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Friday, 16 October 2020

State Counsellor makes speech on occasion of 5th anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

Introduction

TODAY marks the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. In previous years, we celebrated the anniversary celebrations in this great hall. Today because of the need to prevent and contain the COVID-19 global pandemic, we are unable to celebrate. That is why I am greeting all of you via this televised video broadcast.

Reaffirming our promise

Organizing anniversary celebrations and events to mark special occasions are for the purpose of reaffirming the basic principles, agreements, and solemn commitments contained in the NCA by all those respective groups who have signed this agreement. The NCA is an agreement jointly owned by both parties. Although we have not participated as insiders in the NCA negotiations, the first thing we took up on a priority basis was “national reconciliation and peace” after we took over state responsibilities. We met with individuals and organizations involved in the peace process and listened to their views and recommendations. We noticed that there was a common path among the different beliefs, views and outlooks.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech on the 5th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

This path was none other than the path of peace based on the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement). There are three distinct characteristics in the NCA. The **first characteristic** is the fact that the idea for the NCA was initiated by the ethnic armed organizations.

The **second characteristic** is the fact that in the past eras and periods, they were based on negotiations for ceasefire and peace, and there were very few agreements signed. However, in the NCA, a majority of the EAOs

(Ethnic Armed Organizations) participated and signed. The way was open for more groups to join.

The **third characteristic** is the fact that it is not only for a ceasefire and the guns to become silent but to resolve political problems through political means, something yearned by all the ethnic nationalities and the establishment of the new Democratic Federal Union in the future. These aspirations are included. That is why I have used the term “NCA umbrella” as a metaphor.

Difficulties encountered during the NCA process

Although we were not involved during the negotiations and signature of the NCA, we took full responsibility during its practical implementation. Our Union Government had to take responsibility for the major portions of the NCA such as **the political negotiations and strengthening of the ceasefire**. Although the Tatmadaw had taken responsibility for all military matters, with respect to the implementation of the NCA, our

Union Government has been involved to a certain extent.

In the implementation of **the political negotiations and strengthening of the ceasefire** aspects along the NCA path in a harmonious way, all of us encountered difficulties and challenges. When we studied the difficulties that emerged, we found out that during the NCA negotiations: lack of clear understanding; lack of common understanding; pulling out only the parts that were of interest and implementing them; intentionally ignoring certain parts where there was no interest; and lack of clear definitions of concepts and terms among the negotiating parties. When the NCA negotiations were conducted during the past five years, the process was mainly conceptual and envisioned the future; so it is natural that problems would be encountered during the actual implementation.

The first difficulty was the fact that there had been no common understanding with respect to the agreements, and terms contained in the agreement. When there were differences in understanding, implementations became different. For example, the term “national-level political discussions” was merely mentioned in the NCA.

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“People are the key”

Campaign speeches of three political parties for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speeches of Khomee Nation Development Party, National Democratic Force (NDF) and National Development and Peace Party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 16 October for the second time. — MNA

Over 780 MoI staff members to cover election news on 8 Nov

THE Ministry of Information will assign duties of its 786 staff members at the polling stations in respective constituencies, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other regions and states, to cover the 2020 General Election on 8 November.

They will be 155 from Myanmar Radio and Television, 17 from MITV, 522 from Information and Public Relations Department, and 88 from News

and Periodicals Enterprise.

The staff members have been directed to take along their ID cards and press cards of UEC, to abide by media ethics, orders and directives for the elections, and to adhere to the guidelines of national COVID-19 committee while they are covering the election news.

The ministry has been cooperating with UEC

and related ministries to issue entry visas and press ID cards for 34 journalists from international media organizations for the elections.

Until now the ministry already gave recommendations to a total of 158 reporters from 36 international media.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar citizens continue advance voting in Bangkok, Singapore on 15 Oct

A total of 1,436 Myanmar nationals cast their advance votes for 2020 General Election

at the Myanmar embassies in Bangkok and Singapore yesterday.

After getting body temperature taken, washing hands with hand sanitizers, and wearing

disposable gloves and face masks, the voters cast their votes at the respective polling

stations. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar nationals queue outside the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore for advance voting on 15 October 2020.



A Myanmar national in Thailand casts advance vote at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on 15 October 2020.



Myanmar nationals in Thailand cast advance votes for 2020 General Election at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15.
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



State Counsellor makes speech on occasion of 5th anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

FROM PAGE-1

Although the framework and policies for political discussions had been explained at great length, since there were differences of opinion on the NCA itself, we had great difficulties when we tried to implement the political discussions. Therefore we could conclude that a common understanding of the NCA was needed for its smooth implementation.

The second difficulty relates to the mechanisms that emerged because of the NCA and the running of these mechanisms. There were two – the JICM and the UPDJC. Then there is also the JMC. The organizations that signed the NCA began to engage in arguments within these mechanisms with special emphasis on the work guidelines and procedures. Although problems could have been resolved by face to face discussions between the armed groups, trust at the ground level was eroded because of preoccupation on work guidelines. Because there was more emphasis on arguments relating to technical matters, rather than the emphasis on political negotiations, matters which could have been resolved with mutual trust developed into bigger problems as a result of arguments at the big meetings. Some people think that the running of the military component and the political component is separate. In actual fact, there is a correlation between the political and the military components. When people begin to point fingers because the political negotiations run to a halt, it impacts negatively on coordination efforts on the military side. In the same way, because of problems on the mil-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech on the 5th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

itary side, trust can be eroded and could block the progress of the political negotiations. To give an example, to restart the JMC, which had been stalled for a long period, we had to make efforts in tandem with the political component to achieve success. That is why we can make an observation that it is extremely important for all the mechanisms to be working harmoniously as a whole to achieve peace.

The third difficulty is the situation of NCA and its limitations. It just specifies the implementation of Union Accord but fails to mention how to implement it. It states reconciliation in security affairs, without clarifying how to carry it out. Such sensitive issues were not discussed in detail. There were awkward situations to cause delays in negotiations for security issue due to the terms and conditions of respective groups which could not be neglected in implementation. Moreover,

as no specific guidelines were adopted for implementing the agreements, worries appeared in the process of political dialogue. Such conditions have delayed the political negotiations.

Part III of Union Accord

The stakeholders had to find ways to overcome such challenges after holding discussions in an open and transparent manner. The findings were turned into the agreements, and we could also solve more problems in such situations. As a result, the 'Framework Agreement on Implementing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement', which is the part 1 of the Agreement under the Union Accord III, was signed on 21 August.

Moreover, how to proceed with the peacemaking process in the post-2020 has been a question for the stakeholders. The NCA did not mention it. Although the Part I and II of Union Accord have been approved

at the Union Hluttaw, in reality implementing these two agreements is still a long way off. We had many informal discussions, whether to set a specific time frame on these issues or to implement them in prioritized order on stage-by-stage. Finally, we agreed the stage-by-stage implementation modality. This agreement became Part 2 of the Agreement under the Union Accord III, 'Stage by Stage work programmes and step by step implementation in the post-2020'.

Moreover, the NCA has just stipulated 'to establish democracy and federal system-based Union'. However, there have been different views on the systems of democracy and feudalism. While we were having intense discussions, we gradually realized to adopt a common vision in shaping our future Union. We had to take a long time to achieve this agreement. It was then created into Part 3 of the Agreement under the Union Accord III, 'Funda-

mental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and the federal system'.

In reviewing these processes, the NCA was the first step to begin political dialogues after ending armed conflicts, and to establish a Democratic Federal Union. The NCA was first created with the issues of politics and military. However, the Part III of the Union Accord was developed to turn federal dreams with different forms of democracy and federal systems into a 'Union Dream' as a common vision to overcome challenges in implementation and to proceed to the next step for establishing a Democratic Federal Union step by step in line with the Part III of the Union Accord. The steps that began with the NCA have been stronger, and it has been a great success for our Union and national people.

Part III of the Union Accord has become a strong foundation laid down at the 21st Century Panglong to implement the Union Dream, which has been the aspiration of all the ethnic nationalities for many years. I fully appreciate and value the participation and contribution of all the stakeholders and supporters in the discussions.

First historical dialogue on politics

In looking back at the history of our country, Myanmar could not properly organize political dialogues through peaceful negotiations after regaining Independence through the 20th Century Panglong due to the results of armed conflicts which emerged together with the Independence of the country.

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Due to the 'power first' ideology, the armed conflict of the country has been labelled as 'the longest civil war'. By removing these practices, We need to engage in peaceful negotiations characterized by flexibility and give-and-take.

