

## NATIONAL

Union Solidarity and Development Party, Ethnic National Development Party and Kaman National Development Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 153, 14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm, www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 16 September 2020

## State Counsellor reports on status of COVID-19 infection spread in the country



I WANT to report to the people about COVID-19 disease. As of today, there are now 3,299 persons who have been confirmed positive by the labs. There have been 33 persons who have passed away. The majority of persons who have passed away are those who have underlying diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems and kidney problems. I am reporting these things to the people not to give them excess worries. I also have no intention to blame anyone. The only thing is for all of us to cooperate and overcome this challenge. We were quite worried about Rakhine State last

month. At this moment we could say that the situation is under control to a certain degree. This was possible because there was cooperation. When I say cooperation I mean cooperation between the Union Government and the state governments, cooperation between the state government and the people; if everyone cooperated and followed the rules and regulations, there is no reason for us to worry about. What has happened has happened. There is no use to be remorseful about this.

All people know that Yangon has the most infection cases. This is because Yangon has the highest population density.

People move about a lot. It has the highest number of people coming in and going out. By this, I mean both internal and external travel. So I have to say that there have been some weaknesses in following the rules and regulations. We have to face the events as they are. If all of us followed the rules and regulations strictly beginning from now with full cooperation, we would be able to contain the situation in Yangon in the near future. At the moment, infections spreading from one person to the other is more prevalent within family members. I want you all to take note of this with care.

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## MNA brings home over 4,600 nationals stranded in foreign countries

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) has already brought back over 4,600 Myanmar nationals from abroad in the pandemic period, according to an announcement of the airline issued on 15 September in coincidence with its 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

Although the number of airline passengers dropped in COVID-19 period, MNA flew its routes for the convenience of their airline passengers.

Additionally, MNA is operating the relief flights to save Myanmar nationals from abroad under the management of the government. Now, MNA has already brought back some 4,600 citizens from abroad by launching the relief flights to 11 international countries with 36 routes.

Moreover, MNA flew its operations not only the relief

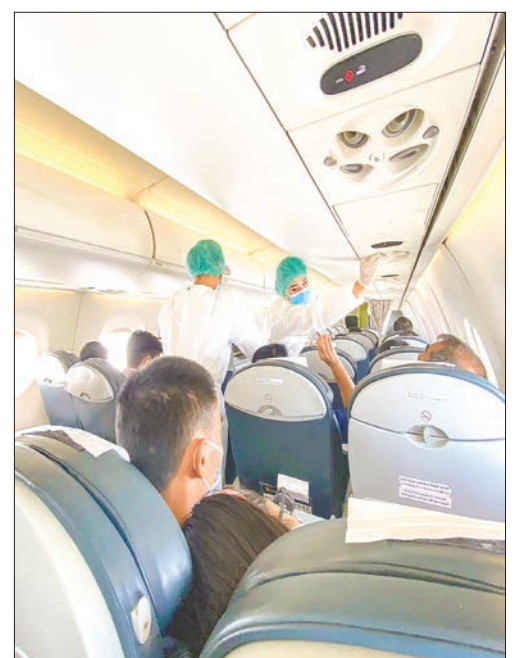
flights but also the cargo flights as well as the chartered flights to transport over 11,000 passengers and 295 tonnes of cargos.

MNA also flew emergency routes for four times to send the volunteers and the health staff to control the spreading of the coronavirus in Rakhine State during the supposedly second wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar.

Additionally, the airline is running the cargo flights, carrying 12,000 kg of diagnostic machines, medical supplies and PPE suits to Sittway and Kyaukpyu Towns.

MNA brought back a total of 59 Myanmar national students from Wuhan city in China, where the coronavirus was first reported. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)



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Myanmar's cross border trade with China exceeds US\$ 5.26 bln in 11 months of current FY

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry  
Union Minister's Office  
Notification No. 103/2020  
Nay Pyi Taw

13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME  
(15 September 2020)

1. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry has issued this order in exercise of the power conferred by Article 16 (b) of the Income Tax Law.
2. To lessen the impacts of global pandemic Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the businesses, the ministry has released the Notification 38/2020 dated 24-3-2020 in relation with the exemption of 2 per cent Withholding Tax (Advance Income Tax) on Goods Export from the end of this financial year 1-4-2020 to 30-9-2020.
3. To stimulate the country's economy hit hard by recession from the impacts of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the period for 2 per cent exemption of Withholding Tax will be extended till the end of December 2020.

Soe Win  
Union Minister

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population  
Announcement on COVID-19 Related Guidance for Workplaces and Businesses

13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung, 1382 ME  
(15 September 2020)

1. All workers must wear masks and face shields not only in workplaces but also in other places whenever they go outside. All workers must wear masks and face shields on their way to workplaces or homes, too. Workers must keep six feet from other people, and wear masks and face shields during human interactions.
2. All workers must wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60 % alcohol concentration) for 20 seconds at entrances of the workplaces, and must wash their hands before going to dining rooms and restrooms, and before or after eating. Workers must not touch their eyes, nose and mouth without washing their hands.
3. While eating, every worker must keep six feet from other people in the dining room or the workers can eat their meals at their work desks, or the workers can eat at different times to avoid gathering in groups. The employer must arrange in order that the workers can eat meals in accordance with the guidelines.
4. If a worker tested positive for COVID-19, his/her workmates who have to work around him/her, and his/her workmates from the same section of the workplace, and those who stay in the same hostel with the patient, and those who took the same ferry, and those who ate together with the patient must be ordered not to come to the workplace.
5. Tell the workers about the ten main points for prevention and control of COVID-19 in workplaces ("Start with yourself to prevent Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)" before they (start working/eat/go back to home) for about two minutes.
6. Currently, 71 per cent of COVID-19 patients in Myanmar have no symptoms, so all workers need to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

## 107 Myanmar citizens repatriated from ROK



Myanmar nationals queuing for immigration process at Yangon International Airport as they arrive back home on 15 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MAI relief flight transported 107 Myanmar nationals stranded abroad from Incheon International Airport, the Republic of Korea, to Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

Among them, 1 Myanmar national was from Belgium while 4 each from Brazil, Indonesia, Italy, UK and Viet Nam, 1 each from Israel and Norway, 3 from Mongolia, 71 from Korea and 10 from the US.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for proper 14-day

quarantine at the hotels or at the designated places and also for 7-day home quarantine.

For the repatriation of Myanmar citizens who were stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries, and has brought back 15,225 citizens to date.—MNA

(Translated by Khine  
Thazin Han)

# 2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



## The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c).
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list.
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

**2020**  
General Election  
Sunday, 8 November 2020



## State Counsellor reports on status of COVID-19...

### FROM PAGE-1

Among those who passed away, the majority are elderly persons with underlying diseases. Young people sometimes do not show symptoms because they have good immunity. About 70 per cent of infected people do not show symptoms of the disease. This, in itself, is a danger. When a person does not show symptoms, this person does not think he is infected. Family members can become infected by this person. Therefore there can be older adults in the family. There can be people with underlying diseases. That is why if one person becomes lax in following rules and regulations, this person could become a great danger to those around him. That is why I want each and everyone to be careful. Sometimes I wonder; what if every person taking care of their health; by this, I mean all those who are old enough to think for themselves; I don't mean the small children.

If everyone who is old enough to think taking care of only one thing, their health; that would be quite sufficient. If each

person took care of their health; if they did not become infected, then there is no reason for infection to spread to another person. The rest of the problem can be taken care of by the Union government. Right now, our public service personnel have become quite weary and tired. They are mainly from the healthcare sector. However, I have not heard any complaints from them. We can imagine that they must be pretty tired. To a certain extent, there has been infection spread among healthcare workers as well as among other civil service personnel. One of our advantages is the fact that volunteers are helping and cooperating with us. Our people are really united when we pass through critical times. They provide help as much as possible. I want to thank them all for this help. I want to invite more people to volunteer. I wish to make a plea to volunteers and professionals to assist and cooperate in the efforts of our Union government. I want to say from here that we will surely succeed if everyone cooperated and joined in.

When I talk about our civil service personnel, I want to talk about Nay Pyi Taw. I understand there have been over 40 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the capital. There are numerous connections between Nay

Pyi Taw and Yangon. As Nay Pyi Taw is the administrative capital, people from different areas of the country have to come here, especially from Yangon. A lot of people from the diplomatic community, international community and business sectors travel in and out Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon. Therefore, it came as no surprise to all that the increasing number of cases in Yangon has certain impacts on Nay Pyi Taw. However, proper rules and guidelines have been adopted to avoid disturbance to the administrative machinery. For example, civil service personnel are grouped into twos. While the first group works from home for two consecutive weeks, the second group has to go to the office during this period. Duty rosters are made in rotation. If someone is infected from the COVID, the symptoms would be noticed in two weeks. I am sure our people know about this already.

