 January 1885.

The new tier-roofed building was constructed of brick and concrete in 1260 ME. The umbrella hoisted atop in the building fell down on the ground in strong wind in 1278 ME. So, Yaksawk Saopha hoisted new umbrella atop the building.

Taungtaw Sangharaja Sayadaw, Sudhamma Sayadaws and Kinwun Mingyi took responsibilities for management of the Buddha image. The key of Gandakuti Chamber was handed over to Shweyay Hall Sayadaw U Nanada for washing the face of the image in 1248 ME. As of 1st waxing of Tabaung, 1349 ME, Bhaddanta Pannavamsa of Pitakattaik Monastery from South Htilin Building started washing the face of image every morning.

The first financial board of trustees was formed for the Buddha image in 1891. On 27 June 1894, the Commissioner of Engineering, the Assistant Engineer and Clerk U Yaw laid cornerstone for construction of Gandakuti Chamber. It was built by Kinwun Mingyi and European engineers in 1896.

On 12 February 1900, U Phe repaired the throne for the Buddha image and backdrops. He also repaired the headdress donated by King Thibaw on 20 February 1902 and offered new headdress decorated with 940 pieces of jewellery to the image. A diamond orb made of gold weighing 19 ticals was hoisted atop the building by Nyaungshwe Saopha Sir Sao Maung in 1918.

In the precinct, two man statues, three lion statues and an Ayeyawun elephant statue with three heads made of bronze were taken by King Bayintnaung from Yoaday. A war happened between King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, and the governor of Toungoo. In the precipice, two man statues, three lion statues and an Ayeyawun elephant statue with three heads made of bronze were taken by King Bayintnaung from Yodaya. A war happened between King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, and the governor of Toungoo. After conquering King Nanda, the governor of Toungoo gave these bronze ordination hall on 29 January 1931. As a gesture of hailing the 2500th anniversary of the Buddha Sasana, Sankin Sayadaw, Nyaungyan Sayadaw, Khemathiwun Sayadaw and Nathawady Sayadaw laid cornerstones for Yadana Beikman building in 1956 and it was commissioned into service on 14 April 1957. The wooden backdrop of the image was donated in 1932-33.

The prayer hall of the image was built from 1942 to 1948, and more than 30 members of the Sangha led by U Jotika maintained objects of the image. The statue of crown prince who conveyed the image was kept on the platform between southern and eastern archways in 1948.

The central tower was constructed at the northeast corner of the image on 28 May 1959 in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of Yadana-thon Mandalay City. Then, Nyeinchan Thayar triangular bronze gong weighing 3,264 viss was cast on 31 December 1965 and Chanaye Pyitha bronze gong weighing 2,156 viss cast in 1972.

In the precinct, two man statues, three lion statues and an Ayeyawun elephant statue with three heads made of bronze were taken by King Bayintnaung from Yodaya. A war happened between King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, and the governor of Toungoo.
ART & CULTURE

The statues as gifts to Rakhine King for compensation of reinforcements. So, these statues were taken to Rakhine State, according to Myanmar Encyclopaedia.

King Bayintnaung arrived back in Bago on 18 May 1564 after conquering Yodaya, according to Twinthin New History Volume II. The statues taken by King Bayintnaung went to Rakhine when Hanthawady royal palace deteriorated. In Konbaung era, these statues reached Amarapura.

Thirty bronze statues conveyed along with Maha Muni Buddha image were kept at the ordination hall built by Thiri Thusanda Devi, wife of Yintaung governor, southeast of Maha Muni Buddha image precinct. These statues were stored in the tier-roofed building of Ananda Temple called red ordination hall but collapse of the building caused damage to the statues.

People said that these statues came from Angkor city of Cambodia and two human statues were King Pyatha Dhipati and queen of Yodaya but some said these statues depicted gods from Yodaya. These statues are displayed in the precinct of the image.

Some people believe if one gives a message to or push the statues, one would have good health. As the statues were damaged in touch of the people, these statues were kept in the glass chamber.

Maha Muni in Pali means great Lord Buddha in English. As the image is an ancient one related to Buddhism, successive preservation of Myanmar people has been undertaken for public obeisance till today.

Holy bells at Maha Muni Buddha Image

Once, bells were kept in a row along the west wall of the precinct. In casting the great triangular gong and god statues, these bells were smelt. As such, invaluable historical records lost. Currently, there remain 24 bells on the platform of the image, 18 of which were impressed bell inscriptions. Most of the bells are weighing 100-150 viss of bronze. Among them, 12 bells were impressed records on dates of casting.