In reviewing the efforts of successive governments for peace after Independence, peace negotiations in Yangon during the administration of the Revolutionary Council failed to make agreements. During the term of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), only one ethnic armed organization signed the ceasefire agreement. Under the rule of Tatmadaw governments in the post-1988 period, the ceasefire agreement was made with 40 ethnic armed organizations. However, no political dialogues could be held in line with their declaration of 'no way to hold any political dialogue under the non-political administration'. The Union Solidarity and Development Party government signed ceasefire agreements with 15 ethnic armed organizations and adopted the NCA with eight signatories of EAOs. The Union Peace Conference was organized one time and held paper reading sessions.

We had to repeatedly amend the political dialogue framework in our term of more than four years. The amendments were based on the difficulties encountered when we practically used it, and we had to amend it up to 12 times. All of us conducted negotiations and took great efforts to make the series of conferences more efficient, and we could deepen the friendship and understanding between us. We frequently held both official meetings and very important informal meetings. All of us worked hard to enter into political dialogue, which can be called the first po-

litical dialogue of our country after it gained Independence, so the dialogue can be called a historical political dialogue.

Here, I would like to respond to the criticisms that say we did not listen to the voices of national ethnic people and ignored their feelings. To negotiate the NCA and the parts of the Union Accord, our discussions were based on the needs and wishes of ethnic groups. During our government's tenure, two more ethnic organizations signed the NCA; we follow a policy of inclusiveness and welcome the participation of the remaining ethnic armed organizations.

When we discussed the matters related to creating a Democratic Federal Union and its basic principles, we took into account the opinions of the remaining ethnic armed organizations, too. The 21st Century Panglong Conference is timely, first-ever political dialogue since after Myanmar gained Independence, to fulfil the historical needs of Myanmar, and so we would like to invite the remaining ethnic armed organizations which have yet to participate in the conference because of various reasons, to be involved in it. We would like to inform you that we will continue putting in a great deal of effort in order for the remaining groups to participate in the conference.

Solemn commitment for Peace

If we compare the current situation of the peace process of the country to the status of more than ten years ago, the current situation is on the right track for shaping a great future for the Union.

Here, I would like to stress that if all stakeholders are really eager and take effective efforts to create a Union, the characteristics of the Union will take shape;

the deep, peaceful friendship between our national ethnic people will become stronger and we will be able to build together a "genuine Union" which will have good political culture and real essence.

On this 5th anniversary of the NCA, I have thought about time. It is about procrastination. I think that procrastination in making peace is rejecting peace. If responsible leaders are giv-

The Peace process cannot be stalled; we must continue it with relentless efforts all the time. Our citizens are suffering from a lack of peace, so we must take efforts all the time to ease the sufferings of our citizens.

So, not only the organizations which are involved in the NCA peace process but also the NCA non-signatories which are negotiating to sign the NCA

If our country has weaknesses, it will be like inviting unnecessary consequences. Since after Myanmar gained Independence, the main weakness of our country is the lack of national unity, and consequently, we could not achieve lasting peace. So, there is no development. Even if we achieve development, it cannot be equitable development which can be shared by all.

Now, we all know both the disease of the country and the cure. After the NCA started, we could achieve future processes such as the Union Accord Part III. In our way to peace in the post-2020 period, what we need is the will to cure the bad disease of disunity, and to cure that disease without delay.

Lack of peace can create an attitude of relying on weapons in this country. It will also harm the political tradition, which applies polite and peaceful dialogue. Moreover, I want the citizens to deeply understand that democracy, human rights and development cannot be achieved without peace. Lack of peace, wherever it occurs in the Union, is a bad inheritance. Our national ethnic people and our citizens have terribly suffered from lack of peace for many years. I would like to urge the citizens to support the organizations and people who are working hard for peace, and to take efforts to understand peace. I would like to urge all to take appropriate positions and roles in the peace process. I would like to conclude by calling on all our people to participate in the peace process and take efforts to create an advanced and developed Union which can stand tall with dignity among the nations of the world based on the foundations of national unity and peace.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Maung Maung Swe)

In our way to peace in the post-2020 period, what we need is the will to cure the bad disease of disunity, and to cure that disease without delay.

ing higher priorities to their personal matters, their political advantages and their fans as well as procrastinating rather than bravely working hard for their duties, or if they are disturbing the peace process, they will not be dutiful in their roles for the people. If those people are taking important positions and ranks for the entire Union, they can become irresponsible persons for the future of the entire Union. I want you all to take careful note of this point.

Despite COVID-19 related challenges and electoral processes, our peace process cannot be paused. I would like to urge all of you not to take military advantages by exploiting the pandemic and the electoral processes. In the previous session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference, we all agreed to continue peace talks after the 2020 General Elections. I do not want you to see it as a delay. We all reached agreement and clearly showed the nature of faithfulness at the conference.

must continue official and informal talks, and negotiations. What I would like to stress is that **"Fighting, wars and attacks need to be stopped. But the peace process and ceasefire must not be stopped."** We must continue the forward march of the peace process every day. I would like to make a solemn request not to adopt a "wait and see" attitude with regard to Peacemaking.

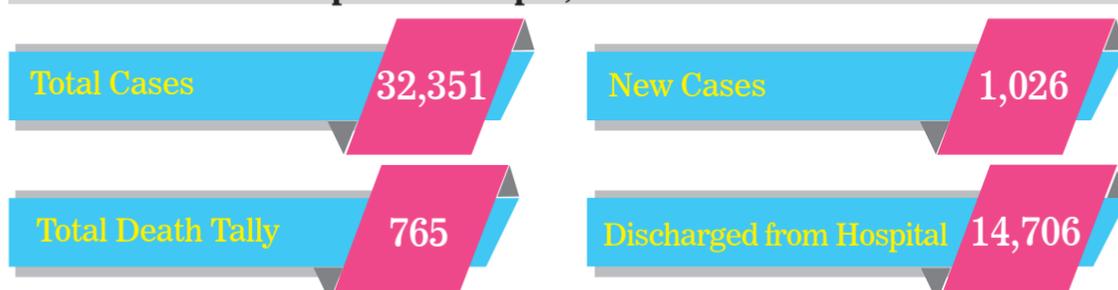
Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the peace process is not a separate process. Now, our country and our citizens are facing COVID-19 related impacts on our health and our economy, and the democratic elections, which are very important for the future, are around the corner. Moreover, there are intense rivalries in evolving international relations, and geopolitics is also important. In the context of those situations, we must work hard to achieve stronger peace day by day.

1,026 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 October, total figure rises to 32,351

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 32,351 after 1,026 new cases were reported on 15 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 32,351 confirmed cases, 765 died, 14,706 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 15 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 15-10-2020

33

Ministry of Health and Sports

Union Minister U Ohn Winn attends Hindu Kush Himalaya Ministerial Mountain Summit 2020 online

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Winn attended the Hindu Kush Himalaya Ministerial Mountain Summit 2020 via videoconferencing yesterday as it was organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development — ICIMOD.

It was also attended by Director-General of Forest Department Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, in his capacity as the Governing Body Member of ICIMOD.

At the Summit, Union Minister U Ohn Winn said the summit seeks to strengthen regional cooperation for the sustainable development of the Hindu Kush Himalaya and for the long-term sustainability of mountain ecosystem and as a founding member of ICIMOD, Myanmar is cooperating with ICIMOD in areas such as biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, socio-economic development of local people in mountainous areas and water-

shed conservation.

The Union Minister also expressed words of thanks to ICIMOD for coordinating and implementing cooperation programmes for regional countries to work together and he also said, the HKH Call to Action, developed by local experts under the auspices of ICIMOD, could strengthen regional cooperation for long-term sustainability of mountain ecosystems and the social development of the people in mountainous areas.

Afterwards, a statement was issued by the Hindu Kush Regional Ministers. The statement stated to hold a biennial meeting of ministers to strengthen regional cooperation and review developments; to unitedly represent the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region at regional and international conferences and UN conferences; to regularly hold a multi-stakeholder Hindu Kush Himalaya Science and Policy Forum (HKH Sci-



Union Minister U Ohn Winn joins the Hindu Kush Himalaya Ministerial Mountain Summit 2020 via videoconference on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ence-Policy Forum) to take into account more scientific findings in developing policies to promote mountain ecosystems and livelihoods and to explore the potential for establishing an organizational system in the region in order to

implement the HKH Call to Action by forming a task force with the high level representatives from the 8 countries in the region.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya Ministerial Mountain Summit was held for the first time and was

also participated by the ministers from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Education Minister joins ASEAN-UNICEF Conference on Digital Transformation of Education System throughout ASEAN



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in ASEAN-UNICEF Conference on Digital Transformation of Education System throughout ASEAN via videoconference on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE ASEAN-UNICEF Conference on Digital Transformation of Education System throughout ASEAN was held via zoom webinar yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said the COVID-19 pandemic affects the educational system worldwide and so the ministry is making efforts to achieve better education system and to

reduce the COVID-19 impact on education.

