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Saturday, 5 September 2020

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds videoconference with ASEAN Ambassadors in commemoration of ASEAN Day and exchanges information in response to COVID-19 pandemic



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds meeting online with ASEAN Ambassadors in commemoration of the 53rd Anniversary of the Founding of ASEAN Day on 4 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

IN commemoration of the 53rd Anniversary of the Founding of ASEAN, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a videoconference with the ASEAN Ambassadors to Myanmar yesterday at 10 am from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw and exchanged views on national efforts of ASEAN Member States and shared information, experiences and best practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ambassadors from Viet Nam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Charge d' Affaires a.i. of Brunei Darussalam participated in the videoconference.

In her welcome remarks, the State Counsellor said that although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from holding usual ASEAN Day celebration, the virtual Meeting of today has enabled us to maintain ASEAN's tradition of solidarity and togetherness on annual ASEAN Day. She acknowledged the important role the ASEAN Missions in respective ASEAN Member States in raising ASEAN awareness and fostering a sense of belonging among the peoples of ASEAN. She also appreciated the ASEAN Missions in Yangon for their effective cooperation in arranging relief flights for Myanmar citizens. She commended the exemplary leadership role of Viet Nam as the ASEAN Chair

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amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19. In the collective responses to the global pandemic, she stressed the need to work towards a speedy implementation of the "Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Econom-

ic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 pandemic".

In sharing the measures taken by the Government of Myanmar in the prevention, containment and treatment of

COVID-19, the State Counsellor stated that while undertaking real-time responses and updating the public on the situation in a timely manner, the Government has put in place stricter 'stay-at-home measures' in five townships in Rakhine State and seven townships in Yangon Region. She added that restrictions on the entry of international travellers to the country and temporary visa restrictions have been extended until the end of September. She stated that adhering to the principle of "leaving no one behind", the Government has come up with a Plan of Action which focuses on vulnerable groups, including IDPs and people with disabilities.

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2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020

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Then, the ASEAN Ambassadors exchanged views on the COVID-19 situation in their respective countries and efforts taken by their Governments in addressing the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19. Then, the State Counsellor and the ASEAN Ambassadors cor-

dially discussed and exchanged information, experiences and best practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the discussions, the State Counsellor highlighted the importance of strict adherence to the rules and regulations by each and everyone to overcome the challenges. She also underscored the need to ensure the smooth flow of trade

She stated that adhering to the principle of "leaving no one behind", the Government has come up with a Plan of Action which focuses on vulnerable groups, including IDPs and people with disabilities.

especially essential products including food, medicine and urgent medical supplies during the difficult time. She appreciated the efforts taken by each ASEAN Member State in addressing the COVID-19 and encouraged to continue working together to make sure that post-COVID-19 period is better than pre-COVID-19 one.—MNA

MoPFI hands over 4 ambulances to MoHS

THE Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) handed over four ambulances to the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A ceremony to hand over the ambulances was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports and attended by Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win said the ministry has sold a total of 12 ambulances to the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports in 2019-2020FY.

The four ambulances were handed over in first batch yesterday, and remaining eight vehicles will also be handed over in this month.

Inside the vehicles were installed with Italian Brand Spancer medical equipment and Turkey Brand Trimming Part. The standard type ambulances

were installed with 12 medical equipment.

Depending on order letters, the ministry will manufacture the ambulances of basic type and advance type.

If the Ministry of Health and Sports additionally purchases medical supplies with CERP fund, the ministry is prepared for fulfilling the required medical supplies.

The ministry will distribute the medical supplies in accordance with international standard GMP guidelines.

Union Minister U Thaug Tun said COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP was adopted on 27 April 2020. Relevant state/region governments are carrying out the CERP tasks with seven goals.

Under CERP, a total of US\$ 1.2 billion and Japanese Yen 30 billion loans were obtained, and the assistance of US\$84.53 million, €6.2 million, K10 million and Japanese Yen 2billion were received, he added.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said that the four ambulances would be used in COVID-19 control processes.

He expressed thanks to the



Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry hands over four ambulances to Ministry of Health and Sports on 4 September. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry for manufacturing the vehicles and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations for international assistance.

The assistance of the ministries is very beneficial for the public in battling against COV-

ID-19.

The ministry is also producing paramedics who can well operate the medical equipment on the ambulances, he added.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein handed over the documents for the four am-

bulances to Deputy Minister of Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein.

The Union Ministers and officials then inspected the ambulances. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development projects in southern Chin State; meets town elders in Kanpetlet, Mindat

VICE President U Henry Van Thio made an inspection tour to southern Chin State on 3 September.

The Vice President and party arrived in southern Chin State on 3 September afternoon. They inspected the construction project for extending the patient ward at the No.2 public hospital in Kanpetlet.

He also met with the local people at the meeting hall of the township General Administration Department office.

During the meeting, the Vice President explained the purpose of his visit was to witness at first hand the implementation status of regional development programmes during the term of the present government, to continue implementation and to listen to the requirements of the local people with respect to regional development.

He remarked that the development of a good transport network is the most crucial for least-developed Chin state, and that he made this visit to see the worst conditions for transportation during the rainy season.

He said the government was working for multi-sectoral development in Chin State, and that it would be possible to see the progress made when compared to the previous period.

Development projects would include upgrading Mindat college into university level, upgrade of Kanpetlet-Sami-Paletwa road into Myanmar-India trade route, development of road network in the state, constructions of Surbung airport in the northern part of the state and Lailenpi airport in the southern part which was



Vice President U Henry Van Thio speaks during the meeting with town elders in Mindat, Chin State on 3 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

now 75 per cent complete and project of Leimyo hydropower plant for Chin State.

The Vice President also provided suggestions for commercial plantation and production of elephant foot yam tuber, coffee and avocado, finding ways to get loans for the local businesses in agriculture and SMEs, and also spoke of the need of local people to cooperate with the government in development programmes.

Local people in Kanpetlet Township requested for construction of a mini airfield near Kanlaung village, new GAD office, town hall and converting the Kyindwe-Laungshe motor road into a tar road.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Minister

U Tin Myint, state government minister U Shwe Htee Yo, Director-General U Aung Myint Oo and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Soe replied to the discussions.

The Vice President then presented cash awards to the volunteers who took part in COVID-19 measures in Kanpetlet, and Deputy Minister U Tin Myint provided cash assistance to the staff members of the township GAD (General Affairs Department).

The Vice President and party then proceeded to the factory that produces dried elephant foot yam tuber, where Secretary of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association U Kyaw Thu reported on the joint-venture production of this tropical tuber

crop in contract farming system.

In response to the discussions, the Vice President advised the farmers to promote the cultivation of this crop and production of its value-added products which could increase income up to three times.

The factory uses modern technology to dry the natural elephant foot yam tuber by hot air circulation and can produce 300 tonnes of dried products which will be sold to foreign countries.

On arrival at the Government Technical High School in Mindat, Principal U Aung Htike presented a briefing about the school.

The Vice President gave instructions on the upgrade of the school road for all seasons, construction of a dormitory and

a land retaining wall at the place where the landslide occurred.

The school is conducting the following courses: construction course, electronics course, automobile course, electrical course and research methods, as well as short-term courses for computer, motorcycles and home electrical wiring.

During the meeting with Mindat town elders, the Vice President talked about regional development, upgrade of college, cultivation of elephant foot yam tuber, coffee and avocado, export markets, mithun (Cattle of Mountain) breeding, upgrade of road infrastructure and the 620-MW hydropower project.

He also reminded adherence to the prevention guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports from COVID-19 and cooperation of people in this measure, voting in multiparty democracy elections on 8 November this year and cooperation of people and government in development programmes.

