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)
Quarantine centre volunteers receive online training

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 confering 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)

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

Three more COVID-19 cases on Sunday, total figure reaches 290: Updated at 8pm, 21 June 2020

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)

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 21 June 2020

New PUI: 24

Recovery Update on 21 June 2020 after two consecutive tests

New Recovery: 4

Discharged from Hospital: 183

Recovery Update on 21 June 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Case: 290

New Case: 3

Total Death: 6

Updated at 8 pm, 21 June 2020

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)
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Ministry of Health and Sports

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

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(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
Training on qualitative methods in health research open in PynOoLwin

A Training Workshop on Qualitative Methods in Health Research (1/2020) was opened at the Department of Medical Research-DMR (PynOoLwin 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.

PynOoLwin 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 (Pyn 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 meeting 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)
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 delegation 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.

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 previously scheduled to take place in August 2020 in Egypt and digital learning programmes that are being implemented by the World Organization of the Scout Movement for scout leaders around the world.

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

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

The school is preparing for the first five curves along the creek started in 2016. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

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 disinfect 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 El Myat Mon)
Fishery exports exceed $680 mln as of 12 June

EXPORT earnings from the fishery sector during the period between 1 October and 12 June in the 2019-2020 financial year reached US$680 million, an increase of $101.88 million from the year-ago period, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports fishery 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 Khaung.

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 2013-2014 FY.

$330,000 tonnes worth $480 million in the 2014-2015 FY, 360,000 tonnes worth $500 million in the 2015-2016 FY, 410,000 tonnes worth $600 million in the 2016-2017 FY, 560,000 tonnes worth $700 million in the 2017-2018 FY, and over 580,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019 FY, 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 licensing 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 for membership, and application fee can be paid with the MCB eCommerce Pay of the Myanmar Citizens Bank. Additionally, the MPU eCommerce pay can be used.

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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 crushed 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 K10 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)
**“Now it’s time for recovery,” says PM as Spain braces for “new normality”**

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 predict ed 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.”

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**Beijing tests nearly 2.3 million people for COVID-19**

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

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**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 apartment building to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to convert into a quarantine centre for COVID-19 patients.

Gopal Shetty, MP from Malad, has 130 flats, for which it had received permissions is resumed.

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.

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Gopal Shetty, MP from Malad, has 130 flats, for which it had received permission for such gestures, helping us save as many lives as possible,” he said.

SOURCE: ANI

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, with 482 cases and 126 new cases in the region.

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SOURCE: AFP

SOURCE: ANI

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)
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.

“It is gentle, easygoing music and live horse racing that has started without spectators which is handled in the first broadcast),” 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, which the president described as “a wild evening” in Tulsa.

Six members of the advance team tested positive out of hundreds of tests performed, and quarantine procedures were immediately implemented.”

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.

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.

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Our defence mechanism against COVID-19 lies in volunteers

WHEN the COVID-19 crisis began, local volunteer groups sprang up in regions and states as part of efforts 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.

Volunteers staying within quarantine centres have helped 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 high risk of coronavirus infection.

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

The 21 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 236 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 to them to ensure those volunteers provide services, effectively and correctly.

It is also worth noted that the most important individual actions we can all take to limit the spread of COVID-19, influenza and the common cold are the

- Wash your hands before and after every patient contact.
- Wash your hands after glove removal and before entering data into a mobile data terminal or driving your vehicle.
- Do not touch your face during patient contact, assessment and treatment.
- Wear a mask and a mask when performing airway management procedures.
- Catch your cough in your elbow.
- If you are sick, follow appropriate policies to stay home.
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Benefits of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use, said the FDA.

SOURCE: Xinhua

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The 21 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 236 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 to them to ensure those volunteers provide services, effectively and correctly.

It is also worth noted that the most important individual actions we can all take to limit the spread of COVID-19, influenza and the common cold are the

- Wash your hands before and after every patient contact.
- Wash your hands after glove removal and before entering data into a mobile data terminal or driving your vehicle.
- Do not touch your face during patient contact, assessment and treatment.
- Wear a mask and a mask when performing airway management procedures.
- Catch your cough in your elbow.
- If you are sick, follow appropriate policies to stay home.
- Wear appropriate protection when working in high risk areas.

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Benefits of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use, said the FDA.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Our defence mechanism against COVID-19 lies in volunteers

WHEN the COVID-19 crisis began, local volunteer groups sprang up in regions and states as part of efforts 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.

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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 situations 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

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**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

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**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.

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**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

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**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 tweeted.

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

In another tweet, the Embassy said, “Ambassador @vkumar769 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 International Yoga Day #YogaDay2020 #YogaDay.” It added.—ANI

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**62 JUNE 2020**

**THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**
Trump holds fiery rally but crowd disappoints

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-anticipated rally in Oklahoma, his first in three months, the Republican president sought to reinvigorate his faltering 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 saving 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——

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 open for French tourists until 1 July. In Madrid’s main Atocha railway station, police said three people were also seriously injured and they had detained a 25-year-old suspect 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-terrorism police “will be taking over the investigation,” said the statement.

Downing Street said Prime Minister Boris Johnson was deeply saddened by the attack and extended sympathy to the families of the victims.

