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Saturday, 24 October 2020

Message from U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations Day

(24 October 2020)

ON this auspicious occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, I wish to extend our warm congratulations, and our best wishes for the greater success of the Organization in its discharge of the mandate entrusted to it by the UN Charter. The maintenance of the international peace and security and the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples through international cooperation are particular needs for our times.

We are celebrating the diamond jubilee of this world

body in the most challenging and gloomy global environment. Today mankind is confronted with multiple challenges: inter alia, rising threat to multilateralism, geopolitical tensions, growing inequalities and a threatening climate crisis. Above all else, the new virus of COVID-19 rampaging in rich and poor countries alike has devoured over one million lives, infected many millions more, and caused wide-spread social and economic disruption around the world.

Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic is the defining

global health crisis of our time. It constitutes a test of the unity and solidarity of the international community as we tackle the crisis; it is also a clarion call for imperative global action. Given the ravages caused by the pandemic, the world must come together to mobilize resources and wage a war against this common enemy. At this critical time, the world needs stronger international cooperation and effective multilateralism more than ever to harmonize our collective efforts in response to the common challenges of humanity. **SEE PAGE-3**

State Counsellor reports on measures against COVID-19



TODAY, the most important thing I want to report to the people regarding COVID-19 is that the “Stay at home” order issued for certain townships is still in force; especially in Yangon. Just because we have given permission for some factories, workplaces, as well as factories and workplaces which are important for the economy in the long term, to resume operations if they abided by the rules and regulations that we have issued, does not mean that the “Stay at home” order is no longer in effect as some might think.

The “Stay at home” order is still in force. The rules and regulations are still in force. I request all of you to be patient and abide by the rules and regulations. In Yangon, we have been able to control COVID-19 as a start. This is only the beginning. I am not saying that the situation is under control. When I say we have been able to control the disease, as a beginning, the numbers have come down from the previous highest level. However, there have been ups and downs. It is not a continuous downward trend. It comes down, and then it goes up a little, then it comes down a little and goes up again. That’s why we can say that we have begun to control the disease.

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
New Goktwin bridge inaugurated in northern Shan State
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Myanmar-Singapore Economic Ministers discuss economic matters via video-conference
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Union Education Minister joins 2020 UNESCO Global Education Meeting
PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS
Yangon gold market to resume on 26 October
PAGE-11



New Goktwin bridge inaugurated in northern Shan State



Officials cut ribbon to inaugurate new Goktwin bridge located on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road section of Union Highway in Nawngkhio, Shan State on 23 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attended the inauguration ceremony of new Goktwin bridge located on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road section of Union Highway in Nawngkhio township, Kyautme district in northern Shan State yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief Minister of Shan State Dr Lin Htut, his government members, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and local people.

After the Chief Minister made a speech, the Director for the Road Management Department (northern Shan State) explained the facts about the bridge and a local person expressed words of thanks.

The Deputy Speaker, the Shan State Chief Minister and the Shan State Minister for Road Transport cut the ribbon to open the ceremony and walked across the bridge.

The new bridge was built by the Ministry of Construction with Union funds 874 million kyats. The construction of this 30-ft-wide and 60-tonne two-lane reinforced bridge began on 1 December 2019 and completed on 31 August 2020.

The old Goktwin bridge was damaged by a landmine on 15 August, and its loading capacity was reduced to a 48-tonne bridge.—Mine Htun (IPRD)

Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung

COVID-19 medical devices for General Election imported from China

MEDICAL devices for COVID-19 prevention imported from China and to be used in the 2020 General Election arrived at Yangon International Airport by special flights on 21, 22 and 23 October.

These devices will be distributed to voters, polling station staff and volunteers during the elections.

Up to 23 October, 5,768,000 KN95 masks, 250,400 protective face masks, 66,700 sets of PPE medical protective clothing and 4,500 boots have been imported.

Special flights for more stocks of COVID-19 medical supplies will land at Yangon and Mandalay international airports from 24 October to 3 November. —MNA (*Translated by Aung Khin*)



Workers unload the COVID-19 medical supplies imported from China from the flights at the Yangon International Airport on 23 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet 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.



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

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

Who is ineligible to vote?

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

2020

General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020

DAYS

15

Message from U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations Day

(24 October 2020)

FROM PAGE-1

Therefore, this year's UN theme, "The Future that We Want; the United Nations that We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism", truly reflects the current situation that requires the revival of the spirit of enhanced global cooperation.

We believe that the United Nations represents our collective efforts to improve the socio-economic lives of hundreds of millions of human beings the world over, as has been done over the past seventy-five years, through the promotion of peace and stability, sustainable development, a culture of justice, legality, and rule of law.

Regardless of its imperfections, the United Nations has visibly made the world a better place than it was seventy-five years ago. It has helped to deter major wars, lifted millions of people out of extreme poverty and hunger, and achieved an average life expectancy that is higher than ever before. There is no better alternative to the United Nations for steering multilateral efforts to realize the dream of creating a better world and shaping the future we want.

According to the global consultations recently conducted by the UN with peoples around the world, the priorities identified by the majority of the respondents are: better healthcare, education, clean water and sanitation. To meet their expectations, it is imperative for the United Nations to be revitalized and made

more responsive to the priority needs of the sovereign Member States.

Myanmar believes that a rules-based multilateral system, with the United Nations at its heart, should be a beacon of hope for developing and small countries. We look to the United Nations as the protector of developing small countries, especially at a time when the world is full of unfairness, injustice, inequality and multiple standards even in the application of international law.

Since joining the United Nations in 1948, Myanmar's faith in the values of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter has always been firm and solid. Cooperation with the United Nations has always been a cornerstone of Myanmar's foreign policy. As a country undergoing a complex democratic transition towards building a democratic federal union, Myanmar looks forward to continuing to work together with the United Nations through a more constructive cooperation in our efforts to overcome the multiple challenges with which we are faced, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the key leadership role of the WHO and the fundamental role of the United Nations system in mobilizing and coordinating the comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most pressing task for the humanity today is to work together to ensure timely access to safe and affordable COVID-19 vaccines for all countries, and to prevent developing countries

from falling into economic and financial crises and an exacerbation of poverty.

Sadly, COVID-19 is reversing our development gains towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. We, therefore, must turn COVID-19 into an opportunity to renew our commitment to multilateral efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and social and economic inequalities within and among countries and to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient society. Through such efforts, we shall be able to reduce the risk of future shocks to achieve progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

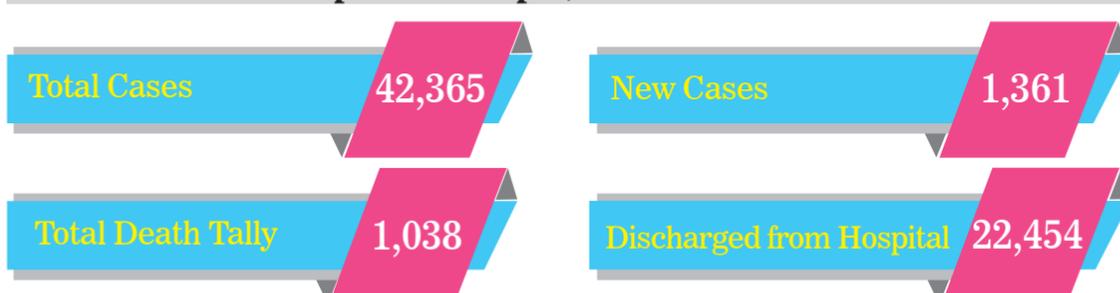
I take this opportunity to thank the United Nations and its agencies for their valuable support extended to Myanmar in its struggle against the COVID-19 outbreak. I also wish to congratulate the World Food Programme on the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize awarded in recognition of its outstanding humanitarian works. This epitomizes the critical and life-saving role played by the United Nations for mankind.

We hope that the UN will continue to lead global efforts to steer towards a more peaceful, prosperous and healthy world in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. On this historic occasion, we must all renew our commitment to combine our efforts to fulfil our obligations as enshrined in the UN Charter.

1,361 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 October, total figure rises to 42,365

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 42,365 after 1,361 new cases were reported on 23 October according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 42,365 confirmed cases, 1,038 died, 22,454 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 23 October 2020



Daily Death toll until 8 pm 23-10-2020

33

Ministry of Health and Sports

State Counsellor reports on measures against COVID-19

FROM PAGE-1

However, to be able to control completely, we need to continue our efforts.

When I said we need to continue our efforts, I don't know if some of our people might feel stressed out. But we need to be patient. We need to steel ourselves and stand firm. This is the same all over the world. In some countries, they are even saying it is the third wave because the infections have spread far and wide. The situation in our country is not in the worst situation. But we are also not in the best situation. Before August, we could say that we were among the countries with the best situation. Now, we cannot say anymore. However, because we have been able to control the disease, as a start, we can say that this is great progress.