Local people then requested for local requirements such as construction town hall, household water supplies, office for the Road Transport Administration Department, the appointment of dentist, the school for nursing and midwives, the appointment of school teachers, school buildings and establishment of township-level government offices.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, state government ministers U Soe Htet, U Shwe Htee Yo and Director-General Dr Soe Oo gave replies to the discussions

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented cash awards to the volunteers who took part in COVID-19 measures in Kanpetlet, and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing provided cash assistance to the staff members of Mindat Township GAD.

The meeting came to a close after concluding remarks by Vice President U Henry Van Thio

He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and Major-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Permanent Secretary U Ye Naing, the directors-general and officials during the meetings with local people in Kanpetlet and Mindat townships. —MNA ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party inspect elephant foot yam drying factory in Mindat Town, Chin State on 3 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

"People are the key"

Union Minister U Min Thu meets Tatkon election sub-commission



Union Minister U Min Thu discusses administrative procedures for successful holding of 2020 General Election on 4 September 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu held a meeting with chairperson and members of Tatkon election sub-commission at the Government Administration Office in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the sub-commission to work together on ensuring voting rights of eligible voters and voter list accuracy for 2020 General

election and to strictly adhering to the COVID-19 instructions.

The meeting was attended by Township Administrator U Zaw Min, Township election sub-commission chairperson U Soe Tint Thein, head of the township election sub-commission office Daw Mya Thanda Htay, and Head of Township Immigration and Population Office U Tun Tun Min. Tatkon Township announced first voter list from 25 July to 14

August in which 2,939 people added their names with Form 3, 1,325 rejected with Form 4 and 1,313 submitted data-correction with Form 4 (c).

There are 55 wards and village-tracts in the township with over 170,000 eligible voters. The township designated a total of 135 polling stations for coming election.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 24/2020

1st Waning of Wagaung 1382
3rd September 2020

Termination of duties of Kayah State Chief Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in the article 263 (e) sub-section (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the section 80 of Union Government and the article 55 of Region or State Government Law, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, has been terminated from his office.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Correction

Please read "Kayah" instead of "Chin" in Order 24/2020 of the Office of the President titled "Termination of duties of Kayah State Chief Minister" on page-4 of the 4 September Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The GNLM apologizes for the error.—Ed

Government of Myanmar marks important milestone toward unbundled New Urban Development Area of Yangon City

THE Government of Myanmar yesterday announced the awarding of a contract to Roland Berger Co. Ltd., for end-to-end for consulting services to finalize a Swiss Challenge tendering process for the recently announced New Industrial Park and Essential Ancillary Infrastructure as part of an unbundled New Development Area of Yangon City project.

Upon announcing the winner, U Thaug Tun, Union Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations stated:

"Today we mark an important milestone. We are taking the first steps toward the realization of our vision of a new modern city on the other side of the Yangon River. In keeping with the times and the need to create more quality jobs to

mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's economy, we have decided to focus first on the setting-up of the industrial zone. The unbundling of the development project, while safeguarding its commercial viability, will ensure that international global best practice is adhered to, including through open international competitive tender-

ing."

Roland Berger is a leading global consultancy firm, whose work in Myanmar has included advising on crucial economic reforms, including telecoms and banking liberalization, infrastructure development, and state-owned enterprise reform since establishing a permanent presence in Yangon in 2012.

Consultancy services will cover the end-to-end preparation and execution of the Swiss Challenge process, including support for communicating the outcome of the process to external stakeholders as well as support to the negotiation, preparing, revising and signing of the concession agreement.

Key projects to be developed will include an industrial park, low-cost housing estates, water supply and sanitation systems, waste management and other essential infrastructure. Projects

to be developed are expected to contribute to Myanmar's continued sustainable development, creating new quality employment opportunities, including within the country's rapidly expanding manufacturing sector that has proven resilient despite challenges posed by COVID-19.

The event was attended by the Myanmar Swiss Challenge Tender Committee chaired by U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communication, with Dr U Set Aung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, U Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and U Ye Min Oo, Minister for Planning and Finance, Yangon Region Government serving as members, and Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Secretary, Yangon City Development Committee serving as Secretary.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaug Tun announces awarding of a contract to Roland Berger Co. Ltd., for end-to-end for consulting services to finalize a Swiss Challenge tendering process on 4 Sept. **PHOTO: MNA**

Everyone should be very careful

THOSE who make postings on the social media should have genuine goodwill and sense of duty in their postings; what is important is for the facts to be correct; some people make postings on social media without much thought or without caring whether their postings were correct or not; in posting on social media, the first thing was to be correct; then it should be considered whether the posting was beneficial for the public; she said everyone should be very careful not to make the present tasks more difficult by postings made on social media.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020)



Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) holds meeting (12/2020) via videoconference



MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) (12/2020) Meeting held its regular meeting via videoconferencing system, yesterday morning. Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Vice-Chairman, Union Minister Dr Than Myint and members of the Commission participated in the meeting from their respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The meeting approved (8) new projects in the manufactur-

Union Minister U Thaung Tun (L) participates in Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) regular meeting online on 4 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

ing sector and other services sector as well as additional investments in (10) existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD (129.573) million, Kyat (139,438.332) million and (1,157) job opportunities are expected to be created.

By the end of August 2020, the countries/regions with the largest investments in Myanmar are Singapore, People's Republic of China and Thailand. The power sector accounted for 26.32%. This was followed by the oil and gas sector, accounting for 26.23% and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.31 % of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects MRTV, printing factory in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint looked into the works of Myanmar Radio and Television in Tatkon Township and printing factory in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister and party, together with Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing, arrived at the Small Studio (II) and inspected preparations in line with the directives of Ministry of Health and Sports for making broadcast campaign programmes of political parties which will contest the 2020 General Election.

This programme will be aired commencing 8 September.

They also inspected control rooms, and discussed productions of clear pictures of party flags and logos, laboratory test of swabs from the production

crew and other preparatory works.

The Union Ministry and party also looked around the Small Studio (I) for Farmer Channel and National Races Channel, the U-matic and Betacam where audio discs for radio and videotapes of television division are stored, archive of digital records, news studio, the HD system broadcast room Presentation II, MRTV HD broadcast room and the Auditorium where election campaign songs are being produced.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party visited the printing factory at the Kha Ye Pin junction of Zeyathiri Township and inspected the works.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects preparations for making broadcast campaign programmes of political parties on 4 Sept. **PHOTO: MNA**

National Advisory Committee holds meeting on rights, opportunities for women migrant workers

THE National Advisory Committee held a meeting on the rights and opportunities for women migrant workers in ASEAN region yesterday under the Safe and Fair Project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the International Labour Organization and the UN Women Myanmar.

Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung, Director-General for Department of Labour U Win Shein, Director-General for Department of Social Welfare Dr San San Aye, members of national consultative committee, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Ota Almgren of UN Resident Coordinator Office, EU chargé d'affaires Dr Johann Hess, Liaison Officer Mr Donglin Li of ILO Myanmar and Country Representative Mr Nicholas Burniat of UN Women

Myanmar joined the meeting.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the meeting was held with the aim of providing the effective ways in implementing the Safe and Fair Project, sharing advices to ILO and UN Women Myanmar, emerging of safe and fair migration, reducing the negative impacts of trafficking in persons, reviewing the results and reports of project.

According to the Safe and Fair Project, the preliminary training was provided to staff of committee on migrant workers and the Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) were opened in Hinthada, Aunglan and Loikaw and the new one will be in Mohnyin.

The officials of Ayeyawady Region need to conduct the educating programmes regarding the migration in line with the health guidelines of Nation-



Union Minister U Thein Swe (R) joins the meeting of National Advisory Committee via videoconference on 4 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA



al-level on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The relevant ministries and organizations also need to cooperate to overcome the challenges and to provide the women migrant workers not to lose their legal rights in workplaces, to protect them from violence,

to provide job opportunities for than 150,000 migrants who returned to the country during COVID-19 pandemic and to prioritize all the workers including migrant employers who were seriously hit by COVID-19 in forthcoming process of Safe and Fair Project.

