

NATIONAL

MoIFER Union Minister leads Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

India donates medical supplies to Myanmar

PAGE-2

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 sit-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the video conference with chief ministers from Kayin, Taninthayi and Mon. **PHOTO: MNA**



uation 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, **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, totalling 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)

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Govt, EAOs hold coordination meeting on COVID-19 preventive measures

PAGE-3

LOCAL NEWS

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

PAGE-6



BUSINESS

Stock trading volume on YSX reaches the lowest in April

PAGE-7



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.

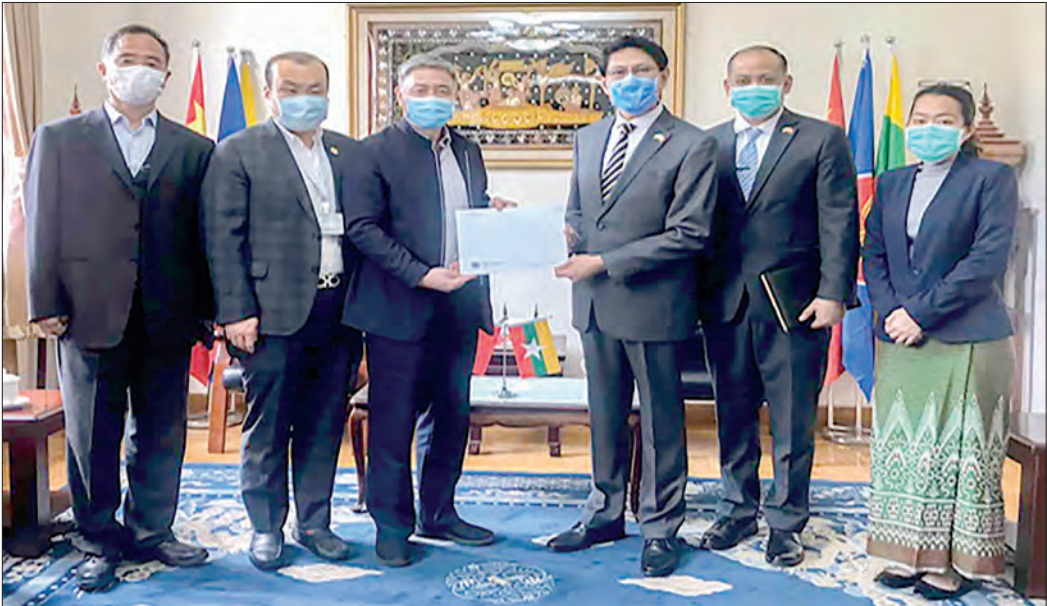


Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun presides over fourth meeting of the Working Committee yesterday to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy. PHOTO: MNA



- (3) Businesses which already obtained permits or licees 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. —MNA



Myanmar Ambassador to China receives medical supplies for COVID-19 in Beijing yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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 govern-

ment, 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 Gyi



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

“People are the key”

State Counsellor focuses preparations for facility quarantine centres for returnees from Thailand in discussions with chief ministers of Kayin, Taninthayi and Mon

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 Minister 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 Myawady 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 fulfil the need of public toilets.

In her discussion, the State Counsellor 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 insufficient quarantine centres in a single area; staying in quarantine at the respective areas would help the returnees live closely with their relatives would also give them moral support; if the number of migrant workers to Kayin State was

significantly high, some of them would be sent to Mon State.

She added that home quarantine was not practical in Myanmar; although the developed countries prefer this system to facility quarantine; home quarantine has not been practical due to local conditions since the pandemic occurred in Myanmar; the cost for facility quarantine is significantly high for Myanmar; therefore well-wishers and civil society organizations play a crucial role in this programme.