We have adopted proper and suitable rules and disciplines in this matter. People are required to abide by these rules strictly. This is not to impose restrictions, but for compliance with the directives. Serious concern about the spread of the disease has caused more stringent restrictions in some places, and it will not be useful in the long-term. If people could not withstand the increasing pressures, they would not tolerate keeping the discipline. However, it is important to know the rules and regulations which are published in the newspapers and broadcast on the television channels. Public awareness is being conducted all the time. The rules must be studied and followed strictly. It is important for the administrative sector. I am grateful to the civil service personnel for their efforts on the front-lines. People are advised to appreciate the efforts of civil service personnel. It is a good motivation for them. Mutual encouragement

is required at present. Therefore, don't be remorseful. Don't put the blame for the spread of disease on others. After some-

ment centres are being set up to cope with the increasing number of patients. More quarantine centres are being established, and

People are advised to appreciate the efforts of civil service personnel. It is a good motivation for them.

thing has happened, the most important thing is to consider how to control the disease. The only thing I ask the people is to follow the rules and disciplines. We don't ask people to do any additional things. I welcome contributions from well-wishers. Great thanks to them, and we really appreciate and value their contributions. As I have said earlier, if individuals follow the rules and disciplines, we don't need to worry about this disease. Don't worry too much about it. The spread of COVID-19 began in late August. People have noticed the transmission of this disease in early September, and have developed more awareness of the disease. Now it is the third week of September. If we could take control measures systematically, the fruitful results would come out within one or two weeks. No one likes to stay under the restrictions for a long time. However, systematic and careful cooperation from all of you is needed for us to be able to get out of these stressful restrictions.

The Union Government will provide all the possible assistance to the people. We will arrange for sufficient medical supplies. More medical treat-

the volunteers are contributing their services at these facilities. While some volunteers were infected by the disease, some other volunteers want to take a rest from these works as they got tired. I believe our people will provide offer assistance where needed. I would like to make a special appeal to this.

All in all, my report is to inform the people about the real situation. The people already know the real situation. This is just to remind the people to be cautious. This is just to remind them to be extra careful. If we can work together to overcome this crisis, we can clinch victories with great confidence and overcome any challenge facing our country. Therefore I urge the people to cooperate in COVID-19 control and containment measures, especially in Yangon with the spread of COVID infections. I want to request to the people to have absolute confidence and firm determination to overcome this challenge.

I pray for your good health and well-being! May all those, who are suffering from this illness, recover rapidly.

*(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)*

I wish to make a plea to volunteers and professionals to assist and cooperate in the efforts of our Union government.

person took care of their health; if they did not become infected, then there is no reason for infection to spread to another person. The rest of the problem can be taken care of by the Union gov-

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## Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

1. People should not illegally come to Nay Pyi Taw. If a person comes back from other places to Nay Pyi Taw, he/she needs to inform and receive medical examination. The charge for COVID-19 tests has been considerably reduced.
2. It has been learnt that some people get out of the cars on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and some old roads, and then they entered Nay Pyi Taw via motorcycle roads and inter-village roads. So, authorities are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force to take strict measures to control these illegal entries.
3. The ward/village administrators have been instructed to report, manage and send individuals who entered or came back to the ward/village to the quarantine centres.
4. To make the flow of goods smooth, truck drivers will be given the slip at the entrance gate, from which the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be left. The truck drivers are not allowed to go to other places between the entrance gate and the exit gate.
5. Face mask rule has been imposed in Nay Pyi Taw townships and COVID-19 awareness has been raised via loudspeakers. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in force, and surprise checks have been carried out on restaurants.

## Investment Promotion Committee holds virtual meeting

THE third meeting of the Investment Promotion Committee (IPC) led by the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) U Thaung Tun was held via videoconference yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the members of Investment Promotion Committee (IPC), Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun, U Kyaw Myo, U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Htoo, U Win Maw Tun, Dr Mya Lay Sein, U Sett Aung, U Tin Latt and Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries concerned as well as the Secretary of the IPC, members of the five task forces and observers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Union Minister U Thaung Tun noted the important role of the IPC and its five task forces.



Union Minister U Thaung Tun joins third meeting of the Investment Promotion Committee online on 15 September. PHOTO: MNA

He stressed the need to respond effectively to the impact of COVID-19 by establishing industrial zones, promoting investment in agro-based industries which support the whole supply chain, health-related product manufacturing, and the digitization of

the economy. He also underlined the need to review the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) in the coming year in light of the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

U Thant Sin Lwin, Director

General of DICA and Secretary of the IPC briefed the committee on the activities undertaken and the work programme for the year ahead.

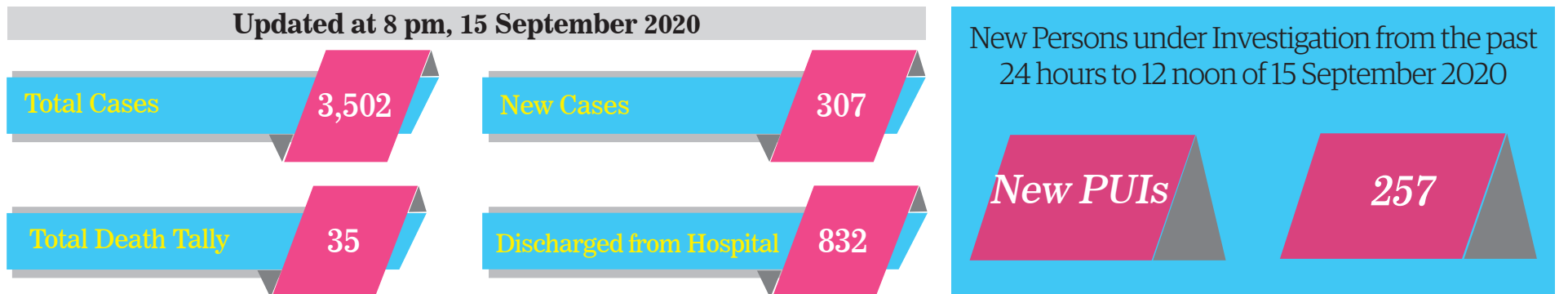
The leaders of the five task forces presented progress reports of the Annual Activities

Plan. The presentations were followed by discussions by the IPC members.

A total of 70 IPC members and representatives of ministries concerned participated in the virtual meeting.—MNA

## 307 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 September, total figure rises to 3,502

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 3,502 after 307 new cases were reported on 15 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 3,502 confirmed cases, 35 died, 832 have been discharged from hospitals and 257 were held under investigation.—MNA



Ministry of Health and Sports

## 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.



## Individuals follow simple guidelines for wearing masks, gloves and staying 6 feet apart in minimum from each other

For Yangon, the main thing is to impose travel restrictions and to prevent public gatherings from happening. All need to practise social distancing. The pandemic could be controlled if individuals follow simple guidelines for wearing masks, gloves and staying 6 feet apart in minimum from each other. We also noticed that the rules for preventing public gatherings have impacts on the livelihood of the people and that the government has adopted plans to provide support to the public, and has been implementing them. We will continue to work as needed.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Report to People regarding need for strict compliance with regulations, instructions, directives issued for containment of COVID-19, on 10 September 2020)*



## Due to public participation in Yangon Region, I hope that we could put COVID-19 under control in next three weeks.

**(U Phyo Min Thein,  
the Chief Minister of Yangon Region)**

THE Yangon Region government and the Ministry of Health and Sports are working together to control the spread of COVID-19 in the region. The interviews with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Rector of University of Medicine (1) Dr Zaw Wai Soe regarding their performances for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 activities in the region are as follow:

### Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein

The COVID-19 infection rate is increasing in Yangon Region. There are over 200 cases per day. Therefore, my government is making efforts together with the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to house the infected people and those who have close contacts with them at the quarantine centres. On the other hand, we also try hard to ensure stable economy and social affairs in our region. What I want to say is that my government makes its best concerted efforts to stabilize the economy and social sectors by cooperating with all the ministries.

Regarding with the COVID-19 pandemic, my government strictly carries out for the people to follow the directives released by the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. Such strict measures are aimed for the public to protect them from infection. I am grateful to all who participate in this measure. Public participation plays crucial role in such cooperation works. As we have witnessed participation of public in Yangon Region, I hope that we are able to control the COVID-19 in next three weeks. I also want to urge our people to join with us for this situation. I want them to follow Stay-at-Home order and other programmes not to go outside for unnecessary reasons, washing hands and wearing masks. If the individuals follow these programmes, we could con-



U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister.

trol the disease in Yangon Region to a certain extent.

Moreover, we heard some rumours that there are no enough quarantine facilities for treatment currently. We have already managed quarantine centres at Waibargi and in South Okkalapa. There are many spacious spaces there. There are 843 patients at Phaunggyi COVID-19 quarantine centre. It can accommodate up to 1,220 patients. It can house more patients. There are 67 patients at Wabargi and 43 patients at South Okkalapa Hospital. Moreover, we prepare Yoma Yeik Thar in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township to be used as quarantine centre. Currently, 1,206 people who had close contact with positive cases are staying quarantine at Yoma Yeik Thar and 272 positive cases are also kept there. Then, 13 buildings are left vacant there and it can accommodate other 1,756 patients. So, we have enough quarantine facilities. We also prepare Hline quarantine centre to put more

positive cases. It can accommodate about 1,600 people and now there are only 593 patients. So, it can accept further 1,067 people. I want to say that there are enough quarantine facilities.

This is because the government is working together with the Ministry of Health and Sports to ease the concerns of public as much as they can. We organize coordination committee on treatment and control of COVID-19 and hold daily meetings. Now, we can say that there is progress or improvement. Therefore, the entire people can stay peacefully regarding with the current situation but with full of awareness. I want to say not to worry about it. If the entire people cooperate with us with health awareness, we could overcome these situations. Currently, there are 31 quarantine centres in the region. It is still possible to accommodate more than the current numbers as many spaces are left.

**Rector Dr Zaw Wai Soe from**



Rector Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Yangon University of Medicine (1).

**PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

### University of Medicine (1), Yangon

I am the vice-chairman of the Yangon Region's Coordination Committee on COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment. The committee was formed to coordinate in a timely manner during the crisis of COVID-19 in Yangon. Medical doctors from the respective states and regions have arrived here to control the situation in Yangon; 20 from Mandalay Region, 20 from Magway Region, 20 from Kayah State and 20 from Ayeyawady Region to enforce the doctors in Yangon.

More common people are found wearing masks this week. Traffic congestion has declined. They follow the rules. They avoid public gatherings and they stay apart from each other. We didn't see them eating or drinking in groups. If they continue to maintain these practices in next two or three weeks, the pandemic will be under control in Yangon. Living this way could save lives.

It is also like taking medical treatment. It is not true that there are not enough doctors for patients. There are only few patients to hospitals for medical treatments of other diseases. As regions and states are working in full cooperation, the doctor-to-patient ratio is quite reasonable. Healthcare service is in full swing in Phaunggyi, Waibargi Hospital and South Okkalapa Hospital. We are making the right decisions in terms of treatment.

The disease can't infect healthy young people or those in good strength. However, it can attack more people with poor immune system.

Fragile persons need to have more protection from the disease. Everyone is working hard to prevent this. Therefore, we need to work together to care the elderly, people with poor immune system and people with chronic diseases.— Min Thit (MNA)

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han, Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*



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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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# Half of CNG stations to be closed in Yangon amid COVID infection spike

ABOUT half of Yangon CNG stations will be closed because there is a high rate of infection of COVID-19 in Yangon Region, according to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Yangon Region (MOGE).

With positively spreading of COVID-19 in Yangon Region, only 21 out of 41 CNG stations will be open while the remaining stations will be closed temporarily.

The rest 21 CNG stations will be open from 6 am to 6 pm

starting from today.

"We are giving priority to our public transport. Previously, 35 shops were open 16 hours a day while six shops were open eight hours a day. Now, only a few people are travelling inside the country and no foreigners because of COVID-19 outbreak. So, the consumption of the CNG has dropped 50 per cent in a week. To be able to prevent the spreading of COVID-19, only 50 per cent of the staff

are assigned at the stations. This is the reason why these 21 CNG stations will only be open from 6 am to 6 pm," said an official from Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

The 21 CNG stations are Insein, Ahlone-1, Kyaikkalo, Thakayta-1, Dagon Myothit, Bayintnaung, Pale, Hline-thaya, Danyingone, Ahlone-2, Dagon East-1, Kyimyindine, Thanlyin-1, Mingala Taungnyunt, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Parami, Hlawga, Hline-

thaya-2, Shwepyitha-2 and Htauk Kyant. The shops will be open from 6 am to 6 pm.

As per data provided by the CNG Division of the MOGE, Yangon Region has over 6,500 CNG buses, but only 4,000 buses come to fill the gas at the stations. The daily CNG consumption in Yangon is 24.14 million cubic feet, and YBS buses account for 13.41 million cubic feet of the total consumption. - Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Licences to be issued for offshore fishing vessels



The Fisheries Department is issuing licences to offshore fishing vessels before coming into operation. PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK (IPRD))

STARTING from 2020-2021 financial year's fishing season, the Fisheries Department has been issuing the licences in time to the offshore fishing vessels so that the latter can leave for the sea, according to the Fisheries Department.

The staff from the Fisheries Department in Rakhine State, Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady

Region, Yangon Region and the Mon State are issuing the licences to the fishing vessels during the regular office hours.

At present, the department is enjoying great benefit after setting 100 per cent no fishing season or imposing the no-fishing area restriction upon the fishing vessels in 2018 and 2019.

"To enable the offshore

fishing vessels to leave for the sea, the department is issuing the licence to the fishing vessels promptly. When they reach the sea, they are allowed to get the license by giving the copy," said an official from the department.

At present, the department is issuing the vessel licence. On the other hand, the department

is also assisting those vessel owners who wish to prepare for getting the permit for their offshore vessels, to change the vessel name, to change the vessel owner's name and to do renewal by helping fill the application forms.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has installed the surveillance system onboard the fishing vessels to be able to take legal action against the ships which are catching the fish illegally.

There are many offshore and inshore fishing enterprises in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions and Mon State. Currently, there are over 3,400 offshore fishing vessels in Myanmar. The department took legal action against 35 illegal fishing vessels, 68 undisciplined offshore vessels and two fishing vessels that had caught the fish with the use of the prohibited fishing equipment. -Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# MoSWRR provides cash for IDPs in Minbya Township

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing cash assistance to people in IDP camps in Minbya Township, Rakhine State, under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan- CERP.

The ministry provided 36,600,000 kyats to the 914 households in IDP camps in Minbya Township on 14 September. The people are provided with 40,000 kyats per household to purchase five necessary food items.

Officials from MraukU District Administration Office went to the respective IDP camps and gave the cash assistance with officials from the General Administration Department in Minbya Township.

The Ministry will continue giving assistance to the IDPs in Sittway, Pauktaw, Yathedaung, Ponnagyun and An townships.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Officials are providing cash assistance at an IDP camp in Minbya Township. PHOTO:MNA



## Myanmar ready to export rice if ROK sends purchase proposal

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is willing to sell rice if the Republic of Korea delivered the purchase proposals for the emergency reserves to Myanmar, said U Ye Min Aung, president of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

To maintain the price stability and build food security for the possible natural disaster, the government of ROK will start the annual purchase of rice for the emergency reserves in the third week of September.

Under the plan, Korea will purchase 340,000 tonnes of rice for the reserves by the end of this year, along with 10,000 tonnes for foreign aid, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea.

However, Myanmar has not received any official letter regarding rice purchase, he added.

"There is no official negotiation regarding this matter yet. We are ready to export rice if they want as the country has been shipping rice to external markets, beyond self-sufficiency. Therefore, we see no difficulty in that," he added.

Korea's emergency reserve system is designed to store staple grains as a contingency against natural disasters or other food supply crises.

The Korean government purchases typically around 17 to 18 per cent of the annual

consumption amount (2-month food security).

The government plans to provide an advance payment of 30,000 won (US\$25.2) per 40-kilogramme sack of rice and cover the remaining amount by the end of this year.

The ROK has not yet set this year's price. A sack of rice fetched 65,750 won in 2019.

Moreover, they also purchase the rice for foreign aid under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve project, which is aimed at safeguarding the food security in case of emergencies, such as floods and droughts.

"They prefer sticky rice. However, we do not know which rice varieties they will purchase during the COVID-19 crisis. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea will issue further detail soon. They normally buy the rice from Viet Nam and Thailand," said the MRF president.

Since 2017, the Republic of Korea has donated rice to Myanmar, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and the Philippines in humanitarian aid under the programme.

The ROK helped Myanmar for agricultural mechanization by providing technical assistance and farm machinery. Myanmar and Korea have expanded cooperation on agriculture, and it plays a pivotal role in Myanmar agricultural sector, he remarked.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism goes online for administrative procedures

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism temporarily shut down its office, yet it will provide online service for managerial procedures, the department stated.

In a bid to contain the surging coronavirus cases, only the staff were allowed in the Yangon Region government office compound starting from 14 September. The current coronavirus resurgences in the region led the department to go digital platform to facilitate those work matters, including business licence, the extension of permit and changing the business name and the

company's principal place.

Therefore, those who want to contact the regional directorate can contact through mail address yangon@tourism.gov.mm and in-person contact will be informed later, notified the directorate. The regional tourism committee, at the meeting held in Yangon Region government office compound on 3 September, issued licences to one hotel and three guesthouses, with a total of 2,360 rooms; and construction permits have been granted for two hotels, with an estimated capital of K9.353 billion.

Myanmar citizens did those businesses, and the projects created 53 jobs.

Additionally, the regional tourism committee this year has granted licences to 20 hotels with 1,495 rooms and three guesthouses, while construction permits have been granted for 14 hotels and three guesthouses. Meanwhile, the committee has issued licenses to 213 inbound and outbound tours.

The total capital for hotels and guesthouses is estimated at K80.95 billion and US\$38.865 million, with \$11.665 million invested by foreign companies, \$5.5 million by joint ventures, and K80.65 billion by domestic companies. The projects have created a total of 1,273 jobs.  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## YRIC clears 129 FDI projects worth of US\$283.302 mln over 11 months

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) has endorsed 129 foreign investment projects over 11 months of the current financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Between 1 October and 4 September of the current FY, Yangon Region (US\$283.302 mln) stood at the first place with 129 foreign enterprises, followed by Bago Region (US\$72.405 mln) with 18 foreign projects at the second place and Ayeyawady Region (US\$19.614 mln), with nine at the third place.

Additionally, Taninthayi (US\$1.397 mln) and Magway (US\$0.991 mln) regions and

Mon State (US\$1.664 mln) attracted two projects each, while Mandalay (US\$4.600 mln) and Sagaing (US\$3.000 mln) regions, Kachin (US\$1.000 mln) and Shan (US\$4.130 mln) states and Nay Pyi Taw (US\$5.862 mln) drew one enterprise each.

However, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin states had zero FDI as of 4 September, the DICA stated.

During the current FY, the relevant investment committees from the regions and states issued the endorsement for 167 foreign enterprises, with an estimated value of US\$397.965 million.

