State Counsellor discusses preparations for returnees with chief ministers of Kayin, Taninthayi and Mon

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Central Committee for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment, held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw with chief ministers of Kayin State, Mon State and Taninthayi region.

First, the State Counsellor said the aim of the meeting was to discuss the return of Myanmar migrants from the border; some expected the number of returnees would be about 150,000, while others estimated the number to be 70,000 or 80,000; at present migrant workers have not yet returned in bulk, and that it was a relief for the country; communications and cooperation with the Thai government seem to be good; Kayin State plays a crucial role in this programme as most of the migrant workers have come back home through the Myawady border crossing before heading to the respective regions, while some of them returned through the Taninthayi Region.

Kayin State’s Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htway Myint discussed the situation of over 80,000 migrant workers who returned earlier, preparations for quarantine centres for the possible returnees in the next group, the readiness of healthcare workers and preparations made for providing emergency treatments, and donations of INGOs, NGOs and well-wishers for the quarantined persons.

Mon State’s Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan explained facility quarantine and hospital quarantine coordination with the health ministry, installation of ventilators and deployment of medical doctors, effectiveness due to public participation, the first group of returnees under the quarantine, and the readiness of the region to meet the requirements of the returnees.

SEE PAGE-3

No new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, total number remains at 161

1. The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) tested 186 samples, the Department of Medical Research tested 106 samples, and the 100-bed Defence Services General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw tested 363 samples, totaling 655, on 5 May 2020, and no positive case was found.
2. There are a total of 161 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 5 May.
3. Out of old confirmed cases, a total of 49 persons were tested negative for two times until 5 May.
4. Six positive patients have died.
5. There are a total of 98 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 5 May.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 10 pm, 5 May 2020

| Samples tested at the National Health Laboratory on 5 May | 186 |
| Samples tested at the Department of Medical Research on 5 May | 106 |
| Samples tested at the 100-bed Defence Services General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw on 5 May | 363 |
| COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) (new confirmed case) (positive) | 0 |

Ministry of Health and Sports (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
MoIFER Union Minister leads Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country’s economy

The fourth meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country’s economy was held via video conferencing system yesterday. The meeting was chaired by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee and representatives of the Ministries concerned took part in the meeting. The meeting discussed matters relating to disbursement of funds to the affected enterprises in keeping with the criteria adopted at the 2nd meeting of the Working Committee. The criteria includes:

1. Local businesses that are affected by COVID-19.
2. Businesses that are currently operating or temporarily suspended within past 3 months and can restart their business immediately upon the loan provided.
3. Businesses which already obtained permits or licenses from relevant departments before 31 March 2018.
4. Businesses that have annual income over the last 2 years.
5. Businesses that have strong capacity to repay the loan.
6. Businesses which will use the loan only for the payment of salaries to employees and for operational costs.
7. If the business is a company and which has not been suspended by company registry or struck off from the company registry. If the business is not a company, the businesses which must have not been suspended from the relevant government department or institution’s registry (or) not struck off from that registry.
8. Businesses that have already paid income tax/commercial tax/specific goods tax.
9. Priority will be given to businesses which regularly pay contributions to the social security fund.
10. If the business is a company, the loan must be guaranteed by the Board of Directors. If the business is not a company, owners of the businesses have to guarantee to repay the loan.

The meeting approved to disburse a further Kyat 3.5996 billion loan to 113 enterprises.

Well-wishers in China donate medical supplies to Myanmar

WELL-wishers and organizations from the People’s Republic of China donated medical supplies to Myanmar to help fight against COVID-19 on 4 May. Mr Xu Jianguo, Secretary General of China Foundation for Peace and Development, handed over the 5.3 million Yuan worth of 1,200,000 surgical masks, 3,600 personal protective equipment-PPE, 9,700 medical eye shields, and 800 non-contact infrared thermometers to U Myo Thant Pe, Ambassador of Myanmar, at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing. The China Foundation’s Secretary General explained the purpose of the donation. The Ambassador of Myanmar expressed words of thanks, and presented back certificate of honour to the Secretary General. The donated items will be transported to Myanmar via Muse border gate.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

India donates medical supplies to Myanmar

INDIA donated medical supplies 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 India in Myanmar. The special flight transporting the medical supplies from India landed in Yangon International Airport at 12:20 pm yesterday and was welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and Indian Embassy.

Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar handed over medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and Sports and Director-General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw from Union Minister Office of MoHS received them. Upon request of the Myanmar government, India donated the medical supplies, told Indian Ambassador. Press release of Indian Embassy in Yangon stated the contribution is indicative of the traditionally warm and friendly ties between India and Myanmar, and would augment Myanmar’s determined efforts to fight the pandemic.

The value of donation, 13 kinds of medical supplies, is US$900,000. There will be other donations in the future. Similarly, China, South Korea, Singapore and Japan also donated medicine, medical equipment and accessories to Myanmar to fight the COVID-19, according to Director-General Dr Thar Tun Kyaw.—Zaw Gyå

Indian ambassador hands over medical supplies of COVID-19 for Myanmar at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: PE ZAW

PHOTO: PE ZAW

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA
FROM PAGE 1
preparations of water and toilet facilities at the quarantine centres, manufacturing and distribution of reusable face masks in rural areas, and healthcare advice for prevention of COVID-19.

