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Thursday, 28 January 2021

State Counsellor inspects COVID-19 vaccination for healthcare personnel in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks into the first dose of the COVID vaccination programme for healthcare personnel in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019

(COVID-19), inspected and gave encouragement to healthcare workers being given the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

morning.

She was welcomed by Union Ministers U Min Thu and Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials at the

Midwifery Training School (Nay Pyi Taw), and heard reports from the healthcare workers on the various aspects of the vaccination programme such as the vac-

cination process, record keeping of the vaccination process and reporting process.

While observing health personnel being given the Covishield vaccination, the State Counsellor, the Union Ministers and the Deputy Minister, a briefing was given by Professor Dr Kyaw Kyaw Oo regarding the preparations being made to provide emergency healthcare at the vaccination centres.

In response to a request from the media if she wished to say anything to the people about the COVID-19 vaccination programme the State Counsellor said that although it was true that the Covishield vaccine was already available in Myanmar that does not mean that vaccination could be given to everyone immediately at the same time; therefore vigilance must not be relaxed at present. She said she was worried that some people might become a little careless. If the vaccines could be produced in Myanmar it would be possible to use as much as needed; at present, as the vaccines had to be imported from another country, it was not possible to purchase as much as the country needed. That was why she wanted the people to be vigilant; as the infection rate was now on the decline,

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434 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 January, total figure rises to **138,802**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **138,802** after **434** new cases were reported on 27 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **138,802** confirmed cases, **3,089** died, **123,170** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 27 January 2021

Total Cases

138,802

New Cases

434

Total Death Tally

3,089

Discharged from Hospital

123,170

Daily death toll until 8 pm 27-1-2021

7

Ministry of Health and Sports

Public Notification

Fullmoon of Pyatho 1382 ME
(27 January 2021)

1. The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) deems it necessary to continue implementing preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and made an announcement on 29 December 2020 that all directives, notifications, requests to the public, and orders issued by Union-level institutions and ministries regarding the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 until 31 December 2020 (excluding those that have been ordered to be eased) will be extended to 31 January 2021.
 2. To relieve economic and psychological hardships of public amid COVID-19 to a certain degree, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has exempted electricity bill for 150 units every month until 31 December.
 3. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy will extend the exemption up to 31 January amid the prevailing COVID-19 control measures.
 4. Thus, a total of 150 units from domestic consumption between 1 and 31 January 2021 for residential homes, religious buildings, and domestic humanitarian groups (excluding embassies, UN agencies and international organizations) will be deducted from the electricity bill for those dates.
 5. All relevant households that have consumed from 1 to 150 units of electricity will have their meter bill and service fees exempted (free of charge) while consumption of 151 units and above will have K11,550 for 150 units deducted from the total meter bill.
 6. Domestic consumption of 151 units and above will have to make payments according to the different levels of consumption rate. Local civil society organizations in the NGO category are the only type of non-domestic consumers that will have the exemption applied to them. The other non-domestic types will have to continue payments at regular rates.
- Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Supreme Court of Union
presents advocate certificates
to 154 higher grade pleaders

THE Supreme Court of the Union conferred the advocate certificates on the 154 higher grade pleaders via videoconferencing from its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director-General (procedure/inspection) of the Union Judicial Supervision Office and other Director, Deputy-Director and Assistant Director of relevant department.

The Supreme Court of the Union will present advocate certificates online until

the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) lifts bans on travel restrictions.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Supreme Court of the Union confers the advocate certificates on 154 higher grade pleaders via videoconferencing from Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January. PHOTO: MNA

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

I want to urge you all to maintain constant vigilance, thinking that the vaccine would be available soon



I want to urge you all to maintain constant vigilance, thinking that the vaccine would be available soon. It is a matter of utmost seriousness. As I have mentioned, each person needs two doses of vaccines within the 28-day interval for its effectiveness. The first vaccinated group should not live carelessly. We need to protect ourselves in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, such as the basic rules of wearing masks, washing hands, avoiding crowds and observing social distancing.

The second dose will come after 28 days of the first one. It will be a waste of resources if the vaccinated persons with the first dose are infected by the disease as they failed to abide by the rules. Then, the first vaccination would be in vain. They would also miss the full potency of vaccination if they could not control themselves for 28 days. It is also recommended that more seriousness must be taken after the first dose of vaccination to achieve the effectiveness of the vaccine after receiving its second dose.

Excerpt from Chairperson of National -Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on updated situations of COVID-19 containment measures on 22 January 2021

State Counsellor inspects COVID-19 vaccination for healthcare personnel...

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she wanted this rate of decline to be maintained. It was natural that the people were feeling anxious about getting vaccinated as they did not have prior experience. She added that it would be necessary for those receiving vaccinations to wait about half an hour and to leave the vaccination site only after they felt sure

that they were feeling all right. Next, the State Counsellor gave encouragement to two women health workers who were receiving their first dose of the vaccine and other health personnel who had come to receive their vaccination shots.

It was learnt that before giving the Covishield vaccination, healthcare workers took body temperature, blood pres-

sure and the oxygen level in the bloodstream was measured. The vaccination was given only if all the above measurements were found to be normal. Those who had received the vaccination would have to receive a second dose of the vaccine after 28 days.

Some side-effects of the vaccine include pain, redness or swelling, fever, headache, but these symptoms normally

disappear within 24 hours after the vaccination. If the symptoms increased, rather than decreasing, or other severe symptoms appeared, the vaccinated persons have been advised to receive medical treatments at the nearby hospitals and clinics.

Beginning from the morning, health personnel and volunteers were being given Covishield vaccinations on a

nationwide scale at central-level hospitals, region and state hospitals, district hospitals and township hospitals. Over 3,800 health personnel from the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory are receiving their vaccinations at designated places and at the respective township hospitals.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MIC greenlights fourteen new investment proposals including four solar projects

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its first meeting for the year yesterday via videoconference.

The meeting chaired by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the MIC, U Thaung Tun was attended by Vice-Chairman Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce and members of the Commission.

The meeting approved 14 new investments proposals and increase in capital in 4 existing projects.

The approved investments in the energy, fisheries, real estate and services sectors totalled US\$295.279 million and Kyat 153.686 billion.

The projects are expected

to create 4,371 job opportunities.

The approved projects include four 40-MW solar power projects in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Regions as well as a fish meal factory proposal submitted by Scoular Myanmar Co., Ltd.

The solar power projects are in keeping with Myanmar's commitment to tackle climate change.

At the virtual Climate Ambition Summit held on 12 December 2020, the State Counsellor announced Myanmar's intention to submit its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The NDC will aim to reduce over 243 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by increasing the share of renewable energy to 39% and reducing the net emis-

sion from the forestry sector by 25%. It is learnt that Singapore,

the People's Republic of China and Thailand head the list of 51

countries investing in Myanmar.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun chairs the MIC first meeting online on 27 January 2021 to greenlights 14 new investment proposals creating over 4,000 jobs. PHOTO: MNA

168 Myanmar citizens brought back home from Malaysia by MAI relief flight

THE Myanmar Airways International flew a relief flight to bring 168 citizens including 45 former detainees back home from Malaysia yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Im-

migration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical tests and arranged 14-day quarantine at specific plac-

es or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur is working closely with the relevant organizations in Malaysia to bring back

Myanmar citizens who have no national verification and who were in detention centres, after their citizenship has been identified in accordance with the directives of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs. Myanmar has organized 45 relief flights for repatriation of nationals from Malaysia to date.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MoI organizes meeting on formation of television and broadcasting council

THE Ministry of Information organized a meeting at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to discuss the formation of a council for the development of national television and broadcast media.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Ye Naing and other officials reported on the Broadcasting Law, the Law Amended the Broadcasting Law and relevant rules.

