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Sunday, 24 January 2021

## Preparations completed for submitting Kayin traditional dance to UNESCO



Spectators view the performance of a Kayin traditional Don Yein Dance troupe in Kayin State before the coronavirus outbreak occurred in Myanmar. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

**K**ayin State government is preparing to seek the inclusion of Kayin traditional Don Yein Dance in the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Almost all of the preparations were completed, according to the State's Social Affairs Minister U Bo Bo Wai Maung.

Under the guidance of the Kayin State government, Kayin State Committee on Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Kayin Literature and Culture Group and all Kayin people participated in the project.

The submission of the traditional dance for the world's intangible cultural heritage

will be made in accordance with the standards set by UNESCO.

For the three periods of colonial era, independence era and present era, researches in Don Yein Dance were carried out on its dancing styles, songs and verses, musical instruments, traditional costumes, and photos, videos and literary culture.

"Works on submitting Kayin traditional Don Yein Dance to UNESCO were almost completed. In the first phase, researches were carried out at the villages that preserved the Don Yein Dance. With the facts and findings gained from the researches, the dance in-

cluding Buffalo Don and Tiger Don from Feudal Lords Era were performed for the UNESCO list", said Chairman of the Kayin State Committee on Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Social Affairs Minister U Bo Bo Wai Maung.

Historical facts about the Kayin Don Yein Dance were researched for UNESCO at the regions and villages where the Kayin traditional culture was developed. Personal experiences of the elderly about the traditional dance were also systematically recorded.

"We studied at almost all the places where the literature and culture about Kayin Don

Yein Dance were developed. Township/Village literature and culture groups collected the required facts about the dance. Region/State Kayin ethnic affairs ministers, Kayin literature and culture associations and religious leaders also provided assistance," he added.

Kayin State government led by the State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint arranged to organize the performance of the Kayin Don Yein Dance to be submitted to UNESCO for the public at Hpa-an University Convocation Hall on 26 January.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Department of Food and Drug Administration Registration No: (Sa 4/ 14091/ Hta La)

Instant

## SHWE PHE OO Lemon Tea

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STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph: 09 30860180, 01 9669713

STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale- Corner of 26<sup>th</sup> st and 66<sup>th</sup> st, Mandalay. Ph: 09 661702244

**Cash contribution for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made through MoPFI website**

- The contribution of cash for COVID-19 Vaccination Fund can be made via the website of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (<http://www.mopfi.gov.mm>) in the following ways.
  - MPU Debit/Credit Card of local banks
  - Visa/Master Credit of local banks
  - Visa/Master Debit & Credit Card of foreign banks
  - Mobile Wallets such as CB-pay, KBZ-pay, OK\$ through QR Code (more mobile wallets will be available)
  - Internet/mobile banking App of KBZ, CB, AYA, UAB and MAB (more internet/mobile banking Apps will be available)
  - Over-the-counter at Supermarkets such as City Mart, Marketplace, Sein Gay Har, Aeon, Orange; mini-marts and convenience stores such as Denko Mini Market, Fun Fun Mart, ABC and Oasis; Mobile Wallet agents such as M-Pitesan, True Money and MyTelPay; Mobile Phone shops such as Any Call, e-City, Lu Gyi Min and My Fone; Wai Yan Electronics Sale Centre; the shops available Near Me logo.
- Therefore, cash contribution can be made at the above-mentioned platforms electronically, in addition to the branches of Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank and other local private banks.

*Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry*

**Announcement on fund establishment to purchase COVID-19 vaccines**

- The National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 30-12-2020 formed a Fund Management Sub-committee on the Purchase of COVID-19 Vaccines. The sub-committee has opened the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund at the Myanmar Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw as follows:
  - Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012). The bank account will be initially deposited with USD250 million, equivalent to about K338 billion from State-funding.
  - Fund for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733). The bank account is initially deposited K1 billion (K1,000 million) from State-funding.
- Therefore, organizations and people (local/ foreign countries) who want to contribute cash donation for the purchase of vaccines, can donate any type of foreign currency to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Foreign Currency Account No. EDC 600012) at the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw), and can donate Myanmar Kyat to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund (Myanmar Currency Account No. OA 013733).
- The potential well-wishers can contact the following phone numbers: Director-General (067 3410156) Treasury Department (067 3410158)

*Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry*



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 23 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

**123 Myanmar nationals from Singapore brought back home by relief flight**

THE 7<sup>th</sup> MNA relief flight organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday bringing back a total of 123 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Singapore due to the suspension of commercial flights.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed

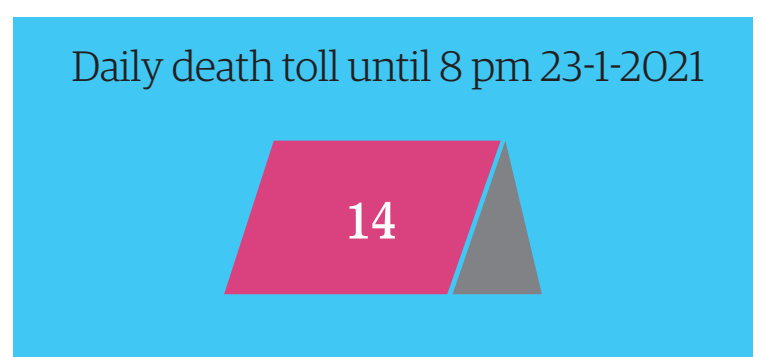
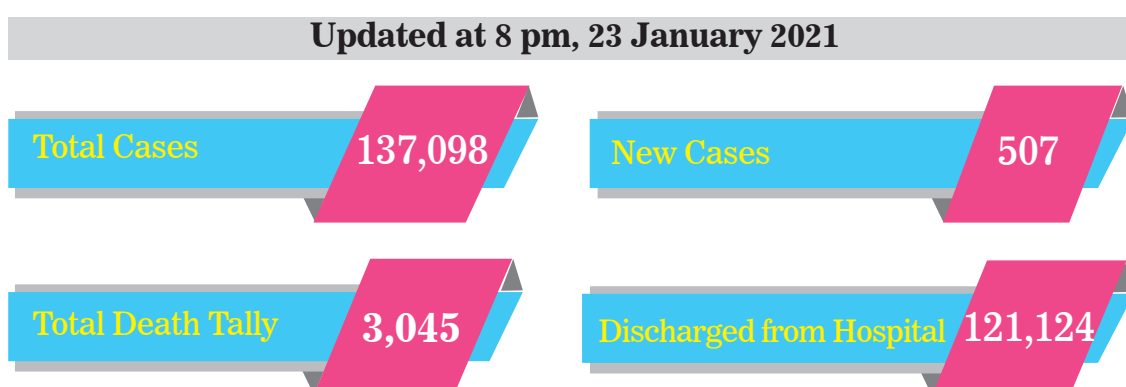
by the 7-day home quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar seamen and citizens in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working together with the relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies from respective countries, shipping companies and the relevant organizations.—MNA

*(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

**507 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 January, total figure rises to 137,098**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 137,098 after 507 new cases were reported on 23 January 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 137,098 confirmed cases, 3,045 died, 121,124 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA



*Ministry of Health and Sports*

## “People are the key”

### Central-level refresher trainer course for COVID-19 immunization held

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe addressed the ceremony of Central-Level Refresher Trainer Course for COVID-19 Immunization held with semi-virtual system yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, he said all participants have many years of experience in the immunization industry and are fully aware of the implications of immunization, however, the course aims to let them know the latest information on possible issues related to the COVID-19 vaccination as it is a new vaccine and it seeks to carry out systematic vaccination in the first batch as well as the next batch of the COVID-19 vaccines.

The guidelines have been developed for the vaccination and are sent to respective states and regions. He said the operating guidelines would be updated as more information becomes available. The COVID-19 vaccine, which is being developed worldwide, has only been shown to have efficacy in laboratory and research studies. The extent of its effectiveness is still being studied in practice.

The research is still being conducted on how long it will protect from the virus and how

effective the vaccine is after two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. He added the need to continue the COVID-19 protection guidelines, whether a person is vaccinated or not.

The Union Minister also expressed words of thanks to all the participants, including the region/state vaccine officers from Central Expanded Programme on Immunization (Central EPI) They are working hard for the vaccination.

Information about the COVID-19 vaccine is posted for the public on the Ministry's website and social media and will continue to be published.

The planting date may not be the same from one place to another depending on the number of people to be vaccinated in each state/region, traffic situation and the security situation and hence, it will be carried out under the leadership of the Region/State Public Health Officers.

The Union Minister also added the need to divide the vaccination time and date into areas with a large population in order to prevent the occurrence of crowds in the COVID-19 vaccination.

The Central-Level Refresher Trainer Course is held on 23,



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe speaks at the ceremony of Central-Level Refresher Trainer Course for COVID-19 Immunization on 23 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

and 24 January and the State/Region Level Course will be on 25 and 26 January. Only those who have completed the refresher course will plant the COVID-19 vaccination to the health workers starting on 27 January.

The Township Level Refresher Course will be held on 30 and 31 January. When planting health workers as a first priority, a list of health workers by region/state has been compiled.

A guideline has been drawn up and disseminated in consul-

tation with the AEFI Committee for monitoring the aftermath of vaccination and providing emergency treatment in the event of an occurrence of side effects.

He said to prepare the medical teams and immunization places according to the population to be vaccinated at the Central level hospitals, COVID-19 treatment centres and health facilities in respective hospitals and health departments.

As the COVID-19 immunization programme must be admin-

istered to a group of people over the age of 18, a Consent Form is not required as entry into the immunization site is considered a vaccination agreement but a separate plan will be made for conflict areas.

