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Wednesday, 20 January 2021

President accepts credentials of American ambassador

UWIN MYINT, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepted the credentials of Mr Thomas Laszlo Vajda, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and U Wunna Han, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

President U Win Myint accepts credentials of Mr Thomas Laszlo Vajda, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the United States of America at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 January. **PHOTO: MNA**



448 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 January, total figure rises to **135,243**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **135,243** after **448** new cases were reported on 19 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **135,243** confirmed cases, **2,986** died, **118,657** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 19 January 2021

Total Cases

135,243

New Cases

448

Total Death Tally

2,986

Discharged from Hospital

118,657

Daily death toll until 8 pm 19-1-2021

13

Ministry of Health and Sports

Cash contribution for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made through MOPFI website

1. The contribution of cash for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made via the website of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (<http://www.mopfi.gov.mm>) in the following ways.

(a) MPU Debit/Credit Card of local banks

(b) Visa/Master Credit of local banks

(c) Visa/Master Debit & Credit Card of foreign banks

(d) Mobile Wallets such as CB-pay, KBZ-pay, OK\$ through QR Code (more mobile wallets will be available)

(e) Internet/mobile banking App of KBZ, CB, AYA, UAB and MAB (more internet/mobile banking Apps will be available)

(f) Over-the-counter at Supermarkets such as City Mart, Marketplace, Sein Gay Har, Aeon, Orange; mini-marts and convenience stores such as Denko Mini Market, Fun Fun Mart, ABC and Oasis; Mobile Wallet agents such as M-Pitesan, True Money and MyTelPay; Mobile Phone shops such as Any Call, e-City,
- Lu Gyi Min and My Fone; Wai Yan Electronics Sale Centre; the shops available Near Me logo.

2. Therefore, cash contribution can be made at the above-mentioned platforms electronically, in addition to the branches of Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and other local private banks.

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

Announcement on fund establishment to purchase COVID-19 vaccines

1. The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 30-12-2020 formed a Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines. The sub-committee has opened the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at the Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw as follows:

(a) Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012). The bank account will be initially deposited with USD250 million, equivalent to about K338 billion from State-funding.

(b) Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733). The bank account is initially deposited K1 billion (K1,000 million) from State-funding.
2. Therefore, organizations and people (local/ foreign countries) who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines, can donate any type of foreign currency to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012) at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), and can donate Myanmar Kyat to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733).

3. The potential well-wishers can contact the following phone numbers: Director-General (067 3410156) Treasury Department (067 3410158)

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry

87 Myanmar nationals brought back home from ROK by 40th relief flight



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 19 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

THE 40th relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday, carrying a total of 87 Myanmar nationals.

Among the returnees, 1 person was from Brazil, 2 from Uruguay, 3 from Egypt, 1 from Switzerland, 7 from the US and 73 from the Republic of Korea.

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

To bring back the Myanmar seamen and citizens in accordance with the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working together with the relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies from respective countries and shipping companies.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Doh Eain working for alley garden, playground in Pabedan Township

DOH EAIN property management company is working with the residents to open an alley garden and children's playground between 29th and 30th streets in Pabedan Township of Yangon on 31 January.

At present, the officials of the property management company, township administrators and members of municipal committee jointly clean the rubbish dump, place the seats and flower vases and the three artists of Pabedan Artists Organization paint on the wall of the back alley.

"The project is led by Doh Eain and the street committee.

Firstly, we have to clean the rubbish with the relevant departments. We arranged it six months in advance. We filled the land and paved with concrete. We have been painting on the wall here for five days free of charge. We want to request the residents not to discard their rubbishes in the back alley. It will cost about K6 million for wall painting. But we do paintings here for free," said U Khin Maung Win, Vice-chair of Myanmar Artists Organization (Pabedan). "The residents and members of street committee clean the rubbishes in the alley. We complete cleansing and sewage system. The people

should not throw their waste to be clean alley in the long run. The street committee and residents also need to cooperate for the long term. It will include a garden and playground. There are currently 2 CCTVs in the alley, and we will install more later," said U Kyaw Hein, chairperson of the street committee.

The artists paint the pictures of tigers, elephants and forests on the 60ftx150ft wall of back alley free of charge and the prices of painting is about K6 million.

Doh Eain has opened 13 back alley gardens and playgrounds so far in Yangon, said U Pyae Phyto



Doh Eain property management company will set up an alley garden and children's playground in Pabedan Township of downtown Yangon. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Zaw, Community Engagement Officer of Doh Eain. —Thant Zin Win (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

VP U Myint Swe discusses preparations for 74th Union Day celebrations



Vice-President U Myint Swe presides over the 2nd coordination meeting for holding 74th Union Day celebrations, on 19 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice-President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as chairman of the 74th Union Day Central Organizing Committee, discussed preparations of relevant sub-committees to celebrate the annual event that will take place on 12 February 2021.

Those present at the meeting were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, U Maung Maung Win and U Win Maw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council members Col Min Naung and U Aung Myin Tun, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Col Kyaw Soe Oo, Nay Pyi Taw City Development committee member U San Naing, the permanent secretaries, directors-general, department heads and officials.

The Vice-President gave some opening remarks after which he reviewed the progress in implementing 19 decisions made at the first coordination

meeting held on 16 December 2020.

He also talked about the need to ensure that the Union Day celebrations reflected the Union Spirit, which is essential for the ethnic national races which have been living together through weal and woe throughout history in Myanmar.

The Vice-President discussed full compliance with the rules and guidelines of COVID-19 prevention in making preparations, and following 14 standard operating procedures in celebrating the event with national flag hoisting, saluting and reading the President's message of greetings.

He also emphasized the works of the Information Sub-committee to raise public awareness about the Union Day through state-owned media platforms for national reconciliation, unity, peace, stability and development of the country; the works of the Invitation and Welcoming Sub-committee to finalize the list of invitees and COVID-19 preventive measures for them; the works of the Campaign Poster



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sub-committee to erect the posters in Nay Pyi Taw; the works of the Management Committee to ensure the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports and the standard operating procedures.

Chairman of Management Committee and Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung briefed on the progress in the implementation of previous decisions; Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu about the security measures, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun about preparing the President's message, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win about financial matters, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun about the invitation of guests, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Col Kyaw Soe Oo about national flag hoisting and the parade of Guard

of Honour, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee member U San Naing about erecting campaign posters, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe about guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19, and his Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khaing Win about the readiness of medical devices and medical tests for the staff members at the event.

Permanent Secretary of Office of Auditor-General of the Union Daw Naing Thet Oo, Permanent Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee U Myo Myint Maung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn and Managing Director of the Electricity Supply Enterprise U Ye Toe Thwin reported on the works of their respective sub-committees.

The Vice-President gave comments and suggestions based on the discussions to ensure coordination after which the ceremony was concluded.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

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

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives US Ambassador

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Thomas Laszlo Vajda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 12:45 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister congratulated the Ambassador for being appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and expressed his thanks to

the US for lending its support to Myanmar’s efforts in promoting democracy, development and human rights. They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the enhancement of the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the United States of America, the US government’s continued support to the democratic transition of Myanmar, expansion of the American businesses and investments in Myanmar and the challenges facing Myanmar in its transition including repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thomas Laszlo Vajda at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 January. **PHOTO :MNA**

MoLIP discusses assistance of Brazil in conducting labour force survey, census

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe held a meeting with

Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil Mr Carlos Paranhos in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to discuss the

assistance of Brazil to Myanmar in conducting survey and cen-

sus of labour force.

Brazil recently discussed with representatives of the ministry in order to provide necessary technical assistance in these works.

census in 2024. In the meeting, the two sides discussed how Brazil will provide necessary assistance for the census in 2024.

The ministry conducts labour force surveys twice a year in factories and workplaces in order to compile reliable labour statistics and support for policymakers.

They also cordially discussed plans to provide technical assistance to establish an online database system in Myanmar and technical training.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy minister, the permanent secretary and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds a meeting with Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar on assistance in conducting labour force survey and census on 19 January. **PHOTO :MNA**

MoFA organizes “Seminar on Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)” between MLC National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) and University of Mandalay

The “Seminar on Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)” between the MLC National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) and the University of Mandalay, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held yesterday morning via videoconference.

