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## State Counsellor discusses restarting movie production operations during COVID period with movie industry senior executives



State Counsellor discusses possible resumption of Myanmar film business with senior executives in this sector via videoconferencing on 28 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

**S**tate Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 held a videoconference yesterday morning from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss restarting movie production operations during the COVID period.

The following persons attended the videoconference: Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports; U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization; and U Zaw Min, Chairman of the Mingalar Cinema Group. The State Counsellor in her introductory remarks said that Union Minister Dr Myint

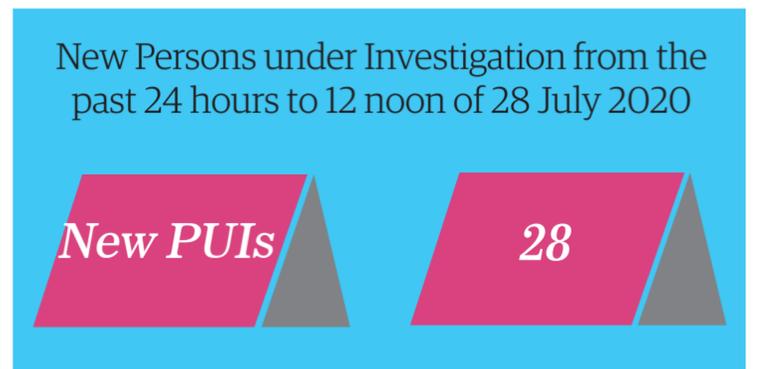
Htwe, was very concerned that the people of Myanmar had become careless with respect to COVID-19; and that this was not the time to become careless and the people should remain ever vigilant. She wanted the movie industry to resume operations just like other industries; although she wanted the movie industry to resume operations there were many things to be

considered regarding health matters; in some other countries, they thought they had the COVID under control but had to contend with a new outbreak of the disease. In Myanmar COVID prevention was most important as the cost of treatment was a very heavy burden for a country like Myanmar which was still a developing country; that was why

more emphasis was placed on prevention; regarding the movie industry she wanted to discuss based on two factors generally; one was movie production and the other was the screening of movies in the movie halls. She said they had to consider which of these would have more difficulties to follow the health rules and regulations to a certain extent. **SEE PAGE-3**

### No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 28 July, total figure remains at 350

Updated at 8 pm, 28 July 2020



INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses Union Budget Bill  
**PAGE-4**

**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
UMFCCI holds virtual meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council  
**PAGE-11**

**LOCAL NEWS**  
Over 900 acres of farmlands reclaimed in 9 townships  
**PAGE-12**



**LOCAL NEWS**  
Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung hotels undergo inspection for reopening  
**PAGE-12**

## Pyithu Hluttaw raises queries to three ministries at 6<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

PYITHU Hluttaw held its 6<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session, with questions of MPs to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

MP U Toe Win from Tamway constituency asked for construction of new buildings to replace the existing old wooden houses in the residential quarters of traffic police members in Marn Aung Ward in his constituency, and about how to manage junk cars in the police quarter.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing replied that the budget has been proposed for 2020-2021 financial year for construction of a four-storey 24-unit apartment and the 18 junk cars will be sent to the steel mill.

MP U Khin Maung Soe from Wundwin constituency asked for construction of 400 volt power lines and erecting concrete power posts, as well as removal of power posts and transformers beside Thaeday-Wundwin No.1 road in his constituency.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win replied that construction of 2.5 mile-long 400 volt power line was estimated about K87.6 million; power posts have been erected for the length of 1.44 mile at the cost of K54.35 million, and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

the remaining one-mile length will be finalized in 2020-2021FY.

The deputy minister agreed to remove lamp posts and transformers on the road of Thaeday-Wundwin; the estimated cost for this project is K123.25 million, and it has been included in the fund of Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation for 2020-2021FY.

MP U Lamar Naw Aung from Ingyanyan constituency asked about installation of microscope, appointment of a medical doctor and the requirement of an ambulance for the public hospital in his constituency.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that one set of Type C Laboratory to the hospital in 2013-2014FY; the microscope for this equipment needs to be substituted with a new one. The deputy

minister also said the hospital will receive K1.5 million for renovation of X-ray room and a unit of X-ray machine will be sent to the hospital after 50 X-ray machines have been imported in 2019-2020FY.

She added that an assistant doctor from Myitkyina people's hospital has formed the duty at the Ingyanyan hospital since 1 November last year, and the doctor has been assigned for duty at the hospital since 1 July this year.

The deputy minister added an ambulance will be presented to the hospital after the Department of Medical Services has received the cars. MP U Sai Oo Kham from Hsenwi constituency asked about return of 4.5-acre confiscated lands for police post to the owner, and Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing answered the question.

MP U Nay Myo Htet from Kyauktada constituency asked

for collecting accurate amount of electricity bill, MP U Win Min from Hlinethaya constituency asked about removal of lamp posts and transformers from the main roads, constructions of more lamp posts and installation of transformers and systematic installation of power lines, MP U Aye Naing from Dagon Myothit (south) asked about removal of lamp posts from Hlawgar road and Pyidaungsu road, urgent removal of 1,000 lamp posts and installation of 40 transformers. The questions were answered by Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win.

MP Dr Sein Mya Aye from Dala constituency asked for construction of apartments for health workers in Yangon city area on the land of healthcare staff quarters in his constituency, MP Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo from Kyauktan constituency asked for update on complaint for legal actions against civil service members who gave out the entire fund for construction of a station hospital in Kyonekan village of her constituency, and MP Daw Cho Cho from Otwin constituency asked for upgrade of 16-bedded hospital to 25-bedded facility in Kywepwe hospital in her constituency. The questions were answered by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

The Hluttaw unanimously

approved the amendment bill on Code of Civil Procedure submitted by the Supreme Court of the Union.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win submitted a bill for the future fund of civil service staff, and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the bill.

Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee member Dr Khin Saung submitted an investigation report on management for procurement of antibiotics, and the Hluttaw Speaker invited the list of MPs who want to discuss the report.

MPs also discussed the motion that urged the Union Government for controlling e-cigarettes (Electronic Nicotine Delivery System, the heated tobacco product or heat-not-burn products and water pipes) for inhaling tobacco and related materials.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied the discussions, calling for coordination of relevant departments in these measures before the motion was approved by the Hluttaw. The 7<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw will be convened 30 July.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Amyotha Hluttaw convenes sixth-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session

AMYOTHA Hluttaw continued its 17<sup>th</sup> regular session with sixth-day meeting yesterday.

MP Daw Htu May from Rakhine State constituency 11 asked for upgrading the Kyaukpyu Airport in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State in the coming financial year.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the airport will be upgraded depending on the budgets received in 2020-2021FY.

MP Daw Ei Ei Phyu from Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 asked to organize creative projects competitions for students at Technological Universities and Universities of Computer Studies under government's arrangements.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun answered that the creative projects competitions will be organized at the Department of Higher Education's Technological Universities and Universities of Computer Studies.

MP U Zaw Hein from Taninthayi Region constituency 7 asked about construction of a two-storey 120x30 RCC school building at



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

the Basic Education High School (Branch) of Minguangsae Village in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region during 2020-2021FY.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that a 60x30 steel structure staff housing that is needed for the school had already permitted to be constructed in the coming financial year. Therefore, the two-storey school building asked by the MP will be considered for 2021-2022FY.

MP U Mahn Law Maung from Chin State constituency 8 asked for opening District Departments of Urban and Housing Development in Haka, Mindat

and Falam and township departments at remaining townships in Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn replied that there are currently no plans to build district departments in Haka, Mindat and Falam and township departments in remaining townships, but after submitting to the Office of the Union Government, district-level offices will be formed depending on population density and urban development, and township-level offices will be formed depending on the increase of housing units.

MP U Hla Oo from Sagaing

Region constituency 4 asked for upgrading a three-mile road section on Monwya-Ayadaw-Shwebo Road to a 36-foot width asphalt concrete road during 2020-2021 FY.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn replied that budgets for upgrading the three-furlong road section and another five-furlong road section on the road in 2020-2021FY was already requested; they were not included in the budget allocation because of limited budget, but the road sections will be constructed depending on the allocated budget in coming financial years.