After that, the discussions were held by the Heads of Region / State Medical, and Public Health Departments and Central Hospital Superintendents and training programmes were held.—MNA (Translated by E'i Phyu Phyu Aung)

### MoSWRR, KOICA discuss peace, socio-economic development in Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held virtual discussion with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) over the cooperation work for peace and socio-economic development in Rakhine State on 22 January.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and other officials.

The meeting discussed the promotion of cooperation between the ministry, ROK government and KOICA in peace and development processes of Myanmar including Rakhine issue, social harmony, basic human rights, action plans for security and development and relief aids of KOICA to IDPs in Rakhine State.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds virtual discussion with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on 22 January 2021. PHOTO: MNA

The officials also focussed on the support of KOICA in

mine-risk education of Myanmar like other Mekong

regions; Laos and Cambodia plans of ROK government to

provide the needed assistance for humanitarian processes of Rakhine State via WFP (World Food Programme) and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

The two sides also emphasized the report on preliminary needs assessment for the repatriation and resettlement of Rakhine IDPs conducted by ASEAN member countries, AHA Centre and ASEAN Secretary-General, financial assistance to supply FM Radios by using ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund and further cooperation works to promote social harmony programmes through the development of women and youths in Rakhine State. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## Our people are united when it really matters



Another thing is that our citizens know that we have set up a fund to buy the vaccines. As usual, our people are united when it really matters. All of us are making donations in unity to raise the fund. First, Kyat 1 billion was raised by the State.

The fund has now been collectively contributed also by individual donors, and the total amount became Kyat 18.781 billion. So, we can see how generous our people are. That amount is the collective donation in Kyats. Moreover, in US dollars, the State set up US\$250 million as a fund. Our people contributed to that fund in dollars, too. So I can say that our situation is good. In my opinion, our people contributed more than US\$2.97 million. That is the donation in dollar currency contributed by donors. We will spend the money to provide the people with the vaccines they need in order to protect themselves against the COVID-19 disease. I pledge that the money will not be wasted. I would like express my profound appreciation and thanks to our people for their collective support.

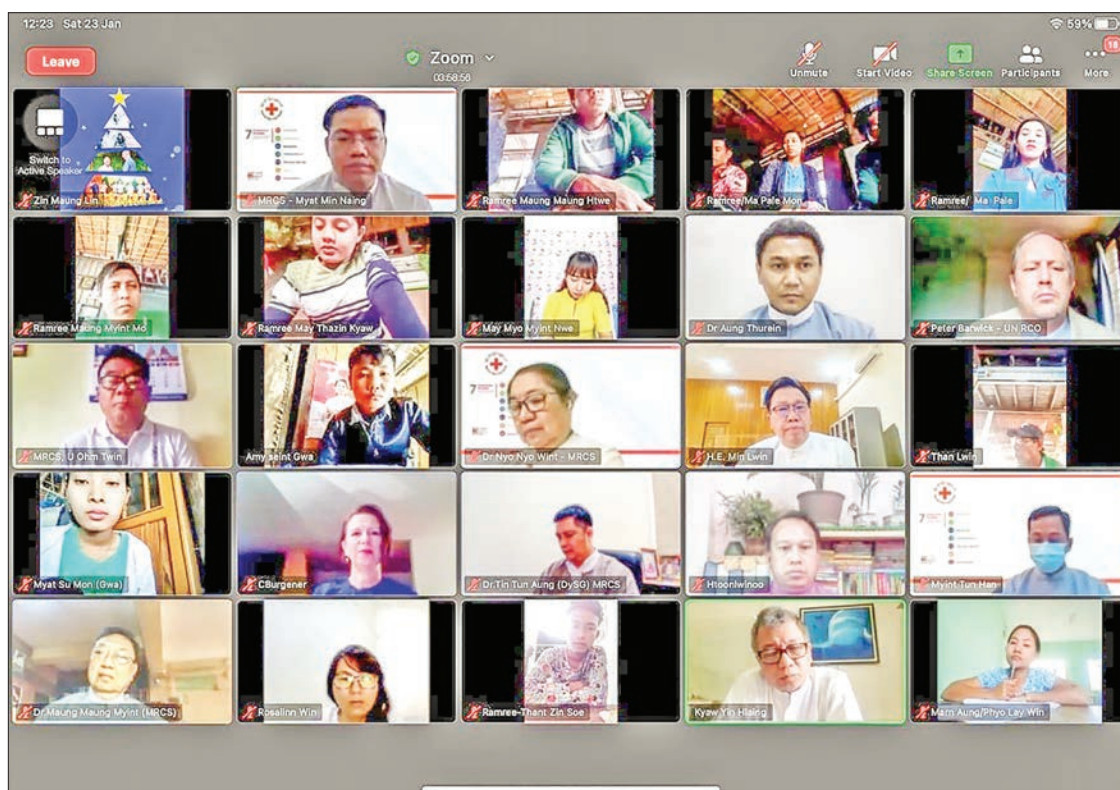
**(Excerpt from Chairperson of National -Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on updated situations of COVID-19 containment measures on 22 January 2021)**

## Closing ceremony held for First Aid for All Training Project (Phase II)

DEPUTY Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Min Lwin addressed a virtual event held yesterday to mark the conclusion of the First Aid for All Training Project (Phase II), targeting youths and women from townships in Rakhine State.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister said that the art of first aid is indeed noble, and by serving first aid to those who are suffering from injuries, loss of lives could be prevented. He noted that these trainings are being held for the benefit of youths and women from Rakhine State, and that although all was set to commence the project since August of last year, due to the situation of COVID-19, the project's Phase I trainings could be virtually held only in December. He said that Phase II trainings commenced on January 6 of this year and that regardless of being an online course, due to qualified instructors and the interest shown by trainees, the trainings were a great success.

He expressed his trust that those who have completed this training will be of a benefit to their wards, villages, communities, and their state through the first aid education that they have gained urging them to share with their communities whatever they have learnt. He said he believed that social harmony would be enhanced by promoting understanding and trust among youths. He pointed out that goodwill, lov-



Closing Ceremony for First Aid for All Training Project (Phase II) is held online on 23 January 2021.

PHOTO: MNA

ing-kindness, sympathy, and consideration for others, which are the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, are vital in the development of social harmony.

He revealed that plans are already underway to hold Phase III of the project to cover all remaining townships in Rakhine State, emphasizing that human injuries, caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and mines planted in Rakhine State and needing emergency care, can now be assisted through first aid courses learnt here.

He highlighted the fact that with the leadership of the Ministry of the Office of the State

Counsellor, and in collaboration with Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH), plans are underway to implement Mine Risk Reduction Project, beginning in February of this year. He detailed that there will be four Mine Risk Education virtual trainings for youths and women from potential mine-risk townships in Rakhine State and that those who have completed these trainings would persist in knowledge dissemination for mine reduction awareness in their wards and villages, utilizing mine-risk educative handouts and posters.

He also thanked everyone who turned these trainings into a success.

Ms Christine Burgener, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Myanmar, spoke words of honour at the event. Dr Maung Maung Myint, Chairperson of MRCS, and Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Executive Director of CDNH, also added their commendations at the course completion.

Dr Aung Thurein, Director from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and First Aid for All Training Project In-charge, explained the objectives of the trainings and tasks being carried out in Ra-

khine State for the emergence of social harmony.

The closing ceremony was attended by Colonel Htein Lin (Retd), Advisor to the Office of the President, dignitaries from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, central executive committee members of the MRCS, resident representatives from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), heads of UN agencies, instructors, and trainees, numbering over a hundred and fifty.

First Aid for All Training Project (Phase I) was implemented from December 6 to 23, 2020, and it was attended by 170 trainees from diverse social communities across Sittway, Pauktaw, Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu, and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State. Phase II of the training project for 247 youths and women from various social communities across Manaung, Yanbye, An, Toungup, and Gwa townships was held from January 6 to 23.

The three-day virtual training for each township, coached by veteran instructors from MRCS, was attended by an average of 50 trainees.

The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, the MRCS, and the CDNH collaborated in organizing the First Aid for All Training Project. —MNA ■

# Suspended demand from China drives onion price down

ACCORDING to the Mandalay onion traders, the price of monsoon onions fell because of suspended demand from China and Myawady border area.

The onion growers, as well as the traders, are losing their profit from growing the monsoon onion.

This year, the earlier harvested monsoon onion was highly demanded by China and Myawady border area.

The price of onions plunged to below K400 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the farmer market because of an abundant supply of onion to the border area and lower quality of onion caused by the delay on the road.

“Most of the Chinese traders are highly demanding the onion. Previously, over 100



(FILES) Women sorts onions at a warehouse. PHOTO: HTAIK HTAR (IPRD)

truckloads of onions were entering the border area. Now,

the Chinese traders are offering a low price for the on-

ion. Consequently, the onion traders with loaded trucks on

the way and the local growers face the loss of the profit. The entering of the onion to Myingyan, Pakokku and Mandalay depots has also dropped. It is not easy to lift the onion price,” said an onion trader from Mandalay market.

The onion was priced around K500 per viss depending on quality for early harvested monsoon onions at the end of December. More than 400,000 visses were entering daily Myingyan, Pakokku and Mandalay depots. Now, the entering of the onion to the depots has significantly dropped.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — Aye Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Total border trade value down by \$848 mln

THE total trade value at 18 border trade camps plummeted by US\$848 million in this financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October 2020 to 15 January, the total trade value amounted to \$2.7 billion, a decrease of \$848 million compared with that of the same period last year.

The total border trade value as of 15 January this FY includes \$1.78 billion in export and \$911 million in import. Compared with that of last FY, the export earnings dropped by \$518 million while the import value

fell by \$330 million. This time last year saw the border trade value at \$3.55 billion.