Next, Taninthayi Region’s Chief Min-
ister U Myint Maung discussed the return of 6,000 migrant workers in the first group into the region, facility quarantine for them, return to their homes after spending quarantine days, preparation of a list of migrant workers who will be returning into the region through Myanmar border, preparations for quarantine centres for the returnees, hotel quarantines for those who will follow guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, water supply for them in summer; donation of well-wishers and civil society organizations to the facility quarantine centres and coordination plans to fulfill the need of public toilets.

In her discussion, the State Counselor advised assistance from Mon State to the Kayin State in case of a large number of returnees, because there were many quarantine centres in Mon State; spoke about the need for Union spirit among the people; that the returnees were being sent to their respective regions and states due to geographical conditions. The government side and U Myo Win and the State Counselor explained the for-
party represented NCA-S EAO. The three areas of Kayin, Taninthayi and Mon are geographically related; the government would coordinate with regard to COVID-19 and equipment to fight against the follow-up meeting on 8 May, U Myo Win said, “The government has offered to provide techniques and equipment to fight against COVID-19 depending on the different significant features and geographical conditions. The government has formed a coordination and cooperation committee with an order of the President’s Office on 27 April to work with the people and the government; currently, with the assistance of the people, we were able to accomplish a lot in Kayin and Mon states and Taninthayi region; from the government side, we must help the people.

In her concluding remarks, the State Counselor said that it was necessary to tell the people again and again to follow the rules and regulations strictly; that she wanted everyone to cooperate and collaborate with regard to COVID-19 and that she wanted everyone to remember that “we are all of this Union.” —MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)
MoHS discuss healthcare plans for monsoon common diseases

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presided over a meeting yesterday through video conferencing about prevention and precautions of most monsoon common diseases amid the ministry’s measures against COVID-19. The Union Minister discussed preparations for reduction of death rate from most monsoon common diseases as there were a total of 80,000 dengue fever cases from 2017 to 2019, with the death rate of 450 in total.

He added his ministry will carry out prevention and control of dengue fever with the national-level action plan this year as most of the communicable diseases could be prevented through hand-washing, sanitation and personal hygiene. The Union Minister also called for promoting the role of medical research in treatments of most common monsoon diseases, adopting future plans beyond COVID-19 outbreak, holding meetings with partner organizations, local and international NGOs and civil organizations.

Senior health officers also discussed prevention of seasonal flu, transmission of COVID-19 among the evacuated persons from natural disasters in monsoon, and other common diseases in monsoon period. —MNA

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds the video conference with national volunteers steering committee.

National Volunteers Steering Committee holds video conference

Chairman, Region/State chief ministers, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports, and officials from the secretariat office.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister expressed the importance of quarantine processes in preventing, controlling and treating COVID-19.

The whole public is cooperating in the COVID-19 actions, and the role of philanthropists and volunteers are very important, said the union minister.

The trainings, personal protective equipment, accommodations, foods, and transportations for volunteers are needed, and the government was trying to fulfill them, he added.

He sought suggestions from the chief ministers of states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for the assigned tasks. The ministry, in cooperation with Ministry of Health and Sports, and Myanmar Medical Association, was compiling a manual for volunteers.

The lists of volunteers who are currently working on the quarantine processes, those who will work, and those who are receiving training were collected.

As of 5 May the experienced teachers are conducting online trainings of trainers for volunteers.

Relevant ministries in the states, regions, and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were providing buildings to accommodate the volunteers, said the union minister. He also collected for the suggestions of officials from regions and states for their needs.

The Director-General of Social Welfare Department and secretary (1) of the National Volunteers Steering Committee detailed about the training programmes for volunteers who will work at the quarantine centres.

The attendees discussed the matters related to the affairs of volunteers who were working not only at the quarantine centres but also in other places, and accommodations for volunteers. The union minister and officials coordinated over the discussed matters.—MNA

The MIC’s performances in February and March, 2020

1. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is permitting local and foreign investments in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law.

2. The MIC permitted a total of US$45,809 million worth of foreign investments including increased investments in February 2020, and $94,784 million of foreign investments including increased investments in March.

3. The following are foreign investments permitted during February and March 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>No. of investment</th>
<th>Capital K'yan (mil.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>Industrial sector</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35,741.624*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Hotels and tourism sector</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47,085.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Mining sector</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Electricity sector</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>580.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>Other service sector</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10,134,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100,461,071</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The amounts of increased investments were included in the total amounts.

4. The MIC permitted a total of K109,461,971 million worth of local investments including increased investments in February 2020, and K195,744,915 million worth of local investments including increased investments in March 2020.

5. The followings are local investments permitted during February and March:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>No. of investment</th>
<th>Capital K'yan (mil.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>Animal husbandry and fishery sector</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Industrial sector</td>
<td>20,429*</td>
<td>14,825*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Hotels and tourism sector</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Other service sector</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20,818</td>
<td>14,991</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Increased number of employees was included in the total number.
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 2 May 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Details on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Arakan State, Mrauk Township, Rakhine State.</td>
<td>On 4 February 2020, police have seized 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 211.96 kilograms of opium. On 30 March 2020, the Office of the President relayed information to the Myanma Anti-Narcotics Bureau and arrested 211.96 kilograms of opium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Taunggyi Township, Kayin State.</td>
<td>On 26 April 2020, police have seized 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 211.96 kilograms of opium. On 30 March 2020, the Office of the President relayed information to the Myanma Anti-Narcotics Bureau and arrested 211.96 kilograms of opium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Taunggyi Township, Kayin State.</td>
<td>On 1 May 2020, police have seized 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 211.96 kilograms of opium. On 30 March 2020, the Office of the President relayed information to the Myanma Anti-Narcotics Bureau and arrested 211.96 kilograms of opium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region.</td>
<td>On 26 April 2020, police have seized 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and 211.96 kilograms of opium. On 30 March 2020, the Office of the President relayed information to the Myanma Anti-Narcotics Bureau and arrested 211.96 kilograms of opium.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 1083 cases have been opened files as of 2 May 2020. A total of 1,666 people, including 1,395 men and 271 women had been arrested with 8,946.8514 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 41,544.33886 g of opium, 665.27 g of low-quality opium, 5325.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 335,667 stimulant tablets, 1,001.67 g of marihuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.0061 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 25 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge quantities of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