U Hau Do Suan, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation delivered opening remarks at the seminar and Dr Thein Win, Director-General of the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education gave introductory remarks. After that, U Win Zeyar Tun, Deputy Director-General and Vice-chair of Mekong-Lancang National Coordination

Unit (Myanmar) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed on the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation mechanism and recent developments. The participants exchanged views on the

mechanism and future plan of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

The seminar was held to promote understanding on the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation

mechanism, better utilization for the socio-economic development and to prepare the future course of cooperation. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and faculty members

from the University of Mandalay participated in the seminar.

Officially established in 2016, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation is composed of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam with the aim to assist regional efforts to achieve sustainable inclusive development and narrowing development gaps in the region, while promoting peace and prosperity. The MLC Special Fund has provided funds for implementation of (51) projects in Myanmar to date in support of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Myanmar with a total value of (16.3) million USD.—MNA



Deputy Minister for International Cooperation U Hau Do Suan makes an opening remark on the “Seminar on Mekong-Lancang Cooperation” on 19 January. **PHOTO :MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 2/2021
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1382 ME
(18 January 2021)

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 16 January 2021 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 people in Myothitkalay village in Hopin Township, Kachin State, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 10 January 2021, police searched the hut of Kyaw Win Tun (a) Ko Pauk, 40, son of U Pyu, who lives in Myothitkalay village in Hopin Township, and arrested him and his brother Myat Min Oo (a) Ko Kaut, 42, together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Hopin) MaYa (Pa) 4/2021 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Htay Win who lives in Chaungkashat village in Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 13 January 2021, police searched the house of Htay Win, 51, son of U Sein Win, who lives in Chaungkashat village in Bokpyin Township and arrested him and Toe Tat Aung, 24, son of U Pyae Thu Sein, and Aung Thet Naing Oo, 23, son of U Phe Win, who live in the same village, together with WY stimulant tablets, ICES. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Thar Nge (a) Myat Ko Ko Aung who lives in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 16 January 2021, on Kyauंग Lan street (1), ward (1) in Toungoo Township, police arrested Thar Nge (a) Myat Ko Ko Aung, 31, son of U Myint Aung, who lives in ward (2), Taungoo township, together with WY stimulant tablets. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Thein Htwe Naing (a) Ko Htwe, 39, son of U Harshim, but didn't find anything related to the illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (2) (Toungoo) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 19 (a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Daw Kaday Htay who lives in Satyone ward, in Aunglan Township, Magway Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 12 January 2021, police searched the house of Daw Kaday Htay, 30, daughter of U Hla Thauंग, who lives in Satyone ward, Aunglan Township, and arrested her together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Aunglan) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Pho Tote (a) Tin Tun Aung, 31, son of U Tin Shein who lives in the same ward, but didn't find him and arrested his father U Tin Shein, 61, son of U Thein Maung together with marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Aunglan) MaYa (Pa) 2/2021 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Pho Shine who lives in Tamawadi ward in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 12 January 2021, police searched the house of Shine Min Htet (a) Pho Shine, 27, son of U Aung Kyaw Soe, who lives in Tamawadi ward in Kyaukpadaung Township and arrested him together with marijuana. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Aung Lin, 58, son of U Aung Thein, who lives in Nga Minn May village in NyaungU Township, but didn't find him. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kyaukpadaung) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Ma Cho Tu who lives in Latpan village in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 4 cases have been identified and 9 suspects (7 males and 2 females) have been charged with the possession of illegal drugs. On 10 January 2021, on Minyat ward road, Kyaukse Township, police arrested Hlwan Moe Aung, 29, son of U Soe Moe Aung, together with 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kyaukse) MaYa (Pa) 4/2021 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to further investigation, police arrested Ma Cho Tu (a) Moe Moe Myint, 35, daughter of U Barakat, who lives in Latpan village in the same township and arrested her together with 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kyaukse) MaYa (Pa) 5/2021 under the Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of people in Inntine village in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 6 cases have been identified and 8 suspects (6 males and 2 females) have been charged with the possession of illegal drugs. On 13 January 2021, according to a series of previous arrests, police searched the house of Zin Min Naing (a) Ko Pauk, 29, son of U Kyaw Aye, who lives in Inntine village in Yamethin Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yamethin) MaYa (Pa) 2/2021 under the Section 19 (a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

8	Information received of people in (sa) ward in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 15 January 2021, police arrested Tin Tun Aung (a) Mae Tin, 36, son of U Thein Aung, who lives in Minntae village in Patheingyi Township, together with heroin, in the corner of 52 th street and 126 th street in ward (sa), Pyigyidagun Township. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Sathmu) MaYa (Pa) 3/2021 under the Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of people in Nyaungkon village in Mudon Township, Mon State, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 11 January 2021, on Mawlamyine-Thanyuzayat road near Nyaungkon village in Mudon Township, police arrested Zaw Min Pine, 30, son of U Tun Hla and Chan Myay Lin (a) Pee Chay, 22, son of U Kyin Thein, who live in Kyauktalone village in the same township, together with WY stimulant tablets and ICES. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mudon) MaYa (Pa) 4/2021 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Daw Ni Ni Tun who lives in Thayattawtaung ward in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	On 11 January 2021, police searched the house of Daw Ni Ni Tun, 38, daughter of U Aye Myint, who lives in Thayattawtaung ward in Kyimyindine Township and arrested her together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kyimyindine) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Aung Gyi who lives in ward (2) (North) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, selling and distributing illegal drugs..	On 15 January 2021, police searched the house of Aung Gyi (a) Aung Kyaw Soe, 25, son of U Kyaw Thu, who lives in ward (2) (North) Thakayta Township and arrested him and Yan Kyaw Paing, 22, son of U Tin Win, who lives in ward 26 in Dagon Myothit (South) together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Thakayta) MaYa (Pa) 1/2021 under the Section 16 (c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to further investigation, police searched the house of Maung Maung Htwe, 28, son of U Aye Maung, who lives in Bohtunzan ward in Dawbon Township and arrested him together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dawbon) MaYa (Pa) 5/2021 under the Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of people in ward (5) of Lashio Township in Northern Shan State, using, selling and distributing illegal drugs.	In recent weeks, a total of 23 cases have been identified and 29 suspects (23 males and 6 females) have been charged with the possession of illegal drugs. On 9 January 2021, according to a series of previous arrests, police searched the house of Daw Aye Lu, 59, daughter of U Aeik Par, who lives in ward (5) in Lashio Township and arrested her together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa (Pa) 2/2021 under the Section 16 (c) 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 1,513 cases have been opened files as of 16 January 2021. A total of 2,312 people, including 1,923 men and 389 women had been arrested with 11,139.3814 g of heroin, 1,491.62 g of ICE, 48,354.63886 g of opium, 1,418.96 g of low-quality opium, 54,993.40 g of speciosa powder, 558,597.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 709,786 stimulant tablets, 16,104.19 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 640.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 30 fire-arms, different kinds of 698 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

Our aim should be to arrive at an encouraging situation



BY keeping these goals in view, we will be making practical implementations for process, design and inclusiveness of all stakeholders in the upcoming five years. We will make strenuous efforts with increased momentum on 'the New Peace Architecture' in the post-2020 which balances representation and effectiveness and allows thorough negotiations among the main stakeholders; a review process which has been widely discussed from all points of view; thus it would enable subject matter and management support groups, political parties, CSOs, and the people to join in and participate.

The year 2022 will be the 'Diamond Anniversary' or the '75th Anniversary' of the Panglong Agreement. In this year our aim should be to arrive at an encouraging situation where we can see clearly and distinctly in front of us a clear path for us to march towards the goal of our Union; I wish to state that we would be making exerted efforts by using this as our "New Peace Architecture" in the post-2020 period.

(Excerpt from Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on New Year, on 2 January 2021)

Central Administrative Body of Farmland holds 36th coordination meeting

THE Central Administrative Body of Farmland organized its 36th coordination meeting in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, in his capacity as Chairperson of the central body discussed the applications for land use in accordance with the farmland law and rules and work plans to scrutinize the applicants by regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw land administrative bodies without any delays.

The Union Minister also highlighted the 2012 Farmland Law Amendment, the draft of rules which conform to the Farmland Law, effective actions

on preventing land use before granting land use permission in accordance with the existing Farmland Law and Rules and preparations to support the new government.