He also talked about online courses for all primary, middle and high school teachers about new curriculum of Grade 4,7 and 10 by using Myanmar Digital Education Platform (MDEP) created by Rectors' Committee, compiling audio and video lessons to broadcast via state-owned and private TV channels and radio,

broadcasting video lessons for 8 hours per day via Education Channel of MRTV, lesson compilations to put in the DBE sticks for the teachers and the students in remote areas without internet access to get learning opportunities via DBE Box and monthly home-based learning lessons for students of every level of schools.

He continued that the ministry would adopt online learning

system for the universities by using MDEP and provide DHE Box and Data Sticks for the university students in remote areas and villages. The coordination meetings are being held to establish Myanmar National Open University in addition to the normal distance education system.

The ministry also emphasizes on Learning Management System and Digital Teaching-Learning Methodology for basic education and universities teachers and also promotes learning opportunities via face-to-face learning, online learning and blended learning in accordance with the local labour market situation. So, the Reactors' Committees are trying to grant autonomy or self-determination for all universities and colleges including University-Industry Partnership.

Transforming the education system using high technology can be supposed that a creation of better learning environment and as the automatic machine, AI, Robots and IOT replace the human resources, the competition for the workplaces becomes stronger. So, the labourers need to try to improve their education, skills, knowledge, opinion and social

values, said the Union Minister, adding that although online learning and blended learning play key roles for education sector during COVID-19 pandemic, they cannot be replaced with face-to-face learning in classrooms with qualified teachers for 21st century skills and it also need to promote Transferrable skills like decent citizens, team work, communication, critical thinking and talents.

The High-tech Learning and High-touch Learning are absolutely essential to promote lifelong learning opportunities for young adults to compete locally or internationally. The Union Minister called on participation in strategic plans and policies for technology, infrastructure, digitalization, digital learning system, quality assurance and quality recognition of ASEAN regions. He also said that he agreed with the joint state of this conference on promotion of safe digital learning opportunities and digital transformation of education system in ASEAN regions.

Then, ASEAN Education Ministers respectively coordinated the discussion and agreed the joint statement.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

MoE introduces School Quality Assurance Standard Framework

THE Ministry of Education organized a virtual meeting on Basic Education School Quality Assurance Standard Framework (BE-SQASF) from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the online meeting, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed thanks to Australian Ambassador and officials on behalf of the Australian Government that provided technical and financial assistance, Department of Basic Education, and participants in the BE-SQASF project.

The ministry was implementing the works of priority included in the National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021. At present, children from distance places and ethnic regions are getting more learning opportunities, the Union Minister said.

He continued that the rates of primary, middle and high schools completion have increased following the provision of school stipend along with the



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the meeting on Basic Education School Quality Assurance Standard Framework (BE-SQASF) on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

changes of new curriculums, school textbooks and teaching methods that are aligned with 21st century skills.

The ministry was carrying

out the prioritized works prescribed in the Myanmar Education Quality Improvement Plan (My-EQIP) including construction of school buildings and

appointment of teachers in the places of highly needed.

It is successful because of the collective efforts of the teachers, school principals, locals, part-

ner organizations, and Australian Government, he added.

The BE-SQASF, which emerged from My-EQIP and was established after conducting practical interviews about requirements of schools, teachers and students, is very beneficial for the Ministry of Education to produce quality students.

On behalf of the Australian Government, Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner made remarks.

Director-General of Basic Education Department U Ko Lay Win detailed about the framework, and also announced the names of awareness competition winners.

Assistant Director of Basic Education Department and member of the working committee Daw Khin Mu Zaw Aung reported on the framework procedures.

A video clip about the implementation of BE-SQASF was also played at the meeting. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MoHS discusses voting rights of patients, healthcare workers, volunteers

THE Ministry of Health and Sports organized an online meeting over holding 2020 General Election in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines and ensuring voting rights of patients, healthcare workers and volunteers yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said that led by State Counsellor, the Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Health and Sports were giving demonstrations and conducting training on casting votes for General Election on 8 November after drawing up work plans and standard operating procedures.

State Counsellor gave guidance on voting processes after watching the demonstrations of casting votes in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines two times. With the guidance, the ministry is preparing for the polling day, he added.

After holding rounds of discussion with heads of State/Region Public Health and

Medical Health Departments, the ministry was formulating guidelines that will be effective on the ground.

The ministry is carrying out the works on ensuring voting rights of quarantined persons, patients at hospitals, and healthcare workers and volunteers who are working outside their constituencies.

Voting processes for them will be announced within the coming days via the webpages of the Ministry of Health and Sports and about 30,000 mobile tablets that were distributed by the Ministry of Health and Sports, he added.

The ministry will distribute the hotline numbers of township, region/state and central levels to staff who will be working at the polling stations.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein detailed about the healthcare workers who will work at the polling booths, reports on investigating the polling stations, and distribution of



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the meeting on ensuring voting rights of patients, healthcare workers and volunteers on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

COVID-19 preventive supplies to the polling stations.

Heads of State/Region Public Health and Medical Health Departments reported on preparedness for the polling day, and discussed voting rights of the patients, healthcare workers and volunteers who are outside their constituencies.

Director-General of the Union Election Commission Office U Khin Maung Oo and officials from election sub-commissions discussed the drawing up of work plans and standard operating procedures for the successful holding of 2020 General Election in accordance with health guidelines, demon-

strations on voting processes, assignment of staff at the polling stations, voting rights of eligible voters, advance votes for those who are outside their constituencies, and ongoing tasks.

The attendees made a round of discussions. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



CBM Governor joins High-level Meeting on Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Outlook of IMF

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) organized the High-level Meeting on Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Outlook via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Dr Ye Min Paing, CMB Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, the

central banks governors and deputy governors of IMF member countries in Asia-Pacific regions, ministers and deputy ministers for finance and other invited guests joined the meeting.

Acting Director Mr Jonathan D. Ostry of Asia-Pacific Department of IMF firstly briefed Navigating the Pandemic: Multi-Speed Recovery.

Then, the ministers and deputy ministers for finance, governors and deputy governors of central banks in Asia-Pacific regions discussed policies for the recovery of economy including challenges and their experiences during COVID-19 pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung joins High-level Meeting on Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Outlook of IMF online on 15 SEPTEMBER 2020.

Viet Nam donates facemasks, hospital gloves to Myanmar



Facemasks and hospital gloves donated by Viet Nam arrive at the Yangon International Airport on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE government and people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam donated masks and hospital gloves for use in combat operations of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

The donation ceremony was held at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

Officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Yangon welcomed the plan carrying the aid at the Yangon International Airport.

Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar Mr Ly Quoc Tuan

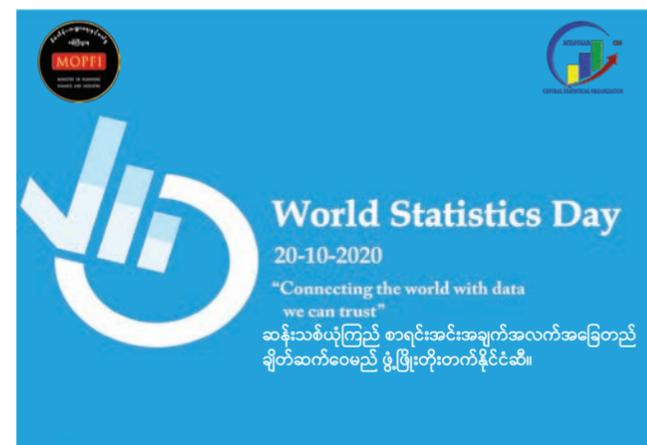
handed over the USD20,000 worth of the masks to Director-General of the Medical Research Department Dr Zaw Than Tun.

The Ambassador said the donation is the second time from the people and the government of Viet Nam and it aims to stop on time the second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar; he said he believed that the Myanmar Government will be able to stop the COVID-19 infection in the country. Similarly, Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association in Viet Nam donated 540,750,000 VND and medical supplies at the Embassy of Myanmar in Hanoi and Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win accepted the donation. The Embassy will hand over the donation to National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. —Zaw Gyi *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

Ceremony of World Statistics Day 2020 to be held on 20 October

Ceremony of World Statistics Day 2020 Virtual Event will be held on 20th October 2020 at 10:00 am.

This ceremony will be a live broadcasting on Mizzima TV and <https://www.facebook.com/centralstatisticalorganization> on that day. We would like to give you the good news to watch the ceremony on these channels.



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France donates COVID-19 medical assistance package to the Yangon General Hospital worth \$58,000

THE French Ambassador Mr Christian Lechervy and the Yangon General Hospital signed an agreement on October 14th formalizing a grant worth US\$58,000.