Now if we look at the data for the whole country in terms of numbers and percentages, Yangon Region is at the top. After that it is Bago Region. After that, it is Rakhine State and after that Mandalay Region. However, Mandalay Region does not rank fourth in terms of percentages; only in terms of numbers. Yangon Region, Bago Region and Rakhine State are on the high side both in terms of percentages as well as numbers. That is why the people in Yangon Region must continue to be vigilant. The people in Bago Region must also continue to be vigilant. The people in Rakhine State must also be vigilant.

As the COVID-19 disease stays with us for a longer period of time, we know that it has caused hardships for the livelihood of the people. So how should we assist our people. We are now making plans to begin another programme of assistance for the people. We will inform the people as soon as these plans are ready. We regret that we have not been able to assist fully 100 per cent. However, we will do as much as possible. This will be done as quickly as possible. This is from the economic side. On the health side, we have heard that there have been some shortcomings.

For example, people who need to go into quarantine could not go into quarantine because arrangements could not be made in time; some people could not be admitted into the hospitals. We are considering these things so that we can fulfil the requirements of the people speedily; so that people can enter quarantine speedily; and so that people who need to be admitted into the hospitals can be admitted speedily. We are initiating new arrangements. We have been doing these things.

For example, in some cases, we have delegated people at the township level to make the decisions; the regional level authorities need not decide all matters. We will make new arrangements. For a case like sending people to quarantine, it could be done speedily if the township level could decide. Here I am talking only about sending people into quarantine. I am sure people would like to know how the situation will be in the long term. How the situation will develop in the long term, we ourselves cannot say definitely. However, I have said this before.

At the moment, in terms of medicines that are needed, as soon as we heard that vaccines have become available, we have contacted countries like China and India which have plans to produce these vaccines, to cooperate with them. That is why when the vaccines become available, our people will be able to use them. I am sure some of our people know what the experts have been saying about the vaccines. They have been saying many things. Some experts say that even if vaccines become available, there might not be 100 per cent guarantee. They say that vaccines would be more effective for people who have good health. Of course we can say this is true in all circumstances. A person with good health would be able to put up a better resistance to any type of disease. He would be in a better position to overcome the problem. That is why I want people to study about staying healthy during this COVID period.

This programme is broadcast twice a week. Questions can be raised to senior health experts and veteran doctors in the programme. Health knowledge would be searched on mobile phones. However, people need to understand that every health information online is not true. The UN has even reminded people to protect themselves from this type of misinformation. False knowledge and wrong information about health can pose risks on those who followed them. For example, some persons unreasonably give the wrong advice on foods and lifestyle to prevent COVID-19. There is no 100 per cent correct method that can guarantee prevention of the pandemic until now. Some experts have not confirmed in advance that the vaccine can guarantee 100 per cent prevention, and they have said a definite answer would be available only after the vaccine has been produced.

Therefore, try to live healthily. If your basic health conditions are good, you can overcome any disease. Therefore, healthy practices can be found in the information and news released by the Ministry of Health and Sports. It is advised to raise questions to the Q & A programme with senior health experts. Don't believe unfounded information and don't follow unreasonable ideas.

If any information was thought to be realistic, it could be put forward to the programme for seeking the right idea.

I also want to report on the elections and COVID-19 situations. The number of overseas voter turnout increased by three times in comparing with that of 2015. However, the percentage of voter turnout from their registration declined from 75 per cent in 2015 to 69 per cent this year. Nevertheless, the figures of overall voter turnout surged by three times. Although Myanmar citizens abroad want to cast their votes and received applications of Form 15, they failed to cast their votes. It was possibly due to the COVID-19

outbreak. It is assumed that they got Form 15 because they had a desire to vote. However, in some countries, it was very difficult to go and vote.

Some countries allowed polling booths only in major cities. So, our people could not cast their votes. Actually, the percentage of 69 is considerably high, although it is lower than 75 per cent of the 2015 General Election. We are grateful to our citizens for their active voting in the elections in performing their duties as citizens.

As the elections become nearer, people need to abide by the rules and guidelines of COVID-19. Respective political parties need to follow these guidelines in their campaign activities not only for the health of the people but also for the victory of their party. So, it is advised to control their temper. Voting on 8 November is more important than energetic campaign activities. The voters who are eligible for advance voting can cast their votes before 8 November. Therefore, please build up your strength. Every political party will conduct its campaign in line with the rules. People might breach the rules during their participation in political campaigns of their party. It is requested to stay vigilant about this. In relation to the COVID-19, I have said this many times; we have to think about the future; we have to think about the economic situation. I want to tell the people that we are constantly monitoring the situation.

I am not telling you not to worry about the future. It will not be possible to persuade people not to have anxiety. It is reasonable to consider about the future. We cannot tell people not to have growing concerns under these circumstances. However, health is more important at present. Health is vital to overcome the pandemic. If someone is not healthy, they could not work. As a Myanmar saying goes, 'Health is the greatest of blessings'. It is very true. Please stay healthy and abide by the rules and regulations. It is essential to wear a mask. If all the

people wore masks, the infection rate of COVID-19 would decline significantly. I am collecting the infection data from respective countries. I am surprised at the infection rate of Japan because Japanese people strictly follow rules and disciplines.

In further studying, it was found that the population density of Japan is high and many people are using trains and buses. It is concluded that such public transports are some sources for the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, public gatherings have encouraged the spread of infections. Moreover, I have learnt that Japanese people are used to wearing masks. However, the masks cannot prevent this disease among the crowd. Therefore, people are suggested to stay away from crowded areas and to wear masks in public areas. For necessary reasons for going outside, it is required to wear a mask for the prevention of the disease. Don't hesitate to ask guests to wear masks and to wash hands. Don't have meals together with elderly persons at home. Although the younger persons can resist to the virus, the elderly persons at home might not have sufficient immunity to resist the disease.

Especially, the underlying disease of these elderly persons would reduce their immunity. Therefore, it is required to avoid having meals together at home during this period to prevent the spread of disease among the family members. It is believed that people have understood the rules for COVID-19. Their compliance with these rule plays a crucial role. If they failed to comply with these rules deliberately, their knowledge of the rules would be in vain to prevent the disease. Therefore, awareness campaigns are being conducted again and again with loudspeakers in residential areas. I would therefore like to request all of you to stay healthy so that you would not have listened in vain to these public awareness campaigns.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Campaign speech of political party for 2020 General Election will be broadcast for second time

CAMPAIGN speech of Arakan National Party (ANP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanmar Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 24 October for the second time. — MNA

Myanmar-Singapore Economic Ministers discuss economic matters via videoconference

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaug Tun and Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore held a virtual meeting via zoom yesterday.

The ministers exchanged views on regional and bilateral issues, including issues relating to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the preparations being made for the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. They also discussed trade and investment promotion particularly with regard to high quality rice production and export of Myanmar fruits and vegetables to Singapore as well as the potential for cooperation in solar energy and industrial parks.

The meeting was also attended by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaug Tun and Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore Mr Chan Chun Sing hold virtual meeting on 23 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEAN, India agree on smooth flow of agricultural produce in region

THE Sixth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (6th AIMMAF) was held online between the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of State for Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare of India on 21 October.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Veng Sakhon co-chaired the meeting which could release a joint press statement for ensuring the unimpeded flow of safe and nutritious agricultural produce in the region.



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu (L) participates in Sixth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry via videoconference on 21 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting also exchanged views on the situation of COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impacts on the lives of people and economies, including the disruption of

the food supply chain in the region.

The Union Minister discussed the importance of laying down regional policies to avoid famine like the one experienced

in 2017-2018 and awareness on possibility of famine resulted from the pandemic.

Participants also held talks on matters relating to the progress of cooperation between

ASEAN and India on agriculture and forestry during 2016-2020 and medium-term procedures for agriculture and forestry which were adopted for 2021-2025.

The meeting decided re-assignment of ASEAN-India Working Group on Agriculture and Forestry, holding the working group's meeting annually, and organizing the ministerial meeting every two years.

The Sixth Meeting of ASEAN-India Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry approved a joint press statement, and agreed to hold its 7th edition meeting in 2022.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar returnees line up for immigration service at the Yangon International Airport on 23 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

138 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Singapore by relief flight

A relief flight of Myanmar National Airway (MNA) organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore landed at the Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 138 Myanmar nationals, who were stranded in Singapore due to the suspension of international flights, yesterday evening.