The State Counsellor also expressed her concern that the people would let down their guard as the COVID-19 outbreak period dragged on; also she was concerned that the people would not follow the guidelines strictly; facility quarantines were very costly and causing burdens for the country; the government’s policy was to accept the returnees, whether the Myanmar migrant workers had gone to foreign countries legally or illegally; however, it was important to report their return as otherwise, it would be dangerous for their communities; illegal Myanmar migrant workers can come back home in the same status of legal workers as both can enjoy the same level of rights; it was also required for Mon State to share mobile toilets with the Taninthayi Region.

She continued to say that the period of COVID-19 cannot be estimated; that Myanmar people were very kind-hearted and generous; the government was relying on public contributions; and that those who were giving assistance to the people

at the facility quarantine centres were the common people; all donors were not wealthy persons; some of the people were contributing what they could; it would be impossible for the government to spend a large amount of state budget; as the COVID-19 disease could last for a long time, it was necessary for the people to adopt the spirit of the long-distance runner; wearing a face mask should not be a problem, once it becomes a habit, it would no longer be a problem; it was impossible for the Union Government to distribute free face masks for everyone; and that it would be more suitable to make face masks at home in line with the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports.

She added that the report on preparations of Ministry of Health and Sports for reacceptance of Myanmar migrants in line with prevention guidelines should have been received by the states/regions; that this report had outlined in detail what needed to be done; Myanmar had prepared for the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease since early January and that these preparations had been very helpful for the country; since then the government had formed a committee on handling health and economic issues; when the WHO announced the disease as a pandemic, the committee was elevated to a national-level central committee.

The three areas of Kayin, Mon and Taninthayi are geographically related; the number of migrant workers returning

through border crossings is expected to be high; the first challenge, like a wave happened in late March with worries about possible disease carriers despite well-made preparations; in the current second challenge, it was estimated that tens of thousands of migrant workers would come back home; however, all of them are not only from Kayin, Mon and Taninthayi, and they would go back to their respective areas; and that these three states/regions were playing a crucial role in this issue; that these three regions would have to prevent the spread of the disease when the returnees are sent to their homes; therefore coordination was important and that the Union government would coordinate to fulfil the requirements; no matter how big the challenge may be, this challenge would be overcome through collaborative efforts; that more trust could be built between 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 Counsellor said that it was necessary to tell the people again and again to follow the directives 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)

Govt, EAOs hold coordination meeting on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment plans

THE coordination committee of ethnic armed organizations and the signatories of nationwide ceasefire agreement held a coordination meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday to work together for prevention and containment of COVID-19 diseases.

Vice Chairman of coordination committee and retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo led the government side and U Myo Win and party represented NCA-S EAO.

Regarding the meeting, Peace Commission’s Advisory Board member U Hla Maung Shwe said, “The Vice Chairman of committee explained the formation of this committee and invitation for coordination have been informed to the 18 ethnic armed groups; the 14 groups have reported their implemen-



Representatives of government and ethnic armed groups in NCA discuss COVID-19 measure plans. PHOTO: HMS

tation; we will hold online meeting in a couple of days with the 10 ethnic armed groups signed in the NCA; the COVID-19 must be faced against for the national interest, and that both signatories and non-signatories are expected to work together in this issue.”

The NCA signatories will meet with the Peace Process Working Team (PPWT) in discussions with the government on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment plans.

U Myo Win, the representative of NCA-S EAO and coordi-

nator for NCA implementation, said, “Today’s meeting is an informal discussion for official meetings. We discussed recommendations of the President. The ethnic armed organizations also discussed their works on COVID-19 measures, especially about

handling the returnees of Myanmar migrant workers through border crossings.”

“These ethnic armed groups are mainly focusing on prevention and control measures. However, they will need government’s assistance for treatments,” he added.

On the agreement on holding 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 ethnic armed groups for seven tasks in measures against COVID-19.—Ye Gaung Nyunt
(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
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds the meeting on prevention and precautions of most monsoon common diseases yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

National Volunteers Steering Committee holds video conference



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds the video conference with national volunteers steering committee. PHOTO: MNA

DR WIN MYAT AYE, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and Secretary of National Volunteers Steering Committee, hosted a video conference at the ministry yesterday.