MP Dr Mya Thauang from Bago Region constituency 7 asked about construction of a town bypass road in Pyu, Bago Region.

Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn answered that there are currently no plans to construct a bypass road in Pyu because an over-180-foot bridge has to be built if the road is constructed and there are also now no level crossings in the town that can lead to traffic jams.

MP U Maung Maung Latt

from Sagaing Region constituency 9 asked for renovating houses and constructing new houses at the planned trade zone in Tamu that is not yet implemented, and the question was answered by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo.

MP U Lin Tin Htay from Mon State constituency 4 asked for constructing tar roads on Ywarlut-Kataung Sein road section and Takupati-Kalarbi road section in Chaungzon Township, Mawlamyine District in Mon State during 2020-2021FY, and the question was answered by Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Member U Thein Lwin read the committee's report on Myanmar Health Assistant Council Bill. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than sought the assembly's opinion on the bill that was amended and sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw will convene its seventh-day meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> regular session on 30 July.—Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

We cannot bank our hopes on possibilities. We must put our trust in ourselves, in our capabilities, efforts and strength, and preparations not only for our success but also to avoid our own defeat.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at AFPFL Supreme Council Session, August 1946)



## State Counsellor discusses restarting movie production operations during COVID period with movie industry senior executives

### FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discussed mutual cooperation among the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Information and the stakeholders in the film industry which is providing many employment opportunities, entertainment and knowledge.

The Union Minister also emphasized his ministry is helping the film industry in the prevention of COVID-19 disease, and all the stakeholders in this business need to know the precautionary measures of this disease thoroughly to be able to resume this sector.

He continued to discuss the possible risks of infection without showing symptoms as there is no vaccine for COVID-19 until now; the schools have reopened with care not to occur second and third waves of the pandemic.

The Union Minister also discussed the draft plan for film shootings based on the experiences of this business in Florida and the Netherlands; the field surveys of senior health officials at the shootings; recommendations of the ministry on the entire film production process.

A book of guidelines for the shooting was published with 29 recommendations jointly made by the experts from the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe urged the public to continue wearing masks in public places not to experience the outbreak of pandemic like in the United States, Brazil and India.

Chairman of MMPO U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin discussed the needs to take records on the shootings, artistes, medical tests, rules and guidelines in the work.

There are 10 pending films to be finalized until now.

Chairman of Mingalar Cinema Group U Zaw Min talked about preparations for organizing centenary of Myanmar film industry and development of Myanmar motion picture business with 220 cinemas across the country and the increasing number of films up to 100 annually.

He also requested the reopening of cinemas, like in some other countries, in line with the rules and directives of relevant ministries.

U Zaw Min also proposed plans to sell only 50 per cent of seats for physical dis-

tancing in the cinema and to get financial assistance and loan of the government.

In responding to the discussions the State Counsellor said that care should be taken so that there was no transmission of the COVID disease during the movie-making process; once the movies have been made, the movie theatres were very important for the people to see the movies; in the developed countries movies have become fashionable again; they have recreated the movie theatres as places to have fun, to have recreation and turned them into interesting places. She wanted the movie industry people to strive to make the same thing happen in Myanmar; for the economy to develop, it was important for all sectors to be successful; she said for her part she had also encouraged the fine arts; she wanted the movie industry to progress and prosper; at one time the Myanmar movie industry held the leading position in Asia; therefore efforts should be made to regain this position; Myanmar would be successful like before if she knew how to use the new technologies effectively.

Once the movie theatres have been renovated, the Ministry of Health and Sports would make visits, formulate rules and regulations and issue necessary instructions; once these movie theatres are able to abide by the rules and regulations, it would be possible to reopen them.

When we reopened the schools some were worried; they were afraid that if the schools had been reopened in a hasty manner, the school children would get infected and the virus would spread; there were also concerns that if the schools were kept closed for a long time, the children would drift away from education and later it would become difficult to send them back to school; these two things had to be balanced all the time; therefore the high schools were reopened first; the high schools were categorized into A, B, C levels and only the A level schools were allowed to be reopened. The schools that were given permission to reopen were schools that had made modifications in accordance with the rules and regulations stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Once all those schools which had made the necessary modifications had been permitted to reopen, we will wait for one month; during that one-month period, we will monitor if there had been any transmission of the

disease and whether there had been any spread of infection among the students and teachers; only after that would we make a decision as to whether we should move to the next phase of reopening schools.

During this time, if the movie theatres did the necessary preparations and modifications, the Ministry of Health and Sports would begin their inspection process; if the process to reopen the high schools went smoothly, it would be able to assume that we have reached a stage where activities involving large numbers of people could be carried out effectively and with discipline. She said that at such a time, the Ministry of Health and Sports would have to decide when the movie theatres should be reopened.

In making her concluding remarks the State Counsellor said that at the present time the Union Government had been giving as much support as possible to control the negative impact of COVID-19; they were making assessments to determine how effective these measures were; assessments were being made at this time to determine the effectiveness of reducing the impact on the economy; what changes need to be made and which measures need to be maintained. She said they had to consider how they should proceed until the end of the year and how they should proceed in the next year. The funds that had been spent this year would have a great deal of positive impact for the next year's budget; they had to consider for the short-term as well as for the long-term; they would give support as much as possible to the fullest extent; they had to consider how much support could be given and in what manner support could be given; they were doing their best in accordance with the availability of the national budget.

She continued by saying that she wanted the movie industry to succeed; she wanted them to succeed not only for the economy but also for the country; in this age, the whole world has accepted that the entertainment industry is a kind of "soft power". The progress of Myanmar's fine arts can influence, overwhelm and spread all over the world; she said they have the policy to encourage the fine arts industry for the long-term interest of the country.

She said activities to educate and remind the public about COVID have lost

steam and have lost interest; that was why she wanted to obtain the help of the people in the entertainment industry to increase the effectiveness of COVID-related campaigns for public education and awareness and to make these more interesting. The role of people in the entertainment industry is very important; she wanted to make an appeal to the people in this industry to participate enthusiastically for the progress and security of the country.

She said we need to contain the spread of COVID; if this disease spread without control it would create a lot of difficulties for Myanmar; the cost for treatment would be very high; Myanmar had taken advance measures since 4 January with respect to COVID; that was the reason we have been able to contain the disease; at present some of the returnees brought back the disease; we have quarantined all the returnees and have sent those who have been infected to the hospitals for treatment; we have given full treatment to our people; she said she wanted to thank all those who have given assistance for the nation's economy; it was the duty of the Union Government to render assistance to those who have given support to the national economy; they were reviewing the situation to determine what would be the best way to utilize public funds with regard to the status of the national budget.

She said the national movie industry could make considerable progress if efforts were made to improve the movie industry and the art of movie-making; at the same time, because of COVID, efforts need to be made to make the movie theatres more hygienic and pleasant places for people to go. In this matter of COVID, we are searching for success with the participation of the whole country; Myanmar has been able to contain COVID up to now, because of the participation and cooperation of all the people; she hoped that Myanmar would be able to effectively prevent the COVID with the participation and cooperation of everyone, till the danger of the disease came to an end.

She ended by sending best wishes for the progress of the movie industry, movie theatre industry and everyone in the entertainment industry. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

## “People are the key”

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses Union Budget Bill

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building, yesterday afternoon to discuss the Union Budget Bill 2020-2021, sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and the Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance

and Industry U Maung Maung Win, the Vice-Chairmen of Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, secretary, joint secretary and members, officials from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses the Union Budget Bill 2020-2021 on 28 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

### Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering organizes meeting



The Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering holds its meeting 1/2020 at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering held the meeting 1/2020 at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister for Home Affairs

Lieutenant General Soe Htut, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering, said that they are implementing the National Strategy on Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing

of Terrorism (2019-2023). Based on reports of committees in the five strategic areas, the report on the activities carried out in 2019, the first year of the project, was published on 29 January 2020.

The central body completed

27.27 per cent of the five-year project in 2019. A total of 34 ordinances or directives were issued by the President's Office, the Union Government, the Leading Committee, the Supreme Court of the Union, the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering, the Central Committee for Counter Terrorism, relevant ministries, the Central Bank of Myanmar, and the Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit, according to the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

Myanmar is among nations which were placed on the list “Jurisdictions under increased monitoring” by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on February 2020. To implement the recommendations made by the FATF, an “action plan” was drawn up and implemented, said the Union Minister.