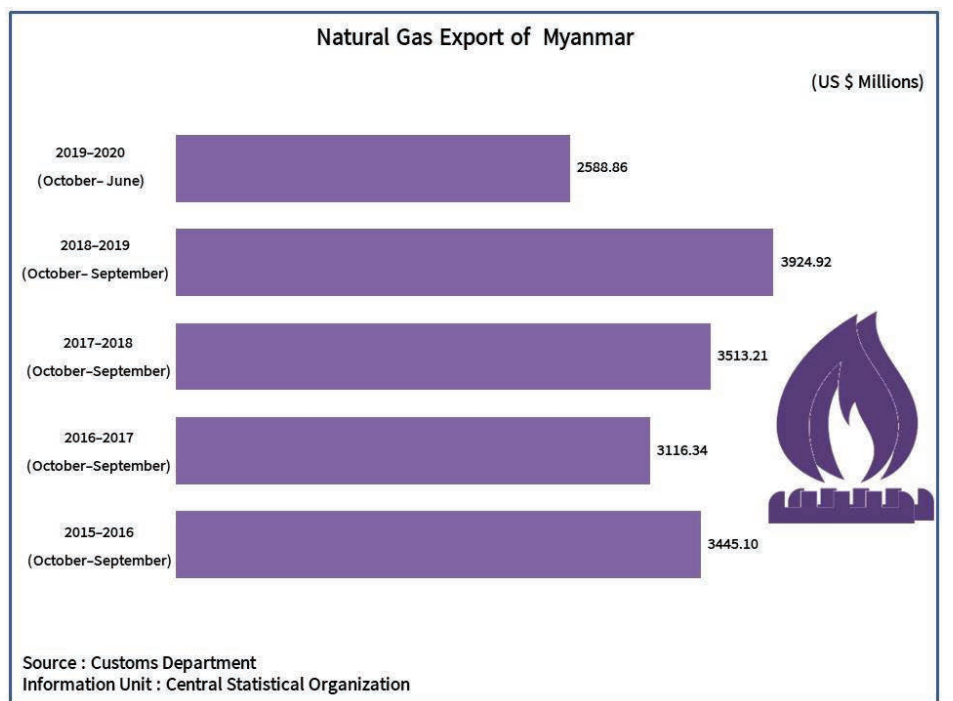
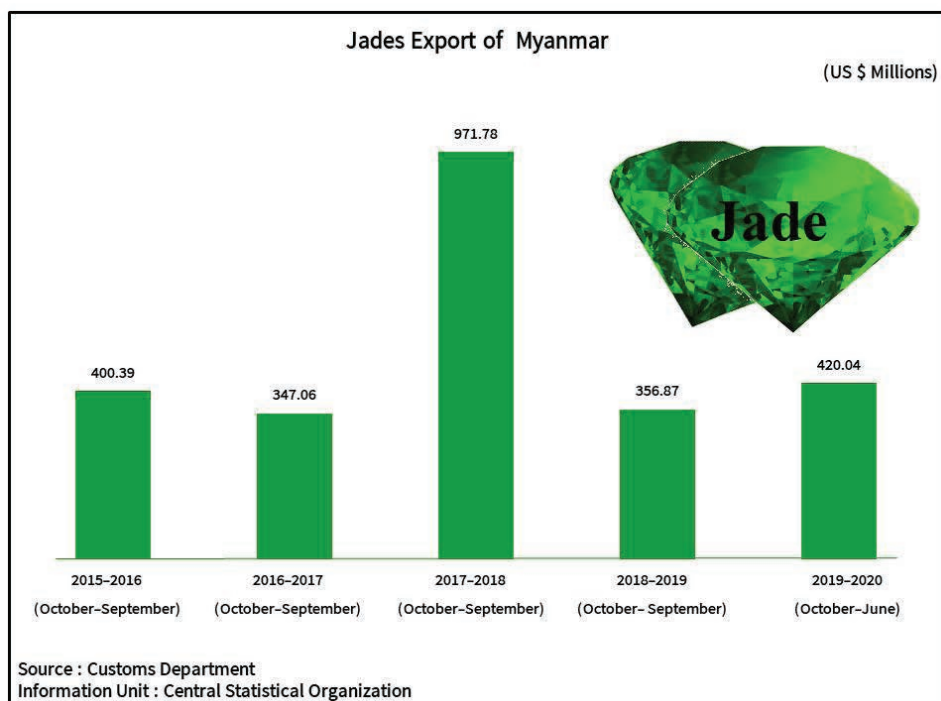
Manufacturing, hotels and tourism, other services, electricity and agricultural sectors

pulled in the foreign investments. Majority of the investments went into the manufacturing industry, followed by other services, and hotels and tourism industries.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in Yangon region.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)





# A cause for caution – not for alarm

As of Tuesday evening, the official count of confirmed cases across our country reached 3,502 so far and the death toll reached 35. Most of the people who died had chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disorder and heart problems.

The updated daily figures are reported to the public every evening. This is not for alarm, but a cause for caution.

We have seen a significant rise in coronavirus cases since mid-August after a surge of locally-transmitted infections, which struck Rakhine State in mid-August.

Over the past seven days, our country saw 307 cases on Tuesday, 263 cases on Monday, 337 cases on Sunday, 173 cases on Saturday, 272 cases on Friday, 262 cases on Thursday and 180 cases on Wednesday respectively.

Yangon Region is seeing rising numbers daily while the fast-spreading second wave has been contained, to a certain extent, in Rakhine State.

We know crowding affects the spread. A densely populated city, such as Yangon, can have nearly twice the rate of transmission.

With 200 to 300 new cases daily, Yangon needs more hospital facilities for giving treatment to them. To respond to the situation which we have anticipated, Yangon Region authorities has turned a newly constructed housing complex in Dagon Seikan Township to a temporary hospital which will receive patients with moderate and no-symptoms of the disease.

A building which had been used for facility quarantine in Hline University Campus will be turned into a hospital with 500 beds capacity for giving treatment to serious patients. Meanwhile, a tent hospital with 400 beds capacity is being constructed in the Thuwunna Stadium. These measures show the government's efforts to tackle the challenges of this deadly pandemic.

The people on their part are to observe the health guidelines. We can say that if the people follow COVID-19 guidelines and maintain social distancing, the number of cases will sharply decrease within two weeks.

The closer people live and work together, the more threatening the virus can be. Hence, for many workers and passengers who can't avoid the crowded settings of their daily environment will need masks and gloves, and clear protocols for hygiene and disinfection.

Only living with healthy habits in the new normal following COVID-19 regulations will truly flatten the COVID-19 curve.

We can say that if the people follow COVID-19 guidelines and maintain social distancing, the number of cases will sharply decrease within two weeks.

## Myanmar Government will continue its efforts towards a Democratic Federal Union despite challenges remain, Myanmar Permanent Representative stresses at the United Nations Human Rights Council Meeting

The Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on Myanmar was held on 14 September 2020, the first day of the 45th session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

As a country concerned, Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Tun delivered a statement. In his statement, while touching upon the current unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he apprised the Council of the Government's whole-of-nation approach based on the principle of "leaving no one behind" in responding to the pandemic. He also thanked friends and partners including the UN for their assistance in the Government's efforts to fight the COVID-19.

### Positive changes

He said that the pandemic has exacerbated the multiple challenges Myanmar faces in its efforts for building a Democratic Federal Union. He stressed that the present civilian government, since the day one in its office, has pursued utmost efforts for taking all possible steps towards a democratic state and many positive changes have been achieved to its political, socio economic and human rights landscape through

out the country.

Pursuing the sustainable peace, he informed the Council that the recent 4th Session of the Union Peace Conference, held in August, has demonstrated a significant achievement by signing of Part III of the Union Accord, a crucial step for establishing a Democratic Federal Union.

### Terrorist attacks

Regarding the complex and

Regarding the complex and delicate Rakhine issue, he reaffirmed that finding a sustainable solution and commencement of repatriation are priorities of the Government.

delicate Rakhine issue, he reaffirmed that finding a sustainable solution and commencement of repatriation are priorities of the Government. In this connection, he recalled that ARSA's terrorist attacks in October 2016 and August 2017 were deliberate attempts to derail Myanmar's efforts to find a sustainable solution, and these triggered the current humanitarian crisis. He further highlighted that the

challenges have been further compounded by intensification of fightings between the Military and the AA. Furthermore, he said that humanitarian assistance has been provided to the affected people with the assistance of WFP and ICRC as well as local NGOs.

On the accountability issue, he reiterated that Myanmar is willing and able to address the issue of accountability and the Government has been taking

necessary action based on the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry submitted to the President in January 2020.

### Social cohesion

Moreover, he apprised the Council of the Government's cooperation with UNHCR, UNDP and ASEAN to facilitate the implementation of the bilateral



U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations

agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the repatriation, resettlement, and development of returnees. In addition, parts of the Government's efforts for creating conducive environment, promotion of social cohesion, creating harmonious society and prevention of hate speech related actions have been taken, he said.

He stressed that no one cares the prosperity of Myanmar more than its people. With the desire of the people, he said, the present Government will continue its efforts towards a democratic federal union. He, therefore,

underscored the importance of continued support from within and abroad, and urged the international community to render genuine cooperation, constructive engagement and helping hands to Myanmar instead of exerting undue political pressure on Myanmar.