The video meeting was joined by members of the National Volunteers Steering Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Council

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

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister stressed 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

fulfil 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
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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\$545.859 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:

Sr	Sector	February		March	
		No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)	No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)
(a)	Industrial sector	21	179.487*	11	42.585*
(b)	Hotels and tourism sector	1	1.066	1	4.600
(c)	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	-	-	1	6.834
(d)	Other service sector	4	5.486	2	40.770
(e)	Oil and Gas sector	-	352.820*	-	-
(f)	Industrial zone construction sector	-	7.000*	-	-
	Total	26	545.859	15	94.789

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

4. The MIC permitted a total of K100, 461.071 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:

Sr	Sector	February		March	
		No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)	No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)
(a)	Industrial sector	6	35,741.624*	4	26,141.092
(b)	Hotels and tourism sector	2	47,985.000	3	54,421.823*
(c)	Mining sector	1	800.000	-	-
(d)	Electricity sector	1	580.000	-	-
(e)	Other service sector	4	10,134.447	3	114,915.000
	Total	14	100,461.071	10	195,477.915

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

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

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		February	March
(a)	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	-	65
(b)	Industrial sector	20,429*	14,825*
(c)	Hotels and tourism sector	24	61
(d)	Other service sector	365	40
	Total	20,818	14,991

* Increased number of employees was included in the total number.

SEE PAGE-5

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 17/2020
13th Waxing of Kasone, 1382 ME
(4 May 2020)

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:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Area No 24, Yanpu Ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.	On 26 April 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Sai Aung, 25, son of U La Sung, who lives in Cita-pu-Kaungya Ward on the Aungmingalar road, Area No 24, Yanpu Ward, Myitkyina Township and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Myitkyina)MaYa(pa)62/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Myithitgyi Ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.	On 26 April 2020, police searched the house of Nay Win, 59, son of U Chit Pe, who lives in Myithitgyi Ward, Myitkyina Township, and arrested him together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Myitkyina)MaYa(pa)61/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs on the road of Abid-Khalae Tagontaing Village, Mudon Township, Mon State.	On 1 May 2020, police inspected Han Naing Tun, 29, son of U Aung Zaw Than, who lives in Shwe Myaing Thiri Ward, Mawlamyine Township, and Thein Zaw, 24, son of U Kalar and Aung Thu, 29, son of U Aung Ngae, who live in the same ward, together with a motorcycle on the road of Abid-Khalae Tagontaing Village, Mudon Township and arrested them together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet)MaYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, at the same place, police searched a motorcycle driven by Bo Ye (a) Ye Htet Soe, 24, son of U Nyan Lwin, and Aung Aung, 32, son of U Thein Aung, who live in Shwe Taung Ward, Mawlamyine Township and arrested them together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Kamarwet)MaYa(pa)22/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Waso Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region.	On 26 April 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Nay Lin Tun (a) Nay Gyi, 34, son of U Own Win, who lives in Letyatsan Village, Thanlyin Township and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets on Nawaday road, Dawbon Township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)19/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

5	Information received of Ar Hmway who lives in Taungni Village, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 26 April 2020, police searched the house of Ar Hmway, 28, son of U Ba Lwin, who lives in Taungni Village, Taunggyi Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Shwenyaung)MaYa(pa)29/2020 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Phayarpyu Ward, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.	Police have opened 13 cases and arrested 28 men and one woman together with heroin, opium, stimulant tablets and opium block in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Htay Aung (a) Lu Ann, 41, son of U Li Kyi San, who lives in Phayarpyu Ward, Taunggyi Township on 1 May 2020, and arrested him together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)28/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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, 53252.76 g of speciosa powder, 12,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 535,667 stimulant tablets, 10311.67 g of marijuana, 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, 0.001 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 cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