They also discussed the establishment of the National



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint joins the discussion on the formation of a television and broadcasting council, on 27 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

Broadcasting Development Body and plans to form a selection council for the formation of the Broadcasting Council, powers and duties of the Council Election Committee, necessary qualifications for

the council members, powers and duties of the Broadcasting Council and overseeing the spectrum allocation process.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun called on the

participants to set appropriate schedules to carry out relevant tasks in line with the existing Broadcasting Law and rules.

They also gave advice on drafting necessary policies and procedures, licencing appli-

cants, licence renewal, licence suspension, licence revocation, developing codes of conduct and other related matters. — MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

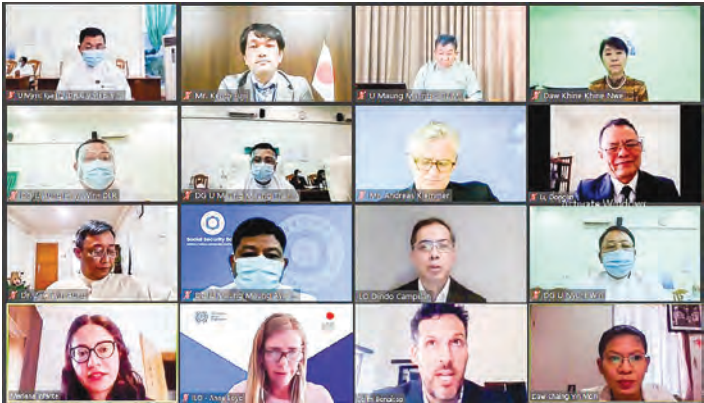
Online e-campus launched to share information, good practices in labour affairs

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe attended the online e-campus launching ceremony organized by ILO-ITC Myanmar via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister discussed the measures for labour affairs carried out by tripartite and establishing a bilingual Myanmar-English online platform to share knowledge about labour affairs during COVID-19 outbreak.

Although there are some weakness in management sector while using IT, the works are being carried out in a virtual way during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The ILO also discussed with many stakeholders for ensuring



Union Minister U Thein Swe addresses at online e-campus launching ceremony organized by ILO-ITC Myanmar via videoconferencing, on 27 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

positive outcomes for the employers, employees and government.

He then emphasized online e-campus for social affairs talks, international criteria, occupational safety and health issues and further information about the

training to be added later.

The ministry also considers the priorities of ILO in selecting the materials for e-campus and other parties should do so for the facts which conform to the country's priority sectors.

He also discussed the training via an online platform, a valuable resource of the online platform after COVID-19 period and the vital role of successive learning about labour issues.

The Union Minister also said

the online platform is an opportunity to negotiate the long-term development for labour affairs and a central forum for government, employers and employees in addition to the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum convened in 2014.

Liaison Officer of ILO Myanmar Mr Donglin Li and Deputy Director for Japan's Health, Labour and Social Welfare Mr Ken Fujii respectively made a remark.

The ILO-ITC Director of Learning Mr Andreas Klemmer and Thai expert Mr John Richotte explained e-campus platform and other participants coordinated the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MoHS minister visits COVID-19 vaccination centres in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe visited the COVID-19 vaccination centres in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister and party visited the 1,000-bedded Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital and the Midwifery Training School to inspect the vaccination programme.

Daw Aye Mu Mu, a senior nurse from the 1,000-bedded

Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital, was recorded as the first person who got vaccinated COVID-19 in Myanmar at 8 am.

As of evening, on 27 January, 30,551 health workers have been vaccinated, and the remaining health workers and volunteers will receive the vaccine in coming days. — MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe inspects the COVID-19 vaccination centres in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

MoI holds meeting on news coverage of third Hluttaw sessions, discusses cooperation with ASIA Foundation

THE Ministry of Information yesterday held a coordination meeting over media coverage of the third Hluttaw sessions.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that the state-run media already have experiences of covering parliamentary news. The Union Minister called on the participants to apply their past experiences to provide better news coverage of the third Hluttaw sessions, which will commence on 1 February.

He said that the media officials need to make effective arrangements in order to ensure that broadcasts are not defective. He stressed that it is important to get high-quality news photos and to provide complete and accurate coverage.

He also called on the officials of the ministry to cooperate with

Hluttaw officials in order for privately-owned media to effectively cover the parliamentary news too.

During the meeting, the participants explained their roles in the process of media coverage.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary- U Myo Myint Maung, Directors-General, the Managing Director, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and other relevant officials.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister received Asia Foundation Country Representative Mr Mark McDowell, and they discussed possible cooperation between the Asia Foundation and the Ministry of Information on Let's Read Programme and Go Digital ASEAN Programme being implemented by the Asia Foundation.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets Asia Foundation Country Representative Mr Mark McDowell to discuss cooperation in Let's Read Programme and Go Digital ASEAN Programme, on 27 January. PHOTO: MNA

MoE holds int'l Holocaust Remembrance Day online

MINISTRY of Education, in collaboration with the Israel Embassy and the United Nations, held the International Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust yesterday afternoon via the online system.

The UN General Assembly decided to hold an International Holocaust Remembrance Day for the victims of the Holocaust in November 2005, and the theme for 2021 is "Facing the Aftermath: Recovery and Reconstitution after the Holocaust".

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, on behalf of the Ministry, expressed deep condolences for the victims of the Holocaust. He said a total of 6 million Jews and



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins the online International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on 27 January. PHOTO: MNA

other races were killed by Nazis during World War II and the experience has shown that it is important to instil in students a sense of purpose in order to prevent the tragedy of the Nazis

genocide and to prevent it from happening again.

Union Minister said by sharing knowledge about the Holocaust with young people and educating them, they will

better understand the history of the past and will become more aware of the racial discrimination and fearful propaganda incited by false news and hate speech. He added that the need for understanding, mutual-respect and love between different races and ethnicities, countries and religions and, to eradicate the racial discrimination with human rights and the spirit of global humanity is an immediate and long-term educational task.

Afterwards, United Nations Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Mr Ola Almgren videotapes a message from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and the Israel Ambassador, the German Ambassador, the Ambassador of

the Russian Federation and the UNICEF Resident Representative in Myanmar delivered the keynote addresses.

The Holocaust commemoration ceremonies have been held annually in Myanmar since 2010, and the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Israel Embassy, has been holding the commemoration ceremonies at the Yangon University, Mandalay University, Dagon University and UN Information centre since 2012. This year, the Ministry also held the ceremony with a lecture on Holocaust for university students and teachers in accordance with the COVID-19 rules.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein looks into vaccination programme in the region on 27 January. PHOTO: MNA

400 health workers, volunteers get vaccinated in Yangon

YANGON Region launched the COVID-19 vaccination programme at the meeting hall of Nursing Training School in Yangon General Hospital yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister congratulated the frontline health workers in control measures against the pandemic.

He then encouraged the health-care staff in the vaccination programme.

At the Ayeyarwady Centre (Thuwunna), the Covishield vaccines were given to the health workers and volunteers who took part in COVID-19 control measures.

Well-wishers contributed

cash at the centre to purchase the vaccine.