### Five main points

While taking the floor again at the closing, he thanks the delegations who have spoken in support of Myanmar and in a constructive and objective manner and highlighted the five main points: (1) the importance of ad-

ressing the issue in a holistic and comprehensive manner, (2) the importance of understanding the country's history, culture, background and complexity of the issue and having appropriate time and space to succeed the goal, (3) necessity of the accuracy of information in making a right decision, (4) the danger of externalizing Rakhine issue which is fanning the flames of an extreme polarization, and (5) reaffirmation of Myanmar's commitment to continue achieving the goals towards a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union.—MNA



### The slogans for Ozone Layer

- \* Preserve the Ozone layer for human health
- \* The Ozone layer, the UV blocker
- \* Let's work together to improve the Ozone layer and climate
- \* Let's preserve the Ozone layer to protect the living things under the Sun
- \* Continue to protect the Ozone layer to reduce global warming
- \* Save Ozone, save life
- \* Save Ozone, make future cool

Environmental Conservation Department

### SMARTPHONE MARKETS UNDER PRESSURE

## Pandemic Hits Smartphone Market Hard

By Athira Nortajuddin Digital Journalist, The ASEAN Post

Smartphones are now considered a necessity to most of us in order to communicate with friends and family, for work and as a form of mobile entertainment. Today, it is estimated that over five billion people or 67 per cent of the global population have

mobile devices, and over half of these are smartphones.

Southeast Asia, a region of over 680 million people, has seen an incredible growth in mobile penetration over the years.

Tech firm GMSA highlights ASE-

AN member state Indonesia as an emerging digital economy giant and one of the most improved countries in terms of digital transition since 2014. In its report titled, "Spotlight on Indonesia: Seizing the digital transition opportunity now", GMSA expects the number the mobile penetration rate in the country to grow to 69 per cent by 2025, from a 64 per cent penetration rate in 2017.

Another ASEAN member state that has seen significant growth in mobile penetration rates is the Philippines. According to the Pew Research Center, 55 per cent of adults in the country own smartphones, while another 22 per cent own mobile phones.

Market research company GfK found that nearly 97 million smartphone units were bought by the region's consumers in 2019 – up by 1.2 million in 2018 – raking in US\$23 billion for the industry. It was reported that

Malaysia's smartphone sales by volume rose 13 per cent last year, while in Singapore, it jumped 11 per cent.

With increased smartphone penetration in the region, it's no wonder that e-commerce and the online shopping industry have been booming in Southeast Asia, especially amid the pandemic as many consumers are staying indoors.

Nevertheless, like other sectors around the world, the smartphone market is also feeling the pinch from the coronavirus crisis.

### Plunged Demand

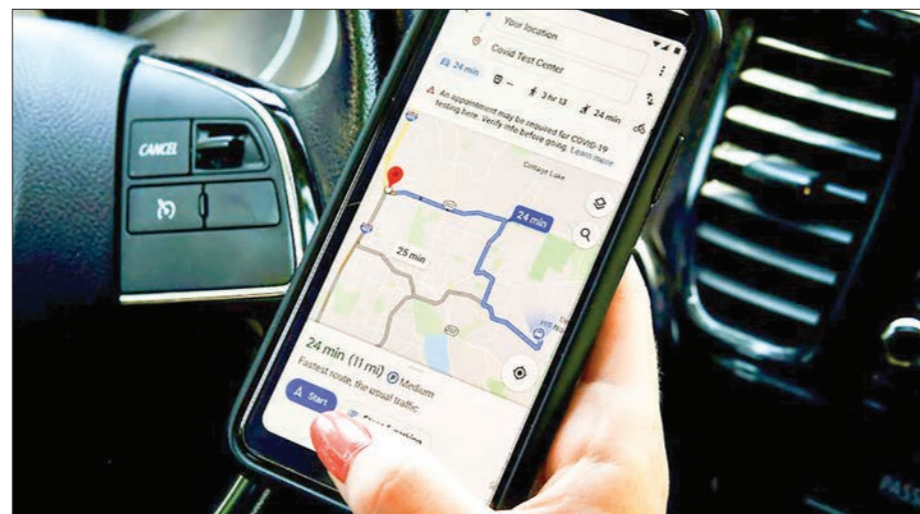
According to a recent report by GfK, in January to July 2020, the smartphone market value in the Asia-Pacific region declined by 20 per cent to just over US\$119 billion – almost US\$30 billion less than the same period last year.

"The region's smartphone market

was hardest hit in the second quarter when many countries here entered lockdown mode. This was also when we started observing new trends emerging and the corresponding shifts in consumer demand for durable goods," explained Alexander Dehmel, Market Insights Lead APAC at GfK.

The report stated that although Taiwan managed to turn in marginal growth at one per cent, the rest of the 15 markets reported declines in market value; Indonesia (-4 per cent), Thailand (-7 per cent), India and Singapore (both -42 per cent).

"Supply and demand of smartphones plunged in China, slumped across Asia, and slowed in the rest of the world. It is a period the smartphone industry will want to forget," said Neil Mawston, executive director at research firm, Strategy Analytics.



A Google map application displays a medical facility on a smartphone in Arlington, Virginia on June 9, 2020. PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP

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### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 15th September, 2020)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th September, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeeyawady Regions, (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 – 7) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (6-8) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



**Union Solidarity and Development Party – USDP presents its policy, stance and work programmes**

*Union Solidarity and Development Party – USDP Chairman U Than Htay presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 15 September.*



**Esteemed citizens and people**

I wish all of you the best.

The tenure of the current Hluttaw and the current government will end soon, so the citizens will get an opportunity to create a new future. The upcoming Multiparty General Election will shape a new future for the country and the citizens. According to the multiparty democratic system, representatives elected by the citizens will have the opportunity to lead working for the future of the country and the citizens. So, the decision of the citizens is essential. If political parties want to lead creating a good future for the country and the citizens, it needs to have appropriate situations and the authority to do it. Only if the party wins the elections, it will get the power to create the future. It shows that the results of an election can shape the fate of the present time and the future of the country. The elected representatives and their parties will lead to creating the future of the country, but the citizens have the power to elect them. So, political parties have to present their party’s long-term objectives for the country, their party’s policy, their work programmes and their pledges so that the citizens can think which party they should vote for.

The policy and the work programmes of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) are based on the historical background of the country, situations and realities to create a brighter future for the country and the citizens. The brighter future means the future in which the people can have better sources of livelihoods, the more secure future, the future which can safeguard freedom without oppression, the future in which every citizen can fully enjoy their rights secured by the Constitution, the future in which every citizen can fully enjoy the freedom of religion or belief guaranteed by the laws, the future in which a citizen does not need to worry for respecting and maintaining their culture and tradition, the future which has full of learning opportunities, and job opportunities for children, and young people of all gender identities, and the future hate less society in which people have mutual understanding, unity and equality.

Now I would like to speak about the pledges of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, and we will exert efforts to implement the commitments successfully. Dear respected citizens, when our party formed a government to work for the country, we set appropriate policies for a wide range of matters including social matters, economics, security, democracy, and peace and we effectively implemented the guidelines.

Similarly, when our party gets into the situation in which many people label it an opposition party,

we are exerting efforts to become a strong opposition for check and balance to the (current) government in various matters related to the country and the citizens, as well as we are making efforts to set policies and tasks for the future.

To create a brighter future, the Union Solidarity and Development Party’s policy, which is based on the national interests of the entire Union and the citizens, focuses on non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty, and the policy can never be inappropriate or incorrect as long as the country and the people survive.

Following our policy based on national interests, we ponder which tasks should be carried out for the country. The result is:

(1) We will continue the market-oriented system, and we will protect local investors and business persons by focusing on national interests. We will have to create reliable situations in which both local and foreign business persons can trust and make investments. The state will try to reduce the national debts of the country, which also affects each citizen within one year.

(2) We will take efforts urgently for the development of all sectors including agricultural, industrial and service sectors of the country.

(3) We will give higher priority for resolving the matters related to amending the Constitution. We will make efforts to make practical changes that will immediately reflect the essences of federal, the Union and democracy.

For instance, our party will focus on possible amendments to the sections related to appointing chief ministers of regions and states, the areas related to ensuring equality, the laws associated with sharing authorities between the Union, and Regions and States, the laws related to the Constitutional Tribunal and the Union Election Commission to guarantee the three main pillars working in a check and balance way, Right to Recall Law, the laws related to choosing FPTP or PR electoral system, and other necessary laws.

(4) With full confidence, our party will continue peacemaking processes because peace is vital for establishing democracy which is essential for the Union.

(5) Our party will establish farmers’ affairs ministry to promote the agricultural sector that the citizens can rely on.

(6) For crop products, our party will create a market in which farmers can sell their crops at the prices higher than their crop growing and production costs.

(7) Our party will set minimum wages that reflect the costs of living.

(8) We will increase salaries and assistance for civil servants commencing 2021 in order that they can live their lives decently.

(9) Our party will review the current tax systems and make so that amendments to the system in order that the people can well afford to pay the appropriate amounts.

(10) We will exert efforts to support the more effective rule of law and to achieve stability and peace in all areas, and we will launch effective crackdown on drug trafficking.

(11) We will draft laws and apply existing relevant laws to protect endangered environment and ecosystem.

(12) Our party will exert efforts to create an education system that will boost students’ capabilities for memorizing, intuition, and analyzing, and that will enable students to practically apply their knowledge.

And we will nurture the education system so that it can inspire mutual respect between students and teachers.