Then, the officials of UN Resident Coordinator Office,

EU chargé d'affaires, ILO and UN Women Myanmar delivered remarks and briefed the migration, women's development programmes, 2020 working plans of Safe and Fair Project and other activities in ASEAN regions.—MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe emphasizes 'contact tracing' in containment of COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presides over daily meeting of his office on update situations of COVID-19 on 4 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held a coordination meeting at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to review the control measures against COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe explained the reason of

daily meetings to get information on real situations, to make response in real-time to share experiences in treatments and to reform control strategies.

He added the ministry's cooperation with the Rakhine State government and other rel-

evant organizations, and recognized the efforts at the hospitals.

A total of 128 health workers are providing volunteer services in Rakhine State until now.

The Union Minister remarked the number of confirmed cases is likely to increase

in next one and two weeks, and that the contact tracing to the people who have travel history to Rakhine State.

People who returned from Rakhine State are being investigated and control measures would be carried out especially in the areas where these persons reached.

As 75 per cent of positive cases have no symptoms, the disease has spread rapidly.

He also discussed the need of public participation in contact tracing scheme for the people with travel history to Rakhine State, and advised to increase control measures in other regions and states.

The MoHS is cooperating with the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 as social, economic, education and politic issues must be considered in addition to healthcare

sector.

Medicines and medical supplies are being sent to the Rakhine State by flights, while the state funds for control of COVID-19, financial assistance of UN agencies, international development partners, ADB, World Bank, Gavi, Global Fund, USAID, Access to Health Fund and grants from Japan are being used in control measures; these supplies are also being sent to other areas in addition to Rakhine State.

After the discussion of the Union Minister, senior health officials presented the ongoing situations of COVID-19 at regions and states.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win also presented their discussions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Presidential pardon awarded to 55 inmates who passed matriculation exams

THE President of Myanmar has granted a pardon to 55 inmates who passed the matriculation examination in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years, and they were released from the respective prisons yesterday

morning.

The pardon was granted under Section 401, sub-section 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and it was aimed for praising their success in the exams, consideration of social ground

and continuing their education as ordinary persons with understanding of the government's good intention.

Among these 55 inmates, the remaining prison terms for 13 inmates is about one-year

term; 29 inmates passed the exams with 2 distinctions and above and 13 inmates with 1 distinction and without distinctions.

Additional 38 inmates could enjoy parole. Among them, two

inmates passed with two distinctions and 36 persons with 1 distinction and without distinctions in the exams.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.

MoSWRR provides CERP cash assistance to PWDs in Magway, Yangon, Bago

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a meeting for cash assistance to the people with disabilities in Magway Region, Yangon Region and Bago Region yesterday.

The assistance was given under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan to remedy the country's economy during the COVID-19 period, and the meeting was held online.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Directors-General and the Social Affairs Ministers for Magway and Yangon regions, the Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs in Bago Region and relevant directors from Social Welfare Departments in respective states and regions, responsible persons from



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye joins a ceremony to present cash assistance to PWDs under CERP on 4 August. PHOTO: MNA

disability organizations and people with disabilities participated the ceremony online.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said that the CERP was to reduce the economic impacts caused

by COVID-19 in the country; the government had been working for a genuine democratic nation that can ensure basic human rights to all people and the ministry needed policy, law, strategy and plan for hu-

man rights activities.

For that, the Early Childhood Development Law was amended in 2018; as children need not only care and development but also protection, the new Child Law (2019) was en-

acted; then, a Youth Policy for young persons had been formulated and the ministry was trying to implement the strategy.

The Union Minister also said that the bill for Prevention of Violence against Women Law had been submitted to the Hluttaw; the ministry is working for drafting regulations of the law for PWDs, while trying for the rights of each PWD by forming local committees under the national committees. He also talked about the social pension for the elderly persons; establishment of a genuine democratic government, a Democratic Federal Union and cash assistance especially to more vulnerable such as pregnant women, the PWDs and the elderly persons under the CERP.

The Union Minister also thanked the staff and

the relevant departments for their efforts in the mechanism of the ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The social affairs minister of Magway Region said greetings and the regional director of Social Welfare Department handed over K336,720,000 cash assistance for 11,224 PWDs. Then, the minister provided the cash assistance to the PWDs who attended the ceremony.

The director of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department presented K590,160,000 for 19,672 PWDs, the director of Bago Region Social Welfare Department handed over K466,290,000 for 15,543 PWDs in Bago Region respectively.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)

ACC officials attend first intersessional meeting on anti-corruption

OFFICIALS from Anti-Corruption Commission attended the first intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly that was held online from 2 to 4 September 2020.

The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention, as an intergovernmental group of States parties, against Corruption also organized first resumed 11st session online from 31 August to 2 September.

Representatives from

the United Nations Convention member countries including Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission's Daw Myat Myat Soe and Anti-Corruption Commission Office Directors U Lin Wai Aung and Daw Aye Myat Mon attended the meeting.

UNGASS first intersessional meeting discussed matters relating to implementation of anti-corruption producers that are included at UN anti-corruption convention and international cooperation in preventing and eliminating corruption.

The meeting detailed about technical assis-

tance exchange and experiencing difficulties and challenges in preventing corruption, ongoing tasks and strengthening international asset recovery cooperation.

They also highlighted the political declaration bill that was drawn up by member countries and economic alliances and that will be adopted at UNGASS-2021.

ACC supported the drawing up of the political declaration bill and reported on the commission's efforts on preventing and eliminating corruption.

They also discussed implementations of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP (2018-2030) goals in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs and Anti-Corruption Strategy Plan (2018-2021), ongoing year-by-year work plans and anti-corruption cooperation. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar officials of Anti-Corruption Commission attend first intersessional meeting against corruption. PHOTO: MNA

Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press conference



Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds a press conference on 4 August. PHOTO: MNA

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun explained the Tatmadaw's donation of medical supplies and food during the COVID-19 pandemic, measures to conduct COVID-19 prevention, control and treat-

ment activities effectively, suspension of military activities from 1 to 30 September, except in the areas of groups declared by the government as terrorist groups, armed clashes in ceasefire areas from 1 January to 1 September, seizures of K761 billion worth of drugs including over 229.6 million stimulant tablets, 8,352kg of ICE during this period, com-

petition of Tatmadaw's tank team in International Army Games-2020 held in Russia and the first part of Bumi Phassa Mudra Sitting Buddha Image to be conveyed to Nay Pyi Taw.

He also replied to the questions of media, according to the report of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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No leniency towards COVID-19 rules violators

AFTER warning that anyone who breaks COVID-19 tough rules to limit the fast-spreading of coronavirus on 2nd September, the authorities in regions and states are tough on anyone who fails to comply with quarantine measures.

Nearly 1,000 were arrested on 3rd and 4th September nights for breaking the midnight-to-4pm curfew, and over 110 cars and 18 motorcycles were also seized.

Similar measures were taken against the violators in other regions and states which have imposed the same curfew.

With the number of positive coronavirus cases reaching nearly 1,271 in the country yesterday, the Union Government has stepped up its fight against COVID-19 by warning that those who do not follow quarantine rules will face legal punishment.

Meanwhile, current situation of the pandemic demands quick tracing and testing, which is critical to containing outbreaks.

According to the nature of epidemics, the number of positive cases is expected to rise in one or two weeks as one case can quickly be many.

The people who had a travel history to Rakhine State after 10 August are highly advised to fully cooperate with the authorities in containing the infectious disease. Or, they would become violators under the country's natural disaster management law.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a natural disaster, and those who do not comply with the law can face fines and even prison time under Section-2 (b) of the Disaster Management Law.

The outcome of our country's battle with the pandemic depends on our ability to follow the health guidelines and rules.

low the health guidelines and rules.