Out of more than 25,000 health workers in Yangon Region, 200 persons got vaccinated at the meeting hall of Nursing Training School, and a total of 200 health workers and volunteers at the Ayeyarwady Centre.—Min Thit (MNA)

Myanmar kicks off COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthcare personnel



Mandalay. PHOTO: PHYO EI NAING (MANDALAY MEDICAL UNIVERSITY)



Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG



Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Bago. PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)



Rakhine. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)



Katha. PHOTO: YE AUNG (KATHA)



Tachilek. PHOTO: YARSAE (IPRD)



Hlaingbwe. PHOTO: (TOWNSHIP-IPRD)



Kawthoung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)



Kyaikmaraw. PHOTO: CHO CHO (IPRD)



Tiddim. PHOTO: PAUNGKYINMONE (IPRD)



Magway. PHOTO: ZAYYTATU



Dawei. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW LATT (IPRD)



Loikaw. PHOTO: SOE HLAING HTAY (IPRD)



Kangyidaung. PHOTO: NAN HTAIK (KANGYIDAUNG)

“People are the key”

Union Minister
Dr Win Myat Aye receives
UNHCR Representative

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Ms Hai Kyung Jun, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representative to Myanmar, Deputy Representative Ms Yukiko Iriyama and party yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Ms Yukiko Iriyama discussed the findings during her recent visit to UNHCR projects in Rakhine State and Kayin State where she made discussion with relevant

governmental departments and further activities and the progress of Quick Impact Projects in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister discussed the coordination with Union Ministries, regional governments and United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot for resettlement of displaced persons and closure of the IDP camps in line with National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps.

The meeting also dis-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with the UNHCR delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

cussed the coordination activities for lasting peace and conflict resolution, socio-economic development works, more employment opportunities, and to ensure equitable access to education, health and social services, coordination for mine safety which is important for resettlement and rehabilitation work and for cooperation with UNHCR in relevant fields.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Health workers, volunteers from Ayeyarwady Centre in Yangon receive COVID-19 vaccine



The first injection of the COVID vaccination programme was kicked off yesterday in Ayeyarwady Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN

DOCTORS, nurses and volunteers were vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Ayeyarwady Centre in Yangon yesterday, together with a cash contribution of well-wishers yesterday morning.

Deputy Director-General for region Public Health Department Dr Tun Myint, Chairman of Ayeyarwady Foundation U Zaw Zaw, the well-wishers and other officials attended the ceremony.

On the first day of Covishield vaccination programme

in Myanmar, more than 200 healthcare workers and volunteers of AYA centre were also vaccinated for their first dose, and the remaining staff of the centre will receive vaccinations on 28 and 29 January.

Deputy Director-General Dr Tun Myint received the cash donation and expressed words of thanks to the donors.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation donated K2 billion to purchase COVID-19 vaccine while the family of U Thadon Hein and Daw Soe Mar Lar

K200 million, AYA SOMPO Insurance K100million, Farmers Choice Tractor Co.,Ltd US dollar 100,000, U Aung Zin+ Daw Win Kyi, son Ko Myat Thura Aung Zin and daughter Ma Khin Myint Myat K20 million, U Win Zaw family K20 million, U Myint Zaw and Daw Hnin Moe Hlaing K5 million and Ashro Group of Companies donated Godrej brand Vaccine Storage Fridge worth of K22 million.—Phoe Thaw Zin

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Italy provides vital support to Yangon government COVID-19 response

THE Yangon Region government, Italy and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on 21 January 2021 marked the contribution of 1 million EURO from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in support of the COVID-19 response, with a ceremony at Aung Myint Moh treatment centre in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

The Italian contribution has helped WFP provide daily nutritious meals for over 16,000 people, who were receiving medical and quarantine care at Aung Myint Moh, the largest COVID-19 treatment centre in Yangon Region in terms of bed capacity.

The Ambassador of Italy to Myanmar, Alessandra Schiavo, said, “COVID-19 is a humanitarian tragedy of global proportions, which requires a strong and coordinated approach. Italy is close to Myanmar and its people and will continue to engage worldwide to overcome the pandemic, by supporting populations in need, by strengthening and funding the research for a vaccine, and by organizing the Global Health Summit, next 21 May in Rome, to make sure we will all get better prepared for future health challenges. Our support to the Yangon Region and WFP is part of this vision, and part of our longstanding commitment in support of Myanmar’s sustainable develop-

ment and stability.”

U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Government said, “The fact that there are good-will supporters for the people of Myanmar really raises up the spirits of those receiving medical care at COVID-19 centers like here.”

The assistance is guided by WFP’s expertise in meal preparation and high levels of food safety standards.

WFP’s Deputy Country Director Marcus Prior said, “Thanks to the excellent coordination by the Yangon Region Government and generous contribution from Italy, our food assistance have reinforced the Government of Myanmar’s front-line fight against the sec-

ond surge of COVID-19 in an area with one of the most pressing needs for support.”

Yangon has been the most affected region in Myanmar following an exponential increase in local transmission of COVID-19 since mid-August. WFP meals are prepared with high food safety standards, adequately meet daily nutrition needs for patients, including those being treated for COVID-19 infection.

Assisting the Government in curbing the pandemic has been a priority for the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation since the beginning of the health crisis.

“With this specific intervention we want to provide our contribution to alleviate the direct

consequences of the pandemic on the most vulnerable populations. The support of the international community has become imperative in order to complement the efforts of the Myanmar Government in this direction, and today AICS confirms to be an active stakeholder, thanks to the strong and effective collaboration with WFP,” said Walter Zucconi, Head of Office, AICS Yangon.

In Rakhine State, WFP has provided food assistance to 60 quarantine sites in eight townships since September 2020. Over 100,000 returning migrants undergoing quarantine in 11 states and regions have also received food and nutrition support from WFP.—GNLM

A salute to real heroes walking among us

AS the vaccination process begins for our heroes who have held us up through this pandemic, our country has opened a new chapter towards recovery from the pandemic.

The India-donated 1.5 million doses of vaccines mark just the beginning of what could be a long and messy road towards the end of the pandemic that has upended life and taken the lives of over 3,000 people in our country.

When it comes to vaccinating our people including frontline warriors and people nationwide, our hearty salute should go to the countries which have donated vaccines to us, our people who contributed cash towards the fund for purchasing vaccines and regular people who have transformed themselves into selfless frontline warriors in the face of crisis and the people who are still following the health guidelines.

Our sincere thanks also go to the people who understand why priority is given to frontline workers, the elderly and other at-risk groups as doses are initially limited supply with a sense of responsibility and good citizenship.

We are confident that our people will also be patient and wait for their turn with trust and confidence thanks to the Union Government which is serving the people with openness and transparency.

We appeal all the people to abide by COVID-19 health rules and guidelines during the period when the vaccines are still not available.

And, those who have been vaccinated against the virus are urged not to even think of putting the mask away anytime soon.

Still, we need to be alert and active with the understanding that "people's participation is a must" and assist in overcoming the challenges. Strength and maturity can be attained by facing new experiences.

The first shots were given in our country yesterday and we will see a mass vaccination campaign in the coming weeks.

Without the help of donors, frontline health workers and our people, we cannot open a new chapter in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

They are our true heroes and an army of citizens, who are ready and willing to do what is required to help each other keep going during the difficult times now, and into the future.

We salute our true heroes walking among us.

They have shown us that real heroes may not wear capes or swords on their backs but they go beyond the call of duty, risking their own lives to keep you, me and everyone around them safe.

A New Chapter of Pauk-Phaw Friendship

By Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

AT the beginning of 2021, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi paid an official visit to Myanmar at invitation. With China-Myanmar relations ushering in a new era, the global fight against COVID-19 entering a new phase and the international and regional situation evolving in new trends, this visit is of great significance.