(13) For young people and women, we will implement tasks to promote public sports and to create more jobs. Our party will ensure gender equality so that different gender groups, without discrimination, will get the same opportunities, which reflect their quality and efforts. Our party will provide adequate healthcare services for every citizen.

(14) To guard national interests, we will review the businesses and projects in which foreign organizations and foreigners are involved.

(15) We will work hard to promote the dignity, prosperity and security of the entire Myanmar society.

We believe that our party alone, or an influential party leader alone, cannot successfully implement the pledges and the tasks, and solo efforts will not be able to achieve the objectives; solo efforts will be superficial. So, we adopt the policy to harmoniously cooperate with other parties, organizations, ethnic groups and outstanding individuals.

In the multiparty system, it is natural that political parties, politicians and electoral candidates make attractive pledges in their speeches and writings to gain respect and trust from the general public. But it is not sure whether they have a genuine wish to implement the pledges practically. Within a few days, months or years, it will be apparent whether the politicians have the quality and the goodwill for the general public.

So, I want the voters to thoroughly ponder this precious, long-awaited opportunity to elect, which is very important for the country and the citizens.

I don’t want to urge voters to elect me; I also don’t want to urge voters to vote for my party. Voters are those who will make the decisions; those who will elect. Political parties and electoral candidates are those who will be decided; those who will be chosen.

As I said earlier, I don’t want to call on the voters to elect us. Please clearly understand that this is your opportunity to make choices according to your own wishes, and to use that opportunity.

I wrote a post on my social network page; in my opinion, to be healthy, a person needs to abstain from unhealthy habits and needs to take physical exercise for a lengthy period.

Similarly, to be happy, a person needs to practise meditation for a prolonged period. To be wealthy, a person needs to save money, make investments and take risks for a lengthy period.

But, to make the entire country and the people healthy, happy and wealthy, just a single day is needed. That means to make a “correct choice”.

So, I solemnly would like to call on the voters to go to the polling stations and make choices out of various parties and candidates, who have multiple colours and qualities, to grasp the opportunity.

Let’s create a bright future.

I wish our esteemed people to have physical and mental well-being.





## Ethnic National Development Party (ENDP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Spokesperson for Ethnic National Development Party, U Raw Man presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 15 September.



### Esteemed people

Greetings to you all. May you have peace of mind and good health.

I am the spokesperson for Ethnic National Development Party, U Raw Man. We are honoured for the opportunity to explain our party's objectives to the public through radio and television.

A political party needs to be established with a global political view, international relations perspective, an individual nation's political opinion, and the economic perspective of nationalities living in different regions. However, we will not go into every objective and detail of our Ethnic National Development Party but rather explain the main objective.

Everyone is aware that 135 distinct ethnic groups are living together in our country. They each have their own language and culture, religion or faith, and customs and traditions. There are sub-ethnic groups too, and they cannot be excluded. Their languages, culture and traditions need to be promoted and preserved. Our party aims to work hand in hand with a government that guarantees equal rights and

opportunities to all ethnic groups, development and peaceful coexistence towards national development.

### With this conviction, our party's objectives are:

1. Emergence of a genuine democratic system.
2. Establishing a democratic federal union.
3. Ensuring ethnic groups receive their full rights, equal opportunities and self-determination.

The first point about a genuine democratic system is essential to everyone's freedom and fairness and acceptable by all races. That is why our party will actively participate in the emergence of real democracy.

For the second point, establishing a democratic system in Myanmar by itself so it must be paired with a federal system. It is because the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is home to a multitude of ethnic groups and a federal system will ensure full rights for all ethnic groups and enact the services to be provided. Equal rights include continued social development, preserving literature, culture and customs, creating their own destinies, and allowing ethnic groups to define their borders.

The third point is about ethnic groups receiving equal rights. We will cooperate with the organizations trying to achieve this objective. This system enacts rights and services to be provided, which is why our nation needs to establish federalism so that citizens of the country can live together in harmony.

We can categorize the ethnic groups in Myanmar into two groups. The first group is different ethnic groups living together without geographical connections and the second group consists of those in the same geographical location. Some ethnic groups may live in the same geographical area. Still, they are under an administrative authority that governs at least three townships which presents challenges to improving and protecting society,

literature and culture. We aim to request the government to restrict a specific administrative area for distinct ethnic groups that have adequate space and conditions in their location. Currently, they are viewed as ethnic minorities and can only participate in political parties as a partial strength without anyone to represent their ethnic group.

Our party contested in the 1990 multi-party elections as the Mara People's Party. It changed to the current party name to compete in 2010, 2015 and now in 2020 for seats in Chin State Amyotha Hluttaw constituency 7 and 9 and Matupi Township constituency 2.

Myanmar's political scene has caused differences in party politics between Central Myanmar and the ethnic regions. They do not have the same political views and activities. These differences can cause some ethnic groups to join larger political parties and have fewer chances to exercise their rights or voice their opinions.

Our Ethnic National Development Party is working hard for equal rights and peaceful coexistence, democratic system, establishing a democratic federal union, ensuring the inherent rights of ethnic groups, and self-determination. We implore the public to use their valuable ballot to vote for our party with the axe, maize and machete logo to achieve these goals.

Thanks to you all.

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## The Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) on COVID-19 Second Wave Statement No.12 / 2020

1. The MNHRC, in its statement No.5/2020, recognized the relentless and effective efforts of the Government to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, winning kudos from the international community. However, the resurgent COVID-19 infections in the country since the middle of August have given rise to great concern among the people. Furthermore, it is worth observing that the current infections spread faster than those in March and April. The MNHRC is greatly heartened to note that the Government is addressing the people's concern with renewed and decisive efforts. Following the policy of leaving no one behind, the Government's responses to COVID-19 have been absolutely free of discrimination. Despite that, the impact on certain groups and individuals, such as older persons, persons with underlying diseases, persons with disabilities, minority groups, communities in remote areas, and persons under detention, is bound to be different, and accordingly warrants special tailored measures in the Government's response to those groups and persons. Furthermore, women and girls have particular needs during COVID-19. For example, job losses in the garment sector have significant financial impact on women and girls while confinement and lockdowns may increase the burdens on them.
2. Access to information is also critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The provision of information on COVID-19 by the Government, including preventive measures and hygienic practices and timely directives from the Ministry of Health and Sports and relevant regional authorities are significant steps in the right direction.

3. The Government has made every effort to slow down and stop the spread of COVID-19. Nevertheless, closures of small streets in the wards by over-concerned local authorities seen on social media platform have caused misgivings. It is necessary for local authorities to implement the directives on COVID-19 strictly so that the public will also become more willing to follow them. The MNHRC would like to urge the people to scrupulously abide by the Government's directives in the spirit of full cooperation at this juncture to overcome the crisis of COVID-19 in the shortest possible time.
4. The MNHRC continues to extend its full support for the Government's on-going efforts to prevent and address COVID-19 while protecting the human rights of everyone in Myanmar.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 15 September 2020



## Kaman National Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Kaman National Development Party (Central) Vice-Chairman U Hla Toe presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 15 September.



### Distinguished voters of the country

#### Nationalities of Myanmar, I wish you all auspiciousness (Mingalaba)!

I am U Hla Toe, Vice-Chairman of Kaman National Development Party (Central). We applied for party establishment in June 2010 and got the party registration on 5 July the same year. Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon Rakhine and Shan are the well-known eight major ethnic nationalities of Myanmar. Still, Kaman, which is included in Rakhine ethnic race, is not a prominent people. Kamans are the people born and brought up in Rakhine State.

Kamans were brave archers serving under Rakhine Kings with loyalty, and it is proved by the documents compiled by prominent Rakhine monks. As they are included in the nationalities, Kaman people took part in the country's political affairs with might and main during the pre-War and post-War periods. The Kaman National League for Democracy was set up, and it took part in the 1990 election. A candidate of the party was elected in the election, but the person could not attend the parliament as the law-making body could not be formed for various reasons. Kaman National Development Party took part in the six constitutions in Rakhine State during the 2010 election. Our candidates stood for the 2015 election in constituencies in Yangon Region and Rakhine State. We have nominated our candidates to stand for the election in three constituencies in Yangon Region and one each in Rakhine State and Thandwe constituencies.

### Esteemed people

Although our party is for the development of a specific nationality, we welcome the participation of any citizen. Every entitled person can apply for the

party membership. We have no prescription that every member must be a Kaman. Our vision is the election of MPs who can correctly steer the government and the legislative pillar at the 2020 election for shaping a better future as the emergence of an excellent administrative system free from corruption and egocentrism and the government that will realize the public wishes is of vital importance. Every ballot is essential for the election of MPs who can push the country towards realizing the public aspirations.

So, voters must correctly choose a candidate who will actually serve the interest of the State and the people precisely. Wrong choices may put us more profound in the hardships. Our candidates will serve the interest of the State and the community with goodwill to the possible degree within the legal framework. We will make not impossible promises or lies just to win public votes.

Kaman people have no narrow racism outlook. We will help solve the problems of the people of the entire country, including those of our region and community. If elected, we will ensure regional development and equality and solve the problems of the residents of townships who place trust in us. We will be able to do this job, only if we are elected. Moreover, we will take part with might and main for the successful amendment of the 2008 Constitution. So, every elected member of our party will render a helping hand, within the legal framework, in building a country based on the genuine federal system per the aspiration of the entire people. And in the parliament, our representatives will stand by the minority and will be the ardent supporters of the democratic State.