Myanmar’s major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials.

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps and conducts border trade with China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung borders. The country carries out border trade with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady,

Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese borders. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau. In contrast, the country trades directly with India via Tamu and Reed borders.

Among all the border crossings, the Muse border sees an enormous volume and value of border trade with an estimated value of more than \$1.31 billion this FY followed by Hteekhee with \$368 million and Myawady with \$304 million. — Zwe ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Siam Commercial Bank opens in Myanmar

SIAM Commercial Bank, the only Thai bank allowed to operate a wholly-owned subsidiary bank in Myanmar, is opening “Siam Commercial Bank Myanmar” in Yangon, according to a press release.

SCB Myanmar will leverage its digital banking expertise and strength to elevate financial products, services, and payment systems in Myanmar to fulfil the business requirements of the ASEAN group.

The move will open up new capabilities and allow SCB Myanmar to meet the needs of every customer group in Myanmar to the fullest extent possible, whether large corporations, SMEs, or retail customers. SCB Myanmar will also capitalize on SCB’s branch network by bridging regional trade and investment relations among the CLMV+2 countries.

Siam Commercial Bank President Sarut Ruttanaporn said “the Bank will support the development of financial infrastructure and payment systems even further by offering solutions critical for Myanmar’s businesses and digital finance, in line with the increasing popularity of Myanmar’s digital banking trend. The Bank is now studying the market so as to create satisfactory financial

experiences for the people of Myanmar. Our tasks will start from the development of digital payment systems, both a corporate portal for businesses and mobile banking for retail customers. Services expected to be available in 2022, which will help support business payments and reduce cash usage and management costs in the country.”

SCB was granted a banking licence to operate Siam Commercial Bank Myanmar by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

“This development is an important jigsaw piece in SCB, accomplishing the strategic expansion of its overseas network in the CLMV+2 countries over the past several years. With its increasing importance as a regionally strategic country, Myanmar has become one of the top destinations attracting investors from around the world. The country’s strategic location links Asia’s two regional powers, China and India,” he said.

According to a World Bank forecast, Myanmar’s GDP will resume its former 6 per cent level in 2021, up from the 1.5 per cent level predicted for 2020 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. — GNLM ■



Filed Photo: Vehicles seen at Myawaddy border trade zone. PHOTO-SUPPLIED

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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.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Mya Sein Yaung project loan disbursed in Minyat village, Kyaukpyu

Rural Development Department pays out Mya Sein Yaung project loans for locals in Minyat Village-tract in Kyaukpyu Township in third week of January 2021. **PHOTO: TIN TUN OO (IPRD)**

DEPARTMENT of Rural Development disbursed the fifth year loan of the Mya Sein Yaung project on the morning of the third week of January in Minyat village tract in Kyautpyu Township, Rakhine State in accordance with the COVID-19 protection guideline.

The officials of the Township Rural Department went to the houses of borrowers and systematically provided a total of K35 million, the fifth year loan of the Minyat village Mya Sein Yaung Project, to 39 farmers, 35 livestock farmers, 20 fishers, 12 traders, 3

professionals and 1 manufacturer. The Minyat village Mya Sein Yaung project was implemented in 2016-2017FY and a total of 669 people from 130 households in those villages have already benefited from the project.

There are 30 Mya Sein Yaung project villages in Kyaukpyu Township, and a total of 16,309 people from 3,806 households are already benefiting from the project, according to the township Rural Development Department.—Tin Tun Oo (IPRD) *(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)*

## YUDE to open 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of two fully online certificate courses

THE Yangon University of Distance Education will open the second batch of two online certificate courses from its Chemistry Department and led by the Human Resource Development Department in February, 2021.

The YUDE has invited applications for the two courses: Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Water and Sanitation for Occupational Purpose (WSOP). Instructions are available in Myanmar and English languages online via a web-based teaching system. Both courses will be 3-months long.

"These courses are the second batch, and there is no age limit for the students,"

said Dr Thazin Lwin, Head of the Chemistry Department of YUDE, "the courses with online assignments and feedback system are open to students who have taken the matriculation exams, graduated civil servants, and the company or civil society organization members who can take them from any region or workplace they are located."

The two courses are scheduled to launch on 18 February, and each course will accept 120 students.

Registering for the courses are available at [www.udechem.edu.mm](http://www.udechem.edu.mm) starting from 7 January.

Students will receive their

username and password after successful payments and the courses will begin on 18 February.

Classes will be held 3 hours per week, and certificates of completion can be sent online or by mail.

Course graduates will be able to work in any manufacturing industry systematically and safely and have higher chances of being employed by factories and workshops.

GMP Course is divided into three modules: Introduction to Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Manufacturing Practice

in Food Production.

The Water and Sanitation for Occupational Purpose (WSOP) course aims to impart appropriate skills to maintain water resources, build the resilient human resource, and conserve the natural environment.

WSOP course is divided into three modules, namely Water on the Earth, Sanitation and WASH Programme and WASH Management for Occupational Purpose.

In addition to providing skills related to water resource research and environmental conservation, the courses will also increase employment opportunities.—GNLM

## G Bank opens new branch in Tachilek

G bank opened its 13th branch in Tachilek, eastern Shan State on 21 January 2021 to facilitate more convenience to the local banking services.

To commemorate the opening of the new branch, G Bank exclusively offers special interest rate 8.5% of 1-year fixed deposit from the day of opening day to the end of February 2021 at the newly-opened branch.

The bank has a secure interbank remittance service to any townships and districts in Myanmar via CBM net with the other banks. This service

is a useful function for all the bank users and is also a moving act in local economic sector by Central Bank of Myanmar.

G Bank headquartered on Pyay Road, Yangon opened its first branch in Monywa, Sagaing Region, in September 2018 and based its mission on developing the agricultural sector, which can be regarded as the lifeblood of the nation.

G Bank also has its branches in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, and Shan and Kayin states and planned to open branches in other cities in the near future.—GNLM

G Bank opens its new branch in Tachilek, eastern Shan State on 21 January 2021. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

### COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

## AFFM to open agricultural research and training centre in Hlegu



Farmers plant paddy seedlings with the use of modern transplanting machine at the AFFM's research and training centre in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

AGRICULTURE and Farmer Federation of Myanmar-AFFM will open a research and training centre aiming to promote modern farming technology development in the agricultural sector.

Upon completion, the training centre will carry out various activities such as training to produce youth agriculturalists

and trainers for regions and states, training for women to promote their livelihoods through agriculture and agricultural research and awareness in cooperation governmental agricultural institutions and non-governmental agricultural organizations, said U Than Swe, President of AFFM.

The training centre is un-

der construction on the plot donated by a local family in Hlegu, Yangon Region.

To promote the good agricultural practice-GAP, AFFM is planting summer paddy, vegetables, groundnuts and beans and pulses at the centre in cooperation with the Agricultural Department of the government.—Zaw Gyi

## Potters from Ayeyawady River bank begin making traditional earthen pots

POTTERS working along the Ayeyawady River bank started their business of making traditional earthen pots as the spring is approaching. The pots can be distributed in time, according to pot distributor Ko Zaw Win Tun from Myingyan.

Most of the traditional earthen pots were made in Yantabo Village in Myingyan and Kyaukmyaung Village in Shwebo.

About 10 kinds of pots were mainly sent to Mandalay for sale via Ayeyawady River and also transported to Khandi, Mawleik, Homalin and NyaungU townships.

The wholesale prices of each pots range from K500 to K1,000 depending on the sorts of the pots.

“Potters of Ayeyawady River bank began making pots. We ordered pots from them and distributed them to the markets. Pots made in Yantabo Village are the best. The whole villagers are skilful of making pots. Therefore, they can produce quality pots”, the pot distribute said.

There are over 100 households in Yantabo Village. Pottery is their traditional family business.—Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-Printing House) (*Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun*)



**PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

### PANDEMIC: TOP STORIES

#### TREACHEROUS JOURNEY

## US, Mexico, Guatemala bar migrant caravans, citing Covid

THE United States, Mexico and Guatemala agreed Friday to bar migrant caravans from passing through their territories due to the Covid pandemic, days after one from Honduras was violently broken up in Guatemala.

US Ambassador to Guatemala William Popp stressed that any migrants who cross the US border in an irregular manner will be returned home immediately, citing national health security. His comments came after a meeting with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Pedro Brolo and Mexican Ambassador to Guatemala Romeo Ruiz. “Any attempt to create massive flows of people will not be tolerated and will be countered,” Brolo said. Added Ruiz: “Please don’t leave your homes, don’t put your families in danger, don’t put your children at risk.” The deal came



Security forces block a caravan of US-bound Honduran migrants in Vado Hondo, Guatemala, on January 18, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

after Guatemalan authorities on Monday broke up the latest caravan of Honduran migrants, who set out hoping for a more welcoming US policy on immigration following President Joe Biden’s arrival in office. Some 4,000 migrants had massed in the Guatemalan town of Vada

Hondo on the first leg of their journey of thousands of kilometres through Central America on foot. The migrants did not have required travel documents or proof of negative Covid tests, so President Alejandro Giamattei ordered his troops to halt the caravan’s advance. —AFP

#### “VACCINE TOURISM”

## Florida to require proof of residence for Covid vaccines

FLORIDA will require proof of residence for those getting a Covid shot in a push to thwart so-called “vaccine tourism,” a move experts say could also leave thousands of undocumented immigrants, homeless and low-income people in the lurch.

The decision came after residents of other states and even people from abroad were reportedly arriving in Florida -- which currently vaccinates anyone over age 65 -- with an aim of gaining easier access to immunization.

