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President U Win Myint presides over first meeting of National Planning Commission



President U Win Myint seen addressing National Planning Commission meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Planning Commission, attended the commission's first meeting for the year held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, the Union Auditor General, the Union Civil

Service Board Chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Chief Ministers of states and regions, regional chairmen and officials of self-administered divisions and zones.

In his opening remark, the President said he wished to record his appreciation

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Please share any good methods to overcome difficulties during the COVID period: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi requested the people on her Facebook page yesterday to share with her if they have any good methods to overcome difficulties during the COVID period. She also requested the people to share with her if they have found any techniques for utilizing the time wisely while having to stay at home far from the outside world. This was what she wrote:

The term "Post COVID world" has

we saw World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the post-Cold War, and the communications technology revolution.

After every age, we could see changes towards progress and also changes towards decline. Progress and decline depend greatly upon the people involved. We need to make efforts to be able to manage in the best possible manner however the situation develops. What we need to do is to tread the best possi-

After every age, we could see changes towards progress and also changes towards decline. Progress and decline depend greatly upon the people involved.

come to mean quite a wide range of things. Does it mean we cannot return to the world as we know it before the end of 2019; even if we find an effective cure, can we not return to the status quo? What are the things we won't be able to change?

Because of very harsh and violent experiences, people, countries, the whole world have seen tremendous and irreversible changes. We can see this even if we look at our own history. If we look at the whole world, during 20 decades

ble path by making use of Karma (Pali Kamma = action), wisdom and sustained effort (viriya).

Since some parts of the road are rough, we need to help each other. If you have any good methods to overcome difficulties during the COVID period; if you have found any techniques for utilizing the time wisely while having to stay at home far from the outside world, please share with me. I will also discuss my own experiences as appropriate.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 22 June, total figure remains 290

Updated at 8 pm, 22 June 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 22 June 2020

New PUI

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President U Win Myint chairs second meeting of Finance Commission



President U Win Myint chairs the Finance Commission's second edition meeting for 2020 at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Finance Commission, made an address at the second meeting of the commission for this year at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting focussed on discussions and approval of Union Budget and Union Budget Bill of 2010-2021 fiscal year, in the presence of Vice-Chairmen of the Commission Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, the commission's Secretary Union Minister U Soe Win, its members Auditor-General of the Union U Maw Than, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and Chief Ministers of State/Region governments.

President U Win Myint said that the global economy is declining due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the income of public and private sectors was expected to decline in the 2020-2021FY like the second 6 months of 2019-2020.

He said that all the Union-level and state/region level departments and organizations need to use available budgets effectively and efficiently.

The budget allocations for the fiscal year include expenditures of COVID-19 relief funds, the costs for education, health and social sectors, foreign grants and loans, electricity, bridges and roads, drinking water and irrigation water, and the budgets for the Union Election Commission to organize the 2020 General Election.

He said there was a need to avoid overlap of the capital expenditure between the Union budget and the state/region

fund by coordination among the Union ministries and state/region governments.

The President emphasized the delay of budget processes as in construction, tender invitation, scrutinizing, contracting and step-by-step payments on project completions although the Hluttaw has been pointing out the delay frequently.

He also instructed on the use of foreign grants and loans efficiently; and effective use of

es, education, health and social protection.

He requested the commission to discuss the Union Budget and Union Budget Bill of 2020-2021 fiscal year to be able to submit these documents to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Vice President U Myint Swe called for timely completion of projects included in the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) and other beneficial works for the country in

The budget allocations for this fiscal year include expenditures of COVID-19 relief funds, the costs for education, health and social sector, foreign grants and loans, electricity, bridges and roads, drinking water and irrigation water, and the budgets for Election Commission to organize 2020 General Election.

the foreign loan approved by the Hluttaw in 2019-2020 FY for COVID-19 relief plan.

Despite the possible decline of tax revenues, revenues and other incomes in 2020-2021FY, the Union Government would allocate appropriate budgets to prevent serious economic impacts from the COVID-19.

The total Union's total revenue in the four-year terms this administration has increased from K16,979 billion to K27,852 billion; the Union's total expenditure from K20,267 billion to K34,652 billion, especially in production, trade, service, infrastructure, human resource-

the related fiscal year.