The meeting also discussed compensations, proposal to collect stipulated fines from farmland users before granting land use permission in accordance with Farmland Law Section 19, application for department-owned land, application for the use of vacant, fallow and virgin lands and land disputes being solved by regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw land administrative bodies.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thaz-in Han)



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu attends the 36th coordination meeting of Central Administrative Body of Farmland on 19 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Hau Do Suan participates in Trilateral Informal Vice-Ministerial Meeting among Myanmar, China and Bangladesh held via videoconference

DEPUTY Minister for International Cooperation U Hau Do Suan participated in the Trilateral Informal Vice-Ministerial Meeting among Myanmar, China and Bangladesh which was held via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Chinese delegation led by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Luo Zhaohui, and the Bangladesh delegation headed by Mr Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, also attended the said meeting via videoconference from their respective capitals.

The leaders of the delegations discussed and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation for expeditious implementation of bilateral agreements signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh for the repatriation of

displaced persons from Rakhine State, resettlement of displaced persons currently residing near Myanmar-Bangladesh border and repatriation of verified displaced persons, including those of Hindu faith. Furthermore, they also touched on holding of related meetings and to implement the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral

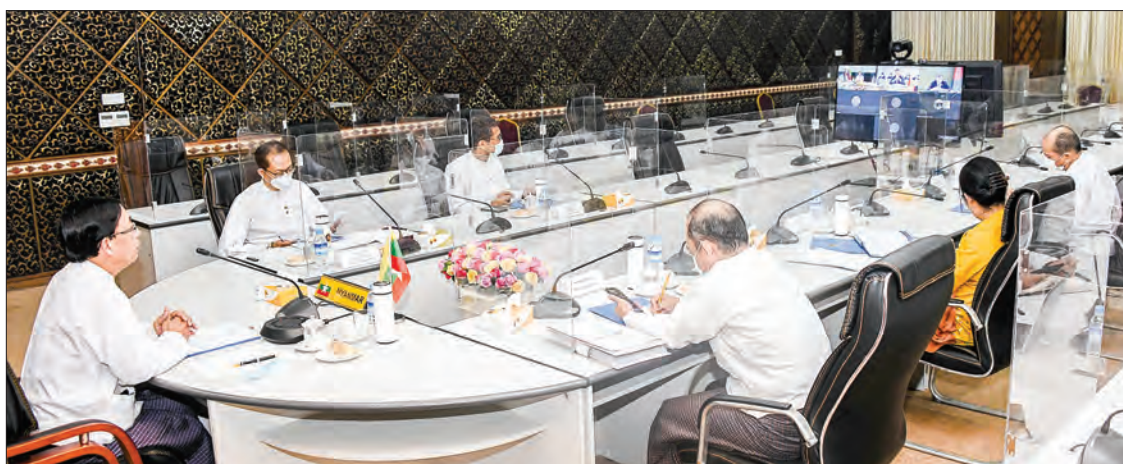
agreements.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister underscored the need for Bangladesh to strictly adhere to the bilateral agreements for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State to overcome the difficulties in the repatriation process. He informed the meeting that Myanmar has made all nec-

essary arrangements for the repatriation and reaffirmed Myanmar's readiness to receive the verified displaced persons in line with the bilateral agreements. He stated that as the Pilot Project is underway for the repatriation of displaced persons, Myanmar is willing to commence the process with verified displaced persons who

will be repatriated under the Pilot Project. He urged Bangladesh to expeditiously repatriate displaced persons of Hindu faith who have expressed their desire to return to Myanmar. He also called for Bangladesh's cooperation in the resettlement of displaced persons who are currently residing in the proximity of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and highlighted the need for prospective returnees to fill up and sign the agreed forms, containing two points to ensure that their voluntariness to return and obligation to abide by the existing laws of Myanmar.

The Deputy Minister urged Bangladesh to address the issue of terrorist elements intimidating and posing threats to the displaced persons not to return to Myanmar. He thanked the Government of China for its facilitating role in the repatriation process.—MNA



Deputy Minister for International Cooperation U Hau Do Suan joins the Trilateral Informal Vice-Ministerial Meeting via videoconference on 19 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

“People are the key”

MoEE, TPMC company sign power purchase agreement for LNG to Power Project



Union Minister U Win Khaing joins the signing ceremony of power purchase agreement with TTCL Power Myanmar Co., Ltd. on 19 January. PHOTO: MNA

MINISTRY of Electricity and Energy signed a power purchase agreement in Nay Pyi Taw for the 365 MW LNG to Power Project to be implemented by TTCL Power Myanmar Co., Ltd in Ahlone Power Plant, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister U Win Khaing, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw and departmental officials attended the ceremony.

President & CEO for TTCL Power Myanmar Co., Ltd. Mr

Hironobu Iriya, Managing Director Ms Suratana Trinratana and officials, attended the ceremony through videoconferencing.

The Union Minister said his Ministry is making efforts to generate more electricity from all available sources from the country, including imported LNG, as the electricity demand increased and, the Ahlone LNG to Power Combined Cycle Power Plant project, invested by TTCL Co., Ltd is one of the three major projects that the Ministry issued Notice to Proceed (NTP)

to companies.

The Ahlone LNG project was launched in 2018 and TTCL Co., Ltd carried out the feasibility study, environmental impact assessment, LNG feasibility and gas pipelines, including land ownership for the project during the two-year preparation period.

The Union Minister added the coordination with companies and all stakeholders for the PPA contract due to the nature of the project that is different from other conventional projects.

According to the schedule in

the PPA contract, TTCL Company will need to complete the commercial operation of the project within the next three years. The company has extensive experience in Japan with LNG power generation and the construction of an inland LNG Terminal and Regasification Unit.

The Union Minister said that necessary equipment such as natural gas pipeline and transmission line would be built in Yangon area and the company needs to follow not only international rules and regulations but

also domestic rules and regulations at all stages of construction and operation.

Managing Director for Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE), Ministry of Electricity and Energy U Than Naing Oo and Managing Director for TTCL Power Management Co., Ltd Ms Suratana Trinratana signed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

This is the first long-term LNG project in Myanmar using inland LNG Terminal and Regasification Unit, and it is a reliable project due to its stable LNG supply. With the use of Combined Cycle Technology, electricity generation can be improved, and the environmental impacts can be minimized. Upon successful completion of this project, according to the PPA, it will be able to supply and distribute electricity to the Yangon Region, especially to provide more stable electricity.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Mandalay tour operators preparing for new destinations in post-COVID-19



Fishermen catch fish in the Ayeyawady River with the help of a dolphin. PHOTO:GNLM

U Myo Ye, Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay Zone), said that preparations for new tour destinations are underway to revitalize tourism in Mandalay Region, in line with the New Normal in the post-COVID-19 period.

Before the COVID-19 period, international tourists visiting Myanmar visited Mandalay, Mingun, PyinOoLwin, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku, Bagan and townships in Shan State.

At present, plans are being made to develop new tourist destinations in order to provide

more options for tourists as well as to prevent the influx of tourists to the same tourist destinations in the post-COVID-19 era.

“After the COVID-19 period, the tourism industry will have to work with COVID-19 in a new normal way, and plans are underway to draw up new

itineraries to suit this situation,” he said.

Currently, Mya Kan Thar lake located in Pyu Kan village, TadaU Township, about 16 miles from Mandalay, is being planned to develop a new bird-watching destination. The lake is home to many wintering birds during the winter.

“If the regional authority allows it, service will be provided in line with the New Normal to bird watchers and families to be able to rest comfortably,” he continued.

According to him, there will

also be new dolphin watching trips and new tourist destinations in Nawngkhio Township and the areas along the Dotthawadi River which are connected to Mandalay Region.

With the improvement of the disease situation, digital marketing system will be used to attract and revitalize the tourism market depending on the number of international tourists allowed to enter to Myanmar.—Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-Printing house)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Tourists on a boat while spotting rare Ayeyawady river dolphins. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Tackling farmland issues needs speed

WITH the aim of boosting economic development in the country and to create job opportunities for landless citizens by using the vacant, fallow and virgin lands for agriculture, animal husbandry, mining and other legal businesses, the region and state governments, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council have permitted use of farmlands for other purposes, in accordance with Section 30 of the Farmland Law.

When the processes for scrutinizing the applications in some regions and states were reviewed, it was found that there were delays in some processes exceeding the period allowed by the law.

Hence, to make the government objective a success, officials concerned are advised to seek ways for tackling challenges they are facing to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays in the processes and no hindrances to private businesses and investors.

Meanwhile, those who fail to follow the law which allows a six month period to start their projects on the land will face actions under the law.

Besides, we would like to add a word of caution here — carving out plots for housing on farmlands and their sale is in contravention of the Farmland Law, and the situation on the ground today demands effective action against such practices.