While the state has administered more than 1.3 million doses, the process has been slow and chaotic.

In a public advisory issued Thursday, Florida’s Surgeon General Scott Rivkees indicated that applicants must show

proof of residence -- such as driver’s licence, utility bill or letter from a bank -- in order to be immunized. Apart from “snowbirds,” people from northern climes such as New England and Canada who head to the southern state for the winter, Florida is home to a substantial population of immigrants -- with one in five residents born abroad.

A study from August by the American Immigration Council showed that around 775,000 undocumented migrants live in Florida, representing about 18 percent of the immigrant population.

Unable to obtain a Florida driver’s license, many register for public services under a third party’s name.

SOURCE: AFP

# Vaccines are arriving

ONE-AND-HALF million phials of COVID vaccines arrived at Yangon International Airport the other day. These are Indian home-made “Covishield” vaccines, the local name for the Oxford Uni-AstraZeneca vaccine developed in the UK. India began shipping them to its neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Seychelles, and Myanmar in what is being widely described as “vaccine diplomacy”. Still, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius are waiting for their respective regulatory clearances.

Covishield is an easy-to-be-stored kind of vaccines which can be stored at temperatures of 2C to 8C, almost the same as a domestic refrigerator. However, the currently world-known Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna must be stored at -70C and -20C respectively. The job of Covishield has to be administered in two doses within a 28-day interval for its nearly 90-per-cent effectiveness.

Upon the arrival of the vaccines, the Union Government is also initiating its national vaccination plan. Priority group first goes to the frontline medical professionals, health personnel, including volunteers in the fight against the COVID.

Upon the arrival of the vaccines, the Union Government is also initiating its national vaccination plan. Priority group first goes to the frontline medical professionals, health personnel, including volunteers in the fight against the COVID. The second dose will follow up after 28 days of the first one. Thus, the prioritized groups should not live carelessly but need to be constantly vigilant by adhering to the Ministry of Health and Sports' health protocols.

Here, we wish to quote the State Counsellor. She said: “It will be a waste of resources if the disease infects the vaccinated persons with the first dose as they failed to abide by the preventative rules and regulations. Then, the first vaccination would be in vain. They would also miss the full potency of vaccination if they could not control themselves for 28 days.”

So, let's get back to basics: wearing masks, washing hands frequently, avoiding crowds and gatherings, and distancing socially.



# Brief Glimpses of Memoirs of UN Secretaries-General

By Dr Myint Zan

THE nineteenth of January 2021 (using the historic present tense) is the 101st birthday of the fifth Secretary-General of the United Nations the late Javier Perez de Cuellar (19 January 1920-4 March 2020) and 22 January 2021 is the 112th birthday of the third Secretary-General of the United Nations, the late U Thant (22 January 1909-25 November 1974). On the occasion of the birthdays of two distinguished late Secretaries-General of the United Nations, this writer would like to provide brief glimpses of the memoirs of six former Secretaries-General that he has read.

### In the Cause of Peace (the 1st UNSG's memoirs)

The first Secretary-General of the United Nations was Trygve Lie (16 July 1896-30 December 1968) of Norway. Trygve Lie (pronounced 'Lee') served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 2 February 1946 to 10 November 1952. The first UN Secretary-General (UNSG) became the first and so far the only UNSG to resign from office.

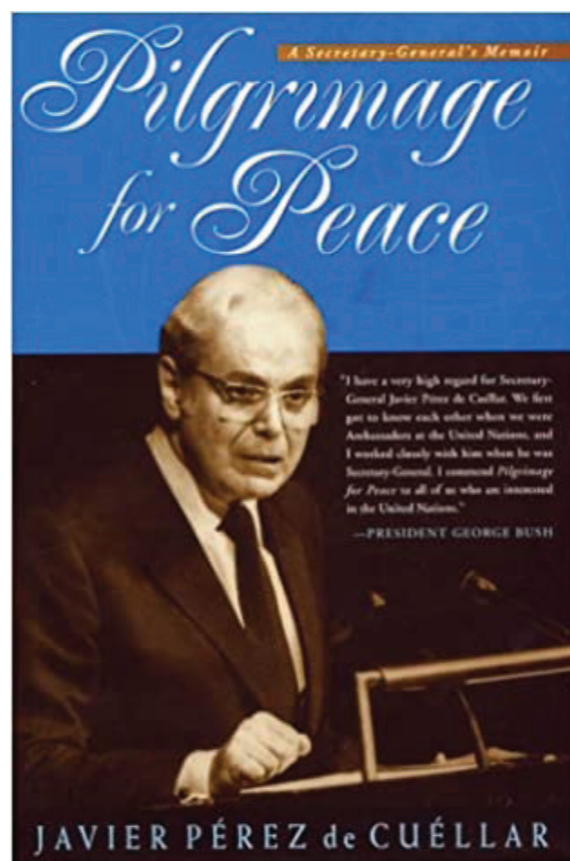
A little over a year after his resignation in 1954 Trygve Lie published his memoirs *In the Cause of Peace: Seven years with the United Nations*. In the book, the first UNSG recounted how he became Secretary-General, his re-election as Secretary-General for a second term in November 1950 and how the delegates from the then Soviet Union boycotted him by not attending Security Council meetings which he presided in most of the year 1950. The continuation of the sustained attacks against Lie by the Soviets, among others, led to Lie's resignation in November 1952.

Borrowed and read *In the Cause of Peace* from Monash University library in Melbourne, Australia, while I was studying for my post-graduate degree in law in mid-1979. In mid-2005 I bought a copy of the book online. In Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia I read it for the second time in its entirety.

The second UN Secretary-General was Dag Hammarskjöld (29 July 1905-18 September 1961). Hammarskjöld was the only UNSG to die in office and in tragic circumstances too when the plane carrying him for negotiations in the Katanga-Congo conflict crashed in Ndola in (what is now) Zambia. Since he died in office unlike all other Secretaries-General who resigned (Lie) and others who retired after their terms Dag Hammarskjöld never had the chance to write the memoirs of his UN years.

The book *Markings* was selections from his diary between 1925 to August 1961 and was not a memoir as such. Still, when I visited the United Nations headquarters in New York in December 1981 at the book shop, I did not find copies of the memoirs of the late former UNSGs Trygve Lie and U Thant but copies of *Markings* were available for sale.

**View from the UN (the 3rd UNSG's memoirs)**  
Dag Hammarskjöld was the only person in



Nobel prize history who was posthumously awarded a Nobel peace prize. One of the nominators for Hammarskjöld's Nobel peace prize was U Thant of Burma who on 3 November 1961 became the third (initially 'Acting') United Nations Secretary-General. On 23 January 1971 11 months before U Thant's second term as UNSG was scheduled to end U Thant categorically stated that 'under no circumstances whatsoever would he served a third term'.

In a news conference in September 1971 U Thant also categorically refused to serve even for an extension of a few months if the UN were not able to find his successor by the end of December 1971. As it was, on 21 December 1971, ten days before U Thant's tenure was scheduled to end the UN Security Council (UNSC) recommended Kurt Waldheim (21 December 1918-14 June 2007) to be the fourth Secretary-General.

In his posthumously published memoir *View from the UN* (1978) (which I read the same year at the US Embassy library in Rangoon since the book could not be borrowed) U Thant wrote that as soon as he knew that a successor was named he telephoned his family to inform them of his 'liberation'. Indeed in his farewell address to the United Nations (according to the editorial of the *New York Times* of 29 December 1971 'The Liberation of U Thant') U Thant stated that he 'felt a sense of great relief bordering on liberation on laying down the burdens of office'.

*View from the UN* was translated into Burmese with the title ကုလသမဂ္ဂတော်မှ အမြင်. (It could be profitably shortened to ကုလသမဂ္ဂမှ အမြင် without the word တော်. U Thant's memoirs cover, among others, how he was elected UNSG, his successful efforts in bringing back the United States and the Soviet

Union from the 'brink' (of possible nuclear war) during the Cuban missile crisis, his efforts to end the Vietnam war from the mid-1960s to early 1970s, the invasion by the United States of the Dominican Republic in April 1965 and of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union in August 1968.

The second last Chapter of U Thant's memoirs concludes with this sentence (which I recall from memory) that at the last session of the UN General Assembly which he attended as Secretary-General QUOTE I closed my eyes and meditated. I prayed for the success of Mr Waldheim and the United Nations UNQUOTE.

### In the Eye of the Storm the 4th UNSG's memoirs

Dr Kurt Waldheim of Austria became the fourth UNSG on 1 January 1982, and he was UNSG till 31 December 1981. (Subject to correction with evidence, to the extent that this writer is aware, Waldheim and the 6th UNSG Boutros Boutros-Ghali, were the only two UNSGs who obtained earned doctorates from a recognized University by submitting theses which Waldheim did at the University of Vienna in 1944 and Boutros-Ghali obtained his doctorate from the University of Paris in 1949).

In striking, indeed embarrassing contrast to U Thant Waldheim, in 1981, 'unashamedly campaigned' for 3rd term as UNSG. Only the veto by the People's Republic of China 16 times prevented this former Nazi (albeit arguably in minor posts) from being embarrassingly elected to be UNSG for a third term.

Waldheim's *In the Eye of the Storm: A Memoir* (1986) (which I read in Melbourne, Australia around 1996) of course did not mention his Nazi past which only surfaced around 1987 during the time (post-UN 'forced retirement') he was the President of Austria. Waldheim eventually was barred from entering the United States. Somewhat immodestly or at least theatrically Waldheim wrote that he was after all 'a spokesman for humanity'. Dr Waldheim (as well as, one should add) Dr Boutros-Ghali deemed it fit to mention in their memoirs that they received 'standing ovations from the UNGA' on the occasion of their forced retirements.