Laura Garcia waited impatiently for the train taking her to Barcelona to see her fiance. —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 “terrorist 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 minister on Sunday morning.

The Conservative leader condemned the “appalling incident” and top politicians expressed sympathy for those hurt at Forbury Gardens — a popular park situated next to the ruins of the 12th-century Reading Abbey. —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 given 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 56-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——
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 week-day. It’s crazy,” said Andrea Jones, the daughter of the ice cream parlor’s owner.

“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

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

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.

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 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

Diners line up for ice cream at 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 taken Nov. 15, 2018, shows Japan Airlines Co.’s logo on a tail fin. PHOTO: KYODO

PHOTO: SODA POP/AFP

CHERRY farmers in Himachal Pradesh are disappointed with this year’s 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 per cent.

“The famous apple-producing region is converting into the cherry bowl. Kandyali, Kumarsen, Narkanda, Baghi, Thanadara 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

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.

Al ready 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 season opened in April, but the coronavirus pandemic has seen the tobacco yield cut to half.

“Worrying,” said Namate. “It is one of the world’s poorest countries, and one of the top 10 tobacco producers — the yield is half what we expected.”

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

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 SAMUDEIRA 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

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 only the 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 reduce pressure on busy emergency wards. Shops are full with all kinds of cargo but nobody buys.”—AFP

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

Coronavirus has given Namate the chance to buy a new car and 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 10 tobacco producers — growers were banned from physically attending the auctions where prices are set.

“Without operating normally as there is no interaction between the buyer and the grower,” said Betty Chiyanamunyu 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

Photo: AFP
Maha Bandoola and Danubyu

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

MAHA BANDOO- LA, a renowned Myanmar gener-al in the First An-glo-Myanmar War (1824-1826 AD), was famous for his military capabilities related to Danubyu of Ayeyawady Region although he was born in Ngapayingyi Vil-lage of Ahlon Station, Budalin Township of Sagaing Region. Everybody knows Danubyu and Maha Bandoola in matching as Agga Maha Thienapari Thadoe Maha Bandoola Naymyo Thura Yekhaung General Maha Ban-doola 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 town-ship is on 289.35 square miles of area.

After occupying lower Myanmar in 1823, 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 Htant-wa Districts in the north, Kyonpyaw Township in the west, Nyaungdon Township in the south, and Zalun Township in the north.

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

General Maha Bandoola
Maung Yit who would be-come 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 Dabyin with Naymyo Thura Yekhaung title in 1175 Myanmar era. He partici-pated in battles with Assam and Manipur and by showing his wonderfully military abilities.

In the reign of King Ba-don (1782-1819 AD), the Chieftain of Manipur which was a subordinate of Myanmar king passed away and his eldest son Chaurjirt Singh took the power. His brother Marjit Singh took shelter of King Badon who in-vited the Maharaja to negoti-ate 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 Minbla Maha Nawrah- ta. In the battle, the troops of King Badon occupied the state and appointed Marjit Singh on the throne.

In Assam, Vesali counsel-lors dethroned Chandra Kanta Singh appointed by Myanmar king and gave throne to Pu-randar Singh on 11 November 1816. So, Myanmar troops led by Naymyo Thura Yekhaung marched to Assam on 23 No-vember.

In his time, King Sagaing ordered Naymyo Thura Yekhaung to govern Ahlon Town and conferred Maha Ban-doola title on him. Marjit Singh appointed as Chieftain in Manipur by King Badon was absent to pay re spect to the king and committed extraction of timber from Ka-haw valley. So, the troops of King Sagaing marched toward Mani-pur on 2 December 1819 when Maha Bandoola, second in com-mand, led Myanmar troops. He deployed the troops to achieve victory in the Ketsein Hill battle which was decisive for Manipur. After occupying Manipur, My-anmar 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 Brit ish as troops of Marjit Singh invaded his territory. Myan-mar 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, Myan-mar 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 Shinnaphu 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 Shinnaphu 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 Gener-al Lord Amherst declared war with Myanmar. British Gener-al Sir Archibald Campbell led 1,500 soldiers in marching to Yangon by waterway. The Brit-ish waterborne troops occupied...
Manaung Island, Mawtinsun and Hainggyi Island.

General Maha Bandoola reported to King Sagaing to assign powerful minister or councillor 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 Myeeds, Malun, Bagan, NyaungU and Hmeekkon 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.

Bandoola and Fortress Danubyu

Fortress Danubyu is one mile long and 500-800 yards wide, flanked by two small forts as Kyakkaalunbun Fort close to Kyakkaalunbun 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 M inhla Township of Magway Region, Major Min Ye Khaung buried the urn on the bank of Khweingpan Creek. When they withdrew, the urn was left in Malun. Hence, Bala Minthi 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 Kyawsa 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:
Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume VIII
Great History of Konbaung Dynasty (Volume II)
Kyakkaalunbun 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.

PLayers of the Yangon United

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)

Atletico eye Champions League as Getafe stumble again

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

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

“A goal from substitute Vito- lo with nine minutes remaining denied 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 Metropol- itano 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 form continued with a 1-1 draw at home to Elbar.

Peter Etebo’s smart finish put Getafe in front at the Colise- um Alfonso Perez before Elbar’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 qual- ification on the final day last year, edged out by Valencia. —AFP

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. PHOTO: AFP