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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# State Counsellor discusses COVID-19 situation with representatives from labour and industry

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with stakeholders from labour and industry sector. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, held a video conference with representatives of the industrial sector and labour affairs from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

After words of greeting from the State Counsellor, General Secretary of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers' Association Daw Khine Khine Nwe discussed about affairs of employers and employees during the COVID-19 crisis, skill promotion of workers, the need for enforcement of rules on COVID-19 measures and the need to take legal actions.

U Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai (a) U Maung Maung, Chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar, discussed about health awareness campaigns for COVID-19, difficulties and socio-economic problems during the pandemic, and the need to provide support and assistance for workers who are suffering from job loss, temporary closures, and permanent shut downs.

U Myo Aung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, talked about the tripartite discussions among employers, employees and the government to solve problems; measures undertaken to ensure that the directions and instructions issued by the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment and the Ministry of Health and Sports are being followed by the factories,

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## Two more COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, total cases reach 123

**Update on COVID-19 surveillance**
**8:00 pm, 22-4-2020**

1. The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) released the result of the first batch of lab specimens on 22-4-2020 which shows that 2 out of 180 lab specimens tested positive for COVID-19 while 178 tested negative.
2. There have been 123 COVID-19 positive cases in Myanmar as of 8:00 pm, 22-4-2020.
3. Out of the positive cases in Myanmar, 9 of them no longer have the virus and have been discharged from the hospitals, but are still monitored in quarantine. There have been 5 deaths of those tested positive. The remaining 109 people are still receiving medical treatment at the hospitals mentioned in the chart below.

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# Two more COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, total cases reach 123

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There are currently 2 patients in Waibargi Specialist Hospital and 1 patient in South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital under intensive care quarantine. The other 106 persons are in stable health condition.

4. The 2 new patients tested positive for COVID-19 will be transferred to appropriate hospitals.
5. There have been 121 new patients under surveillance between 12 pm on 21-4-2020 to 12 pm on 22-4-2020.

| Case no. | Age | Gender | Latest residence | Contact with COVID-19 positive cases | Travel history abroad | Current hospital | COVID-19 lab result | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 122. | 28 | Male | Thaketa Township, Yangon Region | Yes (Case-084) | No | South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital | Positive | Under facility quarantine |
| 123. | 18 | Female | Insein Township, Yangon Region | Yes (Case-108) | No | | Positive | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Total lab specimens tested in first batch of 22-4-2020 | 180 |
| Total positive cases of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) in first batch | 2 |
| Total negative cases of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) in first batch | 178 |

*Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

# China donates 20 ventilators to Myanmar

Donors from China hold the vinyl displaying the good friendship of Myanmar and China. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

CHINA donated ventilators to aid the containment and treatment of COVID-19 in a ceremony at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The donation is organized by the Embassy of China in Myanmar and the special flight transporting the ventilators from China landed in Yangon International Airport at 10 am yesterday and was received by officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Tatmadaw medical group and Chinese Embassy.

"China is donating 20 ventilators for use in containing and treating COVID-19," said Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai. "They are important for treating the virus and this is the first donation made. There will be other donations in the future and China will cooperate with Myanmar to contain COVID-19. This sort of cooperation strengthens bilateral friendship."

The value of the 20 ventilators is USD 400,000 and the next batch of 15 ventilators will be arriving in the near future, said the Chinese Ambassador. Similarly, a team of medical professionals from Yunnan Province arrived in Myanmar on 8 April together with medical supplies. The medical team had completed their assignment in Myanmar and left for China on the special fight that carried the ventilators here.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe made a video call to thank the medical team before their depature. — Zaw Gyi

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

# Covid-19 causes export of onions to China, Bangladesh difficult

THE export of onions to China and Bangladesh is encountered with difficulty because of the outbreak of Covid-19, according to the onion depots in Mandalay.

After the Thingyan festival, China resumes purchasing the onion through border checkpoints with the replacement system. Bangladesh is purchasing the onion from the border areas as well. However, the flow of the trade is turning to difficulties because of the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country. The local farmers and traders face difficulties to sell their onions.

"The commodities are hard to reach Mandalay. The villages also do not allow the trucks and the people to enter. So, the local farmers could not sell their products. We need a secure and smooth flow of the trade. We have demands and supplies. But, we could not sell the products," said U Win Myint, owner of Shwe Man Hla onion depot. The high-quality onion prices range between K700 and K800 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) while the lower quality onion prices range between K500 and K600 per viss in the Mandalay market. During the first week of March, Bangladesh suspended the demand of onion from Myanmar while China purchased the onion at a price ranging between K600 and K700 per viss.

China also suspended its onion demand but it permitted the trucks with only China recognized driver to enter via Muse border. Now, Both China and Bangladesh are purchasing the onion again.

Myanmar exported more than 5,700 tonnes of onions worth US$3.56 million to Bangladesh through Maungtaw border in the past five months of the current financial year (2019-2020).

In 2018-2019FY, Myanmar's onion export to China through Muse border was registered at over 69,180 tons, worth $15 million as per data released by the Trade Department at the Muse 105th Mile trade zone.—Aye Cho

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Condolences to death and injuries sustained during COVID-19 prevention measures

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 April 2020

The Ministry of Health and Sports is deeply saddened with the death of WHO personnel U Pyae Sone Win Maung, who passed away on the morning of 21-4-2020 while transporting lab specimens to test for COVID-19 from Sittway, Rakhine State, to the National Health Laboratory (Yangon). We extend our condolences to his family. He was a dutiful citizen as he tried his best to assist the nation overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ministry is also saddened to hear of the injuries sustained by U Aung Myo Oo of the Sittway Township Public Health Department who was also in the vehicle with the lab specimens and we pray for his speedy recovery.

May all citizens of Myanmar overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

-Ministry of Health and Sports

# "People are the key"

## State Counsellor discusses COVID-19 situation with …

FROM PAGE-1

workplaces and work establishments; and the work being done by joint inspection teams.

In her response the State Counsellor said she would make sure that orders and instructions are specific and clear; that rule of law was important; that the purpose of law was to ensure peace, stability and development of society; the need to understand that workers and employers need to join hands for the development of the country and society; that legal action would be taken against those who breached the law; that such measures are taken for the benefit of workers and employers and to ensure a safe environment; the need to strictly abide by the law; that the country would achieve economic progress only if the government, employers and workers cooperate among themselves; the need to create a favourable investment climate environment to attract investors; that foreign investors need to be beneficial for the country; that investors who would work for mutual benefit were welcome; that employers who took care of the physical, mental and security needs of the workers were needed; and that the government, employers and workers need to work in unity for the interest of the country, the people and the workers.

She added that after immediate investigations had been taken, actions would be taken against factories which were not following COVID-19 rules, regulations and directives in accordance with the law; that certificates need to be issued after conducting inspection processes relating to COVID-19; the need to inspect more than once to ensure that the factories could operate normally until the pandemic is under control; that the health of the people was the health of the country; that the whole problem needed to be looked in a holistic manner; that the capacity and skills of the workers and the people need to be uplifted; and also that everyone should put in collaborative efforts till normalcy is reached once again.

> … after immediate investigations had been taken, actions would be taken against factories which were not following COVID-19 rules, regulations and directives in accordance with the law.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with stakeholders for factories and labour affairs . **PHOTO: MNA**

She added that different factories have different situations; that during the inspection process certain reasonable and acceptable situations should be permitted; that health education awareness should be conducted for workers; and that workers need to strictly abide by the directives and rules. She then explained the measures to be undertaken by the Union Government to fulfill the needs of the workers.