As far as I can recall, in their memoirs, none of the other UNSGs deemed it necessary to mention about the standing ovations they had received on the occasions of their retirements.

### Pilgrimage for Peace: The 5th UNSG's Memoirs

When the late Perez de Cuellar of Peru was elected as 5th UNSG in December 1981 he, like three of his illustrious predecessors, (bar one) Lie, Hammarskjöld, U Thant did not seek far less campaign for the UNSG post. Perez like U Thant also refused to serve a third term as UNSG. (I recall reading in *Time* magazine when Perez was elected as UNSG that commentators favourably compared him to the 'self-effacing U Thant'). Perez de Cuellar's *Pilgrimage for Peace: A*

*Secretary-General's Memoir* was published in 1997. I read it in Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia in 2005. As a non-assuming person, Perez modestly wrote that as English was not quite even his second language, his expressions may not always be 'felicitous' (not Perez's exact statement but my paraphrase). 'Mischievously' I have written 'it shows' in the margins. (I think Perez wrote to the effect that English was his third language after Spanish and French: all three are official languages of the UN).

Perez's memoirs cover among others the Falklands war between Britain and Argentina which occurred in June 1982 within months after he became Secretary-General. It also deals with the 1991 Gulf War, and though I do not recall him writing in his memoirs I clearly recall hearing on radio Perez stating after the 1991 Gulf War broke out that it was 'not a United Nations war'.

### Unvanquished: A US-UN Saga the 6th UNSG's Memoirs

Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali (14 November 1922-16 February 2016) of Egypt became the sixth UNSG on 1 January 1992 after Perez (like U Thant) refused to serve a 3rd term. Just as Trygve Lie the first UNSG was the first and only one to resign and Dag Hammarskjöld was the only UNSG to die in office, Boutros-Ghali was the only UNSG not to be elected to a second term. I read his memoirs *Unvanquished: A US-UN Saga* (1999) in Melbourne, Australia in 2000.

Of all the UN Secretaries-General memoirs (six of them) which I have read in their entirety, Boutros-Ghali can be said to be the most 'bitter'. At the end of his second term in late 1996, Boutros-Ghali received the support of 14 out of 15 members of the United Nations Security Council for a second term, but the veto from the United States (under the Clinton administration) made him the only UNSG, so far, to be denied a second term.

The 'beneficiary' of the then US administration's 'cussedness' or at least persistency was the late Kofi Annan (8 April 1938-18 August 2018) who became the 7th UNSG. Annan was also the only living UNSG to be awarded the Nobel peace prize in 2001.

Boutros-Ghali's bitterness was directed to the then United States administration and specifically then US Ambassador to the United Nations Madeline Albright (born 15 May 1937). Albright's was eventually successful in her efforts (or almost 'machinations') in the UN Security Council to deny him a second term – a particular aspect of the 'US-UN saga' which Boutros-Ghali discussed in a few dozen pages.

Other aspects of the US-UN saga deals with the Somalia crisis (or is it US-UN imbroglio?) of 1993 and the Yugoslav crisis which Boutros-Ghali tried to solve only with limited success.

I wrote a review of *Unvanquished* in 2000 (27 *Journal of Malaysian and Comparative Law*, page 313.

SEE PAGE-10



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 23 January, 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is generally fair over the North and East central Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24 January, 2021:** Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Generally fair in the whole country.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 January, 2021:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 January, 2021:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 January, 2021:** Generally fair weather.

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- သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းဝန်ထမ်း စာတော်အစုအဝေး အမှတ် ၁၇၃ - ပန်ဆီတိုက်လမ်း (အလယ်ဘလောက်) ကော့ကဲတံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၂၇၈ ၀၁၁ ၀၀ ၂၇၈ ၀၀၂
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WHO EXPERT TEAM

# Too early to draw Covid origin conclusions: WHO



A panel of World Health Organization scientists arrives in Wuhan City, China. January 14, 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE World Health Organization said Friday it was too early to draw any conclusions from its mission to Wuhan as to whether the Covid-19 pandemic started in China.

A team of WHO experts ar-

rived in Wuhan on January 14 to start probing the origins of the deadly coronavirus, more than a year after the first cases were detected in the central Chinese city. They were whisked to a hotel to complete a two-week

quarantine.

China is braced for the scrutiny the expert team of WHO scientists will bring to its virus narrative. Beijing has drip-fed the idea that the pandemic started outside of its borders.

“All hypotheses are on the table. And it is definitely too early to come to a conclusion of exactly where this virus started, either within or without China,” said WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan.

“There are different... scientific observations in different parts of the world... all of that is very important, because it builds up a picture,” he told a press conference in Geneva.

However, he added: “This is a big jigsaw puzzle and you cannot tell what the image says by looking at one piece in a 10,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.”

“It is too early to come to any conclusion, but we believe we are making some progress and we hope to continue to do so in the interest of public health in the future.”

SOURCE: AFP

VOTING AMID PANDEMIC

# Portugal heads to the polls

PORTUGUESE voters, who are confined to their homes during a strict Covid-19 lockdown, will pick their next president on Sunday. But there are fears that the rush to the polls could worsen the pandemic situation in the country.

There have been calls to postpone the election, and according to a poll by a research institute two-thirds of voters think that decision should have been taken. But delaying the ballot would have required a change in the country’s constitution, something officials said was difficult at such short notice.

SOURCE: AFP

MAGIC POTION, ANYONE?

# Sri Lankan health minister tests positive for Covid-19 after endorsing sorcery



Sri Lanka's Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi. PHOTO: FACEBOOK/AFP

SRI LANKA'S health minister, who publicly endorsed sorcery and magic potions to stop surging coronavirus infections in the island, has tested positive and will self-isolate, officials said Saturday. Pavithra Wanniarachchi had publicly consumed and endorsed a magic potion, later revealed to contain honey and nutmeg, manufactured by a sorcerer who claimed it worked as a life-long inoculation against the virus.

She also poured a pot of “bless-

ed” water into a river in November after a self-styled god-man told her that it would end the pandemic. The island nation of 21 million on Friday approved the emergency use of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University only hours after Wanniarachchi tested positive, officials said. “Her antigen test returned positive on Friday and she has been asked to isolate herself,” a health ministry official said. “All her immediate contacts have been quar-

antined.” A junior minister who had also taken the potion made popular by Wanniarachchi tested positive for the virus earlier this week. Doctors in the island nation have said there is no scientific basis for the syrup, and there is no known cure for Covid-19. But thousands defied public gathering restrictions to swamp a village in central Sri Lanka last month to obtain the elixir, made by carpenter Dhammika Bandara.

SOURCE: AFP

**The Liberation of U Thant**

In a farewell to the United Nations General Assembly the other day, Secretary General Thant said: “I feel a sense of great relief, bordering on liberation . . . on laying down the burden of office.”

For ten years this quiet Burmese schoolmaster has served with exceptional diligence and devotion in a most demanding assignment. His commitment to the U.N. Charter, his perception of the problems of an interdependent world and his eloquence in articulating the cause of international cooperation are beyond dispute. He has been the tireless conscience of a troubled planet through a decade of unprecedented turmoil and change.

It is no fault of his that he leaves the world organization in worse shape than he found it, close to bankruptcy—fiscal, political and moral. For years Mr. Thant has cajoled and exhorted member states to reconcile the differences that have driven the world organization to the brink of impotence. He has warned of the madness of a persisting arms race and of the explosive dangers lying in the deepening economic gap between the rich and poor nations. He has interceded, publicly and privately, on behalf of peaceful settlements in Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere.

But his has been a voice crying in a wilderness of jungle diplomacy. If U Thant has not been an “activist” Secretary General, as is widely alleged, it is not for want of trying. His critics forget that while the Secretary General is entrusted with broad responsibilities, he has virtually no power. His effectiveness depends on the cooperation of member states, particularly the big powers. That cooperation has rarely been forthcoming.

In the poisoned international atmosphere of the sixties, it is remarkable that the world organization—indeed, the world—survived at all. Mr. Thant kept alive at least the hope of international cooperation for peace and started to lay the foundations for a closer world community based on mutual interests and economic development, the exploration of space and seas, and the preservation of the global environment. The wise counsel of this dedicated man of peace will still be needed after his retirement.

**The New York Times**  
Published: December 29, 1971  
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## Brief Glimpses of Memoirs of UN Secretaries-General

FROM PAGE-9

### Interventions: A Life in War and Peace, the 7th UNSG's Memoirs

Kofi Annan (of Ghana) was the seventh UNSG. Kofi Annan and Nader Mousavizadeh’s *Interventions: A Life in War and Peace* was first published in 2012, and I read it in 2013 in Malacca and Yangon.

It covers not only the Annan’s ‘interventions’ as UNSG but his post-UNSG efforts. Annan published another book *We the Peoples: A UN for the 21st century* in 2014 but to me with one exception (see below) a single memoir of a former UNSG is (quite) sufficient.

### Scheduled Publication of Resolved: United Nations in a Divided World,

### the 8th UNSG's Memoirs

Ban Ki-moon (of South Korea) (born 13 June 1944) retired as eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 January 2017 after serving like (four of his predecessors) 10 years as UNSG. According to amazon.com website Ban Ki-moon’s memoirs *Resolved: United Nations in a Divided World* is scheduled to be published on ‘15 June, 2021’.

### Request/Query Regarding U Thant's Unpublished Manuscripts

But back to our very own U Thant. Although I do not have a copy of *View from the UN* with me, currently I do recall reading in a preface written by the late Dr Tin Myint-U (son-in-law of U Thant and father of historian and author Dr Thant Myint-U) that U Thant’s un-

edited manuscript has been deposited with the archives of the United Nations and that U Thant’s last days (before he passed away on 25 November 1974) ‘were filled with great emotion as he had begun but was unable to complete a manuscript entitled *Ethics for Our Time*’.