**Contacts**

- **Landline No.** — 067-590200
- **Fax Phone No.** — 067-590233
- **Email Address** — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

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**All persons closed to positive soldier tested negative for COVID-19**

A statement on a soldier who is serving at the Nay Pyi Taw Command testing positive for COVID-19 was issued on 4 May. A total of 363 persons who had contacts with the positive soldier were monitored, and Defence Services General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw, tested their samples with Coabs 480R diagnostic machine on 4 May. The result showed no one tested positive for COVID-19. An extensive investigation will be conducted in order to know how the soldier infested with COVID-19 though he didn't go anywhere outside the military compound, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

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**FROM PAGE-4**

7. The following are the jobs created for local workers during February and March 2020 by the local investments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Number of jobs created for local workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>Electricity sector</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Mining sector</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Industrial sector</td>
<td>1,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Hotels and tourism sector</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>Other service sector</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Trade Mark Ads**

Call Thin Thin May

09255597511, 09974424848

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**Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun**
6 MAY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

LOCAL NEWS

FERRIES SERVICE IN CHINDWIN RIVER

THE ferries from Monywa cruising in upper Chindwin River resumed their service yesterday, said U Than Nyunt Win, Sagaing Regional Minister for Transport and Communications.

“We have just signed. We’ve allowed the ferry to resume their services. We are not sure which line will start its operation. We asked them for a list. We have permitted them to operate in response to the proposal letter from the Private Ferries Supervisory Committee in Monywa town,” he said.

The operation of ferries was suspended in Chindwin River from 7 April to 15 May. However, the Private Ferries Supervisory Committee in Monywa submitted a proposal on 4 May to the Sagaing Regional Minister for Transport and Communications to be allowed to operate the ferries in accordance with the rules. Although the passenger ferries have been suspended temporarily, the cargo vessels have been allowed to operate in Monywa and upper Chindwin River.

“It is neither restricted nor allowed. According to the government order 7/2020, the motor vessels which are in accordance with the regulations are allowed to resume their operation. So, the ferries must have to be operated with only 50 passengers on board. The Minister has already permitted. But we haven’t received the official letter yet,” said Secretary U Kyaw Win of Private Ferries Supervisory Committee in Monywa town.

There are more than 50 cargo vessels in 18 operators and more than 100 ferries in 10 operators cruising along upper Chindwin River up to Homalin Town, according to the Private Ferries Supervisory Committee in Monywa town.

Commodities are being loaded onto a cargo vessel in Chindwin River.

MRT to assist in transporting of coronavirus-confirmed patients to CICS-Phaung Gyi

“Myanmar Rescue Team (Yangon) is delivering the healthcare services starting from 30 March under the instruction of the EMO of the Yangon General Hospital emergency ward under the Ministry of Health and Sports. We are ready to assist in transporting of the confirmed patients to CICS-Phaung Gyi,” stated Yangon MRT Chairman U Soe Than.

The coronavirus-confirmed patients are receiving medical treatment at Waibargi, North Okkalapa and South Okkalapa women and children hospitals. Now, the patients in these hospitals are full and so we are making arrangements to send the patients to CICS-Phaung Gyi.

CICS-Phaung Gy is making arrangements to take care of a total of 500 patients including 240 normal patients, 240 confirmed patients and 20 ICU patients. If we have more patients, we will turn CICS-Phaung Gy into one which is able to keep up to 2000 patients.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Motorcyclist killed in vehicle crash in Kyaukdaga

A motorcyclist was killed when a motorcycle crashed from behind with a 12-wheel vehicle in Pae Nwe Gone town in Kyaukdaga township in Bago region on 4 May evening, according to the Pae Nwe Gone town traffic police.

The accident happened between Mileposts 106/4 and 106/5 on Yangon-Mandalay highway.

According to the investigation, a motorbike en route to Yangon from Mandalay, driven by Maung Tun, 20, from Pae Nwe Gone town, crashed from behind with a 12-wheel vehicle moving in the same direction. The vehicle was driven by Maung Aung San Oo, 30, from Shin Pyi Kyin village in Yemyethin Township. As the motorbike driver lost control when he tried to turn left, he hit the vehicle from behind.

The motorcyclist driver was pronounced dead while being sent to Pae Nwe Gone General hospital.

The accident was driven by Maung Aung San Oo, 30, from Shin Pyi Kyin village in Yemyethin Township. As the motorbike driver lost control when he tried to turn left, he hit the vehicle from behind.

The motorcyclist driver was pronounced dead while being sent to Pae Nwe Gone General hospital.

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Stock trading volume on YSX reaches the lowest in April

THE value of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in April touched the lowest of K902 million with 173,888 shares being traded, due to the long market holidays during Thingyan.

In January 2020, 196,836 shares worth K1.25 billion were traded on the exchange while 188,919 shares, with an estimated value of K1.48 billion, were traded on the exchange in February and 228,913 shares valued K1.42 billion were traded in March respectively, the exchange’s monthly report showed.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd — are being traded on the stock exchange.