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

FROM PAGE-4

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

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		February	March
(a)	Electricity sector	55	-
(b)	Mining sector	55	-
(c)	Industrial sector	1,256	2341
(d)	Hotels and tourism sector	279	94
(e)	Other service sector	211	96
	Total	1,856	2,531

—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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 Cobas 6800 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. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09255597511, 09974424848

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITOR
Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Aung Khin

SENIOR TRANSLATOR
Zaw Htet Oo

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
Aung Htein,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win, Ei Myat Mon,
Kyaw Zin Lin, Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,
Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM



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.

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



Myanmar Rescue Team seen on stanby to transport COVID-19 patients to Phaung Gyi. Photo: Myint Maung Soe

MYANMAR Rescue Team (Yangon) (MRT) will assist in transporting of the coronavirus-confirmed patients in Yangon Region to the Central Institute of Civil Services-Phaung Gyi (CICS-Phaung Gyi) located in Hlegu township with the use of an ambulance, said an official from the MRT(Yangon).

Related to this matter, a media conference was held at Yangon General Hospital on 5 May with the officials from Yangon General Hospital and

the chairman and members of Myanmar Rescue Team (Yangon) in attendance.

“Nay Pyi Taw sent five ambulances to assist in transporting of the coronavirus-confirmed patients to CICS-Phaung Gyi. But, there are no drivers. So, the MRT (Yangon) will give the training to the drivers and they will let them drive these ambulances. We will give training as to how to wear the PPE suits when they send coronavirus-confirmed patients system-

atically,” said Dr Phyo Thiha, a specialist physician from Yangon People’s General Hospital emergency ward.

In order to transport the virus-confirmed patients, 27 well-trained drivers will be assigned with three persons each day and night, he added. There are ten ambulances to transport virus-confirmed patients including five from the Yangon General Hospital and another five from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

“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 Gyi 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 Gyi into one which is able to keep up to 2000 patients. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Ferries resume 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 able 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



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

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 concordance 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. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(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 Yemethin 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. Pae Nwe Gone town police filed charges against the motorcyclist under Section 304-A of the Penal Code. —Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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 173,808 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 Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd — are being traded on the stock exchange.

The sixth public company — Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd. (EFR) — was given green light to be listed on the exchange and the first day of share



Visitors seen at Yangon Stock Exchange in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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 consequences, 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 foreigners to invest in the local equity market in March.

In April, the share prices of FMI were closed at K10,000 per unit, MTSH at K3,750, MCB at K8,100, 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 trade 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 financing 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

THE opening of the local gold market will be decided upon the directives and guidelines issued by the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment on coronavirus pandemic, said General Secretary U Ohn Myaing of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

At present, the Central Committee's directives extended from 30 April to 15 May.

"The State has announced precautionary restriction measures until 15 May. If the government do not make the further extension, the gold market is likely to be opened in late May, he said.

"The gold market is not officially opened yet. However, it depends on the sellers and buyers. Small trading is seen in their own ways. The shops temporarily shutter the door to help contain the spread of coronavirus," he continued.

The price of the yellow metal in the domestic market stands only K1.18 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms), while

the price of gold hit a high of above US\$1,700 per ounce in the global market, as per market data.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at \$1,550 per ounce in the global market, as per market data.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.

According to gold traders, during the past three months, the local gold price moved in the range of, K1,214,100 on 5 February and K1,234,200 on 28 February. In March, it reached the lowest level of K1,148,000 (31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,600 (4 March). Last month, the coronavirus risks shut down the gold market, according to gold traders.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI crosses \$3.44 bln as of 28 April

MYANMAR has attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.446 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 materi-

als 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 opportuni-

ties, 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 Thaung Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

In the 2018-2019FY, 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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355
09974424848

Vesak Day calls on us to win the battle against COVID-19 with mindfulness

MILLIONS of Buddhist devotees around the world are celebrating Vesak Day today.