As part of this medical assistance package, France donated to Myanmar 5 powered air-purifying respirators (PAPR), 2 ICU intensive care beds, 2 general electric monitors, 2 transport ventilators, 3 infusion pumps, 3 syringe pumps, 650 facemasks,

300 goggles and 1200 FFP2 respirators. These items have been given to the Yangon General Hospital in order to reinforce its healthcare capacities, protect the medical workers and limit the spread of the virus.

This aid is intended to demonstrate France's solidarity with Myanmar in the common fight against the Covid-19 and to strengthen health services in Yangon. France had previously extended financial support to the

National Health Laboratory in its fight against Covid-19 which is on the front line as it carries out tests to identify the disease. A batch of medical equipment was provided by the Pasteur Institute to the Yangon NHL in March and April thanks to funding of the French Development Agency.

Finally, French companies and citizens in Myanmar have also taken many steps to contribute to the Covid-19 crisis re-



People of France donate medical devices to Yangon General Hospital and MoHS on 15 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

sponse especially by providing assistance vulnerable sections of society by distributing masks, nutrition and grocery to workers and people in need in nearby communities.—MNA

Armed conflicts need to cease, but peace process must steadfastly move forward

AFTER signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, during a period of five years, we convened the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong for four times.

The fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held in accordance with the COVID-19 health guidelines in Nay Pyi Taw. The success of the conference has become a milestone in our country's history of peacemaking and national reconciliation, inspired by the aspirations of the people for over seven decades.

Part 3 of the Union Accord which was signed at the said conference could be regarded as an important milestone for peace which is very important for national reconciliation and internal peace because it contains precise policies for implementation,

practical programmes and steps needed for building the Democratic Federal Union in the post-2020 period.

Steps for building the Democratic Federal Union in the post-2020 period do not mean that we will suspend the peace process now.

The peace process is not an undertaking which can be suspended, despite challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and needed measures for holding the general election. Staging military action for gaining the benefits by taking advantage of the pandemic and general election process, as well as displaying hostile actions in our country, should be ended.

The success of the peace process relies on our zeal and perseverance employed to reach our objectives, without resorting to violence.

Hence, all stake holders for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA including those who have not yet signed the NCA need to understand that we need to work hard steadfastly for achieving eternal peace without giving gaps in the peace process because only eternal peace can quench the fires of more than seven decades of armed conflicts.

It is a responsibility that falls on all our shoulders. The energy, faith, and zeal that we put in towards achieving peace can serve as a beacon of light for our country, our Union, and all of our people.

Lack of peace can strengthen the mindset leading to evil habit of politics, which rely on the force of arms to win over others, and weaken the culture of negotiation in our country.

The resolution to the country's long-running armed conflicts is a federal system that is acceptable to all. Our goal is, therefore, the emergence of a democratic federal union based on democracy and federalism.

To achieve our goal, armed conflicts in our country need to cease, but peace process must steadfastly move forward.



Spike in Coronavirus infection numbers is no cause for alarm

By Khin Maung Myint



PHOTO: OMNIA GLOBAL MEDICAL DIRECTORY

Since the emergence of the second wave in early September, the numbers of those who contracted the Coronavirus and the numbers of those who succumbed to it have spiked. So also the numbers of those who recovered and discharged from the hospitals are increasing. However, some people are alarmed at the growing numbers of those infected and those who perished. In reality they should take into considerations the increase in those who recovered also. That will lessen their anxieties and worries.

Sometime in March-April this year, I had written a few articles related to the COVID-19 pandemic. My objectives in writing those were to ease the fright among the populace as some were greatly alarmed at the rapid spread of the disease. In those articles I had urged that we should be concerned about the new disease that had gained pandemic proportions, which we had never encountered or heard of in our country before, but shouldn't be overly alarmed and not to panic.

Unduly alarmed can have adverse consequences

Here, I would like to expound my outlooks expressed in those articles. By being concerned, I meant that we must keep in touch with the information about the disease - its causes, its symptoms and the "Dos" and "Don'ts" to avoid contracting it. Being thus concerned we will be able to successfully avoid getting

infected. However, some were unduly alarmed at the spread of the disease without rationality and getting panicky.

Irrationally alarmed or being panic-stricken could cause undesirable consequences. At the beginning of the first wave and also during the second wave some unduly alarmed persons over-reacted. They fenced off their streets and wards, forbidding outsiders to enter or unauthorized vehicles passing through. In some cases they took the law into their hands and punished those who didn't abide by the stay home orders or didn't wear mask. Such actions are the results of undue alarm that caused the people to the point of becoming panicky and irrational.

Don't just look at the numbers

Stop just looking at the figures. It's true the numbers of those infected and those who died are increasing. However, if one should observe those figures with logic and optimism there is nothing to be overly or unduly alarmed. With the availability of the rapid diagnostic test kits (RDT) more people can be tested within a short period and more patients are emerging. Though the figures are rising or spiking as some medias misled us to think so, if you observe closely, it will be found that as the numbers of casualty are rising, the numbers of those who are being subjected to the tests daily are also increasing. Naturally being able to test more numbers, more

"positive" persons will be tracked down. The more such people are taken off the streets to give treatments, the lesser the chances of spreading.

Here, if the numbers of those tested and the numbers infected are compared and the percentage calculated on a daily basis, surely it will be seen that the infection rate is starting to decline. Again percentage-wise, the daily death rates calculated based on the number of daily deaths and the total numbers found infected also are decreasing. Then, if those figures are viewed as percentage in relation to the whole population, it will be very relieving to realize that our country is not among the severely hard hit nations.

Some people are ridiculous-ly saying that our country had surpassed Singapore in terms of the COVID-19 infections, judging only on the number of deaths. What they missed or ignored is that Singapore has only a population around 6 million people, whereas we have over 50 or almost 60 million. While Singapore

has over 50 thousand infections we have just over 30 thousand. In the numbers of death, Singapore has 27, while we have around 600. Here, we should take into consideration that the methods of designating the deaths in that country and ours differ. It is understood that in Singapore they didn't count the COVID patients who passed away as COVID deaths, if they have histories of underlying diseases. However, in our country and for that matter, also in Thailand and many other nations they are considered as COVID casualties.

The "Dos" and "Don'ts"

To overcome the disease and bring it under complete control, every citizen has the duty to participate or get involved in the battle against it. The least they can do is to abide by the orders and instructions laid down by the authorities. By now everyone must know that they should :-

1. stay home as much as possible; avoid going out unless absolutely necessary,
2. wearing of mask is compulsory

- if they have to unavoidably go outside,
3. wash the hands frequently,
4. avoid crowded places,
5. observe social distancing.

Lack of discipline is to blame

It would be necessary to point out the importance of having discipline. The second wave is being anticipated well before hand and the authorities had warned the citizens to observe the above instructions and to restrict their travels as much as possible. Of course sometimes people have to unavoidably travel for various reasons, mostly for their livings, but if there was discipline the situations would not have got out of control like this. Only if the people who have to travel observed the above mentioned instructions closely it would certainly be not this bad.

During the first wave Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore were being subjected to the infections before our country was hit. The numbers of infected and deaths in those countries were more than in our country at the beginning. Gradually they managed to control those situations and even when we are reeling under the second wave they are being spared until now. It must be because there people are more disciplined.

Our authorities are well qualified and have also gained much experiences in the control of the disease by now, so what could be the the reasons or what factors spared them from the second wave while we are being

subjected to? It is quite clear that our people lacked discipline. It is undeniable that people sneaked in and out of our western frontiers to trade with the country to the west where the disease is almost out of control. Also, the failures of some air travellers coming from those area to report to the authorities to enable them to carry out screening and quarantining if necessary. Overland travellers from those area who reached to other parts undetected were also to be blamed.

Also, the reluctance or not being accustomed to queue at the public places, such as - bus stands, train stations, shopping malls, market places, convenient stores, street food stalls and drug stores too should be blamed for the spread in our country. People can be seen crowding and scrambling at such places to get served first and thus are exposed to undesirable body contacts. In the countries mentioned above, as far as I know, people strictly observed the queuing, which they have been doing all along like second nature.

I learned from someone in Thailand that the staffs at such places also strictly enforced the wearing of mask and everyone entering their places are scanned for body temperature properly. However, here some such staffs not only don't insist customers to wear mask, but some of them don't wear them either.



GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY OCTOBER 15 2020

Three billion people globally lack handwashing facilities at home: UNICEF

ACCORDING to new estimates from UNICEF, 40 per cent of the world's population - or 3 billion people - do not have a handwashing facility with water and soap at home. The number is much higher in least developed countries, where nearly three-quarters go without.

Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at UNICEF, said that

it was "unacceptable" that the most vulnerable communities are unable to use the simplest of methods to protect themselves and their loved ones.

"The pandemic has highlighted the critical role of hand hygiene in disease prevention. It has also stressed a pre-existing problem for many: handwashing with soap remains out of reach for millions of children where they're born, live and learn."

"We must take immediate action to make handwashing with soap accessible to everyone, everywhere - now and in the future," she urged.

The situation is also alarming at schools: 43 per cent globally (70 per cent in least developed countries) lack a handwashing facility with water and soap, affecting hundreds of millions of school-age children, according to the estimates.

'Hand Hygiene for All'

Against this backdrop, UNICEF, along with the UN World Health Organization launched the "Hand Hygiene for All" initiative to support the development of national roadmaps to accelerate and sustain progress towards making hand hygiene a mainstay in public health interventions.

SOURCE: UNICEF



Two girls wash their hands with water from recycled bottles at a rudimentary hand-washing station at La Montana School, Bolivia. Similar handwashing stations are in use in all schools in areas where water has become scarce. PHOTO: UNICEF/ASHLEY GILBERTSON

Myanmar Gazette
Head of service organization appointed
THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Myo Thant, Deputy Director-General of Department of Myanmar Examinations of the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Panglong, the symbol of peace
Here taste the sweetest Union Peace
And violence will cease,
But your hatred will leave.
Here Union Peace is counted sweetest
And the anger will fly the farthest,
But our love will tie the deepest.
Here need the power of Union Peace
And our faith will fulfil our needs at ease,
But the betrayal will despair indeed.
Here hope to sow the seeds of peace
And we will surely grow the unity to be,
But our nations will, all round, increase.
Sit Mone

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DG U Zaw Htay holds press conference on investigation into United Democratic Party chairman

DIRECTOR-GENERAL U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of State Counsellor Office held a press conference yesterday on the investigation into U Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Central Executive Committee of the United Democratic Party or 'Rose Party' in relations to the party leader's bank accounts and property ownership.

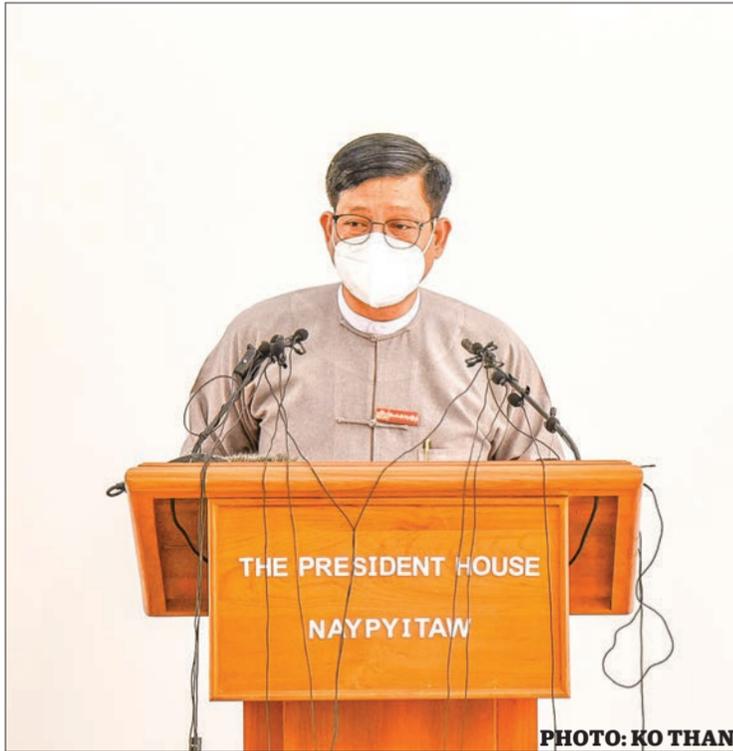
The press briefing at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw focused on the findings in party leader's businesses, financial transition and income sources.

U Kyaw Myint's Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd is working rental services and import/export sector. As its trading licence has expired, no permit for import/export has been allowed under this licence. The company neither applied for investment permit at the Myanmar Investment Commission nor did any businesses related to the registered licence.

His other company is the Myanmar Kyaw High Tech Co., Ltd. Its major business categories are office operation, management and providing assistance to other business firms. Although the company has acquired the import/export licence, it has expired. The company neither applied for investment permit at the Myanmar Investment Commission nor did any businesses related to the registered licence.

His other company is the Myanmar Kyaw Finance Co., Ltd. It was registered for financial service and insurance support. The Central Bank of Myanmar did not grant a permit for non-banking financial institutions. Similarly, the Microfinance Businesses Supervisory Committee has not issued a licence to it. Although the company is still registered, its other businesses are being operated illegally.

Regarding bank accounts of U Kyaw Myint, 7 accounts under his name, 2 accounts under the Myanmar Kyaw High Tech Co., Ltd, 2 accounts under the Myanmar Kyaw Finance Co., Ltd, 10 accounts under Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd, 2 accounts under UDP Educational Foundation, 2 joint accounts under the United Democratic Party's Fund, Daw Htay Htay Win and



Daw Myo Hay Man and other 34 accounts under the name of related persons. These 59 bank accounts were opened at the 5 private banks.

The Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd received K16.315 billion in 2015 from money transfer services illegally via Muse border. The details of this amount were K54.91 million to the company's account at the United Amara Bank on 1-9-2015, K14,389 million in 44 transfers to one account at the United Amara Bank and two accounts at the Ayeyawady Bank between 3-8-2015 and 7-9-2015, K200 million in two transfers to one account of the United Amara Bank between 31-8-2015 and 3-9-2015, K1,271.26 million to the two accounts at the Ayeyawady Bank on 5-8-2015, 6-8-2015 and 27-8-2015 and K400 million to the two accounts of Ayeyawady Bank on 3-8-2015 and 27-8-2015 respectively.

The cash transfers were made by Chinese citizens in Ruili and Kyal Gaung, who are doing illegal money transfer services.

The interest received from the six accounts of the Ayeyawady Bank and the United Amara Bank from 2015 to September 2020 was K14.814 billion.

The Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd gave K4,151.13 million to 19 persons, including his company staff, party members and other persons, from October 2016 to September 2020. The company staff have to borrow the loans at the zero-interest rate and

other persons from 1 to 2 per cent rate. The total amount of interest from these loans were K510.14 million. The company did not have any licence for these loan services.

The Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd also put the capitals into other businesses by holding ownership documents for loan evidence and collected a specific amount of profit from these businesses. The company has given K1.5 billion capital to 11 persons between August 2015 and September 2020 and has received the profit of K186.2 million. The company has also received over K15.51 billion from the interest rate, loans and investments.

U Kyaw Myint also bought the land and building of International City Hotel at No. 98, Corner of Baho Road and 7th Malarmyaing Road in Hline Township in Yangon at K1,175 million 164.31, acres of farmland in Hmawbi Township at K8,800 million, 5 acres of farmland at K180 million in 2016, land plot number 193/31 and the building on it at K1,000 million in Pan Hlaing Golf Resort in Hlinethaya Township (east) in Yangon, 6.9 acres of land in Zegone village-tract of Pubbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory at K100 million, and this land is used for headquarters of his party.

He owns 35 cars, and all are registered. The Myanmar Kyaw Investment Group Co., Ltd donated K533.79 million to the UDP from October 2017 to March 2020 and K918.63 million

from the company's account for the part from 2016 to September 2020.

The party also provided financial supports K12.439 billion to the UDP party members and its candidates from October 2018 to September 2020. The company spent K13.89 billion for the UDP.

According to his statements, U Kyaw Myint set up the Maple Leaf Restoration Inc Co., Ltd while he was residing in Canada and sold high-priced seeds and nursery plants across the country. He could save Canadian dollar 33 million in the bank accounts of CBC Bank, RDC Bank and TD Bank. After withdrawing all the cash, he took 18 million and shared the remaining 15 million to his family.

He then moved to China and stayed in Kunming city where he exported construction materials, household commodities and tricycles to Myanmar. He also made K30 billion investments at Myanmar merchants. He entered Myanmar via Muse border town in 2014 and then established Myanmar Kyaw Company.

However, he could not show concrete evidence on imports and exports between Myanmar and China. He also had no documents for the trading from 2014 to September 2020.

The investigations did not find any evidence of his trading between China and Myanmar, and K16.315 billion was also received illegally.

He would be charged under the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Financial Institution Law for both prison terms and cash fines. The expenditures from the illegal transfer of money for party affairs will be reported to the Union Election Commission to check with the Political Parties Registration Law.