In her concluding remarks, the State Counsellor said that if one looked only at the national interest, there should not be any difference of opinions among the workers, employers and the government; that all three should have a common goal; and that if all were working for the country's development and progress, and sustainable development, there need not be any disunity among themselves; that if there were any problems, these should be overcome; all three parties should realize that they were the people; that she had already noted down carefully all the requirements presented at this event; matters which can be resolved immediately would be resolved immediately; those matters that need more time to resolve would obviously take more time, and for this patience is requested.

She said, at this moment, it was already one month from the date the first case of the COVID-19 disease was first discovered; everyone knew that the highest number of cases were in Yangon; that they had to especially worry about those returnees from the border and that the government had already made arrangements for them; the workers as a community should also help them; those returnees should first of all focus on their health. She added that it was necessary for all to consider how to see to the needs of their livelihoods, how to build up their capacity and skills and their long-term development.

She concluded by expressing the hope that the collaborative procedures and practices achieved during the COVID-19 period could be maintained for the post COVID-19 period as well.

The session ended with an expression of thanks by the State Counsellor. — MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## SWRR ministry donates to assist COVID-19 preparation in Kachin State IDP camps

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is cooperating with relevant departments and organizations to assist IDP camps in protecting, containing and responding to COVID-19.

The ministry provided 262 bars of soap and 726 masks for 363 households in Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State, on 20 April. Yesterday, the ministry provided 2172 bars of soap and 2172 face masks for 2172 households of IDP camps combined in Mansi and Myitkyina townships, Kachin State. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

An official handing over the boxes of face masks and soaps for people in IDP camps in Kachin State to prevent from COVID-19 infections. **PHOTO: MNA**

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# Cobas 6800 M PCR analyser for COVID-19 tests arrives in Yangon

Containers carrying the Cobas 6800 Analyser for COVID-19 tests seen in Yangon yesterday.
**PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

THE real-time analyser for testing COVID-19 virus has arrived in Yangon through Myawady border town in Kayin State.

The Cobas 6800 Analyser has the capacity to test specimens of over 1,000 persons each day, and it will be installed at the Public Health Laboratory in Yangon.

The analyser and related equipment were conveyed by three container trucks, passing through the Friendship Border Bridge (2) between Myanmar and Thailand, around 2 pm to Yangon yesterday.

The AA Medical Products Ltd donated the analyser and other equipment worth over K800 million to the National-Level Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment and the Ministry of Health and Sports. The donation ceremony has been held at the Union Hall of Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon on 5 April.

Kayin State Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zin Aung said, "The equipment were carried through the Friendship Bridge (2) between Thailand and Myanmar at 2:20 pm, and taken to Yangon around 2:40 pm." Local authorities and officials helped in sending the equipment to Yangon.— Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

# Passengers use Pansodan-Dala crossing again after Thingyan holiday

YANGON Pansodan-Dala jetty is seen again with the passengers after the stay home period during Thingyan holiday, said Manager Daw Khin Khin Nu of Pansodan Jetty.

After staying home period during Thingyan holiday, the government staff and the employees from private companies are back to their work. So, they are using public transport as usual. Those living either in Yangon or Dala have to ride the water ferries again. Mostly, the people from Dala township are reliant upon the IWT ferries with a few using the privately-owned motored sampans. So, the Pansodan-Dala jetty is now livened again with the commuters particularly in the early morning compared to the other times. As a Covid-19 protection and containment measure, the government urged people to stay home from 10 to 19 April. So, people from across the nation followed government instructions by staying home with only very few people travelling.

With the decline in the number of passengers in Pansodan-Dala jetty during the Thingyan period, the ferries were run for only seven crossings per day from 10 to 14 April and for only four crossings per day from 15 to 19 April. After Thingyan holidays, the ferries are running to and fro 48 crossings starting from 20 April, which is the first day of the lifting of the stay home rule for the employees and their resumption of duties makes the jetty with more people, she said.

Pansodan-Dala ferry is seen with people after the stay home period of Thingyan holidays.
**PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

Currently, the three Cherry water ferries are operating 48 times per day with an interval of crossings being 20 minutes, 30 minutes and one hour from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm. The ferries are aimed to ensure the convenience of the passengers.

The Pansodan-Dala crossing is the only gateway for the local people in southern Yangon – Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships and some townships in Ayeyawady Region to link with the commercial hub of Yangon City.

Normally, there are nearly 30,000 passengers on board the ferries per day and the earning is around K3 million. During the Thingyan holiday period, there are only a few passengers and the earning was only K30,000 per day, according to the Delta Division of the Inland Water Transport (IWT). —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

# Fire ravages cotton warehouse in Muse

A warehouse was destroyed by a fire at 10:30 pm yesterday at Kaungmuton ward in Muse town, Shan State (North).

According to the investigation, the fire started to break out when the wire installed over the cotton warehouse was overheated. The wire was already damaged by the heavy wind. Because of the outbreak of fire, the 60x80x20 feet cotton warehouse owned by Ma Arr Hla was damaged in the blaze.

The warehouse is only two miles away from the fire services department. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident. It took 13 fire engines and several firemen to put out the blaze. The fire did not spread to other houses, however. Property losses were estimated to exceed K5 million.

The police have taken action against Chit Tu (aka) Aung Ko Oo, in charge of the warehouse, for his negligence under Section 285 of the Penal Code. — Eh Soe (IPRD)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

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.

# MoC Union Minister remarks rice reserve scheme

UNION Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce held a round of discussions, with businesspersons from Mandalay Region, on necessary matters of collecting reserve rice, stabilizing of the market, and ensuring smooth flow of goods at the coordination meeting through video conferencing at 10 am yesterday.

He remarked: "There is the self-sufficiency of rice in the local market and people need not worry about that. The state will purchase 50,000 tonnes as reserve rice from 10 per cent of export volume. Furthermore, it will buy 12,000 tonnes of palm oil. The K38 billion fund has been allotted for the state's reserve rice purchase plan."

Union Minister Dr Than Myint holds the meeting with businesspersons from Mandalay Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Before this online meeting, the associations concerned have made a series of discussions on the rice reserve scheme. The minister called for details that underline the fair price and fair quality of reserve rice and plans to reduce wastes during storage.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo said that the ministry and the related associations have held coordination meetings frequently. The ministry has already notified the public of prohibited goods under the Essential Supplies and Services Law to maintain the stability of commodity price.

The ministry has projected the reserve scheme of basic foodstuffs (50,000 tonnes of reserve rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil) for a possible emergency condition as the Covid-19 threats are heightening.

"This is the first-ever reserve scheme and I'd like to request the officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) to make some suggestions on the purchase price, warehouse location and distribution plans. The purchase plan of 10 per cent of export volume as reserve rice is underway," said the deputy minister.

Later, the officials from the MoC, UMFCCI, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Services Ltd discussed the formation of a supervisory committee on purchasing of reserve rice, purchase price, quality criteria and warehouse process. — MNA

*(Translated by EMM)*

# Domestic oil prices down by over 50 per cent in Jan-April

DOMESTIC oil prices have registered a downward trend since January-end on the back of falling prices in the global markets, and it is expected to remain on the low side, said a market observer.

The oil and gas sector has been crashed during Covid-19 outbreak. Oil price went negative on 20 April as there is no place to store all the crude the world is producing, but not using. The global market remains broken, leading domestic oil price plunge to more than 50 per cent in April against January's prices.

In the global markets, oil prices dipped to US$16.8 per barrel for Brent oil and $11.24 per barrel for WTI crude oil on 22 April 2020.

Domestic oil prices have been on the decline since 10 January 2020 owing to a fall in global oil prices. On 8 January 2020, oil prices were pegged at around K905 per litre for Octane 92, K995 for Octane 95, and K985 for diesel and premium diesel. Then, the prices in the domestic market have been extending its drop.

On 22 April 2020, the oil prices touched a low of K290-330 per litre for Octane 92, K430-455 for Octane 95, K435-465 for diesel, and K445-475 for premium diesel, according to the domestic oil market.