Hence, they are also urged to understand that contact tracing and check-ups for the infection is the most effective strategy now to limit the spread in the country.

Coronavirus could be 'under control' in weeks if everyone abides by rules to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has the power to strictly maintain COVID-19 mandatory orders.

There would be no leniency towards all forms of foul play during COVID-19 preventive procedures.

Those who ignore rules put in place to protect people deserve imprisonment and fines; this is the only appropriate penalty.

As Myanmar undergoes comprehensive reform, and moves towards a modern state that is peaceful, democratic, prosperous and open, Viet Nam firmly supports Myanmar's path of development most appropriate to its national conditions: Ambassador of Viet Nam

The following is an exclusive interview with H.E. Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Q: Excellency, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, could you please share with us Viet Nam's significant achievements over the course of 75 years of development?

75 years ago, on the 2nd of September 1945, Viet Nam's beloved first President, the great Ho Chi Minh, proclaimed independence for the fledgling Democratic Republic in Ha Noi's Ba Dinh square. Following myriad hardships, and innumerable sacrifices to safeguard national independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and self-determination, today, the most cherished goals of the Declaration: [inalienable rights]... including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness have been achieved. Maintaining the preconditions conducive to continued realization of these goals today remain the chief priorities of our Government.

The people of Viet Nam today are triumphant. Triumphant not only in war, but also in nation building and development. We have defended our sovereignty, vanquished "enemies of the people" - hunger, illiteracy, and financial distress, and embarked on a path of international integration and sustainable development.

Since 1986, with the advent of the "Open Door" policy, Viet Nam's economy has taken off. GDP has grown nearly 20 folds, to \$261 billion USD in 2019; GDP per capita has grown a dozen folds, to roughly 2,700 USD. This has translated into growth and successes in other social areas as well, such as in population growth, growing roughly 50% to around 97 million people, or in literacy - 95% (internationally recognized) in 2019. Viet Nam is among the few countries that had achieved the United Nations Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, and is on solid footing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Development Agenda. For three quarters of a century, Viet Nam has remained steadfast in its pursuit of human-centric goals, endeavoring towards the goals of "a prosperous people, a strong nation, democracy, equality, and modernity". The mantra of the current government is "no one left behind".

Today, Viet Nam enjoys high economic growth, and continually improving living standards. The basis for this has been socio-political stability, undergirded by national security, defense as well as enhanced regulatory frameworks and respect for the rule of law. Over the past 30 years, Viet Nam has pursued a policy of openness and proactive international integration. It now enjoys relations with over 190 countries and territories,

hundreds of international organizations, and investors from all over the world are welcome to seek opportunities, and do business in Viet Nam on an equal footing.

In terms of foreign policy, Viet Nam has determined that it will be a responsible member of the international community by contributing positively to peace and cooperation. It has done so first through accession to regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, ASEM, APEC, WTO, and has become much more active at the UN and within UN bodies. As part of these international mechanisms, Viet Nam pursues its goals through an independent, principled approach. In addition, Viet Nam's network of 30 strategic and comprehensive partners, and membership in a dozen free trade agreements, including new-generation FTAs such as the CPTPP and EVFTA has entwined its interests with those trade accords, and has given it crucial importance in the regional and global supply chains.

In 2020 Viet Nam assumes leadership in a trio of important mechanisms: ASEAN chairmanship, ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly presidency, and non-permanent member cum rotating Chair of the United Nations Security Council. In these endeavours, we recognize that:

a) Globalization and international integration remain key drivers for mankind development, despite certain setbacks. Countries need to work together for more sustainable, humanistic and safer globalization;

b) Multilateral mechanisms are in need of reforms to be more effective, representative and responsive, with the United Nations at the core. Organizations such as ASEAN are part and parcel of this process, all working together for a fair and sustainable world order;

c) Peace, stability, cooperation and development are the aspiration of all nations and people, and to that end, we are all equal. All countries should uphold the rule of law and respect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate interests of one another;

d) Small and medium-sized countries make up the majority of the international community, and are increasingly playing an important role in the world. As such, their voices should be heard and respected more;

e) In this quickly changing world, stronger cooperation is required for more effective response to non-traditional security challenges such as pollution, climate change, natural disasters and pandemics such as Covid-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused



Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivers a speech on 75th Anniversary of National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (online meeting) held on 2nd September, 2020 in Yangon.

PHOTO: THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY

great change and damage to the world. It has morphed from an emergency health crisis, into socio-political, socio-economic crises and reached every country in a matter of months. It has impacted nations, governments, people, and even the way we interact with each other. It has exacerbated and fast-forward emergent trends, to such an extent that a "new normal" has set in, and countries are now left to adapt to this new circumstance. Covid-19 has clearly shown how interdependent countries are today, and the critical role that international and regional cooperation, particularly with regards to access to vaccine research and production, has to play because in this day and age, "no one country can go it alone".

Viet Nam and Myanmar are very close partners. The official name that we have attached to this relationship is Comprehensive Cooperative partnership. What's more, we are members of the ASEAN family. Viet Nam's recent gift to Myanmar during the initial stage of the Covid-19 pandemic is continued animated proof of the tradition of solidarity and close assistance that the two countries have always enjoyed since our ties were established in modern history by President Ho Chi Minh and General Aung San. It is also vivid proof of Viet Nam's commitment to helping its "family members", particularly in trying times. The fact that major Vietnamese businesses and investors, such as Mytel, have had a positive presence in the Myanmar market, speaks to the depth of our cooperation. At multilateral forums, our cooperation is just as substantive, with both sides working to advance national and ASEAN interests.

With such a close partnership, Viet Nam's future and vision for a strong, united ASEAN would not be possible without a strong, united and independent Myanmar. Our countries' future are inseparable from peace, stability, cooperation and the shared prosperity of the region and the world. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold in unpredictable ways, Viet Nam hopes to work closely with Myanmar, as well as other members of the international community, to fight it effectively and foster economic recovery and development together.

Q: Excellency, in 2020, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Viet Nam's joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), what contribution has Viet Nam made to ASEAN, your opinion in the cooperation between the two countries in ASEAN, especially in 2020, when all countries are facing the Covid-19 pandemic.

July 28, 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of Viet Nam's accession to ASEAN. This year, the anniversary coincides with Viet Nam's 2nd chairmanship of the organization.

Joining the Association in 1995 was a major milestone for Viet Nam and for ASEAN as well. It helped turn Southeast Asia "from a land of discord to a land of concord, from confrontation to cooperation, and from poverty to dynamic development". Beside the European Union, ASEAN is another model of success for regional cooperation. ASEAN-led forums have drawn together major countries, and is valued by all world powers.

When Viet Nam joined ASEAN, the Cold War had just ended and its international standing and economic largesse

remained modest. Much has changed in the past 25 years. Today, ASEAN is home to about 650 million people with a combined GDP of over 3.2 trillion USD and trade revenue of 2.8 trillion USD. The 10 Southeast Asian nations today are part of a united community with rising prestige in the Asia-Pacific and the world.

For ASEAN, Viet Nam's accession as its seventh member helped speed up the expansion of the bloc to all 10 countries in the region, further consolidating peace and stability in a region that has special geo-political and geo-economic importance, one that connects the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Upon becoming a member, Viet Nam actively pushed for the joining of other continental Southeast Asian countries into the bloc, with Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia becoming members in 1997 and 1999.

As a member of ASEAN, Viet Nam has taken a proactive and responsible part in the Association's work, including institution building such as the ASEAN Charter the ASEAN Community Roadmap, various development master plans... It has pursued Community building across ASEAN's three pillars. Through important initiatives and contributions, such as expanding the EAS and establishing the ADMM mechanism, Viet Nam has actively worked with other member states to maintain ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

Membership in ASEAN has brought about significant and practical benefits for Viet Nam. Over the past 25 years, ASEAN membership has helped Viet Nam join other members in building a region of friendship, cooperation free of wars. This is the preconditions for any successful nation-building process. In addition to promoting intra-bloc cooperation, Viet Nam has set up strategic partnership and comprehensive partnership frameworks with neighbouring and regional countries, and important partners.