He also explained budget scrutiny of the commission not to exceed the mid-term frame, to check new projects with the government's prioritized policy, to ensuring completion of construction projects, not to overlap the projects between the Union government and the local governments, and to ensure timely implementation of projects funded by loans.

He said the allocation of K150 billion emergency fund—K100 billion at the Union government and K50 billion at the Union ministries and region/state governments—increas-

ing K50 billion compared to the previous fiscal year; more expenditures for social protections and funds for persons with disabilities have been allowed, in addition to the estimated budget of K2,381 billion from the Union Revenue for regions and states.

A deficit to GDP ratio is estimated at 5.41 per cent as the total expenditure was K34,652 billion and the total deficit was K6,800 billion, while the foreign grants and loans equivalent to at K1,122 billion and K4,034 billion, and the estimated budget for regions and states was K2,381 billion, making the total Union budget to be K27,852 billion.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also said the increase of revenue share by K16 billion compared to the previous year, and that K369 billion would be allocated and development fund of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will remain at K32 billion as in previous years.

The proposed budget of region/state governments includes K1,438 billion income and K3,819 billion expenditures, making a deficit of K2,381 billion.

The Revenue Expenditure of region/state governments will be K1,062 billion and the Capital Expenditure K2,757 after systematic scrutiny by the finance commission. The total expenditure was K3,819 billion.

U Henry Van Thio explained that the commission prioritized local development projects rather than expenditures for construction of offices, guest houses and staff apartments, as well as purchasing

vehicles.

He also advised for completion of projects in time and minimum return of surplus budgets, and requested the commission to approve the proposed budgets after review and discussion.

Union Minister U Soe Win, the Secretary of Finance Commission, presented Union Budget and Union Budget Bill of 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Members of the commission discussed the proposed budget and the bill.

In his concluding remarks, the President informed that the Union Budget and its bill would be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the documents have been approved by the commission.

The President said that in using the budget, the first priority should be given to expenditures that would give direct benefit to the people; the second priority should be given to expenditures for offices and departments; that administrative costs at Union ministries should be reduced as much as possible; and that more funds should be used as needed for the economic development of the country and the advancement of the livelihood and living standards of the people.

He added that all the central organizations, Union Ministries, and region/state governments should use a good public finance management system in the management of Union revenues and expenditures with good intentions for the State and all citizens. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

President U Win Myint presides over first meeting ...



President U Win Myint, in his capacity as the Chairman of National Planning Commission, participates in the commission’s first edition meeting for 2020 at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

for the strenuous efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Union Ministries and region/state governments for successfully submitting the National Plan for the 2020-2021 financial year in spite of the COVID challenges, for submission to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as per the Section 100 (b) of the State Constitution.

He said despite the forecasts of international organizations on the possible decline of Myanmar’s economy in 2019-2020FY like the global and regional trend, the Union Government was able to supply electricity to 50 per cent of households in the four years of its administration; in addition it has constructed bridges, roads, schools and rural clinics to narrow down development gap be-

tween the regions and states.

Under the social welfare programme, the social pension plan was extended to elderly persons up to 85 years of age and child care programmes for expectant mothers and babies born from these mothers up to the age of two years have been extended and that plans were underway to extend these programmes further.

The President also explained the relief assistance of Union Government to the people during the COVID-19 pandemic, from providing five necessary foods to discount of electricity bill.

The government’s COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) has seven objectives and 10 strategies which cover immediate and future plans to be finalized by the end of this year.

The National Plan 2020-2021

FY will be aligned with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and the projects of CERP.

The President put emphasis on making the projects effective to the country in using public taxes.

He also suggested systematic supervision required for generating cost-effective projects and ensuring a good environment after using resources effectively.

He added the need of public-private cooperation in some sectors while adhering to the orders and directives of the government; on the Project Bank website it may be seen that some projects needed funds; therefore foreign and local investors are encouraged to explore investment opportunities.

The National Planning 2020-2021FY has emphasized on development of road and bridge net-

work, electrification, economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period, support to SMEs and employment opportunities for low-income businesses.