The anti-money laundering body has cooperated with the relevant authorities in order to set up registration systems for

organizations related to “Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions”. The Union Minister also urged all stakeholders to cooperate in the attempt to be removed from the grey list “Jurisdictions under increased monitoring”, and invited suggestions from the attendees.

Secretary of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering Police Lieutenant-General Aung Win Oo explained the implementation for the decisions of the previous meeting 2/2019, and the ongoing cases under the Anti-Money Laundering Law. Joint Secretary acting Police Brig-Gen Tin Aung Win (Anti-Financial Crime Division) explained the reports submitted by the five implementation and supervising committees on the national strategy, followed by discussions and suggestions of the attendees.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

### Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives Myanmar Press Council, Executive Director for MPRL E&P Group of Companies

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint separately received the representatives of Myanmar Press Council led by its Chairman Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaing, and Executive Director U Tint Swe of MPRL E&P Group of Companies and party yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting with Myanmar Press Council, they discussed matters related to conducting a workshop on four pillars, cooperation for the sustainable media, establishment of media centre and amendment of media law.

At the meeting with MPRL E&P Group of Companies, they discussed matters related to obtaining colocation service for implementation of e-Government system. —MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint (Centre) speaks during the meeting with Myanmar Press Council in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA



## You can protect yourself

It was not a good thing to be afraid all the time. She said she did not mean to say that people should be afraid. People should be vigilant. To be vigilant and to be afraid are not the same. Wearing a mask when you go out is being vigilant. To wash your hand carefully and frequently; to wash your hand when you come home; taking off the mask and changing your clothes; these things are not too difficult to do. By taking these steps you can protect yourself from having to meet with more critical situations. This is the reason why people are being reminded all the time.

*(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)*

## Union Minister U Soe Win joins 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Asian investment bank

A 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was held through videoconferencing yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, in his capacity as the Governor for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, served as the rotating Vice-Chair at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping, AIIB President Mr Jin Liqun, Governors and senior officials from the 102 member countries. Chinese Minister for Finance Mr Liu Kun served as the Chair at the meeting.

President Xi Jinping delivered an opening remark at the meeting.

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win and Minister for Finance and Economy Honorable Bjarni Benediktson from Iceland, also the Vice-Chair of the meeting, delivered opening speeches.

The AIIB held the annual meeting online due to COVID-19 pandemic. At the meeting, the governors chose the president for the second five-year term of AIIB; President of AIIB Mr Jin Liqun reported the performance improvements of AIIB; the governors confirmed and approved the new members from the proposed countries, the further implementations of AIIB and announced the country to hold the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in 2021.

The governors approved the proposal of China and the current President of AIIB Mr Jin



Union Minister U Soe Win (Centre) participates in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank via videoconference from Nay Pyi Taw on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Liqun will serve as the President for the second five-year term. The 6<sup>th</sup> AIIB annual meeting will be held in UAE from 27 October to 28 October in 2021.

The AIIB's purpose is to support the necessary investments to create development in infrastructures which play a vital role for investments between Asia and economically related countries.

The AIIB was formed in 15 April, 2015 in Beijing with 57 countries including Myanmar

as Founding Members and the operation started in January 2016. At present, there are 102 member countries and US\$19.6 billion has been invested in 87 projects in member countries.

Moreover, the bank announced to support loans to member countries to address COVID-19 crisis. It has set up AIIB COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility and has announced to provide between \$5 billion and \$10 billion loans in 16 April 2020. Under that facility, it has been

announced on 7 May this year to provide loans to the AIIB member countries under the International Development Association (IDA) of World Bank by establishing a \$30 million Special Fund Window (SFW).

The annual meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and Director-General of Treasury Department Daw Si Si Pyone.—MNA

*(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives US-ASEAN Business Council



Union Minister U Thaung Tun (L) holds talks with the members of the US-ASEAN Business Council via video-meeting on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun yesterday held a virtual meeting with the members of the US-ASEAN Business Council led by its President and CEO, Mr Alexander C. Feldman

and Ambassador Michael W. Michalak, Senior Vice President, and Regional Managing Director. The meeting was attended, among others, by representatives of Chevron, Coca-Cola, Chubb, Visa, Scoular, ExxonMo-

bil and Pernod Ricard.

The Union Minister offered a comprehensive overview of the measures taken by the Myanmar Government to mitigate the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Country's

economy in keeping with the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, (CERP) which in turn complements the longer-term Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). The Minister also expressed thanks to the Government and people of the US for their generous support in the efforts to overcome the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Minister noted that while US-Myanmar trade relations had improved steadily over the years, given the US ranks 13<sup>th</sup> out of 51 countries in terms of FDI approvals, there was ample room for further

growth.

US-ASEAN Business Council members voiced their support for Myanmar's ongoing trade liberalization measures, including the lifting of a ban on spirits in line with the World Trade Organization rules, and expressed willingness to continue cooperating to enhance the capacity of SMEs, including through partnering with local businesses.

The US-ASEAN Business Council is a leading advocacy group that aims to foster economic growth and trade ties between the US and the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's ten member countries.—MNA

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## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 25 July 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Tun Wai who lives in Ywatha Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 July 2020, police searched the house of Tun Wai, 48, son of U Tun Kyaing, who lives in Ywatha Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)131/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Maung Yin who lives in Aungpin Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 July 2020, police searched the house of Maung Yin, 35, son of U Kyaw Mya, who lives in Aungpin Village, Wuntho Township and seized 'WY/MY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho)MaYa(pa)84/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Myint Htwe who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 July 2020, police searched the house of Myint Htwe, 42, son of U Maung Gyi, who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)94/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Aung Lwin Htay who lives in Nannpaung Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 July 2020, police arrested Aung Lwin Htay, 42, son of U Si, who lives in Nannpaung Village, Htigyaing Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on the road of Nannpaung Village, Htigyaing Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing)MaYa(pa)95/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Ma Win Yin who lives in Paukkon Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 July 2020, police searched the house of Ma Win Yin, 30, daughter of U Than Shwe, who lives in Paukkon Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested her together with heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)136/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Htain Lin who lives in Phayartasu Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 20 July 2020, police searched the house of Htain Lin, 42, son of U Hla Shein, who lives in Phayartasu Village, Phaungpyin Township and arrested him and four others – Aye Maung, 55, son of U Maung Thein, Than Win, 47, son of U Ba Thaug, Aung Sein, 48, son of U Maung Aung and Than Shwe, 34, son of Tun Hla -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets, heroin and opium. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)137/2020 under Section 19(a), 21 and 22 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Than Aung who lives in Tatkon Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 July 2020, police searched the house of Than Aung, 47, son of U Thar Tun, who lives in Tatkon Village, Wuntho Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho)MaYa(pa)88/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of Pan Kar who lives in Pantaw Village, Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 July 2020, police searched the house of Pan Kar (a) Soe Min Htet, 21, son of U Tin Oo, who lives in Pantaw Village, Bamauk Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Bamauk)MaYa(pa)86/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Mi Htay Win who lives in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 July 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Thu Soe, 29, son of U Soe Soe Oo, who lives in Htaungkhamat Village, Bokpyin Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Bokpyin)MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police continued a thorough search the house of Daw Htay Win (a) Mi Htay Win, 48, daughter of U Than Myint, who lives in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Township and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Bokpyin)MaYa(pa)18/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region.	Police have opened seven cases and arrested seven men and three women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Lin Tun, 39, son of U Maung Myint, who lives in Innet Village, Thabeikkyin Township and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on 16 July 2020. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Dagaung)MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyauktan Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State.	Police have opened 5 cases and arrested four men and two women together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Kyaw Maung Maung (a) Athaylay, 20, son of U Tint Lwin, who lives in Thirimyaing Ward, Mawlamyine Township and Thet Hmu Thar (a) Soutchun, 20, son of U Kan Thar Oo, who lives in the Mupon Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets in No 8 Street, Kyauktan Ward on 19 July 2020. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Mupon)MaYa(pa)46/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12.	Information received of Han Win Zaw who lives in Kamar Kasit Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 July 2020, police searched the house of Han Win Zaw, 19, son of U Zaw Min Htay, who lives in Kamar Kasit Ward, Dala Township and arrested him, his wife Ma Hnin Pwint, 23, daughter of U Aye Han, Paw Sein, 55, son of U Phoe Khant, who lives in Dapinhwehti Ward and Naing Myo, 38, son of U Tin Than, who lives in No 51 Ward, North Dagon Myothit Township, together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dala)MaYa(pa)27/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

# Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-6

<p>13. Information received of Daw Than Than Htwe who lives in No 2 Ward, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</p>	<p>On 15 July 2020, police searched the house of Daw Than Than Htwe, 52, daughter of U Thet Shae, who lives in No 2 Ward, Botahtaung Township and arrested her and her daughter Ma Theint Theint Thu, 29, daughter of U Tin Maung Htwe, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Botahtaung)MaYa(pa)25/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>	<p>17. Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township, northern Shan State.</p>	<p>Police have opened 15 cases and arrested 18 men and two women together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ma Ar Paing, 39, daughter of U Mon Yar, who lives in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township and Aung Chit Oo, 24, son of U Nyunt Maung, who lives in the No 9 Ward of the same township, together with '88/1 stimulant tablets and heroin on a road of No 5 Ward in Lashio Township on 21 July 2020.</p>
<p>14. Information received of Wai Yan Tun who lives in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</p>	<p>On 13 July 2020, police arrested Wai Yan Tun (a) Tu Tu (a) Japangyi, 28, son of U Ye Aung, who live in No 94 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on Shweli Street, No 93 Ward, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dagon Seikkan)MaYa(pa)34/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>		<p>A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)134/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>
<p>15. Information received of Win San Tun who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</p>	<p>On 20 July 2020, police searched the house of Win San Tun (a) Eivar, 25, son of U Thein Win, who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township and arrested him and Naing Aung, 36, son of U Ye Myint, who lives in Yamonna 2 Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)19/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>		<p>Similarly, police searched the house of Ma Khin Wai Wai, 51, daughter of U Chit Maung, who lives in No 5 Ward, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin on 23 July 2020. Acting on an interrogation, she bought the drug from Daw Kyein Chwin Yi, 52, daughter of U Kyein Khin Kaung, who lives in Painggan (tayoke) Village, Lashio Township. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)135/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>
<p>16. Information received of Aung Kyaw Lin who lives in No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.</p>	<p>On 21 July 2020, police arrested Joing (a) Aung Kyaw Lin, 29, son of U Kyaw Win, who live in No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township together with 'WY' stimulant tablets on Saga 17 Street, No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>		<p>Police continued a thorough search of Daw Kyein Chwin Yi's house and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Lashio)MaYa(pa)136/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1,266 cases have been opened files as of 25 July 2020. A total of 1,952 people, including 1,632 men and 320 women had been arrested with 10,023.3614 g of heroin, 1,432.42 g of ICE, 43,987.22886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,363.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 653,769 stimulant tablets, 13,151.23 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 630.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 60.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 26 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

**Contacts**  
**Landline No. — 067-590200**  
**Fax Phone No. — 067-590233**  
**Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)**



## 329 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 28 July

A total of 329 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, yesterday. Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Officer

of Myawady District Administration Department U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. The number of migrant workers who returned from Thailand through the border bridge has reached 54,682 so far.

Myanmar nationals returned from Thailand are seen queuing at the Myawady border on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

The latest group of returnees included 188 males and 141 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

# Be ready for flooding

**T**HE risk of flooding looms increasingly large along the Ayeyawady River.

According to the (14:30 hrs M.S.T) observation yesterday, the water level of the Ayeyawady River at Hinthada in the Ayeyawady Delta, is expected to reach its danger level in the next three days and at Pakokku in central Myanmar in the next two days.

The waters of the swollen river in central Myanmar would gush downstream in the coming days and cause river flooding.

Floods aren't a new problem, of course. Too many factors are involved, including local geography, ground cover, long-term precipitation and climate change.

Floods are the most common natural disaster in Myanmar, especially in the rainy season, capable of striking almost any river or creek.

Besides, monsoon rain brings not only floods but also landslides in hilly areas in Myanmar. When torrential rain falls, people must remain on the alert for flash floods and landslides near hilly areas and also small rivers, according to the weather bureau.

People, especially in risk areas, are urged to heed the warnings that are given to them. We do not want to lose lives to the disasters. These are avoidable tragedies.

To reduce the losses, disaster preparedness should begin at the grass root level, but ministries and regional authorities must take a leading role in the drive.

People, especially in risk areas, are urged to heed the warnings that are given to them. We do not want to lose lives to the disasters. These are avoidable tragedies.

In fact, floods pose great danger to all the people with direct impacts including injuries and drowning. Beyond these immediate risks, floods cause hindrances to safe drinking water supplies and damage sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of diarrhea and other disease outbreaks, as well as impacting on children's access to education.

The main rule for staying safe during a flood is to never willingly go near the water, whether on foot or in a car.

Electrocution is another dangerous side-effect of flooding, one more reason to stay away from the water. Avoid and report any downed power lines and electrical wires, and consider turning off your home's electricity and checking around for gas leaks.

Infection and disease can be major problems during a flood as well as long afterward. While water levels are still high, an array of contaminants can be mixed in with the flood, ranging from untreated sewage to toxic chemicals.

People must be alerted to approaching disasters, including storms and earthquakes, and should prepare "full precautions" and take "necessary action" to protect themselves and their property from gale-force winds and lightning.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has also established hotline numbers 067-340466 and 067-3404777 to help the victims of disasters.

We are confident that collaboration and cooperation between regional authorities and the people will ensure safety from natural disasters during the COVID-19 crisis.



## A determined path to SDGs in 2030 despite COVID-19 pandemic

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Kanni Wignaraja, Bambang Susantono

**A**S lockdowns ease in countries across Asia and the Pacific in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing is clear—a return to business as usual is unimaginable in a region that was already off track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The virtual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development recently convened governments and stakeholders across the globe to focus on the imperative to build back better while keeping an eye on the Global Goals.

Asia was the first to be hit by COVID-19 and feel its devastating social and economic impacts. Efforts to respond to the pandemic have revealed how many people in our societies live precariously close to poverty and hunger, without access to essential services. Between 90 million and 400 million people in Asia and the Pacific may be pushed back into poverty, living on less than \$3.20 a day. Many countries are taking bold actions to minimize the loss of life and economic costs, estimated in May by ADB at \$1.7 trillion to \$2.5 trillion in the region alone.

**Mission orientation and mobilizing fiscal and social support that realize the SDGs**  
As attention shifts from the



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana



Bambang Susantono



Kanni Wignaraja

immediate health and human effects of the pandemic to addressing its social and economic effects, governments and societies face unprecedented policy, regulatory and fiscal choices. The SDGs—a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, globally, by 2030—can serve as a beacon in these turbulent times.

Our new joint report—Fast-tracking the SDGs: Driving Asia Pacific Transformations, highlights six entry points for achieving the SDGs in the face of the pandemic. These include strengthening human well-being and capabilities, shifting towards sustainable and just economies, building sustainable food systems, achieving energy decarbonization and universal access to energy, promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban

development, and securing the global environmental commons. Each of these entry points has been disrupted by the pandemic. Yet, these disruptions may create opportunities for new approaches to deliver on SDG targets that reflect the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

**What will it take to align systems and institutions with the SDGs as they build forward?**

The pandemic has exposed fragility and systemic gaps in many key systems. However, there are many workable strategies that countries have used, both before and after COVID-19, to accelerate progress related to development goals and strengthen resilience. Countries have taken steps to extend universal health care systems, strength-

en social protection systems, including cash transfer and food distribution systems for vulnerable households. Accurate and regular data have been key to such efforts. Innovating to help the most disadvantaged access financing and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) credits have also been vital. Several countries have taken comprehensive approaches to various forms of discrimination, particularly related to gender and gender-based violence. Partnerships, including with the private sector and financing institutions, have played a critical role in fostering creative solutions. These experiences provide grounds for optimism.

**Policy revolutions to manage complexity**  
Responses to the COVID-19

crisis must be centred on the well-being of people, empowering them and advancing equality. Driving change in the people-environment nexus to protect the health of people and natural resources is key to a future that does not repeat the crisis we are in today.