Media personnel also raised on the questions of illegal funds for UDP, delay of investigations into businesses of Myanmar Kyaw Co., Ltd since 2016, further inspections to the related persons with the business of U Kyaw Myint, entering from a foreign country into Myanmar, his national scrutiny card, his political activities, his nationality, approvals from the three ministries to perform as

the party chairman, possible connection with the Union-level officials in the previous government and arrests of related persons with him.

Director-General U Zaw Htay explained the investigations in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Union Election Commission, various levels of Central Farmland Management Committee.

He also remarked on the weakness in the rule of law, while freedom of expression and criticism has increased as the democratic transform period in Myanmar has been some years and the role of social media and citizen journalists in sharing information in this case.

He added that U Kyaw Myint would passed more amount than the K23 billion found in the initial investigations. Officials are conducting further inspections. The amount of transfer money was K16 billion.

In his statement, U Kyaw Myint said that he fled from Mandalay Public Hospital in January 1999, stayed one month in Thailand, 3 months in Oslo city of Norway and then arrived in New Jersey city in the United States under political asylum. He then moved to Vancouver of Canada from 2012 to 2014. During this period, he arrived in Kunming city of China before entering Myanmar illegally in 2013.

The Director-General also said that national scrutiny card of U Kyaw Myint is real and that he received a real border pass. Registration for political party prohibits a prisoner. His national identity card mentions Kachin ethnic, Kokant, Christian religion and permanent address Lashio.

The Director-General talked about illegal money transfer agents and further investigations into carrying 18 million Canadian dollars through the airport.

The case is being investigated by some other teams and inspections will also be made on his possible relations with Union-level officials.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed about the findings to the UEC for actions in line with the relevant laws.—Myo Thwin Kyaw

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Factories to be allowed to reopen if complied with health criteria Level A

By Nyein Nyein

THE factories which do not meet health criteria (Level A) set by the Ministry of Health and Sports has suspended so far, and they can reopen only after mandatory preparations, Yangon Region government released a notification on 14 October.

At present, 2,184 factories, workplaces and businesses in Yangon started to reopen on 12 October as they received Level A, as per the combined inspection team.

The team will continue checking those permitted factories.

Furthermore, they will closely inspect 4,076 factories with Level B during factories operation. If the factories fail to meet Level A, the operation will temporarily halt.

During the suspension period, they have to prepare for Level A, the regional government's

notification stated.

Yangon Region government will notify the factories, workplaces and businesses of the preparations to meet Level A.

The internal audit of the offices, factories and workplaces must be formed to submit their preparedness report to the inspection team through online and later. The inspection team will check them if necessary. The scrutiny committee for the industrial zone development and the relevant management committee will ensure sustainable compliance of the factories, workshops and businesses. The respective township teams will inspect the factories, workplaces and the firms outside the industrial zone.

Those enterprises currently running are mandatory to sanitize the workplace after office hours every day. Suppose those factories, workplaces and businesses are found in compliance



Women wearing facemasks sew clothes at a workplace in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

with health guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Sports. In that case, the related scrutiny committees will take action

against those employers and employees under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law and Natural

Disaster Management Law, the regional government notified.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Dollar exchange rate rises above K1,300 after CBM purchases over \$26 mln within 2 weeks

By Nyein Nyein

THE US dollar against Kyat has slightly gained at above K1,300 after the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) purchased over US\$26 million at an auction rate within two weeks, the local forex market data showed.

The CBM reportedly purchased \$3.7 million on 2 October, \$3.8 million each on 5, 6, 7 and 8 October and \$7.7 million on 9 October in the auction market, totalling \$26.6 million within two weeks. Consequently, the US dollar exchange rate rose to K1,312 on 15 October.

The rate fell to K1,282 on 9 October, and it appreciates again.

"The instability in the exchange rate posed difficulties to those stakeholders engaged in the agriculture and livestock supply chains including farmers, traders and exporters. That is why the stable exchange rate is vital of importance for the businesses," the businesspersons pointed out.

At present, the local forex market sees the weak sentiment amid the coronavirus outbreak

and the trade disputes between the US and China, the business experts shared their opinions.

Additionally, the CBM also bought \$44.2 million in the auction market last month (September), the CBM's data indicated.

The CBM's move is aimed at governing the market volatility and supporting the state's foreign exchange reserves, the CBM stated on 24 July.

This year, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August and K1,310-1,355 in September.

Last year, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP raw materials import plunges to \$2.17 bln in 2019-2020FY

CMP raw materials import has registered at US\$2.17 billion in the past financial year 2019-2020, which plunged from \$2.37 billion recorded in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar manufacturing sector has mostly concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the COVID-19 negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The COVID-19 badly batters the labour-intensive enterprises, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To deal with the shortage of raw materials for the CMP garment factories in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association

and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) have jointly imported raw materials through border trade channels and airlines.

However, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses in the last FY dropped by \$197.7 million compared to a year-ago period.

The CMP garment sector in Myanmar has been hit hard by the coronavirus impacts amid the global demand slump, said an official of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Supply chain disruptions and cancelling customer orders following the coronavirus outbreak hurt the global textile industry. Similarly, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is bracing for downward trend owing to the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries

amid the pandemic.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued about US\$4 billion around the past eleven months in the last financial year 2019-2020, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Since an outbreak like Covid-19 might happen in the future, it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.

— Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Myanmar brings 119 citizens back home in coordination with Malaysia

MYANMAR organized a relief flight of Myanmar Airways International in bringing back 119 citizens, including 98 undocumented or illegal workers and 40 former detainees, from Malaysia yesterday, in coordination with its government for the repatriation programme.

The relief flight of for the returnees, including pregnant women, landed at Yangon International Airport in the afternoon.

After negotiation with Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, undocumented and illegal Myanmar migrant workers who received the Certificate of Identity from the embassy were exempted from the cash fines or punishment of Malay-



Myanmar returnees from Malaysia are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 15 October 2020.

PHOTO: MNA

sian immigration department. Myanmar has brought back 3,118 citizens by relief and special flights from Malaysia until now.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

ROK Govt provides food aid to IDPs in Rakhine, Chin through WFP



Republic of Korea donates foods to IDPs in Rakhine and Chin states through United Nations World Food Programme on 15 October 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

THE government of the Republic of Korea donated US\$500,000 to the World Food Programme yesterday to provide emergency food stuffs to IDP camps in Rakhine and Chin States.

At the virtual ceremony at the Embassy of the Republic of

Korea yesterday Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and Country Director of WFP

With the support of the Korean government, the WFP will distribute basic food stuffs such as rice, oil, and soybeans to the people displaced by armed conflicts in Rakhine and Chin states.

"In order to respond to the increased humanitarian needs amidst the COVID-19 outbreak such as food security for daily lives of IDPs in Rakhine, food, water and habitat support will be provided through WFP (US\$500,000) and ICRC (US\$700,000) this year," said the statement released by the embassy yesterday. The Korean government provided antigen tests kits worth of US\$50,000 to the Union Government on 29 September, and is planning to provide additional test kits worth US\$500,000 in humanitarian aid on 16 October.—GNLM

CRIME NEWS



Confiscated fuel tanker and ICE. **PHOTO: MNA**

Police confiscate 1,800 kilos of ICE in Shan State

POLICE seized 1,800 kg of ICE worth K360,000 in Kehsi Township of Shan State, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The joint police patrol recovered a total of 1,800 kg of ICE worth K360,000 in a abandoned eight-wheeled DONG GENG fuel tanker parked on

Minenaung-Minenam road of Kehsi Township at 5 pm on 14 October.

A case was opened according to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS

Fate of Brexit talks hangs in balance at EU summit

EUROPEAN leaders meet on Thursday seemingly determined to resist pressure from Prime Minister Boris Johnson to give ground in post-Brexit trade negotiations. The 27 leaders have tried to keep Brexit off the agenda at their recent summits, trusting in EU negotiator Michel Barnier to defend their interests.

But Johnson, frustrated at the slow progress towards a new trade deal, warned on Wednesday that he would decide after the meeting whether to pull the plug on talks. He has



Britain formally left the EU on January 31 but the two sides have yet to agree on a post-Brexit trade deal. PHOTO: AFP

warned that he could walk away from the negotiations unless the results of the latest two-day Brussels' summit point the way to a breakthrough, but EU officials do not recognize his deadline, and insist they remain united in their demands. The leaders were to tackle Brexit first when the gather for their summit in Brussels on Thursday, but a draft of their conclusions seen by AFP offered little to London. A earlier version circulating on Wednesday had proposed that Barnier "intensify" his discussions

with UK negotiator David Frost in order to reach a deal quickly that could be ratified and implemented before Britain leaves the single market on December 31.