The rules for the Law Amending the 2012 Farmland Law are being amended, and actions would be taken against those who are using the farmlands in contravention of the Farmland Law.

As the central farmland management committee is stepping up efforts to bring about sustainable livelihoods and the development of the country through proper land management and utilization, the regional farmland management committees are urged to expose the projects which fail to start within the six-month window granted by the law and those who fail to complete by the deadline.

The law will take its course without fear or favour in this regard.

In the past, using farmland for other purposes was a common practice in Myanmar: To effectively prevent the illegal distribution of farmland, corruption must be rooted out.

As the Union Government is committed to justice and fairness, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Ministry of Home Affairs; and other related municipal organizations should cooperate to ensure the regulations and procedures under the law are followed.

There is no doubt that our country is taking steps towards better land governance; therefore policies and processes to ensure that our land resources are well managed in a sustainable manner need to be fine-tuned. Furthermore, institutions in this area need to be upgraded for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

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THE INDEPENDENT PANEL FOR PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

WHO pandemic review panel highlights effective multilateralism in COVID-19 response

A latest interim report by the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response highlighted effective multilateralism in the preparation and response to the COVID-19 crisis, saying that the consequences of this pandemic remind the world of how important effective multilateralism is.

"GEOPOLITICAL tensions have impacted on the response, and the resulting pandemic has given us many interlinked reasons to re-think and reset the way in which the international system and countries prepare and respond to global health threats," said the Panel's co-chair Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The Independent Panel's new report, available in six UN official languages, was issued late Monday night and will be discussed at the on-going World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board meeting.

The Independent Panel was

established by the WHO Director-General and its mandate is to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international response to COVID-19.

Its final report is scheduled for the World Health Assembly in May of this year.

According to the interim report released Monday, the Panel found that member states have high expectations of the WHO but have left it underpowered to do that job.

"The WHO is expected to validate reports of disease outbreaks

for their pandemic potential and, deploy support and containment resources, but its powers and funding to carry out its functions are limited," said Sirleaf.

The Panel said even when WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January of 2020, the loudest alarm possible under the International Health Regulations, many countries took minimal action internally and internationally to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Panel also found that the international system for alert and response is not fit for purpose – it

seems to come from an earlier analogue era and needs to be brought into the digital age.

The Panel also expressed deep concern over the continued significant rises in the numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths, saying that since Jan. 1 of 2021, the world is recording an average of almost 12,500 daily deaths.

The Independent Panel comprises 13 members, including co-chairs Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Sirleaf, former President of Liberia.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, co-chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. PHOTO: AFRICA PROGRESS PANEL / FLICKR

THE GLOBAL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Covid-19 vaccines: 40 million doses worldwide

MORE THAN 40 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccines have been given around the world according to an AFP count Monday, with Israel topping the global table.

Israel leads

At least 60 countries or territories, representing 61 per cent of the global population, have launched vaccination campaigns.

But nine out of 10 doses have taken place in only 11 countries.

Israel is by far leading the mass vaccination race in propor-

tion to its population: 2.43 million vaccines have been given to 2.12 million people, or nearly a quarter of the population.

Some 3.6 per cent of Israelis have already received the second dose.

The country secured a huge stock of Pfizer jabs partly by pledging to share impact data quickly with the company.

Britain tops Europe

The US leads the way in terms of volume, giving 12.28 million jabs

to 10.60 million people (3.2 per cent of the population), ahead of China (more than 10 million doses).

In Europe the UK is leading, having been the first in the region to begin its inoculation campaign at the start of December.

So far it has administered 4.31 million doses to 3.86 million people (5.7 per cent of the population).

Next are Italy (1.15 million doses) and Germany (1.05 million).

European Union countries in all have administered more than 5

million doses to some 1.2 per cent of citizens.

Denmark is leading in the bloc with 2.9 per cent of its citizens already receiving one dose.

Seven vaccines

There are currently seven vaccines circulating around the world, all designed to be given in two doses.

The vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech (US-German) and Moderna (US) are dominant in North America, Europe, Israel

and the Gulf.

Britain's AstraZeneca-Oxford is used in much of the UK and India, with the latter also using a vaccine produced by its pharmaceutical firm Bharat Biotech.

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine has been rolled out in Russia, Argentina, Belarus and Serbia.

China's Sinopharm jabs are being administered in China, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Seychelles and Jordan, while Indonesia and Turkey are using

China's Sinovac vaccine.

Global total

At least 40,062,725 vaccines have been administered, according to data collected by AFP based on official sources on Monday at 1030 GMT.

This figure is undoubtedly an underestimate since China, the US and Russia have not updated their data in recent days.

SOURCE: AFP

INDIA IS GEARING UP FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE

India's jumbo-sized vaccine rollout in numbers



Health workers wait for the start of the Covid-19 coronavirus vaccination drive at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in New Delhi in January 16, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA begins one of the world's biggest coronavirus vaccination programmes on Saturday, hoping to end a pandemic that has killed 150,000 people in the country and torpedoed the economy.

300 million people

Over the coming months, India aims to inoculate around a quarter of the population, or 300 million people. They include healthcare workers, people aged over 50 and those at high risk.

On the first day, around 300,000 people will be vaccinated at 3,000 centres. About 150,000 staff in 700 districts have been trained to administer jabs and keep records.

The government aims to man-

age the entire process digitally with its own app, CoWIN, which will link every vaccine dose to its recipient.

45,000 fridges (and one bike)

India has four "mega depots" to take delivery of the vaccines and transport them to state distribution hubs in temperature-controlled vans, keeping the doses colder than 8 degrees Celsius (46.4 Fahrenheit).

A total of 29,000 cold-chain points, 240 walk-in coolers, 70 walk-in freezers, 45,000 ice-lined refrigerators, 41,000 deep freezers and 300 solar fridges are at the ready.

These will be needed once the Indian summer arrives in the

coming months.

In one recent practice run in a rural area, a consignment of dummy vaccines was photographed being delivered by bicycle.

Three seconds

To stop any of the vials being stolen and being sold on India's large drugs black market, authorities are taking no chances, with armed police guarding every truck.

CCTVs are in place at warehouses with entry subject to fingerprint authentication. Automated data loggers will monitor storage temperature and transfer messages every three seconds to a central unit, according to the Times of India.— SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Hsan Oo, Deputy Permanent Secretary from Union Minister Office (Culture) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture as Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 19 January, 2021

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South-west Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20 January, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Shan(North and South), Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 January, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 January, 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 January, 2021: Partly cloudy.

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MoSWRR discusses mine-risk educating programmes for Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye organized a virtual meeting over mine-risk educating programmes in Rakhine State with the state Mine Risk Working Group on 18 January.

During the meeting, the Union Minister talked about the establishment of Rakhine State Mine Risk Working Group on 17 August 2020 with the aims of providing mine-risk education and assistance to mine victims.

He said the numbers of mine victims in Rakhine State have been increasing since 2018 and 2019. A total of 53 explosions occurred in Rakhine State in 2019 which killed 19 people and injured 39 while 61 mine explosions killed 45 people and injured 89 in 2020. The numbers of children who faced an explosion of mine increased to 64 in 2020 from 17 in 2019. Rakhine State faced the mine blasts most in 2020. Therefore, it should conduct mine-risk education more.

The Union Minister then discussed mine-risk educating programmes in Comprehensive Education Plan for Rakhine State and National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps, the risks of landmine and the explosive remnants of war and the im-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presides over mine-risk educating programmes meeting for Rakhine State on 18 January. PHOTO: MNA

portance of public awareness on their safety.

He also highlighted the cash contribution of K200,000 to each of the landmine victims of Rakhine State in 2019 and 2020 and assistance for the people with disabilities.

He discussed the six priority sectors of 2021 set by Mine Risk Working Groups, effective work plans in implementing these six priority sectors, the link between the State peace and development, Social Sector Agreement of Union Accord of 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference

signed on 29 May 2017 such as "to create the conditions for the internally displaced people and refugees due to natural disasters, human activities and armed conflicts to be able to settle and live in their homeland or at any other place safely and with due regards".

He also stressed the importance of humanitarian demining, pilot area for such process, technical aids of UNICEF and international organizations, the crucial role of ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) in conducting mine-risk education

at IDPs Camp of Kachin State by cooperating with the relevant state government and cooperation work with ICRC in the processes of mine-risk education and installing of prosthetic limbs.