We need a revolution in policy mind-set and practice. Inclusive and accountable governance systems, adaptive institutions with resilience to future shocks, universal social protection and health insurance and stronger digital infrastructure are part of the transformations needed. All are driven by low carbon and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and energy transition.

Several countries in Asia and the Pacific are developing ambitious new strategies for green recovery and inclusive approaches to development. The Republic of Korea recently announced a New Deal based on two central pillars: digitization and decarbonization. Many countries in the Pacific, already proponents of ambitious clean energy targets and climate action, are focusing on "blue recovery," seizing the opportunity to promote more sustainable approaches to fisheries management. India recently announced operating the largest

solar power plant in the region. China is creating more jobs in the renewable energy sector than in fossil fuel industries. Many countries in our region are expanding social protection systems as part of COVID-19 recovery to go beyond a temporary patch and include the marginalized, such as informal sector workers.

Institutions such as the United Nations and ADB have mobilized to support a shared response to the crisis. Now it is vital that we enable countries to secure the support they need to go beyond, to achieve the SDGs.

**Authors:**

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*Kanni Wignaraja, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

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### PLAN, PREPARE AND RESPOND TO COVID-19

## WHO to reexamine COVID-19 emergency status, six months on

**T**HE World Health Organization said Monday that a key committee would meet later this week to discuss COVID-19's emergency status, six months after it was declared.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters that the UN health body's emergency committee would convene to reexamine the declaration that the outbreak constituted a "public health emergency of international concern".

A so-called PHEIC declaration, which marks the highest level of alarm under international health rules, must be reevaluated every six months.

Prior to COVID-19, WHO had only made such declarations five times since the International Health Regulations changed in 2007, for swine flu, polio, Zika and twice for Ebola outbreaks in Africa.

Of those, the current pandemic "is easily the most severe," Tedros said.

There is little doubt that the emergency committee will consider that the pandemic still constitutes a global public health emergency, but it could potentially alter some of its recommendations

on how the WHO and the world should respond.

The situation has shifted dramatically since the declaration was made.

"When I declared a public health emergency of international concern on the 30th of January, ... there were less than 100 cases outside of China, and no deaths," Tedros said.

But since then, the case numbers have soared past 16 million, with close to 650,000 deaths around the world.

"Almost 16 million cases have now been reported to WHO, and more than 640,000 deaths as the pandemic continues to accelerate. In the past 6 weeks, the total number of cases has roughly doubled, WHO chief informed.

"COVID-19 has changed our world. It has brought people, communities and nations together, and driven them apart," Tedros said.

Tedros lauded the efforts of New Zealand, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and the Caribbean countries for preventing outbreaks and other countries - China, Canada, South Korea and Germany for bringing large outbreaks under control.



A propaganda banner promoting prevention against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Hanoi, Vietnam April 3, 2020. The Southeast Asian country was back on high alert after the government on Saturday confirmed its first community infections since April, and another three cases on Sunday, all in the tourism hot spot of Danang. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

"The most fundamental ingredients for stopping this virus is determination, and the willing-

ness to make hard choices to keep ourselves and each other safe," Tedros said.

Tedros asked people to follow social distancing, wash hands, avoid crowded places and wear masks in order to combat the virus.

The WHO has faced criticism from certain quarters for its response, with some charging it acted too slowly — something the organization itself strenuously denies.

"Over the past six months, WHO has worked tirelessly to support countries to prepare for and respond to this virus," Tedros said.

"I am immensely proud of our organization, WHO, and its incredible people and their efforts."

Tedros himself has for months faced relentless attacks from US President Donald Trump, who has accused WHO of being a "puppet of China".

Earlier this month Trump made good on his threat to begin withdrawing the US — traditionally WHO's largest donor — from the organisation.

SOURCE: AFP



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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29th July, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan (North and East), Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon -Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2020:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th July, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

### Flood Bulletin (Issued at: 16:00 hrs M.S.T on 28-7-2020)

**Flood condition of Dokhtawady River**  
According to the (15:30 hrs M.S.T) observation today, the water level of Dokhtawady River at Myitnge has exceeded by about (3) cm above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

**Advisory**  
It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Myitnge to take precaution measure.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
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09974424848



## Timor-Leste donates K2.5m for Phakant landslide victims

Timor-Leste Government and its people donated K2.5million to help the rehabilitation processes for landslide incident that occurred in Wai Khar village of Phakant Township in Kachin State.

The cash assistance is mainly aimed for vulnerable families such as pregnant women, elderly persons and the persons with disabilities.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and party handed over the donation to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye on 28 July morning.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (Centre) receives K 2.5 million donated by Timor-Leste in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## UPDJC representatives from Govt, NCA-S EAOs hold meeting with their counterparts from political parties

THE UPDJC representatives of Government, NCA Signatories Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAOs) held a meeting with their counterparts from political parties at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shwe Li Road in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting, the Government representatives and the NCA-S EAOs explained matters related to the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong- which will be convened in accordance with the decision of the 8<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting, matters related to the Part 3 of the Union Accord, and the current peace process.

They also replied to the questions of UPDJC representatives from political parties.

The government representatives at the meeting were U Hla Maung Shwe, U Pyone Cho and U Zaw Htay; those from the NCA-S EAOs were U Myo Win, Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, and Naing Aung Ma Ngay.

The representatives of political parties were U Thu Wai, U Myint Soe, Tar Hla Pe, U Thein Tun, U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Dr Aung Myat Oo, U Tha Tun Hla, U Khun Tun Shwe, U Li Paw Ye, Daw Doi Bu, Naing Ta La Nyi, Daw Yin Yin May, U Saw Tun Aung Myint, U Nyi Pa Loat, Sai Nai Nai Htwe, U Sai Htay Aung, Daw Aye Thida Myint, U Sai Aung Myint Khaing, Salai Jimmy Mira Zarbwe and U Tun Aung.

— Ye Gaung Nyunt ■  
(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



UPDJC representatives from Government and NCA-S EAOs hold meeting with their counterparts from political parties in Yangon on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar citizens returned from foreign countries queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 114 Myanmar citizens fly back home via ROK

THE relief flight of Korean Air landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening, bringing a total of 114 Myanmar nationals back home via Incheon International Airport.

Among these returnees, 37 persons are from Republic of Korea while 77 are from US, Egypt, Canada, Indonesia, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Cyprus, Japan and Germany.

As they arrived in

Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period in line with the regulations of immigration and medical checks.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries in relief flights and chartered flights in ac-

cordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and brought back a total of 9,105 citizens to date.—MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## UMFCCI holds virtual meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council

PRESIDENT U Zaw Min Win of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the officials conducted a virtual meeting on 27 July with a delegation led by Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director Mr Michael W Michalak of US-ASEAN Business Council to discuss matters concerning the growth of Myanmar's economy, business opportunities and cooperation between the US and Myanmar.

The businesspersons from 10 US companies based in Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam joined the virtual meeting.

At the meeting, the businesspersons and representatives of Bower Group Asia, Chevron, Chubb, Coca-Cola, ExxonMobil,

Google, Jhpiego, Pernod, Ricard, Scoular and Visa talked about the possible business situations and potential investments in the post-coronavirus era.

The president of UMFCCI and officials remarked the public-private partnership during the coronavirus outbreak, customs service and procedures, investment and digital transformation of enterprises.

Mr Michael W Michalak and the delegates highlighted the supporting plans to the vulnerable businesses hit hard by the coronavirus impacts, MSMEs, energy, transportation, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, infrastructural building and human resource sectors. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



U Zaw Min Win, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and officials hold virtual meeting with the delegates from US-ASEAN Business Council on 27 July 2020. PHOTO: UMFCCI

## Exports of cattle, animal products down by \$254.3 mln in current FY

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products between 1 October and 17 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020 touched a low of US\$64.7 million, a sharp drop of \$254.3 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY when livestock trading was suspended by China.

In the previous fiscal, animal products exports were registered at \$319 million.

Animal products exports are solely driven by the private sector this year.

At present, live cattle exports to China has been on the decline due to the suspension of a trade by China since the pre-Chinese New Year period, said cattle exporters.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but last year, the suspension of trade led to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering a lower price of below K1 million.