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

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and there were 23 relief flights from Singapore to date.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

“People are the key”

Union Education Minister joins 2020 UNESCO Global Education Meeting



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participates in the 2020 UNESCO Global Education Meeting on 22 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi joined the 2020 UNESCO Global Education Meeting via Zoom Webinar on 22 October. UNESCO Director-General Ms Audrey Azoulay,

UN Secretary-General Mr António Guterres, Prime Minister Ms Erna Solberg, Ghana's President Mr Nana Akufo-Addo, UK Minister for Foreign Affairs and Development Ms Baroness Sugg respectively made an opening speech. Then, they discussed 2020 Global Education Meeting declaration and read the message of teachers' association and other attendees to the meeting coordinated the meeting under the topic of Reimagine and Re-commit to Education.

In his discussion, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi talked about the importance of policies, plans and improving affordability in implementing the inclusive, equal and quality education, discrimination in education sector, leaving no one behind, elimination of school dropouts, KG+12 education

systems including new curriculums for 21st century skills, Myanmar Digital Education Platform (MDEP) and multiple training for basic education level teachers.

He also talked about home-based learning via MDEP, educational TV channels and FM radios, DBE Boxes and DBE sticks for remote areas, High-tech Learning and High-touch Learning, Special Needs Education Programmes, 20pc of budget for education sector, ministry's efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) and work plans for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Then, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Ms Stefania Giannini concluded the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

KOICA provides relief aid to IDPs in Sittway, MraukU, Kyaukphyu

KOREA International Cooperation Agency-KOICA has supplied the consumer goods to internally displaced persons in Sittway, MraukU and Kyaukphyu districts in Rakhine State yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Rakhine State Minister for Finance, Tax, Planning and Economy U Kyaw Aye Thein, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr Aung Tun Thet, and MoSWRR Permanent Secretary, Directors-General and officials participated in the virtual donation ceremony.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to KOICA for donating hand sanitizers, mosquito

nets, tarpaulin and masks worth about US\$300,000.

Under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, the ministry undertook the works of assistance for IDPs and vulnerable groups with the use of K30.446 million. Rakhine State government, in cooperation with relevant departments, will deliver the donation of KOICA to IDPs.

ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa expressed his delight at donating consumer goods including mosquito nets, tarpaulins, face masks and hand sanitizers for over 8,000 households in Rakhine State and said that the donation was made under ODA “Building Trust” Initiative.

The KOICA Chief Representative explained the purpose



Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA provides relief aid to IDPs in Sittway, MraukU and Kyaukphyu districts in Rakhine State on 23 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the donation, and handed over the donated items to an

MoSWRR official who returned certificate of honour. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Tatmadaw issues press statement on UNCTFMR's press release

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team yesterday released a press statement regarding the press release of UNCTFMR that raised concerns about the death of two children resulting from a clash between the Tatmadaw and AA terrorists in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

The UNCTFMR in its press release on 14 October 2020 raised its concerns regarding the death of two children resulting from a clash between the

Tatmadaw and AA terrorists in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State on 5 October 2020.

In order to prevent its servicemen from violating the rights of children, the Tatmadaw issued a directive on 22 August 2020 ordering its servicemen to abide by the provisions of the Myanmar Child Rights Law; to take necessary and effective action against any violations of the provision; and to supervise in accordance with existing command structures to

prevent any violations.

Even prior to the press release by UNCTFMR with regard to what happened, the Tatmadaw carried out a preliminary investigation. The Tatmadaw is currently conducting a detailed investigation to ascertain the initial findings and the accuracy of what happened in an accountable manner. The findings of the investigation will be released further, said the Tatmadaw True News Information Team. — MNA

We are also making plans to enable our citizens inside the country to cast their votes in security and with enthusiasm

At the same time, I need to talk about the elections. The reason is that I want to express my deep appreciation to our citizens abroad with respect to the elections. I have said that the general elections have begun. It started in foreign countries. Our citizens have been casting their advance ballots in foreign countries at our embassies, consulates and missions. The number of advance ballots cast is now over 60,000. I want to express my appreciation to our citizens from abroad for performing their duties as citizens dutifully with enthusiasm. We are also making plans to enable our citizens inside the country to cast their votes in security and with enthusiasm. On the 13th, I went to inspect to see what kind of arrangements need to be made at the polling booths. This is a test run. What will we do on the real election day; we need to protect the health of the people; we also need to encourage the right to vote; we also need to ensure that the whole process runs smoothly. At that place, I found out ways for performing some of the processes in a smoother and quicker fashion. That is how we shall proceed.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports on containment measures against COVID-19, on 17 October 2020)



Statement on adherence to healthcare guidelines in 2020 General Election

1. The Union Election Commission, in accordance with 2008 Constitution, already announced that the multiparty democracy general elections will be held nationwide on 8 November 2020 to elect MPs for third term of three Hluttaws.
2. The election process includes setting up of polling stations, coming of voters to the stations and voting at the stations. Similarly, it also includes preparations for voting in the general elections of those who are under quarantine due to COVID-19 infections, advance voting of those who are unable to come to polling stations on the election day at relevant ward/village-tract election sub-commissions on designated dates, counting votes at respective township election sub-commissions and polling stations, collecting of election results and announcing the names of elected candidates by region/state election sub-commissions.
3. Due to present COVID-19 situation, polling station heads, deputy heads and members who will perform duties at the polling stations of different levels of relevant election sub-commissions, those who will manage outside the polling stations and voters need to be careful of the successful holding of the general election not to be infected by COVID-19.
4. The Ministry of Health and Sports issued the standard operation procedure Part-I about campaigning in accordance with COVID-19 preventive and control measures for Hluttaw candidates, who will compete in the general election, on 7-9-2020.
5. Therefore, it is hereby announced that those who are involved in the election works according to paragraph-2 will have to abide by the directives included in standard operation procedure Part-II that is to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures during the general election and health guidelines issued by relevant officials depending on situations.
6. The standard operation procedure Part-II which is to be carried out in accordance with COVID-19 prevention and control measures in holding the general election can be viewed at the website of the Union Election Commission, www.uec.gov.mm, and UEC Facebook.

*(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

MoHS organizes coordination meeting over COVID-19 containment measures, prison healthcare

A coordination meeting over improving COVID-19 containment measures and prison healthcare was held via videoconferencing yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe discussed healthcare services for inmates like other ordinary people in accordance with the medical ethics, health checks on inmates with Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits by cooperating with officials of Home Affairs as some of the lockups and prison cells reported positive cases, cooperation works between Prison Department to give the latest COVID-19 information for the inmates, prison visitors and prison staff, plans to prevent COVID-19 in a timely manner together with the heads of regions and states Prison Department, Public Health and Medical Services Department. The Union

Minister also stressed that the prison healthcare services were reviewed in June 2020 and it needs to accelerate the public health-related matters at the prison for the health of prisoners and the ministry will provide the needed hand speakers containing recorded sound about COVID-19 information to conduct educating programmes in the prisons. As the prisons have strict rules and regulations, it will be easy to set health rules for the prisoners and the prison staff should wear masks and face shields.

Then, Director-General for Prison Department U Myint Soe briefed preventive measures of COVID-19 at the prisons, suspension of prison visitations, purchasing of medical supplies, isolation of newly-arrived prisoners at the separate wards for 14 days and another 7 days at other prison lockups and health



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks during the meeting over COVID-19 containment measures and prison healthcare on 23 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

checks on new prisoners and those to be released.

The Head of Prison Health presented prison health activities regarding COVID-19 while Director Dr Sithu Aung for Disease Control briefed ground survey after positive cases were

found at Tharyarwaddy prison and other COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities at the prison. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein also suggested that the Prison Department should give the lists of prisoners to the Ministry of Health

and Sports to conduct health checks on them. Union Minister concluded the meeting after the discussions of Director-General for Public Health Dr Soe Oo and other attendees to the meeting. — MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han) ■

End all forms of disruptions to ensure free and fair general elections

WITH our 2020 general elections now only 15 days away, authorities are scaling up their efforts for holding the general elections free and fair without putting the voters at risk of coronavirus infection.

The freedom to vote is a foundation of democracy. Preserving it depends on the people being able to vote. It is important to avoid and prevent violence and a deterioration of the situation before, during and after the election.

According to a recent survey about risks which have the potential to disrupt the upcoming general elections, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a 46 per cent chance of disrupting the elections, while election campaigns were set at 13 per cent. The survey has shown that free and fair general elections can also be threatened by poor monitoring of the elections (4 per cent); by fake news, rumours and misinformation (3 per cent); by voters having insufficient voting education (3 per cent); by disruption caused by racism and misuse of religion (3 per cent) and by incorrect voting lists (2 per cent).

However, it has been found that the nearer we get to election day, the higher the occurrences of cases of fake news and disruptions caused by race and religion.

