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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor holds videoconference with Myanmar ambassadors who helped in repatriating Myanmar citizens

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks with Myanmar ambassadors who worked for repatriation of citizens abroad. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a video conference yesterday from the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, with Myanmar ambassadors serving in China, Thailand and ROK, who made arrangements for the repatriation of Myanmar citizens.

After words of greetings by the State Counsellor, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China U Myo Thant Pe recounted his embassy's coordination efforts conducted with Chinese authorities and local people in bringing back Myanmar students stranded in Wuhan city due to the lockdown amid COVID-19, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than reported how he coordinated with different departments in Thailand for the safe return of Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand, and Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin explained the arrangements and coordination efforts that had to be made to bring back Myanmar citizens using special relief flights; he also reported on arrangements that had to be made to bring back Myanmar citizens from the respective countries.

In response to the presentations made and in giving her concluding remarks, the State Counsellor said that Myanmar embassies were reliable places for Myanmar citizens no matter where they were or whatever difficulties they were in to get proper assistance,

SEE PAGE-3

4 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 2 June, total figure reaches 232

Updated at 8 pm, 2 June 2020

Total Case	New Cases (1-2 June)	Total Death Tally
232	4	6

Recovery Update on 2 June 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
143	5	131

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 2 June 2020

New PUI
42

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Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye chairs UEHRD committee meeting

The UEHRD committee holds an online meeting on its works in Rakhine State
PHOTO: MNA

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State held the 4th meeting via videoconferencing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, the Vice-Chairperson (2) of the UEHRD committee, presided over the meeting at his office.

He discussed the committee's works on providing humanitarian aid in Rakhine State, repatriation and resettlement programmes for the displaced persons, collaboration with relevant ministries, task forces, international organizations and partner countries in implementing development projects, the links of UEHRD works with central committees and work committees responsible for supporting peace, stability and development projects for Rakhine state.

He also discussed operation costs of committee office, systematic use of UEHRD committee's funds which will be scrutinized by local and foreign audits, requirements for coordination with the Office of Auditor-General of the Union and relevant ministries, and the works of UEHRD in Rakhine State amid some restrictions in armed conflicts and COVID-19.

The Union Minister finally advised on closer cooperation between the UEHRD committee and the task forces, in addition to systematic implementation and preparations for economic recovery plan amid and post COVID-19 period to lessen impacts on the works of UEHRD for the Rakhine State development programmes.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the secretary of committee, reported on the funds, expenditures and balance of the committee's account, followed by the participant's discussions on preparatory measures for resistance to natural disaster during monsoon, local security, resettlement, implementation of pilot projects for closure of temporary shelters, releasing information about the works of UEHRD to local and international communities, development of its information and communication sector, existing projects being implemented for developments in Rakhine State, and carrying out the works suitable for the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

Officials who took part in the online meeting were Deputy Minister for the Office of State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary of the Office of Union Government U Zaw Than Thin, the directors-general and officials of MoSWRR, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr Aung Tun Thet, Advisor to Chairperson of UEHRD U Toe Oung, Information and Communications Director of UEHRD U Kyaw Myaing and Chief Operation Officer U Nyi Nyein Aye.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar COVID-19 tally reaches 232 with 4 new cases reported on 2 June

Three new imported cases and one new local infection have made the total tally 232 on 2 June in Myanmar.

Three cases are the returnees from India, China and Malaysia, and the remaining one with no overseas travel history is from Muse Township in northern Shan State.

Out of 232 confirmed cases in the country, six died, 143 persons have recovered and 131 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports. —MNA *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

Supreme Court Bar Council to hold elections in August

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, in his capacity as the chairman of Supreme Court Bar Council, presided over the first edition of council meeting in 2020 on 1 June, with focus on preparations for holding its elections in August.

The Supreme Court of the Union issued the amending rules for elections of the council on 6 April, followed by the council's election procedures on 18 May.

Under the rules and procedures, the Bar Council will designate 34 areas in regions and states for elections. The Bar Council also accessed and approved applications of 909 Higher Grade Pleaders for advocates and 10 Higher Grade Pleaders who completed online law post graduate diploma course. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Supreme Court Bar Council holds first edition of council meeting in 2020 yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

4 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 2 June, total figure reaches 232

FROM PAGE-1

4 new cases of COVID-19 on 2 June 2020: Updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
229	29	Female	Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Waibargi Special Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mingaladon Township)
230	31	Male	Ywangan Township, Shan State (south)	No	Yes, China	Sao San Tun People's Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Ywangan Township)
231	30	Female	Muse Township, Shan State (north)	No	No	Muse District People's Hospital	Positive	—
232	23	Male	Mindat Township, Chin State	No	Yes, Malaysia	Haka People's Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mindat Township)

"People are the key"

State Counsellor holds videoconference with Myanmar ambassadors …

FROM PAGE-1

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for making that happen, and that these embassies played a crucial role in implementing the policies and directives issued by the MOFA in the proper manner.

She emphasized that what was most important was for the diplomats to establish friendly relations not only with the governments of the host countries but also their people; this was the main duty of Myanmar foreign service personnel and that the aim of conducting the present videoconference was in a way to inform the people how these duties were being performed by these personnel.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks with Myanmar ambassadors to China, ROK and Thailand on their works for repatriation of citizens in coordination with respective foreign governments. **PHOTO: MNA**

She added that it was also necessary to consider for the long term how many Myanmar migrant workers would get back their jobs after COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted; when such things were considered, all the necessary advance arrangements had been made to ensure that respective Myanmar missions would be ready to assist with the livelihood needs of the migrant workers.

Myanmar workers were also working in China; there was much activity at the border areas; more care had to be taken during the COVID-19 period; however it was not easy to halt border crossings for business purposes; it was thus important to resume the cross-border trade which nearly came to a standstill for two to three months; it was the same with ROK; the Myanmar ambassador to ROK has requested for more relief flights for persons working in bilateral projects which were suspended in the previous month; this was to promote trade between the two countries; just as there were Koreans who were implementing programmes in Myanmar who wanted to come to Myanmar, so there were also Myanmar nationals who wanted to travel to ROK; that was why it has been decided to conduct relief flights once a week.

She said they hoped to resume regular flights with other countries and that they wanted to implement this as soon as possible; they also had grave concerns that a second wave of outbreaks could occur if necessary restrictions for COVID-19 were not put in place due to hasty decisions; reports from Myanmar embassies on the measures taken by respective countries against COVID-19 were very helpful; considerations were being made to see whether new ideas could be obtained after reading these reports.

Embassies were the key facilitators for communications between respective countries; and that continuous efforts had to be made to ensure that the bilateral relations resulted not only short term but also long term benefits; as the daily number of returnees from Thailand was about some thousands, both governments have to work seriously in this issue; under these circumstances, it was possible to forge good bilateral relations; that Myanmar ambassador to China has said that Chinese friends and government officials had provided help; this was a good foundation for stronger bilateral relations between the two countries.

With respect to ROK, there were people who wanted to come to Myanmar and there were also Myanmar people who wanted to go to ROK; thus embassies of both countries had to do coordination; and that diplomats have heavy duties.

She said she wished to thank all three Myanmar ambassadors who had participated in the videoconference and all personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); she was very grateful because all concerned were working energetically and with enthusiasm. She ended by sending her good wishes to all embassy families and wished all the ambassador good health. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

UEC discusses designations of constituencies, polling stations for 2020 General Election

The Union Election Commission holds a meeting on preparations for the 2020 General Election late this year. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Election Commission held a discussion over designations of constituencies and polling stations for the 2020 General Election yesterday.

U Hla Thein, the chairperson of commission, explained the undertakings in line with the COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The UEC has announced the next multi-party democracy elections will be held in late 2020, and its exact date will be informed depending on the situation of COVID-19 in the country.

The commission has tasked its sub-commissions with designating constituencies based on the population figures collected by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The chairperson added that constituency designation at ethnic areas has not completed yet.

The UEC will manage in scrutinizing voter lists on monthly basis to avoid overlapping and to ensure correctness.

The Myanmar returnees from other countries will also be added to the voter lists, while the voter lists of Defence Services family members will be collected.