The Union Minister also stressed the need to conduct public awareness programmes regarding landmines in Rakhine State by Myanmar Red Cross Society and called for suggestions of participants who will cooperate with workgroups, relevant state departments, NGOs and INGOs.

Then, Director-General for Rehabilitation Department U Win Naing Tun, in his capacity as Leader of National Mine Risk Working Group briefed the Humanitarian Mine Action, risks of landmine and explosive remnants of war in conflict areas, the performance of National Mine Risk Working Group and rehabilitation processes.

The Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha and other officials coordinated the discussion.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement established the National Mine Risk Working Group on 27 April 2012 and conducted mine-risk education for the public, Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and Humanitarian Demining.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

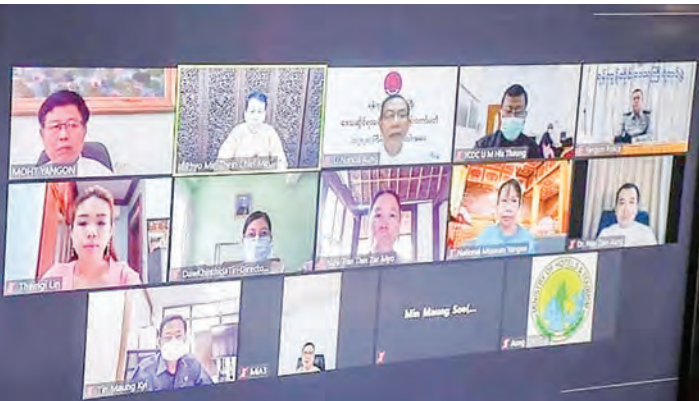
K2.925 bln earned from hotel projects this year

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon region government earned K2.925 billion from the approved projects including hotel construction permits and guest house licences this early year, according to the Yangon's Regional Tourism Committee.

Yangon Region Tourism Committee has issued licences to three guesthouses with 102 rooms and construction permits to two hotels. The total capital for hotels and guesthouses is estimated at K2.925 billion, according to the regional tourism committee's meeting 1/2021.

The regional committee held a videoconference on 19 January and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, in his capacity as chair



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein chairs the regional tourism committee meeting online to approve K2.925 bln worth hotel projects on 19 January 2021. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of the regional tourism committee, attended the meeting along with other committee members.

Moreover, these businesses have created over 30 job opportunities for the residents, according to the Yangon's Regional Tourism Committee.

At the meeting, they also

coordinated matters regarding the systematic planning and implementation of the Yangon Regional Tourism Development Plan (2021-2025), carrying out of the tourism industry development during and after pandemic period in accord with Myanmar Tourism Strategic

Recovery Roadmap (MTSRR) and enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol, proposal of regional government budget allocation and to take necessary measures for the revitalization of the region's tourism industry.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Pinlaung corns fetching high price under opium substitution

QUALITY corn from Pinlaung Township in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of southern Shan State produced under opium substitution projects is offered high price.

The Ministry of Border Affairs, head of PaO Self-Administered Zone and Mae Fah Luang Foundation implemented opium poppy substitution projects. It aimed to generate K4 million income in minimum per year for each household of local growers. The infrastructure such as utilities, water supply and transport, and agriculture and livestock were also conducted.

“CP Company provided corn seeds and fertilizer with zero interest and also disseminated know-hows of quality corn cultivations. Furthermore, they also share harvesting methods to improve corn standards. The corn procurement department also offered high price to increase the growers’ benefits,” said U Khun



Workers are seen loading corns onto lorries in Pinlaung Township. **PHOTO: KHUN AUNG (NAUNG TAYAR)**

Yee Thant, CP Company’s procurement department manager.

Corn has grasped both the foreign market and local market shares. The corn growers have grown this year compared to the previous year as it is the reliable

crop. Therefore, growers need to use systematic harvesting methods, he urged.

“To generate an income of K4 million in minimum for each household, the public and private partners are working together

for sustainable crop substitution programme, and I believe it will come to fruition in a certain period,” said U Khun Saw Aung, representative of Shan State constituency.

The corns are normally

priced the highest of K370 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg), while CP Company purchases the quality corns produced under crop substitution program at K405 per viss.

“I am thankful for the development project. It provided corn seeds, fertilizer and growing and harvesting methods. Besides, they offered K30 per viss higher than other buyers. We will continue our corn cultivation next year as well,” said a grower Khun Tun Kyi from Phayaphyu village.

Mae Fah Luang Foundation from Thailand provided corn seeds, fertilizer, growing methods and harvesting methods to 500 growers from 17 villages in Mwaypyin, Lwemaw, Pinkhin and Pawin village-tracts of Pinlaung Township, which is opium poppy substitution project area.—Khun Aung (Naungtayar)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fish available at mobile markets in regions, states to boost local fish consumption

By Nyein Nyein

IN a bid to promote local fish consumption amid a slump in foreign demand triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, fishery products are sold through mobile market trucks in regions and states, said U Myo Aung, director of the Cooperative Department.

The Cooperative Department sells fish without taking any profit in regions and states, in cooperation with the Fisheries Department, Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) and the cooperatives.

“This move is to remedy the drop in foreign exports and local fish consumption amid the COVID-19 crisis. Normally, Myanmar ships fishery products to over 54 foreign countries. The pandemic affected fish exports. Moreover, local fish consumption showed a drop to 65 per cent in December 2020 owing to the closure of the restaurants, hotels, festivities, wedding and donation events and transportation difficulties,” U Myo Aung affirmed.

Additionally, it aimed to offer fish at a low price to the consumers, he added.

“For instance, the fish worth of K5,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6kg) in the wholesale market is priced above K10,000 per viss in the retail market. The Cooperative Department has spread its distribution networks

to offer the fish at a fair price to the people,” he elaborated.

Besides mobile market trucks, the traders can buy the fish through the Cooperative Department. Over the past two weeks, about 1,500 visses of mrigal carp, tilapia, perch, pangasius and other fish are sent to the regions and states, generating K50 million. The MFF also affirmed that the federation could provide fishery products when necessary for the mobile market scheme in regions and states.

“The federation is selling both the wild-caught and farm-raised fish in wholesale markets. Either the Commerce Ministry or Cooperative Departments can buy the fish at a wholesale price any time. We are ready to supply the fish products across the country,” U Win Kyaing said.

The fishery products can be available at a fair price for the low-income people as well, he continued.

U Win Kyaing ensured that “the federation can supply the plenty of fish of any size at a fair price. They can buy the fish via the wholesale market at any time to expand the fish market. The federation will participate in this.

Both salt and fresh water fish can be daily purchased as necessary at Kyimyintdine Sanpya Fishmarket and Shwe Padauk Fishmarket in Yangon Region.

The consumers in lower Myan-

mar regions; Ayeyawady, Yangon, Taninthayi and Mon and Rakhine, states highly demand the fish and fish production also has risen. Nevertheless, people in central and upper Myanmar regions, where there is small fish production, have less fish consumption. Therefore, the fish are required to be sent to those regions, said U Win Kyaing.

The breeders are floundering due to the COVID-19 impacts and decrease in price. Typically, Myanmar has daily consumption of about 600,000 visses of farmed fish. The local fish consumption plunged to 60-65 per cent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, fishery exports to the second-largest buyer China, the closure of border trade with the primary buyer Thailand in Hteekhee and Mawtaung areas and 50 per cent drop in fish prices harm the fishery exports.

The federation expects to reach fishery export target of US\$1 billion in the current Financial Year 2020-2021. Nevertheless, the fishery exports touched a low of \$258.9 million between 1 October 2020 and 8 January 2021, which plunged from \$282.85 million registered a year-ago period. The figures reflected a decrease of \$23.883 million over the Q1 of the current FY compared with the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

External trade falls by \$2.4 bln as of 8 Jan

MYANMAR’S external trade between 1 October and 8 January in the current financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$8.23 billion, a sharp drop of \$2.437 billion compared with the corresponding period of the FY2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to data released by the ministry during the same period in the previous FY, trade stood at \$8.2 billion.

Over the Q1, Myanmar’s export was worth over \$4 billion, which plunged from \$5.16 billion registered a year-ago period. Meanwhile, the country’s import was valued \$4.228 billion, showing a decrease of \$1.27 billion compared with the last FY.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates to almost triple in Myanmar, causing delays for traders.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods while importing capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Under the National Planning Law for the financial year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach an export target at US\$16 billion and import at \$18 billion.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion and market diversification. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

NO EASY TASK

Biden facing 'competing crises' as he takes office



The United States faces a number of 'competing crises' as Joe Biden takes office as president. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A raging pandemic. An economic crisis. A nation divided. Deep racial wounds.