Vesak Day marks the birth, enlightenment and passing of Lord Buddha.

Before he entered into Nibbana on this day over 2500 years ago, the Lord Buddha left His parting words: 'Appamadena Sampadetha Vaya Dhamma Sankhara'.

The meaning is 'Practice to perfection with intense mindfulness, as conditioned things are impermanent.'

As the human family continues to suffer the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to remind all of you of the final parting words of the Buddha.

In fact, mindfulness is a gatekeeper of physical and mental actions. Anyone who can control oneself with mindfulness is a real victor.

Why? The end of the COVID-19 pandemic is still not in sight. We are worried that people would tire of the warnings to follow the health guidelines and through negligence spread the disease.

To win the prolonged war against the COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term consequences, we would like to urge our people to remain in control of their physical and mental actions, while adhering to health guidelines with mindfulness.

One of the challenges we are facing today is the return of migrant workers, mostly arriving from neighbouring Thailand via border checkpoints.

The number of returning migrant workers is expected to exceed 100,000. With their return, our struggle begins for providing facility quarantines for them.

For Myanmar, which is not as rich as other countries, providing facility quarantines in regions and states has been a significant financial burden on the country. The Union Government is now carrying out facility quarantines in regions and states, with contributions from volunteers and donors.

Just as with legal migrant workers, illegal workers are advised to return with the confidence that they will enjoy equal status with legal workers.

But, they are highly advised to inform authorities and avoid entering the country illegally, which can pose a very dangerous and complex situation, in terms of spreading the coronavirus infection.

The government is committed to exerting its best efforts in fighting the disease and providing treatment to all suspected patients, whether the infection is severe or not, and with the use of all resources to overcome outbreaks of the disease.

Our people, for their part, are to remember the timeless message of "practice mindfulness" from the Buddha on today's Vesak Day, and to strictly follow government health guidelines with farsightedness and mindfulness.



Fourth-Year Performances of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI)

By Khin Yadanar;
Photo May Oo Moe

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

FUNCTIONING in motley assortments of national tasks, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) has combined (24) departments/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 MoPFI are submitted to the esteemed readers and the people reflecting 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 interest of the people.

A: In serving the interest of the people, the MoPFI has established the "PPP Centre", and moreover it successfully launched a web portal on "Project Bank Website" on 26 February 2020 in collaboration with the GIZ.

Loans are being provided to MSMEs with the funds taken as loans from Japan.

With the assistance from the German Development Bank (KfW), loans are being offered to SMSEs. 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 (1,061) have been disbursed as loans to MSMEs segment.

Loans for agricultural machinery

Taking funds amounting MMK (200) billion from JICA for "Two Step Loan", the Myanma Agriculture Development Bank has loan out cash to farmers.

With a view to prevent and salvage the loss and failure incurred from the bank loans, the "Credit Guarantee Corporation" (CGC) is on the agenda with the loans from ADB amounting US\$ (60) millions.

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

A: The Myanma Agriculture Development Bank has intended to increase the agricultural cultivation loans amounting MMK (1,747) in 2019 – 2020. Paddy cultivation loans have been raised from MMK (100,000) to MMK (150,000).

Q: Kindly share us on the insurance development tasks.

A: Earlier, (11) local life insurance companies and (8) 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 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. It is on the agenda to implement the "Financial Inclusion Roadmap" (2019 – 2023). A total of (193) micro finance groups have been permitted to functions, covering (25,195) villages with over (4 point 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 bill on central provident funds is in the process, which will be applied to newly recruited employees as well as the old employees. The government employees with (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 offices have been expanded with easier method of tax collection. The "MPU Debit Card" system with online application is in use at Thilawa Special Economic Zone as first step. "CBM – Net" system is being applied as the second step. 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.