First, the visit marks a good start of the China-Myanmar relations in the new year. By choosing Myanmar as first stop in his first trip to neighbouring countries this year, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi became the first foreign minister to visit Myanmar after the country's general election in last November, which demonstrated the great importance China attaches to its relations with Myanmar. The visit will give substantial impetus to the development of bilateral relations in the new year.

Second, the visit is important for both countries embarking on a new journey. 2021 is the inaugural year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan. Myanmar is about to form a new government for the next five years. Both countries have embarked on a new journey for national development. During the visit, both sides reached consensus on synergizing each other's development strategies and advancing all-round cooperation, which provided an important opportunity for realizing common development.

Third, the visit injects new vitality for development. The COVID-19 pandemic threatened

lives and public health across the world, and brought challenges to economic and social development. It is the common aspiration of people in China and Myanmar to prevail over the pandemic as soon as possible and recover the economy and society. The visit has effectively strengthened anti-pandemic cooperation, and deepened the substantive cooperation between the two countries, thus injecting new impetus into the bilateral relations, especially into Myanmar's development.

During the visit, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Myanmar leaders. Both sides reached 12 political consensus on implementing the fruits of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Myanmar and the future development of China-Myanmar relations. Both sides also signed or announced 8 specific achievements covering different fields, which will effectively foster China-Myanmar friendship and promote the well-being of the two peoples.

The building of a community with a shared future is going deeper. In January 2020, during his historic state visit to Myanmar, President Xi Jinping and the leader of Myanmar announced to jointly build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future. Both sides have reached consensus in principle on the text of the Action Plan for jointly build such a community after extensive consultation, and will sign it as soon as possible. The building of a China-Myanmar community with a shared future has taken a firm step forward.



On 10 January, the groundbreaking ceremony of the China-Aided Myanmar National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and Medical Staff Training Centre was held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Anti-pandemic cooperation has been vigorously carried out. During the visit, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced that the Chinese government has decided to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar in the first batch, and will give guidance to Chinese companies to conduct vaccine procurement cooperation with Myanmar at a public product price. This is the most sincere and true New Year gift from the Chinese people to our Myanmar friends. China also provided Myanmar with 3 million yuan worth of medical supplies, a part of which arrived with the delegation and been handed over to the Myanmar

side. According to incomplete statistics, since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Chinese government and different sectors have donated more than 7 million masks, 400,000 sets of PPEs, 300,000 sets of testing kits, 35 ventilators, and 377 million kyats in cash to Myanmar. Three batches of Chinese medical experts were dispatched to Myanmar to help fighting the pandemic. All these have given vivid expression to the spirit of China-Myanmar community with a shared future. The two sides agreed to deepen the joint prevention and control efforts, and improve the "fast tracks" for necessary flow of people and the "green lanes" for goods transportation. One day before the visit, the construction of the China-Aided Myanmar National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and Medical Staff Training Centre had officially kicked off. In order to facilitate customs clearance for Myanmar agricultural products and other exports into China, relevant departments of Yunnan Province have overcome difficulties and implemented 24-hour customs clearance measures. The Pauk-Phaw friendship between China and Myanmar has been further deepened in the trying times of the pandemic.

Practical cooperation has made substantial progress. Dur-

China will continue to safeguard Myanmar's interests in international arena.

ing this visit, both sides agreed to effectively implement the agreement on the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) with a concerted effort, and accelerate the advancement of three supporting projects like the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, the New Yangon City and the China-Myanmar Border Economic Cooperation Zone. Besides, both sides signed the Five Year Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation, the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on Conducting a Feasibility Study of Mandalay-Kyaukpyu Section of the China-Myanmar Railway. With China-Myanmar cooperation, China hopes to enhance connectivity between the two countries, expand the trade volume, and help Myanmar accelerate its industrialization and increase employment, thus supporting the Myanmar's

new government in revitalizing its economy and improving people's well-being with visible and tangible results. The Chinese side has also implemented a number of aid projects during the visit, including the construction of Kunlong Bridge offering annual assistance to the peace process of Myanmar and the handover of documents for China-aided resettlement project for displaced persons in Kachin State. On the eve of the visit, railway carriages procured with Chinese interest-free loan were successfully handed over to the Myanmar side. Many projects such as the China-aided Myanmar National Indoor Sports Stadium and Yangon's National Theatre have proceeded as scheduled despite of the pandemic. China will continue to help Myanmar boost its development for the early and more benefit of its people.

SEE PAGE-14

Union Day Objectives 74th Anniversary of Union Day - 2021

1. To work on the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, till the success of the internal peace process is achieved.
2. Development of the socio-economic life of the ethnic nationals.
3. To work for the emergence of a constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
4. All ethnic nationals to work for the preservation and protection of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty.
5. To nurture and develop new generations endowed with high skills and capabilities imbued with strong Union spirit.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 27 January, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28 January, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Northern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2021: Generally fair weather.

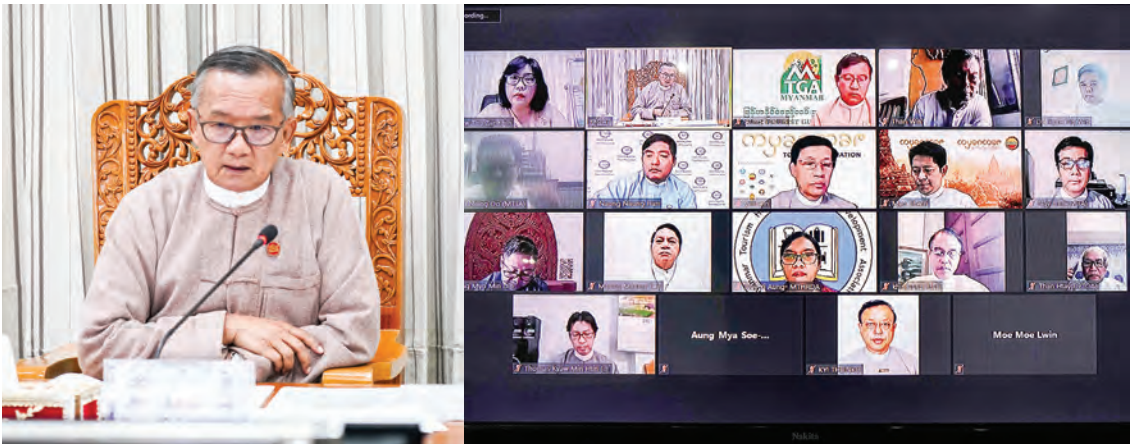
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2021: Generally fair weather.

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MoHT holds meeting online with MTF, its members



Union Minister U Ohn Maung holds talks with the MTF chairpersons and members via videoconferencing yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, together with Deputy Minister U Tin Latt, met with the chairpersons of Myanmar Tourism Federation and its 11 sister associations through videoconferencing yesterday from Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister called on the fed-

eration and the associations to work together in developing regional tourism master plans for the regions and states by using the national roadmap, the Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap, as a guide for reviving tourism affected by COVID-19.

He said the necessity to up-grade the current tourist destina-

tions as well as to discover new destinations, and he urged them to involve in public awareness activities of developing tourist destinations as the Ministry is also informing through its Facebook page and website in a timely manner. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has issued the National Tourism Guideline for COVID-19

Safe Services in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Union Minister said his office had published the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol for Safe Tourism Myanmar with the guidance of the State Counsellor and the directives of the international tourism organizations such as UNWTO and WTTC and Public Relation Campaign with the Non-Landing Sightseeing Flight was piloted to make the public aware of safe travel by following the COVID-19 Directive Social Distancing Guidelines.