The President called for coordination of relevant sectors from Union-level to the region/state sectors for successful implementation of the projects.

In his concluding remarks, the President emphasized the government’s policy of ‘No one is left behind’ in striving for economic development results which are also included in the goals of the sustainable development plan.

Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, as the Secretary of the NPC, presented the draft plan.

The President said that the draft version of the plan would be submitted to the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw for approval, that constructive suggestions made by the Hluttaw representatives should be implemented with care; in formulating the National Plan for the next financial year, as it would be carried out during the term of the current administration and the next administration, special efforts should be made to ensure effectiveness. He added that mutual checks and balances among all those concerned and that it would be necessary to work for the interest of the country and the people.

Finally, the President said he wanted to ask everyone to participate and work in harmony for the economy to rebound in the post COVID period as envisioned by the State and for the systematic implementation of the sustainable development path.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed with the Ambassador of Malaysia on the repatriation of undocumented workers in Malaysia

U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with Mr Datuk Zahairi Bin Baharim, Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar, at 1pm on 22 June 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon.

During the meeting, the Director-General discussed matters relating to the repatriation of undoc-

umented Myanmar nationals who are facing difficulties in Malaysia due to the restrictions and inadequate job opportunities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director-General said that as it is the responsibility of Myanmar Government to assist Myanmar nationals, regardless of their status, who are facing difficulties in Malaysia, the Myanmar Government wants to

work together with the Malaysian Government to find the possible way for the Myanmar nationals to return home and requested Malaysia’s assistance in facilitating their repatriation. Malaysian Ambassador Mr Datuk Zahairi Bin Baharim said that he will convey the request of the Myanmar Government to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Ministries in Malaysia.—MNA

Union Supreme Court passes judgements on appeal cases, hears civil appeal cases

THE Union Supreme Court passed judgements on six special civil appeal cases and two miscellaneous civil cases and heard eight special civil appeal cases yesterday.

Chief Justice of

the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Union Supreme Court Judges U Aung Zaw Thein and U Myo Win led the judgementsat Union Supreme Court room number 1. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

MoHS, MoHA, MoD hold press briefings on 4th-year performances



Ministry of Health and Sports holds press conference on their fourth-year performances in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Defence held press briefings on their 4th-year performances in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Ministry of Health and Sports

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe first talked about his ministry's fourth-year performances.

He explained to the media that there is no need for general preparations for a COVID-19 second wave situation. He said the people just need to keep adhering to the guidelines issued by the ministry and there is no reason to worry for the second wave. He said pandemics follow three possible trajectories and can spike up, continue unchanged or lessen and disease is currently lessening. He said the public must not be complacent however, and continue to wear face masks.

The Union Minister then replied to questions from the media concerning the high number of COVID-19 cases from people returning from abroad and plans to close border gates for a certain number of months, management to ensure the public follows COVID-19 directives, people returning from abroad, the budget management of the ministry for COVID-19 measures, main challenges and difficulties that have cropped up since the start of COVID-19 till

now, whether Myanmar is working toward a cure for the disease, directives for schools to reopen in the COVID-19 period, the ministry's comments on social distancing measures employed at restaurants, nurturing more doctors, whether there are plans to lower the entry marks required to enter medical college, the number of current doctors and nurses, promoting the sports sector, attaining life insurance for athletes, strategies and policies for COVID-19, providing each government school with thermometers, the number of positive cases from people returning from abroad, the situation of the second wave and guidelines for people to follow.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Director-General U Khaing Tun Oo explained the fourth year performance of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He said the Myanmar Police Force reviewed the 34 laws under its responsibility and kept 19 laws unchanged, amended 2 laws, repealed 10 laws, and are drafting 3 new laws.

The MPF is implementing community policing and opened 1 district police office, 2 regional police stations, 7 police outposts in the fourth year, adding to 3 district police offices, 27 regional police stations, and 31 police outposts during the four year period.

The MPF expanded 2 sub-departments of No.1 Border Guard Police Division in Rakhine State to its existing 8 sub-departments. Myanmar and Bangladesh held 26 meetings in the first 3 years of the current government for border security and held 4 more meetings in the fourth year. They also performed 216 sentry inspections on foot and 100 naval inspections.