If possible the writer submits that U Thant’s ‘un-shortened’ *View from the UN* manuscript (I recall reading in Burmese that U Thant had to hire an editorial assistant to ‘cut’ his manuscript to around 100,000 words) and *Ethics for Our Time* (if that is some what more than several dozen pages) should be published. If they had been published the writer would appreciate being informed of the source or if they are on line ‘the link’ where they can be read.

AFGHAN PEACE DEAL

## Afghan officials welcome Biden plan to review US-Taliban deal

TOP Afghan officials on Saturday welcomed the Biden administration's decision to review a landmark US deal with the Taliban and focus on whether the insurgents have reduced attacks in Afghanistan in keeping with the agreement. Washington struck a deal with the Taliban in Qatar last year, to begin withdrawing its troops in return for security guarantees from the militants and a commitment to kickstart peace talks with the Afghan government.

But Biden administration officials are to re-evaluate the pact as violence across Afghanistan has surged despite the Taliban and Afghan government

engaging in those talks since September in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Afghanistan's acting minister of state for peace said the outcome of the review should be a truce to end attacks in the war-ravaged country. It is expected the review will lead "to the demand of the Afghan people, which is an immediate stop to violence and achieving permanent peace", Abdullah Khenjani said in a video statement Saturday.

President Joe Biden's newly appointed national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, spoke with his Afghan counterpart Hamdullah Mohib and "made clear



Washington struck a deal with the Taliban in Qatar last year, to begin withdrawing its troops in return for security guarantees from the militants and a commitment to kickstart peace talks with the Afghan government. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

the United States' intention to review" the deal, said National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne late Friday.

Washington wants to check that the Taliban is "living up to its commitments to cut ties with

terrorist groups, to reduce violence in Afghanistan, and to engage in meaningful negotiations with the Afghan government and other stakeholders," her statement continued. It added that Sullivan "underscored that the

US will support the peace process with a robust and regional diplomatic effort, which will aim to help the two sides achieve a durable and just political settlement and permanent ceasefire."

SOURCE: AFP

UNPRECEDENTED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

## Brazil indigenous leaders sue Bolsonaro for 'crimes against humanity'

TWO top Brazilian indigenous leaders have asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate President Jair Bolsonaro for "crimes against humanity", accusing him of unprecedented environmental damage, killings and persecution.

Chief Raoni Metuktire, the leader of the Kayapo people, and Chief Almir Narayamoga Surui, leader of the Paiter Surui tribe, filed the claim at The Hague-based body on Friday.

Since Bolsonaro became president in January 2019, "the destruction of the Amazonian forest has accelerated without measure," said the complaint to

the ICC, reported by France's Le Monde newspaper on Saturday.

It said deforestation had rocketed "by 34.5 per cent in a year, the assassination of indigenous leaders is at an 11-year high and environmental agencies have collapsed or faced threats."

The two leaders said killings, the forced transfers of local peoples and persecution constituted "crimes against humanity."

Bolsonaro's government has proposed legislation that would relax restrictions within Amazon regions on commercial mining, oil and gas extraction, and large-scale agriculture. Activists are pushing for ecocide to be



Brazilian Chief Raoni Metuktire says "the destruction of the Amazonian forest has accelerated without measure" under Bolsonaro. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

added to the crimes prosecuted by the ICC, alongside genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The issue was raised by the Maldives and Vanuatu at the ICC general assembly in December 2019. "This situation, the most

dramatic in the last 10 years, is a direct result of the policies of Jair Bolsonaro", who wants to "lift all the barriers to plunder the wealth of the Amazon," the suit said, also singling out mining firms.

SOURCE: AFP

HISTORIC SECOND TIME

## Trump impeachment trial to begin week of February 8: Schumer

DONALD TRUMP'S US Senate trial will begin in the second week of February, days after a fresh impeachment case against the former president is transmitted by the House, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Friday.

The newly announced schedule reflects a deal struck by Senate leaders to delay the substantive portion of the trial for two weeks so that the chamber may conduct other critical business including confirmation of President Joe Biden's cabinet nominees.

The House of Representatives impeached Trump for a historic second time on January 13, just one week before he left office.

Schumer said the article of impeachment will be delivered and read out to the Senate on Monday at 7:00 pm (0000 GMT Tuesday). The chamber's 100 members will be sworn in as trial jurors the next day.

The House members assigned by Speaker Nancy Pelosi as impeachment managers, and members of Trump's yet-to-be-named defense team, will then be given time to draft their legal briefs.

SOURCE: AFP

CEASEFIRE DEAL

## Foreign forces ignore Libya exit deadline under fragile truce



A UN-brokered ceasefire agreement signed by Libya's warring sides on October 23 set a Saturday deadline for all foreign troops and mercenaries to leave but the United Nations estimates some 20,000 remain. **PHOTO: UNITED NATIONS/AFP**

FOREIGN forces ignored a deadline to pull out of Libya as scheduled Saturday under a UN-backed ceasefire deal, highlighting the fragility of peace efforts after a decade of conflict.

Satellite images broadcast by CNN show a trench running tens of kilometres (miles) dug by "Russian mercenaries" near the frontline coastal city of Sirte, as main foreign protagonists Ankara and Moscow appear intent on defending their interests under any final settlement. An unidentified US intelligence official, quoted by the American news network,

said there was "no intent or movement by either Turkish or Russian forces to abide by the UN-brokered agreement". "This has the potential to derail an already fragile peace process and ceasefire. It will be a really difficult year ahead," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged all "regional and international actors to respect the provisions" of the October 23 ceasefire accord that set out a withdrawal within three months of all foreign troops and mercenaries.

SOURCE: AFP

## PRIOR TO TAKE-OFF

## Warning light halts Boeing 737 MAX flight in Canada

CANADIAN airline Westjet on Friday cancelled a flight just prior to take-off after a warning light went off in the cockpit of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The 737 MAX had only been allowed by Canada to fly in its airspace days earlier, after Boeing addressed technical issues and improved pilot training on the MAX in the aftermath of two fatal crashes that had led to it being grounded worldwide for almost two years.

WestJet Flight 658 from Calgary to Toronto left the gate with passengers on board, but was forced to turn around, a company spokeswoman told AFP in an email.



In this file photo taken on September 30, 2020 a Boeing 737 MAX airliner piloted by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Steve Dickson taxis for a two-hour evaluation flight at Boeing Field in Seattle, Washington. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"After a normal engine start, a standard function of the health monitoring system indicated a potential fault that

needed to be verified and reset," WestJet's Lauren Stewart said.

"This process takes time and requires a subsequent engine run, which we do not perform with guests on board," she said, adding that the flight was cancelled and passengers were rebooked on another flight.

The 737 MAX aircraft was subsequently cleared by maintenance crews and has been scheduled to return to service on Sunday.

"This was to be our third commercial flight (of the 737 MAX) since the skies reopened," WestJet said in a statement.

*SOURCE: AFP*

## CHANGING CONDITIONS

## Turkey's metallurgical industry launches "new generation" export activities



Turkey's metallurgical (ferrous and non-ferrous metals) industry is transforming its export transactions into "new generation export activities" in 2021 to better cope with the changing conditions of the global world. **PHOTO: GEA GROUP AG/XINHUA**

Turkey's metallurgical (ferrous and non-ferrous metals) industry is transforming its export transactions into "new

generation export activities" in 2021 to better cope with the changing conditions of the global world, according to a sector

association.

"After facing with various adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our industry representatives decided to make trading more resistant to external influences," Tahsin Oztiryaki, chairman of the Istanbul Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Metals Exporters Association, told Xinhua on Thursday.

The association is the roof union of nine sub-sectors, including aluminum, copper, kitchenware, industrial kitchen, building materials, metal hardware, molding, welding materials, and metal packaging.

In Oztiryaki's view, digital marketing, virtual trade teams, and virtual fairs and conferences

started to direct the trade activities during the pandemic era.

To be able to operate under the challenging conditions of the pandemic, he said the industry recently created a new project called Trade 365 to carry out export transactions with foreign buyers uninterrupted on an online platform.

"We also successfully established virtual teams to conduct all the trading activities online," Oztiryaki said, noting that in the upcoming period, the sector will focus more on raising fully equipped trade ambassadors to be operational in the international arena by using digital platforms.

*SOURCE: Xinhua*

## THE MOST ACTIVE CORN CONTRACT

## U.S. agricultural futures fall

CHICAGO Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural futures fell across the board sharply on Friday, led by corn.

The most active corn contract for March delivery plunged 23.75 cents, or 4.53 per cent, to settle at 5.005 U.S. dollars per bushel. March wheat lost 26.25 cents, or 3.97 per cent, to settle at 6.345 dollars per bushel. March soybean shed 58.5 cents, or 4.27 per cent, to close at 13.1175 dollars per bushel.

CBOT agricultural futures were sharply lower on massive fund selling. The volume of CBOT trade has been massive with the charts turning lower amid this

week's inability to rally. This is the first week in six that CBOT corn/soybeans futures did not close higher; Chicago-based research company AgResource noted. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that the United States sold 136,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans for the 2020-2021 crop year. On the week, it sold just over 430,000 metric tons of old crop soybeans.

USDA reported that for the week ending Jan. 14, the United States sold 12.1 million bushels of wheat, 56.6 million bushels of corn and 66.8 million bushels of soybeans. For respective crop years to date, the United States



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that the United States sold 136,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans for the 2020-2021 crop year. **PHOTO: CREATOR MJR/XINHUA**

has sold 785 million bushels of wheat, up 5 per cent year on year; 1,843 million bushels of corn, up 131 per cent; and 2,108 million bushels of soybeans, up 84 per

cent. The United States has thus far sold 2,115 million bushels of soybeans or 95 per cent of USDA annual forecast.