Myanmar has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade Coop-

eration and Coordinating Committee (JBTC) meetings on legal exports of cattle along with cross-border control of communicable diseases.

While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trading is still not permitted by China, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Myanmar, which allowed livestock trading in late 2017, is now exploring new export markets for cattle.

At present, to prevent animal disease, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued a notification on 11 March 2020 that the cattle are subject to special goods and procedures for movement of the cattle in the regions and states were mentioned, posing difficulties to those livestock farmers working on a manageable scale.

To transport the cattle within the country, the health certificate (AHD/PC-3) issued by the head of the related Livestock Breeding

and Veterinary Department in the townships, districts and regions or states are required.

If the traders fail to comply with the notification, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law.

At present, the COVID-19 consequences pose transportation difficulties and it is hard to seek for approval from the related Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

As a result of this, the drastic plunge of live cattle export forced the breeders to turn to meat market as they are facing financial hardships during the coronavirus pandemic. The meat price is also dropping, said a trader.

The country exports cattle that are above five years old, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

Myanmar has exported over 460,000 heads of cattle, with an estimated value of over \$581 million, to China through Muse border, between the 2017-2018FY and the month of October in the current FY, according to trade figures.

The authorities have issued cattle export licences to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licences across the country. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Cattles in the animal disease surveillance station near Pakyu Village in Kutkai Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Rice export through sea trade up by \$181.9 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S maritime trade constituted over 85 per cent of rice exports and generated an estimated income of US\$572.58 million as of 10 July in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, as per data from Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The figures reflect an increase of \$181.96 million compared with a year-ago period.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 14.8 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the border gates have generated an estimated \$93.6 million in the current financial year, which plunged from \$171.5 million registered in the corresponding period of last year.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

With the growing demand from foreign countries, the export price of rice is up by \$10-15 per tonne in recent day. However, it is difficult to ship rice in the rainy season, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1

October and 10 July in 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 2.2 million metric tonnes, worth over \$666 million, according to an announcement from the MRF.

The export volume is up by 360,000 tonnes, while the value showed an increase of \$100 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 66 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Malaysia and Madagascar. The Philippines is the fourth-largest buyer and Cote D'Ivoire the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 20 per cent of rice exports, while 30.56 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Senegal, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 58 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019FY. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Over 900 acres of farmlands reclaimed in 9 townships

ABOUT 904.82 acres of farmlands were reclaimed in 2019-2020 fiscal year, in nine townships of the three following districts—Shwebo, Monywa and Kanbalu—where increased agricultural income generation project is being implemented, said U Khin Maung Zin, the regional head of the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Sagaing Region.

“Regarding the implementation of the increased agricultural income generation project, the Agricultural Mechanization Department reclaimed over 900 acres of farmlands in this FY. The department is planning to reclaim more farmlands in the next FY. The department will reclaim a total of 5,000 acres of agriculture land,” he added.

According to the increased agricultural income generation project, the department systematically reclaimed a to-



Farmers plough the field with tractors before sowing seeds in Sagaing Region on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAY YAR TAING)**

tal of 904.82 acres of farmlands – 182.96 acres in Kya Khat village and 125.91 acres in Ywar Shae village in Dabayin Township, 315.09 acres in Ywartawgone

village in Wetlet Township and 280.86 acres in Myinchingone village in Shwebo Township in 2019-2020FY. The department also reclaimed 575 acres of

farmlands in Sagaing Region in 2018-2019FY. —Win Oo (Zay Yar Taing)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## DHF mortality rate rises in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon regions

MORE THAN 82,000 people were infected with Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) during three years, from 2017 to 2020, with a higher mortality rate annually in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon regions and Mon State, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

A total of 31,288 DHF patients in 2017, 23,273 patients in 2018, 24,345 patients in 2019 and 3,446 patients in 27 weeks of 2020 were recorded across the country. The DHF infected

rates are slightly increasing annually.

From January to 4 July 2020, the DHF is highly rising in 20 townships including Tachilek, ChaungU, Paung, Mawlamyine, Hlaingbwe, Hpa-an, Pyu, Yinmabin, Budalin, Kyaukse, Chaungzon, Loikaw, Hinthada, Pakokku, Kyaikmaraw, Sittway, Myingyan, Htantabin, Gangaw and Kyaukphu townships. These townships recorded 17 deaths from dengue infection with 1,322 others suffering from

the disease.

From January to 4 July, Myanmar saw about 3,446 cases with about 27 deaths. Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway regions and Mon state are the most affected areas in the country.

Myanmar reported about 1,740 cases with about 12 deaths from January to 6 June. Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway regions and Mon State reportedly had the most considerable numbers of outbreaks,

according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

As of 16 May, the DHF is highly reported in Yangon region with 24 patients in South Dagon, 16 in Htantabin, 16 in Shwepyitha, 15 in Hlinethaya, 14 in Dala, 11 in North Dagon, 10 in Thingangyun, 10 in Insein, eight in Thanlyin and seven in North Okkalapa townships, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.—Zin Yaw Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung hotels undergo inspection for reopening

ALTHOUGH hotels in Ayeyawady Region are receiving room bookings because they hear that they will be granted the permission to resume their businesses commencing from 28 July, the regional COVID-19 committee has not confirmed yet to reopen the hotel businesses, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Pathein).

A hotel in Chaungtha beach sets the room charges

from K35,000 to K70,000 per day and they have announced that booking of the rooms is being accepted because they will resume their businesses starting from 28 July.

The regional joint committee inspected over 40 hotels in Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches on 23 and 24 July to see whether the hotels have made necessary preparations in line with the health guidelines. The hotels are found to abide by the

health guidelines, according to the joint committee.

“Some of the rooms are already booked,” said a hotel staff member in Ngwehsaung beach.

Although the beaches in Ayeyawady Region were closed temporarily, the local travelers reached the beaches on Martyrs’ Day, according to the Ayeyawdy Region Administration Team.

At present, the joint committee will submit their inspec-

tion results to the regional COVID-19 committee.

“The committee will grant permission to reopen the hotels if they are found to be in concordance with the guidelines. However, they are not sure of the reopening date exactly. We hope to grant the permission soon,” said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Pathein).—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Spain lockdown leaves 1mn jobless but not 'unemployed'

MADRID—The coronavirus epidemic has destroyed the jobs of over a million Spaniards, but with lockdowns preventing them from looking for work, they were excluded from the unemployment count, data showed Tuesday.

Figures published by the National Statistics Institute (INE) showed the number of unemployed rose by only 55,000 between April and June to 3.4 million. That pushed the unemployment rate to 15.3 per cent from 14.4 per cent in the first quarter.

But those figures sig-

nificantly underestimate the impact of the virus on the Spanish job market which registered a 1.07 million drop in the number of people employed during the second quarter, the INE said.

"The figure is horrible, without a doubt the worst in history," Pepe Alvarez, the leader of the UGT union, Spain's second-biggest, told radio Cadena Ser.

The unemployment data is based on surveys, not claims for benefits, and the survey counts only people actively seeking a job as unemployed. As the



Spain's unemployment rate jumped in the first quarter of 2020 to 14.4 per cent, figures from national statistics institute INE showed, as a nationwide coronavirus lockdown hit the eurozone's fourth largest economy. PHOTO: AFP

lockdowns imposed to stop the spread of coronavirus kept people from hunting for jobs, they were not considered as unemployed by the survey.

The unemployment data also does not take into account the millions of workers on the government furlough scheme that was put in place to avoid massive layoffs at firms hit by the lockdown.

In the second quarter, the number of hours worked experienced "an unprecedented fall" of nearly 23 percent, the INE said.—AFP ■

## Chinese airlines offer unlimited flights to revive industry

BEIJING—China Southern on Tuesday became the latest Chinese airline to offer ultra-cheap, all-you-can-fly deals aimed at reigniting air travel following coronavirus lockdowns.

At least eight Chinese carriers have so far launched similar schemes which they hope will boost the ailing domestic aviation sector in the world's

second-largest economy.

Lucky Air, which unveiled offers for unlimited domestic flights on July 13, announced two days later that it had hit capacity for monthly and seasonal passes for individuals.

The deals, valid for anything between a month and a year, start at 1,588 yuan (\$227) for unlimited flights over 31 days per person.