Joe Biden has his work cut out for him as he prepares to be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday.

"What's unique for Biden is not so much the fact of crisis, it's the number of competing crises," said Mary Stuckey, a communications professor at Penn State University. Perhaps the biggest is the coronavirus pandemic, which has left some 400,000 Americans dead.

"We have 4,000 Americans dying of Covid every day," said David Farber, a history professor at the University of Kansas. "And the federal rollout of the vaccine has been a disaster."

"So I think that's front and centre, and he's going to try to keep his mind focused on that."

Biden has outlined a mul-

ti-pronged plan to combat the pandemic that includes expanded testing and contact tracing and vaccinating 100 million Americans in his first 100 days in the White House.

A Rescue Plan

But the coronavirus pandemic cannot consume all of the attention of the 78-year-old Biden, the oldest man ever to take the oath as president.

Not many American presidents have been met with an economic situation such as Biden is inheriting, although a few of his predecessors faced even worse.

"In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt walked into the White House with 25 per cent unemployment, the stock market having dropped nearly 90 per cent and people not able to get their money out of the bank," Farber said.

SOURCE: AFP

TEETERING GOVERNMENT

Italian PM pleads for Senate support ahead of confidence vote

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte pleaded for lawmakers' support on Tuesday as his teetering government faced a confidence vote while it struggles to battle the coronavirus pandemic.

The ruling coalition has been on the brink of collapse since former premier Matteo Renzi withdrew his Italia Viva party last week, depriving Conte of his majority in the upper chamber.

Conte, who since 2018 has headed two politically divergent governments, is desperately seeking the backing of opposition lawmakers to allow his coalition to stay in power.

"We are calling on all political forces, and also parliamentarians, who have Italy's destiny at heart to help us restart as quickly as possible," he told the upper chamber.

The prime minister has re-

peatedly warned of the danger of leaving Italy rudderless in the middle of a pandemic that has claimed more than 82,000 lives and devastated the economy.

His government won a first confidence vote late Monday in the lower house, but faces a tougher task persuading the Senate, where it lost its majority following Italia Viva's defection.

In a twist, Renzi's party

said it would abstain, making it easier for the government to win the vote on Tuesday evening -- but the crisis risks being merely delayed.

Conte was widely expected to take around 155 votes in the 321-seat chamber -- saving the day, but with only enough support to keep going as a minority government.

SOURCE: AFP



Down but not out. Italian PM Giuseppe Conte **PHOTO: AFP**

VIOLENT YOUTH PROTESTS

Tunisia arrests over 600, deploys troops after riots

TUNISIAN authorities have arrested more than 600 people and deployed troops after a third consecutive night of riots, mostly by young people in working-class districts of several cities.

The unrest came despite a nationwide coronavirus pandemic lockdown declared last Thursday - the day that also marked 10 years since demon-

strators forced dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's fall from power. Interior ministry spokesman Khaled Hayouni said 632 people had been arrested, notably "groups of people between the ages of 15, 20 and 25 who burned tyres and bins to block the movement of security forces".

The social unrest comes at a time of economic crisis, wors-

ened by the pandemic, that has sparked rapid inflation and high youth unemployment and led many people to leave the North African country.

Some of those arrested had lobbed stones at police and clashed with security forces, leaving two policemen wounded, said Hayouni.

SOURCE: AFP

PLANNED PARDONS

Trump mulling pardons on last full day in power

PRESIDENT Donald Trump began his final full day in the White House Tuesday with a long list of possible pardons to dish out before snubbing his successor Joe Biden's inauguration and leaving for Florida.

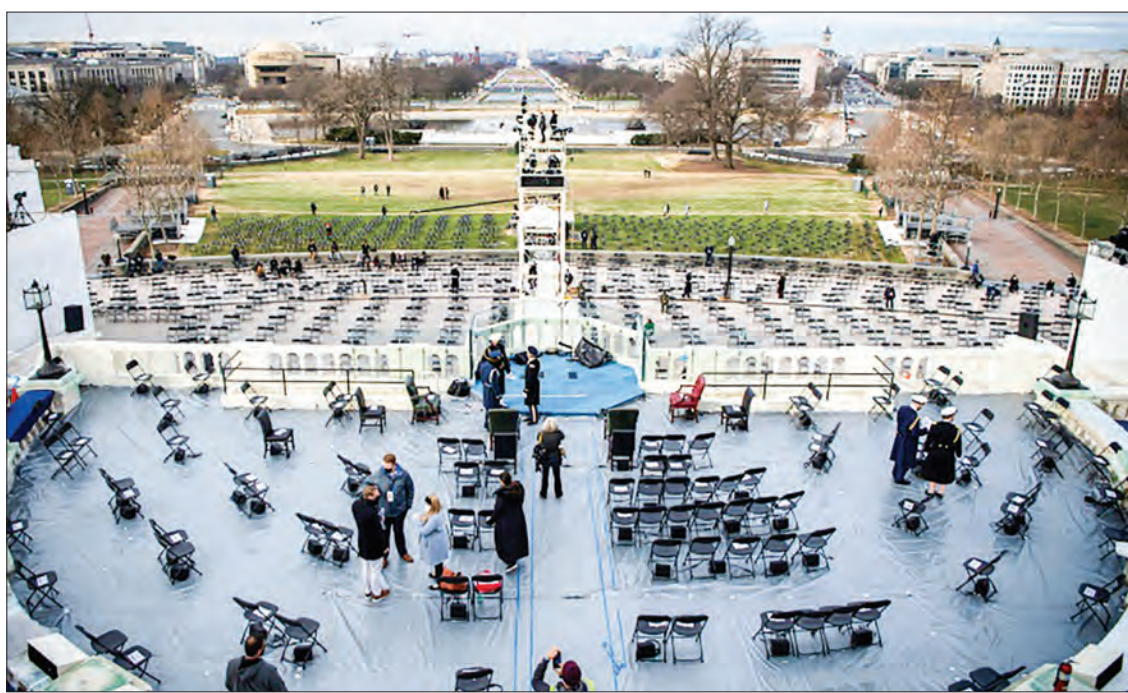
On Wednesday at noon, Biden will be sworn in and the Trump presidency will end, turning the page on some of the most disruptive, divisive years the United States has seen since the 1960s.

Biden, a veteran Democratic senator who also served as vice president to Barack Obama, was set to travel to Washington on Tuesday with his wife Dr Jill Biden from their hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

Together with incoming vice president Kamala Harris -- the first woman ever to hold the job -- Biden was due to deliver an evening address on the Covid-19 crisis, from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

By contrast, Trump has remained uncharacteristically silent as the clock ticks down to his departure to a new life in his Mar-a-Lago golf club residence in Palm Beach.

Banned by Twitter for his stream of inflammatory messages and misinformation, he has largely stopped communicating with the nation. He has also yet to congratulate Biden or invite him for the traditional pre-inaugura-



Final preparations are underway at the US Capitol for a socially distanced inauguration. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

tion cup of tea in the Oval Office.

Instead, Trump has spent his time meeting with a dwindling circle of loyalists who backed him

during a doomed, two-month effort to overturn the results of the November election.

That effort culminated on

January 6 with Trump encouraging a crowd to march on Congress.

SOURCE: AFP

THE JAPAN BUSINESS FEDERATION

Keidanren sees pay hikes across board as “unrealistic” amid pandemic



Tetsuji Ohashi, vice-chairman of the lobby known as Keidanren, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on Jan. 19, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN’S most powerful business lobby Keidanren said Tuesday that it views basic pay increases across all sectors as “unrealistic” in annual wage talks, as the coronavirus pandemic has hit some firms and industries harder than others.

In guidelines for corporate managers who will engage in wage negotiations with labour unions over the coming months, the lobby, also known as the Japan Business Federation, said companies

should be given more leeway this year regarding whether to raise wages, citing the worsening business environment due to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the country’s largest labour organization known as Rengo, is set to demand a hike of around 2 per cent in basic pay in forthcoming management-labour wage talks, but the coronavirus pandemic has made the outlook uncertain for busi-

nesses.