New Income Tax Law

Plans are underway to apply "Integrated Tax Administration System" (ITAS), and that the new income tax law is in process drafted in line with the international norm. "Myanmar Automated Car-

go Clearance System" (MACCS) has been applied in Yangon since 2016; in Myawady since 2018; and in Muse beginning 2020.

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 listed therein has met certain criteria to be considered as originating in a particular country. Shifting to "e- Form D" has started in December 2019, and linked up functioning with the "ASEAN Single Window Operation" successfully. It helps international trade and assists in foreign investment.

Q: Tell us on industrial development.

A: Tasks with regard to industrial development includes that of crafting strategy, that of drafting laws and by-laws, and that of prevention on chemical hazards.

Policies and guidelines have been formulated in the vehicle industry; in the textile industry; the electricity and electronic industry.

Q: Tell us on the sustainable development in industry segment.

A: As the private sector is the main drive for the economic development, the "Central Transformation Unit" (CTU) is being formed and the study is in process. Skillful

workers have been nurtured at (6) industrial institutes, and that mobile training courses are provided to the needs of the states / regions.

The essential drugs are being produced in line with national drug laws with WHO GMP guideline for efficacy and safety and quality to the customer's satisfaction. Good manufacturing practice (GMP) is a system for ensuring that products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards.

U Maung Maung Win (Deputy Minister)

Q: Kindly share us on the performances of the state banks.

A: Out of (24) organizations in the MoPFI, a total of (13) bodies are working for financial sector. There are state banks namely the "Myanma Economic Bank"; the "Myanma Foreign Trade Bank"; the "Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank"; and the "Myanma Agriculture Development Bank". During 2019, soft loans with low interest are being provided to MSMEs in "Two Step Loans" with the assistance of Japan.

Loans from Myanma Economic Bank

Myanma Economic Bank is providing loans to MSMEs on "Two Step Loan" with (8) per cent interest, while the funds from the public savings have



U Soe Win, Union Minister,
Ministry of Planning, Finance
and Industry

been utilized as loans at (9) per cent interest.

Moreover, the loans from Japan have been used as inputs in the agricultural sector. In the meanwhile, the Myanma Economic Bank is instrumental in lending loans with low interest.

Q: Please share us on the insurance development sector.

A: New scheme on the farmers' life insurance has been realized, and that the foreign insurance companies are permitted to do business in the country. The "Financial Regulatory Department" is handling the insurance tasks.

Q: Kindly share us on the micro finance matters.

A: The "Financial Regulatory Department" is supervising the "Micro Finance" schemes, and that (193) organizations have been formed in states / regions covering over (4) millions people.

Q: Kindly share us on fiscal policy of the country.

A: Fiscal policies are being formulated by many departments such as that of the Budget Department; that of the Treasury Department; that of the Internal Revenue Department; and that of the Customs Department. These departments manage the receipts and the expenditures of the country. The Public Financial Management (PFM) Academy is successfully opened in February 2020.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 05th May, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It cloud not significantly intensify during next (3) days. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL Noon OF THE 06th May, 2020:

Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan State and isolated in Chin, Kayah and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of day temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th May, 2020: Partly cloudy.

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

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်၊ စာတင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်ရှိ
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service.

Contact:
01-8604530

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
မြတ်ကြာရှည်များနှင့် မြတ်ကြာအေဂျင်စီများအနေဖြင့် မြတ်ကြာ
ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်သက်သွယ်ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us.

HOTLINE
09-974424848

Fourth-Year Performances of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI)

FROM PAGE-9
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 consolidated 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



(From Left to Right) Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry: U Maung Maung Win, U Sett Aung and Dr.Min Ye Paing Hein.

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 assistances, 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 Central Bank.

Q: Tell us on the endeavours of the National Planning for raising income of the State.

A: With high hope for the suc-

cessful implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), the “National Planning” is being formulated. Drafting of a national strategy includes the economic development, the social development, the environmental development, and the peace of the nation.