ASEAN membership has also helped Viet Nam in the course of international integration and attracting resources for development, enabling it to push ahead with reforms, expand markets, increase exports, and attract investments and ODA.

ASEAN membership has also allowed Viet Nam to twice chair ASEAN. As Chair of the organization in 2020, Viet Nam has been able to set the tone for cooperation during the year "Cohesive and Responsive", to allow the Association to push ahead in building an ASEAN Community and further promoting ASEAN's centrality in a changing world.

SEE PAGE-10

U Kyaw Moe Tun appointed as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York.—MNA

U Myint Thu appointed as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.—MNA

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 13:00 hrs M.S.T on 4-9-2020)

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Nearly 1,000 arrested in Ygn in 2 days for curfew breach

By Nyein Nyein

NEARLY 1,000 people have been arrested in Yangon in only two days for violation of the curfew to stem the spread of coronavirus, according to the Yangon Regional Police Force.

Authorities took legal action against 647 people including 618 males and 29 females, 111 vehicles and 18 motorbikes on 2 September and 324 people including 308 males and 16 females, 73 cars and 24 motorbikes on 3 September under Section 188 of the Penal Code in Yangon region for breaking of the curfew.



Police check a motorcycle in Yangon on 3 September after a curfew was imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Anyone who fails to comply with the curfew has to face one-month imprisonment or a fine of K20,000 or both under Section

188 of the Penal Code. Moreover, those who go against the law may endanger the life, health and security, and in that case, they may face six months' imprisonment or a fine of K100,000 or both.

The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 imposed a nighttime curfew from 10 pm to 4 am on 18 April in Yangon region to prevent and control the pandemic. On 15 May, the curfew hour was changed into from midnight to 4 am from the previous 10 pm to 4 am local time.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Highway accidents kill 17 in August

THERE were 48 reported traffic accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway in August 2020, leaving 17 people dead, according to Nay Pyi Taw highway traffic police force.

This year August was recorded with the highest number of casualties in eight months of 2020.

"There were a total of 48 road accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway, killing 17 -- 12 males and five females-- injur-

ing 51 others -- 30 males and 21 females in August 2020. August saw the highest number of traffic accidents. The highway accidents were mostly attributed to the human error -- over speeding, negligent driving, drowsy driving and others. Weather condition is one of the causes of road accidents. Weather condition means flooding or unclear vision," said an official from Nay Pyi Taw highway traffic police force.

Out of 48 cases, half of the possibilities of road accident were caused by high-speed, whereas three by reckless road crossing pedestrians, one by drowsy driving, nine by reckless motorcyclists, seven by reckless drivers, three by tyre bursts and one by lousy weather.

There were a total of 368 accidents, leaving 74 dead and 594 injured on Yangon-Mandalay highway from January to August 2020. Among them, a total of sev-

en persons were killed and 15 others injured in 25 cases of the highway accident in January, five killed and 26 others injured in 27 cases of the calamity in February, nine died and 18 injured in 36 cases in March, two dead and 47 injured in 20 cases in April, six died and 33 injured in 34 cases in May, six killed and 33 injured in 41 cases in June, and seven died and 71 injured in 62 cases in July. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

As Myanmar undergoes comprehensive reform, and moves towards a modern...

FROM PAGE-9

Over the course of a quarter of a century, Viet Nam has gradually become an integral part of ASEAN. Its ASEAN policy has become an important part of Viet Nam's foreign policy. Through this policy, Viet Nam links its development to ASEAN's development. As such, as Viet Nam continues to grow, it grows more ready to shoulder more of the Association's common work, and to assist members to better address their issues as well.

Over the past seven months, Viet Nam have demonstrated its "cohesive and responsive" spirit. It has pushed for a coordinated response among ASEAN members against the pandemic, encouraged experience sharing, best practices to overcome challenges and sound ideas and solutions to boost economic recovery and development.

As Myanmar undergoes comprehensive reform, and moves towards a modern state that is peaceful, democratic, prosperous and open, Viet Nam firmly supports Myanmar's path of development most appropri-

ate to its national conditions. Viet Nam looks forward to and is ready to assist Myanmar in maintaining its development momentum, as well as political stability, economic development and social harmony so that it can achieve national peace and reconciliation as soon as possible. Together, we can help consolidate and promote ASEAN solidarity and resilience, strengthen ASEAN centrality, and address common issues of concern.

Q: Ambassador, 2020 marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Viet Nam and Myanmar. With similarities in history and development, as Vietnam's highest representative in Myanmar, what message do you have for the future of this relationship?

Viet Nam and Myanmar established diplomatic relations immediately following Viet Nam's reunification. Over the past 45 years, Viet Nam and Myanmar have built up a solid, trustworthy, and multifaceted traditional friendship. The two countries have supported and helped each

other in the struggle for national liberation and in the course of national construction. Recently, our Comprehensive Partnership has helped to further develop relations substantively and effectively at all levels. In the past four years, we have seen exchanges of 4 high-level delegations. Our heads of Government regularly meet and exchange views at regional and international forums.

Thanks to direct flights, people to people and business-to-business exchanges have increased rapidly as well. Two-way trade has increased rapidly to nearly 1 billion USD. Viet Nam is currently the 7th largest investor in Myanmar with more than 200 businesses operating in country.

At the moment, we are both responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in similar ways, based on the motto: "No one left behind". I hope that in adapting to the "new normal", the authorities of the two countries will continue to create favorable conditions for businesses to trade and invest, as well as provide maximum support for citizens in returning

home. Given such strong political, economic and cultural ties, Viet Nam will continue to work with Myanmar to bolster bilateral relations. Personally, I am very honoured to have the chance to act as a bridge in furthering relations between the two countries, to assist Myanmar in the course of development of a peaceful, stable and developed nation.

Beyond our bilateral relations, I look forward to working with Myanmar colleagues, as members of ASEAN, to strengthen the rule of law and enhance ASEAN's centrality role in the regional architecture, further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and other regional and international organizations, such as the UN. In the current context, we have the chance to not only promote solidarity and resilience of the Association, but also highlight ASEAN's centrality in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region. —GNLM

(The Views expressed in this article are those of the author; the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar)

Rice export meets target this year despite export volume drops via border routes

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH the volume of rice export via border route dropped, Myanmar met the export target in 2019-2020 financial year, said Vice-Chairperson U Aung Than Oo of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

MRF targeted to export 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice this FY. Myanmar has shipped over 2.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice including 625,214 tonnes via border route and 1.8 million tonnes of rice and broken rice via sea route from 1 October to 21 August this FY.

The export of rice met the

target this FY thanks to the rising volume of rice export via sea route, according to MRF.

The rice export volume dropped via land border route after China had granted export of rice through a legitimate trade channel, he added.

“Last year, there was illegal trading to China. Now, the traders export rice to China legally and the export volume has also dropped this FY,” he said. Moreover, Myanmar earned US\$738.329 million from the export of rice and broken rice as of 21 August, this FY.

In the current financial year, 694,222 tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported



(FILES) Rice bags are being loaded onto lorries at a port in Yangon on 18 September 2017.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

to China, followed by African countries with 652,378 tonnes, EU member states with 489,478 tonnes, ASEAN countries with 440,560 tonnes and other coun-

tries with 181,708 tonnes respectively.