We promise full rights for workers, farmers, grass-roots and the marginalized people within the scope of democracy under the Constitution and a compelling drive against racial, religious and gender discrimination. So, we suggest voters be careful in weighing the moral conducts, and behaviour and honesty of a candidate in casting their precious vote. It is our goodwill for the voters. Our candidates will never exaggerate their promises. Our promises will be within our capacity and the legal framework.

### Dear voters, we would present our policy as follows:

1. Utmost efforts for the non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and the emergence of a new modern federal-based democracy State, where human rights are respected, in the future

through the involvement of all the people of the Union and parties with cardinal values as the foundation.

2. Oppose any form of terrorism or extremism
3. Participation at the establishing cordial relations with global countries including the neighbours based on unwavering non-alignment policy
4. Endeavours for all-round development of the entire country
5. Terminate visions and ideas, which are against the interest of the Myanmar society, through awareness campaigns.

Soon, people will have to choose the MPs. The power to choose the leader is a part of democracy. So correctness in selecting the candidate is of vital importance. People should give, at least a little time, to study politics. They should value their vote in all seriousness. A decision should be made only after assessing the physical and mental ability of the chosen candidate.

Voters should consider the consequences of their failure to place importance on the matter or to make the correct choice. Voters are the people who will have to shape the nation's future.

### Esteemed people

If our candidates get the full public support, they will become the MPS, and if they become MPs that will prove their words with the deeds. Five candidates of our party, which is an ethnic party, will take part in the election one each in the Yangon Region constituency 1 and 2 in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and constituency 1 in Mayangon Township, and Thandwe Township constituency 1 of the People's Assembly and Rakhine State constituency 1 in Thandwe Township. Our party's symbol is shown here.

May the voters elect our candidates who will serve the interest of the people. I wish health and happiness for all the nationalities, and with this, I conclude.

*Thank you.*

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## Campaign speeches of Khamee Nation Development Party, National Democratic Force (NDF) and National Development and Peace Party to be broadcast on 16 Sept, published on 17 Sept

CAMPAIGN speeches of Khamee 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 September, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanmar Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 17 September. — MNA



# Virus restrictions threaten Asia economic recovery in 2021: ADB



People wearing face masks as a preventive measure against the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak walk along the promenade at Marina Bay in Singapore, May 4, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANILA—Coronavirus-ravaged economies across the Asia Pacific will make a “swoosh-shaped” recovery next year, the Asian Development Bank forecast Tuesday, but it warned that further restrictions to combat the contagion could derail the region’s return to growth.

Developing Asia -- stretching from the Cook Islands in the Pacific to Kazakhstan in Central Asia -- is expected to

contract in 2020 for the first time in nearly six decades, throwing tens of millions of people into poverty, the Philippines-based lender said.

The 0.7 per cent shrink in gross domestic product compares with the bank’s previous estimate in June for 0.1 per cent growth and will mark “the first regional GDP contraction since the early 1960s”, it said.—AFP

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(9/2020-2021)**

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-158(20-21)	Spares for CAT 3508 Water Pump Engine (57) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-159(20-21)	Spares for Cooper Well Servicing Truck (1) Item	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-160(20-21)	Spares for Dong Feng Nissan Tractor (62) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-161(20-21)	Spares for Reintjes Gearbox (WAF264L) Ex MTBN-5 River Craft (84) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-162(20-21)	Spares for Hitachi Sumitomo Crane (44) Items	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-163(20-21)	Spares for Grove (KT 530E-2) Crane (28) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-164(20-21)	Spares for SR-700L Kato Rough Terrain Crane (20) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-165(20-21)	Spares for Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor (43) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-166(20-21)	Spares for Caterpillar G3516C Generating Set Gas Engine (100) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-167(20-21)	Assorted Kinds of Shaker Screen and Shaker Accessories For Drilling Rigs (5) Groups	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-168(20-21)	Spares for K 280 and PZG 7 Rig Pump (2) Groups	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-169(20-21)	Assorted Diameters of API 5L Steel Line Pipes (2) Items	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-170(20-21)	SJS SERVA (TPB600) CMTG Unit Spares & Cementing Accessories (5) Groups	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-171(20-21)	Echometer Digital Well Analyzer, Wellbore Cleaning Tools, Fishing Tools for Tubing & Sucker Rod, Spares for T-8 Wilden Pump (4) Groups	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-172(20-21)	Hand Tools for Production Testing & Well Servicing (1) Lot	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-173(20-21)	Gas Control and Metering System (1) Lot	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-174(20-21)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (3) Groups	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-175(20-21)	Kingdon Suite Soft Ware, Petrel Geophysics Core System, Seismic Design & Software (3) Items	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-176(20-21)	ရေနံချောင်း-မကွေး ၂၀” သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ပိုက်လိုင်း သံချေးစား ကာကွယ်မှုစနစ် (CP System) တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-177(20-21)	ပြည်-မြန်အောင် ၁၀” သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ပိုက်လိုင်း သံချေးစား ကာကွယ်မှုစနစ် (CP System) တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-178(20-21)	နေပြည်တော်ဒေတာစင်တာနှင့်ဆက်စပ်သော သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ ဖြန့်ဖြူးမှု စောင့်ကြပ်ထိန်းချုပ်သည့်စနစ် (Central Control Integrated Monitoring System (CCIMS) အား Turn Key စနစ်ဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-179(20-21)	ရွာမပင်မသဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့ထိန်းဖြန့်စနစ်အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ခြင်း (System Upgrade, Inspection and Spares Requirements For Ywarma GDS) အား Turn Key စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(w)	IFB-001(20-21)	Cement Additives	US\$
(x)	IFB-002(20-21)	Geological Scale Ruler, Geo X Discovery Package 1 User License Latest Version Includes, SQL Server 2019 Standard License (Server and Client)	US\$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 16 September 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 15 October 2020.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 15-10-2020, 12:00 pm  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

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For **Montres Edox et Vista S.A.,**  
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**  
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),  
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,  
Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020      lmm@kcyangon.com

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (100N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (100N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2020** 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 SHIPPING LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (101N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (101N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2020** 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 SHIPPING LINES**

**NOTICE FOR INTENDED MARRIAGE**

Mr NIM TSHERING SHERPA holder of INDIA Passport No. L-4069899 issued at KOLKATA on 02/09/2013 and Ms KHIN TAR TAR holder of MYANMAR Passport No. MB-850809 issued at YANGON on 11<sup>th</sup> NOV 2016 intend getting married at Abu Dhabi under the Foreign Marriage Act. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi within 30 days on Telephone No. 00971 2 4492700 or by e-mail: cons.abudhabi@mea.gov.in



# Myanmar's cross border trade with China exceeds US\$ 5.26 bln in 11 months of current FY

By Kyaw Htike Soe



Cargo trucks loaded with agricultural, fishery and animal products at Kyin San Kyawt Gate near Muse border crossing in northern Shan State. **PHOTO: VAN ROH THANG (MUSE-IPRD)**

**M**YANMAR'S border trade with China saw a decrease of US\$ 188 million between 1 October last year and late August this

current financial year, according to the statistics from the Ministry of Commerce. The border trade between Myanmar and China through five border checkpoints was over

US\$5.26 billion in the current budget year, which plunged from US\$5.45 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last year, the ministry's figures showed.

The border trade between Myanmar and China reached US\$4.35 billion through Muse, US\$128.6 million via Lwejel, US\$491.83 million via Chinshwehaw, US\$279.86 million

via Kampaiti, and over US\$ 4.94 million via Kengtung. The ministry's data showed a slight drop in trade value via all border trade camps between Myanmar and China, except Chinshwehaw. A large portion of Myanmar's overland trade with China goes through Muse border. China has been stepping up border control measures to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus infection. Due to an import ban on rice, sugar and maize, and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the border trade volume between Myanmar and China has been declined when compared to previous years.

The transport delays caused damage to the quality of the goods and doubled the truck fares and the growers and traders are suffering huge financial losses amid the virus. In an effort to promote bilateral trade between Myanmar and China, the two countries have been organizing trade exhibitions, seminars and workshops on a rotating basis. The two countries are making concerted efforts to create more border economic zones and boost border trade. Myanmar is trying to



Cargo trucks seen at 105th-mile border trade zone in Muse, northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**





increase exports of rice, broken rice, agro-products, fruits and fisheries to China through diplomatic negotiations. After a series of talks between the two governments, China gave the nods to 43 Myanmar companies on July 10 to transport the rice to the East Asian country through a legitimate trade channel.

China is the major rice export market for Myanmar. Myanmar mainly exports beans and pulses, sesame, maize, rubber, and marine products to China while pesticides, fertilizers, household items, and foodstuff are imported into the country through Muse border trade camp. Border trade between Myanmar and China has seen a significant growth over the past couple of years. Bilateral trade volume between the two neighbours through the border checkpoints is around US\$490 million per month. Myanmar mainly imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from China. The two neighbours are eager to promote bilateral trade through the establishment of business centres on both sides.

China is the largest trading partner as well as one of the most important sources of

investment for Myanmar. China's investment in Myanmar from 1988 to date was worth nearly US\$21 billion which is equivalent to about 25 per cent of total FDI in the country. Singapore topped the list of foreign investors in Myanmar during the period from October last year to early September this year, and followed by China and Thailand. The largest sector of China's investment flowed to electricity generation sector, accounting for 63 per cent, followed by the oil and gas, and mining sectors with 36 per cent and the other sector with 1 per cent.