The Myanmar Police Force works closely with INTERPOL, ASEAN Police, EU Police, and police forces of other nations regarding transnational crimes. They have opened BLO offices with bordering countries including 4 with China, 2 with Laos, 3 with Thailand, 1 with Bangladesh, and 3 with India, making a total of 13.

The ministry has drafted a 5-year project for eradicating human trafficking from 2017 to 2021

with 3 master strategies. They handled 191 cases of human trafficking and uncovered 570 suspects and 247 victims. The MPF recovered 256 trafficked persons after 132 retrieval cases. They also stopped and let people with insufficient documents going to work abroad 51 times in this year, adding to the total of 255 times.

The ministry has designed the National Strategy for Eradicating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The ministry performed 11 special operations in the first 3 years to uncover producers of illegal drugs and their accomplices and performed 4 operations in the fourth year. They have handled 4070 cases and arrested 5575 suspects within the four year period.

The ministry handled 10882 cases of illegal drugs and took action against 15394 suspects in the

fourth year, adding up to make a total of 43955 cases and 64071 suspects over four years.

The ministry destroyed 4130.01 acres of poppy plantations in the fourth year, a total of 24271.04 acres in four years. A poppy production survey showed that illegal production went down by 25 per cent in 2017, 9.1 per cent in 2018, and 11 per cent in 2019 and dropped down from second to third place in poppy production.

The Bureau of Special Investigation has taken on 268 tasks as part of the subnational government investigation teams for business transgressions and staff issues and as assigned by the Central Body on Money Laundering, making a total of 671 cases. They also handled 199 cases of staff breaking laws and rules. The bureau has investigated 204 business transgressions and 268 cases assigned by the central body. The ministry formed 3 Corruption Prevention Units.

The Correction Department collaborated with the Ministry of Education to provide 347 inmates with education in 2018-2019 academic year while 171 inmates took the matriculation exams with 87 male inmates and 7 female inmates passing the exams. Education was provided to 335 inmates in the 2019-2020 academic year with 178 taking the matriculation exams.

The Department of

Fire Services reviewed 8978 buildings for fire safety and submitted K18301.14 million of service income back to the nation while they also issued fire safety guarantees to 5948 buildings.

The department received EURO 50 million from ODA programme and obtained 75 firefighting and rescue vehicles. The department made 2892 rescues and assisted 78992 people in trouble from 39987 damaged buildings.

The department also assisted in spraying disinfectants for COVID-19 by collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Tatmadaw. They have performed the spraying activities 12555 times as of 19 June 2020 in public spaces and health protection locations.

Director-General U Khaing Tun Oo then answered to questions from the media about the relocation policy of police officers, progress on apprehending U Wirathu and U Hla Swe, comments on criticism of prison facilities and their dense population, ensuring police investigations do not get out of hand violently and transparent handling of such incidents, progress on the Victoria toddler case, restaffing the police force in Rakhine State, seizing illegal drugs in the states and regions, and media being filed cases with anti-terrorism laws.

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Senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs give press briefing on their fourth-year performances in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoHS, MoHA, MoD hold press briefings on 4th-year performances

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Ministry of Defence

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Brigadier-General Aung Kyaw Hoe explained the fourth-year performances of the ministry.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Thailand from 10 to 12 July 2019, the 7th CISM Military World Games (Wuhan 2019) on 18 October 2019, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat in Bangkok of Thailand from 16 to 19 November 2019, the 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, and the ASEN Defence Ministers' Meeting Reterat and the Australia-ASEAN Informal Defence Ministers' Meeting.

During the meetings, the Union Minister discussed the defence affairs of Myanmar and Rakhine issue.

The Tatmadaw also conducted training courses on preventive measures of child soldiers, security services in fires, evacuation of disaster-affected victims, renovation of monasteries and houses, health services for people and cash relief in rescue works during natural disasters such as fire, strong winds, floods and earthquakes.

The Tatmadaw also presented COVID-19 preventive supplies worth about K499.5 million to the People's Republic of China, on 25 February 2020.