Underscoring that the pandemic’s impact on each company or sector differs, Keidanren said it would be difficult for firms that have seen business deteriorate to raise basic pay and their priority would be on continuing to operate and maintaining jobs.

For those companies benefiting from increased earnings, a base pay hike should be “an option”, according to the guidelines.

SOURCE: KYODO

NEW DIRECTIVE

EU regulator to clear Boeing 737 MAX flights next week

THE European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) plans to clear the Boeing 737 MAX to fly again next week, 22 months after the plane was grounded following two fatal crashes.

“For us, the MAX will be able to fly again starting next week,” after publication of a directive, EASA director Patrick Ky said in a video conference.

“We have reached the point where our four main demands have been fulfilled,” Ky said during the conference, organized by the German association of aviation journalists.

The MAX was grounded in March 2019 after two crashes that together killed 346 people – the 2018 Lion Air disaster in Indo-

nesia and an Ethiopian Airlines crash the following year.

Investigators said a main cause of both crashes was a faulty flight handling system known as the

Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System, or MCAS.

Meant to keep the plane from stalling as it ascends, the automated system instead forced

the nose of the plane downward. The findings plunged Boeing into crisis, with more than 650 orders for the 737 MAX cancelled since last year.

SOURCE: AFP



Back in the skies soon. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

BIG GAINS

Investors eye recovery as most markets rise, Yellen in focus

OPTIMISM about the global economic recovery and vaccine rollouts trumped ongoing concerns about soaring virus infections Tuesday with most Asian markets clocking up big gains.

Traders were also awaiting the Senate confirmation hearing for US Treasury secretary pick Janet Yellen, which is expected to give lawmakers a chance to go over Joe Biden’s huge stimulus proposal. US markets were closed

Monday for a public holiday, but regional investors were mostly in buoyant mood as they prepared for the new president to take office promising a vaccination blitz and a drive to kick-start the economy.

Hong Kong piled on more than three per cent at one point, having jumped one per cent on Monday, to levels not seen since May 2019 thanks to an inflow of cash from mainland China. The Hang Seng later pared the rally.— SOURCE: AFP



Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Pension Department



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (CPFMIS) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Pension Department, invites Expressions of Interest from interested IT Solution Providers for Central Provident Fund Management Information System (CPFMIS) Development Project for an expected period of about 1 to 3 years beyond January 2021. Solution Provider will also be responsible for enhancing the solution / functionality of CPFMIS.

The Request for EOI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the website www.mopfi.gov.mm and www.pension.gov.mm.

Last date for submission of EOI is on or before 4:00 PM of 8th, February, 2021.

Interested Solution Providers who meet the pre-qualification criteria may furnish their Expression of Interest with all the necessary documents in a sealed cover along with the covering letter duly signed by an authorized signatory on or before 8th February, 2021 by 16:00 hours at the following address:

Tender Committee (CPFMIS)
Pension Department
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry
Building No (34), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Phone: 067-3410417, 067-3410669
Email: itsection.pensionmyanmar@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AISOPPOS II VOY. NO. (101S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AISOPPOS II VOY. NO. (101S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-1-2021** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (0YA0GS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (0YA0GS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-1-2021** 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 CMA - CGM SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SPM BANGKOK /V.EAL39

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SPM BANGKOK /V.EAL39** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: 2301191/2301178

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERETT ASIA LINE PTE LTD

Myanmar's first textile-based industrial zone to be established in Sagaing

By Kyaw Htike Soe

EASTERN Development International (Myanmar) and Dongzhan Textile Group, a Chinese company, are set to jointly develop a textile industrial cluster worth over US\$371 million in Sagaing Region. The two companies will work with the private sector on all stages of construction of the project, making it the first textile-based industrial zone in Myanmar.

The project is designed to include two phases: construction of factories and the installation of machinery in those factories. Phase 1 will include the construction of 12 new garment related factories, knitting fabric factories, dyeing and printing factories, and down and feather factories; and residential buildings for employees. Eight of these factories will



Workers are seen on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethayar Township on outskirts of Yangon in 2019. PHOTO:PHOE KHWA

be located at No.3 Textile Factory Branch (Sagaing) while the remaining four factories, including a waste water treatment system, thermal power plant, will be set up at No. 3 Textile Factory (Sagaing). Phase 2 will include the construction of five garment related factories, embroidery factory, carton factory, and polyester wadding factory.

An international textile supermarket will also be created in Sagaing. The project is proposed to be operational for an initial term of 20 years. Following

the expiration of its initial 20-year term, it could be extended twice for a further term of five years for each renewal. The project is scheduled to begin in the financial year 2020-2021 and is expected to be completed in the financial year 2029-2030. It will also benefit stakeholders across the textile value chain (small and medium-sized enterprises, employees, fashion designers) by making available locally produced raw materials for textile and garment sectors, and creating entrepreneurial opportunities.

It is anticipated that the imported volume of raw materials across the textile value chain will be reduced, and export earnings using locally-produced raw materials will be increased. Establishment of a textile-based industry cluster will reduce transportation cost; using a common infrastructure, resource and labour pool advantage; and speed up the learning process leading to internationally competitive and commercially sustainable textile industry. The garment industry in Myanmar has grown significantly over the past five years. Myanmar's garment exports have been increasing yearly, especially since 2013, when the EU granted goods from the Southeast Asian country preferential access to its market.

Myanmar is also implementing the National Export Strategy (NES), under which there will be measures like the transition of cut-make-pack (CMP) garment system into free-on-board (FOB) system, adoption of bonded warehouse system and establishment of special textile and garment zone for boosting export. Myanmar launched a national level textile policy with the help of German global development organization GIZ to promote the country's textile industry, attract investment by inviting foreign trade partners, build the necessary



A textile-based industrial zone will be set up in Sagaing at an estimated cost of over US\$370 million. PHOTO: MYANMAR BUSINESS DIRECTORY



infrastructure and reduce imports. At present, some garment factories shut down due to lack of raw material, and thousands of workers became unemployed.

Some garment factories in Myanmar have reduced working hours and cut jobs, and some factories have not received orders from abroad amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Myanmar's CMP garment sector earns about US\$300 million, annually and the country will get US\$3 billion if it can manage to shift from the CMP system to the free-on-board (FOB) system. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely dependent on the CMP garment and textile exports. The total export earnings from Myanmar's garment and textile industry are expected to reach US\$10 billion by 2024, according to the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association. The CMP garment sector contributes to over 20 per cent to the country's exports.

Thousands of Myanmar people are employed in garment, textile, footwear and accessories factories across the country. Additional tens of thousands indirectly work in the industry through logistics and transport services. Myanmar earned some US\$850 million from CMP garment exports in the financial year 2015-2016, US\$2 billion in FY2016-2017, US\$2.5 billion in FY2017-2018, US\$4.6 billion in FY 2018-2019 and US\$4.28 billion in FY2019-2020.

Ref; Projectbank.gov.mm, Myanmar Business Directory



Your 2021 Resolution – Better equip yourself with financial knowledge

WHILE 2020 has been an extraordinary year, it's worth taking a retrospective look at how the decisions that were made during this year determine the outcome of our current situation. COVID-19 has been a real test of our resilience. It's more important than ever to take a prudent approach when it comes to family finance. Taking a careful look at how your family earn, spend, and save will allow you to become better at budgeting over the next year and beyond when the pandemic is over.

Through our Practical Money Skills website (myanmar.practicalmoneyskills.com), Visa Myanmar provides essential financial knowledge in the local language to increase public awareness on the importance of personal and household finances, as well as providing interactive tools to help people better understand how every decision they make can meaningfully contribute to their financial security in the long term.

Here are four useful tips, dubbed the '4\$', that every household should consider when it comes to managing household finance.

1. Save before you spend

Saving is for every family. It is less of how much you earn but more of what you allocate for savings. If you spend more than what you make, you'll soon end up in debt. As a rule, every household should set a clear goal of saving at least 10% of their monthly income aside for rainy days ahead. Each household may want to tailor their saving goals according to unique needs. You can find out how much exactly your family should save each month here.

Ten per cent of monthly income may seem like a little sum of money. But if you hold on to it wisely, it can grow substantially over time. With Myanmar Central Bank's policy interest rate currently at 7% per annum, and minimum bank deposit interest rate at 5%, you can let the compound interest work its wonder. You can also apply for auto direct debit service with your bank to let the bank transfer 10% of monthly income from your payroll/salary account to the savings account on the same date on each month. See for yourself how small amount of monthly savings can go a long way by calculating how much your money can grow over the years here.