"Sure, the drivers have been happy for months now as the price drops by half. However, the majority of the people in the city stay at home due to Covid-19 threats. The oil demand is extremely low and the oil market has collapsed across the globe," said a taxi driver.

On 10 October 2018, due to an increase in global crude oil prices and the weakening of the Kyat against the US dollar, oil prices had touched a high of K1,065 per litre for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.

Myanmar has imported about one million tonnes of diesel and petrol worth nearly $600 million over the past two months of the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar. — Ko Htet

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

# Muskmelon fetches high price though transportation charges affect watermelon exports amidst Covid-19

By Nyein Nyein

MUSKMELON exports to China are priced higher whereas watermelon exports cannot cover even truck fare, vice president U Aung Thet Oo of Muse Fruit Depot told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

At present, muskmelon is worth 2,000- 5,000 Yuan per tonne while watermelon prices (855 variety) move in the range of 2,000-12,000 Yuan for 16-tonne truck and the highest price of watermelons are at 28,000 Yuan per truck. The prices vary depends on quality and varieties.

"Transport delays with bulk supply cause quality loss in watermelon exports. However, steady demand and low supply benefit muskmelon traders. The muskmelons fetch 2,000-5,000 Yuan per tonne. The market is remained strong, unlike watermelon," he said.

Myanmar yearly exports about 800,000 tonnes of watermelons and 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons. Over 500,000 tonnes of watermelons and over 100,000 tonnes of muskmelons have been exported during this season, he continued.

"The export data of watermelon shows many losses compared with a year-ago period. About 200,000-300,000 tonnes of watermelons are not harvested yet and only 100,000 tonnes of them can be exported before the season ends. Yet, about 90 per cent of muskmelon export has been sent to China", he noted.

As Chinese traders do not come to Muse 105th mile border in the light of Covid-19 fears, prompting Myanmar traders leaving for Wanding to sell watermelons and muskmelons, according to the Muse Fruit Depot.

China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19. Starting from 1 April, travellers are prohibited at the borders between China and Myanmar — Mant Wain, Sin Phyu, Nan Taw, Kyin San Kyawt, Pun Sai-Kyu Koat, Manhero checkpoints. However, only trucks are allowed for trading at the Kyin San Kyawt crossing.

Following the Covid-19 consequences, China allowed only the designated Chinese driver, who substitute the original Myanmar driver, to enter the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint starting from 20 April.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Farmers collecting melon; fruits with export criteria are distributed in the domestic market. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYARTINE)**

'ALPINE' AIR IN POLLUTED CITIES

# Locked-down Delhi revels in fresh air and blue sky

Clear skies can be seen over a deserted street near the Presidential Palace in Delhi as a result of the coronavirus lockdown. **PHOTO : AFP**

RESIDENTS of Delhi, regularly listed as one of the world's most polluted cities, are revelling in azure skies and clean air as a result of the coronavirus lockdown.

The dramatic change has been brought about by a lack of cars on the roads, shuttered industries and the halting of construction since a nationwide lockdown was ordered on March 24 to halt the spread of the deadly virus.

"We've never really experienced clean air like this," said Anumita Roy Chowdhury of the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment.

"This is an amazing experience, but we must capitalise and learn from this," she told AFP.

India's Central Pollution Control Board and other monitors have all reported a major fall in pollution levels in the Indian capital -- as well as other major cities.

On Wednesday, world Earth Day, levels of PM2.5 particulate -- the most dangerous for human health -- were "satisfactory", a far cry from days when they are 20 or 30 times accepted limits.

"It is like the Delhi of 20 or 30 years ago," said Krishna Singh, a government worker.

"It is such a shame we are barely allowed to go out to enjoy this."

Other areas of the vast country have also seen big differences in air quality.

In nearby Punjab state, residents of Jalandhar have posted images on social media of Himalayan peaks that had been hidden for decades by haze and pollution.

A state agency, meanwhile, said the water quality of the revered Ganges river had also improved significantly since the lockdown began in Uttarakhand state.

"What the pandemic is telling us is that we have to raise the level... of our compliance and implementation of our clean air programmes," Chowdhury said.

**SOURCE: AFP**

# Latest info as of 22 April

Cases have been reported from:

**Africa:** 24 617 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Egypt (3 490), South Africa (3,465), Morocco (3,209), Algeria (2 811) and Cameroon (1,163).

**Asia:** 406, 236 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Turkey (95,591), Iran (84 802), China (83 864), India (19,984) and Israel (13,942).

**America:** 979,282 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (825,041), Brazil (43,079), Canada (38,413), Peru (17,837) and Chile (10,832).

**Europe:** 1,101,681 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Spain (204,178), Italy (183,957), Germany (145, 694), United Kingdom (129,044) and France (117,324).

Oceania: 8 010 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (6,647), New Zealand (1,113), Guam (136), French Polynesia (57) and Fiji (18).

**Other:** 696 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

**Deaths have been reported from:**

**Africa:** 1,189 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Algeria (392), Egypt (264), Morocco (145), South Africa (58) and Cameroon (42).

**Asia:** 15 356 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Iran (5,297), China (4 636), Turkey (2,259), India (640) and Indonesia (616).

**America:** 52,686 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (45, 063), Brazil (2,741), Canada (1, 834), Mexico (857) and Ecuador (520).

**Europe:** 107,453 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Italy (24,648), Spain (21,282), France (20,796), United Kingdom (17,337) and Belgium (5,998).

**Oceania:** 95 deaths; the four countries reporting most deaths are Australia (74), New Zealand (14), Guam (5) and Northern Mariana Islands (2).

**Other:** 7 deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

**SOURCE: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

DOGGY DOCTORS

# Can dogs detect COVID-19? Canines in training to sniff out virus

CAN dogs detect COVID-19? A British charity believes so, and has begun training canines to sniff out the coronavirus following previous screening success with various illnesses.

Medical Detection Dogs, set up in 2008 to harness dogs' sharp sense of smell to detect human diseases, started working on the project late last month.

In its training room in Milton Keynes, in central England, the dogs are being intensively trained to sniff out samples of the virus, and indicate when they have found it to receive a treat.

The approach is based on a belief that each disease triggers a distinct odour, which canines are uniquely well-placed to smell.

The charity has previously worked with its dogs to detect cancers, Parkinson's disease and bacterial infections using samples taken from patients.

"We believe dogs can detect COVID-19 and will be able to screen hundreds of people very, very rapidly so we know who needs to be tested and isolated," Claire Guest, founder and chief executive of Medical Detection Dogs, told AFP.

"We have evidence that dogs can detect bacterias and other diseases, so we believe that taking this project forward will make a huge difference to the ability to control COVID-19 spread."

Guest is working with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Durham University in northeast England — the same team that recently collaborated to show dogs can be trained to detect malaria.

James Logan, head of the LSHTM's disease control department, said that project demonstrated dogs can smell odours from humans with "extremely high accuracy".

He added there was "a very high chance" that they would be able to detect COVID-19 in a similar way and potentially "revolutionise our response" to the disease.

The team is aiming to train the dogs over a six-week period to help provide the "rapid, non-invasive diagnosis" tool. Canines can also detect subtle changes in skin temperature, potentially making them useful in determining if a person has a fever. If successful, the four-legged detection devices could be deployed at airports to identify people carrying the virus, according to Steve Lindsay from Durham University.

**SOURCE: AFP**

Canines can detect subtle changes in skin temperature, potentially making them useful in determining if a person has a fever. **PHOTO : AFP**

TRIPLE TAX

# Virus-hit news industry needs tech giant aid: UK union

THE main union representing journalists in Britain is calling on the government to triple a tax on global tech giants to support the industry, as it faces fresh shocks from the coronavirus outbreak.