The border trade between Myanmar and China was US\$5.936 billion in the financial year 2015-2016, amounted to US\$5.967 billion in the financial year 2016-2017, declined to US\$4.7 billion in the financial year 2017-2018, and was recorded US\$ 2.5 billion during the six month interim period prior to the next financial year 2018-2019. Myanmar's bilateral trade with China was US\$10.9 billion in 2015-16FY, US\$10.8 billion in 2016-2017 FY, US\$11.78 billion in 2017-2018FY, and US\$11.36 billion in 2018-2019FY.



## Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank among SEA unicorn founders to be honoured for their leadership excellence in the region

DAW Marlene Nang Kham Nong, Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank, was presented with the ASEAN Entrepreneur Award under the 'Empowering Women' category. The award, supported by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretariat, recognizes Marlene as one of ASEAN's top business leaders in 2020 for her outstanding contribution to deepening financial inclusion and equality in Myanmar through her work at KBZ Bank.

Since beginning her role as KBZ Bank's Deputy CEO in 2017, Marlene has been responsible for spearheading KBZ Bank's digital transformation, including launching Myanmar's first bank-led mobile wallet – KBZPay. Launched in 2018, KBZPay has reached six million users and more than 290,000 merchants and agents, of which more than 52% are businesses run by women. The platform also connects consumers with micro entrepreneurs, e-commerce companies, e-gov services, educational institutions, and employers across Myanmar.

Daw Marlene Nang Kham Nong, Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank said, "It is an honour to receive this accolade on behalf of Myanmar and the team at KBZ Bank. It is uplifting that our support for Myanmar's digital transformation and commitment to lead the country into the digital age is being recognized as an ASEAN success story. As one of the final frontiers in Asia, Myanmar has the potential to

leapfrog its economy by leveraging strong digital payments platforms that can enable wider financial access. KBZPay has allowed millions of users in Myanmar to conveniently and securely connect with everyday services through their mobile phones while transforming the way they interact with their finances."

To date, the platform has facilitated more than USD 9 billion in transactions while granting millions of people access to financial and digital services for the first time. Most recently, the platform was boosted by the introduction of shopper and personal loans, digital life insurance, and a donation function, which allows people to donate to charities within a single platform.

"KBZPay has shifted the focus of the financial services industry beyond physical bank branches, helping to lay the foundations to attain our development aspirations as a country. We will continue our work to achieve 100 per cent financial inclusion and support communities across the country," added Marlene.

Marlene also oversees the bank's HR transformation and established its Wholesale Banking division. Her initiatives have cultivated an intrapreneurial environment at the Bank, where cross-functional teams work together to co-create fast-growth strategies and co-develop cutting-edge products and services that push the boundaries of what

is possible for the industry and people across Myanmar.

"Financial inclusion and equality is critical to economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development. Through KBZPay, thousands of female micro-entrepreneurs now have a platform to store and manage their finances safely, and to connect with millions of customers. These platforms are also supported by many women leaders at KBZ Bank, where 3 out of 5 senior leadership roles are held by women. I'm proud that our commitment to equal opportunity is being set both within and beyond the bank," concluded Marlene.

Co-organized by Maekyung Media and the ASEAN-Korea Centre, the 2020 ASEAN Entrepreneur Award recognizes business leaders in the ASEAN region who have made a significant impact in their field. Past winners include entrepreneurs from ASEAN's home-grown unicorns and innovation-led businesses, such as Nadiem Makarim, Founder of GO-JEK, Thai Huong, Chairwoman of TH Group, and Ferry Unardi, CEO of Traveloka. After careful deliberation by the award organizers and South Korea's mission to ASEAN, this year's award was presented at the 21st World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, South Korea, on 16th September. Now in its fifth year, the ASEAN Entrepreneur Award programme aims to help strengthen bonds between ASEAN and Korean businesses.—GNLM

## Myanmar Fintech Firm NearMe raises funding from Japan to expand its services for SMEs

MYANMAR Fintech startup NearMe, which provides a digital purchases and payments platform for retailers, has raised a 7-figure funding from Sumitomo Corporation ("Sumitomo"), a Japanese Fortune 500 global trading and business investment company. The funding will enable NearMe to expand its digital solutions to its retail partners, comprising mainly small and medium-sized enterprises adopting and accelerating their digitization process and growth post-COVID-19. "I am delighted to be able to serve Myanmar's SMEs with our platform. We are

seeing an accelerated digitization of the Myanmar economy during this time. The pandemic is spurring many small and medium-sized companies to adopt digitization much quicker in order to grow their business and service their customers better," said Lynn Htaik Aung, Chief Executive Officer of NearMe. The investment from Sumitomo will enable affiliates of Sumitomo to support NearMe's retail partner network, especially for digital payment acceptance and B2B distribution. "Sumitomo believes this investment will help NearMe's growth as well as the

affiliates of Sumitomo and other shareholders", said Mr Shuji Fukuda, General Manager, Media & Digital Business Unit of Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania. Launched in 2015, NearMe is Myanmar's leading digital services platform that enables retailers to sell digital goods and tickets, collect various bill payments, help customers to apply personal loans and accept electronic payment through its omni-channel platform actively used by over 50,000 retail partners nationwide.— Aye Moe Htaik Tin





## West Brom sign ex-Chelsea defender Ivanovic



Serbian defender Branislav Ivanovic has joined Premier League side West Brom. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — West Brom on Tuesday announced the signing of former Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic, who arrives at the Hawthorns on a free transfer from Zenit St Petersburg.

The Serbia international won three Premier League titles and the Champions League during his nine-year spell at Stamford Bridge, which ended in 2017.

West Brom marked their

return to the Premier League with a 3-0 defeat to Leicester on Sunday.

“The Premier League is the best league in the world,” Ivanovic, 36, told the club’s official website.

“I need to challenge myself and I am ready for the challenge. I am really happy to be back playing in the Premier League.”

West Brom boss Slaven Bilic said: “He’s a great addition for us, a team who are newly promoted in the Premier League. He ticks all the boxes for us.

“He’s done everything in his career -- it’s been magnificent. We’re delighted. He adds quality and experience on the pitch and off the pitch.” — AFP

## Chelsea’s Werner expects to be fit in time for Liverpool clash

LONDON—Timo Werner insisted he will be fit to face Liverpool on Sunday after Chelsea’s new striker finished their 3-1 win at Brighton with an ice pack on his thigh.

Werner marked his Premier League debut by winning a penalty that Jorginho converted to put Chelsea ahead, but the Germany star took a whack on his leg as he was tripped by Brighton keeper Mat Ryan in the incident.

The 24-year-old close-season signing from Leipzig was able to play the entire 90 minutes de-

spite the knock and was one of Chelsea’s standout performers.

When he was interviewed after the final whistle with the icing on his injury, Werner said he expected to be fine for the visit of Premier League champions Liverpool.

“The knee of the goalkeeper hit me directly in the muscle and it went very hard,” Werner told Sky Sports.

“The rest of the game it hurt a lot. I couldn’t do some movements because the muscle went very hard, but at the end I’m hap-

py that we won.

“I don’t care about this. In one week it will be good. We did a good game today, we did well, and I’m happy I won the penalty because it was important for our game.”

Werner’s pace and astute movement made him a handful for Brighton’s defence even with the injury. One of the most prolific strikers in the Bundesliga in recent years, Werner admitted it was a fascinating challenge to adapt to the different demands of the Premier League.—AFP ■



Chelsea striker Timo Werner. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**



Neymar claimed he received racist abuse during PSG’s 1-0 defeat. **PHOTO: AFP**

## ‘I acted like a fool’: Neymar regrets Marseille red card

PARIS—Neymar said he “acted like a fool” following his red card against Marseille but called on football officials to do more to combat discrimination after accusing Spanish defender Alvaro Gonzalez of racism.

The Brazil forward was one of five players sent off after a mass brawl at the end of PSG’s 1-0 loss in Ligue 1 on Sunday, and later claimed Gonzalez had called him a “monkey” in a series of furious tweets.

PSG have stood by the world’s most expensive player, saying the club “strongly supports” him, but Neymar conceded he would accept his punishment which is expected to be revealed by the French league’s disciplinary commission on Wednesday.

Neymar said he “acted like a fool” following his red card against Marseille but called on football officials to do more to combat discrimination after accusing Spanish defender Alvaro Gonzalez of racism.

The Brazil forward was one of five players sent off after a mass brawl at the end of PSG’s 1-0 loss in Ligue 1 on Sunday, and later claimed Gonzalez had called him a “monkey” in a series of furious tweets.—AFP ■

## Tennis: Nishikori finds feet on Rome clay with first win in a year

ROME—Japan’s Kei Nishikori got his first win in a year at the Italian Open on Monday (Sep 14) with former Rome semi-finalists Grigor Dimitrov and Marin Cilic also easing into the second round of the clay-court tournament. Nishikori needed six match points to get past Spain’s Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) in two hours behind closed doors at the Foro Italico for his first win since reaching the 2019 US Open third round. “It’s been a long time since the US Open last year,” said the 30-year-old, who reached three Grand Slam quarter-finals in 2019 before undergoing elbow surgery. “I still don’t have confidence but little by little I’m getting better.” Nishikori will next meet either three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka, or Italian qualifier Lorenzo Musetti, as he builds his fitness towards the French Open later this month.—AFP ■