The accurate voter lists could help in designation of polling stations in the respective areas. The commission has arranged sending office equipment for the elections to the offices of its sub-commissions. The chairman also urged the sub-commissions to cooperate with related organizations in getting the accurate voter lists. The Director-General and officials from the commission office explained the works of designating constituencies and voting stations. The meeting will continue on 4 June. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 21/2020
11th Waxing of Nayon, 1382 ME
(1 June 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 offences up to 30 May 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

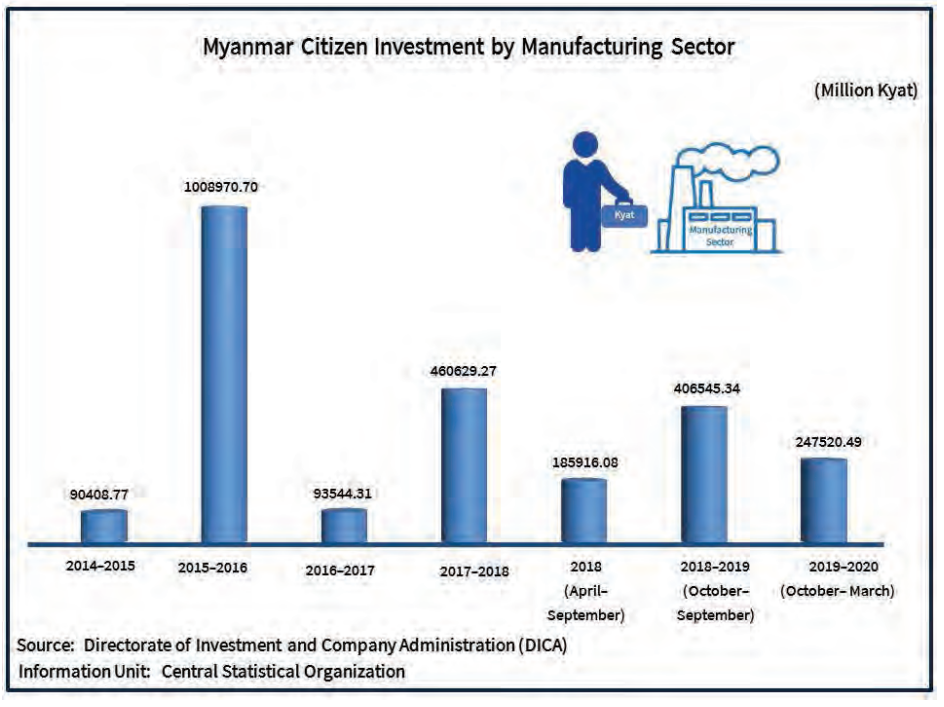
Sr	Nature of report	Detail on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Kyaw Htoo Mae who lives in Paw Oo Ward, Taze Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24 May 2020, police searched the farm hut near Paw Oo Ward, Taze Township and arrested Kyaw Htoo Mae (a) Zaw Naing, 43, son of U Phoe Htoo, who lives in the same ward together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(pa)9/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Maung Hsan who lives in Thayatkyin Village, Dabayin Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24 May 2020, police searched the house of Shwe Min, 52, son of U Aung Nyein, who lives in Thayatkyin Village, Dabayin Township, and arrested him together with heroin. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Maung Hsan, 51, son of U Lu Win, who lives in the same village. Police did not find any narcotic drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dabayin) MaYa(pa)4/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Pyinhtaunglay Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region.	On 24 May 2020, police searched the house of Htain Lin Oo, 29, son of U Kyi Lin, who lives in Pyinhtaunglay Village, Katha Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Innywa) MaYa(pa)9/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Ma Mae Lone who lives in Htaungtale Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 May 2020, police searched the house of Ma Mae Lone (a) Nu Nu Win, 38, daughter of U Aung Moe, who lives in Htaungtale Village, Katha Township, and arrested her and her son-in-law Soe Moe Kyaw, 23, son of U Htay Maung, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Inywa) MaYa(pa)10/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyattagaung Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region.	Police have opened four cases and arrested three men and four women together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Daw Lwin Lwin Oo, 40, daughter of U Tin Win who lives in Kyattagaung Village, Htigyaing Township on 24 May 2020, and arrested her and two others – her brother Zaw Min Htaik (a) Pauksa, 37, and Zin Min Tun (a) Phoetha, 32, son of U Kaung Nyunt, who lives in the same village -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(pa)52/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Phoe Thaung who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 May 2020, police searched the house of Phoe Thaung (a) Ko Thaung, 51, son of U Ba Sint, who lives in Pyinsu Village, Htigyaing Township, and arrested him together with opium. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(pa)53/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7.	Information received of Win Htain who lives in Peininn Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 May 2020, police searched the house of Kyaw Naing Oo, 48, son of U Tha Khin, who lives in Peininn Village, Indaw Township, and arrested him and three others – Win Htain, 35, son of U Maung Aye; and Phoe Cho, 34, son of U Phoe Chaw, who live in the same village; and Maung Soe, 57, son of U Kyaw, who lives in Nyaunggon Village -- together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Indaw) MaYa(pa)81/2020 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8.	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened 17 cases and arrested 17 men and four women together with stimulant tablets, stimulant tablet crash powder and speciosa powder in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched Hein Min Oo (a) Anku, 26, son of U Khin Maung Tun, who lives in Ayemyakantha Ward, Kawthoung Township, on 29 May 2020, on the road of Anawyahta 3, Aungthukha Ward and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa(pa)102/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9.	Information received of Paing Lay who lives in No 2 Ward, Toungoo Township, Bago Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 May 2020, police searched a guest house in No 13 Ward, Toungoo Township, and arrested Paing Lay (a) Thet Paing Win, 20, son of U Lay Myint Aung, who lives in No 2 Ward together with marijuana. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(2) (Toungoo) MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10.	Information received of Win Kyaw who lives in No 4 Ward, Myohla Town, Bago Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 28 May 2020, police searched the house of Win Kyaw, 36, son of U Maung Soe, who lives in No 4 Ward, Myohla Town, and arrested him and six others – his wife Ma Kay Zin Win, 33, daughter of U Tin Win; Min Lwin Oo, 27, son of U Toke, who live in Shwemyaing Ward; Kyaw Swe Lat, 39, son of U Tin Myint, who lives in Laethaaye Village; Moe Zaw, 33, son of U Mann Kyi, who lives in Laethaaye Village; Nan Maung Maung, 25, son of U Aung Than, who lives in No 5 Ward; and Shine Wunna Aung, 19, son of U Soe Paing, who lives in Myomyay Ward -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Myohla) MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a), 22(b) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Kyaunggon Village, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region.	On 28 May 2020, police searched the house of Aung Pe, 26, son of U Tun Kyi, who lives in Kyaunggon Village, Yamethin Township, and arrested him together with '88/1' stimulant tablets, opium, low quality opium and a flintlock. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Yamethin) MaYa(pa)21/2020 under Section 19(a) and 22(b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Bayluwa who lives in Yesutaung Ward, Mingalardon Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24 May 2020, police searched the house of Bayluwa (a) Ko Ye (a) Ye Thu Myo, 25, son of U Hla Myo, who lives in Yesutaung Ward, Mingalardon Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Htaukkyant) MaYa(pa)20/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of Tet Nay Paing who lives in No 8 Ward, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On No 43 Street, No 8 Ward, Botahtaung Twonship, police searched Tat Nay Paing, 24, son of U Maung Myint, who lives in No 8 Ward, Botahtaung Township on 24 May 2020, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Botahtaung) MaYa(pa)17/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of Sithu Kyaw who lives in Ngarsin Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 May 2020, police searched the house of Sithu Kyaw, 31, son of U Khin Maung Kyi, who lives in Ngarsin Ward, Kyimyindine Township, and arrested him and four others – Than Kyaw Lin (a) Phoe Thar, 24, son of U Myint Aye; Win Naing (a) Joker, 19, son of U Zaw Zaw Htaik; and La Aung, 34, son of U Maung Aye; who live in the same ward and Phyo Wai Aung (a) Yonepauk, 21, son of U Tin Win -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Sethsan) MaYa(pa)13/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of Daw Htway Htway Aung who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 May 2020, police searched the house of Daw Htway Htway Aung, 43, daughter of U Tin Aung, who lives in No 2 Ward, North Okkalapa Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (North Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)30/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

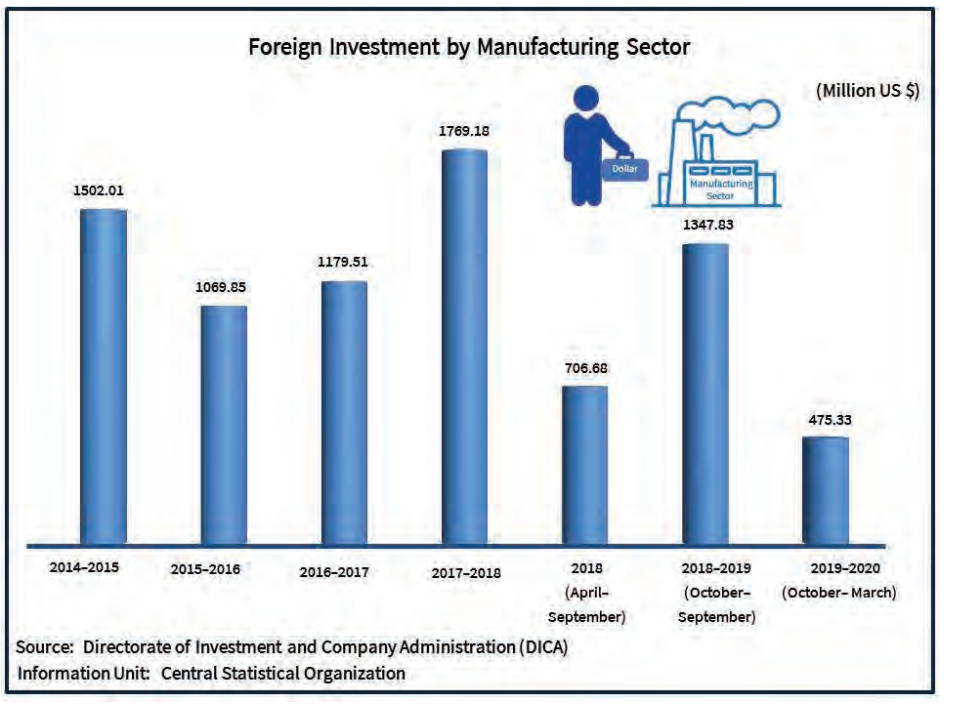
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