The Permanent Secretary and officials answered to the media questions about the businesses and



Ministry of Defence makes a press briefing on their 4th-year performances in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June 2020. PHOTO:MNA

financial management of Myanmar Economic Corporation and Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, contribution of funds from property lease of MoD to the state revenue, actions against recruitment

of child soldiers, possible contest of former Tatmadaw officers in the 2020 General Election, voting of Tatmadaw members and their family members, retirement of Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe,

manufacturing and export of arms and ammunition by the Tatmadaw, return and management of confiscated lands to the original owners.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Econom-

ic Relations, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will organize press briefings on 24 June. —Han Myo Soe, K Tar (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo, Aung Khin)

Myanmar stranded in Britain, other European countries brought back home by relief flight

WITH the coordination of Myanmar Embassy in London, a total of 250 Myanmar citizens— 178 seamen in harbours of Britain, Brazil and Germany and 72 Myanmar citizens stranded in the Britain — was brought back on a relief flight of Qatar Airways arranged by shipping companies to the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Myanmar has allowed relief and special flights for bringing back the Myanmar seamen stranded in foreign countries due to termination of their duties to control COVID-19, face difficulties at their arriving countries that are on lockdown and suspension of international airlines. Myanmar has brought back about 1,000 seamen as of today.

On arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places in line with the guidelines of immigration and healthcare processes. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Myanmar nationals returned from Britain and other European countries queue for immigration processes at the Yangon International Airport on 22 June 2020. PHOTO:MNA

MoIFER, MoC, MoPFI to hold press briefings on 24 June

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will hold joint press briefings on their fourth-year performances at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 24 June. —MNA

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

Anxiety is a natural process and emotion of life and can be acknowledged and resolved. Anxiety can become mental fatigue if it is left unchecked and become severe.

Anxiety symptoms include insomnia, excessive enthusiasm, fatigue, eating disorders, indigestion, headaches, joint pains, anger, fear, worry, sadness, guilt, memory issues, pessimism, hopelessness, loneliness, blaming others, and reduced productivity.

If these feelings are not resolved in a proper manner they can become mental fatigue and can lead to an inability to resolve challenges. This can lead to socioeconomic challenges and should seek motivational support before this stage is reached.—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

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Myanmar rejects draft resolution tabled by EU at 43rd session of the Human Rights Council

MYANMAR rejected the draft resolution on “Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar” tabled by the European Union (EU) on 22 June 2020 at the 43rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

In his statement to the Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Htun highlighted the following main reasons, among others, for rejecting the draft resolution:

- First, selective targeting of country-specific resolutions should be avoided. Human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized, non-selective and dialogue-based approach, and in a fair and equal manner. The country specific mandates do not contribute to improving but rather worsening the situation on the ground.
- Second, the scarce resources

- of the UN should not be used in vain. It is also regrettable that while the Council tries to address the issue of liquidity crisis of the UN, sacrificing the general debates for the June session, millions of dollars are used on country specific mandates. Especially, in the case of Myanmar, it is using huge resources for establishing multiple mechanisms to scrutinize a single country.
- Third, sovereign right of a country should not be intruded but rather be respected. The issue of Rakhine is just one of many challenges Myanmar faces. Domestic criminal justice mechanism has been activated based on the final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE). The domestic accountability process of Myanmar should be respected.
- Fourth, the draft resolution does not reflect the reality. Myanmar is undergoing a

difficult democratic transition and is facing many challenges in its endeavours to promote sustainable peace, national reconciliation, and development throughout the country. Despite these challenges, achievements have been made in many sectors. Finally, the international community should extend helping hands to Myanmar, instead of imposing impediments on Myanmar. Particularly at present, Myanmar, like others, is addressing the unexpected challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic. Myanmar’s response to the pandemic is based on the principle of “leaving no one behind”. The State Counsellor points out that people are the key by stressing, “we place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of all for one and



Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Htun.

one for all”. Furthermore, the Permanent Representative stated that the EU’s draft resolution would in no way contribute to finding solutions to overcome the challenges we face, but rather impose serious impediments on our efforts for bringing peace, stability, and development for all the peoples across the country.