2. Scan and record

Recording every expense real-time or every day will help you see the difference between necessary and unnecessary spending. Many smartphone apps let you scan the receipts and break down your daily spending into categories such as grocery, dining out, luxury items, unexpected expenses, etc. As a result, you can track your expenses over time and see which expense you can cut to reach your savings goal.

Keeping a written or digital record of your expenses is a crucial step towards lifelong financial security. With 2021 fast approaching, perhaps you can put 'keep tabs on every expense' as one of your New Year's resolutions. And when you finally get a better grasp of your own spending habit, check out Practical Money Skills website which guides you towards the next step to help you reach your saving goals – whether you're a student saving for education, first-jobber, a parent with children, or planning towards your retirement.

3. Set up a budget for each family member

Household finance can be fun for the whole family. If you're a parent in charge, you can 'gamify' this by

setting a daily or weekly allowance for each family member, and see if they can stick to that budget with some extra savings left at the end. You may reward your kids with extra piggy bank savings in the same amount that they can save.

If you have young children at home, it's a good idea to acquaint them with money basics from an early age and equip them with financial literacy for the future. Visa Myanmar provides an e-book that teaches children and young adults about the basics of earning, saving and budgeting through easy-to-understand content. Get the e-book "Your Money, Your Future: A Practical Money Guide for Students" (in Myanmar language) here.

4. Shop smart

Your family have worked hard for every kyat you earned, and you should make the most out of it by spending more wisely. Many retailers in Myanmar are offering promotions through their affiliation programs with banks or credit card companies. It's worth asking the shopkeeper or cashier if they have special discounts for the debit or credit card you have. Some banks also offer reward points every time you spend on your card, and you can turn those rewards into cash-back credit towards your next purchase. Using card payment is also more secure and convenient than carrying cash, and you don't need to withdraw money from bank branches or ATMs or have to deal with changes.

If you're thinking about going cashless or are curious how credit card works, including different types of credit cards and major benefits of switching to digital payments, you can learn more about credit card basics and how to spend smartly and responsibly here.

With these '4S' tips of managing household finance, Visa Myanmar believes that greater financial knowledge can empower Myanmar household to better manage their money and improve their quality of life. We aim to offer interactive tools and educational resources to help everyone become better at navigating major life events in order to build a stronger financial future at every stage in their life. We make these resources available online for free in the Myanmar language at myanmar.practicalmoneyskills.com.—GNLM

4 \$'s for better household finances in 2021

- 1. Save before you spend**
Save at least 10% of your household's monthly income for rainy days ahead.
- 2. Scan and record**
Use a smartphone app to scan your receipts and break them down into categories.
- 3. Set up a budget**
'Gamify' weekly allowance by challenging family members to stay under a certain amount.
- 4. Shop smart**
Card payments are more secure and convenient than cash, and don't require you to withdraw or carry money.

To know more about financial knowledge, please visit: www.myanmar.practicalmoneyskills.com

VISA

Mandzukic joins AC Milan on short-term deal

MILAN— Serie A leaders AC Milan announced on Tuesday the arrival of former Croatia striker Mario Mandzukic on a six-month contract.

Free agent Mandzukic, 34, who retired from international football after losing the 2018 World Cup final, returns to the Italian top-flight after four years with Juventus.

Mandzukic left Juve for Al-Duhail in 2019 but departed the Qatari side by mutual consent last July.

“The club and the striker have agreed on a deal until the end of the current season with an option to extend the contract for the next one,” Milan said.

Coach Stefano Pioli said the transfer underlined the 18-time league champions’ aspirations.

“I’m happy, he’s an extra



Mario Mandzukic won Serie A four times with Juventus. **PHOTO: ISABELLA BONOTTO AFP/FILE**

arm in attack. The club is ambitious again, the arrival of Mandzukic goes in that direction,” Pioli said after Monday’s win at Cagliari which allowed his outfit to retain top spot.

Ex-Sweden forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic will compete with Mandzukic for a starting spot in the side.

“We will be two to scare the opposition. Now the most difficult matches start, with more players, the coach will be able to make changes,” he said after the victory.

They have a three-point advantage over local rivals Inter Milan before hosting Atalanta this Saturday.—AFP ■

Guardiola delighted by Dias impact at Man City

LONDON — Pep Guardiola hailed the transformative impact of Ruben Dias after the Portugal centre-back helped turn Manchester City into the meanest defence in the Premier League.

Dias arrived from Benfica in a 68 million euro (£62 million, \$79 million) deal two days after City were thrashed 5-2 at home by Leicester in their second game of the season.

The 23-year-old has started all 15 league games since then and City have kept nine clean sheets to close to within two points of leaders Manchester United, with a game in hand.

“It has been massive” said Guardiola on Dias’ leadership.

“He has the ability to live every single action during 95 minutes on what he has to do and helping his mates - the full-backs, the holding midfielders - being always concentrated.

“It is not easy to find that in someone who is 23-years-old.”

Dias has struck up a formidable partnership with John Stones at the heart of the City defence, conceding just once in 10 games when they have started together.

“We knew the quality they had on the pitch, we knew a little bit their personality, but we have been impressed at the consistency to be ready mentally and physically to play every three days,” added Guardiola.—AFP ■

Atletico to appeal again after FIFA confirm Trippier 10-week ban



An extended absence for Kieran Trippier would be a huge blow for Atletico. **PHOTO: MADRID PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/ AFP/FILE**

MADRID — Atletico Madrid will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after Kieran Trippier’s 10-week ban for breaching betting rules was upheld by FIFA on Monday.

Atletico will request Trippier’s suspension is again put on hold while the appeal is being heard, raising the possibility of the defender again returning to action.

As it stands, Trippier is

banned until February 28 and is due to miss eight La Liga fixtures, as well as Atletico’s first leg at home to Chelsea in the Champions League last 16.

FIFA said in a statement on Monday the suspension handed to Trippier by the English Football Association (FA) applies worldwide.

But Atletico will now submit a fresh appeal to CAS, according to a club source, and request Trip-

pier’s ban is again put on hold again until it is completed.

Trippier was able to play for Atletico against Sevilla last week after the English FA had failed to delay enforcing his ban until the result of Atletico’s appeal to FIFA was known.

FIFA said in a statement on Monday: “The FIFA Appeal Committee has dismissed the appeal lodged by the club Atletico Madrid in a case concerning the player Kieran Trippier.

“As a consequence, the decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee passed on 23 December 2020 is confirmed, extending sanctions imposed on the player by the English FA to have worldwide effect.”

An extended absence for Trippier would be a huge blow to Atletico Madrid, who sit four points clear at the top of La Liga, with two games in hand over their closest rivals Real Madrid.—AFP ■

Maguire hails Man Utd progress but says there is room to improve

LONDON — Manchester United captain Harry Maguire hailed the huge progress the Red Devils have made in his 18 months at the club but said much more improvement was needed to deliver major trophies.

United extended their unbeaten league run to 12 matches and their away record to 16 without defeat with a 0-0 draw at Liverpool on Sunday to remain top of the Premier League.

A mammoth 33 points divided the sides last season as Liverpool romped to their first league title in 30 years.

However, a much tighter fight for the title is in store this season, with just five points sep-

arating the top six.

“You can see how much we have improved since I’ve been here,” said Maguire, who joined for a world-record fee for a defender from Leicester in August 2019.

“As a team we are on the up but there is loads of improvement we need to make, and make a lot more progress to get to where we want to be.

“We wanted to win the game but we keep the momentum going of not losing, especially away from home.”

United’s last domestic defeat away from home came at Anfield a year ago, when they were comfortably beaten 2-0.—AFP ■



Heading in the right direction: Harry Maguire (right) sees huge progress in his 18 months at Manchester United. **PHOTO: MICHAEL REGAN/POOL/AFP**

Top four, not title race, the priority for Lampard at Chelsea

LONDON — Frank Lampard believes Chelsea’s priority is to get back into the Premier League top four after a barren run rather than targeting the title.

However, the former England midfielder is hopeful the Blues fortunes can change for

the better as quickly as they have deteriorated over the past month.

Chelsea eased back up to seventh thanks to just their second win in seven league games at 10-man Fulham on Saturday.

However, they briefly topped

the table in early December on the back of a 17-game unbeaten run.

In a season when every side has had their struggles adapting to empty stadiums and a congested fixture list, just five points separate the top six.—AFP ■