The planning and the budget must hook up to get a strong swing, and that the planning direction must always in line with the strategic direction without deviation to Ad-hoc Solution. The strategic projects are to be implemented in line with 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 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 on 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 standardized, and (68) 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) skillful 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 assistances 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, assistances 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)



The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (Amarapura Branch) granting agricultural loans to farmers in 2019.

Buddha Day on Fullmoon Kasone

By Maha Saddhamma jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

MYANMAR Lunar Calendar of 12 months is full of Special Days and Festivals. These Days and Festivals are religiously, culturally, socio-economically important. All Myanmar ethnic nationalities celebrate, participate and enjoy these Days and Festivals till today.

Fullmoon Day of Kasone [May] is Buddha's Day which is observed and celebrated by all Buddhist countries and Buddhists as Vesak Day. In Myanmar this day is celebrated by communal pouring of water on sacred Bodhi Tree initiated by performant of religious rites by Sanghas [a group of Buddhist monks] and followed by groups of water pouring people on sacred Bodhi Tree [Bannyan Tree] or Nyaung bin. Bannyan Tree [Nyuaung bin]



Buddhist devotees water the Bo Tree at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw to mark Buddha Day which falls on the Fullmoon of Kasone. **PHOTO KYAW YE SWE**

Fullmoon Day of Kasone [May] is Buddha's Day which is observed and celebrated by all Buddhist countries and Buddhists as Vesak Day.

is a very hardy tree that can survive and flourish in dry soil and under warmest sun and weather. Botanically there is a variety of species and sub species. In Myanmar such as Bodhi Nyaungbin, Nyaung Chey htaung [with long branders] long legs of branches. Nyaung Mauk Seik Nyaung bin with long mustaches.

There also vegetable Nyaung bin such as Nyaung chin where leaves are sour good for Sal land and Nyaung prince a cross bred of Nyaung bin and jack fruit tree.

Many villages, towns and places are named after Nyaung bin. Such as Nyaung Lay Bin Town [Four Nyaung bin tram sit place] Shwe Nyaung bin station [Golden Nyaung bin tram-sit] Nyaung U Myo [Nyaung U] town at

Bagan. Nyaung U Phe, name of one of King Anawrahta soldiers Nyaung gan Sayadaw very learned head monk. Nyaung Pin Win name of public quarters.

Because of intense heat caused by burning sun in Kasone even hardy Banyan tree need water. There are Myanmar saying တံကူးရေကုန် ကဆုန်ရေခင်း [In Tagu, water is fully consumed, in Kasone water is diminished] တန်ခူး၊ ကဆုန်၊ ဇွေ၊ ဇွေခုံ [in Tagu and Kasone it is unbearable] Kasone Water Pouring Festival.

On top of these reasons is the religious event of Lord Gotama Buddha being enlightenment gain Buddha hood under the shade of Maha Bodi Tree [Lin Lunbin species of Bodi Tree] and his conquest of his opponent Satan, the

Evil from above, riding Yaing mondin Mingla Elephant came down to dislodge Lord Buddha from his sea. In spite of satun's strategies and tactics, Lord Gotama Buddha won sutan with his only implement where is nothing but metta [loving also kindness] and outh of Truth [သစ္စာဌာန] legend says that Golden of Earth [Vithunlari] appeared as the entire earth quaked and turned.

Goldes of Earth squeezed her long hair knot saying "Here are the libation waters of how collected in my hair knocks to prove that.

Lord Buddha had done good works in his previous lives. So saying Golden of Earth squeezed her hair kinds where up all soldiers Satan were carried away by the tide of water.

That conquest of Lord Buddha over the Satan his opponet is the First conquest of Eight conquest of Lord Buddha by means of metta [loving kindness] and sacca [the whole truth].