The Permanent Representative of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, exercising its right as a member of the Council, called for a vote.

Accordingly the draft resolution was put to a vote at the Human Rights Council, and adopted with a vote of 2 against, 8 abstention and 37 in favour. The Philippines and Venezuela voted against the draft resolution in support of Myanmar. Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal and Senegal voted abstention. —MNA

ASEAN Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting (Prep-SOM), 2nd Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies and Joint Consultative Meeting held via videoconferencing

MYANMAR Delegation participated in the ASEAN Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting (Prep-SOM), 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies (ACCWG-PHE) and Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) which were held yesterday via videoconferencing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the ASEAN Senior Officials’ Preparatory Meeting (Prep-SOM). The Meeting discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN Community Building efforts, applications of non-regional countries to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, follow up to the Special ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three Summits on COVID-19, preparations made for the Informal Meeting of ASEAN



Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Hau Khan Sum participates in the 2nd Meeting of ACCWG on PHE and the Joint Consultative Meeting via videoconference on 22 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Foreign Ministers, 21st ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, 26th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting and the 36th ASEAN Summit as well as ASEAN’s external relations.

In the afternoon, U Hau Khan Sum, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Depart-

ment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the 2nd Meeting of ACCWG on PHE and the Joint Consultative Meeting. At the 2nd Meeting of the ACCWG on PHE, the Meeting discussed current COVID-19 situation in ASEAN and ASEAN’s efforts in responding to the on-going global Pandemic,

follow-up to the Special ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Summits on COVID-19.

At the Joint Consultative Meeting, the Meeting discussed ASEAN Community building efforts, ASEAN 2020 priorities, preparations for the 36th ASEAN Summit and 26th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting

and ASEAN Cross-Pillar and Cross-sectoral Coordination.

Present at the Meetings were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

Domestic gold market sees no price hike despite global record uptick

By Nyein Nyein

THE domestic gold price cannot be hiked, along with the rises in international gold prices, said general secretary U Ohn Myaing of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

At present, gold price hit a record high of over US\$1,750 per ounce in global market. If domestic gold prices track the international prices, it can raise to K1.3 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms). However, a pure gold fetches only K1.219 million per tical in domestic market, he continued.

Following the global hikes,



Gold jewellery on display at a shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

domestic market cannot raise the price owing to the restriction on international commer-

cial flights amid the coronavirus pandemic and Kyat gaining against the US dollar, U Ohn

Myaing added.

In early September last year, the price of pure gold reached an all-time record of above K1,300,000 per tical in the domestic market, while the price of gold was pegged at US\$1,550 per ounce in the global market. Meanwhile, global gold price currently crosses US\$1,753 per ounce. A dollar exchange rate stands at around K1,400, as per market data.

According to gold traders, during the past four months, the local gold price moved in the range of, K1,214,100 on 5 February and K1,234,200 on 28 February. In March, it reached the lowest level of K1,148,000

(31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,600 (4 March). In April, the coronavirus risks shut down the gold market, and the market was reopened on 18 May, with the minimum rate of K1,214,100 (27 May) and the maximum rate of K1,236,000 (18 May), according to gold traders.

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar corn export bodies call for extension of MoU with Thailand

MYANMAR corn traders asked the government officials to extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on corn export to ensure smooth trade.

The MoU between Myanmar and Thailand on corn trade signed on 12 December 2017, and the three-year MoU is due to expire in August 2020.

Under the MoU, Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between 1 February and 31 August. The trade is halted about 5 months of Thailand's corn production to protect the rights of their growers. Also, Thailand imposed 73 per cent of tax on corn import, said a corn exporter.

Earlier, China is the major purchaser of Myanmar's corn. China has suspended the importation of some agro products through the borders including corns since 2017-2018FY. Besides, corn is not listed in China's legitimate goods for border trade.

This year, Myanmar traders turned to Thailand border market.

Myanmar has been exporting corns to Thailand through Myawady border. Myanmar's corn exports to Thailand significantly soared to over 1.2 million tonnes through the border checkpoints between Myanmar and Thailand during October and May period in the current FY2019-2020, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar is the second-largest exporter of corn among regional countries. There are over

1.9 million acres of corn plantations, primarily in Sagaing and Magway regions, and Chin, Kayah, Shan, and Kayah states.