Sector analysts predict that as many as 5,000 journalists could lose their jobs without state intervention, as the national lockdown hits already declining print sales and dwindling advertising revenue.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) said urgent action was now needed, and the government should look to increase its new digital services tax on tech heavyweights to fund a wider, more long-term "news recovery plan".

"It has been estimated that the current proposals by the UK government could raise as much as £500 million ($620 million, 570 million euros) in a year," NUJ assistant general secretary Seamus Dooley told AFP.

"That's the two per cent they plan. We're saying triple it. That would represent a sizeable immediate injection if treated as a windfall tax." The digital services tax, which came into effect on April 1, targets search engines, social media services and online marketplaces of British users, provided the company's revenue is more than £25 million. It is expected to raise £280 million in its first year and £500 million by the end of 2025, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility.

The levy was introduced after controversy about foreign-based online platforms such as Google and Facebook, which generate huge advertising revenues in Britain but pay relatively little domestic tax.

"There's very much common cause between employers and owners that effectively these are platform providers that are eating our lunch," said Dooley.

"They're reliant on the work of media organisations — of journalists, photographers and videographers — and the real challenge for media organisations who are dependent on commercial revenue has been the haemorrhaging of advertising to online."

Britain's culture secretary Oliver Dowden has warned the news industry could lose £50 million during the crisis, particularly as big firms had blocked online ads alongside stories on COVID-19. **PHOTO AFP**

### Layoffs and leave

Broadcasters such as the BBC have reported record audiences while websites have seen a surge in traffic since the start of the outbreak, and Britain's lockdown which began on March 24.

Ian Murray, executive director at the Society of Editors, said the apparent increase in trust in traditional media was "a very thin silver lining from a horrible dark cloud". But there remains concern about the economic and social fall-out on journalists, including freelancers not covered by government rescue plans.

Nearly 250 local newspaper titles closed between 2005 and 2018, and the current crisis has seen more than 2,000 mainly non-editorial staff at some 500 newspapers temporarily laid off, according to industry magazine Press Gazette. Some companies are predicting multimillion-pound losses in revenue, have cut salaries or asked staff to work fewer hours and take unpaid leave.

Others have announced mergers or warned they could close completely.

Media research firm Enders Analysis has predicted advertising sales in the British press could fall by £330 million or 30 per cent this year, and circulation could be cut in two.

Britain's culture secretary Oliver Dowden has warned the news industry could lose £50 million during the crisis, particularly as big firms had blocked online ads alongside stories on COVID-19.

### Existential threat

The editorial director of the Yorkshire Post in northern England, James Mitchinson, said his team had been working hard to provide accurate, reliable information on the outbreak.

But he warned that many titles could close without "immediate" government support.

"The measures we have taken to cut costs don't make up for the reduction in ad revenue," he was quoted as saying in the Sunday Times recently.

"We need grants and a change to the furlough scheme to pay journalists — key workers — to work, not down tools."

**SOURCE: AFP**

STUMBLING BLOCK

# No benefit, higher death rate for malaria drug in coronavirus study

A MALARIA drug widely touted as a potential cure for COVID-19 showed no benefit against the disease over standard care -- and was in fact associated with more deaths, the biggest study of its kind showed Tuesday.

The US government funded analysis of how American military veterans fared on hydroxychloroquine was posted on a medical preprint site and has not yet been peer reviewed.

The experiment had several important limitations, but adds to a growing body of doubt over the efficacy of the medicine that counts President Donald Trump and right wing news channel Fox News among its biggest backers.

Researchers looked at the medical records of 368 veterans hospitalized nationwide who either died or were discharged by April 11.

Death rates for patients on hydroxychloroquine were 28 per cent, compared to 22 per cent when it was taken with the anti-biotic azithromycin — a combination favored by French scientist Didier Raoult, whose study on the subject in March triggered a surge of global interest in the drug. The death rate for those receiving only standard care was 11 percent.

Hydroxychloroquine, with or without azithromycin, was more likely to be prescribed to patients with more severe illness, but the authors found that increased mortality persisted even after they statistically adjusted for higher rates of use.

Other drawbacks include the fact that the study did not assign people randomly to groups, because it was a retrospective analysis meaning it looked back on what had already happened.

In addition, the results are hard to generalize because the population was highly specific: most of the patients were male, with a median age over 65, and black, a group that is disproportionately affected by underlying illnesses like diabetes and heart disease.

There was no added risk of being on ventilator among the hydroxychloroquine only group, leading the authors to suggest that increased mortality among this group might be attributable to side-effects outside the respiratory system. Previous research has found that the medicine is risky for patients with certain heart rhythm issues and can cause blackouts, seizures or at times cardiac arrest in this group.

Hydroxychloroquine and a related compound chloroquine have been used for decades to treat malaria, as well as the autoimmune disorders lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

They have received significant attention during the novel coronavirus pandemic and have been shown in lab settings to block the virus from entering cells and prevent it replicating -- but in the pharmaceutical world, "in vitro" promise often fails to translate into "in vivo" success.

**SOURCE: AFP**

An arrangement of hydroxychloroquine pills in Las Vegas.
**PHOTO : FILE/AFP**

23 APRIL 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR


# Adapt to change for better management of disasters with COVID-19 measures

THE rainy season, which always brings strong winds, torrential rains, floods and storms, is coming to Myanmar. Also, diseases such as waterborne diseases, influenza, leptospirosis and dengue fever occur in the rainy season.

When we make adequate preparations for disasters and carry out preventive measures against these diseases this year, the COVID-19 disease must also be taken into consideration, as our previous year's management system needs to be changed, to comply with strategies to block the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

Until last year, we drew up response and management plans to tackle the more commonly seen natural disasters during the monsoon season, which included cyclones, floods, flash floods, lightning, collapsing of embankments, and landslides.

Weather experts predict that Myanmar would see less rain than average in the coming season, along with higher temperatures. Due to this situation, rural areas are likely to experience shortages of drinking water.

> Our preparations and preparedness for storms during the period of the COVID-19 crisis must take into account the quarantine facilities, aid for Stay-At-Home programmes, prevention and containment measures against the COVID-19 disease at internally displaced camps, etc.

They also predict that heavy floods should not be expected this season, but they warned that isolated heavy rainfall can trigger flash floods and landslides this year.

There are also predictions that storms can cross our coastal areas. Storms are the disasters that normally occur during the rainy season.

Our preparations and preparedness for storms during the period of the COVID-19 crisis must take into account the quarantine facilities, aid for Stay-At-Home programmes, prevention and containment measures against the COVID-19 disease at internally displaced camps, etc.

We must continue to diligently make preparations for these possible situations, which are predictable.

We are confident that collaboration and cooperation between experts and regional authorities will ensure effective management plans for natural disasters during the COVID-19 crisis.

Meanwhile, people are advised to be alerted to the disasters and follow the directives of the weather bureau.

We cannot prevent natural disasters, but we can reduce the impacts from them through our being properly prepared. 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.

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

# Fourth-Year Performances of the Ministry of Border Affairs

## Tasks are being carried out in seven states, two regions, and six self-administered zones covering (167) townships with components of (30,000) villages adding over (19) million population embracing in (37 point 87) per cent of the people.

By Naing Linn Kyi
Photo: Hein Sithu

ROLLING ahead in top gear, the Ministry of Border Affairs is shouldering the noblest task for the ethnic nationalities with the strategy "to ensure that there is no lapse in the border and ethnic development of the various regions of Myanmar", advancing in two main prongs of duties covering four policy principles.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung offering solar panels and other necessary utensils for Naga people at the Naga New Year Festival.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung.

### Enveloping (37 point 87) per cent of population

Border areas development tasks are being carried out in seven states, two regions, and six self-administered zones covering (167) townships with components of (30,000) villages adding over (19) million population embracing in (37 point 87) per cent of the people in its fourth year implementation.