But the latest draft seen by AFP as the leaders gathered had dropped this word and says merely that the summit urges negotiators "to continue negotiations in the coming weeks, and calls on the UK to make the necessary moves to make an agreement possible."

SOURCE: AFP

STRUGGLING ECONOMY

Economic headache awaits victor in Bolivian election

BOLIVIANS go to the polls to elect a new president on Sunday in the midst of the South American country's biggest economic crisis for 40 years.

But the ultimate victor faces an economic headache, with GDP set to shrink by 6.2 per cent in 2020 in a country battered by the coronavirus pandemic and a slump in demand for raw materials, according to International Monetary Fund

figures.

"We are very close to a serious economic crisis," said Roberto Laserna, an economist with the Fundacion Milenio think tank.

The country of 11 million with a precarious public health infrastructure has struggled to cope with the pandemic, with 137,000 infections and more than 8,000 deaths to date.

FEDERAL RESERVE

U.S. economy perhaps needs another year to return to pre-pandemic peak: Fed vice-chairman

IT will take perhaps another year for the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) to get back to its pre-pandemic peak, Federal Reserve Vice-Chairman Richard Clarida said Wednesday. "The COVID-19 recession threw the economy into a very deep hole, and it will take some time, perhaps another year, for the level of GDP to fully recover to its previous

2019 peak," Clarida said in remarks for the virtual annual meeting of the Institute of International Finance. "It will likely take even longer than that for the unemployment rate to return to a level consistent with our maximum-employment mandate," Clarida said, adding full economic recovery from the COVID-19 recession has a long way to go. "Although

the unemployment rate has declined sharply since April, it remains elevated as of September at 7.9 per cent and would be about 3 percentage points higher if labour force participation remained at February 2020 levels," he said, noting additional support from monetary and fiscal policies will be needed.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Transferring Distributor Registered Herbicide

Distributor of the herbicide, Sweeper (Imazamox 35% + Imazethapyr 35% w/w WG) with its registration number P2020-3430 is transferring from **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd.**, No.242, Kanaung Minthargyi Street, Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar to **Farm Link Company Limited**, No.242, Kanaung Minthargyi Street, Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days. BASF Myanmar Limited
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Scoping of Environmental Impact Assessment for the development of Block A6, Offshore Ayeyarwaddy Region by TOTAL E&P Myanmar (TEPM)

TOTAL E&P Myanmar (TEPM), in partnership with Woodside and MPRL, is planning to develop Block A6 in the Rakhine basin off the western coast of Myanmar. The development, at its closest point, is 68 km from Pathein, 40 km from Chaung Thar, and 30 km from Ngwe Saung Town and will consist of the following main components:

- An offshore platform, processing 400 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd);
- Ten production wells and associated infrastructure, in deep water; and
- A subsea export flow line to the Yadana Platform.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, TEPM is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activities. On behalf of TEPM, the EIA Studies are being conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Environmental Quality Management (EQM), in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). Associated stakeholder engagement has been undertaken at the local level in Ayeyarwaddy Region in August 2020. Further engagement as part of the EIA Study will be conducted in the beginning of 2021.

Information on the project is available at TEPM's webpage - <https://mm.total.com/publications>. Hard copies of the Myanmar language version of the Executive Summary will be available at Pathein, Chaung Thar, Ngwe Saung, Nga Yoke Kaung, Shwe Taung Yan, and Haingyi Kyun GAD offices.

Any queries, comments, or suggestions on the Project and the EIA Study can be provided in writing to u.aung-zaw-win@external.total.com.

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KUO LUNG VOY. NO. (102N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2020** 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.

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Myanma Port Authority

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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:

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SETTING UP A 'TRAVEL BUBBLE'

Singapore, Hong Kong to create quarantine-free travel bubble

SINGAPORE and Hong Kong have agreed in principle to create an air travel bubble between them that will not require quarantine upon arrival, the two governments said Thursday. The agreement to revive air travel between the regional hubs amid the coronavirus pandemic was reached the previous day between Singapore Transport Minister Ong Ye Kung and Hong Kong's commerce secretary, Edward Yau, according to a joint statement. People travelling under the arrangement will not be required to quarantine but will need to test negative for the coronavirus prior to boarding their flights. There are no limitations regarding travel purposes.

"It is significant that our two regional aviation hubs have decided to collaborate to establish an Air Travel Bubble," Ong said in a statement. "It is a safe, careful but significant step forward



A man wears a facemask as a precautionary measure against Covid-19 as he walks past check-in counters at Hong Kong International Airport on March 24, hours before non-residents were banned from entering the city. PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP/FILE

to revive air travel, and provide a model for future collaboration with other parts of the world."

Ong told reporters that "we both recognized that we have

quite successfully controlled the epidemic and the incidence rates are low in both regions and places." He said the travel bubble will have less restrictions

than the other special travel arrangements that Singapore has established with other countries.

SOURCE: KYODO

QINGDAO MASS DRIVE

13 cases, 10 million tests: China swabs city after coronavirus outbreak

ALMOST 10 million people in the Chinese city of Qingdao have now been screened for the coronavirus, officials said Thursday, as authorities rushed to quash an outbreak through an ambitious programme of mass testing.

Deputy mayor Luan Xin said more than 9.9 million samples had been collected and 7.6 million results returned, adding that no new cases had been found.

The city has now confirmed 13 cases, Luan told a regular briefing Thursday, adding that health workers were on track to complete testing 9.4 million residents and another 1.5 million visitors by Friday — just five days after the programme was launched.

The mass testing follows the discovery of a dozen cases linked to the Qingdao Municipal Chest Hospital, which was treating coronavirus patients arriving from abroad.

The head of that facility, Deng Kai, was fired on Thursday. The local health bureau said he had been "removed from office" and was "under further investigation", but did not offer any more details.

SOURCE: AFP

PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATIONS

Hundreds defy Thai crackdown after emergency decree, arrests

HUNDREDS of Thai protesters gathered in defiance of a sweeping crackdown Thursday after authorities moved to crush months of pro-democracy demonstrations by imposing emergency powers and rounding up leading activists. Protesters chanted "Prayut get out!" and "Free our friends!" as they confronted police at Ratchaprasong, a busy junction in central Bangkok, despite a new decree banning groups of more than four people. Student leaders had earlier taken to social media to urge supporters to take to the streets.

"Come out in force -- only giving moral support from home is not enough," said the Free Youth Movement, which had organized massive demonstrations in recent months. The government of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a former army chief who initially took power in a 2014 coup, has been the target of mounting, student-led protests which are also taking aim at Thailand's unassailable monarchy. After the emergency measures were announced early Thursday, riot police dispersed hundreds of protesters who camped overnight outside the prime minister's office. SOURCE: AFP



Pro-democracy protesters gave the three-finger salute as they gathered at the Ratchaprasong traffic intersection in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

THE WORLD'S MOST PROLIFIC FILM INDUSTRY

India cinemas reopen, hoping to lure back movie-mad fans lost during COVID-19 closure



A worker cleans the ticket counter outside a theatre hall on the eve of the scheduled reopening of cinema theatres as the Covid-19 coronavirus imposed lockdown eases further in Allahabad on October 14, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

THE films may be old, masks mandatory and the usual lavish menus absent, but Indian cinema-owners hope movie-lovers will still flock back Thursday when theatres begin reopening after a nearly seven-month coronavirus shutdown.

The pandemic has clobbered cinemas around the world, but in India, it has upended a culture that treats movies as something of a religion, and its stars as gods.

After the recent loss of several luminaries to coronavirus, cancer and even suicide - as well

as a raging scandal over drug use in Bollywood - the world's most prolific film industry is desperate for some good news. But it may have to wait. INOX Leisure Ltd, India's second-largest multiplex operator, says the chain will only be screening old films when it reopens Thursday.

"Right now, what we are working on is getting the confidence of people back by letting them know that the cinemas are safe and secure," said Lalit Ojha, a regional director for the company.

A trip to the cinema remains an affordable pursuit in India, with as little as 75 rupees (\$1) buying three hours of drama, dancing and song in air-conditioned luxury. At high-end cinema chains like INOX, patrons can even get biryani or hot fudge sundaes delivered to their recliners. But with temperature checks at the door, half the seats left empty for social distancing, and only a limited selection of food, the experience now is a far cry from the luxuries previously on offer. SOURCE: AFP

ELECTIONS



US President Donald Trump speaks as he hosts a Make America Great Again campaign event at Des Moines International Airport, in Des Moines, Iowa on October 14, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Trump, Biden in competing town halls with president in uphill battle

DONALD TRUMP and challenger Joe Biden will participate in dueling town halls Thursday instead of clashing face-to-face in their second debate, as the US president seeks to jolt his struggling campaign 19 days before the election.