We would like to send a message to all violators that the authorities will have a no-tolerance stance towards those who threaten the free and fair manner of the general elections by disrupting the electoral opportunities of the people, ...

There are differences between the 2015 and 2020 general elections. The coming general elections will be held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth noting that the first is the threat posed by COVID-19, which has already killed more than 1,000 people nationwide. Eligible voters will line up with social distancing risking their lives to exercise their right to vote. We must mitigate other disruptions which can hinder our elections and political processes.

To ward off fake news and rumours, we are confident that people will receive the complete news about elections through balanced reporting by the nation's media, though with different approaches, and social media in a timely manner.

Confronting all risks now is necessary to avoid chaos.

... the authorities will have a no-tolerance stance towards those who threaten the free and fair manner of the general elections by disrupting the electoral opportunities of the people, ...

■ ■ ■

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON UN DAY 24 October 2020

Colossal challenges can be overcome with global solidarity, cooperation: Guterres in UN Day message

Dear friends,

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations falls in the middle of a global pandemic. Our founding mission is more critical than ever.

To promote human dignity. Protect human rights. Respect international law. And save humanity from war. When the pandemic hit, I called for a global ceasefire.

In our world today, we have one common enemy: COVID-19. Now is the time for a stepped-up push for peace to achieve a global ceasefire. The clock is ticking.

We must also make peace with our planet.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the General Debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. PHOTO: UN/ESKINDER

The climate emergency threatens life itself. We must mobilize the whole world to reach carbon neutrality

-- net zero emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2050.

A growing number of countries and companies have already pledged to meet this goal.

Around the world, we must do more to end human suffering from poverty, inequality, hunger and hatred -- and fight discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or any other distinction. The months of pandemic have seen a horrific rise in violence against women and girls.

We must build on progress. A remarkable global collaboration is under way for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all.



The Sustainable Development Goals give us an inspiring blueprint for recovering better.

We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them.

That's what the United Nations is all about.

On this anniversary, I ask people everywhere to join together.

The United Nations not only stands with you...

The United Nations belongs

to you and is you: "we the people".

Together, let us uphold the enduring values of the United Nations Charter.

Let us build on our advances across the decades.

Let us realize our shared vision of a better world for all.

Source: United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

■ ■ ■

ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations, 75 years young: Engaging youth social entrepreneurs to accelerate the SDGs

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

THIS year, the United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary – a milestone of extraordinary economic and social progress in Asia and the Pacific. While the Organization enjoys a lifespan almost equal to the world's improved average life expectancy, the future lies with those who have recently embarked on theirs: our young people.

As they continue breaking ground with entrepreneurial spirit to address defining issues of our time like climate change, technology and inequality, our investments in them will win the battle for sustainability.

Young entrepreneurs have been a source of innovation and economic dynamism, creating jobs and providing livelihoods to millions. To achieve and accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we urgently need their expertise and voices on creating solutions to

social and environmental challenges, as well as economic opportunities.

Yet, they have needed no prompting: the social entrepreneurship movement has emerged in Asia and the Pacific in response to pressing issues, including COVID-19. Spearheaded by the region's young people with a strong sense of social justice, social entrepreneurs are providing innovative, market-based solutions that break the mold of traditional models focused on economic growth. But we must do more to truly realize the transformative potential of young social entrepreneurs.

First, we need to ensure that the next generation of business leaders think about social purpose as well as profit. To achieve this, education will be critical. Governments play a key role, like the Government of Pakistan's Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. The Centre's mission is to support students and young entrepreneurs identify innovative business solutions to the SDGs.

Second, we need to scale up innovative financing solutions. It is encouraging to see governments embracing impact investing as a policy tool to provide much-needed finance to young social entrepreneurs. As an example, ESCAP supported the Government of Malaysia to launch the Social Impact Exchange. The Exchange mirrors a traditional stock exchange and links social purpose organizations to impact investors.

ESCAP and its partner the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are also supporting organizations like iFarmer in Bangladesh. The joint effort has supported iFarmer in creating a digital app to establish a profit-sharing model between urban investors and rural women farm entrepreneurs that involves the purchase and management of livestock. After successful livestock management (raising and selling cattle), the investor and woman entrepreneur share the profits, while iFarmer receives support through a management fee.

Third, as we are living in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digitally savvy young social entrepreneurs hold much promise. While Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies pose challenges to the economy – most notably relating to jobs and the future of work – they also have the potential to spur mass entrepreneurship and new ways of doing business. ESCAP is currently supporting FinTech start-ups like Aeloi Technologies to develop digital finance and green solutions for women entrepreneurs. Aeloi's goal is to make impact funding for women microentrepreneurs accountable and accessible using digital tokens, providing an assured digital link between funders and carbon offset providers. They work specifically with the electric minibus sector in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their system helps ensure that each \$1 of investment is used towards building renewable energy powered transportation by providing real-time climate and social impact tracking.

The United Nation's 75th anniversary comes at the critical



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

junction of a new decade to accelerate the SDGs and recover from an unprecedented crisis. The need for innovative solutions and stronger cooperation across all stakeholders, particularly the youth, is clear.

In this context, the UN family's anniversary event in Asia and the Pacific will bring together young social innovators and

entrepreneurs from across the region whose ideas, platforms and businesses have made an impact. These innovators will discuss how technology and innovative solutions of today can be scaled up to build back better towards more inclusive, resilience and green economies and societies.

We stand ready to support these young people and their innovative solutions for tackling inequality and promoting inclusion, economic empowerment of women and girls and moving towards decarbonization and tackling air pollution. In many ways, it is they who are carrying the mantle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Source: United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

■ ■ ■



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 23rd October, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30)hrs M.S.T today, the depression has crossed West Bengal (India) and adjoining Bangladesh coast between Sagar Island and Khepupara reached to Land Depression and continuously moved North-Northeastwards. It is forecast to weaken into Low Pressure area over Bangladesh during next (24)hrs. Weather is cloudy over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24th October, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Yangon Region, Eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, (Northern and Southern)Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (5-8)feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of scattered rain or thundershowers in Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th October, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region, isolated in Yangon.

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Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex committee holds first meeting

The Leading Committee on Establishing the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) held its first meeting through videoconferencing yesterday.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and committee members, including Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, Roads and Transport Daw Nilar Kyaw, held the meeting with officials from South Korea's Land and Housing Corporation on Zoom.

KMIC is a collaborative effort between the LHC and Myanmar's Department of Urban & Housing Development (DUHD).

U Han Zaw said they have completed detailed design plans for KMIC and will issue calls for tender and get started on construction in December. He said they are negotiating with relevant ministries to provide effective services for potential investors in addition



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw joins the virtual meeting of Leading Committee on Establishing the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) on 23 October. PHOTO: MNA

to prioritizing infrastructure so that KMIC can be on a competitive level with international industrial zones.

KMIC has the potential to create about 100,000 job opportunities and will hopefully

greatly assist Yangon Region's economic development. U Han Zaw said they hope to attract international investors and offer infrastructure and services that meet international standards.

DUHD Director-General U Min Htein explained KMIC's progress and future plans with a Power Point.

Daw Nilar Kyaw and directors-general and deputy directors-general of Directo-

rate of Industrial Supervision & Inspection, Environmental Conservation Department, Electricity Supply Enterprise, Department of Immigration, Department of Trade, Department of Public Health, General Administration Department, Customs Department, and Directorate of Investment Company Administration discussed their respective roles regarding KMIC's implementation, policies and following the Industrial Zone Law.

The Union Minister responded to the discussions from both sides and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

KMIC will be implemented on 558 acres of the Nyaung Hna Pin training school in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region through collaborative efforts from Myanmar and South Korea. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MSWRR reviews mid-term ASEAN action plan on violence against women

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a national-level workshop on mid-term review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW) on 22 October.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung participated in the meeting together with representatives from the Women and Children Rights Committee of parliament, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and civil society organizations.

At the meeting, Union Minister talked about the ASEAN RPA on EVAW which was approved in November 2015 during the ASEAN Summit and its implementation began in the following year.

The Phase I is Desk Review and the Phase II national level. Currently, the ministry is serving as Focal Point for ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women in addition to the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

The Union Minister continued saying that the review is aimed at finding solution to solve the challenges and gaps for the country and the government drafted National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022), organized technical work group on preventing and protecting women from violence among four technical work groups, drafted law for protection from violence against women bill, organized National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and arranged to collect data of women's lifelong experiences.

He also discussed 24 hours Help Line for women, six One Stop Women Support Centres, cash assistance for legal affairs and livelihood assistance, training for social affairs management sectors, effective suggestions, measures to prevent violence against women and challenges of the attendees to meeting.