Linking up with the MSDP objectives, the border areas development plans are being properly implemented. The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is the expression of our national development vision.

Upholding the three main pillars of the Ministry of Border Affairs, it is concentrating on the following.

(1) Peace and Stability Objective with strategy 1.2 namely "Uplifting the socio-economic development in a conflict free atmosphere and direction in all the regions and states with equal opportunity approach".

(2) Advancing ahead for prosperity and cooperation expressed as goal (3) with strategy 3.6 regarding rural area transport development in the construction of roads and bridges which are in progress. In this connection, strategy 3.1 is also in progress for sustainable and adequate water management for cultivation and for safe drinking water supply.

(3) Pillar three stands out in reflecting objective (5) with strategy 5.4 regarding electricity generation and distribution, which is ongoing with successful speed. On the other hand, the strategy 5.6 in connection with the construction of the affordable housing projects has been interconnected, and that all hands on deck are implementing the respective schemes.

### (20) Year project crafted

Pragmatic 20-year project has been drawn for the socio-economic development of the ethnic nationalities in the country beginning 2011 – 2012 to 2030 – 2031 periods.

During the current project term, the statistics showed the completion records such as that of (52 point 24) per cent in roads and bridges; that of (18 point 50) per cent in education; that of (26 point 09) percent in health; that of (59 point 46) per cent in agriculture and drinking water; that of (27 point 83) per cent in electricity supply; that of (27 point 42) percent in construction of buildings; and that of the second middle term five-year project could realize (38 point 72) per cent. In the upcoming second middle term five-year project, it is expected to see more achievements.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung and officials observing the construction of deep wells by drilling machine for villages in Mandalay and Magway regions.

### More implementation

During the fourth year implementation, the achievements are recorded such as that of earth road 230 miles and 4 furlongs; that of the road expansion 39 miles and 4 furlongs; that of stumpy quality stone road 11 miles; that of common stone road 266 miles 2 furlongs; that of asphalt road 25 miles 5 furlongs; that of concrete road 5 miles 3 furlongs; that of road repair and maintenance 155 miles and one furlong; that of common bridges and small bridges 127 units; that of box culvert 830 in number; that of one state primary school; that of water supply facility one unit; that of water connection up to villages stretching 48 miles and one furlong; that of machine drill deep tube well 6 units; that of machine drill normal well 11 units; that of water container and storage one unit; that of brick water tanks 310 units; that of electricity power supply cable 23 miles 6 furlongs; that of solar power light 179 units; and that of low income housing 277 units.

During the four years implementation, the records showed the completions such as that of earth road 1951 miles; that of road expansion 152 miles and one furlong; that of stone road 1109 miles 6 furlongs; that of asphalt roads 223 miles and 5 furlongs; that of concrete roads 54 miles 2 furlongs; that of road repair 409 miles; that of large bridge over (100) feet 36 units; that of small bridges 577 units; that of box culverts 5,689 units; that of state primary schools 23 schools; that of state middle schools 6 schools; that of state high schools 2 schools; that of one hospital; that of village healthcare centre 3 units; that of water supply 6 units; that of water supply up to the villages 344 miles; that of electricity supply lines 23 miles 6 furlongs; that of solar power generation units 9,134 sets; that of IDP camps building 176 units; that of low cost housing construction 779 units.

### Road communications

"Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department has prioritized road transport work as the most essential task of the department. In carrying out the task, it also pays attention on the security and safety aspect of the nation in addition to the area development. It reflects in the construction of 'Magwayza – Khaung Lan Phu Road' which is 65 miles 4 furlongs long. Khaung Lan Phu area has 2,000 square miles with a population of 15,000 persons, with very thin density. Moreover, it has an extreme weather condition and had bad road communications, resulting with yearly food shortages lagging behind in the area development. Therefore, the Ministry of Border Affairs has made concerted efforts with the Tatmadaw and the local militias on development tasks in 2018 – 2019 financial years. The most difficult task was the construction of the road at the elevated level of 7,800 feet "Sun Lut Chet Mountain Top", a rugged road which is 33 miles and 6 furlongs stretch. As the work has been realized and rolled ahead in top speed, the 43 miles 2 furlongs road leading from top of the mountain to the river bank of May Kha River has been accomplished," explained Director-General U Ye Naing.

### Road to Khaung Lan Phu

"In the days ahead, the Khaung Lan Phu area would be developed as the road from the area is to be connected with the Shane Khaung Area at the border of China. Moreover, strategic plans are already there to construct the road that of to Lan Sai Area; that of to Che Hpway; that of to Myitkyina; and that of to Putao and the surrounding areas.

SEE PAGE-10

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

**(Issued at 4:00 pm Wednesday 22nd April, 2020)**

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 23rd April, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Northern Shan State and isolated in Naypyitaw, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd April, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd April, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd April, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

**The Global New Light of Myanmar** is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).–
**Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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# Fourth-Year Performances of the Ministry of Border Affairs

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung giving a bachelor's degree to a graduate of University for the Development of the National Races of the Union.

FROM PAGE-9

Pan Nan Din – Da Huan Dan Road is in the process of construction for 63 miles. It is at the base of Hkakaborazi National Park", Director-General U Ye Naing explained.

"This year we have provided adequate water supply system with various available methods to the population including safe drinking water, assisting their better health condition. The electricity power supply cable connection scheme started in 2017 – 2018 in Ho Pone Township, and the implementation statistics showed the completion that of 400 volt supply line of 18 point 4 miles; that of the installation 18 transformers; that of 11 KV electricity supply line of 10 point 4 miles; and that the electricity would be available soon," explained U Ye Naing.

## Poppy substitute scheme

"Deputy Minister has shouldered the task of 'Substitution Development Management Committee' under the 'Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control' and that three year pilot programme has started in four village tracts and 97 villages in Panlong Township from 2017 – 2018 to 2019 – 2020.

## Human Resources Development

With a view to implement in uplifting the human resources of ethnic nationalities and socio-economic development of the border areas, the MOBA has established the Department of Education and Training on 30 June 1999.

Department is established namely the Head Office; University for the Development of the National Races of the Union (Sagaing); Degree Colleges for the Development of the National Races of the Union (Yangon and Sagaing); the Central Training Institute (Yangon); 9 regional offices and state level offices; 9 district level offices; 45 Training Schools for Development of Nationalities Youths from Border Areas; 9 Technical Schools for Nationalities Youths from Border Areas; and 46 Vocational Training Schools of Domestic Science for Women.

"In the basic sphere, 45 training schools have been functioning, and that the underprivileged students that could not afford education hailing from poor parents or orphans are being looped in for free education from five grades to ten standards. Food, clothing and shelters of the students have been undertaken by the government. Starting from 1999 until today, total students numbering (67,009) have attended the schools. Among them (3,734) students have pursued various higher education at respective universities. In 2018 – 2019, total of (367) students passed the Matriculation Examination. In 2019 – 2020, a total of students numbering (5,787) have been attending at (45) Training Schools for Development of Nationalities Youths from Border Areas," U Thein Htay Oo, Director-General of the Department of Education and Training explained.

In the second sphere namely the advanced educational sphere, it has been established one University for the Development of the National Races of the Union; two number of Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree Colleges; and one unit of Central Training School.

The University has opened its doors since 1964, and that until today, a total of (13,786) teachers have been nurtured. According to last year records, there are (267) students have earned the B. Ed degree.

In 2019 – 2020 academic years, there are (1,542) students attending at the university majoring in educational degrees. Moreover, (28) students are attending educational Masters' degree, and that (73) students are pursuing educational diploma courses. The number of these students stands out at (1,643).