The sixth public company — Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd. (EFRO) — was given green light to be listed on the exchange and the first day of share trading was earlier scheduled on 20 March 2020 in accordance with Section 41 (c) of the Securities Exchange Law and Section 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations. However, due to the coronavirus consequence, it was postponed and the base price and listing date will be timely published to investors in accordance with the conditions of instructions by government, according to YSX’s notice.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) allowed foreign investors to invest in the local equity market in March.

In April, the share prices of FMI were closed at K19,000 per unit, MTSH at K3,750, MCB at K1,100, FPB at K22,500 and TMH at K2,750.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars.

To boost the trading, the YSX has doubled its stock trading matching time from two to four per day last year. The exchange launched 7 times matching per day on 26 March 2020.

In addition to this, it has held promotional events to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The stock exchange has also sought the government’s support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financial companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

A total of 2.4 million shares worth K13.39 billion were traded on the YSX in 2019, a significant increase compared to the previous year, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

— Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Gold market reflects on coronavirus central committee’s guidelines, directives

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has attracted foreign direct investment of more than US$1.446 billion between 1 October and 28 April in the 2019-2020 financial year, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The total figure includes investments of $91.85 million in the Special Economic Zones, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

Myanmar has set an FDI target of $5.8 billion in the current fiscal but we cannot measure the impact of coronavirus infections at present, said DICA Director-General and MIC Secretary U Thant Sin Lwin.

“The enterprises operating with imported raw materials will be affected to a certain extent. Sure, enterprises with a big labour force will struggle amid the coronavirus outbreak,” he said.

According to a press statement issued recently by the DICA, 162 foreign enterprises have obtained permits from the MIC and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal and brought in the capital of over $2.419 billion. Those enterprises will execute electricity, manufacturing, agriculture, livestock and fishery, transport and communication, real estate development, hotels and tourism, and other services businesses.

“Myanmar is trying to attract foreign investment by providing tax relief, tax incentives, investment opportunities, and fast processing of proposals. However, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting only responsible businesses to the country,” he added.

“The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is in the process of being implemented. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to attract FDI of $200 billion in 20 years,” said Union Minister U Thаung Thаung of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

In the 2018-2019 FY, FDI of $4.5 billion flowed into Myanmar, falling short of the $5.8-billion target by around $1.3 billion. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Vesak Day calls on us to win the battle against COVID-19 with mindfulness

By Khin Yadana

Photo May Soe

MOPTI is shouldering tasks for sustainable competitive advantage for the nation and the people.

F orfunctioning in mediative assortments of financial banks, the Planning, Finance, and Industry (MoPFI) has been at the frontlines of preparing organizations/enterprises under its umbrella, and working in top gear for the country and the people.

In accordance with the instructions of the Project Bank, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is moving ahead beginning 2019 – 2020 financial years. The fourth-year performances of the MOPTI are submitted to the extended rounds and their reflection showing the progress through the different interviews with the Union Minister and the Deputy Ministers.

U Soe Win (Union Minister)

Q: Please share us on the tasks in the interior of the people.

A: In serving the interest of the people, the MOPTI has established the "PPC-Concept", and moreover it successfully launched a web portal "Project Bank Website" on 26 February 2020 in collaboration with the United Nations. Loans are being provided to MISES with the funds taken from MMK 375 million.

With the assistance from the German Development Bank (KfW), loans are being offered to MISES. The KfW formerly KfW Bankengruppe (banking group) is a German state-owned development bank, based in Frankfurt. Moreover, the funds from the saving of the people amounting MMK 518.916 have been disbursed as loans to MISES segment.

Loans for agricultural machinery

Taking funds amounting MMK 200 billion from JICA for “Two Step Loan”, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has loaned out cash to farmers. With a view to prevent and mitigate the loss and failure incurred from the bank loans, the “Credit Guarantee Corporation” (CGC) is on the agenda with the loans from ASI amounting US$ 100 million.

Q: Tell us on the performances of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

A: The Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank has attempted to increase the agricultural cultivation loan amounts amounting MMK 1,747 billion in 2019 – 2020. Paddy cultivation loans have been raised from MMK 100,000 to MMK 1,000,000.

Q: Kindly share us on the insurance development.

A: Earlier, (11) local life insurance companies and (9) local general insurance companies were undertaking the tasks of insurance matters. Now, foreign life insurance companies, local and foreign joint life insurance companies, and general insurance companies are being awarded with work licences. Pilot project on crop insurance scheme is ongoing in Pyay and Shwebo.

Q: Please tell us on socio-economic development task of the rural people.

A: With a view to reduce the rural poverty, the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2014 – 2020) has been implemented. The agenda to implement the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2019 – 2020). A total of 15 million finance-guarantee groups have been permitted to functions, covering (50,000) villages with about (4.5) million population.

Q: Tell us on the retirement funds for the employees.

A: With regard to the retirement funds, the “Central Provident Fund” (CPF) scheme is in the pipeline. The talk on central provident fund is in the process, which will be applied to newly recruited employees as well as the old employees. The government employees retirement (10) years service would be entitled with the existing pension rules.

Q: Tell us on the tax reforms.

A: In the reform process with regards to the revenue and tax, more internal revenue sources have been expanded with easier methods of tax collection. The “MPT Duty Card” system with anticounterfeiting application is in use at Thilawa Special Economic Zone as first. “CRM – Net” system is being applied as the second stage. Moreover, the “Tax Administration Law” (TAL) has been enacted. TAL aims to provide a proper guide and simplification of the administrative procedures in relation to tax matters for all the taxpayers in Myanmar.