16	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in Nya Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region.	On 30 May 2020, police searched the house of Khin Maung Cho (a) U Cho, 50, son of U Thein, who lives in Nya Ward, North Okkalapa Township, and arrested him and five others – Zaw Thura, 24, son of U Khin Nyo; and Zwe Moe Htet, 29, son of U Khin Zaw, who live in the same ward; Win Htut, 31, son of U Tin Khaing, who lives in No 16 Ward, North Okkalapa Township; Myo Tun, 39, son of U Nyunt Shwe; and Phyo Maung Maung, 24, son of U Soe Myint Oo, who live in No 6 Ward, Mayangon Township -- together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Waibargi) MaYa(pa)32/2020 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
17	Information received of some people using, distributing and selling illegal drugs in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township, northern Shan State.	Police have opened 10 cases and arrested 12 men together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Sai Lin Aung (a) Aik Phyo, 19, son of U San Hla, who lives in No 5 Ward, Lashio Township on 26 May 2020, and arrested him together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(pa)107/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 28 May 2020, police inspected Than Soe Lin, 33, son of U Tin Soe, who lives in No 5 Ward, and Thant Zin, 30, son of U Myint Thein, who lives in No 1 Ward, at the top of Natsin Street of the same ward, and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(pa)108/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 30 May 2020, police inspected Sai Hla Han, 28, son of U Sai Tun, who lives in No 5 Ward, at the corner of 23rd Street and 41st Street of the same ward, and arrested them together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(pa)109/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18	Information received of Kaung San Win (a) Zwe Swan Yee who lives in Pabedan Ward, Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 May 2020, police searched the house of Ma Naw Zarli Maw, 36, daughter of U Maung Hnyat, who lives in Kanaungsu Ward, Hinthada Township, and arrested her and Ye Yint Tun (a) Ye Gyi, 22, son of U Kyaw Moe, who lives in the same ward, and Kaung San Win (a) Zwe Swan Yee, 27, son of U Win Myint, who lives in Pabedan Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Hinthada)MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 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 1,156 cases have been opened files as of 30 May 2020. A total of 1,790 people, including 1,498 men and 292 women had been arrested with 9,512.6014 g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 43,563.92886 g of opium, 1,367.96 g of low-quality opium, 53,263.76 g of speciosa powder, 15,097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 litres of liquid speciosa, 630,589 stimulant tablets, 10760.70 g of marijuana, 0.1 litres of opium tincture, 596.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.95 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 26 firearms, different kinds of 609 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
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





Correction

Please read "22,000-tonne reserved rice..." instead of "2,200-tonne reserved rice..." in the headline, first and second paras of the news titled "Govt buys 2,200-tonne reserved rice in May" on page-7 of the 30 May Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error. —*Ed*

JPN govt provides 5 bln JPY low-cost financing to SMEs amidst COVID-19 pandemic loss

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is providing 5 billion JPY (approx. K64 billion) low-cost financing with terms and conditions favourable to SMEs to support the continuation of their business activities amid the severe economic situation caused by COVID-19.

This emergency program is financed through the restructuring of ongoing SME financing project known as "JICA SME Two-Step-Loan Phase 2" started in 2018 to respond quickly to the serious situation of SMEs.

The newly introduced emergency program is operated through Myanma Economic Bank and other commercial banks participating in the project, aiming at supporting the Government of Myanmar's initiative to ease the impact on the private sector as manifested in "COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)" published on 27th April.

It can be characterized by "low-cost", "flexible use" and "medium-to-long maturity".

"low-cost" - Baseline interest rate is 5.5% as of May 2020 (minimum deposit rate + 0.5%=5.5% as of May 2020)"

"flexible use" - The loan proceeds can be utilized for both working capital and fixed assets investments without any limitations on the ratio between the two "medium-to-long maturity" - Maturity is 1 to 5 years, including appropriate grace period that will be set to facilitate repayment by SMEs.

Also, the majority of the funds is available for loans with relaxed collateral conditions to improve financial access of small-scale SMEs with limited collaterals.

"JICA is committed to continuing providing swift and strong support to SMEs going forward so that we can overcome this unprecedented economic crisis and build a strong foundation for sustainable, inclusive and dynamic economic growth," said Mr SAKAKURA Noriji, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office.

The 5 billion JPY loan is the first large scale financial support from JICA in the series of upcoming COVID-19 response projects in the pipeline. —GNLM

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EU Myan Ku Fund distributes K1 bln to about 13,000 garment workers

By Nyein Nyein

EU Myan Ku Fund has reportedly distributed payments of K1,000 million to about 13,000 garment workers.

Garment workers, who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic, are receiving financial assistance through a 5 million euro (K7.9 billion) European Union emergency cash fund.

Since 1 May, the Myan Ku initiative has distributed payments to a growing number of recipients, reaching 12,913 individuals and K1,041,000,000 in payments. Recipients include over 11,000 women factory workers from Yangon, Pathein, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and elsewhere across the country.

"During this period, my factory was closed and I had no income. So, I worked in farming but it did not cover my family needs. Meanwhile, this Myan Ku support can solve my family's basic needs," said Ma Eaindra Htet.

The Myan Ku team of phone operators currently handles calls and applications from tens of thousands of workers from across the country every week. Although a majority of workers are residents in Yangon, over three thousand have received support in Pathein and surroundings, and several hundred in the Mandalay and Magway regions. Workers who have returned to home villages in Rakhine State, Kayin State, Mon State and elsewhere have also received emergency cash support.

"The real strength of a society should be measured by how it treats the most vulnerable. Myan Ku has extended a safety net under those at risk of sliding into extreme poverty, with extra support to pregnant workers and women with young children. This success is also thanks to the strong support to Myan Ku from the social partners, including employer organizations, trade unions and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population," said EU Ambassador Kristian Schmidt.

In total, over 20,000 workers from 122 factories in the garment, textile and footwear industries have so far applied. Many applications have been submitted by the factories' human resources managers who are trying to coordinate support for recently terminated or suspended employees. Trade unions have also gathered applications from their members and hundreds of workers have applied directly to the hotline, which is operated from 8 am to 8 pm daily, Monday to Friday.

"As I have no other sources of income during this pandemic period, the support from Myan Ku helps me to cover my family's basic needs, especially to buy basic food," said Ma Moe Thandar Win.

The Myan Ku has been set up in April 2020 by the EU as a rapid response measure to alleviate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the predominantly female garment workers from all over Myanmar who lost their jobs due to the crisis.

The initiative is funded by the EU's NEXUS Response for Myanmar and implemented by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and SMART Textile & Garments project staff.

Local stakeholders and organizations supporting the successful implementation of the project include the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar-CTUM, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association-MGMA, Centre for Economic and Social Development-CESD, Pyi Gyi Khin, Opportunities NOW and Thone Pan Hla.

Cash transfers are remitted to workers digitally using Wave Money. To support garment workers in need, and as part of their corporate social responsibility, Wave is providing services to the Myan Ku project without their regular transaction fees.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Shop owners hope for fully reopening of Central Sanpya Fish Market

WITH the suspension of fish entering via the land route to central Sanpya fish market in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region to be able to prevent and control coronavirus spreading, the shop owners hope to be allowed to bring the fish into the market both via sea route and land route for rapid flow of the goods.

For the fish to enter via the land route, a media conference comprising the livestock entrepreneurs, fish traders, shop owners and market municipal was held at the central Sanpya fish market on 2 June.

A woman walks through the entrance door of the Sanpya Fish Market in Kyimyintdine Township. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

"The market has been closed for 40 days. These days, we are struggling for the workers in our market not to be unemployed. The fish sellers are facing losses because the fish container trucks are not allowed to enter the market as usual. So, we requested the normal situation," said Daw Aye Aye Moe, an aquatic entrepreneur.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) suspended the fish entering the central Sanpya fish market via the land route on 24 April. There is only 20 per cent of the fish, entering via sea route and 80 per cent of fish, entering via the land route in the market. The volume of trade of the market is around 400,000 to 500,000 visses of freshwater fish.

"We have been sending the farming fish to the market for more than seven years. I have to pay K8,000 per day for labour charges and there are six workers. I am also being faced with the difficulties because I could not have sent the normal volume of the fish. So, I requested the authorities to allow us to operate our business in the market as before, said U Win Htoo Aung, an aquatic entrepreneur.

Under the guideline of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the market is conducting special cleaning, spraying of insecticides two days a week and keeping temperature machines, basins and soaps to prevent and control coronavirus, said U Kyaw Lwin, a member of the market committee.