He also added Hospitality, Tourism, Guide TVET Diploma course in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and redefinition of hotels, motels and guest houses in collaboration with the

National Standards Council and more employment opportunities for those with industry certification. The Chairmen of the MTF and its 11 sister associations discussed the participation in the COVID-19 Yellow Campaign, star rating of hotels, analysis of the COVID-19 Impact Assessment Survey, and coordination with the regional governments for the caravan tour to Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

The Directors-General for the Hotels and Tourism Ministry discussed the request status of quarantine requirements and SOPs to be followed by regions/states, preparation for tourism promotion, attendance the online ASEAN Tourism Forum to be held in Cambodia and the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister coordinated the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

KB Bank Myanmar kicks off its financial services in Yangon

THE KB Bank Myanmar launched its financial services as the first subsidy of the foreign bank yesterday.

The opening ceremony of the bank was held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon and was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Chairman of Korean Association in Myanmar, President of KOCHAM Mr Park Jeong-Hwan, President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win and other officials.

The KB Bank Myanmar is the first subsidy of the foreign bank of Korean KB Kookmin

Bank and awarded a banking licence by the Central Bank of Myanmar on 23 December 2020.

The bank is opened at 104 University Avenue Road in No (9) Ward of Kamayut Township of Yangon and will serve banking services with new technologies like other local banks.

The CEO of KB Bank Myanmar said, "The bank will offer all banking services like other local banks. It started opening the saving accounts on 11 January. We will keep offering mobile banking services and foreign remittance services in the coming weeks." The KB Bank Myanmar



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the KB Bank Myanmar on 27 January 2021. **PHOTO : ZAW GYI**

Ltd. will operate 10 branches in Myanmar- 5 in Yangon Region and another 5 in other regions and states during five years.—Zaw Gyi (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

COVID-19 vaccination programme starts in Mandalay



COVID vaccination programme was launched in Mandalay on 27 January 2021. **PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG (MAN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

MANDALAY Region received 1,741 doses of Covishield vaccine yesterday.

Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and health officials, together with the local officials, looked into the vaccination of 150 health workers from Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmye, Chanmyathazi and Pyigyidagun townships at the City Hall (1), and 200 medical teaching staff at the University of Medicine (Mandalay).

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the vaccination of health work-

ers first in the programme and remarked that the vaccination is crucial for the economic recovery of the country. Out of the vaccine quota, over 300 doses will also be shared to the northern Shan State. There are 15,689 recorded medical professionals in Mandalay Region. Dr Than Than Myint, the senior Head of Mandalay Region Public Health and Medical Services Department, said that the emergency treatment facilities had been set up to address serious side-effects from the vaccine.

Dr Nilar Kyaw Win who got

vaccinated Covishield said, "I did not feel any anxiety about the vaccination as I have some prior knowledge about the vaccination. Different persons would suffer different forms of response to the vaccine." The nationwide vaccination programme has been scheduled for 5 February, and it will reach the public together with government officials at the Union and regional levels.

The government has also announced the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the whole country.—Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-printing House)

Onion growers face massive loss from lack of foreign demand

THE onion growers face extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.

The prolonged price declines led some growers in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region to leave their onions unharvested as they cannot cover the labour wages and transportation charges. The stockpiles in the market have exacerbated with the fresh bulk supply of onions. The old onions fetched only K100-200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the wholesale market. In contrast, the prices of fresh onion stand at K200-400 per viss.

Those farmers who store the onions in high hopes of price gain are now experiencing financial hardships from the drastic price drop.

“Now, some farmers are leaving the onions in the farms unharvested. This occurrence is extremely rare. I hope we will not face this devastating situation in future,” said an onion



(FILE) Women are seen sorting onions for sale at a compound of a house in Upper Myanmar on 1 February 2015. **PHOTO : KYAUKSE (IPRD)**

grower from Yesagyo Township. “In early 2020, the onion fetched K1,200-1,300 per viss. The price drastically fell, and the growers cannot even cover the input cost,” said U Tun, a

grower. “The prevailing prices of onions are around K400-500 per viss in the retail market. The lower demand brings down the price to the lowest level,” said U

Thar Paw, a warehouse owner. The prices of onions sharply dropped due to the bulk supply and the western border’s closure amid the coronavirus impacts.

Earlier, onions were highly demanded by Bangladesh and India. Now, the trade with Bangladesh and India is halted to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Therefore, the price is on the downward trend. The onion growers and traders are experiencing market fallouts due to the COVID-19 impacts, said wholesale onion dealer from Mandalay.

Next, Bangladesh’s demand for Myanmar’s onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable price rise prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020. The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar trade body calls for 24-hour access to Manwain post

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR traders and the associations concerned have requested for Manwain, which is a major border post between Myanmar and China, to remain opening 24-hour operations.

Earlier, Manwain crossing was opened between 6 am and 10:30 pm, hindering the border trading. Following the negotiation between a team led by Muse District Head U Hlaing Soe Thant and the People’s

Government of Ruili officials led by Mr Yang Shiyong on 2 January 2021, trading hours through Muse-Manwain was extended to 24 hours between 5 and 14 January on a trial basis. The number of trucks has increased from 130 to 270 during the meantime. As a result of this, the trade body called for the opening of 24-hour access,” said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

“The Chinese side has not responded to our request

of 24-hour operations yet,” he stressed.

This Manwain post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China. Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, onion, chilli pepper, pulses and beans, food commodities and fishery products to China. In contrast, electrical appliance, equipment, medical device, household goods, construction materials and food products are imported in the country via Manwain.

Before the COVID-19 pan-

demic, about 500 trucks were daily flowing in and out of the Myanmar-China border Manwain. Amid the heightened coronavirus containment measures, driver substitution system scaled down the number of trucks to 130 per day, the vice-chair added.

He affirmed that the non-stop trading hours via Manwain post could deal with trade delay problem in border areas.