Lucky Air said it has plans to sell more of such packages in the future.

Airlines offer variations of such deals, including Spring Airlines' package for children travelling with their parents and China Eastern's unlimited weekend flights.

Southern's all-you-can-fly deal costs 3,699 yuan (\$528) and can be used until next January.

Some carriers have chosen to join hands, with Qingdao Airlines, Okay Airways and Ruli Airlines collaborating for unlimited weekend deals as well.

Others like Juneyao Air rolled out a 888 yuan (\$127) package for unlimited upgrades -- allowing passengers to bump up their economy class tickets for no added cost.—AFP ■

## Nissan expects 670 bil. yen net loss in FY 2020

TOKYO —Nissan Motor Co. said Tuesday it expects a net loss of 670 billion yen (\$6.4 billion) in fiscal 2020, as the new coronavirus pandemic hits auto demand, adding pressure on the carmaker already struggling to restore profitability after the 2018 arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn. Nissan's group net loss projection for the current business year to March 2021 follows a loss of 671.22 billion yen last fiscal year. The carmaker expects a group operating loss of 470 billion yen, expanding hugely from 40.47 billion yen in loss the previous year, on sales of 7.8 trillion yen, down 21.0 per cent.—Kyodo ■

## Vietnam curbs movement in city of 1.1m as virus-free run ends

DANANG —Vietnam will suspend all flights and public transport into and out of a city of 1.1 million people where the country's first coronavirus cases in months were recently detected, authorities said Monday.

Until the weekend it appeared that the Southeast Asian country had managed to stub out the virus -- and with lockdowns lifted since late April, domestic tourists had flocked back to the coastal city of Danang.

But fresh restrictions on movement, including stopping buses and taxis within the city, were announced following the discovery of Vietnam's first local-



Passengers wearing face masks queue up for check-in at the departures terminal Danang international airport in Danang on 27 July, 2020. (AFP PHOTO)

ly transmitted COVID-19 infection in nearly 100 days.

The transport ministry made the order on Monday evening, just hours before it goes into effect at midnight (1700

GMT Monday).

After a 57-year-old retired Vietnamese man in Danang was confirmed to have the disease on Saturday -- the first community transmission since April 16 -- more

than a dozen new infections have been found.

Danang is a popular tourist destination and its beaches and restaurants have been packed with local visitors.—AFP ■

### Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.05 feet to 20.18 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (194 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (194 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-7-2020 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.

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# Proximity Finance raises US\$14 million to reach more smallholder farmers

Impact-focused Finnfund, Nordic Microfinance Initiative and Proparco partner to support rural Myanmar

**P**ROXIMITY Finance, Myanmar's first farmer-focused finance institution, signs a US\$14 million equity package with Finnfund, Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI) and Proparco. Proximity Finance was launched in 2010 as the microfinance arm of Proximity Designs, one of the largest agricultural services platforms in Myanmar, that provides farm technology, agronomy advice and financial services to small farms across the country.

While the deal is pending the Financial Regulatory Department's approval, the

increased equity will support Proximity Finance in tripling its active client base, currently 130,000 households, and dispersing 1,500,000 loans in the next four years. The commitment will also support an increase in loan sizes and the diversification of products, and ultimately will provide critical capital to entrepreneurial-minded small farmers.

While most microfinance institutions require clients to pay back monthly, Proximity Finance's repayments are made when farmers receive income for their harvest. "Financing agriculture is challenging due



Nu Nu Sein, vegetable farmer, Upper village Aungpan Township. **PHOTO: PROXIMITY FINANCE**

## Grab anticipates continued growth in Myanmar with expansion of GrabFood services to Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city

**G**RAB, on 24 July 2020, has today launched GrabFood, its on-demand digital food delivery service, in Mandalay. The introduction of GrabFood in Myanmar's second largest city comes after the growing popularity and take-up of the service by customers in Yangon in recent months, with thousands of customers ordering their favourite meals daily using the same Grab App they already trust for daily transportation services.

With GrabFood, Grab has invested in human resources, city operations, and technology to bring the industry-leading digital ordering platform to Mandalay eaters who can enjoy their favourite foods from all across the city, with convenient, fast and affordable deliveries. Customers need not head out and meddle with crowds especially as health authorities continue to encourage social distancing; instead, users can rely on Grab-

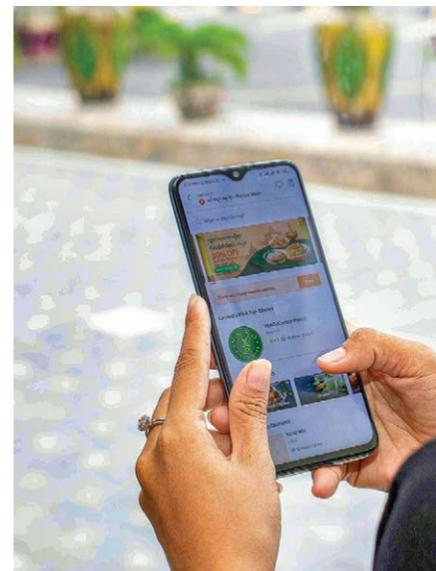
Food to save them time to focus on other daily priorities as they await safe deliveries of their food orders. At launch, GrabFood is ready to cater to customers in the four major Mandalay townships – Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi and Maha Aungmye.

In preparation for the launch of GrabFood, the Grab Myanmar team on-boarded the largest number of licensed business food merchant-partners amongst the delivery platforms currently operating in Mandalay. They include popular chain eateries such as Lotteria, The Pizza Company, Manhattan Fish Market and YKKO, along with numerous other locally-owned F&B businesses such as Easy Ray, Moe Wai Kyaw Teahouse, Unique Mandalay Tea Room and NiMi Drinks. With no minimum order required, customers simply use the Grab App they already trust to easily make orders of their favourite food and drinks. During the initial trial period, orders were found to be delivered by Grab's efficient de-

livery-partners on motorbikes to the customer's doorstep in under 30 minutes.

Said Ko Myat Kaung Min, Head of GrabFood Myanmar, "As the everyday everything app, we are delighted to bring GrabFood to Mandalay and to deliver the favourite dishes of our customers right into their hands! Aided by Grab's technologies, we are seeing a shift in how people in Myanmar consume their favourite foods as well as how more traditional restaurant operators have embraced digital channels to find and serve more customers as the nation takes steps towards economic recovery."

"Through the Grab platform, our merchant-partners experience first-hand the different service quality and our commitment to long-term success. They have direct access to our technology and tools to help them shift to online sales and expand their visibility. As many restaurants and merchant-partners work hard to get back on their feet, we are here to help them undergo



A customer ordering a meal using GrabFood within the Grab App. **PHOTO: GRAB MYANMAR**



A GrabFood delivery-partner picking up an order from a merchant-partner in Mandalay. **PHOTO: GRAB MYANMAR**

a digital transformation for a faster business recovery. This is especially important for smaller establishments who prior to this, did not have the means to grow their business beyond their current storefront. With access to a much wider customer base through GrabFood, they can no doubt expect more orders!" he added.

**Enjoy Food Delivered to Your Doorstep with a Few Simple**



Daw Tin Hla, flower farmer, Letpanpin village Aungpan Township. PHOTO: PROXIMITY FINANCE

to its seasonality, so our customer-centred design approach ensures our products are tailored to farmers' needs," says Hedvig Sundberg, Chief Executive Officer of Proximity Finance.

She continues, "Our relentless commitment to improving the incomes and livelihoods of low-income farm families is strengthened by working with impact-driven investors. This milestone partnership underpins our investors' focus on building an equitable society and signals international support for rural Myanmar and its people."

In Myanmar, 39% of the

rural population are living in poverty. Farmers represent a hugely undeserved market, but one with tremendous opportunity for those willing to invest in meeting their needs. "With its smallholder farmer focus, Proximity Finance addresses the critical funding gaps in the country's rural credit sector and aims to reshape the financial landscape for 30+ million underserved rural people. We're proud to support their commitment to financial inclusion," says Magali Roux, Proparco's Regional Director for North and South-East Asia.