To prevent people from being crowded, the YCDC allowed some shops to open in Shwe Padauk fish market. The sale of the shops in Shwe Padauk fish market jumped to K70 million from K30 million. The rent of the shops has also increased to K500,000 from K300,000, said U Myo Win, an aquatic entrepreneur.

The volume of trade of the market is around 400,000 to 500,000 visses of freshwater fish. There are a total of 146 fish depots in the market. Also, about 85 depots send the fish to other regions. There are over 3,000 fish delivery workers and over 200 female workers. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Stock trading value on YSX surges to K1.2 billion in May

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

The value of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in May rose to K1.2 billion with 200,416 shares being traded, according to the data released by the YSX.

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. It touched the lowest of K902 million with 173,808 shares in April, the exchange's monthly report showed.

At present, YSX has shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co. Ltd (EFR).

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market in March 2020.

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, TMH at K2,750 and EFR 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 EMM)

Black bean price drops by K30,000 per tonne in May-end

LOW demand brings down black bean (which is called urad in India) price to K935,000 per tonne which is a decrease of around K30,000 compared with the price in the previous week.

During the post-Thingyan period in April, the black bean was priced K995,000 to K1 million per tonne. Thereafter, it dropped to K960,000-965,000 per tonne in the third week of May.

The traders are closely observing the market with the changes in India's policy on bean importation.

Earlier, India set to import 400,000 tonnes of black bean for the next fiscal year by March 2021. It changed policy and narrowed the import deadline to three-month period, according to its recent notice.

"The changes of policy reflect on the unguaranteed market for the domestic growers. The sudden change in policy burdens the growers, raising confusion", Secretary U Min Ko Oo of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association pointed out.

At present, the country has around 250,000-300,000 tonnes of black bean stocks. It is unlikely to export the entire quota of 400,000 tonnes to India, he continued.

The supply chain of Myanmar's beans — the growers and traders are facing hardships due to the short period of rapid change. The market needs to be closely observed.

"The country lays down policy for its national interest. India's move is possible to protect their farmers as India's beans will be harvested in September. This is why they shrank the deadline to August-end 2020. If the yield is not good in September, they will surely make an extension for the import period. If not for poor yield, the import period will end as scheduled," he said. Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, other beans such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, are also grown in Australia and Africa, the association stated. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

A worker piling the bag of beans in a warehouse in Mandalay.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355

Hteekhee border trade falls by $372.87 mln as of 15 May

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border between 1 October and 15 May in the 2019-2020 financial year sharply fell to US$1.28 billion from $1.65 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to the data from the Commerce Ministry.

Over half of the current fiscal, exports through the Hteekhee border stood at $1.26 billion, while imports fell short of $18.4 million.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in trade through the Hteekhee border since the previous fiscal, said an official from the ministry.

Earlier, the Myawady border sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. The rise in exports through the Hteekhee border had boosted the value of the Myanmar-Thailand border trade in the 2018-2019 FY. In the current fiscal, trade values at Hteekhee border also surpassed those registered at Myawady border.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, Myeik, Mawtaung and Hteekhee borders have witnessed a decrease in trade in the current financial year, while the remaining checkpoints have reported an increase.

Trade values stood at $97 million at Tachilek border, $763 million at Myawady, $277.8 million at Kawthoung, $113.2 million at Myeik, $1.28 billion at Hteekhee, $12.68 million at Myawady and $2.68 million at Maese respectively, as per the Commerce Ministry's data.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

3 JUNE 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Act now to ensure full voting in 2020 General Election

MYANMAR, like other countries in the world, is fighting with the COVID-19. No one knows how the epidemic situation will develop in the coming months, but we will have to hold the 2020 general elections.

The 2020 general elections must be held in late months of 2020 according to the constitution.

The 2010 general elections day was announced two months and 24 days before the election day while the 2015 general elections days was announced four months before the election day.

> We need to carry out necessary planning and procedures can be in place in the coming months to ensure every eligible citizen gains their right of voting.

The UEC said it would announce the day for the 2020 general elections depending on the current situation of COVID-19 containment process.

We must be doing everything possible now so that in six or seven short months every qualified voter has an easy opportunity to cast a ballot, regardless of the challenges COVID-19 presents.

Now, our migrant workers in foreign countries including neighbouring ones are returning home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to review the current situation and make recommendations for the proper conduct of voter registration and other election and voting related issues.

Voting is an essential right to which everyone should have equal access. Elections officials and polling place workers should have time to plan and prepare so our elections proceed as normally and securely as possible meeting with its five standards: they are free, fair, transparent, reliable, and harmonious with the people's desire.

We need to carry out necessary planning and procedures can be in place in the coming months to ensure every eligible citizen gains their right of voting.

The UEC has also compiled a constituency list nationwide and it needs to continue to scrutinize the list due to the current situation. The UEC is also committed to working in cooperation with political parties and civil society organizations when the comprehensive constituency list is announced.

To ensure that the 2020 general elections meet with the five standards, the UEC will amend necessary rules and regulations, in accordance with the current circumstances.

Besides, the current COVID-19 situation has demanded that the local election boards to set up polling places to be in line with the "new normal" including "social distancing."

It is not too much to ask. It needs to be done now.

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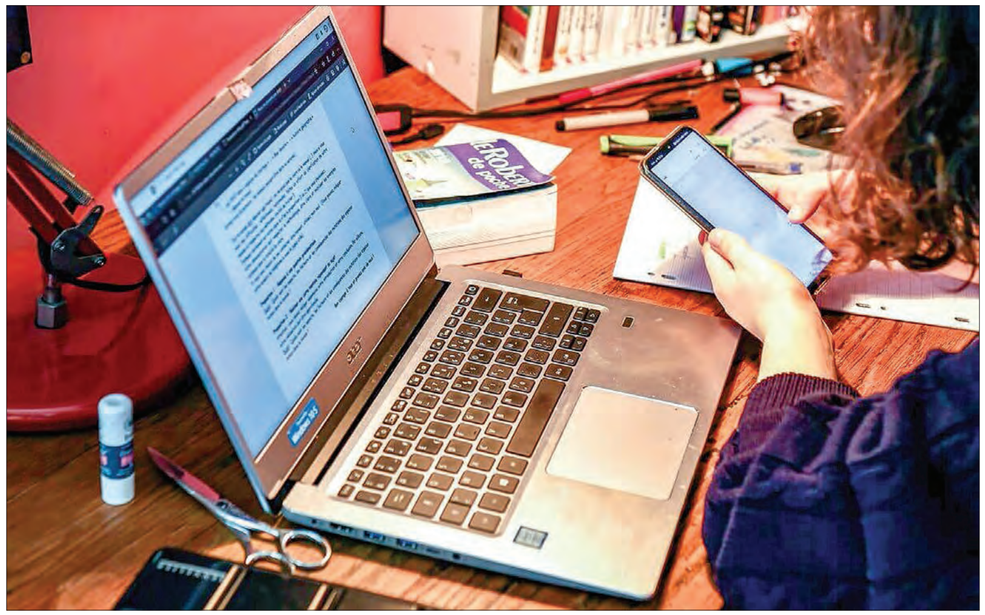
Let's embrace the New Normal way of life

By Khin Maung Myint

AFTER every crisis of global proportion like the present COVID-19 pandemic, there usually were certain significant changes. They may be in the way of thinking, execution of a task, outlooks on the economics, social, politics and etc. In the past the world had been subjected to drastic changes due to major crisis, such as the world wars, plague, cholera, small pox and flu pandemics. This time around we were being hit by an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus unexpectedly. The virus had struck the whole world like a tsunami; sparing no country. It knows no national boundaries and without any discriminations against wealth, class, might, age, gender, color, race, religion or culture.

It had impacted greatly on almost all the aspects of the human society, health, economics, education, social, politics and environment and on almost everything. Today some experts had written about the impacts, especially centered on the economics, politics and a few on the social impacts. Each has their own outlooks and views in their writings. As for me, I'll be discussing the impact of the outbreak on the aspects mentioned below.



Online learning may be more suited to some personality types. Source: Alain Jocard. **PHOTO:AFP**

Educational Impact

Fortunately the outbreak in our country coincided with the summer school holidays. Though the reopening date hasn't been decided the schools are expected to reopen soon. One consideration to be given to the reopening is, will it be safe for the children. Taking into consideration the experience of South Korea, school reopening shouldn't be done hastily. Resurgence of the disease amongst the students could happen.

In such situations I believe the authorities will be contemplating on other methods of teaching besides the traditional classroom teachings. Today with the widespread use of smart phones among the youngsters and the access to the Internet is getting more easy in the country, e-learning or online learning or virtual learning should be introduced on a wider scale. As I am not an expert in such matters I will leave that to the experts for detailed planning.