Moreover, Myanmar exports rice to 66 countries and broken rice to 60 countries,

according to MRF. Myanmar has shipped over 2.3 million of rice and broken in the previous financial year.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting 2/2020 to be held in September

By Nyein Nyein

THE 2nd 2020 Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting will be held in Korean Business Development Centre Yangon from 21 to 23 September, according to SME Development Department, the Ministry of Planning, Finance

and Industry (MoPFI).

This online B2B meeting will be held under a government to government (G2G) programme to develop small and medium enterprises and begin businesses of Myanmar and Korea.

During the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic around

the world, 2020 Myanmar-Korea technology exchange online B2B meeting was held for the first time from 27 to 29 July. The first meeting was jointly held by the MoPFI, the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and Korean SMEs and Startups Agency. The first meeting was held under the tech-

nology exchange programme to escalate the momentum of businesses and to re-establish the companies in Myanmar.

Those Myanmar companies connected with the Korea businesses can make contact with sok.kbdc@gmail.com or call +95-01- 9253794.

The Republic of Korea

is currently the sixth-largest investor in Myanmar, with an investment worth US\$88.698 million as of July, this FY, according to the official statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Bilateral trade with Bangladesh rises by \$727 mln in current FY

THE border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh hit US\$748.36 million as of 21 August in the current financial year of 2019-2020, said a statistical report by the Ministry of Commerce.

The border trade during the period had increased by \$727 million, compared with that of the same period last year when the total bilateral border trade was only \$21.03 million.

Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade during the period included Myanmar's export of \$444 million and its imports of \$304 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries in-



Workers load goods into a vessel for export. PHOTO: HEIN HTET

clude bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's border trade with four neighbouring countries—China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh totalled \$9.56 billion, shared by \$6.45 billion in export and \$3.11 billion in import. —GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MoHS receives N-95 masks from Embassy of Canada



Ministry of Health and Sports receives N-95 masks from Embassy of Canada on 4 Sept. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Embassy of Canada donated N-95 masks worth of 489,934 Canadian dollar to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday in Yangon to mitigate and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in Myanmar.

At the donation ceremony, Political and Trade Counselor Ms Jennifer Hart from the

Embassy of Canada in Yangon presented 70,000 masks to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Director-General for Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun received the donation with thanks and returned the certificate of honour. — Zaw Min Latt (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Myanmar brings 151 nationals back home by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing back 151 Myanmar nationals stranded in Singapore. As they arrived in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Re-

gion government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

For the repatriation of Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central

Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries, and has organized 16 relief flights to pick up Myanmar nationals stuck in Singapore to date.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returned from Singapore line up for immigration service at Yangon International Airport on 4 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

60 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 Sept, total figure rises to 1,171

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 1,171 after 60 new cases were reported on 4 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports.

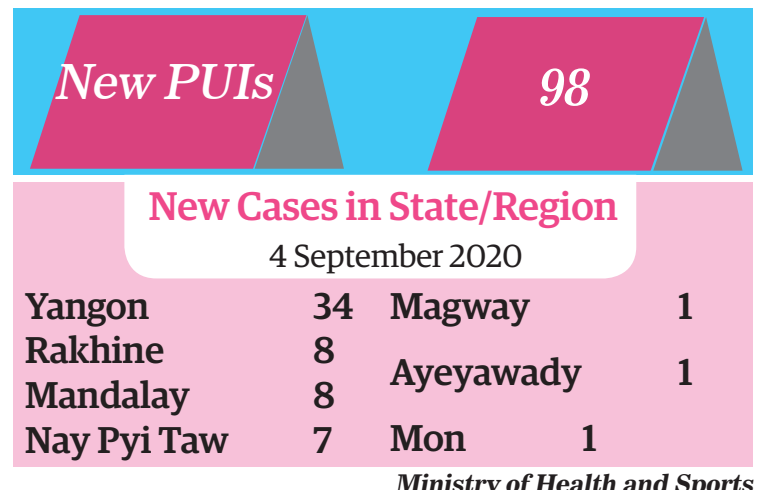
Out of the 60 new cases, 34 from Yangon Region, 8 are from Rakhine State, 8 from Mandalay Region, 7 from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, 1 from Magway Region, 1 from Ayeyawady Region and 1 from Mon State.

Among these 1,171 confirmed cases, 7 died, 359 have recovered, 356 have been discharged from hospitals and 98 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 4 September 2020



Recovery Update on 4 September 2020 after two consecutive tests



Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (099N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (099N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAGNUM POWER

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAGNUM POWER VOY. NO. (2145)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-9-2020** 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS
CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AHU C

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AHU C VOY. NO. (V08/2020)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Russia promoting distrust in US vote-by-mail plans

MOSCOW — Russia is actively trying to undermine voters' faith in the US electoral system and especially in voting by mail ahead of the November 3 election, according to a Department of Homeland Security analysis Thursday.

The internal DHS analysis, first reported by ABC News and then oth-

er US media, says that at least since March 2020, "Russian malign influence actors have been amplifying allegations of election integrity issues in new voting processes and vote-by-mail programmes."

It says that through media and social networks, the Russians have encouraged Americans to fear voting fraud, large

counting errors and ballot mishandling by the postal service.

This argument is one that President Donald Trump hammers away at as he trails in the polls.

Russian media and proxy websites are also promoting the idea that voting by mail -- being pushed mainly to limit the risk of Covid-19 spreading

via in-person voting -- is being pressed by officials and policy makers to benefit specific candidates.

The online meddling activity took place during the party caucuses and primaries at the beginning of the year, but ramped up as the coronavirus began to spread and officials began promoting widespread voting by mail.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (218N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (218N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-9-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE

Facebook to ban new political ads on cusp of US election

WASHINGTON — Facebook said Thursday it will ban new political advertising the week before the US election, one of its most sweeping moves yet against disinformation as CEO Mark Zuckerberg warned of a "risk of civil unrest" after the vote.

The social media giant vowed to fact check premature claims of victory, stating that if a candidate tries to declare himself the winner before final votes are tallied "we'll add a label to their posts directing people to the official results."

And it promised to "add an informational label" to content seeking to delegitimize the results or claim that "lawful voting methods" will lead to fraud.

"Anyone who is saying the election is going to be fraudulent, I think that's



Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg testifies during a US House Committee on Energy and Commerce hearing about Facebook on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, April 11, 2018. PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/FILE

problematic," Zuckerberg said in a CBS interview on Thursday.

Facebook also started limiting its Messenger service to allow users to forward missives to no more than five people or groups at a time "to help curb the efforts of those looking to cause chaos, sow uncertainty or inad-

vertently undermine accurate information."

The moves follow sharp criticism of Facebook's handling of the 2016 presidential election, when it failed to restrict disinformation from Russian operatives that spread conspiracy theories and discouraged voting in some cases.—AFP ■

Search resumes for possible Beirut blast survivor after pulse detected

BEIRUT — Emergency crews scoured rubble Friday for a possible survivor in Beirut after the detection of a pulse drew crowds hopeful of a miracle one month on from a devastating explosion.

"We have excavated rubble but we haven't reached a conclusion yet," said George Abou Moussa of Lebanon's civil defence.

A specialist sensor device on Thursday had detected a pulse beneath a

levelled building between the hard-hit Gemmayzeh and Mar Mikhail districts, raising hopes that a survivor could be found more than four weeks after the disaster that killed at least 191 people.

Chilean rescue workers and Lebanese civil defence teams on Friday morning removed chunks of rubble with their hands, resuming an operation they had briefly paused overnight, an AFP photo-

grapher said.