Q: Tell us on the sustainable development in the rural area.

A: With a view to reduce the rural poverty, the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2014 – 2020) has been implemented. The agenda to implement the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2019 – 2020). A total of 15 million finance-guarantee groups have been permitted to functions, covering (50,000) villages with about (4.5) million population.

Q: Kindly share us on the microfinance organizations/enterprises under the Project Bank.

A: The Myanmar Microfinance License (MML) is being applied to newly recruited employees as well as the old employees. The government employees retirement (10) years service would be entitled with the existing pension rules.

U Myint Maung Win (Union Minister)

Q: Kindly share us on the insurance development.

A: Of (24) insurance organizations in the MOPTI, a total of (12) bodies are working for financial sector. There are state banks namely the Myanmar Economic Bank, the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, and the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

Q: Tell us on industrial development.

A: Tasks with regard to industrial development includes that of craft strategy, that of shifting areas and by laws, and that of prevention on chemical hazards.

Q: Tell us on the Certificate of Origin.

A: A Certificate of Origin is a document widely used in international trade transactions which attests that the product/origin there is has met certain criteria to be considered as originating in a particular country. Shifting to “0-E Form D” has started in December 2019, and linked up functioning with the “ASIAN Single Window Operation” successfully. It helps in international trade and assists in foreign investment.

Q: Tell us on the basic conditions of the rural people.

A: With a view to reduce the rural poverty, the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2014 – 2020) has been implemented. The agenda to implement the “Financial Inclusion Roadmap” (2019 – 2020). A total of 15 million finance-guarantee groups have been permitted to functions, covering (50,000) villages with about (4.5) million population.

Q: Kindly share us on the microfinance organizations/enterprises under the Project Bank.

A: The Myanmar Microfinance License (MML) is being applied to newly recruited employees as well as the old employees. The government employees retirement (10) years service would be entitled with the existing pension rules.

Loans from Myanmar Economic Bank

Myanmar Economic Bank is providing loans to MISES on “Two Step Loan” with 10% per cent interest, while the funds from the public savings have been utilized as loans at 9% per cent interest.

Q: Kindly share us on the microfinance organizations/enterprises under the Project Bank.

A: The “Financial Regulatory Department” is supervising the “Micro Finance scheme”, and that (43) organizations have been formed state/regions covering over (45) million people.

Q: Kindly share us on the microfinancial sector.

A: Banks, financial institutions, or other financial institutions are permitted to do businesses in the country. The “Financial Regulatory Department” is handling the insurance tasks.

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Q: Kindly share us on the transformation of “Self-Assessment System”.  
A: The “Internal Revenue Department” is implementing to shift from the existing “Official Assessment System” to “Self-Assessment System”. Currently, we have one “Large Taxpayer Office” (LTO) and (5) “Medium Taxpayer Office” (MTO). The “Self-Assessment System” would be implemented with the ICT approach.

Q: Tell us on the Customs clearance.  
A: We have successfully installed “Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System” (MACCS) in 2016 – 2017 in Yangon. The system has been installed at Myanmar - Thailand border in Myawady, and that there is a plan to install in Myanmar - China border at Muse in 2019 – 2020.

Q: Tell us matters on tax appeal.  
A: On 7 June 2019, Myanmar Union Parliament enacted the Tax Administration Law (Law No. 20), including a number of reform measures. Along with the emergence of the Tax Appeal Law, the Revenue Appellate Tribunal would serve for the interest of the people.

Q: Tell us on the response for the economy that was affected by the COVID – 19 pandemic.  
A: In response to COVID – 19 pandemic; the State has consolilated MMK (50) billions from the Union Funds, and MMK (50) billions from the social security funds. The total MMK (100) billions has been placed to spread out as recovery loans to CMP sector, the hotels and tourism industry, and the MSMEs with (1) percent interest for one year. Other tax relieves have been allowed to mitigate the negative impacts. Moreover, in quest of foreign aids and assistance, negotiations are going on with the World Bank, the ADB, and the IMF.

U Sett Aung (Deputy Minister)  
Q: Please share on the national planning mechanism.  
A: The “National Planning” mechanism has many linkages with plenty of departments and bodies such as that of the Budget Department; that of the Treasury Department; that of the Industrial Development Bodies; that of the Directorate Industrial Collaboration; that of the finance, the industrial, and the agriculture, and so on. It covers MSMEs in the context of the Economic Development, the Economic Stability, the Fiscal Policy, and the Monetary Policy are all hooked up and looped in through the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

Q: Kindly explain on Project Data Bank.  
A: We have launched “Project Data Bank” website and that could be termed as successful achievement. All the “Strategic Projects” have been featured in “One Stop Information Centre” Web Portal. We presented in transparency over the “Government Procurement System”, reflecting transparent and predictable environment.

Q: Kindly explain on the norms and standards with regard to state projects.  
A: There are two crucial factors in the Policy Direction for the implementation of MSDP. Are we to implement through Public Investment (Government Budget) or through the Development Assistant. In other words, are we to team up with Private Sector in Private Public Partnership format?

For instance, “Commercially Viable” projects are to be streamlined with the private sector; and on the other hand, the projects that are not “Commercially Viable” are to roll on through Development Assistance. The national planning needs project analysis. Monitoring and evaluation tasks are needed at the ministries in checking the national strategic direction by linking up the budget spending. This is to identify the weak and strong status over the realizations of the strategic projects by various ministries in the backdrops of MSDP implementation.