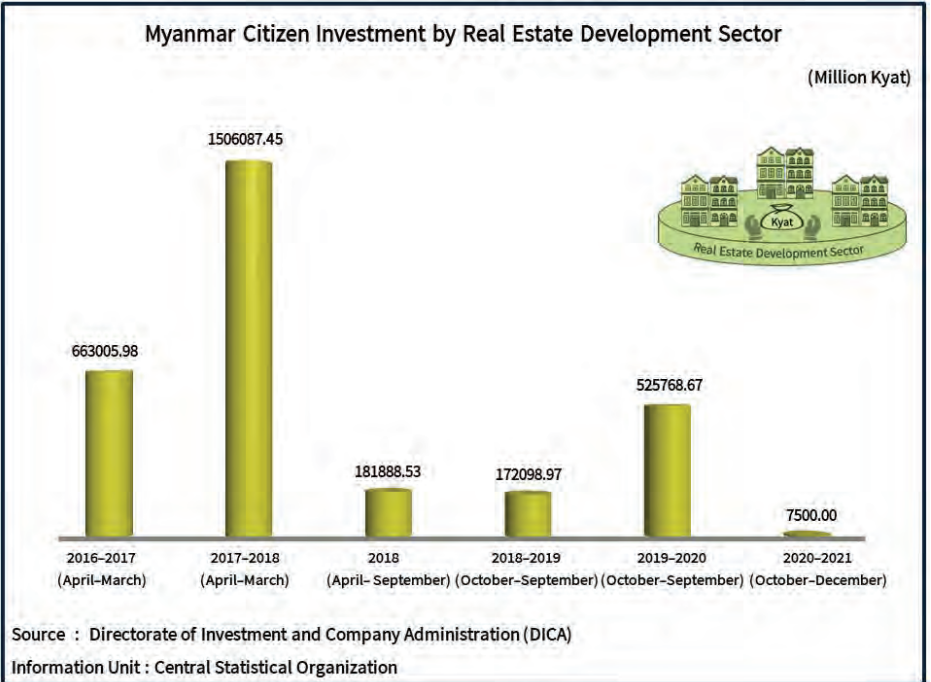
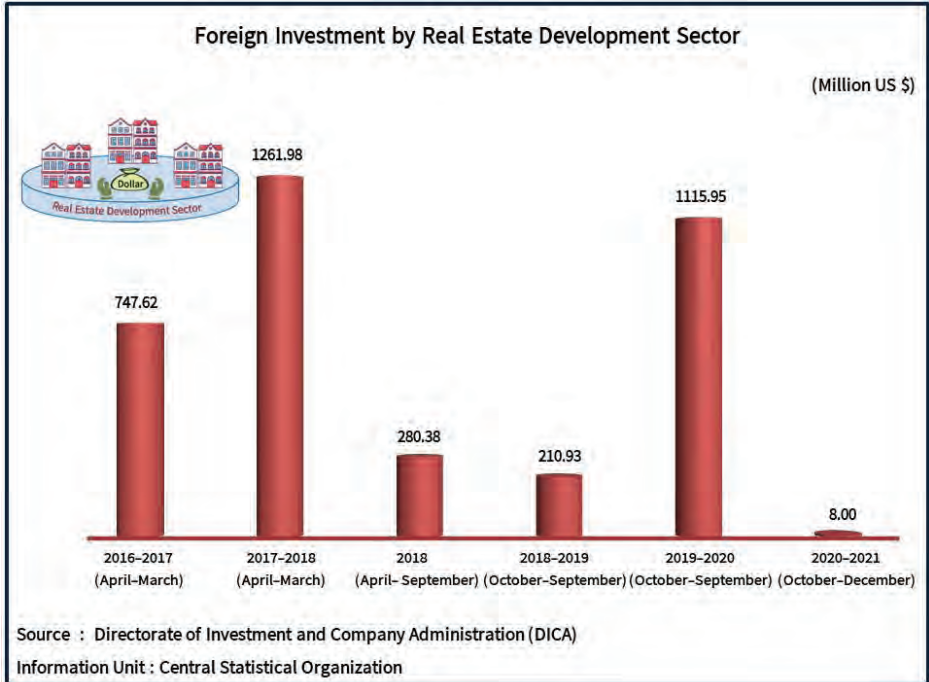
At present, traffic congestion on the Myanmar-China bor-

der trade route causes a severe impediment to the border trade.

The border crossings including Manwain, Kyinsankyawt and Pan Sai (Kyu Kok) need trading hours’ extension to exacerbate traffic congestion in border areas.

Moreover, Hsinpyu gate was also shut down for goods trucks. As a result of this, Myanmar trade body has also asked to reopen the Hsinpyu post.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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NEP boosts electricity access to over 48% in Magway Region



Under the NEP, more than 1,050 villages have the electric supply in Magway Region. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

MAGWAY Region’s electrification areas registered only 35 per cent in August 2020. The electricity access increased up to 48.52 per cent in January 2021 under the successful implementation of Myanmar National Electrification Project (NEP) in the short term, Magway Region’s Electrical Engineering office data showed.

The country’s NEP is aiming to extend electricity coverage to all the households across

the country, with US\$390 million loans of World Bank. Under the NEP, more than 1,050 villages have the electric supply in Magway Region, said engineer U Htaung Zo Khaing.

The electrification work in the two or three miles of the system is under phase 1 of the region, covering 664 villages. Phase 2 of the region includes works within three to five miles of the system with 386 villages.

“A total of 530 villages get

electricity access under phase 1 for now. The land problem and other complaints impeded the electrification works in the remaining villages. However, it will be sorted out soon. The survey has started with tender winning companies under phase 2. It is scheduled to complete within six to nine months. The necessary electrical appliances and equipment have arrived in the region,” he added.

In the previous years, the

villagers only depended on self-help electrification. The villagers who still do not have electric supply should agree to that project at all when the government is leading the electrification project, he shared his opinion.

“There are land problems to install the electric poles. We are facing difficulties with land-owners and municipals to install them,” he stressed. — Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Tiger conservation survey conducted in Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary

CAMERA traps were set up to conduct tiger’s survey in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in upper Chindwin River. Now, the wildlife animals are reportedly being released in the wildlife sanctuary.

Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary is one of the source sites for tiger population and is approximately 80 per cent closed forest.

“The situation of the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is normal. About 100 camera traps have already been installed. We will also install the cameras to conduct the mammal animals’ survey. It will be implemented in the next month. Hornbills and great hornbills are certainly to be found in this wildlife sanctuary,” said an official from Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary.

There were nine species of tiger in the world, but only six species are left now. Among them, two species are hosted in Myanmar -- the Bengal tiger



er on camera trap in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary



Conservationists are trying to measure the footprints of tigers

FILE PHOTO

and the Indochinese tiger, according to the 1999-2002 national tiger survey.

According to the survey of the Forest Department in 2019, at least 22 tigers remained in Myanmar. The survey covered 8 per cent of the tiger habitat in the country. Conservation is needed to sustain the tiger population in Myanmar.

A Burmese python found at Myanmar air force camp in Homalin town was also released

to the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary on 20 January. It is 11 feet long and 1.6 feet in circumference. Last year, two Himalayas bears and muntjacs were released to the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary.

The team is patrolling around the wildlife sanctuary to protect the trees and animals conserved in the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary. The signboards were also erected in crowded places.

Recently, the projects and

programmes are being drawn up for ecotourism in the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary. When the tourism restriction is lifted, the arrangements will be made to observe the wildlife animals and birds and visit the wildlife sanctuary and stay at the wildlife sanctuary using the tents.

In Myanmar, tigers are protected by the Protection of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law. —Aye Maung
(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Huawei to open French plant in 2023

CHINESE telecoms giant Huawei, under pressure from Western governments suspicious it presents a security risk, is to open its first mobile network plant outside China in 2023 in eastern France, a director said on Tuesday. Work on the factory, which is to manufacture base stations, should begin this year, Huawei vice president and supervisory board member Catherine Chen told a video press conference. The site “could produce the first mobile station sometime in 2023,” she said, adding that the official decision to locate a manufacturing plant outside China represented “an historic date for Huawei”.—SOURCE: AFP

Invitation For Open Tender No.(1/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (3041.638) Metric Tons, average metal content (Ni- 35.94 %, Fe-62.19 %) (17) Lots of Ferro Nickel by United States Dollar as follow,
(a) Ferro Nickel (500) MT (2) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
(b) Ferro Nickel (200) MT (5) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
(c) Ferro Nickel (100) MT (10) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
2. Base price of Ferro Nickel shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Nickel average price in the month prior to the month of tender opening and the iron ore price 300 U.S. dollar per metric ton. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021, (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No. (19), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. If you need detailed information, please can be inquired at telephone no. (+95) 67- 3409378, 67- 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Invitation For Open tender No.(2/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5008.574) Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,
(a) Cathode Copper (108.574) MT (1) Lot, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
(b) Cathode Copper (100) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
(c) Cathode Copper (200) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
(d) Cathode Copper (200) MT (7) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
(e) Cathode Copper (500) MT (2) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
(f) Cathode Copper (1000) MT (1) Lot, Monywa, Mine Site
2. Base price of Cathode Copper (Eden Warehouse, Yangon) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount shall be winning tender.
3. Base price of Cathode Copper (Mine Site, Monywa) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021 (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (090N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (090N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1132 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1132 S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (036W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (036W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (102W/103E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (102W/103E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2021** 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 SOLO VOY. NO. (929 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (929 N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2021** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