Director-General for Social Welfare Department Dr Daw San San Aye later briefed the reasons of national-level



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye participates in the national-level workshop on mid-term review of ASEAN RPA on EVAW on 22 October. PHOTO: MNA

workshop on mid-term review of ASEAN RPA on EVAW while UN Women Regional Consultant Ms Katherine Belen about five priority sectors and eight action plans of ASEAN RPA on EVAW.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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.

Yangon gold market to resume on 26 October

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON gold market, which has suspended its sale because of the outbreak of COVID-19, will resume its sale commencing from 26 October, according to Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The Yangon gold market has planned to operate in conformity with the Covid rules prescribed by the Health Department and under the supervision of YGEA. The association members must follow the rules and regulations.

Moreover, the association's office can accommodate only 30 persons. So, the association has requested the brokers, buyers, sellers and shopkeepers to understand the rules and work peacefully and safely in COVID-19 period.

Besides, the association has made necessary arrangements to enable the sale in the gold



A salesgirl is seen at a gold shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

market via zoom application. Presently, the YGEA's members have been trading the

gold starting from the first week of October at the Yangon YGEA office located in Shwebontha

Township, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint said. Yangon gold market was

temporarily closed on 15 September on account of the outbreak of coronavirus. During the suspension period, the price of yellow metal stood at over K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces). Gold trading has started at the cost of over K1.3 million in the first week of October.

The pure domestic gold fetched K1,314,500 per tical on 23 October while the global gold price hit US\$1,906 per ounce.

During the suspension period, some gold shops in Yangon which are operating at home are still running in their way. They like to sell the gold rather than buying it, he added.

There are more than 10,000 gold shops in Yangon region and about 50 visses of gold could be sold daily before the pandemic.

During the first wave of COVID-19, Yangon gold market was closed between 29 March and 18 May.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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State/Region committees approve over 280 local investments in 3½ years after Myanmar Investment Law

By Nyein Nyein

REGION and State Committees have approved over 280 local investments in three and a half years since the enactment of Myanmar Investment Law, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar has attracted more than K618,389.881 million of investment from the approved local enterprises of 283.

After the Myanmar Investment Law came into force, the investment committees endorsed 37 local enterprises in 2017-2018 financial year with an estimated capital of K66,786.656 million, 62 projects worth K126,969.101 million in the 2018 mini-budget period (April to September), 114 businesses with K 232,735.482 million in the 2018-2019FY and 70 businesses with K191,898.642 million in the 2019-2020FY.

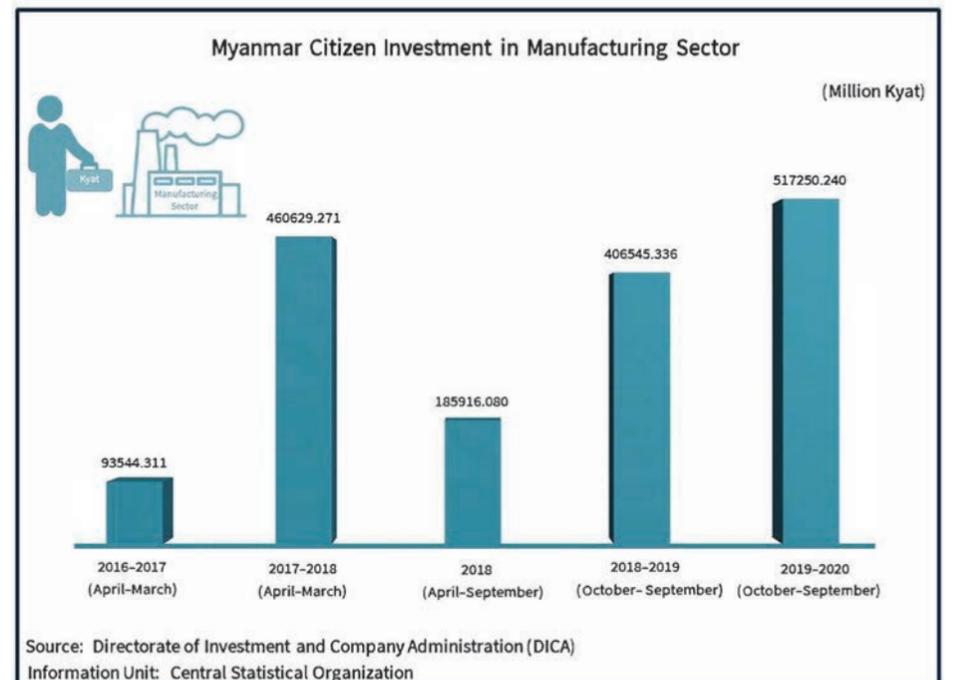
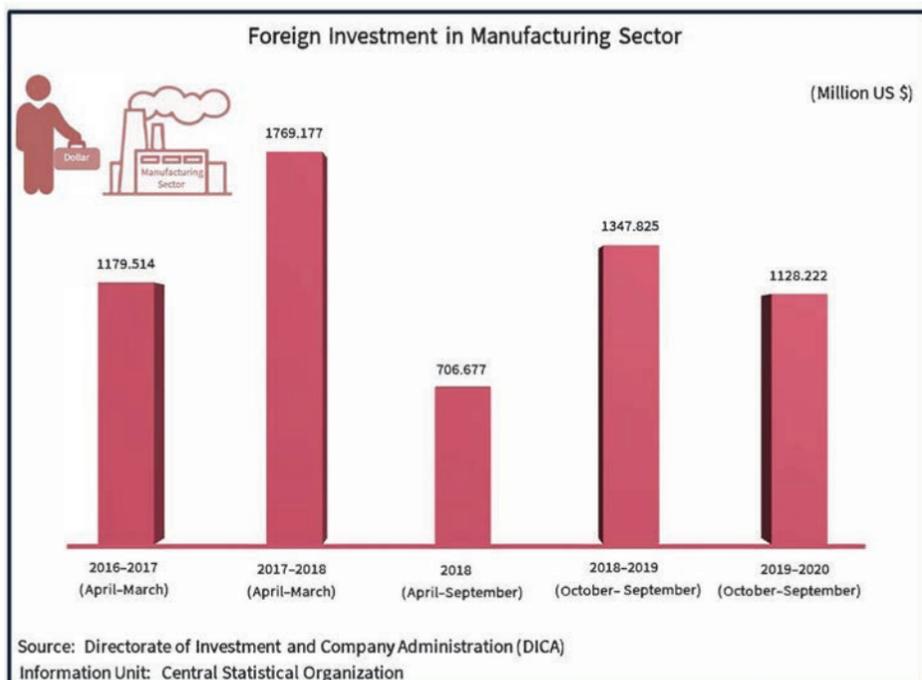
In three and a half years, the Yangon region stood the highest in terms of investment, followed by the Sagaing region and Ayeeyawady region. Besides, Chin State, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State, Rakhine State and Bago Region have attracted lower investments, according to the statement of DICA.

According to the newly enacted Myanmar Investment Law, the Region and State Invest-

ment Committees have approved the investment proposals which are worth not more than US\$ 5million (K6 billion) without having to seek permission from MIC.

However, the facts and figures of the businesses permitted by the Region and State Committees will have to be reported to MIC to ensure more accurate and comprehensive statistics.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



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Over 400 COVID patients discharged from Inya centre

By Nyein Nyein

MORE than 400 COVID patients, who complied with requirements of the Ministry of Health and Sports, were discharged from Inya centre, according to the Inya COVID-19 Treatment Centre.

Under the supervision of Yangon Region COVID-19 Pre-

vention and Control Coordinating Committee and the Ministry of Health and Sports, a total of 426 patients were discharged from Inya centre in the week between 16 and 22 October.

The centre was open on 10 October and accepted about 754 COVID-confirmed patients from the first day to 22 October.

Under the guidelines of the

Ministry of Health and Sports and Yangon Region government, the treatment centre was first constructed on 29 September with an initial fund of K1 billion -- K700 million by KBZ Bank and K300 million by Shwe Thanlwin Company.

The treatment centre will be equipped to conform to the status of a 500-bed hospital,

including 16 high-dependency units (HDUs).

Moreover, the centre has arranged breakfast, lunch and dinner of nutritional value and provided necessary medicines for the patients. The centre includes separate buildings for the doctors, nurses and volunteers and also a 24-hour food court.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Ayeyawady river faces shortage of fish in peak season



Locals catch fish in Ayeyawady River on 23 October 2020. PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

ALTHOUGH this is the abundant fish season annually for the local fishermen, Ayeyawady River is with the shortage of fish in this period, according to a report from Magway region fishers.

Ten years ago, a fishing vessel caught around ten visses of fish daily with the use of

the fishing nets. This year, the local fishermen are challenging to catch even five visses of fish per day, said the local fishermen.