The split screen spectacle follows Trump's three-day campaign tour of battleground states once doctors gave him the medical all-clear less than two weeks after he announced he contracted the coronavirus.

But even as Trump sought to

mount a closing argument against Biden at a boisterous rally Wednesday in Iowa, promising an "incredible" third quarter for the struggling economy, the pandemic remained front and center. Trump's teenage son Barron contracted the coronavirus, First Lady Melania Trump revealed Wednesday in news that startled in part because it had been kept from the public for so long. She said the 14-year-old, who goes to a private school near Washington, did not experience symptoms and has since tested negative.

"Barron Trump, you know, he had the Corona 19," the president said in Des Moines. "He had it such a short period of time I don't even think he knew he had it."

The news, which had been kept under wraps despite global attention on Trump's own health, thrust public attention firmly back on the pandemic and in particular on an outbreak within the supposedly highly secure White House over the last two weeks.

SOURCE: AFP

PRISONER SWAP

Yemen's warring sides to begin swap of over 1,000 prisoners

THE warring sides in Yemen's long conflict will exchange some 1,081 prisoners Thursday and Friday, under a deal struck in Switzerland last month,

a senior rebel official said Thursday. "The transaction will be executed, with God's help, on the scheduled dates today and tomorrow," Abdel Kader

Mortaza, the rebel official in charge of prisoner affairs, said in a tweet.

"The preparations have been completed by all parties," he added.

Yemen's government, which is supported by a Saudi-led military coalition, and Iran-backed Huthi rebels resolved to swap some 15,000 detainees as part of a peace deal brokered by the UN in Stockholm back in 2018.

The two sides have since undertaken sporadic prisoner exchanges, but this week's planned swap would mark the first large-scale handover since the war erupted in 2014. UN envoy Martin Griffiths hailed it as a "very important milestone" when the agreement was struck after a week of talks in Switzerland last month.

SOURCE: AFP



The planned prisoner exchange, the largest since the current Yemeni conflict erupted in 2014, was agreed after a week of negotiations in Switzerland last month. PHOTO: AFP

Obituary

Son of (S. Amir Ali, Amtul Begun), Younger brother of (S. Wajid Ali, S. Wahid Ali), beloved father of Daw Mya Thida (S.B office) + U San Ko, U Kyaw Soe Tun (Panthay letyar Restaurant) + Daw Wai Wai Phyto, Daw Mya Thandar (a) Htoo Htoo, U Kyaw Moe Tun + Daw Theingi Nu, grandfather of Six, great grandfather of one, beloved husband of (Daw Myint Myint Aye-SAT Retd:), S. Nasir Ali (a) U Tin Maung (86 years) [OU St. Albert Students, Retired Editor of the New Light of Myanmar] expired on 11.10.2020, at 7:28 P.M and buried at Yay Way Cemetery on 12.10.2020.
(No. 452, 6B, Banyardala street, Tamway, Yangon)
Remained Family.

NEWS

IN BRIEF

CYPRIOI PARLIAMENT

Cyprus speaker resigns over passports scandal

THE speaker of the Cypriot parliament resigned on Thursday after he was secretly filmed allegedly trying to facilitate a passport for a fugitive investor. Demetris Syllouris insisted he was innocent of any wrongdoing but said he had decided to step down for the good of the office, after the corruption allegations broadcast by Al Jazeera tarnished Cyprus's image as a European Union member.

"I have not violated the law in any way, but my resignation removes any pretext that my presence in the office of speaker hinders in any way the smooth functioning of parliament," Syllouris said in his resignation letter.

SOURCE: AFP

REMOTE PLENARY

European Parliament cancels Strasbourg session over virus

THE European Parliament will hold next week's session by videoconference as a precaution against coronavirus, its president said Thursday, despite France's demand that it return to Strasbourg. The news comes after French President Emmanuel Macron announced curfews in nine cities to contain an alarming rise in Covid-19 cases, although Strasbourg, in the country's east, is not affected.

SOURCE: AFP

CURFEWS INTRODUCED

Macron orders anti-virus curfew for Paris, other French cities

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday ordered a night-time curfew for Paris and eight other French cities to contain the spread of Covid-19 after daily new infection rates reached alarming record levels.

In a televised interview, Macron said residents of those cities – which combined are home to close to a third of the French population – would not be allowed to be outdoors between 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) and 6:00 am (0400 GMT) from Sat-

urday, for a duration of at least four weeks, except for essential reasons. "We have to act. We need to put a brake on the spread of the virus," Macron said, adding the measure would stop people visiting restaurants and private homes in the late evening and night. "We are going to have to deal with this virus until at least the summer of 2021," Macron said, saying "all scientists" were in agreement on that point.

SOURCE: AFP

AFC renews youth championships to Asian Cups tourneys

ASIAN Football Confederation recently renovated the former AFC age group championships to become AFC Asian Cups starting from 2021, according to the official statement with the AFC.

According to the AFC decision, futsal and beach soccer tourneys named AFC Futsal Championship, AFC Women's Futsal Championship, AFC U-20 Futsal Championship and AFC Beach Soccer Championship will also become AFC Asian Cups.

The first step to change a new name will be the qualifying rounds for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2022 and the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2022, according to the AFC.

The hosts for both qualifying round one competition have also been decided with Australia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Tajikistan hosting groups in both the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup and the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup.

Upon updating the tourney's names, Dato' Windsor John, the AFC General Secretary, has said: "We believe the change reflects the new stature of the competitions and by further strengthening the brand and commercial value of our competitions, there will be significant benefits for the AFC and its Member Associations".

"It is not only the name that will change as the AFC, in line with our Vision and Mission, will continue to enhance and invest in all our competitions to provide the best platform for Asia's talents at all levels in the coming years," he added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Neymar prepares to take a corner for PSG at a near-deserted Parc des Princes during a recent Ligue 1 game. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PSG-Man United Champions League clash to go ahead behind closed doors as curfew imposed in Paris

PARIS — Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League opener against Manchester United next Tuesday will go ahead, but without spectators, despite the French government introducing a nighttime curfew in the capital, the country's sports ministry told AFP.

"Exemptions will be possible, with or without spectators depending on the time," the ministry said on Wednesday when asked about sporting events going ahead after

President Emmanuel Macron earlier announced the curfew.

Residents in Paris and its surrounding Ile-de-France region, along with eight other French cities, will not be allowed to be outdoors between 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) and 6:00 am (0400 GMT) from Saturday, for a duration of at least four weeks, except for essential reasons.

The measures were announced in response to Covid-19 infection rates reaching record levels.—AFP ■

Ayeyawady United donates K10 million to Ayeyawady Centre



MFF president and Ayeyawady Foundation chairperson U Zaw Zaw (Right) presents the certificate of honour to the AUFC football authorities. **PHOTO: AYEYAWADY FOUNDATION**

AYEYAWADY UNITED Football Club recently contributed K10 million to the Ayeyawady Centre for combating COVID-19 pandemic across the country, announced by Myanmar National League this week on their official social media page.

Likewise, Myanmar's famous singer Zaw Paing and his family donated K1 million to the Ayeyawady Centre this week for general use of the centre, according to the statement with the Ayeyawady Foundation.

Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw who is also a

chairperson of the Ayeyawady Foundation presented the certificates of honour to the donors on behalf of the foundation.

Officials of the centre have expressed deep gratitude to the Ayeyawady United FC and singer Zaw Paing and his family for their donations, according to the Ayeyawady Foundation.

The Ayeyawady centre, located on the Thuwunna Youth training ground, has been giving health service for the public from 19 September 2020.

The Ministry of Health and Sports gave full permission to

run the temporary healthcare centre, and the ministry has also contributed medical equipment for the centre, according to the Ayeyawady Foundation.

The centre can accommodate over 400 positive patients, and it is now becoming a key place to give healthcare treatments in Yangon by Ayeyawady Foundation in line with guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports. The MFF president, along with other donor's support, also provided the daily needs of the temporary healthcare centre.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Southgate backs Maguire but demands England learn from red card woes

LONDON — Gareth Southgate warned England to learn from their disciplinary woes after giving Harry Maguire

his "full support" following the Manchester United defender's dismissal in Wednesday's 1-0 defeat against Denmark.

Southgate's side suffered their first defeat for a year as Maguire was sent off for two first half bookings before Christian Eriksen's penalty sealed the Nations League points for Denmark.

Adding to the growing sense that Southgate is struggling to keep his players under control, Chelsea right-back Reece James marred his first England start when he was sent off after the final whistle for confronting referee Jesus Gil.

Following hot on the heels of Kyle Walker's dismissal against Iceland in September, England have had three players sent off in a calendar year for the first time.—AFP ■



England defender Harry Maguire was sent off against Denmark. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**