Economical Impact

Though I will not be discussing the impacts on economics in detail, I would like to mention what one economist from Ireland lately said. He had coined a new word to describe the effects of the COVID-19. He introduced a new word "pandession". Yes, it is very appropriate as the crisis is causing a combination of pandemic and recession. According to him, it is a one-in-a-generation event with no economic blueprint for recovery. Most economists around the world are worried about the tailspin dive the economy had plunged into due to the pandemic and no one is sure when it will recover. This could lead to a great change in our ways of thinking related to the economy. Who'd have thought it would take a global pandemic and an economic crisis to see how we can re-imagine our future on the planet?

The economic cycle is broken, or at least disrupted for a while. Our usual way of being has changed—irreversibly and forever, or maybe for the better. A search for different answers has begun and a "new kind of normal" has quickly taken shape.

Health Impact

As it has much affects on the economy, the pandemic has greatly impacted on the health aspects in unprecedented ways and measures. In the beginning people were greatly concerned, or frankly, doubted the ability of our country to cope with an outbreak of such a large scale. However, contrary to our concerns and doubts, we were proven wrong and it had spotlighted the efficiency of our health services -- dedications and selflessness of our healthcare staffs and volunteers. Above everything, it has shown how much our nation is resilient to this disaster. If one is not prejudiced or biased, they must give credit to all our frontline heroes who gallantly fought the disease and those who managed and directed the whole operation efficiently.

Political Impact

In many countries this incident will make or break a government. We are witnessing where some leaders are losing popularity among their people for mismanaging the control of the pandemic. I don't think it will be necessary to single out any particular leader who had failed in this latest test of their leadership abilities, but one thing for sure is, our leaders passed with flying colors. For a developing nation with limited medical or healthcare resources to have controlled the causalities to a respectable minimum is no small feat, but an outstanding achievement. Directly or indirectly, this pandemic had delivered a blow to some leaders in terms of political losses, while providing some with political gains. It also provided our country an opportunity to reconcile. Various political parties and armed groups should seize this opportunity to work hand in hand with the government towards national reconciliation and build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Social Impact

The impacts on the social aspects of human life are more diverse and significant. One thing for certain is more and more people will acquire the good and systematic methods and habits of washing hands that most of us had ignored in the past. Hopefully, also the habit of tea shop lounging will be somewhat diminished. Tea shop lounging in our country is a unique habit that has become almost a culture or a national pastime for adults, irrespective of age or gender in our country. People could be seen crowded in such shops from dawn till late into the night in the past. Wonder whether this will get reduced in the post COVID-19 period. Staying away from the tea shops or spending less time there will benefit people in the form of social distancing, especially in the immediate post COVID-19 period and help prevent the resurgence of the disease.

People should have learnt the importance of queuing and distancing, which they were required to undergo while purchasing their requirements from the drug stores, the convenient stores, shopping malls and making transactions at the banks during the crisis. Reluctance to queue at public places like the banks, shopping malls, stores, bus stands and any other public places are very annoying and undesirable. Out of the large variety of social impacts that the COVID -19 can deliver, if it could change the behaviours of the people and make them nurture these above mentioned habits it would be doing a great favour to us.

Environmental Impact

With the forced shutdown of the factories, stoppage of the the commercial flights, lesser trains, ships and cars commuting during the lockdown, the air quality became noticeably cleaner. With less Carbon Dioxide emissions and the lesser greenhouse gases contributed much to the environment. Thus in a positive way the COVID-19 gives the Earth some respite to recuperate. It proved to the deniers of the climate change that using lesser fossilized fuels can safe the world.

During the the lockdown and stay home period we started seeing lesser plastic wastes in our wards and streets. It means lesser plastics are reaching the streams and rivers and hence lesser plastics end up in the oceans and seas. Thus it can be summed up that COVID's bright side is the cleaner environment that we failed to achieve in years. The air today is cleaner, and visibilities are getting higher with the absence of the pollutant particulates.

General Impact

The crisis also exposes the ugly side of human selfishness -- people stock-pile perceived necessities at the expense of others, ignoring requests to stay at home and refusing to keep social distance. Yet, it has also shined a light on the strength of our community, as thousands have volunteered to help out. They are the real heroes who place themselves in danger every day, providing vital services, fighting the virus, and caring for the vulnerable and the sick. In some countries companies set aside their competitive focus and profit-making activities as they transform products and services to overcome shortages in equipment and facilities. Families are seen spending more time together. There is also a renewed discovery of the value of nature and the outdoors as people find they have more time on their hands. People walking, where once they would have used cars or buses.

This crisis, despite its many tragic implications in terms of sickness and death, is exactly what we needed to galvanise us, to unite us as a global community, to see more clearly what we are collectively capable of achieving. As the old ways of doing things have broken down under the pressure of a global crisis, we become mindful of new ways of doing things breaking through. Enforced social isolation has dramatically accelerated virtual working. Much of the face-to-face activity once thought necessary for business -- meetings, coaching, briefings, presentations and conferences -- are now firmly rooted in the digital world. At home we rely more now on the Internet for connecting with family, shopping, entertainment and social activity. Working in the virtual space saves money and it may also save the planet. Let us embrace the newly evolved "normal way of living" or the "New Normal" way of life and work towards the betterment of our lives and the planet.

Reference:- Life after COVID-19: An invitation to re-imagine the future.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 02nd June, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East central Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 03rd June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Yangon Region, Shan(North and South) and Chin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Eastern Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Region and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rd June, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, 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 **dce@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 sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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COVID-19 preventive supplies reach Kachin, Shan IDP camps

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing medical and relief items to the IDP camps for prevention of COVID-19 transmission.

Moreover, the ministry is conducting awareness campaigns and motivation works in Nay Pyi Taw council area and regions/states.—MNA

The table shows supplied items and IDP camps in respective areas on 2 June.

Items	Kachin	Shan
	Phakant (2 camps)	Kutkai (2 camps)
Hand Sanitizer bottles	86	
Soap Bar	395	
Lime Powder bags	30	
Thermometer	3	
Cloth Mask	268	
Hand Speaker	3	2
Memory Stick (Campaign Audio File)	3	2

51 Myanmar seafarers receive COVID free certificates

A total of 51 Myanmar seamen has secured coronavirus-free certificates from the National Health Laboratory (NHL) after the tests for COVID-19 which began on 21 May.

The certificates were presented at the office of Myanmar Seamen's Federation (MSF) to the 14 sailors of JSM Shipping Company, 14 seafarers from SH Shipping Company and one from the Seapal Marine Services Company on 1 June.

The MSF has arranged flights for the returns of Myanmar seamen stranded in foreign countries due to COVID-19 and the outbound flights for the sailors to join their ships abroad. —Aung Thu Ya

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Rails from Japan unloaded for Ygn-Mdy railway upgrading project

Workers unloading materials for railway construction from a cargo ship onto a freight train in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

TO effectuate the development of railways travel in Myanmar, Japan is coordinating with Myanmar and the ship carrying rails docked in Yangon Sule jetty for 14th consignment from Japan. Now, unloading is under process.

"The unloading process started at 12:45 pm on 1 June. These rails will be used in the Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrading project. This rail carrying ship docked in Yangon for the 14th time. These rails will be sent to the Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrading project Phase-1," said General Manager U Aung Thu Latt with the Myanma Railways (MR) (lower Myanmar).

Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrading project is being implemented in two phases with the assistance of Japan. MR has been upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay railway, dividing into two parts spending of JICA ODA loans and the national fund. The first part of the project is Yangon–Toungoo which is about 166 miles while the second part of the project is Toungoo-Mandalay which is about 219 miles. The duration of the project is from 2017 to 2023.

The feasibility study of the second part of Toungoo-Mandalay project was started in May 2018 and the project design was drawn in 2019.

Japan is cooperating in the upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay railway as well as upgrading of Yangon circular railway for the development of the Myanma Railway industry. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YRTA extends exempt-period for management charges on YBS buses until 30 June

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) made a further extension to exempt-period for management charges on YBS buses until 30 June, according to the YRTA.

Earlier, YRTA set the exempt-period deadline for management charges of K4,000 by 27 March. Then, it extended the due date up to 30 April and again to 31 May, according to YRTA.

This move of YRTA is to support YBS companies during the coronavirus crisis, said YRTA Managing Director U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

Earlier, about 4,500 buses daily ran on Yangon Road. Following the impacts of coronavirus pandemic, the number of YBS buses has decreased to over 3,300. At present, 126 bus lines are providing public transport amid the pandemic.

YBS bus companies make a daily record of trip plan and schedule interval time for the bus. Under the guidance of the Yangon Region government, YRTA is trying to tackle the difficulties of YBS bus lines.

YRTA ensures the bus drivers to strictly follow the traffic rules as before. The bus line companies are cooperating with the Ministry of Health and Sports to contain the spread of the coronavirus infection and providing daily bus service regularly in line with health guidelines.

To prevent the possible infection of the virus, the passengers must wear mask and hand sanitizer is placed in the bus and basin are installed at bus-stops and train stations.

At present, over 100 bus lines are operating buses on about 135 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle and city transit.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YBS buses crawling on a busy road in downtown area in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Iran says plane carrying scientist jailed in US has taken off

TEHRAN — Iran's foreign minister said Tuesday that a plane had taken off from arch-foe the United States carrying scientist Sirous Asgari after his apparent release from a US prison.

Asgari was accused by a US court in 2016 of stealing trade secrets while on an academic visit to Ohio, but the 59-year-old scientist from Tehran's Sharif University of Technology was acquitted in November.

The academic told British newspaper The Guardian in March that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency was holding him at a Louisiana detention centre without basic sanitation and refusing to let him return to Iran despite his exoneration.

"Good news, a plane carrying Dr. Sirous Asgari has taken off from America. Congratulations to his wife and family," Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote in a post on his Instagram account.

On Monday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi had said Asgari's case was closed and that he was likely to return to the Islamic republic within two or three days.

ICE's database was still showing Asgari's status as "in custody" in the state of Mississippi on Tuesday.

The State Department has yet to respond to an AFP request to comment on his apparent release.

A prisoner swap in December saw the US free Iranian scientist Massoud Soleimani who flew home with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif / © **Iranian Foreign Minister's official Twitter account**. **PHOTO: AFP**

Both Iran and the United States hold a number of each other's nationals and they have recently called for them to be released amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iran is battling what is the Middle East's deadliest outbreak of the virus, while the US has reported the highest total number of deaths worldwide from the disease.

Tensions and prisoners

The Islamic republic is holding at least five Americans and the US had 19 Iranians in detention prior to Asgari's reported release, according to a list compiled by AFP based on official statements and media reports.—AFP ■

French reclaim cafes as virus hammers Latin America

France's beloved cafes reopened Tuesday, but in the capital Paris it was table service only. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS — The French revelled in a return to cafe terraces Tuesday as Europe emerges from its darkest days of the coronavirus pandemic, which has shifted its centre to Latin America where pressure is mounting on fragile healthcare systems.

The virus has claimed more than 375,000 lives in its more than six-month tear around the globe, upending ordinary and economic life in nearly every country on the planet.

After suffering some of the highest human losses, Europe and the United States are now emerging from months of confinement in a bid to soften the blow of a looming recession.

In the French capital, Parisians reclaimed the beloved morning rituals at cafe terraces that were allowed to sprawl across pavement to accommodate social distancing measures.

"It's really nice, we got up just for this, so we appreciate it, we're really happy," said Charlotte, who made a morning stop at a cafe near the Canal Saint-Martin.

"It's a bit of a feeling of regained freedom, that's what it is," added another patron, 61-year-old Philippe.

Elsewhere in France, bars and restaurants were allowed to go a step further and allow customers to sit inside, while beaches and weddings were also back in business.

The excitement was visible in western Nantes where customers lined up to eat at the restaurant La Prison du Bouffay at one minute past midnight. Yet the country, which has suffered the world's fifth highest toll with nearly 29,000 deaths from the virus, still faces tough times ahead with the economy expected to shrink by 11 per cent this year due to the pandemic.—AFP ■

New York under curfew as looters hit luxury stores

NEW YORK — New York was under a curfew that would last until early Tuesday morning, officials said, after looters raided stores in central Manhattan, targeting some of the city's top retailers.

Upmarket fashion store Michael Kors on Fifth Avenue was among the luxury outlets hit, along with Nike, Lego and electronics shops across Midtown, before the 11:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew came into effect, AFP journalists said. Groups of young people moved from block to block around the district, usually bustling with tourists but deserted due to the coronavirus, with entire streets blocked by police.

Images from local NY1 television showed some young people running out of a Best Buy electronics store before being apprehended by the police.

Stores in the south of Manhattan suffered a similar fate, according to an AFP photographer.

The New York Times reported that the flagship Macy's department store had also been targeted by looters.

Police did not immediately confirm this, simply saying that "numerous stores were hit" and arrests made "in the hundreds" across the city.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said a lot of stores around Madison Avenue had been hit and the situation was "really not acceptable."

As a result he said the curfew would start from 8:00 pm on Tuesday instead of 11:00 pm.

"The city is fully under control, and peaceful," he nevertheless insisted on NY1.

'Time to go home'

The imposition of the curfew had been announced a few hours earlier by the mayor and New York state governor Andrew Cuomo after protests and looting during the weekend -- notably in the trendy SoHo district.

The mayor tweeted late Monday that "protesters were overwhelmingly peaceful today" but that some people were out to damage property and steal. —AFP ■

Looters hit stores in New York where the mayor has imposed an overnight curfew. **PHOTO: AFP**

Libya rivals agree return to ceasefire talks: UN

TRIPOLI — The United Nations' Libya mission said Tuesday the country's warring parties had agreed to restart talks aimed at reaching a lasting ceasefire, after a three-month suspension.

In a statement, UNSMIL "welcomed" moves by the Government of National Accord and forces backing eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar to accept "restarting negotiations on a ceasefire and the related security arrangements".

Pro-Haftar forces have been battling since April last year to seize the capital Tripoli from the UN-recognized GNA, in fighting that has left hundreds dead and forced 200,000 to flee their homes.

A military commission made up of five GNA loyalists and five Haftar delegates held talks in February, but the dialogue was suspended.

A January truce brokered by GNA backer Turkey and key Haftar ally Russia has been repeatedly violated.

Neither side immediately commented on the UN statement. Haftar's rapid advance on Tripoli last year stalled to a bloody stalemate on the edges of the capital.—AFP ■

Minneapolis businesses hammered by pandemic and protests

MINNEAPOLIS—The Fehrenkamp brothers were excited to reopen outdoor seating on their pub's patio on Monday, when Minneapolis began easing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions -- but before that could happen rioters set their restaurant ablaze.

Like them, dozens of business owners across this populous city in the northern state of Minnesota have found themselves in a difficult financial situation, facing both the effects of the novel coronavirus and violent protests over the death of George Floyd.

Tom Bernard cleans up debris in front of his barber shop in Minneapolis after a night of protests against police brutality. **PHOTO: AFP**

Floyd was killed on May 27 after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on the 46-year-old black man's neck for almost nine minutes. A bystander video of the incident sparked a nationwide uproar over police brutality, and protests have broken out every night since. The demonstrations have often turned into rioting and looting. The Iron Door pub, located about half a mile from a police station, paid the price of the protesters' anger Friday night.—AFP ■

Two bidders in race for Virgin Australia

SYDNEY—Virgin Australia's administrators announced Tuesday they had narrowed the pool of interested buyers to two US-based private equity firms, weeks after the carrier buckled under the strain of the coronavirus pandemic. Virgin Australia Group went into voluntary administration in late April as the global aviation industry came to a halt amid international border closures designed to slow the spread of coronavirus.

The airline was more than Aus$5 billion ($3.2 billion) in debt and had appealed for an Aus$1.4 billion loan to stay afloat, but the government refused to bail out the majority foreign-owned company.

Administrator Vaughan Strawbridge, from accounting firm Deloitte, said Tuesday that private equity firms Bain Capital and Cyrus Capital Partners had been shortlisted from a pool of five bidders.

He said both US-based investment houses were "well-funded, have deep aviation experience, and they see real value in the business and its future".

"We will now spend the coming weeks facilitating in-depth bidder engagement with the stakeholders of the business and work closely with both preferred bidders in the lead up to binding final offers being received," Strawbridge added.—AFP ■

Macao's gaming revenue plunges by 93.2 pct in May

MACAO—Macao's gaming industry revenue plunged by 93.2 per cent year-on-year in May 2020, the special administrative region (SAR)'s gaming industry watchdog said on Tuesday.

Macao's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau said in its latest report that the gaming revenue was 1,764 million patacas (about 221 million U.S. dollars) in May this year, a drastic decline of 93.2 per cent from 2019.The accumulated revenue in the first five months of 2020 reached 33.00 billion patacas (about 4.13 billion dollars), also down by 73.7 per cent year-on-year.

The current novel coronavirus pandemic has aggravated the subdued performance of gaming industry, as the SAR government kept the tightened entry policy to curb the spread of the disease since late January this year.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR POWER PROJECTS IN MYANMAR

(Tender No. EPGE PV 01/2019-2020)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of **EPGE PV 01/2019-2020**, EPGE herewith would like to announce that **Bid Submission Date** shall be amended as **17th July 2020** and the Addendum No.2 shall be issued.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Rural Development
National Consultant for water supply systems in Southern Shan State

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation together with UNICEF, is implementing Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA) programme especially for the Rural Poor in Southern Shan State and Magway Region in Myanmar. This programme is funded by DFID and aimed to support the sustained use of safe water supplies in targeted areas of Myanmar.

Under the supervision DRD and UNICEF, the national consultant will provide technical support for construction/ upgrading of community managed water supply systems for 42 communities of Pekon, Leikha, Namhsan and Moenai townships.

Interested Candidates must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experiences. A copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and format for EOI can be obtained from the following contact (by email). Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below by **17 June 2020**.

Attn: U Kyaw Swa Aung (Director),
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
Office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel &Fax: +95 67418633/418631
Email addresses: pl.hq@drdmyanmar.net

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (901N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (901N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-6-2020 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 PACAO VOY. NO. (091N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (091N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

UN agency recommends health guidelines for airlines

A protocol drawn up by an international task force is intended to serve as a "framework" for assuring the safety of passengers and workers on planes and at airports, as the coronavirus-battered airline industry. **PHOTO: AFP**

MONTREAL — Mask wearing, temperature controls, disinfection of aircraft: the International Civil Aviation Organization on Monday published a series of health recommendations for the pandemic-hit airline industry as it relaunches air travel.

The protocol was drawn up by an international task force formed by the Montreal-based ICAO with the help of other UN agencies like the World Health Organization and the powerful International Air Transport Association (IATA).

"These guidelines will facilitate convergence, mutual recognition and harmonization of aviation COVID-19 related measures across the globe," Philippe Bertoux, France's representative on ICAO's board, which led the "task force" debate, said in a statement.

The changes being suggested are the most important for air travel since security measures put in place after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The recommendations -- adopted Monday evening by the ICAO's executive committee, are intended to serve as a "framework" for assuring the safety of passengers and workers on planes and at airports.

On their arrival at airports, travelers should present a health certificate and undergo an initial temperature check, under the guidelines.—AFP

Made in Qatar: embargo and pandemic stoke autonomy drive

DOHA -- A Qatari arms factory that makes rifles and grenade launchers has added a product that saves rather than takes lives -- ventilators, needed at home and abroad amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The venture is the latest salvo in Doha's charm offensive to cement old partnerships and secure new friends as a bitter spat with Saudi Arabia and its allies drags into its fourth year this Friday.

It has also allowed the small Gulf state to draw on capabilities developed the hard way in the wake of its regional isolation.

In the nerve centre of Qatar's nascent arms industry, the state-run Barzan Holdings facility, giant posters of soldiers toting locally made rifles promote "sovereignty" and "lethality".

But alongside all the gun parts and night-vision goggles, the factory is now preparing to churn out 2,000 life-giving ventilators weekly, in collaboration with US defence manufacturer Wilcox.

Many are earmarked for export to what Qatar deems "friendly countries". "We thought it would be the perfect time to try to seize the moment to... ramp up production needs," Nasser Hassan al-Naimi, Barzan's managing director, said of the pandemic.—AFP

Alongside the manufacture of gun parts, grenade launchers and night vision goggles, Qatar's Barzan facility is now making ventilators to meet surging domestic and global demand driven by coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Revised S. Korean GDP declines 1.3 pct in Q1

SEOUL — The revised South Korean GDP dipped 1.3 per cent in the first quarter from the previous quarter, central bank data showed Tuesday.

The revised real GDP, adjusted for inflation, was 0.1 percentage point higher than the preliminary figure announced in April, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It was the biggest decline in over 11 years since the fourth quarter of 2008. From a year ago, the first-quarter GDP gained 1.4 per cent.

Private consumption dropped 6.5 per cent in the first quarter from three months earlier, recording the fastest slide since the first quarter of 1998.

People refrained from outside activities such as shopping, travelling and eating out due to the fear over the COVID-19 outbreak.—Xinhua

Invitation for Bids

Date:	**3, June , 2020**
Bid No. and Title:	**50 (T)/ DPTSC(PTP) / 2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Mann- Taungdwingyi Transmission Line (57) miles**
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	**17, July , 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)**

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.
2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control** (DPTSC) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Mann-Taungdwingyi Transmission Line (57) miles** ("the Facilities"). The Facilities are all located in Magwe region.
3. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with Single - Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
   - Participation in at least two (2) transmission line contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds US$ 30.0 million.
   - For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
     Overhead transmission line of 220kV or higher shall not be less than (75) km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.
   - Minimum average annual turnover of US$ 28 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

   The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.
5. To obtain further information bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours
(local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address : Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone : 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
Email : dg.dptsc@moee.gov.mm, dd1ptp.dptsc@moee.gov.mm, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com, sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com,
Fax : 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.
7. Bids must be submitted to the following address above **on or before the deadline: 17, July, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time)** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
8. **Electronic Submission is not allowed.**
9. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 17/ 7/2020.
10. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

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Thilawa SEZ to manufacture new Japanese autos before long

By Zin Lin Myint

SUZUKI auto plant in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**

ALMOST every country has seen severe effects on economy, trade, health and socio-economic life of the people inflicted by global pandemic COVID-19. Also in Myanmar, the government is now striving for the least impacts on employers and employees. When the operation of the factories and plants is looked in Yangon, Suzuki Motor Corporation is poised to inject the capital into establishment of a new auto plant that will conduct welding, painting and assembly of automobiles in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, Thanlyin Township.

Suzuki Motor Corporation, of course, is currently assembling the autos in Thilawa by the system of semi knocked down (SKD) which partially assembled parts of a product are put together. The plant that will be established now will become a new auto one for Suzuki.

Suzuki auto maker has started doing investment in Myanmar since 1998 and manufacturing Suzuki motorcycles and autos in cooperation with the government on a basis of joint-venture since 1999. Now, making an investment of more than US$ 10 million (12 billion yen), Suzuki will build a new automobile plant by completely knocked down scheme which conduct welding, painting and assembly of the autos in Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The previous factory imported auto parts of Suzuki and assembled autos by SKD. But the currently-invested auto plant will manufacture automobiles from beginning to end at the same place.

The newly-established auto plant is expected to start operation in September of 2021 with the production of Suzuki automobiles. Although the COVID-19 outbreak is having effects on construction industry locally and globally, the construction of the auto plant will go on until new automobiles are manufactured.

The photo shows the yard of Suzuki auto plant. **PHOTO: ZIN LIN MYINT**

Auto available at reasonable price in Myanmar

Suzuki auto plant has already had its original plan hoping that it manufactures about 40,000 autos a year starting from September in 2021, according to the official release of Suzuki Auto Company. If the company continues keeping up this production rate, the auto market will become more competitive. On the other hand, the people will get opportunities of affording the autos at reasonable prices.

Suzuki auto maker will produce new automobiles by completely knocked down scheme which conduct welding, painting and assembly of the autos in Thilawa Special Economic Zone which will provide new job opportunities. The youths will find more employment and they will come to know by learning how to produce the auto from start to end. If Suzuki produces an auto from start to end by CKD system,

other auto companies in Japan will later follow. The Suzuki, of course, already had a plan of producing autos by SKD system and also has a project to manufacture autos from start to end by CKD system when the designed period comes. But investments may see the situation that cannot carry out the implementation due to some changes and difficulties in the project. However, the implementation of the company is in progress as the investment has been made.

Suzuki auto maker has started doing investment in Myanmar since 1998 and manufacturing Suzuki motorcycles and autos in cooperation with the government on a basis of joint-venture since 1999. Now the investment in the auto manufacturing Suzuki made amount to US$ 35million. Suzuki has achieved good market shares in the automobile market of Myanmar. The Suzuki auto brands such as Carry, Ciaz, Ertiga and Swift are being assembled and manufactured in the auto plants in Dagon Myothit (South) and Thilawa SEZ. Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co., Ltd and Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co., Ltd made full investment in Suzuki auto plant establishment and manufacturing sector.

Suzuki auto brands and prices can be opted

The investments the auto companies from Japan made in Myanmar ensure extensive local and foreign markets and good opportunities in the development of economy and trade. Also in local auto market, the people will have to choose auto brands, prices and services. Suzuki manufactured 13,300 units from the auto plants in Dagon Myothit (South) and Thilawa during 2019 and sold out 13,206 units, revealed in the official release of the company. The number increased by 128 per cent compared to that of 2018.

Toyota, one the Japanese auto makers, has made investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and is manufacturing autos by SKD system which auto parts are being imported and cars assembled. At such a time, the auto plant of Suzuki is under construction and in the near future those wishing to buy autos will have a variety choice between Toyota and Suzuki and auto market will be a robust competition.

Now is the time all businesses facing all forms of difficulties affected by COVID-19, but the investments of Japanese auto makers will be some kind of power not only for economy but also new employments beyond COVID-19.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

PropertyGuru, Shwe Property join forces for Myanmar's most prestigious real estate honours

THIS year's annual PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards, supported by title sponsor Hitachi, will be presented in partnership with Shwe Property, the leading property website and number one online real estate group in the country. The collaboration marks one of the strongest editions yet for the prestigious regional awards programme.

Shwe Property is joining the 6th PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards as Associate Partner. With more than 250,000 properties listed on its platform, Shwe Property is one of Myanmar's most recognisable brands, lending more credibility to the Awards.

Jules Kay, managing director of the PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards and Events, said: "The 2020 edition of the PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards creates a single benchmark of excellence for the real estate industry in the country as it combines Shwe Property's expertise within the domestic real estate landscape and PropertyGuru's incomparable access to international markets across Asia-Pacific. This synergy between the leading real estate awards programme in the region and a respected property portal in Myanmar is exactly the kind of support developers need to amplify their brand during these exceptional times."

Justin Sway, chief executive officer of Shwe Property, said: "Shwe Property is proud to forge this partnership with PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards. By pooling our resources and market expertise together, we have strengthened our collective platform recognizing developers in Myanmar to bolster the reach of their businesses and spread awareness of their brands both locally via Shwe Property and internationally via PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards' network and marks of excellence."

With access to more than 15 markets and 23 million property seekers across the region, PropertyGuru will provide the necessary resources to elevate recipients of the Myanmar Property Awards to the regional stage.

Justin Sway, chief executive officer of Shwe Property.

Jules Kay, managing director of the PropertyGuru.

Winners and Highly Commended of the 6th PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards, in partnership with Shwe Property, will receive an array of digital and exclusive benefits, marketing tools, and the stamp of approval from the independent panel of expert judges, which is now led by long-time judge, Richard Emerson, managing director of Emerson Real Estate.

This year's Awards will continue to follow the strict, ethical and unbiased criteria of the PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards. To ensure fairness and transparency, the entire judging process will be supervised by BDO, led by Joe Yew Chi Jee, Executive Director, Advisory; Nang Hnin Thet Htwe, Executive; and Hong Shi Ying, Senior Manager.

The 2020 edition of the PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards will introduce new categories to its roster of Development accolades — Best Luxury Condo Development, Best Affordable Condo Development and Best Affordable Housing Development. New design categories in contention include Best Commercial Architectural Design and Best Commercial Interior Design. In celebration of Myanmar's rich legacy of colonial architecture, the 2020 edition will open categories for Best Heritage Renovated Property and Best Heritage Renovated Property Design.

The 6th PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards black-tie gala dinner and ceremony will be held as scheduled on Saturday, 23 October 2020 at the Sule Shangri-La Yangon hotel. The general public are still encouraged to submit their nominations online via asiapropertyawards.com/nominations.

Here are the key dates to remember:

21 August 2020 – Nominations Close

28 August 2020 – Entries Close

7-11 September 2020 – Site Inspections

14 September 2020 – Final Judging

23 October 2020 - Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Yangon, Myanmar

4 December 2020 – Grand Final Gala Ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand

Precautionary health protocols will be followed stringently leading up to and on the day of the gala event in Yangon. Existing entries will also be judged as normal by the expert panel based on the established criteria.

"With the safety of our guests remaining a number one priority, we want to ensure that we hold our events at a time when our award nominees and other stakeholders feel comfortable and ready to fully celebrate their achievements," added Jules Kay.

The 6th PropertyGuru Myanmar Property Awards, presented in partnership with Shwe Property, is supported by platinum sponsor Hitachi Elevators and Escalators; official supervisor BDO; official magazine PropertyGuru Property Report; official charity partner Right to Play; official PR partner Klareco Communications; and official portal partner Shwe Property. —GNLM

MFF plans to organize futsal knock-out cup 2020

The coordination meeting over organizing Myanmar Football Federation-MFF Futsal Knock-Out Cup 2020 is in progress at the MFF's meeting hall in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

A coordination meeting over organizing Myanmar Football Federation-MFF Futsal Knock-Out Cup 2020 was held at the MFF's meeting hall yesterday.

The meeting was attended by GV Futsal Club owner and Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee's Chairman Dr Ye Mon and members, football clubs' representatives, and MFF's general secretary U Ko Ko Thein and departments' in-charges.

At the ceremony, the MFF's general secretary made an opening remark, and explained the purposes and arrangements for the futsal competition.

According to the meeting, the futsal knock-out cup is scheduled to take place in July or late August.

A total of 14 to 16 futsal teams from Yangon and Mandalay will participate in the competition.

The federation will take only K200,000 each team as an entry fee to the competition. Winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will be awarded.

Champions of the competitions will get a chance to participate in the AFF Futsal Club Championship.

MFF will organize the futsal knock-out cup in Yangon in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The federation is also seeking sponsorships for the competition. Detailed information about the competition will be released soon. —Kyaw Khin ■

Klopp's 'passion' restored as English football nears return

LONDON — Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp cannot wait for English football's return after a three-month layoff due to the coronavirus pandemic and promised to celebrate the Premier League title in style when it is safe to do so. Liverpool are just two wins away from securing their first league title in 30 years. The Reds held a commanding 25-point lead over Manchester City when play was halted in March. Klopp's men could even clinch the title with victory in their first game back if City lose to Arsenal in one of two games scheduled to take place on June 17, before the first full round of matches the following weekend.—AFP ■

AFC to convene MAs' & RAs' General Secretaries' Online Conference

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will kick off its Member Associations' & Regional Associations' General Secretaries' Online Conference 2020 on 4 June, according to the AFC's website.

The purpose of the two-day conference with General Secretaries from the Central and South Zones is to ensure that all Member and Regional Associations are given the opportunity to benefit from the resources, expertise and programmes established by the AFC and to further strengthen engagement. The conference is an extension of the yearly programme specifically designed for General Secretaries, and for the first time this year will include the senior leadership from the AFC's Regional Associations as part of efforts to further enhance the spirit of partnership within the Asian football family.

AFC General Secretary Dato' Windsor John will set the stage with a presentation on the AFC's Vision and Mission before participants delve into an overview of the AFC's Competitions. The two-day series will continue to make its way across the Continent with the East Zone Conference scheduled to take place on 11 June, ASEAN Zone on 25 June and finally for the West Zone on 30 June. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is one of the six continental confederations within FIFA and is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia. It has 47 member countries, mostly located on the Asian continent.—Kyaw Khin ■

Italian FA chief hopeful small number of fans can attend games

MILAN — Italian football federation president (FIGC) Gabriele Gravina said on Monday (Jun 1) he hoped that a small number of fans will be able to attend matches before the season finishes.

"Fans in stadiums? It is my heartfelt wish to be able to see a small presence in stadium for the end of the championship," Gravina told Italian radio.

"It seems unthinkable that in a stadium with 60,000 or 80,000 seats, there is no space for a minimal percentage of spectators who can attend the match with all necessary precautions."

Italian football has been suspended since Mar 9 because of the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 33,500 in the country, but will return to action mid-June with the season scheduled to end in early August.—AFP ■

Government to decide on spectators at French Open

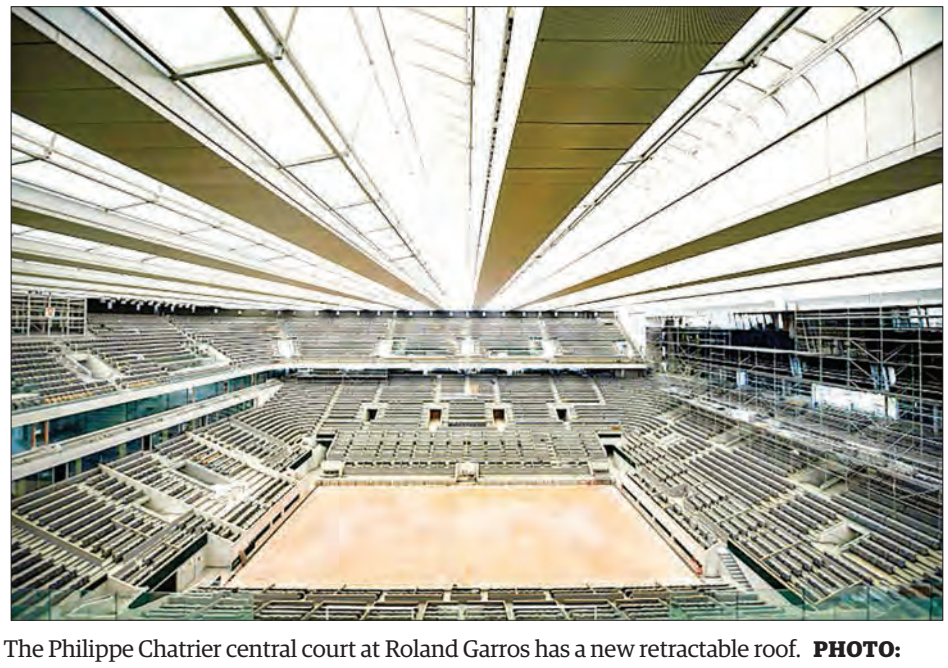
PARIS — The head of French tennis said on Monday (Jun 1) he would like a full house at the French Open but conceded only the government can decide if spectators can attend the re-arranged tournament.

The claycourt Grand Slam, which would now have been into its second week under the original schedule, was pushed back by four months because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Tickets bought for the event in its May-June slot were reimbursed rather than transferred, prompting fears the tournament, now due to start on September 20, will be played behind closed doors.

"The preferred option is to have a Roland Garros with as many spectators as possible," French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli said in a video call with French player Gael Montfils.

"After that, depending on the health conditions, we will adapt to the directives the government gives us. The government will decide how many people can be there." Giudicelli said the organizers were not keen on having the tournament behind closed doors "because Roland Garros, like all the major tournaments, is a meeting between the players and the public."That's what gives this tournament its magic," he added.



The Philippe Chatrier central court at Roland Garros has a new retractable roof. **PHOTO: AFP**

Professional tennis has been halted since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic with tournaments unlikely to resume before August. Wimbledon was cancelled and while the US Open is still scheduled to go ahead, organizers are considering moving it away from New York.—AFP ■