"I do not have the vaguest idea of why there is a shortage of fish. Before pandemic, we could work on the land if we could not work in the water.

Now, we couldn't work either on the land or in the water," said Ma Ei Ei Tun, a fisher.

Some assume that the climate change is the leading cause of changing the natural environment in the river, distracting the fish habitats by growing the alluvial soil and using of agricultural pesti-

cides and herbicides and this is causing the shortage of the fish in the river year by year.

"There are many reasons for the shortage of fish. It is also concerned with the weather condition, illegal fishing and rising of the fishermen. We could not look for anyone space.

The fish may be scarce in this place but maybe abundant in another place," said U Myint Shwe, the head of the Fisheries Department in Magway region.

There has been illegal electro-fishing in the river for around three years. When we tell the illegal fishers, they pose a threat to the family who is involved. So, we stay quiet for this reason, said Ma Thin Nu Aung, a fisherwoman.

There are some 1,500 fishers in Magway region. Among them, most of the fishers are living onboard the fishing vessel because they don't have a place to live in, according to the local fishermen. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Chinshwehaw COVID-19 committee hands over 36 returnees to Lashio

CHINSHWEHAW'S COVID-19 Containment Working Committee handed over a total of 36 Myanmar nationals who returned from China to Lashio yesterday.

The returnees included 23 males and 13 females. Of them, 1 from Mogok, 12 from Singu, 1 from Taungtha and 2 from Madaya in Mandalay Region, 3 from Shwebo and 1 Yinmabin in Sagaing Region, 6 from Aunglan in Magway Region, 1

from Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw, 9 from the townships in northern Shan State.

They were quarantined in Chinshwehaw while their swabs were being sent to the Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay. After they were tested negative for COVID-19, they were transported to Lashio.

The Chinshwehaw's COVID Committee handed over a total of 15,604 returnees, 8,633



A healthcare workers wearing PPE perform a nose swab test on a returnee from China in Chinshwehaw. PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)

males and 6,971 females, to the townships concerned since 30

April.—Zin Zin (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

JUST 149 CASES

Spared by Covid-19, Seychelles suffers dearth of tourists

THE Seychelles, with its idyllic white beaches and luxury resorts, has had only 149 cases of Covid-19, but the global crisis caused by the pandemic has ravaged its vital tourism industry.

The Indian Ocean island nation, famed as a honeymoon destination, took swift action against the virus in March, banning cruise ships and international flights and implementing a lockdown.

But even though the archipelago re-opened to tourists on August 1, the global downswing in travel and devastation wrought by the virus in major tourist-providing countries in Europe and elsewhere, has led to little improvement.

“Since the re-opening of the airport we have tried to re-open our establishment, but it is a catastrophe, we are running at a loss because there is no one,” said Sybil Cardon, who had to let go of 10 per cent of her staff at her hotel on Praslin, the second-largest island.

In Beau Vallon, the most touristy part of the main island Mahe, the Equinox scuba diving centre once did three or four excursions a day, taking tourists to see bountiful fish and marine life around the granite cliffs and coral reefs. **SOURCE: AFP**

POST-BREXIT

Cheese, car parts and Kobe beef: Britain’s trade deal with Japan



Britain hailed its first major post-Brexit trade deal on Friday, an agreement the UK hopes will boost trade with Japan by around \$20 billion. **PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP/FILE**

BRITAIN says the post-Brexit trade deal signed with Japan on Friday “secures major wins that would be impossible as part of the EU”, though its

substance is largely similar to the current EU-Japan accord. Britain hopes the agreement will boost trade with Japan by around \$20 billion when it comes into

force in January after being ratified by lawmakers in both countries.

Here are four things to know about the bilateral deal:

Low or no tariffs

When the deal was announced last month, Britain said it meant around 99 per cent of its exports to Japan would be tariff-free.

Under the current EU-Japan trade agreement, in place since February 2019, the vast majority of custom duties are also absent. The European Union says that under its deal, the bloc’s meat exports to Japan increased by 12 per cent, while electrical machinery exports were boosted by 16.4 per cent.

“In terms of market access, we have maintained Japan’s high level access to the UK market as under the Japan-EU deal,” Japan’s Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Friday. **SOURCE: AFP**

THE TSE’S TRADING SYSTEM

Financial regulators probe Tokyo bourse over outage

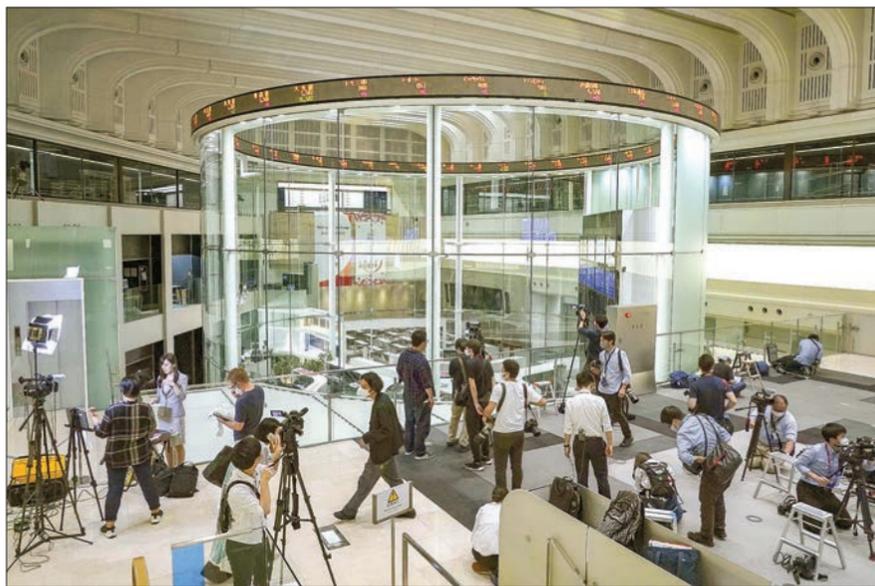


Photo taken Oct. 2, 2020, shows the Tokyo Stock Exchange. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FINANCIAL regulators conducted an on-site inspection of the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Friday following a system failure that caused a full-day trade suspension earlier this month, Finance Minister Taro Aso said.

The Financial Services Agency is expected to examine the bourse’s governing structure and also interview officials operating its systems about the details of the shutdown on Oct. 1.

In the worst outage since the TSE’s trading system was fully computerized in 1999, the problem was caused by an issue with the memory functionality of a server in its trading system and a failure of the auto-backup system that was blamed on a settings error, the bourse said.

“We need to assess why its backup sys-

tem failed,” Aso told reporters.

The TSE disclosed Monday that one of the setting specifications was altered in 2015 when the “arrowhead” trading system was updated, but the bourse was unaware of the change as it was not reflected in the manual provided by the system’s developer Fujitsu Ltd.

The TSE has said, however, it has no plans to seek compensation from Fujitsu, adding it expects the developer to implement improvement measures.

The bourse said it will conduct thorough checks of current system settings while running scenario drills with securities companies to test the process for switching to a backup system if a similarly serious technical problem reoccurs. **SOURCE: Kyodo**

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (052N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2020** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (042W/043E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDMAAS VOY. NO. (042W/043E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1128S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1128S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

The Town Minhla and Wooden Backdrop

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

WOODEN backdrops carved as layers in wooden logs depicting Buddhological plots of sculptural works can be seen at the back rest of throne on which Buddha images are kept in Gandakuti Chambers of some eminent temples and stupas in Myanmar. Among these masterpieces, a significant backdrop takes a position in precinct of Maha Thatipahtan Monastery in Minhla of Bago Region.

Background of the town Minhla

There are two Minhla townships across the nation—the town Minhla in Thayet District of Magway Region is called Upper Minhla and the town under the same title in Thayawady District in Bago Region, called Lower Minhla.

Local people accepted two ideas for emergence of the name Minhla in Thayawady District. They assumed the town was established by Thadoe Latt (nephew of Bagan King Narathihapatae, and the name was changed to Minhla from Minlatt. And, some assume that a very beautiful medium woman Ma Min Hla resided in the town as

location of now Minhla. Her reputation was famous for the name of Minhla town. Minhla Township is 19 miles long from the east to the west and 13 miles wide from the south to the north. Its total area is 258.31 square miles. The township takes a position at an altitude of 76 feet, sharing border with Kyaukdaga Township in the east, Monyo Township in the west, Letpadan Township in the south and Okpo Township in the north. Minhla has 91 miles access to Yangon by car and by train.