A New Chapter of Pauk-Phaw Friendship

FROM PAGE-9

Mutual support and shared responsibility on multilateral occasions is once again emphasized. China and Myanmar have consistently supported each other on multilateral occasions such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization and East Asia Cooperation. The Myanmar Government and military are committed to safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity, advancing national reconciliation and peace process, and promoting national development. During the visit, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated that China will firmly pursue the friendly policy towards Myanmar, support the new Myanmar government in its administration, support Myanmar in continuously promoting national reconciliation and peaceful progress with the "Panglong Spirit", and support Myanmar in properly addressing the Rakhine State issue. China will continue upholding fairness and justice for Myanmar and safeguard its legitimate rights and interests in international arena. The Myanmar side reiterated that it firmly adheres to the one-China principle and will continue to support China's position on issues related to Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. As the common proponents and practitioners of the Five Principles



On January 5th, the handover ceremony of the railway carriages procured with Chinese interest-free loan was held at Thilawa Port in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Peaceful Coexistence, China and Myanmar will continue to take a clear-cut position against unilateralism and protectionism. Both sides will work together to elevate the China-ASEAN relations, strive to put into force the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership at the earliest possible date, further deepen the Lancang-Mekong cooperation and contribute to regional and world peace, stability and prosperity.

Last year, both sides by overcoming the impact of COVID-19 conducted a series of cultural exchanges. China presented the digitally restored old Myanmar film "Nga Ba" to Myanmar as a gift to the centenary of Myanmar motion picture industry. A large number of Chinese films and TV shows such as Ode to Joy and Heroes in Harm's way were enjoyed by thousands of households in Myanmar. During the visit, both sides agreed to extend

the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Myanmar diplomatic ties and the China-Myanmar Year of Culture and Tourism to 2021. This will promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges and enhance the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, which will lay a solid

foundation for the development of China-Myanmar relations. 2021 marks the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and China embarks on a new journey of fully building a modern socialist country. The new government of Myanmar will be established soon and will continue to strive for new accomplishments on national reconciliation and development. This year is also the first anniversary of President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Myanmar. During the visit by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, both sides once again clearly expressed common position on strengthening friendly cooperation and promoting national development. We are willing to join hands with Myanmar to enhance political mutual trust, deepen anti-pandemic and development cooperation, and strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs. We believe that the traditional Pauk-Phaw friendship nourished by the same river will rise to a higher level in the building of the China-Myanmar community of shared future, and the road of China-Myanmar friendship and cooperation will grow even wider!

“The views expressed in this article are those of the author, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar”

HIGH PRIORITY

S. Korea, U.S. agree on urgency of N. Korea nuclear issue

SOUTH Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha and new U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken agreed Wednesday that North Korea's nuclear issue is an urgent matter that needs to be dealt with by the administration of President Joe Biden, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said.

During their roughly 30-minute phone conversation, the two agreed that South Korea and the United States will “closely discuss the matter to reach a solution,” the ministry said in a statement, adding that they also confirmed stronger bilateral cooperation in tackling such issues as climate change

and the coronavirus pandemic. The phone talks were held just hours after Blinken was confirmed by the Senate. Kang, who is set to step down as foreign minister after more than three years in the post, expressed hope that her successor will be able to speak with Blinken at an early date,

according to the ministry. President Moon Jae In has named Chung Eui Yong, a former director of the National Security Office, as new foreign minister. But his confirmation hearing has yet to be held in parliament. On Tuesday, Moon held phone talks with Chinese

President Xi Jinping. During the talks, Xi said he “actively supports” Moon's efforts to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, saying it is in agreement with the common interests of both countries, according to an official at Moon's office.

SOURCE: KYODO

HISTORIC SECOND CHARGE

Republican senators signal opposition to Trump impeachment

US Democrats' efforts to convict Donald Trump at his impeachment trial suffered a fresh blow on Tuesday when forty-five Senate Republicans backed a failed effort to halt trial, in a show of party unity that some cited as a clear sign he will not be convicted of inciting insurrection at the Capitol.

Almost all Republican senators backed dismissing the case, underlining the former president's continuing hold over the party as Republican Senator Rand Paul made a motion on the Senate floor that would have required the chamber to vote on whether Trump's trial in February violates the US Constitution.

The Democratic-led Senate blocked the motion in a 55-45 vote. But only five Republican lawmakers joined Democrats to reject the move, far short of the 17 Republicans who would need to vote to convict Trump on an impeachment charge that he incited the Jan. 6 Capitol assault that left five people dead.

“It's one of the few times in Washington where a loss is actually a victory,” Paul later told reporters. “Forty-five votes means the impeachment trial is dead on arrival.” The motion failed after all 50 Democrats and only five Republicans in the Senate did not support the push to throw out the

case before the trial has begun. Paul and other Republicans contend that the proceedings are unconstitutional because Trump left office last Wednesday and Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy instead of by US Chief Justice John Roberts will oversee the trial.

SOURCE: AFP

NEW START DEAL

Biden signals tougher Russia stance in first Putin call

PRESIDENT Joe Biden signalled a tougher US stance on Russia Tuesday in his first phone call with President Vladimir Putin, raising concerns over human rights and “aggression” against Ukraine, but welcoming cooperation on a new nuclear weapons accord.

The call was initiated by the White House to discuss progress on extending the New START deal, which limits the two powers to a maximum of 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads each and expires February 5. An agreement now appears to be close.

But White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Biden also raised a raft of worries about the Russian authorities’ treatment of opposition members, including the “poisoning of Alexei Na-



The extension of the landmark arms control treaty will continue to limit the number of nuclear missiles and warheads each country can deploy. PHOTO: AFP

valny”. The opposition leader and anti-corruption crusader nearly died last year from a poisoning he says he has proved was carried out by the security services, something Putin denies. Navalny is currently imprisoned in Moscow and over the weekend, police made mass arrests of people demonstrating in his support across the country.

Showing Moscow and Washington are still able to cooperate separately on nuclear issues, the White House said Biden and Putin had agreed to “work urgently” to wrap up negotiations on a fresh five-year period for the New START treaty ahead of its expiry. The Kremlin said that in their call Putin and Biden “expressed satisfaction” over talks and the Russian leader later submitted a

bill to parliament on the five-year extension.

In Washington, a State Department official who asked not to be identified said the two sides had “reached agreement... to proceed quickly to conclude such an agreement by February 5th”.

The moves raised hopes for more stability between the world’s two most heavily armed nations, drawing a line under the uncertainty that entered under Donald Trump, whom Biden replaced just last week.

The Trump administration had offered a one-year extension ahead of the February deadline but discussions broke down over US insistence on tougher verification that Russia had frozen its nuclear arsenal.

SOURCE: AFP

OBITUARY

Condolences
Daw Ohnmar Soe Aung
(59) Years

We are deeply saddened by the news that Daw Ohnmar Soe Aung, beloved wife of U Aung Naing Oo (Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations), residing at Yangon, was called to her heavenly home on Wednesday, 27 January 2021 at 08:05 am. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

With Deepest Condolences and Sympathy,
May She Rest In Peace!

Sr. Executive Management & Staff
MPRL E&P Group of Companies

PERSONAL DATA MADE PUBLIC

Australia ordered to pay migrants for privacy breach

AN Australian watchdog on Wednesday ordered the government to pay damages to over a thousand asylum seekers whose personal data was wrongly made public seven years ago.

Lawyers believe this is the first time in Australian history that compensation has been ordered for a mass privacy breach.