Dr. Min Ye Paing Hein (Deputy Minister)  
Q: Kindly share us on the transformation of government owned factories and mills.  
A: Transformation tasks are rolling ahead with the aim to put the state owned factories and mills into market oriented economy. The Union Minister chairs the “Central Transformation Unit” (CTU). Evaluation and analysis is underway. Integrating with the private sector is in the agenda.  
Q: Please explain over the strategic plan for the development of the entire industrial sector.

A: The strategic programme of Myanmar Industrial sector was drafted in 2017 with the assistance of the UNIDO. The program has been hooked up with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP). The plan is under revision to be in conformity with the existing situation.

Innovations encouraged  
With vision to modernize the nation’s industrial sector through the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), the “National Innovation Policy” is in the process. The “MSMEs Master Plan” is to be released soon.

Policy guidelines on motor vehicle industry sub-sector have been released in 2019. Moreover, the industrial zonal law has been submitted to the Hluttaw. A new industrial zonal law designed to encourage factories and workshops to relocate to strategic industrial zones is due soon.

Standardization guidelines in connection with that of the spare parts of motor vehicles; that of the electrical goods; and that of (50) different items were being released, and the items are to be prescribed soon.

Q: Please explain on the plans on human resources development and the technological development.  
A: There are (6) technical institutes functioning with the international assistance in the country, and that two more institutes are to be established in Thaton and Monywa. On average, (1,000) skilled workers are nurtured each year from these technical institutes, and that (922) trainees have been provided with training through “mobile vocational” courses for (20) events conducted in states / regions.

In catching up with the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the training courses on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning are on the agenda.

Q: Kindly share us on the assistance being offered to private sector in the industrial transformation.

A: For the advantage of the MSMEs, the “SME Member Card Online Registration” and the “e-Payment System” have been arranged, and moreover, assistance are being provided to MSMEs to have access for low interest loans.

In conclusion on my part, the transformation of the existing government industry sector into private participation would be realized in transparency with the business people for mutual cooperation in momentum. After all, the MoPFI would uphold the regulatory duty effectively in keeping the industry in line with the policy guidelines, rules and regulations.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)
Pouring water on sacred Maha Bodhi Tree arrived in Myanmar since the time arrival of Buddhism to Myanmar in the Buddhist Era [Maha Sakarat 103] when two Mon merchants brothers Taphutha and Balika ...

In Yangon, Shwe Dagon Pagoda and Sule Pagoda platform in and Inya Road there is Bodhi Gone Pagoda where water pouring ceremonies are yearly held.

After leading monk Sayadaws perform religious rites, parties of water pouring young, middle and old Myanmar followed. Dance, music and songs followed.

Refresh onto minds are served to all friends and strangers wishing everyone the enter living beings free and annual from all dangers, disasters and all pedan dermic and discaces.

Pouring water on sacred Maha Bodhi Tree arrived in Myanmar since the time arrival of Buddhism to Myanmar in the Buddhist Era [Maha Sakarat 103] when two Mon merchants brothers Taphutha and Balika...

In Mandalay there is Bodhi Gone, in Amarapura and there are Shwe Kyet Yet and Shwe Kyat Kya.
Social welfare ministry sends healthcare items to IDPs in Rakhine

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing healthcare items to prevent, contain and give treatments of COVID-19 diseases at the camps of internally displaced persons in Rakhine State.

The ministry is working together with local governments, relevant ministries, international organizations, local civil societies and well-wishers to provide humanitarian aid to these camps and has adopted preparatory plans to prevent transmission of COVID-19 diseases among the internally displaced persons.

In line with the plan, dissemination of information, awareness programmes for rules and guidelines through hand speakers and loud speakers, distribution of soaps, transfers of suspected patients and closely contact persons and drawing flow charts to the referred places.

Moreover, peoples at the camps were provided with reusable masks, soaps, hand gel, hand washing basins, infrared thermometer, distribution of disinfectants, lime bags, face-shields, building temporary shelters for quarantine, giving necessary food supplies and cash-for-work programmes.

On 2 May, the ministry used two trucks to carry the healthcare items from the Central Warehouse in Yangon Region. The items included 30,000 surgical masks, 5,000 cloth masks, 39,460 bottles of hand gel, 100 units of infrared thermometers, 173 hand speakers and 164 memory sticks with audio files for healthcare awareness to the camps of Thetkalbyin, Mawthinyar, Darpai, Khaungdoteikar, Bawdupha (1), Bawdupha (2), Ohntawgyi (north), Ohntawgyi (south), Ohntawchae, Saythamargyi, Barsarrar and Thaechaung in Sittway Township, and Kyin nibyin and Sintatmaw camps in Pauktaw Township.

Due to the awareness programme, the locals are using face masks when they went for shopping and travelling.

From 28 March to 5 May, with awareness campaigns, the ministry has distributed 16,330 soaps, 35,494 face masks, 12 hand washing basins, 16,727 bottles of hand sanitizer, 19 thermometers, 12 hand speakers and 12 memory sticks at the IDP camps in Rakhine State.

A total of 270 hand washing basins and accessories will soon be set up at the camps. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Malaysia slashes rates to fight virus impact

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia’s central bank on Tuesday slashed interest rates to their lowest level since the 2009 global financial crisis as the coronavirus pandemic batters the economy.

The Southeast Asian nation has joined other countries around the world in easing monetary policy measures and confines people to their homes.