*SOURCE: Xinhua*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## TikTok operator ByteDance prepares to make Japanese tech investments

ByteDance Ltd., the operator of smash-hit Chinese video-sharing app TikTok, has said it plans to invest in Japanese tech firms as part of efforts to expand into the country.

The Chinese tech giant, which faces headwinds in the United States over concerns that it could pass data it collects to the Chinese government, said it plans to soon send members of its corporate venture capital team to work in its Tokyo office.

TikTok, which lets users upload short videos set to music, is a hit among young people and has seen spectacular growth during the coronavirus pandemic. It has some 800 million users worldwide.

ByteDance opened its Tokyo office in 2017 and last year joined the Japan Business Federation known as Keidanren, the country's most powerful business lobby.

It also became a member of the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association, the industrial body for tech firms, paving the way for it to strengthen ties with Japanese companies.

*SOURCE: Kyodo*

## CITIC Securities reports profit surge in 2020

CITIC Securities, one of China's leading brokerage companies, reported growth in profit and revenue in 2020.

Its net profits surged 21.82 per cent year on year to reach 14.9 billion yuan (about 2.31 billion U.S. dollars) last year, according to a statement the company filed with the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Operating revenue jumped by 25.98 per cent year on year to 54.35 billion yuan last year, the statement showed. At the end of December 2020, the company's total assets topped 1.06 trillion yuan, up 34.48 per cent from a year ago.

*SOURCE: Xinhua*

LOMA BLANCA WIND POWER PROJECTS

Chinese-built wind power projects launch commercial operation in Argentina

THE first and third phases of Chinese-constructed Loma Blanca Wind Power Projects officially launched commercial operation on Friday, injecting energy into the national power grid. The newly run projects built by China Power Construction have been installed with a total capacity of 100 megawatts, consisting of 32 wind turbines. Up to now, four out of the five projects have been officially put into commercial operation. The two Loma

Blanca projects are estimated to generate about 450 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy, meeting the electricity consumption demand of nearly 100 thousand households. The completion of all five projects is expected to provide 1.6 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity for approximately 360,000 households, enabling to cut burning 650 thousand tons of standard coal and to reduce carbon emissions by 1.8 million tons per year.

SOURCE: Xinhua

HELP FOR THE HUNGRY

Biden warns Covid toll could surpass 600,000, urges rescue plan passage



US President Joe Biden's efforts to get Congress to cooperate on his agenda could be complicated by Donald Trump's impeachment trial. PHOTO: AFP

PRESIDENT Joe Biden warned on Friday that the number of coronavirus

deaths in the United States was expected to surpass 600,000 and urged Con-

gress to move fast on his \$1.9 trillion plan to battle Covid-19 and provide economic relief to struggling Americans. While Biden called for urgent passage of his "American Rescue Plan," his efforts to get Congress to cooperate on his fast-paced agenda could be complicated by Donald Trump's looming impeachment trial in the Senate.

Top Democratic lawmakers said Friday that they planned to send the article of impeachment passed by the House of

Representatives to the Senate on Monday, triggering Trump's trial in the body.

"The virus is surging," Biden told reporters at the White House before signing executive orders boosting food aid and speeding up stimulus payments to Americans. "We're at 400,000 dead, expected to reach well over 600,000. Families are going hungry. People are at risk of being evicted. Job losses are mounting again. We need to act now... We need to move fast." SOURCE: AFP

LOCKDOWN AND THE BREXIT FALLOUT

UK economy faces another recession on virus curbs – IHS Markit survey

BRITAIN'S private sector activity shrank in January due to another coronavirus lockdown and the Brexit fallout, survey data showed on Friday, placing the economy on course for a double-dip recession. The composite purchasing managers' index (PMI) sank to an eight-month low at 40.6 points,

compilers IHS Markit and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) said in a statement.

The shift below 50 – indicating contraction – compared with 50.4 in December. "A steep slump in business activity in January puts the locked-down UK economy on course to contract sharply in the first

quarter of 2021, meaning a double-dip recession is on the cards," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

"Services have once again been especially hard hit but manufacturing has seen growth almost stall, blamed on a cocktail of COVID-19 and Brexit, which has led to increasingly widespread supply delays, rising costs and falling exports."

Those delays were sparked after Britain finally departed the European Union's single market and customs union at the start of this year. The economy had already suffered a historic recession in the first half of last year owing to an initial virus lockdown.

SOURCE: AFP



Sondheim Theatre in London's West End. PHOTO: WIKTOR SZYMANOWICZ / NURPHOTO/AFP

Invitation For Open tender No.(1/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (3041.638) Metric Tons, average metal content (Ni- 35.94 %, Fe-62.19 %) (17) Lots of Ferro Nickel by United States Dollar as follow,
  - (a) Ferro Nickel (500) MT ( 2 ) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
  - (b) Ferro Nickel (200) MT ( 5 ) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
  - (c) Ferro Nickel (100) MT (10) Lots, Tagaung Taung, Mine Site
2. Base price of Ferro Nickel shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Nickel average price in the month prior to the month of tender opening and the iron ore price 300 U.S. dollar per metric ton. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021, (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No. (19), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. If you need detailed information, please can be inquired at telephone no. (+95) 67- 3409378, 67- 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee  
Department of Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Invitation For Open tender No.(2/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5008.574) Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,
  - (a) Cathode Copper (108.574) MT (1) Lot, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
  - (b) Cathode Copper (100) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
  - (c) Cathode Copper (200) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
  - (d) Cathode Copper (200) MT (7) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
  - (e) Cathode Copper (500) MT (2) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
  - (f) Cathode Copper (1000) MT (1) Lot, Monywa, Mine Site
2. Base price of Cathode Copper (Eden Warehouse, Yangon) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount shall be winning tender.
3. Base price of Cathode Copper (Mine Site, Monywa) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 23-2-2021 (14:00) PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee  
Department of Mines

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0227-024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0227-024N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-1-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.



# Yangon's **floating night market**

By Swe Oo Wai

TRANSLATED

BY THAN TUN AUNG

**A** LARGE number of markets under the management of the Yangon City Development Committee are opened for enabling dwellers of Yangon City to buy goods and foods for daily consumption. Markets are located in almost all the wards in Yangon City. Likewise, markets of vendors lie along roads accessible to the local people. Markets are essential for usage and consumption of the people on a daily basis. The information comes out to build a floating market in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region, and arrangements are being made to build the market.

Actually, such a floating market is aimed to open at night only, rath-

er than the day time one. It will be the first-ever floating night market which can be called floating nightlife in Yangon Region. Although a plan was set to build a floating market in conjunction with the industrial zone project near Kokkowa river water pumping station in Htantabin Township of Yangon, efforts are being made to implement such market project.

The floating night market will be built on 5,200 feet long and 30 feet wide area between the housing concrete circular road and Ngamoeyeik Creek in Ward 26 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township by building retaining walls. In fact, the site of floating night market takes a position, east of Ngamoeyeik Bridge, between Sanpya Market of Thingangyun Township and south-north road junction.

If one goes about 10 miles upstream of Ngamoeyeik Creek from the mouth of Yangon River, one will reach the project site. The arrangements to build the floating night market aims to attract both local and foreign travellers. As such, the market will not only improve the tourism industry in the post-Covid-19 period but also contribute towards the economy of Yangon Region as well as the State.

“The market will be built with the purpose of ensuring multiple developments of the banks of Ngamoeyeik Creek and improvement of river systems, to benefit not only the development of Dagon Myothit (South) Township but also Yangon City and the country. The project proposal was submitted to the speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw who also forwarded a letter on the market to Yangon Mayor.

Afterwards, field trips were made to observe the project site. We will manage to minimize environmental impacts and prevention of undisciplined littering. Those of forthcoming Yangon Region government will take responsibilities for construction of the market. The region Hluttaw will join hands with the regional government in implementing the project,” said MP U Nyi Nyi of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Constituency-1 of Yangon Region Hluttaw.

The floating night market will be built for beautifying both banks of Ngamoeyeik Creek with a plan to construct shops. It is sure that if plans are implemented to arrange Myanmar traditionally decorated float with dances and the

entertainment vessels of modern music in Ngamoeyeik Creek, such moves will attract not only local visitors but also international tourists.

The market will be a new interesting destination for visitors in Yangon City as new destinations are being created in surrounding areas of Yangon City. As the market is located not far from downtown Yangon with smooth transportation facilities, travellers can pay visits to the site in a short time. Thanks to the floating night market, cruise tour service and cruise vessel service will emerge soon.

About six millions of people are residing in Yangon. More than 170 markets are under the management of the development committee. Dagon Myothit (South) Township is locations of No 1 market, No 2 market, Zone 2 market, Dagon Thiri market, Bahosi market, Ketumati market, agriculture and livestock breeding market No 1 and Minye Kaungpon market.

The eight markets are formed with 3,189 rooms of shops. If the floating night market emerges, new bus lines will come out in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

As the floating night market will be

Ngamoeyeik Creek



development. Waterway relaxation tours are improvement in Myanmar's neighbour Thailand while Singapore earns millions of Singapore dollars per year based on the development of night time waterway relaxation tours.

As such, the floating night market plan can be implemented by improving and beautifying river banks of Yangon City, new tourism services and destinations will emerge in the city. It will be a great significant plan to fulfil the requirements of Yangon City, which is the main entrance of international aviation transportation to have more attractive to international tourists.