Pouring water on sacred Maha Bodhi Tree arrived in Myanmar since the time arrival of Buddhism to Myanmar in the Buddhist Era [Maha Sakarit 103] when two Mon merchants brothers Taphutha and Balika brought 8 strands of hair offered by Lord Buddha from his head, who was being enlightened under the Bodhi

Tree [Ba tree in Gaya, India].

Later when Buddhism was moved to Lankadipa [Sri Lanka] by Bikhu main and Bhikuni Samya-mia, sun and dau of Emperor Asoka, the Maha Bodhi tree came to be known as Dhekhina Sakha Tree [The sacred Bodhi Tree in the South Myanmar believed strongly believed that leaves and earth of both Gaya Maha Bodhi Tree and that of Sri Lanka are sacred keeping off all dangers and all disasters and pandemic and epidemic discuses.

There are celebrations of pouring water on Maha Bodhi Trees across the country in Myanmar.

ရွှေကြွက်ကျ].

In Yangon, Shwe Dagon Pagoda and Sule Pagoda platform and in 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 pan dermic and discares.

Pouring water on sacred Maha Bodhi Tree arrived in Myanmar since the time arrival of Buddhism to Myanmar in the Buddhist Era [Maha Sakarit 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 [ရွှေကြွက်ယက်]

May Myanmar and the entire world be free from current COVID-19 Virus the metta to all. ■

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.

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.



An official presents medical supply to an IDP in Sittway.



Healthcare items and internally displaced persons seen at an IDP camp in Rakhine.



Healthcare items handed over at an IDP camp in Rakhine.



People seen in face masks to prevent COVID-19 in market place in Rakhine.



An official presents COVID-19 medical supplies in Rakhine.



Officials seen with awareness campaign vinyl posters in Rakhine. **PHOTOS: MNA**

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

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 health-

care 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, Khaungdotekar, Bawdupha (1), Bawdupha (2),

Ohntawgyi (north), Ohntawgyi (south), Ohntawchae, Saythamargyi, Barsarar and Thaechaung in Sittway Township, and Kyeinibyin and Sintatnaw 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 as the virus shuts businesses 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 its 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 ring-



Malaysia’s government is trying to blunt the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic with billions of dollars in stimulus measures. PHOTO: AFP

git (\$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 282,000 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 eurozone’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 percent.

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 ■



A collapse in tourism has sparked a big rise in jobless figures. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0126 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 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 OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (017S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA 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 MITT/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.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BBC ASIA
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BBC ASIA VOY. NO. (1060027) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEANA MOON VOY. NO. (03/20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-2 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301928

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများဖတ်ရှုလိုပါကသက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE 09-45237515**
management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ရုပ်ရှင်စာစောင်များအား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်ရှိ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. **Contact: 01-8604530**
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရှင်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအဖွဲ့အစည်းများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်သက်သွယ်ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us. **HOTLINE 09-974424848**

Let's choose using commodity services with safe products

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 on 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 ground-

nut 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

Naing Oo (DOCA)



Steel structure H-beam being seen at the manufacturing site. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Employees packing paper box containing sauce bottles in Hlinethaya Township. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Edible oil bottles display on shelves in a store.



Mobile phone shop also offering sales of accessories and repair works. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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 afore-said 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



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SPORTS

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)



supermarket. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



A woman buying fresh fruits in a supermarket. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Phone Myint Kyaw honoured for beating world champions in 8 Ball Game

THE Ministry of Health and Sports presented a certificate of honour to Phone My-

int 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



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**

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 92 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 to also lessen the risk of fatigue and injuries for players on their return.

"Safety has to be paramount," PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor told the BBC.

"We don't know the future. What we do know is what propo-

sitions have been put, what ideas have been put, the possibility of having more substitutes, games possibly not being the full 45 minutes each way.

"There's talks of neutral stadiums. There's been lots of things being put forward.

"Try and wait and see what the proposals are, and then have the courtesy to let the managers 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.—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 "appro-

priate testing measures" would be put in place to protect the health of players, production crew and others on site.

Organizers 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