Among these bells, the Crown Prince bell located on the northwest platform and Tapintaing bell on the eastern bell are very famous.

The Crown Prince bell was cast by Crown Prince Thih Thura. In 1811 after the Crown Prince passed away, one of his wives Nanda Devi donated the bell to Maha Muni Buddha Image. Mingun Bell was hung in 1810. One year later, the Crown Prince bell was hung.

Cracks of the bell were welt and it was rapped with an iron strap for long term existence. The bell weighed more than 1,500 viss, and its mouth was six feet and eight inches in width. The surface area of the bell with six feet in length and one foot and four inches in width was impressed with 17 lines of inscriptions. The bell inscription mentioned records of its casting and praying. It mentioned the title of King Alaungminthay who established Konbaung Dynasty as donor of Sasana Lawkdhipati. The full text of the bell inscription can be seen in the book on history of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image compiled by U Maung Maung Tin.

The bell kept near the eastern archway of the platform is not similar to other bells hung at the bar. It was linked at a post, called Tapintaing bell. Nine lines of inscriptions on the bell mentioned the date of casting it with the use of 600 viss of bronze on 11th waxing of Pyatho, 1253 ME, Saturday.

Under the supervision of Sayadaw U Calara residing in Yalin Myothit Village of Taungpyaing District, the bell was cast by spending K1,500 contributed by members of the Sangha from Taungpyaing City, Saopha cum city governor counsellor Hein, merchants and disciples.

Two holy bronze bells, called Crown Prince bell and Tapintaing Bell on the platform of Maha Muni Buddha Image bearing invaluable historical records are intangible cultural heritages for Myanmar, so it is necessary to preserve these objects for observation of new generations.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

Reference:
Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume VIII
History of Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image (U Maung Maung Tin)
Myanmar’s Date History of Konbaung Era (U Tikkhadhammalankara, Dr Than Tun)

Bells at the westwall of the precinct of the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda.
Martinez hands Bayern ‘dream’ UEFA Super Cup win in front of 15,000 fans

BUDAPEST—Veteran midfielder Javi Martinez admitted it was “a dream” to be able to write more UEFA Super Cup history for Bayern Munich on Thursday as his header in extra time sealed a 2-1 win over Sevilla in Budapest.

Having equalized with a crucial 120th-minute goal seven years ago when Bayern won the 2013 Super Cup on penalties against Chelsea in Prague, Martinez struck on 104 minutes at the Puskas Arena to hand the Champions League winners a fourth title in 2020.

There were a smattering of travelling Bayern and Sevilla fans among the 15,180 crowd in Budapest as both clubs played for the first time in front of spectators since the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Europe in March.

After Lucas Ocampos converted an early penalty for Sevilla, Leon Goretzka equalized for Bayern, who had two second-half goals disallowed before substitute Martinez, 32, struck from a late corner.

Bayern head coach Hansi Flick praised his team for “pulling through with their mentality. In the end, my players went through the pain barrier to win.”

Having replaced Goretzka on 99 minutes, it was Martinez - linked to a return to Spain after losing his first-team place whose header extends Bayern’s winning streak to 23 games dating back to February. — AFP

MNL Week-19 matches to be shown live on free-to-air channels

MYANMAR National League Week-19 matches to be played starting from today will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels: MRTV and MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo application, according to the Myanmar National League.

Hantharwady United will play against Magway FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 26 September (today), and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo mobile application starting from 3:30 pm.

Next, on the same day, Sagaing United will take on Yadanarbon FC at Yangon United Sports Complex, and the derby match will be broadcast live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application at 3:30 pm.

On 27 September, defending champions Shan United will play with Southern Myanmar FC at Yangon United Sports Complex, and the match will be shown live on MRTV and also streamed live on MyCujoo application at 3:30 pm.

Next, on the same day, Rakhine United will face ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium at 3:30 pm and the match will be broadcast live on MWD and also streamed live on MyCujoo application. In the meantime, Yangon United will play against Ayeyawady United at Pandonmar Stadium at 3:30 pm, and the match will be streamed live on MyCujoo application, according to the Myanmar National League.

Currently, three teams: defending champion Shan United, Hantharwady United and Ayeyawady United are struggling for a championship position of the tourney with a point difference each.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)