The pulse they detected on Friday had already slowed significantly compared to a previous recording, said Nicholas Saade, who coordinates between Chilean rescue teams and their Lebanese counterparts. "After removing the big chunks we scanned again for heartbeats or respiration (and) it showed low beat/respiration" levels of seven per minute, he told AFP.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (3/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-037(20-21)	Mud Testing Equipment (9) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-038(20-21)	Portable Drilling Rig Complete Sets (Drilling Bit 3 1/2") (6) Nos	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-039(20-21)	Net Data Sever Machine & Seismic Interpretation Workstation (2) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-040(20-21)	Steel Ball Valves & Pipe Fittings (2) Groups	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-041(20-21)	Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (7) Units	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-042(20-21)	850 KW Alternator for Rig Engine (2) Sets	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-043(20-21)	Pipe Bending Machine (1) No	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-044(20-21)	Pumping Unit (5) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-045(20-21)	VHF Transceiver (Synthesized) (25W), VHF FM Transceiver Walkie Talkie (Synthesized) (5W) & Telephone Cable (3) Groups	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-046(20-21)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (4) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-047(20-21)	10 Ton Truck with Crane, 30 Ton Hydraulic Mobile Crane & 55 Ton Crawler Crane (3) Items	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-048(20-21)	50 Ton Tractor with Low Bed Trailer & High Bed Trailer (2) Items	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-049(20-21)	Accommodation Container (2) Items	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-050(20-21)	Skid Mounted Engine Driven Air Compressor (2) Sets	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-051(20-21)	33KV Current Transformer, 33/0.4 KV, 500 KVA Transformer & 11-6.6/0.4KV, 500 KVA Transformer (2) Items	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-052(20-21)	Water Analysis Laboratory Kit, Chiller Instrument, Gerharch Recirculation Cooler, Laboratory Centrifuge, Analytical Balance, Polarizing Petrographic Microscope (6) Items	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-053(20-21)	Welding Machine with Accessories & Transformer Welding Set with Accessories (2) Items	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-054(20-21)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine (3) Items	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-055(20-21)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (3) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-056(20-21)	5 Ton Truck Crane (2) Items	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-057(20-21)	Fuel Bowser (1200 Gals) (4 x 4) (2) Units	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-058(20-21)	Welding Electrode (3) Items	Ks
(w)	DMP/L-059(20-21)	10", 8", 6", 4" HFERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 Layer PE Coated Line Pipe (4) Items	Ks
(x)	DMP/L-060(20-21)	14" HFERW API 5L Grade X-46 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (49900) MTR	Ks
(y)	DMP/L-061(20-21)	20" LSAW API 5L Grade X-46 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (40250) MTR	Ks
(z)	DMP/L-062(20-21)	သာကေတကမ်းလွန်ရေနံအခြေစိုက်စခန်းတွင် ၂၀၀' x ၁၀၀' x ၂၆' x ၃" Store Godown (Steel Structure) တည်ဆောက်ခြင်း လုပ်ငန်း	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L-063(20-21)	ရန်ကင်း-ရွှေပြည်သာပိုက်လိုင်းပြုပြင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးစခန်းတွင် (၄) ခန်းတွဲ(၄)ထပ် ဝန်ထမ်းအိမ်ယာတည်ဆောက်ခြင်း (၇၉' x ၅၁' x ၄၄') RCC Building	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 4 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 5 October 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-10-2020, 12:00 pm.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

Towards native land of venerable Sayadaw U Bud

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

WE interestingly viewed a two-storey brick monastery similar to Nanmadaw Mei Nu Brick Monastery in Inwa. Thanks to Ko Pyae Phyong Aung from the administrator office of Nyaungkan Village-tract, I grasped a chance to pay visit to the precinct of such monastery among paddy fields outside Nyaungkan Village, the native land of venerable Sayadaw U Bud.

The monastery in Nyaungkan Village was built in similar design of Aungmyebonsan brick monastery built by Nanmadaw Mei Nu in Inwa. Local people call such monastery as second Nanmadaw Mei Nu Brick Monastery because of smaller than the latter.

We entered below the

monastery by bending the body. The lower part of the monastery was built with rooms as a tunnel. So, guides told me these rooms might be venues for monks in taking meditation. At present, only one monk has been residing at the monastery but we missed a chance to pay homage to the monk.

Nyaungkan Village was a significant place in archaeological field due to evidences of Bronze Age in excavation of Myanmar. Moreover, it was a native land of venerable Sayadaw U Budd.

Nyaungkan Village takes a position on the eastern bank of Chindwin River, five miles southwest of Budalin in Sagaing Region. It is located beside the asphalt road leading from Budalin to Kani.

Towards Nyaungkan

An express bus leaving Yangon arrived in Monywa in the early morning. Taking a break in Monywa, the bus continued the trip and arrived in Budalin at 10 am. After visiting Budalin Township General Administration Department, I continued the trip and arrived in Nyaungkan.

I made a trip to Nyaungkan in advance for making arrangements for excursion tour of undergraduate and post-graduate students from Archaeology Department of the Yangon University to make a field trip to Nyaungkan Village of Budalin Township in Myanmar's Bronze Age area.

We were warmly welcomed by U Soe Myint Aung from Nyaungkan

Village and Ko Pyae Phyong Aung from the village administrator office. A sub-police inspector and a police sergeant from Budalin Township Police Force were assigned to take security measures at Affiliated Basic Education High School where university students would stay.

Museum of Venerable Sayadaw U Bud

We went to the place of birth of Sayadaw U Bud. The Museum of Venerable Sayadaw U Bud is opened in his place of birth on the village road in Nyaungkan. A Buda image is kept in the museum.

It is not a building in the time of the venerable Sayadaw but it marks the place of birth of the Sayadaw. The museum is located in Thakhaung area. Some

utensils of the Sayadaw can be seen in the museum, U Soe Mying Aung explained.

Nyaungkan was located as a large village in Bardon rural area in the past. The Sayadaw mentioned salient points of his village in Pali language at the conclusion of his Pali Sadda Padarupa Siddhi Nissaya treatise. The translated story was as follows:-

“As frog could conquer snake, rat could win over cat, deer could beat tiger, a Bo tree could thrive in the land, like the area of monastery of hermit Kapila, where enemy could never achieve victory.

A large lake with full brim of water took a position near Bo tree.

Relying on the Bo tree and lake, a wonderful city with characteristics

of royal city flourished in the past.

At a time when the city deteriorated due to lack of meritorious deeds performed by the people, a village called Nyaungkan Village emerged.”

The boy who would become venerable Sayadaw U Bud was born of U Oh and Daw Hmwe on 5th waning of Nayon, 1149 Myanmar Era, Tuesday. His



Ancient Pagodas in Nyaungkan Village.



Sayadaw U Bud Brick Monastery.



Buddha Statues in Sayadaw U Bud Monastery.

native land was Nyaungkan Village of Budalin Township called Badon area in the past. He was named Maung Poke. At 8 years old, he started learning at Sayadaw U Pyay from Yadana Myinzu Monastery called the west monastery of Nyaungkan Village. He was very sharp and talented in childhood. It was reported that he could remember a sentence or a

reason when he heard it three times. Whenever he returned home, he recited a learned paragraph. When he arrived at home he did not enter the house if recitation of his sentence did not end.

He learned from Sayadaw U Pyay till 13 years old. Then, the Sayadaw entrusted him at Sayadaw U Tha Pon, the neighbour of his monas-

tery. Sayadaw U Tha Pon renamed him Maung Bud with forecast that the boy would be an unrivalled in the future due to sharpening in learning. He was novitiated at the monastery of Sayadaw U Tha Pon who titled the novice with Shin Jambudhaja which means the greatest famous one across the Universe.

The novice was always reading and reciting all the

time except sleeping, eating and taking a bath as he was very interested in learning literature. The novice was ordained in 1169 ME and he became administrator of Nyaungkan Gana in 1182 ME while teaching religious literatures to more than 100 monks at Yadana Myinzu Monastery in Nyaungkan Village.

After First Abbot of

Maha Aungmyebonsan Brick Monastery of Inwa Sayadaw U Poe passed away in 1192 ME, King Sagaing and First Queen Nanmadaw Mei Nu offered the monastery to Sayadaw U Bud who then resided at the monastery. The monastery was named Nanmadaw Mei Nu Brick Monastery.