More than 9,000 migrants had their personal information -- including their name, date of birth, citizenship, reason for detention and location they were being held -- mistakenly published online in 2014. Around 1,300 could now each receive sums of up to US\$15,500 within 12 months, after they formed a class action lawsuit to claim damages.

“This breach meant that any person searching the internet could access the personal information surrounding thousands of

people applying for protection in Australia,” said lawyer Sarah Dale of the Refugee Advice and Case-work Service.

“This includes authorities and indeed even the perpetrators of the persecution, in the countries from which they fled.”

Australia’s information commissioner said the Department of Home Affairs had “interfered with the privacy of 9,251 detainees in immigration detention by mistakenly releasing their personal information.” The published report “contained embedded personal information that could identify all persons in immigration detention on 31 January 2014”.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who was immigration minister when the incident happened, called the breach “unacceptable” at the time.

SOURCE: AFP

DRAMATIC ESCALATION

Heavy security, roads closed after Delhi farmer riots

INDIAN police imposed heavy security and closed several main roads around New Delhi on Wednesday, a day after farmers went on the rampage in the capital, leaving one person dead and dozens injured.

The violence marked a dramatic escalation in a standoff between the government and thousands of farmers camped out on the outskirts of the city since

late November. The farmers, mostly from northern Indian states including Punjab, want new agricultural reforms scrapped that they fear will leave them at the mercy of big corporations. On Tuesday -- during annual Republic Day parade -- convoys of farmers on tractors smashed through barricades to converge on the city cen-

tre, seeing off police baton charges and volleys of tear gas. One farmer was killed in what police said was an accident after his tractor overturned after hitting a barricade. At least 86 police were injured, an official statement said. Around the city, security forces fought running battles with demonstrators. Farmers also laid into

police with branches and metal bars and hijacked buses used to block their convoys. At the historic Red Fort landmark farmers broke through police lines and put up their own emblem on the flagpole to cheers from the large crowd before being dispersed from the ramparts by security forces.

SOURCE: AFP

CONFLICT AND SANCTIONS

UN rights chief seeks sanctions against Sri Lanka generals

THE UN human rights chief has called for an International Criminal Court investigation into Sri Lanka’s Tamil separatist conflict and sanctions on military officials accused of war crimes, according to a report obtained by AFP. Michelle Bachelet accused Sri Lanka of reneging on promises to ensure justice for thousands of civilians killed in the final stages of the 37-year sep-

aratist war that ended a decade ago. “Domestic initiatives for accountability and reconciliation have repeatedly failed to produce results, more deeply entrenching impunity, and exacerbating victims’ distrust in the system,” she said in the report obtained ahead of its official release. The government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has reversed some advances made under pre-

vious administrations in protecting human rights, the report said. Surveillance of rights activists and dissidents has increased and a climate of self-censorship has emerged, it added. Rajapaksa won a 2019 presidential election on a nationalist agenda which included a promise that troops who crushed Tamil rebels would not be prosecuted.

SOURCE: AFP



Sri Lankan government forces crushed separatist guerrillas in a military campaign that ended in May 2009. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/AFP/FILE

Shan United Goalie Thiha Sithu to take player-cum-manager position



Shan United Captain and Goalkeeper Thiha Sithu. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU FACEBOOK PAGE**

By Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SHAN United Football Club Captain and Goalkeeper Thiha Sithu will take the team manager position accompanied by his goalkeeping duty, according to the football club statement.

Thiha Sithu has said his feeling about taking one more role for his team.

"I have three reasons for taking the manager position. The first one is that I accepted the job as I respect the club president, owners and club authorities who confidently offered me. I'm delighted to accept the job.

Secondly, I have my juniors in the team whom I want to give precedence. There are four keepers on the team. Excluding me, there are 3 – Myo Min Latt, Thitsar and the youngest one Aung

Myint Myat. I believe them. I rely on them. I want to help them as much as I can. I do believe that this is the time they should be given priority over me. If the team needs me, I'll play, but they've already grown into the dependable situation.

Finally, it's my desire. Now, I already turned 33. I've made up my mind to make a change starting at the age of 35. I ponder what I will do. As I've spent my whole life playing as a goalkeeper, I just want to share my goalkeeping knowledge. Currently, I'm just like a student for a coaching career, and I still need to learn a lot. I guess I can become something in 5 years from now only when I take to new challenge right now. So, I switched to this new life," Thiha Sithu said.

Europe's top clubs face €2 billion COVID-19 hit: Report

LONDON — The coronavirus pandemic could cost Europe's 20 highest earning football clubs over €2 billion (US\$2.4 billion), according to forecasts from financial experts Deloitte.

Deloitte's latest Football Money League report shows that revenues of the 20 clubs analysed fell by €1.1 million in the 2019/20 season due to closed stadiums and television rebates.

Some of that revenue will be recouped in the accounts for the 2020/21 season. The financial year at most clubs ends on Jun 30, meaning some prize money and broadcast income for domestic leagues and European competitions that completed beyond that date is not included in last season's figures.

However, the ongoing effects of the virus will make an even bigger dent on club

finances in 20/21 with stadia largely shut to supporters across the continent for the entire season so far and little sign of restrictions being eased.

Even as the games have gone on behind closed doors, broadcasters have been compensated for a disruption to the original schedule and the lack of atmosphere produced by empty stadiums.

Rebates for Europe's 'top five' leagues in England, Spain, Germany, France and Italy, and UEFA's Champions League and Europa League competitions already total almost €1.2 billion.

"We usually release our money league and talk about the growth in revenue but of course football is not immune to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Tim Bridge of Deloitte's Sports Business Group. —AFP ■

Fate of Tokyo Olympics hinges on coronavirus vaccines: Bill Gates

LOS ANGELES — Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said Tuesday that the holding of the Tokyo Olympics this summer will depend on the progress of vaccinations in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

"I think in the next few months, we have to look at the progress we make (in distributing vaccines)," Gates, the co-founder of U.S. tech giant Microsoft Corp., said in an interview with Kyodo News. "But you know, I think it's still possible if things go well."

"If things don't go well, that would be unfortunate, but you know, we're doing our best to help those vaccines get approved and get going for the entire world."

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were scheduled for the summer of 2020, but were postponed due to the outbreak of the virus across the world.

Many people in Japan, which is now partially under a state of emergency, remain skeptical about hosting the



Bill Gates' foundation is a major donor to the fight against the coronavirus. Undated supplied photo shows Bill Gates **PHOTO: COPYRIGHT GATES NOTES/KYODO**

sports extravaganza amid a recent resurgence of infections.

Earlier this month, Gates told Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in a phone call that hosting a successful Summer Games this year would send a strong message to the

rest of the world.

Gates and his wife run the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has contributed \$1.75 billion to support research, development and delivery of COVID-19 treatments among others.—Kyodo ■



The 2019/20 Champions League was one of the leading competitions completed behind closed doors due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/MIGUEL A. LOPES**

Tuchel appointed Chelsea manager on 18-month deal

LONDON — Thomas Tuchel was appointed Chelsea manager on an 18-month contract on Tuesday (Jan 26), tasked with hauling the underperforming Blues back into the Champions League next season.

The 47-year-old German replaces sacked Frank Lampard to become the 13th Chelsea boss

since Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003.

"I would like to thank Chelsea FC for their confidence in me and my staff," said Tuchel.

"We all have the greatest respect for Frank Lampard's work and the legacy he created at Chelsea.

"At the same time, I cannot wait to meet my new team and compete in the most exciting league in football. I am grateful to now be part of the Chelsea family – it feels amazing!"

Tuchel will take charge for the first time when Wolves visit Stamford Bridge in the Premier League on Wednesday.—AFP ■