"NMI is excited to fund

Proximity Finance on the journey to reach even more of Myanmar's financially excluded smallholder farmers with uniquely adapted products and supported by a team providing deep expertise in agriculture," shared Arthur Sletteberg, Managing Director, Nordic Microfinance Initiative.

"This investment advances financial inclusion, agriculture and empowering women, thus

targeting several sustainable development goals at the same time," says Ulla Huotari, Investment Manager, Finnfund. "We share Proximity Finance's mission of increasing incomes across rural Myanmar and look forward to an impactful partnership."

The investment is classified as a 2X Challenge gender commitment, as over 60% of Proximity Finance's clients are women.

Additionally, there is a strong gender balance within the company: 50% of senior managers are women, including the CEO and Head of Finance. Proximity Finance has ambitions to uplift women customers and team members through its policies, programmes and finance solutions.—GNLM

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Daw Sein Myint vegetable farmer Zaygone village Aungpan Township. PHOTO: PROXIMITY FINANCE



### Taps on the Grab App

With GrabFood, eaters in Mandalay will never have to miss a meal and will get to satisfy their food cravings in the comfort of their own home or office. The service saves customers travel time to and from the restaurant, and offers them added safety by avoiding exposure to public crowds. During an initial trial of the service in June 2020, the Grab Myanmar team noticed that customers received food deliveries within an average time of 30 minutes.

Grab customers in Mandalay can make a GrabFood order with

three simple steps. First, tap on 'Food' on the home screen of the Grab App. Then, select the preferred restaurant and add menu items to the order 'Basket'. Finally, tap on 'Place Order' to confirm the order. After an order is placed, Grab users can use features in the Grab App such as Live Order Tracking, direct messaging and calls with delivery-partners. They can also contact Grab's 24/7 Customer Experience team for assistance should the need arise.

As a welcome treat to celebrate the arrival of GrabFood in Mandalay, new GrabFood customers can enjoy a MMK 3,000 discount and free deliveries on their first two orders. To enjoy these discounts, customers should apply the promo code 'NEWFOOD-IE' and place orders with a minimum value of MMK 5,000.

### Digital Transformation and Creating Income Opportunities for F&B Businesses in Mandalay

During the COVID-19 period, F&B businesses faced numerous challenges including a hit on revenue as dining-in for customers was not allowed. Grab's digital platform served as the much-needed innovation to help

F&B businesses in Yangon adopt digital transformation and to serve customers through delivery orders facilitated by GrabFood. Through GrabFood marketing campaigns and operational efficiencies, food merchant-partners enjoyed a boost in sales during the challenging period, and were uplifted to continue their businesses and support the livelihoods of their staff.

Grab aims to replicate these efforts in Mandalay and support the city's F&B businesses by helping them digitise their operations and sales to tap on new revenue streams and to expand the reach of customers to serve. Merchant-partners instantly get an online storefront, opening up a new source of incremental orders and revenue on top of their usual in-store visits. They also gain access to GrabFood's marketing channels and promotional schemes, boosting their business further. This opportunity was recognized by some of the top F&B brands in Mandalay who have partnered with Grab exclusively as they value the quality of services and technology that GrabFood delivers.

The Grab Myanmar team is

actively on-boarding new F&B businesses on its platform every week. F&B businesses in Mandalay, including small, independent food establishments and hawkers who wish to be a GrabFood merchant-partner can call the hotline +959977083330 or email [gf.mm.merchants@grab.com](mailto:gf.mm.merchants@grab.com).

### Creating Jobs in Mandalay

Grab has on-boarded hundreds of delivery-partners to operate the GrabFood service and provides numerous benefits to protect their livelihoods. In addition to remuneration above the industry standard, GrabFood

delivery-partners are positioned for success with safety gear and equipment, supplies of personal hygiene hygiene, along with training on food handling and hygiene as well as road safety.

All delivery-partners are covered by Trip Insurance during each GrabFood delivery. In addition, all delivery-partners are eligible for financial assistance of MMK 200,000 under the Grab Partner Relief Fund should they be diagnosed with COVID 19 or officially placed into quarantine by the health authorities.—GNLM

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GrabFood delivery-partners in Mandalay. PHOTO: GRAB MYANMAR

## Klopp named LMA Manager of the Year



Jurgen Klopp has been named LMA Manger of the Year. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON—Jurgen Klopp was voted the League Managers' Association Manager of the Year on Monday after ending Liverpool's 30-year wait to win the Premier League.

Klopp led Liverpool to the Premier League title in the same season they were FIFA Club World champions.

The German's award was announced by former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson, after whom the trophy is now named.

"Jurgen, fantastic," Ferguson said on Sky Sports. "We speak about Leeds spending 16 years in the Championship, but Liverpool 30 years since winning that league, incredible."

"You thoroughly deserved it. The performance level of

your team was outstanding. Your personality runs right throughout the whole club. It was a marvellous performance.

"I'll forgive you for waking me up at 3.30 am to tell me you have won the league! Thank you, but anyway, you thoroughly deserved it. Well done."

Former Borussia Dortmund boss Klopp said of Ferguson: "I know it's not 100 per cent appropriate as a Liverpool manager but I admire him. I remember he was the first British manager I met."

"We had breakfast. I'm not sure how much he remembers but I remember because for me this moment was like meeting the Pope. It was absolutely great and from that first season we clicked.—AFP ■

## Aung La Ngsang donates plasma for COVID-19 treatment

BURMESE Python Aung La Ngsang, who recently recovered from COVID-19, has donated blood plasma for treating COVID-19 patients to Sanford Health, a non-profit integrated health care delivery system in the United States, according to his social media yesterday.

He posed on Facebook: "I swear our phones are listening to us. There was something on the news about researchers needing the blood of those who tested positive for COVID-19 and are now negative." "And a local blood bank advertisement came up on social media...so here I am sitting, donating my plasma. Well I have great news, we are now that much closer to finding the coronavirus cure with the Python blood. Happy Monday!" he wrote on his social media on Tuesday.

The plasma, the liquid portion of the blood, contains coronavirus antibodies. Antibodies are proteins made by the immune system which can target the virus and neutralize it, according to a health paper.

The Myanmar's famed mixed



Burmese Python Aung La Ngsang. **PHOTO: AUNG LA NGSANG' FACEBOOK**

martial artist announced that he has tested positive for COVID-19 on 2 July, and he now recovered from the disease.

The 35-year-old nicknamed "Burmese Python" is a Burmese-born American mixed martial artist of ethnic Kachin descent

currently signed to ONE Championship, competing in both the Middleweight and Light heavyweight divisions.

He is the current ONE Middleweight World Champion and ONE Light Heavyweight World Champion.—Kyaw Khin ■

## Brighton sign former Liverpool midfielder Lallana

LONDON—Brighton signed former Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana on a free transfer on Monday.

Former England international Lallana agreed a three-year contract with Brighton just 24

hours after the end of the Premier League season. The 32-year-old, whose deal with Liverpool expired after their final game on Sunday, was targeted by Everton, Leicester and Burnley before opting to join Graham Potter's side.

"Adam is a really exciting signing for us, someone I'm sure the supporters will be really looking forward to seeing play as and when things are able to begin to return to normal," Potter told Brighton's website.—AFP ■

## Japan's WTA Pan Pacific Open tennis scrapped over COVID-19

TOKYO—The WTA Pan Pacific Open in Japan, one of Asia's top women's tennis tournaments, has been scrapped for the first time because of the coronavirus, organizers said Tuesday.

The cancellation of the event, which was scheduled for November and was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka last year, follows last week's axing of all international tennis tournaments in China for 2020.

The Pan Pacific's demise ends a continuous run for the tournament since 1984 and leaves Asia with only one Women's Tennis Association event, October's Korea Open, on this year's coronavirus-wrecked schedule.

It is also another blow for sport in Japan after the Tokyo Olympics, originally due to start last week, were postponed for a year over Covid-19.

"We were trying to find ways (to hold the Pan Pacific Open), such as having no audience or limiting the number of spectators," organizers said in a statement.

"But we reached the tough conclusion that we have to cancel the tournament given the difficulty of ensuring the safety" of all involved, they added.

The tournament had already been postponed from September to November, with organizers hoping the delay would allow them to hold the event.—AFP ■



The event was scheduled for November. **PHOTO: TORAYPPO/INSTAGRAM**