## Appointment to posts

Until today, there are (32) doctorates; (103) Master's of Research; (26) Master's of Science; (111) Master's of Arts; (34) Master's of Engineers; and (563) engineering degrees. The register shows that total (2,603) students are pursuing at the degree colleges (Yangon and Sagaing) in first to fourth year classes.

## Livelihood spheres

With a view to open up job opportunities for the ethic youth with residence in the border areas, they have been recruited to schools that have been opened as national technical schools, with a total number (9) in the country. In the schools under references, the students are taught varied courses namely mobile phone repair courses; the motor bikes and cycle repair courses; the basic mechanic courses; the vehicle repair course; the basic construction courses; the household wiring for electricity courses; the iron welding courses; the steel welding courses; the aluminum welding courses. So far, total of (5,394) trainees have been trained.

## Job Opportunities

For the advantages of the female youth, 46 Vocational Training Schools of Domestic Science for Women have been opened for job opportunities, where the ethnic nationalities are trained with various livelihoods.

At Vocational Training Schools of Domestic Science for Women (Pathein and Pakokku), they are providing domestic science courses, and in addition, the schools are providing the hotel hospitality courses; the receptionist courses; the house keeping courses; the bartenders' skill courses; and the food and beverage courses. The trainees are also offered with the opportunities in finding jobs at the hotels. Since 1992, total of (91,806) persons have been trained from the domestic science schools.

"Last year, total of (5,859) women trainees have been imparted with various courses. In addition, (300) students have been trained for hotel related courses. A total of (1,910) women trainees have been given (18) weeks courses on domestic science," U Thein Htay Oo explained.

*Translated by UMT (Ahlon)*

Trainees learning on the automotive and mechanical training course of the Border Areas National Races Youth Development Training School in Labutta.

The hardware to be used for building a mountain road being carried by a Z-craft on the Maykha River.

# Race for virus vaccine picks up as Germany, UK start trials

BERLIN — The race to develop an effective vaccine against the novel coronavirus gathered pace this week, as clinical trials on humans were approved in Germany and launched in the UK. Though there are now around 150 development projects worldwide, the German and British plans are among only five clinical trials on humans which have been approved across the globe. In Britain, volunteers in a trial at the University of Oxford are set to be given on Thursday the first dose of a potential vaccine based on a virus found in chimpanzees.

Clinical trials on vaccines against the new coronavirus COVID-19 were approved in Germany and launched in Britain. **PHOTO : AFP/FILE**

Meanwhile on Wednesday, German regulatory body PEI green-lighted the country's first trials on human volunteers for a vaccine developed by German firm Biontech and US giant Pfizer.

The Oxford trial, run by the university's Jenner Institute, will involve 510 volunteers aged between 18 and 55 in the first phase.

Research director Professor Sarah Gilbert estimated that it has around an 80 per cent chance of being successful.

The institute aims to develop a million doses of the vaccine by September, so as to distribute it as quickly as possible after approval. The Oxford trial is part of a nationwide effort in the UK which since Friday has been spearheaded by a government taskforce.

In Germany, meanwhile, the PEI said its approval of the Biontech trial marked a "significant step" in making a vaccine "available as soon as possible".

In the first phase, it will see "200 healthy volunteers aged between 18 and 55 years" vaccinated with variants of the vaccine, while the second phase could see the inclusion of volunteers who belonged to high-risk groups.—AFP ■

# Belgian biotech firm to roll out coronavirus antibody tests

BRUSSELS — A Belgian biotech firm has started producing tests to rapidly detect antibodies against coronavirus infections, part of a push several countries are making to determine who might be immune.

The Liege-based company, ZenTech, told AFP Tuesday it has started making tens of thousands of the government-certified tests and plans to ramp up output to eventually make up to three million per month.

Founder and CEO Jean-Claude Havaux said diagnosis takes just 10-15 minutes and "sensitivity is 100 per cent — meaning all patients who have COVID-19 antibodies, we see them with our test".

He emphasized that the test kits were only for medical professionals, first in Belgium and then later in other countries in the EU and beyond. They are not for the public to use at home.—AFP ■


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

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Dated **23 April 2020**

# Carmaker SEAT to test all employees for virus before restarting

MADRID — Spanish carmaker SEAT, a unit of the VW group, said Wednesday it would test all of its 15,000 employees for the novel coronavirus before gradually resuming production.

The automaker plans to resume operations on Monday, and "as part of the health and safety measures, has agreed with the union representatives to conduct PCR testing to screen for the SARS-CoV-2 virus," it said in a statement.

SARS-CoV-2 is the official name for the novel coronavirus.

PCR tests, which are realised using a cotton swab to gather mucus from the nose, are one of the types of tests available to determine whether people have been exposed to the coronavirus even if they have not developed symptoms of COVID-19.

The carmaker plans to conduct more than 3,000 tests per week and began testing at three sites on Wednesday.

The anonymous and confidential tests will form the basis of a scientific study, the company said.—AFP ■

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lmm@kcyangon.com

Dated **23 April 2020**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V OCEAN DIAMOND**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN DIAMOND VOY. NO. (112L) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (039N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (039N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (087N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (087N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-4-2020 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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# China's Harbin imposes lockdown amid virus outbreak

BEIJING — Authorities in the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin further tightened restrictions on inbound traffic and private gatherings on Wednesday to contain its second wave of coronavirus infections blamed on imported cases.

Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province with a population of some 10 million, has banned all nonresidents and their vehicles from entering residential compounds, according to local authorities.

In order to go in and out of their guarded residential areas, locals must have a guard scan a QR code on their smartphone, with the color green indicating a COVID-19 risk-free status, while also wearing a mask, the official notice said.

Heilongjiang, a northeastern province on the border with Russia, has become the epicenter of the second wave of infections in China, confirming 57 additional symptomatic COVID-19 patients in the past 10 days.

People visit a market in Beijing on April 20, 2020.
**PHOTO : KYODO**

Earlier this month, China temporarily closed all land border crossings with Russia to curb the spread of the virus.

At around the same time, Harbin and the border city of Suifenhe also started requiring all international arrivals to undergo four weeks of isolation as well as testing.

But Harbin, which still receives flights from Russia, reported seven new locally transmitted cases on Wednesday, bringing the current number of COVID-19 cases in the city to 75, including 23 cases with no symptoms. Around 1,400 people are currently under medical observation, according to the city.

Also, on Wednesday, the National Health Commission reported 72 new coronavirus infections on the mainland, 30 of which involved individuals displaying symptoms with the remainder showing none.

Mainland China continues to detect a notable portion of its new infections in Chinese nationals returning from overseas. So-called imported cases accounted for 30 of the new infections reported on Wednesday, including 23 with symptoms.—Kyodo ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V IONIC STORM**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IONIC STORM VOY. NO. (59) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**M.V XIN AN PING**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XIN AN PING VOY. NO. (2003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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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Dated **23 April 2020**

# Asia virus latest: China sued by US state; northeast China tightens curbs

HERE are the latest developments in Asia related to the novel coronavirus pandemic:

### US state sues China

The US state of Missouri on Tuesday (Apr 21) sued China's leadership over COVID-19, seeking damages over what it described as deliberate deception and insufficient action to stop the pandemic.

The first-of-a-kind state lawsuit comes amid calls in Congress to punish China and a campaign by President Donald Trump to focus on Beijing's role, amid criticism of his own handling of the crisis.

Missouri, led by Trump's Republican Party, filed a lawsuit in a federal court seeking an unspecified amount in damages and an injunction on continuing actions by China that are alleged to include hoarding of protective equipment.

"The Chinese government lied to the world about the danger and contagious nature of COVID-19, silenced whistleblowers and did little to stop the spread of the disease," Missouri Attorney-General Eric Schmitt said.

### China's northeast tightens restrictions

New clusters of coronavirus infections in northeast China near the Russian border led officials to tighten restrictions on movement as they seek to prevent another outbreak.