Bank Negara Malaysia slashed the rate by 50 basis points to 2.00 percent, as expected by economists, in third cut this year.

It came a day after the government allowed most businesses to reopen after a six-week lockdown.

Malaysia’s outbreak has been small — it has recorded about 6,000 cases and 100 deaths — but the prime minister has said the curbs have so far cost the economy 63 billion ringgit ($14.6 billion).

“Global economic conditions have weakened significantly,” the bank said in a statement.

“Widespread containment measures globally, international border closures and the consequent weak external demand environment” will hit Malaysia’s economy, it added.

The government has announced stimulus measures worth billions of dollars to blunt the impact of the virus, including tax breaks and cash aid.

With uncertainty over how fast the global economy will recover from the pandemic, economists did not rule out further easing this year.

OCBC Bank economist Wellian Wiranto said that the central bank “might well cut further again if the pace of recovery... falters even after various lockdowns are lifted.” — AFP

Spain adds 280,000 jobless during April lockdown: govt

MADRID — Spain’s jobless figure rose by more than 280,000 in April, largely due to the collapse of tourism during the coronavirus lockdown, labour ministry figures showed on Tuesday.

The numbers followed a “historic” increase in March when the government counted more than 300,000 new job seekers.

The total number of unemployed in the euro-zone’s fourth-largest economy has now reached 3.8 million, the ministry said.

At the end of March, the National Statistics Institute (INE), which calculates figures in a different way, gave Spain’s jobless figure as 3.31 million.

Spain imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 14 which has largely paralysed its economy, sending the number of job seekers spiralling.

Ministry figures show the number of state handouts rose to “record levels” with nearly 5.2 million claimants in what was an increase of nearly 137 per cent.

That number includes those who have been furloughed.

The blow was particularly felt in the services sector and among workers with temporary contracts as a result of the devastating loss of visitors over the Easter period, when the tourism industry usually moves into high gear.

During April, the services sector in which tourism plays a vital role, registered 219,128 job losses.

Spain is the second-most popular tourist destination in the world after France. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLL.0126 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLL.0126 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LILA HOCHIMINH VOY. NO. (016N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LILA HOCHIMINH VOY. NO. (016N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC ASIA VOY. NO. (1060027)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BBC ASIA VOY. NO. (1060027) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEANA MOON VOY. NO. (017S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEANA MOON VOY. NO. (017S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

A collapse in tourism has sparked a big rise in jobless figures. PHOTO: AFP
Nowadays, the world is of modernity, unsafe foods, utensils and personal products are much harmful to the people. Consumers are encountering impacts of dangerous diseases and various types of death and injuries based on aforesaid products.

It is of great importance to create chances for consumers so as to enjoy full rights through measures of consumer protection with the aim of ensuring life expectancy of human, using safe commodities and secure services and emerging fair competitions among businesspersons.

Consumers are fulfilling their basic needs depending on community service providers, foodstuffs, cosmetics, construction materials, electronic products, other goods and services on a daily basis. They wish to enjoy goods and services which would be safe and beneficial to them. An economist had said, “Human exchanges expectation with money.” Businesspersons need to take responsibilities for providing deservedly safe commodities and services to consumers.

As such, businesspersons have to strictly follow the prescribed laws, directives and orders issued by relevant departments in providing the fully safe consumer products and services meeting the domestic and international standards.

Not only businesspersons but also producers, exporters, importers, wholesalers and retailers are involved in all steps of producing safe products and services. It is necessary to scrutinize and supervise safety of products on the different steps. As such, problems of loss based on lack of safety in consumption, storage and maintenance can be solved.

In Myanmar, people are facing disadvantages of unsafe products. These advantages are as follows:

(a) Some people are facing impacts of vomiting, dizziness, unconsciousness and death in the events that they consumed the expired and illegal foodstuffs made of chemicals.
(b) Some people are suffering from various diseases because they consumed the so-called genuine groundnut oil mixed with illegal chemicals and incenses but these are very expensive.
(c) Some people were dead and injured in untimely collapse of buildings because builders used low quality of construction materials which did not meet the set standards.
(d) Many casualties happened in traffic accidents of vehicles because some automobile maintenance services gave disqualified services.
(e) Fatal causes occurred in impacts of low quality imported medicines which did not meet the set standards.
(f) Many Myanmar women...
are losing their beauties in impacts of unguaranteed cosmetics.

(g) People face loss for use of cheap and low quality construction materials instead of guaranteed ones in construction of ordinary and high-rise apartments.

(h) Outbreaks of fire based on use of low quality electronic equipment leave many people homeless and make dead and injured.

(i) Services of telecommunications such as sales and maintenance do not meet the guarantees.

(j) Some businesspersons are lying to sell stocks and shares though social media ways.

(k) Telephone bills are charged in unfair ways.

Although various kinds of media dutifully express sufferings and loss of consumers, it is regrettable to hear that the consumers who do not have access to the presentations of media and who have lesser knowledge are still encountering the aforesaid loss.

That is why the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce enacted the Consumer Protection Law 2019 so as to beef up process for safety of more than 51 million of population in Myanmar and to ensure production of industries for the safety products in cooperation with relevant departments. The all-out efforts of the department are as follows:

(a) The work committee for accepting complaints from consumers and the work committee for ensuring safety of products were formed under the committee for solving consumer disputes at region and state and district levels.

(b) DOCA cooperates with relevant departments in making field trips to take measures on inspection, supervision and action against the industries which manufacture unsafe products.

(c) The department joins hands with ASEAN countries in exchange of information.