Minhla Township, home to 126,369 population based on the data released in September 2018 is formed with Minhla and Sitkwin towns, 12 wards and 246 villages of 54 village-tracts. Bamar people accounting for 91 per cent are residing in the township together with Kayin, Shan and Rakhine ethnics. The majority of the people believe in Buddhism.

A total of 52 temples and stupas, 18 Christianity buildings, three Islamic mosques, one Hindu temple and two Chinese temples take positions in the township. The brick building built in 1915 with colonial era works and backdrop is located in the

precinct of Maha Thatipahtan Monastery in Minhla.

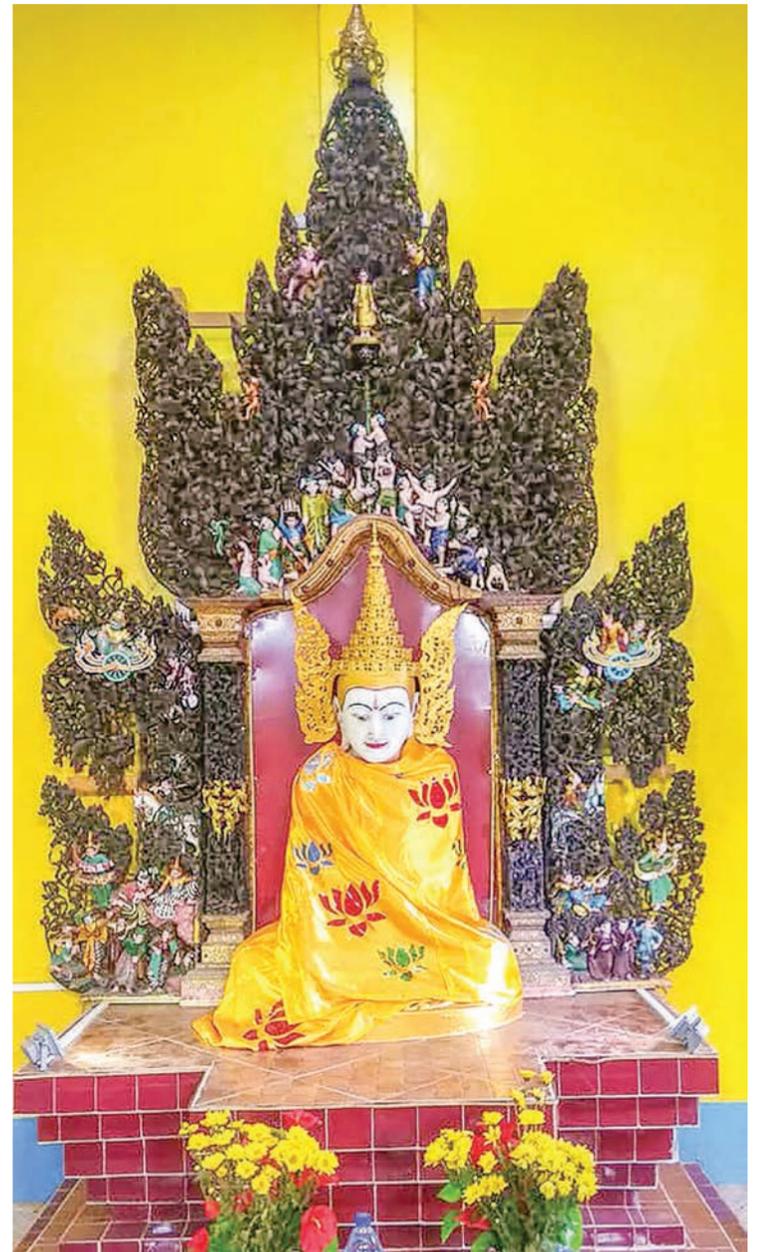
Myanmar backdrop

The backdrop is a back rest decorated with carved wooden or masonry works of Myanmar traditional arts and crafts. Generally, backdrops are kept behind the sitting and standing Buddha images.

Some people call throne and backdrop as throne-backdrop decorated with 12 kinds of crafts—sculptural statues of lion, flying elephant, peacemaker celestial being, peacock feather fan, elephant ear, door post, celestial king, mythical bird with human head, virtuous deva, stylized figure resembling a lion, lotus and floral motif on either side of Indra. The throne must be based on lion statues.

Throne-backdrops were created with plots of Jataka on three layers, five layers and eight layers of wood flanked by floral works in detail. Currently, most of the wooden backdrops were decayed in climatic condition in Bagan, Inwa and Nyaungyan era but wooden backdrops in Konbaung era can be seen till today.

Finials of Myanmar architecture are decorated and carved



Minhla Backdrop.



Myole Monastery in colonial era.

works and reliefs on woods, stone, concrete, gold, silver, iron and minerals. Likewise, ornamental motif in stucco of ogre, mythical king of bird, mythical bird with human head, celestial king, peacock, elephant and lion statues were decorated with floral arabesque. Among these finials, people are interested in crafts of wooden backdrop.

Moreover, concrete backdrops can be seen at arches and entrances to pagodas. Mostly, arch-backdrops were made of wood at ancient monasteries with statues of celestial king, celestial beings, parakeet and peacock.

Wooden backdrops decorated with reliefs and sculptural works in floral works were different in locations and eras. Especially, the backdrops in Konbaung were created with the best retail artistic works.

Eminent backdrops

People can observe just photos of backdrops which were ablaze at Thihoshin Pagoda in Pakokku. Such pagoda had two backdrops. The east backdrop was shaped with three standing Buddha image at the archway and the west backdrop behind the east one. Such two backdrops were burnt together with Gandakuti chamber and prayer halls of

the pagoda in April 1964. So, new backdrop was made with modern art works.

Carving of the original east backdrop was started by sculptor U Kan Gyi and son U Te on full moon day of Waso in 1275 Myanmar Era. Donors U San and Daw Kyue from Mesalipigon Village of Pakokku Township contributed K1,000 to the sculptors. The two sculptors linked three Yamane logs and carved the log into a festoon by taking a year. They shaped episodes from preaching of Dhammacakka preached by the Lord Buddha to the Parinibbana including king, queen, celestial being, celestial king and other reliefs totalling some 1,000.

Those two sculptors carved the western backdrop of the pagoda within three years with donations of Daw Ein Min on Potan Street in Pantaw Ward of Pakokku. It cost K3,000. The carving completed on full moon day of Tabauing in 1271 ME. A log of Yamane wood was used for the backdrop in eight layers of floral works depicting episode of the Lord Buddha in leaving the royal palace and 25 episodes from Vidhura Jataka.

Shweku backdrop which is the most famous among other backdrops in the nation is being

displayed in the glass box in the east of Gandakuti Chamber of Shweku Pagoda in Pakokku. The backdrop made of Yamane wood behind the five feet and two inches high standing Buddha image is five feet and 10 inches long, 12 feet and 10 inches high and eight inches thick. The backdrop was decorated with 136 sculptural works and 18 animal statues in addition to 12 episodes from Devarohana, Nemi, Sadhina and Bimbisara Jatakas in eight layers.

Shweku backdrop was made by U Kan Gyi and son. They started work with charge of 4,000 coins on 3rd waning of Tabaung in 1269 ME. They used five wood logs to shape the eight inches thick backdrop with eight layers of floral works, according to the backdrop inscription. Well-wishers were U Hin Nga and wife Daw Zee Zi and daughters Mei Thit and Mei Myit from building 575 on Zayhaung Kyaungdawya Street in Pakokku. Left floral arabesque was impressed with Saya U Kan Gyi and son Maung Te and the right one with meritorious deeds of Ma See San, Ko Hin Nga and Ma Mei Thin.

A Tharekhan Buddha image was kept on a throne based on 14 elephant statues in Gandakuti chamber of Shwetanttit Pagoda, three miles east of Pakokku. Its backdrop was 13 feet and three inches high and 10 feet wide.

The backdrop at Shwetanttit Pagoda was created with floral arabesque and stocks of lotus. It was donated by U Toe, Daw Oh, son U Pe, Daw Bwint, grandson Ko Ngwe Zone and Ma Mya from Shwetanttit Village. Such backdrop was carved by U Chan

Tha from Shwetanttit Village and Saya Aye from Pakokku within three years, two months and 10 days from 1895 to 1898. Carving charge cost 1,500 coins.

The backdrop was made of 13 logs of teak and Yamane depicting 13 episodes of Vidhura Jataka on floral layers.

The backdrop behind Maha Lawka Muni bronze Buddha image, nine elbows and two mikes in height, was very magnificent in Phayagyi Monastery of Yaiksu Ward in Kanaung of Myanaung Township in Ayeyawady Region. The backdrop made of Yamane log with 18 feet and eight inches high, 15 feet and three inches wide and six inches thick depicts plots of Buddhology on four layers. Kanaung backdrop was craved by U Kan Gyi and son U Te within three years. It cost 3,000 coins. Eastern part of the backdrop was shaped with Buddha-to-be who opened the royal mosquito, the western part some plots of Vidhura Jataka and the top plots of Maha Janaka Jataka.