China has largely curbed the spread of the deadly virus, but there are growing fears of a second wave of cases and Heilongjiang province has emerged as a new front in the battle.

The region has seen an influx of imported cases, mostly among Chinese citizens returning home, but domestic infections have also been mounting — prompting the sacking or punishment of several officials.

### Virus cases on Japan-docked cruise ship

At least 34 crew members aboard a cruise ship docked in the Japanese city of Nagasaki have tested positive for coronavirus, local authorities said.

The Costa Atlantica first arrived in Nagasaki in January to undergo repairs, with top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga saying roughly 600 crew are on board.

### Bondi Beach to reopen for surfers

Swimmers and surfers will return to Sydney's famed Bondi Beach next week, almost six weeks after it was closed amid a spike in coronavirus cases, officials announced.

But the white sands will remain off-limits to sunbathers, joggers and families in an effort to maintain Australia's strict social distancing requirements.

### Singapore surge

Singapore on Wednesday reported a four-digit increase in new coronavirus infections for the third consecutive day, becoming the first Southeast Asian country to breach the 10,000 mark.

The Health Ministry said that the number of new cases in Singapore surged by 1,016, with nearly all occurring among low-paid migrant workers living in densely populated dormitories.

Swimmers and surfers will return to Sydney's famed Bondi Beach. **PHOTO : AFP**

Only 15 are Singaporeans or permanent residents.

Following Monday's jump of 1,426 and 1,111 on Tuesday, the number of infected in Singapore now stands at 10,141, one of the highest in all of Asia.

The city-state has had the highest number of cases in Southeast Asia since Sunday. However, the number of fatalities has remained one of the lowest at 11.

Health Minister Gan Kim Yong said on Tuesday that there has been a sharp increase in the past two weeks because of the government's "aggressive testing" of foreign workers in dormitories.

Amid the surge in the number of cases and concern with the persistence in the number of cases in the community that cannot be linked to any source, the government announced on Tuesday that it will extend a monthlong partial lockdown called "circuit-breaker," which was due to end on May 4, by another four weeks until June 1.

Police officers wearing protective mask conduct spot checks on April 21, 2020 in Singapore. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced today that the government will extend the partial lockdown until June 1 to bring down the coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within the community. **PHOTO : KYODO**

### Tokyo babies, toddlers catch virus

Eight babies and toddlers at a Tokyo care centre have tested positive for the coronavirus after a staff member contracted the disease, its operator said.

Tokyo Saiseikai Central Hospital, which operates the facility, said the affected children had been hospitalised, while another 21 tested negative and were under observation.

### Conservative Indonesian province defies curbs

The top Islamic authority in Indonesia's conservative Aceh province says it will allow people to perform daily Ramadan mass prayers and prayers at night, in contravention of orders from the religious affairs ministry to curb such activities to fight the virus.

The Islamic holy month begins later this week.

### Hong Kong virus reshuffle

Hong Kong's unpopular leader Carrie Lam announced a cabinet reshuffle, with a number of key top officials either losing their jobs or moved sideways.

Lam said the reshuffle was needed to ensure the best team was in place to deal with the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and denied the changes were linked to the months of political unrest in the city last year.

New secretaries were announced for the key technology, financial services, home affairs, mainland affairs and civil service departments.

### Queues for food as virus hits jobless Thais

Long lines of unemployed relying on free food across Bangkok, scrambles for cash handouts and fishing in fetid canals — Thais are getting increasingly desperate as the pandemic destroys the economy and the government struggles to respond.

Some 27 million informal workers — who lost their jobs in the tourism, entertainment, food and service sectors — have applied for a monthly cash handout from the government, though only half have received approval.

### 26 healthcare workers die in Philippines

More than 1,000 Philippine healthcare workers have tested positive for the coronavirus, with 26 -- including 19 doctors -- dying from COVID-19, the government said.

### Chinese experts share treatment experience

A hospital in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region shared COVID-19 treatment experience with Cambodian medical experts via a video conference on Monday, with over 150 medical staff from both countries in attendance.

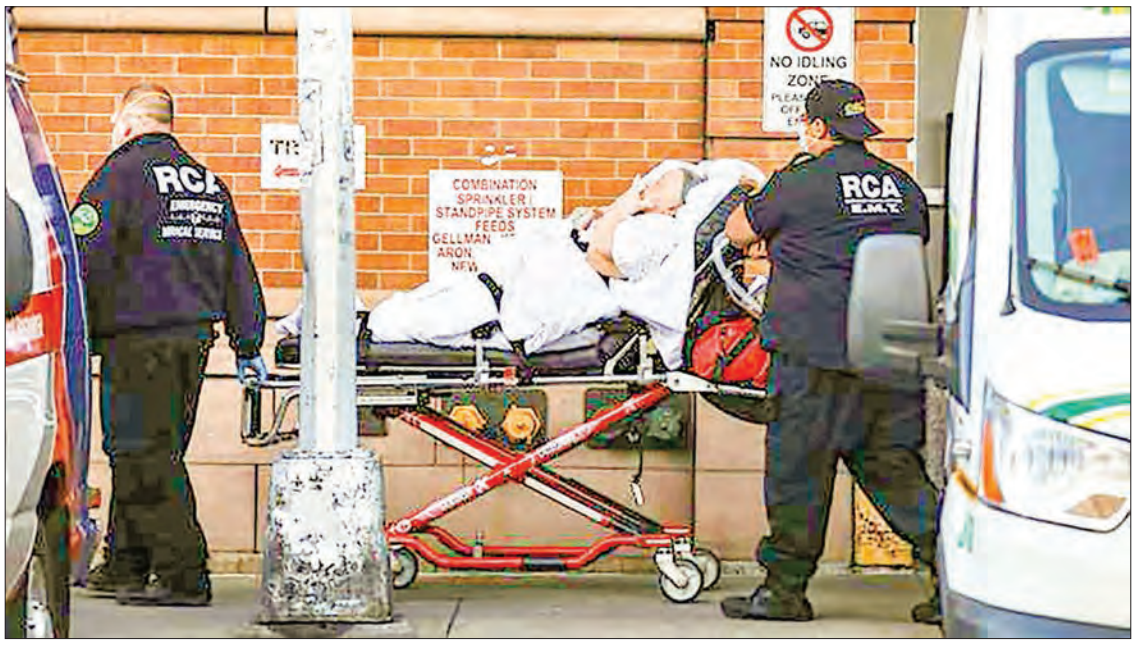
Medics with the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University introduced detailed epidemic prevention and control measures and an expert team from the hospital who fought against COVID-19 on the frontline in the hardest-hit Hubei Province shared first-hand clinical treatment experience with the Cambodian counterparts.

Cambodian experts from several medical institutions consulted their Chinese counterparts about how to deal with asymptomatic cases, improve diagnostic accuracy and other issues.

Chen Junqiang, president of the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University, said the hospital would like to share more anti-epidemic experience with ASEAN countries.

**SOURCE; AFP: Kyodo**

# Coronavirus second wave may be even worse: US health chief




Medical workers transport a patient outside of a special coronavirus intake area at Maimonides Medical Center on April 21, 2020 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. **PHOTO : AFP**

WASHINGTON — A second wave of the novel coronavirus in the US could be even more destructive because it will likely collide with the beginning of flu season, one of the country's top health officials said Tuesday.

Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), called on Americans to use the coming months to prepare -- and get their flu shots.

"There's a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through," he was quoted as saying in an interview with the Washington Post published late Tuesday.

"We're going to have the flu epidemic and the coronavirus epidemic at the same time," he said.

The US has recorded more than 800,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University, with 44,845 deaths — the most reported of any country.

Billions of people around the world have been ordered to stay at home in recent months as governments try to prevent the highly contagious coronavirus from overwhelming healthcare systems.