Currently, authorities of Yangon City restrict the opening of night street markets because of Covid-19. Later, it is necessary to consider arrangements for the opening of floating night markets as a new form. But, such plan needs financial investment, responsibilities, supervision and maintenance of the government and the private sectors.

Moreover, the authorities need to manage measures to be taken for security and discipline enforcement plans for people bound for the floating night market, travellers, shopkeepers and freight transporters. Actually, necessary arrangements must be considered in all aspects for construction of the floating night market.

Floating markets have been in Innlay Lake of Shan State in Myanmar for many years. In later years, dryness of water and declining of water level in the lake cause impacts on daily trading of the floating market. Lesser number of international and local travellers on their visits to Innlay Lake due to an outbreak of Covid-19 put daily trading of the floating market into struggle line. It was learnt that local people of Inlay area are striving for long term existence of the Innlay floating market.

Although night markets have been arranged along Strand Road in Yangon City, it is necessary to open the floating night market. As Yangonites are expected to taste fruitful results of the floating night market in their region, if the plan of the market is implemented, it can be said that it will be better project to fulfill a need of Yangon, the commercial hub.

built on the bank of Ngamoeyeik Creek, if it has a good jetty, fish, groceries and vegetables can be transported along the creek by motor schooner smoothly.

Goods from greengrocery markets of Yangon as well as products from the Ayeyawady deltaic area can be transported by motor schooner and vessel. If the nightlife comprises restaurants for customers to enjoy night scenes, it will be attractive to the consumers.

Moreover, people can visit the market through Hline River, Bago River, Pazundaung Creek and Ngamoeyeik Creek. So also, the tours which will serve the visitors to enjoy night scenes may emerge in the future. Visitors can view round the floating night market by boat. As Panhlaing River, Bago River, Khanaungto Creek, Twantay Canal, Hmawwun Creek, Htantabin Creek, Kayan Creek, Yangon River, Toe River and Kokkowa River are located in the area of Yangon City, opportunities can be grasped to create new waterway tours.

Although special cruise vessels have been arranged to make relaxation tours along waterways to around Yangon City, it is necessary to have further

## Ngathaingchaung's handicrafts businesses operate for workers' income



**S**OME businesses of making value-added handicrafted products from cane, bamboo and water hyacinth in Ngathaingchaung Town were operating so that workers get regular income during coronavirus, according to the town's Aung Family value-added product business.

"Although the handicrafted product's market is not good during the pandemic, the products are being made for distribution in post-coronavirus. Bamboo hats and bamboo products have been made in Ngathaingchaung Town, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region more than 20 years ago," said U Aung Lwin,



owner of the value-added product business. About 60 value-added products including bamboo kettles, cups, trays, paintings and handbags are being produced from cane,



bamboo and water hyacinth during COVID-19 for workers' income security and distribution of the products with low and fair prices in post-coronavirus, he added.

The alternative of using handicrafted personal care products to plastic products can reduce environmental degradation and health disadvantages. — Soe Min Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



## M2 World Championship: Burmese Ghouls advance to Grand Final with 3-2 win over RRQ

MYANMAR'S Mobile Legends team, Burmese Ghouls cruised to the Grand Final of the M2 Mobile Legends: Bang Bang World Championship 2021 after thrashing Indonesian team RRQ Roshi 3-2 in the Upper Bracket Final which was held yesterday at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

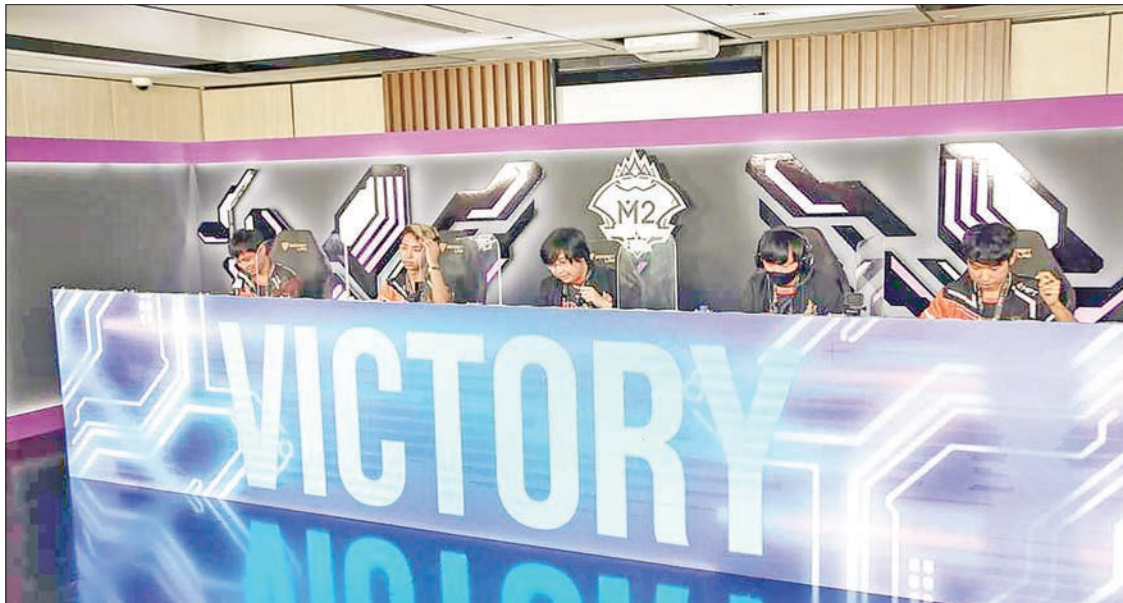
Likewise in previous battles, five critical players: Ace, Dee, Maybe, Kid, and Ruby DD participated in the Burmese Ghouls team.

Burmese Ghouls finished the Game 1 with the heroes' draft of Claude, Diggie, Selena, Balmond and Jawhead.

In the Game 2, the Myanmar team claimed another win with heroes' power of Malthida, Claude, Diggie, Hayabusa and Grock.

But in Game 3 and 4, RRQ managed to bag the come-from-behind wins to have 2-2 draw result.

In the final battle or Game 5, Burmese Ghouls changed their



Myanmar's Burmese Ghouls team seen after their victory of the M2 World Championship Upper Bracket Final. **PHOTO: BURMESE GHOULS FACEBOOK PAGE**

gaming strategy with the heroes' draft of Brody, Natalia, Atlas, Lapu Lapu and Harith.

With brilliant team fight, Burmese Ghouls could destroy the RRQ crown turret in time to reach the Grand Final.

"For the first time in the history of Myanmar Esports, our

Myanmar team has reached the Grand Final of the M2 World Championship. We played hard until Game 5 and finally our team won. Special thanks to each Burmese Ghouls fan for their support. Let's go Myanmar!" said the Burmese Ghouls players on their official page.

The Burmese Ghouls team will face the winner of the Lower Bracket (Alter Ego or Bren Esports Vs RRQ Hoshi) in the Grand Final of the M2 World Championship today (Sunday). The two Grand finalists will play for the Best of 7 match. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## 'Gutted' Andy Murray opts out of Australian Open

LONDON—Former world number one Andy Murray said on Friday he had decided against competing in the Australian Open after failing to find a "workable quarantine" following his recovery from the coronavirus.

Murray has finished his period of self-isolation and had hoped to compete in the first Grand Slam of 2021 in Melbourne.

But the former Wimbledon and US Open champion said he could not find a way of getting to Australia and then quarantining ahead of the tournament's scheduled start on February 8. Murray would have had to head to Australia by Saturday to ensure he could observe the mandatory two-week hotel quarantine period.—AFP ■

## Calvert-Lewin gives Everton a boost

LONDON—England striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin will return to action for Everton in Sunday's FA Cup fourth round tie with Championship side Sheffield Wednesday, said the Premier League club's manager Carlo Ancelotti.

A hamstring injury has sidelined the 23-year-old for Everton's last three matches.

However, his return could not be better timed as Ancelotti's side have three games inside a week coming up.

Calvert-Lewin's 11 goals in the league have been crucial to their impressive showing which sees them just eight points off leaders Manchester United with two games in hand.

Sunday's game will be their first in 12 days as their Premier League match with Aston Villa was called off last Sunday due to their opponents being affected by the coronavirus.—AFP ■



England striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin will return to action for Everton in Sunday's FA Cup fourth round tie with Championship side Sheffield Wednesday, said the Premier League club's manager Carlo Ancelotti. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Neymar on target on 100<sup>th</sup> PSG appearance



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian immodest Neymar reacts during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Girondins de Bordeaux. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS—Neymar made his 100th appearance for Paris Saint-Germain on Friday and marked the occasion with a goal in a 4-0 rout of 10-man Montpellier that took Mauricio Pochettino's side clear at the top of Ligue 1.

Kylian Mbappe scored twice and Mauro Icardi was also on target with PSG leading 1-0 before netting three times in the space of four minutes around the hour mark. The game, played behind closed doors at the Parc des

Princes, was conditioned by the early sending-off of Montpellier goalkeeper Jonas Omlin for a foul on Mbappe, as PSG made the most of their extra man.

It was their fourth straight win since drawing at Saint-Etienne in Pochettino's first match in charge after the Argentine was appointed as coach on January 2.

The former Tottenham Hotspur boss was back on the Paris bench having spent a week

self-isolating following a positive Covid-19 test that forced him to miss his new team's 1-0 win at Angers last weekend. "I feel good. I am happy to be back," he said.

PSG are now three points clear of second-placed Lille, who go to in-form Rennes on Sunday. Lyon in third are five points behind the leaders before visiting derby rivals Saint-Etienne, who will be without seven players because of a coronavirus outbreak.—AFP ■