The backdrop was carved at five layers on five teak logs decorated with floral arabesques, human, celestial beings and animal statues. The sculptors took three years for carving the backdrop. It cost K9,600, in comparison with value of three visses of gold at that time.

Pylone Chantha Buddha image kept in precinct of Dekkhinayama Pariyatti Monastery in downtown Kyaunggon of Ayeyawady Region is 25 feet in height and 23 feet in diameter. Its backdrop is six inches thick on the left side of the Buddha image and seven inches on the

right side. The backdrop, 25 feet and seven inches high and 15 feet and 10 inches wide, is the highest and largest in wooden backdrops across the nation. Bhaddanta Kesara ordered sculptor U Kan Gyi and his son U Te to carve the backdrop.

Shweku backdrop is 12 feet and 10 inches high, Shwetanttit backdrop, 13 feet and three inches high and Pylone Chantha backdrop 25 feet and seven inches high. Shweku backdrop is five feet and 10 inches wide, Shwetanttit backdrop 10 feet wide and Pylone Chantha backdrop 15 feet and 10 inches wide. Pylone Chantha backdrop depicted the people asking Shin Maha Moggalana for return of the Lord Buddha from Tavatimsa abode after preaching Abhidhamma Desana in 15 plots created on the top of backdrop.

Minhla backdrop and building in colonial era

The backdrop of Buddha image kept in Ananta Miba Myitta Mingala ordination hall in the precinct of Satubonmika Maha Thatipahtan Monastery in Minhla of Bago Region is 10 feet high, three feet and five inches wide and seven inches thick. It was made of Yamane wood with seven layers of floral crafts on which 60 statues were carved. The backdrop bears seven plots of Buddhology and plots from Ramayana Jataka.

The backdrop donor was U Pun Nan and Daw Ngwe Thet who were also donors of Maha Thatipahtan Monastery. Sculptor Maung Bo Min from Pakokku carved the backdrop within three years starting from 1301 ME. The donor awarded 100 coins and



Buddha image in Maha Gandakuti Chamber.

three sets of suits to the sculptor, according to the backdrop record.

A brick building in colonial era between Myole Monastery and Maha Thatipahtan Monastery in northwest of Minhla was famous thanks to social media pages. Maha Gandakuti brick chamber was built in 1277 ME with 30,000 peacock coins contribution of farmland owner Daw Hsar Pwint from Minhla. Before construction of the chamber, Daw Hsar Pwint built two pagodas near the current site of the chamber in 1250 ME.

It can be assumed that the brick building facing the eastward might be two-storey building in the past but it was shifted into one-storey building. Four dimensions of the chamber were installed with brick ladder each but the western, southern and northern entries were closed by concrete works. Now, travellers can enter the building through the eastern stairway. A large Buddha image facing the eastern ward is kept in the building.

Daw Hsar Pwint built Myole Monastery in 1288 ME. Then, her daughter Daw Ngwe Thet built Maha Thatipahtan Monastery and fenced Maha Gandakuti Chamber; two pagodas and Maha Thatipahtan Monastery. So, two monasteries are separated by a street.

As Minhla could preserve two buildings in colonial era and the backdrop well, people from four corners of the nation can observe them till today. Likewise, Myanmar's arts and crafts at wooden backdrops were maintained in various regions of the country so that new generations can observe Myanmar cultural heritages.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

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Maha Gandakuti Chamber in colonial era.



Pandemic strike pauses AFC tournaments including AFC Futsal Asian Cup which is scheduled to hold this year. **PHOTO: AFC**

AFC Futsal Asian Cup moved to 2021

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) recently announced a postponement of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup, which is scheduled to hold in Kuwait this year and it has been moved to 2021, according to the statement with the AFC.

The new dates for the tourney and further information will be announced later, AFC officials said.

The 16th edition Futsal Asian Cup, originally scheduled to play between 26 February and 8 March 2020, had been moved to 5–16 August 2020.

But recently, tourney's organizers further postponed the tourney next year for pandemic safety.

Like the previous year's version, the tournament will act as the AFC qualifiers for the World Cup. The top five teams will qualify to the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Iran Team is currently the defending champions of the tourney.

Similarly, the AFC reached the decision to withdraw AFC U23 Asian Cup 2022 due to the challenges of the pandemic.

The AFC will now reopen the invitation to host the final Competitions of the 2022 and 2024 editions of the AFC U23 Asian Cup, according to the football authorities. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

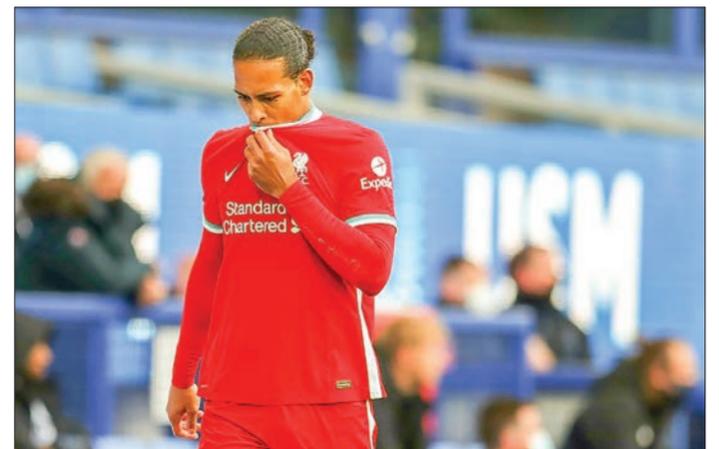
Juve play catch-up on AC Milan before Barca showdown

MILAN—Juventus warm-up for their Champions League clash against Barcelona with a Serie A home tie against Hellas Verona on Sunday, trying to close the gap on leaders AC Milan. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's AC Milan, who next host Roma, are flying high, the only team with maximum points after four games. Andrea Pirlo's Juventus are coming off back-to-back league draws against promoted Crotona 1-1 last time out and 2-2 at Roma, with two red cards in as many games.

The nine-time reigning champions are fifth in the table, four points behind Stefano Pioli's Milan.

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo remains a doubt having returned another positive test for coronavirus this week, after missing their 2-0 Champions League win at Dynamo Kiev.

The 35-year-old could still be available against Verona, and great rival Lionel Messi's Barcelona on October 28, if he tests negative 24 hours before either game.—AFP ■



Could the loss of Virgil van Dijk cost Liverpool the Premier League title? **PHOTO: CATHERINE IVILL/POOL/AFP**

Football: Clasico still the biggest game in the world, says La Liga president Tebas



Real Madrid's players celebrate winning the La Liga title, in Madrid, Spain, July 16, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID—"The Clasico is still the Clasico," says La Liga president Javier Tebas.

"For the league it's another match but for intrigue and international appeal, it's the two biggest clubs in the world going face to face. It's still the most important club game in the world."

On Saturday (Oct 24), Bar-

celona and Real Madrid go face to face in the biggest football stadium in the world too, but almost all of the 99,000 seats at Camp Nou will be empty.

In sporting terms, it would be hard to find a more dramatic event reduced so dramatically, as clear a demonstration as there could be of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Any football match without fans loses a fundamental part of the game," Tebas says, in an exclusive interview with AFP.

"But we've had more than 300 games played without fans and we've seen the players still provide a spectacle on the pitch. In fact the television numbers prove it. People are still watching."—AFP ■

Premier league race wide open after early-season stumbles

LONDON—Five games into a Premier League season full of goals and drama, each of the traditional 'big six' have dropped at least five points, and the title race is wide open.

Unbeaten Everton and Aston Villa are the surprise pace-setters and with a gruelling schedule of European games under way, the odds of a shock title winner have tumbled. AFP Sport looks at the runners and riders. Three weeks ago the title looked like Liverpool's to lose after an impressive start to their title defence.

However, a 7-2 thrashing at Villa knocked the champions off course and the loss of Virgil van Dijk, likely for the rest of the season, is a devastating blow.

Liverpool, who lack options in central defence, still have the firepower to mount a title challenge but they have already dropped the same number of points as they did in their first 28 league games last season as they cruised to a first league title in 30 years.

City and Liverpool have been dominant over the past three seasons but there are big questions over Pep Guardiola's defence despite a £100 million (\$131 million) outlay on defenders in the transfer window.

Leicester won 5-2 at the Etihad last month, while goalkeeper Ederson made a string of important saves to salvage a 1-1 draw at Leeds and ensure a 1-0 victory over Arsenal.—AFP ■