Last year, corn traders faced losses due to the falling demand from China, said Union Minister Dr Than Myint of the Ministry of Commerce at the corn crop sector development forum held on 6 June 2020 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Afterwards, the deputy minister U Aung Htoo also advised the growers of the substitution of crops which has export potentials at the forum. The domestic feed processing industry demand around 1.2 to 1.5 million tonnes of corns. Myanmar produces 2.3 million tonnes of corns. So far, Myanmar has sent over 1.8 million tonnes of corns to external market and 1.2 million tonnes went to Thailand. Therefore, all the stakeholders in the industry need to exert concerted efforts to improve the sector as corn has growing demand from domestic market, coupled with export potentials.

This year, corns fetch 126 baht per 15 kg depending on the tax and currency exchange rate. It was priced 108 baht per 15 kg last year, said U Aung Myint Myat, a corn trader of PTT Co., Ltd.

At present, corn exports through maritime trade significantly rose, hiking the price. Yet, Thailand's feed processing factories cannot offer the competitive price against domestic buyers. This being so, Myanmar witnessed a sharp fall in corn exports to Thailand through

Myawady border this month, said a corn trader.

Next, Myanmar exports corn to India, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines through maritime trade. Yet, the volume of corn exports to those markets is quite small.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has shipped over 500,000 tonnes of corns to external markets through maritime trade.

The corn crop is mostly demanded by feedstuff processing business. This being so, it is potential business for both domestic and external markets, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar surpassed corn export target of over a million tonnes in the current fiscal.

Myanmar shipped 1.5 million tons of corn, worth US\$270 million, to foreign countries in the previous financial year. During the previous fiscal, 200,000 tonnes of corn, worth over \$40 million, was shipped through maritime trade, while 1.3 million tonnes of corn, with an estimated value of \$230 million, was sent through the borders, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.4 million tonnes of corn, worth over \$290 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 1.2 million tonnes of corn, worth \$250 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 1.1 million tonnes of corn, worth \$300 million, in the 2015-2016FY.—Myat Ko, Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice export through sea trade up by \$182.28 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S maritime trade constituted 86.39 per cent of rice exports and generated an estimated income of US\$515.845 million as of 5 June in the current fiscal year, as per the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) data.

The figures reflect an increase of \$182.287 million compared with a year-ago period.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 13.61 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the borders have generated an estimated

\$75.407 million in the current financial year, which plunged from \$163.144 million registered in the corresponding period of last year.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the borders. However, the trading in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade and China's precautionary measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

With the growing demand from foreign countries, the export price of rice is up by \$10-15 per tonne in recent day. However, it is difficult to ship rice in the

rainy season, said traders from Bayintnaung market.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 6 June in the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 2 million metric tonnes, worth over \$591 million, according to an announcement from the MRF.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 65 foreign markets.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Madagascar and Malaysia. The Philippines is the fourth-largest buyer and Cote D'Ivoire the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 19 per cent of rice exports, while 33.34 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Senegal, China, Indonesia and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 57 foreign markets.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tonnes of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million tonnes, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019FY. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Increase resilience of farmers, change crop patterns to adapt to climate change

TODAY, the threats and challenges of the environment operating on food production are not limited to each country or each region.

An ADB report in 2019 states that “climate change is likely to be one of the most significant development challenges confronting Southeast Asia in 21st century”.

Like other regional countries, Myanmar is also expected to be seriously affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. climate change is considered serious threat and challenge in the development agriculture on which our country's economy relies on.

We are witnessing changing rainfall pattern in monsoon as a negative impact of the climate change. With rainfall patterns changing and Myanmar receiving less rainfall in the last rainy season, the flow of water into dams has decreased this year.

A fall in the water level in the dams means thirstier winter and summer crops, quenched with less water supply from dams.

The situation has rung alarm bells and brought into focus the need to fundamentally rethink our current agricultural pattern, water usage, and food systems.

Rice production, especially rainfed rice, would be at risk due to frequent drought and changing rainfall pattern.