The US, like other countries, has scrambled to secure enough ventilators and personal protection equipment for medical staff while the death toll mounts.

Redfield said the virus arrived in the US just as regular flu season — which itself can strain healthcare systems — was waning.—AFP ■

# Short on protective gear, Russian medics fear infecting patients

President Vladimir Putin has promised Russian doctors "high-quality and effective protection". **PHOTO : AFP**

MOSCOW — With Russian medical workers often forced to make or buy their own protective equipment, Olga was not surprised when a fellow doctor at her clinic in the Moscow suburbs tested positive for the coronavirus.

"We'd all been in contact with her but management didn't quarantine anyone," said Olga, a doctor at a polyclinic in the Moscow satellite town of Mytishchi.

"If they'd put us in quarantine, there would have been no one left to work."

As the number of coronavirus cases across Russia grows, doctors, nurses and other medical staff — especially outside Moscow — are worried that instead of helping people during the pandemic, they are infecting them.

Shortages of protective equipment and an apparent unwillingness to test medical staff are putting patients at risk, medics and union officials told AFP, and some are beginning to speak out.

"We are given one disposable mask per day — but you are supposed to change them every two hours," said Olga, who asked that her real name not be used.

As of Wednesday and after days of steady increases, Russia had nearly 58,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 513 deaths, while claiming one of the highest testing rates in the world with 2.2 million carried out.

Mytishchi is experiencing one of Russia's largest per capita outbreaks. With 302 cases for a population of 223,000, the town's infection rate is more than three times the national average.

Yet personal protective equipment (PPE) is in scarce supply, even for frontline medical workers, said Olga.

"We're forced to buy masks ourselves — as well as gloves — or else sew them ourselves."

As for the protective white suits worn by many medics to treat highly infectious patients, Olga said she has never seen one.—AFP ■

# First virus case in Lebanon Palestinian refugee camp: UN

BEIRUT — A Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon was on lockdown Wednesday after the UN announced the first confirmed case of coronavirus in one of the country's numerous and crowded camps.

Aid groups have warned that hundreds of thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees living in Lebanon's overcrowded camps are the most vulnerable amid the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO : AFP**

The patient, a Palestinian refugee from Syria, has been taken to the state-run Rafic Hariri hospital in Beirut, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said in a statement late Tuesday.

Medical experts visited the Wavel camp in the eastern Bekaa Valley on Wednesday to carry out tests, Lebanon's official National News Agency said.

The testing was to focus on the woman's relatives and people she has interacted with, as well as 50 others chosen arbitrarily "inside the camp and its surroundings", it said.

Inside a clinic, a nurse in blue and white personal protection gear took a nasal swab from a man who winced as he lay in a consultation chair, an AFP journalist said.

Workers in blue hazmat suits sprayed disinfectant at an entrance to the camp, also called Al-Jalil.

In coordination with Lebanese security forces, Palestinian factions in charge of security have imposed a lockdown on the camp, preventing anyone from entering or leaving, the NNA report said.

It said cars drove around the camp's densely-populated neighbourhood as messages blared from loudspeakers urged residents to stay indoors. —AFP ■

# Iran prisoners 'on edge' over virus threat

TEHRAN — The crippling uncertainty behind bars as a deadly disease rages. A lack of proper sanitary equipment. Riots by desperate detainees that allegedly have left dozens dead. And executions that proceed in spite of the outbreak.

There is controversy over the magnitude of the coronavirus outbreak in Iran, which according to official figures has left almost 5,300 people dead although other sources inside and outside Iran insist the real figure is twice as high.—AFP ■

# MNL footballers undergo home training

MOST of Myanmar National League's footballers are doing their training plus physical exercises while staying at home as the Coronavirus crisis is heightening.

Upon doing home exercises, youth players from Shan United have expressed their feelings, stated the Shan United in their social page.

Midfielder Sat Phyo Wai of Shan United said, "As I am living in downtown Yangon, running exercises aren't quite convenient for me. I lift the weight and other physical exercises including belly workouts for 400 times a day and 500 times for some other days."

I used to run in Aung San Stadium but the stadium has been closed amid Coronavirus outbreak and as for now I have to do what I can at my home. Whenever I do my workouts, my little daughter followed every part of my manner, he added.

Defender Nyein Chan also said, "I am now at Nabule of Dawei where one of the deep seaports of Myanmar is located. I run and play football every morning on the beach. I do belly workouts and other physical exercises too for every day. I am trying for six-packs of belly but now I possess 4 packs of the belly."

Hein Phyo Win, another defender said that he is staying at home in Heho, Shan State.

The defender said, "There is an announcement not to go outside home in my town and I am just staying at home. Thus, I run every day on a treadmill that I bought because I enjoy running. I set 140 running power mode on the treadmill and run five minutes for three times for every single use. I also do strenuous exercises for stronger muscle, at home." — Lynn Thit (Tgi)

# Healthcare providers get MFF president's one-month salary

MYANMAR Football Federation president and chairman of the Ayeyarwady Foundation, U Zaw Zaw donated a month salary for April to healthcare providers at Waibargi Hospital in Yangon as they are bravely fighting the pandemic in the front line with 75 Coronavirus patients being cared, Ayeyarwady Foundation said in a statement yesterday.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation officials met Professor and Superintendent Dr Aye Aye Aung of Waibargi Hospital yesterday and contributed K37.5 million to all 227 healthcare providers including physicians, nurses, and health workers.

The Ayeyarwady Foundation has already donated K107.5 million for the Coronavirus control and treatment measures being undertaken by Waibargi Hospital. Also, the foundation has donated K500 million to the Central Health Committee of Myanmar for a special healthcare fund to all health caregivers in the forefront to fight against the Coronavirus disease, stated the foundation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

# West Ham, Palace cancel Australia pre-season trip

West Ham manager David Moyes. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) —West Ham and Crystal Palace have announced they will not be travelling to Australia after the pre-season Queensland Champions Cup in July was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Premier League clubs had been set to travel to Australia as part of their preparations for the 2020/21 season, with A-League side Brisbane Roar also involved in the three-team tournament.

But global sport is currently in turmoil, with no clear indication of when the English football season will end.

A statement from West Ham said: "West Ham United regret to confirm that, due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the inaugural EVA Air Queensland Champions Cup has been postponed."

Manager David Moyes said: "It is a real shame that we will no longer be able to make it over to Queensland this summer. However, it is the right decision to postpone given the circumstances."

Crystal Palace chairman Steve Parish described it as "bitterly disappointing" but said football was of secondary importance during the global crisis. —AFP

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# Gavaskar says India could host T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI (India) — Batting great Sunil Gavaskar said India could host this year's Twenty20 World Cup instead of Australia if the coronavirus crisis eases in the subcontinent.

With India set to host the 2021 edition, Gavaskar suggested swapping with Australia -- which has indefinitely barred almost all non-residents from entering the country -- and holding this year's tournament instead.

Australia is scheduled to stage the World Cup from October 18 to November 15, but the International Cricket Council has said it is "exploring all options" for the tournament.

"As we all know, Australia has barred foreigners from entering the country... The tournament starts mid-October so it is looking difficult at the moment," Gavaskar told India Today.

"Next year's T20 World Cup is in India. If India and Australia come to an agreement and in case the (COVID-19) curve in India flattens out, they can swap.

"It can be held in India this October-November and in Australia October-November next year."

Gavaskar added that the Indian Premier League T20 tournament, indefinitely postponed from its March 29 start, could be held just before the World Cup.

"If it (the swap) is going to happen that way then what can be done is that IPL is held just prior to T20 World Cup so there is enough practice for the players," said the 70-year-old Indian.—AFP

Sunil Gavaskar (C) said India and Australia should swap hosting rights for the 2020 and 2021 Twenty20 World Cups. **PHOTO: AFP**