In May 1840, King Thayawady handed down a death sentence to Nanmadaw Mei Nu to be killed in the water in the case of rebelling against the king. On the day of death sentence, she requested the killers to pay homage to Sayadaw U Bud for the last chance. On her arrival at the monastery, she saw the Sayadaw was reading. After paying homage, she supplicated that she would be killed for the case. That day was the last chance for her to pay homage to the Sayadaw.

The Sayadaw turned to her and said, "Mi Nu, if you have debt, you must pay back." After that, donor of the monastery Mei Nu paid homage to Sayadaw U Budd and descended from the monastery. Then, she bravely followed the killers, mentioned in the book with the title of Finding Konbaung written by author Nyo Mya.

On our way back from Sayadaw U Bud museum, we proceeded to the monastery where the Sayadaw resided in his young age. A two-storey wooden build-

ing was seen on the place of the monastery where the Sayadaw resided. The abbot of the monastery explained that the building was constructed with the use of timber posts from the monastery where the Sayadaw resided in his young age.

We saw some parts of utensils such as the post box and lamp of Sayadaw U Bud at the monastery. The post box was made of wood to store palm-leave inscriptions. A Buda image was seen in the cupboard where betel box and Kam-mava inscriptions on the tusk were kept.

I was much satisfied with the chance to pay visits to the monastery which was the residence of Sayadaw U Bud who had learned religious literature there. The Sayadaw was paid respects by King Sagaing and King Thayawady in Konbaung era. In descending from about 200 years old monastery after paying homage to the picture of the Sayadaw on the two-storey monastery, I have felt hearing the speech made by the Sayadaw, "if you have debt, you must pay back."

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

References:
Religious history of Nyaungkan (U Sudana)
Finding Konbaung (Nyo Mya)

OBITUARY

Nanda Phyo Win @ Lawrence Phyo Win

April 21, 2001 – September 1, 2020

Nanda Phyo Win @ Lawrence Phyo Win passed away peacefully on September 1, 2020 at the age of 19 at his home in Waizantar Garden, Thingangyun Township after a courageous battle with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and its complications.

He is the dearest only son of Dr Wai Phyo Win (Director, Nouveau Lifestyle Co. Ltd., Senior Administrative Executive, Samitivej International Co. Ltd., Director, Balance Co. Ltd.) – Dr Mya Thuzar (Senior Consultant, Samitivej International Clinic). Grandson of Professor Dr Mya Oo (Retired Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health) – Daw Tin Tin Mya and only grandson of (U Kyi Win) – Daw Khin Thu Thu Win. Dearest grandson of Daw Mya Thidar and grandson of U Phone Maw – Daw Aye Myint. He is also a loving nephew of Professor Tun Tun Oo – Professor Khin Lay Su, Dr Myo Myint Oo – Dr Mya Thidar, Dr Kyaw Myint Lay – Daw Mya Nandar, Nay Myo Say – Dr Thandar Khin. He is also the beloved nephew of Daw Kay Thi, Ma Lin Lin Win and Ma Zin Wai Mar.

We are saddened to inform you that Funeral service was held at Yay Way Crematorium on September 2, 2020, (Tuesday).

With the deepest grief



Yangon beats Sagaing 3-1 in Week-13 of MNL

YANGON United beat Sagaing United 3-1 in Week-13 of Myanmar National League played yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myo Min Phyo, Kaung Htet Soe and Kyi Lin scored winning goals for Yangon. Myo Min Phyo scored a single goal for Sagaing United.

Head coach, U Min Tun Lin's Yangon United, lined up with his favourite players' captain cum keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Yan Naing Oo, Barfo, Shori, Kaung Htet Soe and Maung Maung Win.

On the contrary, head coach U Zaw Lin Tun's Sagaing United used key players Captain Toe Sat Naing, keeper Kay Zin Hmue, Soulemanou Mandjombe and Patrick Gilles.

Sagaing United did not fear of Yangon's attacks and showed their best-attacking style at the very beginning of the match.

With the team's best understanding, Sagaing got an opening



Yangon United substituted player Kyi Lin (Green) poises to kick the ball during the MNL Week-13 match against Sagaing United at Thuwunna Stadium on 4 September, 2020. PHOTO:MNL

goal even at 13-minute mark.

The goal was scored by Myo Min Phyo from the left side when Yangon United's defenders were frozen under the fast attack style

of Sagaing.

Yangon's head coach changed tactic at 36-minute mark and thus Nyein Chan Aung and Kyi Lin came inside the match in

places of Shori and Aung Kyaw Naing.

With new players, Yangon's attack was fresh again, and three minutes later, Yangon United got

an equalizer when substituted Nyein Chan Aung delivered the ball to Kaung Htet Soe who was ready to send a ball in the net for Yangon United.

Two minutes later, Sagaing defenders played roughly inside the penalty area, and Yangon United earned a penalty kick.

The penalty was successfully kicked by substituted Kyi Lin to get the second goal for Yangon.

At the break time, Yangon United led the match with 2-1.

The second half saw the better play of Yangon and the third goal for Yangon United was scored by Zarni Htet at 59 minutes over a missing ball of his teammate Nyein Chan Aung.

Later minutes saw no goals by both teams, and the 3-1 win is enough for Yangon United to bag full points in MNL Week-13.

In another match, defending champion Shan United thrashed Rakhine United 3-0. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC 'confident' of finishing Champions League season: top official



Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal won the AFC Champions League last year. PHOTO: AFP

KUALA LUMPUR — Asia's football body is "confident" of completing its coronavirus-hit Champions League this year, a

senior official told AFP on Friday, as it heads into a frantic period of games with some venues still unknown.

The region's showpiece tournament has been on hold since March, creating a heavy backlog before West Asia group games resume in Qatar on September 14.

Two of the East Asia groups will be played from October 16 in Malaysia, but no host has been announced for the two remaining pools or the knockout stages for the Eastern clubs.

Only two rounds of games were possible before the shut-

down, and teams from China have played no matches at all. But Asian Football Confederation general secretary Windsor John said everything will be completed before the year's end. "We remain committed and confident of completing the competition within the 2020 calendar year," he said.

John said more details on East Zone matches would be announced after an AFC executive meeting next week. The competition's single-leg final is scheduled for December 5.

The pandemic continues to spread worldwide and several

countries in Asia are battling serious outbreaks. But John said he believes the Champions League can restart safely.

"We have engaged with our medical experts to establish several guidelines taking reference the industry's best practices to minimize the risks," he said.

When asked separately about a Japanese report claiming the AFC had asked for a further postponement, an official reiterated that the governing body was "confident" of finishing the tournament this year. —AFP ■

Ronaldo a doubt as Portugal prepare to face weakened Croatia

LISBON — Cristiano Ronaldo is a doubt as Portugal start the defence of their Nations League title against Croatia on Saturday in Porto and Sweden on Tuesday in Solna.

Ronaldo is with the Portugal squad but has a toe infection and did not train on Wednesday or Thursday. He was instead doing "gym work", the Portuguese football federation (FPF) said.

Ronaldo has 99 goals in 164 international matches but the FPF, which has closed its training camp to the press citing health protocols, gave no indication whether he will be fit for either game. Ronaldo has not played since early August when Juventus were knocked out of the Champions League by Lyon.

At 35, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored 37 goals in

all competitions last season, a record for a Juve player, and insists he remains ambitious, laying out his season 'goals' on Instagram last week. "Victories. Commitment. Dedication. Professionalism. With all my strength and with the precious help from my teammates and all of the Juventus staff, we work once again to conquer Italy, Europe and the World!" he wrote.—AFP ■



Cristiano Ronaldo hoisted the Nations League final trophy in Porto last year but is a doubt when Portugal start theirs at the same stadium against Croatia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE