THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Notification 3/2020

2nd Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME
(21 June 2020)

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 17th regular session

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 17th regular session is summoned at 1:30 pm on the 9th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME (13 July 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyithu Hluttaw Notification 3/2020

2nd Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME
(21 June 2020)

Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 17th regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 17th regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 9th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME (13 July 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Amyotha Hluttaw Notification 3/2020

2nd Waxing of First Waso 1382 ME
(21 June 2020)

Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 17th regular session

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 17th regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 9th Waning of First Waso 1382 ME (13 July 2020) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Return of migrant workers continues via MYN-THAI Friendship Bridge at Myawady

AUTHORITIES accepted 642 Myanmar migrant workers returning from Thailand at the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

The returnees received permission to return from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand but had to arrange their own trip to the border.

They were given medical examinations and had other necessary arrangements made by Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, Deputy District Administrator U Aung Chan Nyein, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Ko Ko, the head of Myawady District Office for Immigration and Population U Aung Khine Swe, and other officials.

A total of 32,020 Myanmar citizens have returned through this route so far and the latest batch yesterday was made up of 388 men and 254 women. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Myanmar migrant workers listen to briefing about COVID-19 control measures explained by an official as they arrive at the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge in Myawady yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IRPD)**

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Quarantine centre volunteers receive online training



The volunteers from different quarantine centres participate in online training. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE National Volunteer Steering Unit collaborated with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and Myanmar Medical Association yesterday and organized an online training course for volunteers assisting in close proximity in quarantine centers who have yet to attend courses.

The National Volunteer Steering Unit has published the volunteer training handbook for volunteers assisting in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment procedures and responses, the amount of time they can give for the quarantine centres, assigning tasks for close proximity and at a distance based on the given situation, arranging protective equipment, temporary accommodation, food, transport and resting spaces, and conferring certificates of honour.

The list of close proximity volunteers who have not attended training courses was compiled. The first batch contained 62 volunteers in Nay Pyi Taw Council, Magway and Bago regions, and Chin and Kayah states. The training topics include giving psychosocial support and assisting certain target groups such as women, the elderly, pregnant mothers and babies, youths, people living with disabilities, and people with chronic illnesses. The online course also taught the volunteers disease preventive measures and how to put on a protective suit.

The National Volunteer Steering Unit will continue to provide training courses for volunteers who have yet to receive training.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend 17th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 13 July 2020 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not, are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-12) not earlier than 11 July (Saturday) and not later than 12 July (Sunday) along with their identity cards.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend 17th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 13 July 2020 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not, are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 11 July and not later than 12 July along with their identity cards.—MNA

Three more COVID-19 cases on Sunday, total figure reaches 290

COVID-19 figure of Myanmar reached 290 after three more cases found, who had overseas travel history in Qatar, according to an official report of Ministry of Health and Sports on 21 June (Sunday).

Out of the 290 confirmed cases, six died, 200 have recovered and 183 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report.—MNA

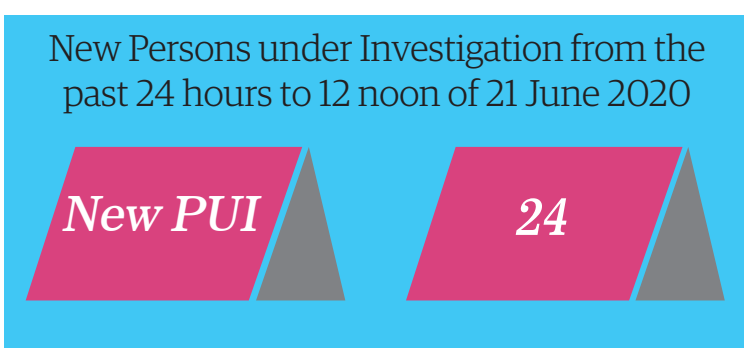
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Three new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 21 June, total figure reaches 290

Updated at 8 pm, 21 June 2020



Recovery Update on 21 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



Three new cases of COVID-19 on 21 June 2020: Updated at 8pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas Travel History	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
288	35	Male	Letpadan Township, Bago Region	No	Yes (Qatar)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
289	25	Male	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw	No	Yes (Qatar)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
290	23	Male	Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes (Qatar)	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mayangon Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

"People are the key"

Training on qualitative methods in health research open in PyinOoLwin



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the training workshop on Qualitative Methods in Health Research in PyinOoLwin yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Training Workshop on Qualitative Methods in Health Research (1/2020) was opened at the Department of Medical Research-DMR (PyinOoLwin Branch)'s Research Capacity Strengthening Training Centre yesterday.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said conducting research projects can not only improve the entire health care system's capacity and effectiveness but also assist the nation's development.

Skills of the individual staff from the ministry can be improved by doing research, the Union Minister said.

He expressed thanks to the officials from the Department of Medical Research for their arrangements for reopening of capacity building courses on research, which were suspended due to COVID-19.

The health research training workshop was organized for various health care professionals including medical superintendents, doctors, nurses, health assistants, medical experts and pharmacists.

At the Research Capacity Strengthening Training Centre, the ministry was organizing training workshops on health research for not only master's and doctoral students but also anyone who are interested in research from the ministry.

The present training workshop on qualitative methods in health research is very helpful for the ministry, as it includes lectures, interactive discussions, group works and field research, analysis of research data, and other activities.

The ministry, with the aim of promoting better research culture, allocated K 6,000 million for research fund from 2016 to 2019-2020 FY and planned to grant K 3,000 million of research fund during 2020-21 FY.

By effectively using the budgets, the ministry's officials and staff are urged to conduct more applied research projects that can promote health care system and for the effectiveness of combatting diseases, solving health problems, and betterment of policies, he added.

The health resources can be saved and the ministry's works can be successful by drawing up plans and allocating budgets and resources that based on research findings.

He also urged the officials to conduct online capacity building courses with the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Lectures videos of the ministry's trainings and universities including the training workshop will be posted on the related departments and universities' websites and social media.

The betterment of the trainings must be implemented by seeking trainees' opinions on the final days of the courses, he added.

PyinOoLwin Township Hluttaw representative Dr Aung Khin expressed thanks for the training workshop, and Director-General of Medical Research Department Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun made remarks.

Deputy Director-General of Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch) Dr Saw Saw explained the matters related to the course.

The Union Minister and party also visited the medical research department's library.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister inspected the place where a new two-storey building for Research Capacity Strengthening Training Centre will be constructed.

The Union Minister also attended the stake-driving ceremony for an eight-storey building at the Mandalay General Hospital.

The eight-storey building for Hepatology (Liver) Department being constructed with the use of K 1,200 million was donated by Thurein Kyaw Soe Win Company, and the company's owner U Kyaw Win and Daw Khin Htwe from Mandalay.

The building's stake-driving ceremony was attended by the Union Minister, Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin, Director-General of Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Oo, donor U Kyaw Win and family, and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

International Day of Yoga celebrated on social media

THE 6th International Day of Yoga was commemorated on an online Zoom cloud meting and through a live broadcast on the Facebook page of the Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (SDSS Myanmar) yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, U Kyi Min, first spoke at the Zoom cloud meeting and extended warm wishes to the Ambassador of India and embassy families, Hindu religious leaders, officials, Hindus and other guests joining the meeting. The theme for International Day of Yoga this year was 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family' and is quite appropriate for the current period, said the Deputy Minister. He said practicing yoga is known to boost self-confidence, patience and serenity while aiding in physical fitness, proper blood circulation, memory, and eyesight. He said it keeps the body fresh and should be done regularly. The second part of the programme then began with lighting ceremonial oil lamps followed by recitals of religious scripts and an opening speech from the SDSS Chairman. A practical demonstration of yoga was then displayed after which Deputy Minister U Kyi Min and the Ambassador of India delivered speeches and the Vice-Chairman of SDSS expressed words of gratitude. The Five Precepts and pattana were also observed.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Deputy Minister U Kyi Min attends the virtual Yoga Day event as 6th International Day of Yoga commemorated via online yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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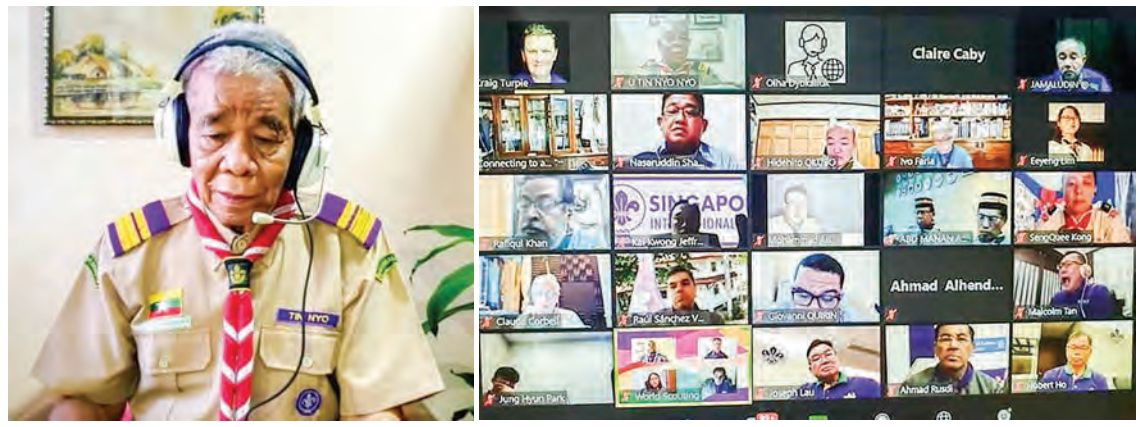
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Online learning platform World Scout Academy open

THE World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) launched the World Scout Academy, a new virtual learning platform, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 20 June.

Myanmar scouts delegaation led by Dr Tin Nyo, Chief Commissioner of Myanmar Scouts Association, and Deputy Chief Scouts U Tha Sein, joined the online academy's opening ceremony via videoconference.

Mr Craig Turpie , Chairman of the World Scout Committee, and Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, delivered speeches at the opening session.



Dr Tin Nyo, Chief Commissioner of Myanmar Scouts Association, attending the virutal World Scout Academy event on 20 June. **PHOTO: MYANMAR SCOUT ASSOCIATION**

The academy was opened to support the leadership of National Scout Organizations and National Scout Associations (NSOs/NSAs) to adapt to the changing realities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the virtual opening session, the scouts discussed postponement of 42nd World Scout Conference that was reviously scheduled to take place in August 2020 in Egypt and digital learning programmes that are being mplemented by the World Organization of the Scout Movement for scout leaders around the wor.

The opening session of the academy was followed by an eight week programme that will equip participants with the relevant knowledge and skills to successfully lead their organizations within a new environment following the COVID-19 pandemic.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Erosion prevention work for Nga Moe Yeik creek to finish in end-August

THE erosion prevention work and construction of dyke revetments in the five curves along Nga Moe Yeik creek are completing in the end-August, under the supervision of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (region 1).

"There are 25 curves along the creek which experience bank erosion every year. Now, it is the third year that the Directorate has been carrying out renovation projects along the Nga Moe Yeik creek, with five curves per year. Further restoration works will continue in the coming years," Directorate Director U Kyaw Win Hlaing said.



The erosion prevention work for the first five curves along the Nga Moe Yeik creek started in 2016. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

The Directorate has allocated K4.76 billion for the project within its allowed budget. The erosion prevention works are underway in the five curves near Myakhwarnyo Housing in Thakayta Township, Parami Street in South OkkalaaTownship, Ward 5 and Aunglayaung monastery of North Okkalapa Township and Shwekyaryan Housing in Ward 33 of North Dagon Township.

The Directorate has implemented the project since March-end 2020 and set to finish it in end -April.

The erosion prevention work for the first five curves along the creek started in 2016. This year, the Directorate will restore 15 curves. The prevention works of the remaining ten curves will be conducted depending on the budget in the coming years. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Schools to reopen under coronavirus-preventive measures

THE schools across the country are preparing to reopen in conformity with the precautionary measures against the coronavirus pandemic issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

"This academic year is different from the previous years as we primarily focus on health guidelines. We arrange the chairs at six feet apart and separate shifts to ensure social distancing. Some schools are reopening one week apart under two separate shifts depending on the number of students. The academic year 2020-2021 is slated to start from 21 July", said headmaster U Ko Ko Naing of No 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township.

The school is preparing for sufficient supply of facemasks, handwashing basins and hand sanitizers. The schools are also disinfected in cooperation with township Red Cross.

Additionally, the school will conduct health awareness programmes to the students and parents through teachers.

The high schools are going to reopen from 21 July while the elementary school from 4 August, and primary school from mid-August.

Some teachers are also receiving online training courses. The school enrollment will begin in the week started 13 July.

There are around 27,000 schools which can open regularly, 14,096 schools which can open one week apart and 5,127 schools which can open under two separate shifts. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fishery exports exceed $680 mln as of 12 June



Workers sort out prawns at a sea food processing factory in Kawthoung. **PHOTO : AYE THAN**

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 12 June in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$683 million, an increase of $101.88 million from the year-ago period, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union. However, Myanmar's fishery export volume is much lower compared to neighbouring countries.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

The MFF plans to establish fish lakes, aqua feedstuffs processing factories, cold storages, and packaging factories, in cooperation with foreign experts.

At present, the fisheries sector is hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak. More than 3 million people are relying on this sector and the businesses need government's support to keep surviving amid the pandemic, said MFF secretary U Win Kyaing.

There are over 247,000 acres of fish farms and 240,000 prawn breeding farms across the country.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth $530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth $480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth $500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth $600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth $700 million in the 2017-2018FY, and over 580,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Online platform grants 7,433 import/export licences in two months

THE Trade Department with the Ministry of Commerce has issued US$12.777 billion worth 7,433 import/export licences through the online platform over the past two months, to ensure smooth trade amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The ministry has launched the online licencing system for export and import businesses starting from 1 April, with a view to reduce the person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of viral disease.

This being so, under the new service, the process of licence applications, fee payment and receiving licences can be done online. The trade department offers an online system for over 700 types of export/import items, including CMP garment and necessary import items such as pharmaceuticals and related items, hospital equipment, foodstuffs, fertilizers, palm oil and oil products, milk and dairy products, electronic devices, fuel oil, lubricants, motorbikes and bicycles, agricultural products, lead, sugar, natural gas and other products.

Licence applications can be processed on www.myanmartradenet.com.mm. The companies need to sign up membership, and application fee can be paid with the MCB eCommerce Pay of the Myanmar Citizens Bank. Additionally, the MPU eCommerce pay started on 8 May 2020.

The Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce has been granting reliefs to facilitate trade amid the pandemic period.

Following the coronavirus impacts, the validity of importer and exporter registration that will expire between 27 April and 30 July 2020 has been extended until 30 July, according to the notice of the Trade Department.

Moreover, the ministry has exempted licence fees on pharmaceuticals and medical raw materials.

The value of Myanmar's export to foreign countries as of 12 June 2020 since October 2019 has exceeded $12.37 billion which is up by $518 million compared with the corresponding period of last year. Similarly, import values also showed an increase of $1.38 billion against a-year ago period, crossing $14 billion. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon's auto market plunges since mid-March

FOLLOWING coronavirus spread in March in Myanmar, the automotive industry was crashed tremendously, leading to a sharp drop in automobile sales, said car dealers.

The auto sales drastically dropped in April-end after the government has imposed a restriction period for events.

In the second week of May, cars valued below K20 million were slightly demanded. However, the auto market is still cool. The cars are sold K1 to 3 million lower than the market price depending on types of cars, according to the Yangon car market.

The Road and Transport Administration Department (RTAD) has started issuing slips (import permits) to owners of modified cars, with changed body coaches.

Normally, the slipping price drops if more modified vehicles are de-registered at the RTAD.

The RTAD has also urged the current owners of vehicles to get the ownership transferred in their name within one year, as the transfer of ownership of vehicles valued below K100 million will attract a tax of just 3 per cent compared to 15 per cent earlier.

With a fall in slip prices and tax relief for transfer of car ownership, the dealers engaged in the automotive industry are expecting the recovery of the market after the reopening of schools, said the car dealers. —Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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"Now it's time for recovery," says PM as Spain braces for "new normality"



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told the country in a televised speech on Saturday on the eve of lifting its State of Alarm that "Now it's time for recovery."

Spain will enter on Sunday what Sanchez calls the "new normality", with visitor arrivals from the European Union countries and Schengen regions no longer required to undergo two-week quarantine, while travel between Spain's 17 Autonomous Communities is resumed.

"We will leave behind the State of Alarm and enter the new normality," said Sanchez, who admitted that on 14 March when the State of Alarm was declared, "nobody knew that we were at the start of the biggest health crisis in the last 100 years. More than 28,000 fellow countrymen have lost their lives in our country."

He insisted that despite the huge losses, the lockdown had saved lives.

"No one could have predicted when and how the nightmare would end... We had to put our lives on hold to contain the virus. We had to offer protection to families, above all those in the most disadvantaged situations. We were badly affected, but we resisted. We flattened the curve and we did it together," said Sanchez.

The prime minister then looked to the future when restrictions such as the mandatory wearing of face-masks and social distancing will stay.

"Now is the time for recovery, which must happen as quickly as possible. We need sectors to recover as soon as they can, but they also need to be renewed," continued Sanchez, who sees the recovery as an opportunity for a more inclusive and sustainable economy on a national and European level.

"A new period is starting now... Our economy is starting to beat. We are in a situation where we can move forward," he noted while cautioning against possible spikes of infection.

"We have an individual and collective responsibility," he said, warning that "the virus could return and plunge us once more into a second wave, and we have to avoid that at all costs."

SOURCE: Xinhua

Mumbai builder converts newly built luxury condo into COVID-19 hospital

EVEN as Mumbai continues with its battle with COVID-19 cases, many Mumbaikars are stepping up to help others through this adversity.

A city-based builder has handed over a 19-storey newly constructed, ready-to-move-in building to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to house COVID-19 patients.

Mehul Sanghvi, of Sheeji Sharan Developers said "We decided to do this willingly after discussing with tenants. The building is being used as a quarantine centre for COVID patients." The building, located on SV Road in Malad, has 130 flats, for which it had received an occupation certificate from the state government. It was, in fact, ready to be handed over to the flat owners.

Till now, 300 patients have been transferred to the building, with four patients to a flat. Their treatment is continuing within the building premises.

Gopal Shetty, MP from Malad played an essential role in this move.

The North Mumbai legislator said he got in touch with Mehul Sanghvi and convinced him to provide the building for the cause, in view of the rising number of cases in Malad.

"We're happy that people like Mehul Sanghvi have set aside personal interests, in a bid to serve the greater good during these difficult times. We hope that others come forward and collaborate for such gestures, helping us save as many lives as possible," he said.

SOURCE: ANI

Beijing tests nearly 2.3 million people for COVID-19

NEARLY 2.3 million people in Beijing have received nucleic acid tests over the past week as the city strives to contain domestically transmitted COVID-19 cases, local authorities said Saturday.

Beijing authorities have set up a total of 2,083 sampling sites in 474 locations across the city, with 7,472 medical staffers taking shifts to conduct tests.

Since 13 June, people working in the wholesale market of Xinfadi, to which most newly-emerged cases were related, residents in nearby communities, and people who visited the market have been organized to take nucleic acid tests.

The city has also prioritized the testing for employees of restaurants, grocery stores, wholesale markets and courier and food delivery, according to the municipal government.

Beijing has reported over 200 domestically transmitted COVID-19 cases since 11 June.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Morocco opens field hospital after coronavirus cases spike

A new field hospital in eastern Morocco will from Sunday receive around 700 COVID-19 patients following a sharp spike in infections in the kingdom, the government said.

Morocco reported a record single-day rise in novel coronavirus cases on Friday after an outbreak was detected in fruit packing plants in eastern Kenitra province, prompting Rabat to tighten restrictions in the region.

The North African kingdom reported more than 500 cases on Friday, mainly in Kenitra, having recorded on average fewer than 100 new COVID-19 infections daily since confirming its first cases in early March.

Authorities closed facilities, tested workers and launched an investigation to "establish responsibility" for the outbreak, Interior Minister Abdelouafi Laftit said, as cited by official news agency MAP.

The field hospital will receive from Sunday "around 700 registered cases", he added.

Strawberry fields in Kenitra — usually busy with workers harvesting at this time of year — were deserted at the weekend, an AFP photographer said.

Several towns in the region were placed under quarantine and screenings were carried out among residents, who were asked to go out only in cases of "extreme necessity".

A dozen ambulances were stationed in Moulay Bousselham, one of the quarantined towns, ready to be dispatched to pick up confirmed cases.

Morocco, with a population of 34 million, has reported just over 9,800 cases and 213 deaths from the novel coronavirus. On 9 June, authorities announced a gradual lifting of restrictions in force since mid-March, though measures remain in place in major cities and a public health state of emergency has been extended until 10 July.

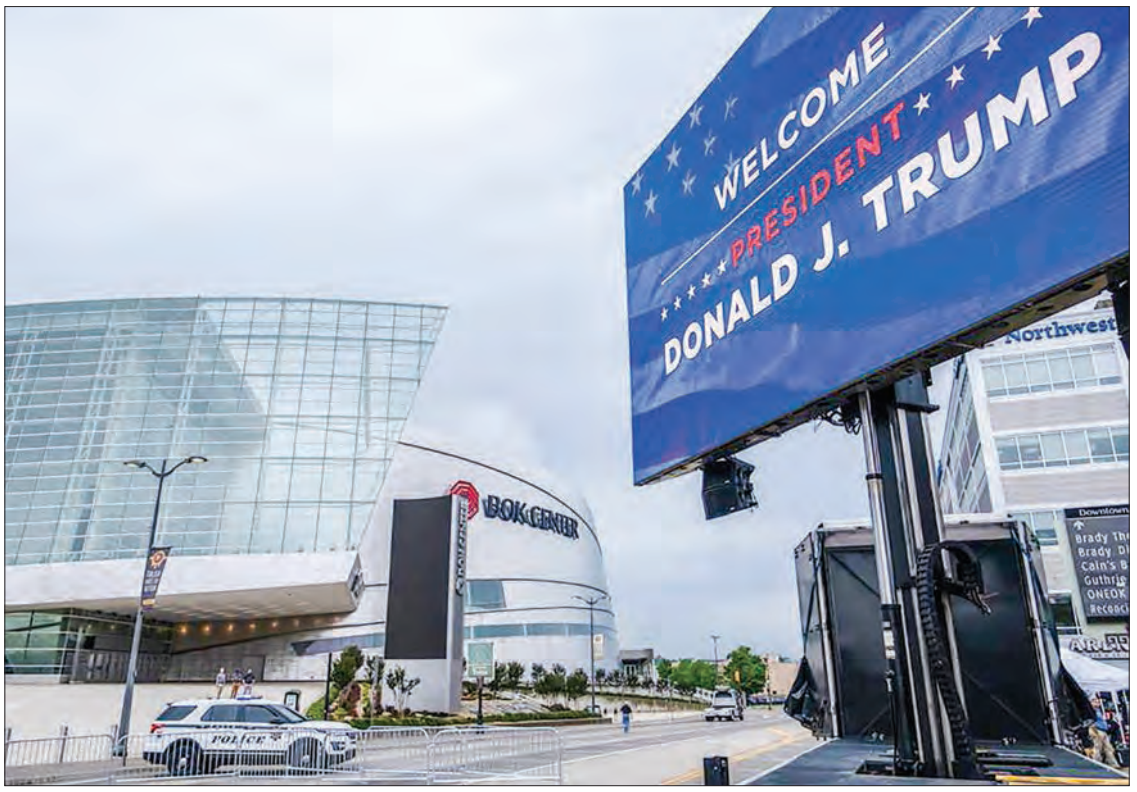
SOURCE: AFP



A Moroccan woman who tested positive for COVID-19 was among those transferred from the town of Moulay Bousselham, north of Rabat, to a medical centre (AFP Photo/FADEL SENNA)

PER SAFETY PROTOCOLS

6 staffers working on Trump's Tulsa rally test positive for coronavirus



Even as the coronavirus death toll in the United States neared 120,000, Trump declared on Saturday night that his response to the pandemic saved "hundreds of thousands" of lives. **HOTO: AFP**

SIX staffers working on US President Donald Trump's upcoming rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, have tested positive for the coronavirus, or COVID-19, a campaign spokesman said on Saturday.

"Per safety protocols, campaign staff are tested for COVID-19 before events. Six members of the advance team tested positive out of hundreds of tests performed, and quarantine procedures were immediately implemented," Tim Murtaugh, communications director for Trump's 2020 campaign, said in a statement.

"No COVID-positive staffers or anyone in immediate contact will be at today's rally or near attendees and elected officials," Murtaugh added.

The announcement came only hours before the Tulsa rally, the first of its kind for Trump in more than three months, amid warnings from health experts against large-scale gatherings, as some states, including Oklahoma, are seeing a surge in confirmed cases, while they are reopening.

Attendees of Saturday's rally will receive temperature checks, hand sanitizer, and masks before entering the BOK Centre, which can hold 19,000 people, Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said earlier this week.

They have also been asked to sign a waiver releasing the Trump campaign from responsibility for possible exposure to the coronavirus. Trump, in an interview with Axios on Friday, said that they are "going to have a wild evening" in Tulsa.

"We have to get back to business. We have to get back to living our lives. Can't do this any longer," Trump said. "And I do believe it's safe. I do believe it's very safe."

But the president stressed that he won't wear a mask.

"If people want to wear masks I think that's great," he said. "I won't be. Not as a protest but I don't feel that I'm in danger." The coronavirus can spread between people interacting in close proximity — for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing — even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

"CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain," the agency said in the public guidelines.

Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a key member of the White House coronavirus task force, has said that he wouldn't personally attend political rallies over health concerns.

"I'm in a high risk category. Personally, I would not. Of course not," Fauci, 79, told an interview with Daily Beast earlier this week, adding that when it came to Trump's rallies "outside is better than inside, no crowd is better than crowd" and "crowd is better than big crowd."

SOURCE: Xinhua

EFFECTS OF RADIO ON THE BRAIN

Radio sees revival in Japan as people continue "stay at home"

AS it has done with just about all activities around the globe, the novel coronavirus has reshaped how we consume our entertainment.

In Japan, one of those ways has been the revival, most notably among young people, of a once favorite pastime that had largely fallen on deaf ears: easy-listening radio. As people have spent more time at home working remotely or away from school, radio audiences have seen a sharp increase, even among schoolkids. And experts are also lauding the positive health benefits of radio listening on the brain.

According to the operator of radiko, an internet radio aggregator that charges premium members 385 yen per month to listen to all radio broadcasts, the number of listeners in April increased by 21 per cent compared with February, for a total audience of about 9.1 million. This was especially true during the daytime between 9 am and 6 pm, when growth in listenership of 40 per cent was registered.

Even on the radio station Nikkei, Japan's sole nationwide commercial broadcaster, the number of listeners of one of its two stations hosted by radiko that streams music only was up by 23 per cent. The radio station surmises that a large section of its listeners are people working from home enjoying easy-listening music from their personal computers. But company president Seigo Inomoto said listeners are also hungry for other kinds of information.

"Our numbers are even growing for (market) information and live horse racing that has started without spectators (which is handled in the first broadcast)," Inomoto said.

Radiko's operating company works with Toshinori Kato, a doctor of internal medicine, studying the effects of radio on the brain. Eight university students listened to the radio for more than two hours every day for one month, and an MRI examined their brains before and after listening.

The data released in the study this month found an expansion in the area of the brain that controls memory and hearing.

Yuji Yokoyama, a radio host of a weekday program broadcast by RCC Broadcasting Co, Ltd. through radiko that is popular around the country, said, "We get emails from junior and senior high school students whose schools are closed — in other words, more and more listeners who are obviously new to our program."

When Yokoyama sees first-time senders of messages to the station, he makes a point of reading out their emails on air to convey a sense of community. "It would be great to get people to experience this as old and new media," he said.

Others point out that radio has a particular characteristic that resonates with people facing no end in sight for the coronavirus. Takahiko Kageyama, a professor at Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts who has experience in television and radio production at the Mainichi Broadcasting System in Osaka, said the small amount of radio content doesn't overwhelm the senses, unlike video and images that are the fodder of TV and social media.



Photo taken in May 2020 shows a studio at the radio station Nikkei. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"It is gentle, easygoing media you can snuggle up to," said Kageyama. Some argue that the popularity of radio listening is only transitory due to people having to work from home during the pandemic, but many radio hosts believe their style of address can have a soothing effect on audiences. Kageyama predicts the genre will continue its resurgence.

"The trigger might have been 'stay home,' but I hope even if daily life returns to normal, there won't be a drop in listenership," Kageyama said.

SOURCE: Kyodo

22 JUNE 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Our defence mechanism against COVID-19 lies in volunteers

WHEN the COVID-crisis began, local volunteer groups sprung up in regions and states as part of steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to work to contain the disease.

They are carrying out the mission to save lives while waging war against an invisible enemy — coronavirus.

Various volunteers staying within quarantine centres have help the government in preparing quarantine centres and distributing food. They have stayed within quarantine centres with the people who have been quarantined, cleaning rooms with disinfectant and supplying food. They have been called frontline volunteers and are at risk of coronavirus infection.

Life in a quarantine centre is tough. The volunteers require training and equipment for their safety and effective work.

The 23 cases of coronavirus infection on 19 June among a group of migrant workers held in quarantine there after being deported from Thailand has reflected that the volunteers at the quarantine centres are at high risk of infection.

> Quarantine is a significant action to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

The 23 cases were the most officially reported in a single day in Myanmar, which has recorded only 286 cases of the virus so far and six deaths.

To help them perform their missions systematically and to be safe from the infection, the manual for the volunteers and personal protective equipment were distributed them to ensure those volunteers provide services, effectively and correctly.

It is also worth noted that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is current conducting the virtual trainings for the volunteers in regions and states to ensure they can carry out their missions with safety.

As our migrant workers are still returning from neighbouring countries, the number of quarantined personnel will increase, and COVID-19 preparedness should be top of mind today for every volunteer at frontline including quarantine centres and at border check points.

The most important individual actions we can all take to limit the spread of COVID-19, influenza and the common cold are the basics:

- Wash your hands before and after every patient contact.
- Wash your hands after glove removal and before inputting data into a mobile data terminal or driving your vehicle.
- Don't touch your face during patient contact, assessment and treatment.
- Wear eye protection and a mask when performing airway management procedures.
- Catch your cough in your elbow.
- If you are sick, follow department policies to stay home.

Hand hygiene isn't just for the field providers. Make sure personnel in the quarantine centres and emergency operations centre are serious about infection control. Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer should readily available to all.

Quarantine is a significant action to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Dear volunteers at the frontline, in you, our people have a defence mechanism.

■ ■ ■

Agricultural Development for Creating Employment

By Lokethar

MYANMAR has a land area of 676,575 square kilometers and a population of just 53 million. It is one of the most sparsely populated country in South East Asia. It is also among the ASEAN countries with still vast unused resources, especially land for Agriculture. Although Myanmar has seen development in many areas, Agriculture is still the mainstay of the economy as regards food security as well as export earnings of surplus Agricultural produce. It is also the biggest provider of wage as well as self employment.

However Agriculture had not developed to any great extent for decades since Myanmar gained it's independence in 1948 from the British. Despite the support provided by the successive governments concerned to develop agriculture as well as probably the half-hearted efforts by farmers and growers to take advantage of them, Agriculture did not get the boost it needed. Agriculture Mechanization over the past periods did not make much headway either. Hence motivating the farmers and growers to make greater efforts and earn more income by showing them the way for further Agricultural development with increasing spread of Agriculture Mechanization is the road that the present Government had embarked up on for further Agricultural development. It seems to be paying off but there is still a long way to go.



A farmer ploughs his field. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar's potential for further agricultural development is immense. However, it has to educate the farmers to use better agricultural practices. This requires relentless effort by the Ministries and Departments concerned to make available both the knowledge and resources needed to push up agricultural development. With Climate Change looming, it would be necessary to make farmers aware of measures for most productive land and water utilization, crop selection, diversification etc. in line with weather patterns and market situation of the produce.

Marketing of Agricultural Produce (AP) is the most important area to further motivate farmers to exert more effort in Agriculture. For many years in the past, Myanmar's Agricultural Produce has been marketed as being of "Fair Average Quality (FAQ)". The price fetched was rather low as the AP was used by the many importing countries as raw material for making industrial products and animal feed. The farmers and the exporters it seems, were quite complacent about their earnings as well. However things seems to have improved nowadays to the point that we are beginning to export good quality AP, rice for instance, in increasing quantities. Myanmar has to further make known to the world the superior types of rice grain (Shwebo Pawsan and others) produced in Myanmar.

The next biggest foreign market for AP are pulses and beans. The so called "Dry Zone " area in the middle part of Myanmar produces large amounts of pulses and beans. The challenge is to improve the quantity and quality of the pulses and beans crops. Cotton is another AP which , if the quality is good, will be in increasing demand in future in view of the cloth it can be woven to manufacture comfortable body wear. In the future, Jute which had been grown extensively in Myanmar in the nineteen fifties and sixties for making "Gunny Bags" to pack rice and other grains, could make a come back because of the declining trend in the manufacture of synthetic fibres.

For increased exporting of AP, as direct food imports by the importing countries, it is of utmost importance that they meet quality standards with regard to safety and other specific features. For this, education of the farmers about the right farming techniques and supporting inputs being undertaken will need to be extensive. For effective marketing, Internationally recognised Quality Control Certifying Test Laboratories which can provide the certificates are much needed. Transparency and accuracy of the testing process is a further requirement.

Marketing could be by Private or Co-operative establishments with modern storage facilities to hold the produce to maintain it's quality prior to shipment for export. Such storage facilities could also enable advance purchase and storage prior to export which could ensure the stability of incomes of the farmers. It seems that there are already some Private Rice Mills with facilities to hold rice/paddy in proper storage prior to export. These should be further promoted.

With regard to marketing, and especially export, it is important to have several countries to export to instead of relying on only one or two countries. As the saying goes "it's not wise to put all your eggs in one basket". The exporters of Agriculture produce know this well but there seems to be constraints in the "Export Marketing" system. There are neighbouring countries of Myanmar which would be more than eager to import many of Myanmar's Agricultural Produce.

Then there should be set up modern industries to process AP into consumer products for local use. Setting up modern Oil Mills to produce edible oil from, say peanuts, would mean substantial savings in import of edible oil. As of now many "low tech" oil mills (some even now operated by Bullock Power) in the villages and Rural Townships are producing edible Peanut Oil consumed locally. These oil mills could be updated as to the technology used and continue running as small and medium industries to supply local needs to lessen the burden to the State of importing edible oil.

Of course there are many more avenues of increasing AP which would benefit the Union and the people. The above suggestions are just about those based on observation of the lay person.

It seems that the Covid-19 virus will be around for much longer. Hence it would be logical to limit investment at this juncture, in "difficult to observe social distancing" manufacturing facilities of low value added products. In view of this it would perhaps be better for Myanmar to place emphasis on Agriculture for further economic development and employment creation.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

■ ■ ■

US NIH halts clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine

A clinical trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of adults hospitalized with COVID-19 has been stopped by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the agency announced on Saturday.

A data and safety monitoring board met late Friday and determined that while there was no harm, the study drug was very unlikely to be beneficial to hospitalized patients with COVID-19, according to a release of the NIH.

The data from the Outcomes Related to COVID-19 treated with hydroxychloroquine among In-patients with symptomatic Disease study, or ORCHID Study, indicate that this drug provided no additional benefit compared to placebo control for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients.

The first participants enrolled in the trial in April at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee. The blinded, placebo-controlled randomized clinical trial aimed to enroll more than 500 adults who are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 or in an emergency department with anticipated hospitalization.

More than 470 were enrolled at the time of study's closure, according to the NIH.

ORCHID participants had been randomly assigned to receive hydroxychloroquine 400 mg twice daily for two doses on day one, then 200 mg twice daily for the subsequent eight doses on days two to five, or a placebo twice daily for five days.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also revoked the emergency use authorization (EUA) that allowed for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine used to treat certain hospitalized patients with COVID-19 earlier this week.

Based on its ongoing analysis of the EUA and emerging scientific data, the FDA determined that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are unlikely to be effective in treating COVID-19 for the authorized uses in the EUA.

Additionally, in light of ongoing serious cardiac adverse events and other potential serious side effects, the known and potential benefits of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use, said the FDA.



A clinical trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of adults hospitalized with COVID-19 has been stopped by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) . **PHOTO: GEORGE FREY—AFP**

Hydroxychloroquine is used to treat malaria and rheumatoid conditions such as arthritis.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 21st June, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is generally moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22nd June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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: Weak to moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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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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China-Laos railway's 2nd longest tunnel drilled

VIENTIANE — China Railway Guangzhou Engineering Group (CRECGZ) drilled through the Ban Nakok Tunnel, the second longest tunnel along the China-Laos railway, on Sunday.

The 9,296-meter Ban Nakok Tunnel, in northern Laos' Oudomxay Province, some 400 km north of the Lao capital Vientiane, went through harsh geological conditions which made its construction a key bottleneck of the railway.

The Ban Nakok Tunnel past through four fault zones and complex geological situation which brought huge difficulties to the construction and the safety control.

Since the start of its construction in May 2017, the CRECGZ project department has actively carried out scientific and technological innovations to overcome the difficulties, and bore scientific research results such as "key technologies for soft rock tunnel construction in Southeast Asia's rainforest" to effectively accelerate construction.

Since the beginning of this year, to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project department simultaneously carried out epidemic precaution and construction, especially making full use of the advantages of localization, purchasing large quantities of local construction materials such as sand, gravel and cement and recruiting more local workers to promote cooperation with localities.

The China-Laos Railway is a strategic docking project between the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and Laos' strategy to convert itself from a landlocked country to a land-linked hub.

The 414-km railway will run from Boten border gate in northern Laos, bordering China, to Vientiane with an operating speed of 160 km per hour.

The electrified passenger and cargo railway is built with the full application of Chinese management and technical standards.

The project started in December 2016 and is scheduled to be completed and open to traffic in December 2021. — Xinhua ■

Singapore committed to free flow of goods, services and capital: Deputy PM

SINGAPORE — Singapore will remain committed to the free flow of goods, services, capital, data, ideas and talent, said Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat Saturday evening.

He made the remarks while outlining three ways that the government will help businesses and workers thrive in the post-COVID world. "In a more fractious post-COVID world, whatever the rest of the world does, we will persist to finding new links to enable these flows, especially in connecting critical supply lines around the world.

Singapore must always remain an open, trading nation, he said, adding that "we are finished if we close up."

Second, Singapore must continue to invest in its infrastructure even if it means delaying some projects, he said.

It is important because "such projects keep us connected to the world, makes travelling within Singapore faster and more pleasant, and gives us all beautiful homes", he noted.

Thirdly, Singapore must continue to invest in research and innovation to sharpen its competitiveness.

Heng announced that as Singapore finalizes its R&D plan for the next five years, 20 billion Singapore dollars (about 14 billion US dollars) will be set aside to support basic and applied research in high impact areas, such as health and biomedical sciences, climate change, and artificial intelligence.

Heng is the last speaker in the six national broadcasts on Singapore's future after COVID-19.

According to him, the most urgent task now is jobs, and the government is trying hard to preserve current jobs and creating as many new jobs as possible.

The National Jobs Council has started work to oversee the creation of 100,000 jobs and training opportunities under the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package, he said.

He said that Singapore will not only overcome this crisis, but will emerge from it stronger as an economy, as a society and as a people.—Xinhua ■



A woman, wearing a face mask as a preventive measure against the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, walks along the promenade at Marina Bay in Singapore. **(AFP PHOTO)**

NEWS In BRIEF

Vietnam records no new COVID-19 cases

HANOI — Vietnam reported no new cases of COVID-19 infection on Sunday, with its total confirmed cases remaining at 349 with zero deaths so far, according to its Ministry of Health.

Meanwhile as many as 327 patients have recovered from the disease, according to the ministry.

Vietnam has recorded no local transmission for 66 straight days while there are over 5,700 people being quarantined and monitored in the country, said the ministry. —Xinhua ■

Indonesia reports 862 newly-confirmed COVID-19 cases, 36 more deaths

JAKARTA — The COVID-19 cases in Indonesia rose by 862 within one day to 45,891, with the death toll adding by 36 to 2,465, Achmad Yurianto, a health ministry official, said at a press conference here on Sunday.

According to him, 521 more people had been discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 18,404.

Within the past 24 hours, five provinces, South Kalimantan, Jakarta, Central Java, East Java and South Sulawesi, recorded high numbers of cases, Yurianto said.

No more positive cases were found in nine provinces.

Yurianto called on the public to obey the implemented health protocols in a bid to avoid more COVID-19 infections.—Xinhua ■

International Yoga Day celebrated with fervour at India Embassy in Afghanistan

KABUL — The Indian Embassy in Afghanistan celebrated the 6th International Yoga Day with fervour and enthusiasm.

Those who participated in the event watched the special message of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In the midst of lockdown and social distancing, #InternationalYogaDay2020 was celebrated with fervour and enthusiasm at the Embassy today morning," India in Afghanistan tweeted.

The Embassy said that event was organised in an in-house one due to COVID-19 pandemic and it was telecasted online.

In another tweet, the Embassy said, "Ambassador @vkumar1969 emphasized on the importance of practising yoga for better living and realising the unity of human beings with nature which sustains all the lives on this planet."

"The participants also watched the special message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 6th#InternationalYogaDay2020 #YogaDay2020 #YogaDay," it added.—ANI ■

Trump holds fiery rally but crowd disappoints



US President Donald Trump defied coronavirus concerns and held a campaign rally – his first in three months – in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the crowd was smaller than promised. **PHOTO: AFP**

TULSA (Oklahoma) — US President Donald Trump returned Saturday to one of his favorite spots — a campaign rally stage — defying the pandemic and attacking Democratic rivals at an event with crowds far smaller than promised.

Gathering his political faithful for a much-hyped rally in Oklahoma, his first in three months, the Republican president sought to reinvigorate his flagging campaign in the face of a crushing health and economic crisis as well as protests against racial injustice that have swept the nation in recent weeks.

Trump all but claimed victory over the pandemic that has killed some 120,000 Americans — "I have done a phenomenal job with it!" he insisted — even as six members of his own Tulsa advance team tested positive for COVID-19.

Low rally attendance

The event — which the White House promised would be flooded with up to 100,000 people, but actually did not fill the 19,000-seat arena where Trump spoke — has emerged as a flashpoint in the pandemic era.

But Trump was more interested in reviving his political fortunes after several bruising weeks that saw continued economic woes tied to the pandemic, nationwide protests over racial injustice, the toppling of Confederate and other statues and critics including former aides savaging his performance.

"The silent majority is stronger than ever before," Trump said in a rowdy, free-wheeling speech in which he blasted his 2020 election rival, Democrat Joe Biden, as a "helpless puppet of the radical left."

"Five months from now we're going to defeat 'sleepy' Joe Biden," he said.

Many rally-goers wore red "Make America Great Again" hats or T-shirts, but very few wore masks and there was little social distancing, even though coronavirus cases have recently been skyrocketing in Oklahoma.

The president has downplayed the risk that the evening rally — with thousands of shouting, cheering attendees — might trigger a fresh outbreak, ignoring danger warnings by Tulsa health and municipal officials. —AFP ■

Serbia ruling party faces split opposition in post-virus poll

BELGRADE — Serbians were voting Sunday in Europe's first national election since emerging from coronavirus lockdown, although few expect major surprises with the ruling party poised to dominate a scattered opposition, some of whom are boycotting the ballot.

In power since 2012, the centre-right Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) is led by the country's powerful president, Aleksandar Vucic, who critics accuse of budding authoritarianism.

The 50-year-old is not running for parliament himself but has fronted the campaign as the chief of his Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) with the slogan: "Aleksandar Vucic — For Our Children".

The party is tipped to garner more than 50 per cent of the vote, according to recent polls, thanks to a splintered opposition and its apparent successes in fighting the coronavirus outbreak.—AFP ■

Spain reopens border with France

MADRID — Traffic flowed again across Spain's border with France on Sunday as the last of the strict Spanish coronavirus restrictions introduced in March were eased.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced earlier this month that Madrid would remove border checks with most of its EU member partner states from 21 June as efforts to control the pandemic appeared to be working.

Spain has been one of the worst affected countries, suffering more than 28,000 deaths and nearly 300,000 cases, with its economy and especially the key tourist industry devastated.

Madrid, the capital, and the Barcelona and the Catalan region, were very badly hit and remained longer under tighter restrictions than elsewhere.

On Sunday, AFP reporters at the Perthus crossing near the eastern end of the border saw cars crossing both ways every two or three minutes, with more going from Spain into France.

There were no checks from midnight and the traffic flowed freely.

The Spanish government announced Saturday that from Sunday EU member state citizens and those from the passport-free Schengen zone would be allowed freely into Spain, with no 14-day quarantines required.

Portugal has however said it will keep its border with Spain closed until 1 July. In Madrid's main Atocha railway station, Laura Garcia waited impatiently for the train taking her to Barcelona to see her fiance.—AFP ■



The President of the Spanish Government announced that the borders with the European countries in the Schengen area will be reopened as of 21 June. **PHOTO: AFP**

Britain opens 'terror' probe into deadly stabbing spree

READING, England — British police said Sunday they were treating a stabbing spree in which a lone assailant killed three people in a park filled with families and friends in the southern English city of Reading as a "terrorism incident".

The Thames Valley police said three people were also seriously injured and they had detained a 25-year-old suspect from the historic town 60 kilometres (35 miles) west of London.

They made no reference to reports that the man was a Libyan national.

Footage showed what appeared to be a large number of counter-terror police performing a controlled explosion at a residence where the suspect is believed to have lived shortly after the Saturday evening attack.

"Counter Terrorism Policing can now confirm that the stabbing incident that happened in Reading last night, has now been declared a terrorist incident," police said in a statement.

The counter-terror police "will be taking over the investigation," said the statement.

Downing Street said Prime Minister Boris Johnson was briefed about the incident by security officials and senior ministers on Sunday morning.

The Conservative leader condemned the "appalling incident" and top politicians expressed sympathies for those hurt at Forbury Gardens — a popular park situated next to the ruins of the 12th-century Reading Abbey.—AFP ■

Black-owned eateries buoyed by grassroots support since virus hit

WASHINGTON — Outside the Southwest Soda Pop Shop in the US capital, a long line of customers waits, both to buy ice cream and to show solidarity with restaurants owned by African Americans, a community particularly hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We went from 30 customers to 300 customers on a weekday. It's crazy," said Andrea Jones, the daughter of the ice cream parlor's owner.

"Every day, the line gets longer," the 21-year-old said.

"They come out rain or shine, they bring their umbrella. They support us no matter what. It's beautiful to see."

The shop, which sits on the banks of the Potomac River, had to close because of the virus, causing huge financial strain until Jones called for support on Twitter the day before a huge anti-racism protest in the US capital.

Her tweet was shared almost 30,000 times.

In recent weeks, as the nation has focused on race issues in the wake of the killing of unarmed black man George Floyd in police custody, there has been an explosion of solidarity and support from activists, as well as social media and commercial campaigns, to boost African-American restaurant owners.

Uber Eats, the food delivery service run by the rideshare giant, launched a filter to promote black-owned restaurants on June 4 in several cities in the United States and Canada, and eliminated delivery fees for those eateries. —AFP ■



Dozens of customers wait in line in front of the Southwest Soda Pop Shop in Washington – one of many black-owned businesses in the city that has gotten tons of local support in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. **PHOTO: SODA POP/AFP**

JAL eyes extending 150,000 yen allowance to each employee

TOKYO — Japan Airlines Co. plans to provide up to 150,000 yen ($1,400) in special allowances to some 36,000 people, or almost all employees of the carrier and its group companies, in early July, company sources said Sunday.



Photo taken Nov. 15, 2018, shows Japan Airlines Co.'s logo on a tail fin. **PHOTO: (KYODO)**

The measure is intended to boost the morale of employees, with the carrier eyeing halving their summer bonuses from year-earlier levels because of a tumble in revenue caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the sources said.

Chairman Yoshiharu Ueki and President Yuji Akasaka will receive no bonuses, while other executives will have their bonuses cut by 70 per cent, they said.

The allowance payments will total about 5 billion yen, and JAL hopes the money will also help make up for communications and other costs linked to teleworking.

Since March, the company has been encouraging employees to work from home, aiming to reduce the office attendance rate to 60 per cent or lower.

In the first quarter of 2020, JAL posted a group net loss of 29.9 billion yen to stay in the red for four straight quarters for the first time since it relisted in 2012 following a business failure.— Kyodo ■

China's industrial robot production up 16.9 pct in May

BEIJING — China's industrial robot production rose 16.9 per cent year on year in May to 17,794 units, official data showed.

In the January-May period this year, China produced 72,619 units of industrial robots, up 6.7 per cent from the same period last year, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

In 2019, the country's industrial robot production totaled about 177,000 units, down 3.1 per cent from the previous year. China strives to upgrade its labor-intensive manufacturing sector through technological innovation as it faces a shrinking working-age population and increasing labor costs.

In 2016, the country issued guidelines vowing to expand the use of robots in industries such as automobile manufacturing, electronics, home appliances, aviation, textiles and chemical.— Xinhua ■

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW YANGON CITY PHASE 1 MASTERPLAN

22nd June 2020

New Yangon Development Company Ltd. (NYDC) proposes to develop the New Yangon City in Seikgyi Kanaungto, Twantay, Hlaing Tharyar, and Kyee Myin Daing Townships, Yangon Region, Myanmar. For the initial stages, the New Yangon City is divided into the six groups of priority infrastructure: Bridges, Roads, Power, Industrial Zone, Water, and Wastewater.

In accordance with Myanmar Law, NYDC conducted five Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for Bridges, Power, Industrial Zone, Water, and Wastewater, and one Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for Roads in order to obtain the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). NYDC has also conducted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Phase 1 of the New Yangon City, to analyse the impacts of plans, policies, programmes and other strategic initiatives on the environment and the community.

ERM – Myanmar Company Limited, Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), and Environment Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of NYDC, have completed the EIAs & IEE, which include baseline surveys, stakeholder engagement, and public consultation. The EIAs and IEE have been conducted in accordance with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC)'s EIA Procedure (2015). The EIA and IEE reports for the six project components have been submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) of MONREC to acquire ECC and hard copies of the Myanmar Executive Summary are available at NYDC's office in No.56, Chindwin Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon and at General Administrative Department (GAD) offices in Ahlone, Dala, Hlaing Tharyar, Kyee Myin Daing, Seikgyi Kanaungto and Twantay Township.

More information about NYDC and the Projects can be found on the NYDC website **https://nydc.com.mm/**. Any queries, comments, or suggestions on the Project and the EIA Study can be provided in writing to **comments@nydc.com.mm**.

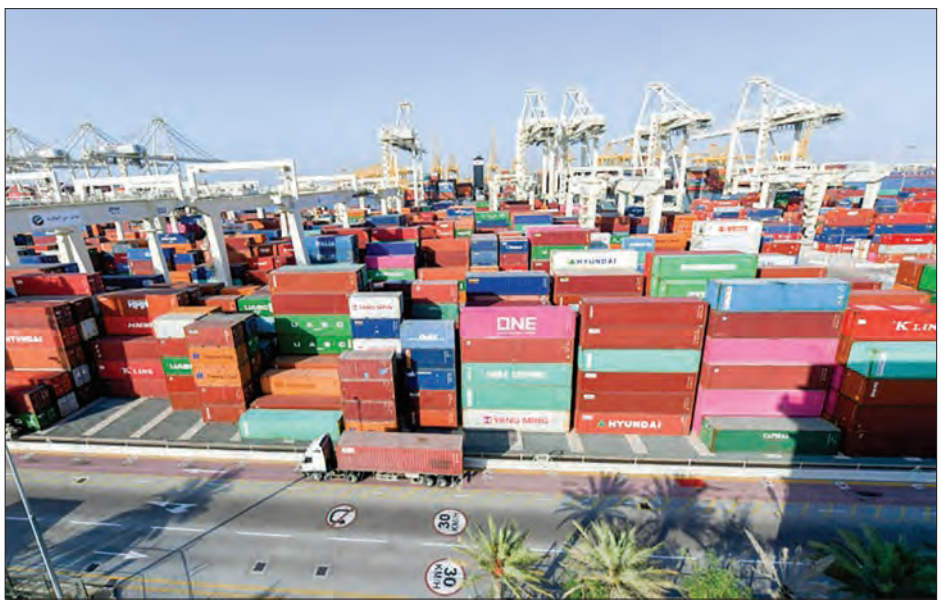
Cherry farmers suffer in Himachal, sales down by 60-80 pc

SHIMLA (Himachal Pradesh) — Cherry business in the north Indian state has been impacted amid COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers in Himachal Pradesh are disappointed with this years' cherry prices as they have witnessed a sudden drop in sales in the market. Their businesses have been affected by a loss of 60-80 percent.

"The famous apple-producing region is converting into the cherry bowl. Kandiyali, Kumarsen, Narkanda, Baghi, Thanadhara are the area where farmers are shifting more to cherry farming," said Durgu Verma, a cherry grower in Kandyali village, Shimla to ANI.

During the past few years, farmers have adopted cherry as an alternate crop after apple. But this year, low market price and COVID-19 has hit the cherry crop production and business, said Verma. "One of the farmers who sold cherries of over Rs 20 Lakh from his produce here at Kandyali has received less than thirty per cent cost for his crop produce despite being double to the annual production they should have from their produce," she added.— ANI ■

Dubai ports giant 'prepares for worst' as virus impact looms



Containers are stacked at the port of Jebel Ali, operated by the Dubai-based giant ports operator DP World, on the southern outskirts of the Gulf emirate. **PHOTO: AFP**

DUBAI — The giant Dubai-based ports operator DP World is "preparing for the worst" in the months ahead, as coronavirus inflicts the heaviest blow on global trade since World War II.

However, the firm which runs port and logistics operations in 54 countries is still hungry for revenue-generating acquisitions, its chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem told AFP in an interview.

Already one of the most profitable government-linked entities in Dubai, DP World has spent billions of dollars on assets ranging from P&O Ferries in Britain to terminals in Chile.

But the coronavirus crisis has stifled world trade, 80 per cent of which is transported by sea, leaving major supply chains paralysed and scaling down imports and exports, including from powerhouse China.

Bin Sulayem said the pandemic has taken a "big toll" on trade, eclipsing the aftermath of the 2007-2008 global financial crisis and drawing similarities with the post-World War II devastation.

In those dark times, the global economy collapsed with the destruction of industries and transport infrastructure and as people fled cities, he said.

"Today, factories are intact, but nobody can work. The streets are clear and safe, and nobody goes out. Shops are full with all kinds of cargo but nobody buys."—AFP ■

Coronavirus drives Malawi tobacco farmers to the brink

LILONGWE — During his 15 years as a Malawian tobacco farmer, Boniface Namate has had to overcome many difficulties growing the plant that is the country's biggest export earner.

Namate had banked on a bumper crop this year and had hoped the proceeds would enable him to buy a new car and even build a new house.

However, the coronavirus pandemic has seen the 56-year-old's dreams go up in smoke.

Due to restrictions imposed to control the spread of the virus in Malawi — one of the world's poorest countries, and one of the top 10 tobacco producers — growers were barred from physically attending the auctions where prices are set. That has left farmers feeling cheated by buyers.

"We are not operating normally as there is no interaction between the buyer and the grower," said Betty Chinyamunyamu of the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi.

"Because of this, there are trust issues," she said.

When the auction season opened in April, Namate and other small-scale farmers said their earnings had indeed evaporated.

"The prices that came from the auction are not what we expected. We are devastated", said Namate.

Burley leaf from Malawi makes up 6.6 per cent of the world's tobacco exports. Known locally as "green gold", it is Malawi's top crop in terms of employment.

It also accounts for over 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and 23 per cent of tax revenues.

So, when its 50,000 growers suffer, the country has every reason to be worried.—AFP ■

Virus booze ban causes headache for S African winemakers

CAPE TOWN — Wineries around Cape Town fear a nine-week alcohol sales ban will leave a bad hangover that outlasts the coronavirus pandemic, as South African bottles lose their spots on international shelves and thousands of jobs are lost.

Africa's most industrialised economy shuttered liquor stores at the start of a strict anti-coronavirus lockdown on 27 March to limit the spread of COVID-19, and reduce pressure on busy emergency wards.

The controversial booze ban was lifted on June 1st as part of a gradual easing of confinement measures to limit the economic setbacks of the pandemic.

But wine producers in the valleys of South Africa's Western Cape province are concerned the industry will struggle to bounce back.

The alcohol sales ban was coupled with a six-week export freeze — raising concern buyers could turn to suppliers in other countries if demand abroad was not rapidly met.

"We were the only country in the world where wine exports were not allowed," said Boyce Lloyd, CEO of South African top wine and spirits producer KWV.

Lloyd said buyers in key importing countries such as Canada, Finland and Sweden removed bottles that did not meet a minimum sales rate.

"When you do not have stock on the shelf obviously you can't record a sale and then you get delisted," he said.

"That is a very real risk we are facing." —AFP ■



South African winemakers are no longer sure they have an export market. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (188 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (188 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BF NILOU

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BF NILOU VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE, LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ODIRIS

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ODIRIS VOY. NO. (052) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REFINED SUCCESS LTD
Phone No: 2301928

Maha Bandoola and Danubyu

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

MAHA BANDOOLA, a renowned Myanmar general in the First Anglo-Myanmar War (1824-1826 AD), was famous for his military capabilities related to Danubyu of Ayeyawady Region although he was born in Ngapayingyi Village of Ahlon Station, Budalin Township of Sagaing Region. Everybody knows Danubyu and Maha Bandoola in matching as Agga Maha Thenapati Thadoe Maha Bandoola Naymyo Thura Yekhaung General Maha Bandoola fell at Fortress Danubyu on 1 April 1825.

Danubyu in the history

Danubyu included in the area of Maubin District takes a position on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River. It is a small town on 1.15 square miles of area, and the whole township is on 289.35 square miles of area.

After occupying lower Myanmar in 1852, British set up districts. In 1875, Danubyu was included in the area of Thongwa District (Maubin). At present, Danubyu Township is formed with 18 wards and 63 village-tracts where Bamar and Kayin ethnics reside as the major ethnic people.

Danubyu Township shares border with Taikkyi and Htantabin townships in the east, Kyonpyaw Township in the west, Nyaungdon Township in the south and Zalun Township in the north.

Many historical buildings such as Kyaikkalunbun Pagoda, Fortress Danubyu and the tomb of General Maha Bandoola are significant in Danubyu.

General Maha Bandoola

Maung Yit who would become General Maha Bandoola was born of U Pauk Taw and Mei Mi Nyein on 11 October 1782. When he was adult, he married Shin Min Bu and moved to the royal palace to serve the Crown Prince.

After the Crown Prince passed away, Maung Yit served Prince Sagaing and became governor of Dabayin with Naymyo Thura Yekhaung title in 1175 Myanmar era. He participated in battles with Assam and Manipur and by showing his wonderfully military abilities.

In the reign of King Badon (1782-1819 AD), the Chieftain of Manipur which was a subordinate of Myanmar king passed away and his eldest son Chaurjit Singh took the power. His brother Marjit Singh took shelter of King Badon who invited the Maharaja to negotiate their two brothers so as to govern the state together. But, the Maharaja was absent to call on the king. So, the king ordered the troops to march toward Manipur on 15 February 1814. General Naymyo Thura Yekhaung joined Tamu-Pantha column together with General Naymyo Minhla Maha Nawrahta. In the battle, the troops of King Badon occupied the state and appointed Marjit Singh on the throne.

In Assam, Vesali counsellors dethroned Chandra Kanta Singh appointed by Myanmar king and gave throne to Purandar Singh on 11 November 1816. So, Myanmar troops led by Naymyo Thura Yekhaung marched to Assam on 23 November.

In his time, King Sagaing ordered Naymyo Thura Yekhaung to govern Ahlon Town and conferred Maha Bandoola title on him.

Marjit Singh appointed as Chieftain in Manipur by King Badon was absent to pay respect to the king and committed extraction of timber from Kabaw valley. So the troops of King Sagaing marched toward Manipur on 2 December 1819 when Maha Bandoola, second in command, led Myanmar troops. He deployed the troops to achieve victory in the Ketsein Hill battle which was decisive for Manipur. After occupying Manipur, Myanmar troops returned to the royal palace on 26 December.

First Myanmar-Anglo War

When King Sagaing sent Myanmar troops to Manipur, Marjit Singh and his troops fled into Cachar area.

Cachar Chieftain Govinda Chandra sought help from British as troops of Marjit Singh invaded his territory. Myanmar deployed its troops along Sylhet and Assam border line. So, British were worried about falling of Cachar into Myanmar. British assumed if Cachar fell under Myanmar troops, Myanmar would easily occupy the eastern part of Bengal. As such, British occupied Cachar before Myanmar moves and declared Cachar as its subordinate. In 1823, Myanmar troops marched into Cachar and attacked Marjit Singh. So, fighting happened between Myanmar and British troops.

As British troops took a stronghold on Shinmaphyu Island at the mouth of Naff River on 8 July 1823, the governor of Danyawady drove them out in accord with the order of King Sagaing. But the governor general of India demanded to give the island back to British and returned to Shinmaphyu Island. Hence, the troops led by General Maha Bandoola marched to the island on 30 December 1823.

Based on Cachar issue, conflicts happened between Myanmar and British. On 5 March 1824, Governor General Lord Amherst declared war with Myanmar. British General Sir Archibald Campbell led 1,500 soldiers in marching to Yangon by waterway. The British waterborne troops occupied



Statue of Maha Bandoola.



Walls of Fortress Danubyu.

Manaung Island, Mawtinsun and Hainggyi Island.

General Maha Bandoola reported to King Sagaing to assign powerful minister or counsellor in Hanthawady. The king assigned Minister Thadoe Mingyi Maha Minkhaung and Minister Thadoe Maha Thenapati to Yangon on 7 May 1824.

On 10 May 1824 when British troops arrived at Yangon, Myanmar troops withdrew from the city because number of their strength was merely equal to those of garrison troops. Myanmar built defensive line in Kyimyindine to prepare warfare. General Maha Bandoola arrived in Yangon frontline on a few days to command his troops. Meanwhile, Myanmar troops and British soldiers violently fought against each other. Then, Maha Bandoola moved his troops from Yangon to Danubyu.

General Maha Bandoola improved the old fortress of Mon ethnics in Danubyu to fight against British troops. British troops targeted artillery fire to Fortress Danubyu day and night. As such, General Maha Bandoola fell in the fortress on the morning of 17 April 1825.

After General Maha Bandoola had fallen, Myanmar troops withdrew to upper Myanmar. British troops on land and waterway also marched to upper Myanmar. Myanmar troops withdrew and defended the enemies from Myede, Malun, Bagan, NyaungU and Hsimeekhon and then reached Yandapo Village. At that time, Myanmar government sent Dr Judson and Dr Price to British troops to negotiate ceasefire and then signed Yandapo treatment for ceasefire to end the first Anglo-Myanmar war. On 24 February 1826, Myanmar lost lower Myanmar.



Kyaikkalunbun Pagoda.

Bandoola and Fortress Danubyu

Fortress Danubyu is one mile long and 500-800 yards wide, flanked by two small forts as Kyaikkalunbun Fort close to Kyaikkalunbun Pagoda in Ward 10 of Danubyu and the fort in the place of Shwegu Monastery in Ward 4.

Some parts of Fortress Danubyu were damaged in erosion of Ayeyawady River. So, some areas are about 1,000 feet wide.

After the general fell, his remains were cremated in the fortress. The ashes of the general were put in a gold urn conveyed along the marching route. When Myanmar troops arrived at Malun Fort in Minhla Township of Magway Region, Major Min Ye Khaung buried the urn on the bank of Khwelinpan Creek. When they withdrew, the urn was left in Malun. Hence, Bala Minhtin and majors from Minhla Fort built a pagoda on the site of urn not to lose it. The urn was moved to the south of stairway from Myathabeik Hill in 1964.

At present, a mausoleum for General Maha Bandoola was built on the memorial place. The pagoda of urn, stone inscription and horse riding statue of General Maha Bandoola are kept at the mausoleum.

Maubin District Deputy Commissioner Captain Robert built a tomb in the place in Danubyu where General Maha Bandoola fell.

The statue of Maha Bandoola in Danubyu, nine feet high, weighing three tons, was carved by Artist Alinka Kyawswa U Saw Maung and Sculptor U Mya Thaung and unveiled on 27 March 1962.

Although Myanmar hero soldier Maha Bandoola fell more than 195 years ago in Myanmar history, everybody praises his military tactics and strategies till today. The fortress where General Maha Bandoola fell while fighting a battle against British colonialists becomes a historical site in Danubyu. As such, those arriving at Danubyu pay visits to the fortress as a memorial site.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

Reference:

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Kyaikkalunbun Pagoda and History of Danubyu (Danubyu Than Swe Thit)

Groupings appear for AFC U19, U16 competitions

GROUPINGS for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-19 and Under-16 Championship matches were announced by the AFC this week.

The U-19 version of the AFC tourney is the 41st edition and Uzbekistan will host the football matches starting from 14 October 2020.

ASEAN team, Cambodia is in Group A along with host Uzbekistan, while another ASEAN team Indonesia takes in Group B with South Korea, Japan, Iraq and Bahrain.

Meanwhile, another ASEAN teams Viet Nam and Laos are falling together with Asian stars Australia and Saudi Arabia.

Next, in Group D, Malaysia is falling in a tough one with Qatar, Tajikistan and Yemen.

Also, in the AFC U16 Championship, Asian team Australia is falling in the Group C with South Korea, India and Uzbekistan while ASEAN team Indonesia meets with world-class team Japan, and Asian powerhouse Saudi Arabia and China in Group D.

Unfortunately, Myanmar U-16 and U-19 teams were left behind in their previous group stage matches and could not participate in the both AFC tourneys.

The AFC U16 Championship is 19th edition and it will be held in Bahrain starting from 16 September 2020. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Yangon United players receive medical tests for training

PLAYERS of the Yangon United received their medical test as a coronavirus-preventative measure at the headquarters of the Yangon United this week.

Temperature testing plus other diagnostic measures for the team players were taken by health experts.

Along with the players, team officials and coaching team including head coach U Tin Maung Tun participated in the medical test in line with the guidelines released by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the preparation of upcoming football matches.

The Myanmar National League matches will restart on 16 July and all the MNL teams are making their preparations for the upcoming tourney.

The team training will be resumed in accordance with the coronavirus-preventative measures near future, according to the Yangon United. Yangon United will play against Magwe FC in their opening match of the domestic league at the Yangon United Complex in Yangon on 16 July.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Jurgen Klopp is on the brink of leading Liverpool to a first league title in 30 years. **PHOTO : AFP/FILE**

Liverpool take centre stage as title countdown recommences

LONDON — Liverpool can close to within one win of a first league title in 30 years when the English champions-elect return to action for the first time in three months against local rivals Everton on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's men set a record-breaking pace in the opening eight months of the season, dropping just five points in 29 games to open up a 22-point lead at the top of the table.

A maximum of two wins are now needed from the last nine games to end the long-wait, but Liverpool could be champions as soon as Monday if they beat Everton and Manchester City lose to Burnley 24 hours later.

Despite concerns over supporters congregating around the stadiums, Sunday's clash will take place at Everton's Goodison Park (kick off 1800GMT), less than a mile from Liverpool's Anfield home. A Merseyside derby like no other will take place behind closed doors, but Klopp is just relieved to have the chance to complete the job on the field after some suggested the season be declared null and void due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I became worried in the moment when people started talking about null and void the season because I was like 'wow'," said Klopp in his pre-match videoconference. "That would have been really, really, really hard."

The German urged his players to embrace the circumstances rather than make excuses.

"When we all started playing football it was without a crowd. If I play today from time to time, it's without a crowd, I still want to win. That's exactly how it is," he added. "It's all different but we cannot change that.

"We have to use the circumstances, not suffer from that. That means there's a game between Everton and Liverpool, which is still a derby and important for both teams for different reasons. That's what we are looking forward to."—AFP ■

Atletico eye Champions League as Getafe stumble again

MADRID — Atletico Madrid boosted their Champions League push on Sunday with a 1-0 win over Valladolid which moved them into third place in La Liga.

A goal from substitute Vitolo with nine minutes remaining gave Diego Simeone's side the three points.

They now have 52 points and a four-point edge over Getafe in their Champions League pursuit after winning for the first time behind closed doors at their Wanda Metropolitano stadium.

Vitolo had come on as a substitute after 73 minutes for Marcos Llorente and grabbed the winner with a header from a corner after Valladolid keeper Juan Antonio Caro had failed to clear.

Getafe's hopes of finishing in La Liga's top four took another knock as their disappointing return from the three-month coronavirus suspension continued with a 1-1 draw at home to Eibar.

Peter Etebo's smart finish put Getafe in front at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez before Eibar's Charles equalised from close range on the stroke of half-time.

Eibar might even have snatched victory, only to have a late goal from Pedro Bigas ruled out for offside.

Getafe have now taken just two points from three games since the restart."It's clear we needed to win to give us a boost," said Getafe's Jaime Mata.

"It would have kickstarted us after the break but we have to keep fighting until we get that win. People say our ambitions are too high but we are going to keep fighting."

Getafe are punching above their weight towards the top of the table, having enjoyed a remarkable four years under coach Jose Bordalas.

They were only promoted to the top tier in 2017 and missed out on Champions League qualification on the final day last year, edged out by Valencia. —AFP ■



Atletico Madrid boosted their Champions League push on Sunday with a 1-0 win over Valladolid which moved them into third place in La Liga. **PHOTO: AFP**