(d) The department also gathers market information as well as exposes unsafe and dangerous products.

In so doing, staff members of the department gave talks to both businesspersons and consumers about prohibitions for distributing the commodities and providing the services which were not in conformity with information and facts mentioned on the labels, the commodities without bearing manufactured and expired dates, the commodities without bearing side effects, impacts and usage ways and the commodities without recommendations from any organizations, made field trips to production industries and took action against offenders.

It is very difficult to set up a business but easy to fall it down. If the businesses which were set up with a large sum of money and manpower as well as taking a long time cannot produce safe products, they will not stand tall as progressive and successful businesses in a long run. Businesspersons will face loss of integrity in the business society. As both businesspersons and consumers are Myanmar citizens, losses of both sides are undesirable. Not to cause like this, I would like to request the businesspersons to manufacture safe commodities and provide secure services.

That is why I would like to urge all business people to abide by laws, procedures, rules and regulations and directives prescribed by Myanmar and meet international standards in order to produce safe products and operate secure services for the safety of consumers in accord with the business ethics. On one hand, consumers should choose safe products, commodities and services free from danger.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)
THE Ministry of Health and Sports presented a certificate of honour to Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ar Ti who beat the world champions in the Chinese 8 Ball Game in Chao Yang, China yesterday, according to KoAr Ti’s social media. — Kyaw Khin

No spitting, no fans: baseball restarts S Korea’s sports season

SEOUL — South Korea’s professional sport returned to action after the coronavirus shutdown with the opening of a new baseball season Tuesday, while football and golf will soon follow suit in a ray of hope for suspended competitions worldwide.

Friday will see the delayed start of football’s K-League, and next week some of golf’s leading women players will tee up in a domestic tournament as South Korea becomes a rare hotspot for live sport.

Fans were not allowed in when any of Tuesday’s five opening Korean Baseball Organisation (KBO) matches saw the first pitches thrown, a marked contrast from the packed stadiums of previous years when fans sang and cheered relentlessly no matter the score.

Instead, banners with photos of masked fans stretched across the empty bleachers at the Incheon-based SK Wyverns club’s Munhak Baseball Stadium.—AFP

Ronaldo returns to Turin after coronavirus lockdown

Cristiano Ronaldo last played for Juventus against Inter Milan on March 8. PHOTO: AFP

MILAN — Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo flew back to Italy on Monday after almost two months in coronavirus lockdown in his native Portugal.

Ronaldo and his family landed in Turin Airport just after 0.20 pm local time, according to media reports in Italy.

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner arrived by private jet from the Portuguese island of Madeira and will spend two weeks in quarantine.

The 35-year-old played Juventus’s last Serie A game, a 2-0 win over Inter Milan behind closed doors at the Allianz Stadium on March 8, before the Italian football season was suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic which has killed over 29,000 people in the country. Ronaldo returned to Madeira after the Inter Milan match to be close to his mother Dolores who had suffered a stroke.

Juventus have recalled their 10 overseas players as Serie A clubs were given the green light to return to individual training on Monday.

The Italian interior ministry’s go-ahead for players to return to club training facilities two weeks ahead of schedule has offered fans hope that the 2019-20 season might yet be salvaged.

Juventus are leading Serie A, one point ahead of Lazio, as they target a ninth consecutive Scudetto. The club has not yet given an official date for a return to training.

Juventus began carrying out tests on their players at the club’s medical centre in Turin on Monday.—AFP

PFA chief suggests shorter matches to lighten load on players

LONDON — The head of the English Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) has raised the possibility of playing shorter matches to lighten the load on players if the season can restart.

English clubs remain committed to completing the campaign despite severe concerns over player welfare.

Players could be tested up to three times a week and be forced to stay quarantined in hotels away from their families for a number of weeks to help limit the risk of them becoming infected with coronavirus.

With 39 matches in the Premier League season still to be played, players could have little preparatory time to work on their fitness in group training before being rushed back into playing twice a week.

FIFA have proposed increasing the number of substitutes allowed per side from three to five, and coaches and players also assimilate all those and come to a considered view.”

The Premier League’s “Project Restart” has been met with some resistance over plans for all remaining games to take place at up to 10 neutral venues.

The remaining matches would need to be played behind closed doors, but there are fears fans could congregate around stadiums.

Some top-flight clubs have argued that under those circumstances there should be no relegation as the sporting integrity of the competition is compromised.

However, chairman of the English Football League (EFL) Rick Parry said denying promotion to three Championship clubs would end up in legal battles.

The head of the English PFA has suggested shorter games could limit the physical impact on players if the season can be restarted. PHOTO: AFP

McIlroy, Johnson to feature in virus relief charity match

MIAMI — Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson will face off against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff in a skins match to raise money for the coronavirus relief effort, organizers announced on Monday.

The TaylorMade Driving Relief event will take place on May 17 at Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Florida, a joint statement said.

The PGA Tour, NBC Sports and Britain’s Sky Sports will televise the match, which will raise funds for the American Nurses Foundation and CDC Foundation, two organisations helping to lead COVID-19 relief efforts.

No spectators will be allowed to access the event, which will follow strict social distancing guidelines as laid down by the US Centers for Disease Control.

A statement said “appropriate testing measures” would be put in place to protect the health of players, production crew and others on site.

Organisers said the match would be the first televised golf event since the COVID-19 pandemic brought sport around the world to a standstill in March.

“We are excited about the safe and responsible return of live golf and the opportunity to raise significant funds for those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic through the TaylorMade Driving Relief event,” said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan.—AFP