Stress-tolerant rice varieties requiring less irrigation water and survive at high temperature should be introduced. In efforts to build resilience of farmers, research on rescheduling crop calendar and cropping pattern is necessary to mitigate the adverse climatic conditions.

Changing the way the world produces rice will be key to fighting the climate crisis amidst a ballooning population that will increase demand for the staple crop. Conventional methods of

rice cultivation uses flooded fields, is land and resource-intensive, and is responsible for almost 2.5% of greenhouse gas emissions.

According to agribusiness firm Olam International, if these current methods don't change, additional land equivalent to the size of Chile would be needed to meet rice demand by 2050. This has yet to take into account the added vulnerabilities that climate change will bring – farmers will have to face increasingly unpredictable rain and other weather patterns, which will likely impact the plantable land area for rice cultivation even more than previously thought.

Our government has a role to play to implement crucial climate mitigation and adaptation measures and farming regulations that oversee fertiliser management and water wastage, without undermining food security and farmer livelihoods.

■ ■ ■

Coronavirus: latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Coronavirus 'still accelerating'

"The pandemic is still accelerating" and its effects will be felt for decades, the World Health Organization's director-general says.

"We know that the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it is an economic crisis, a social crisis and in many countries a political crisis. Its effects will be felt for decades to come," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tells an online conference.

Brazil passes 50,000 death mark

Brazil says it has registered more than 50,000 deaths from the outbreak as well as about one million infections, as Latin America remains the epicentre of the pandemic.

The pandemic has killed at least 468,518 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last

year, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT on Monday, based on official sources.

The United States has the most deaths at 119,997 followed by Brazil with 50,617, Britain with 42,632, Italy 34,634 and France with 29,640.

New infections as sports resume

Croatia's Borna Coric announces he has tested positive after playing in a tennis exhibition tournament featuring world number one Novak Djokovic.

Five players from Serbian football club Red Star Belgrade also test positive after playing a match attended by 16,000 people 12 days ago, the largest gathering of that kind in Europe since the beginning of the pandemic.

Avoiding Melbourne

Australians are warned to avoid travelling to Melbourne, as the country's second biggest city tightens restrictions amid fears

of a second wave of the epidemic.

Victoria state has recorded more than 110 cases in the past week -- many of them in Melbourne -- prompting leaders of other regions to warn against visiting the city's six designated virus "hot spots".

Peru's Machu Picchu closed

The ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, a jewel of Peruvian tourism, will not reopen in July as originally scheduled due to coronavirus concerns, local media report.

French cinemas reopen

Cinemas reopen in France on Monday for the first time since the lockdown began in March.

And despite emergency measures which ban gatherings of more than 10 people, thousands thronged trendy districts of Paris late Sunday to mark the annual midsummer Festival of Music, which usually brings millions of people out onto the streets. — AFP ■



Doctors of the Brazilian Armed Forces check an indigenous child of the Mayoruna ethnic group, in the Cruzeiroirinho village, near Palmeiras do Javari, Amazonas state, northern Brazil, on June 18, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

E-Commerce Guidelines coming in late 2020

By Min Min Zaw, Hannie Win



U Nyi Nyi Aung, Director of the Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce.

THE Ministry of Commerce held a virtual conference on e-Commerce on 28 May 2020 and explained the planning of the e-Commerce Guidelines that will be issued later in the year. A topic the public is keeping an eye out for is the Voluntary Registration System for online shops that will be included in the e-Commerce Guidelines.

The following is a detailed interview with U Nyi Nyi Aung, Director of the Trade Department, on the topics discussed and progress made at the virtual conference.

Q: Could you tell us what transpired at the e-Commerce virtual conference with the Ministry of Commerce?

A: The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) issued on 27 April contains 5 action plans for e-Commerce in its 5th Goal. The Ministry of Commerce is assigned as the focal ministry to implement them in a short period of time.

Everyone knows there are many interconnected processes in an ecosystem and e-Commerce is also a private sector-led development. We discussed the tasks in CERP and held a government-private sector dialogue to show the government's political willingness.

The meeting was held virtually during a time where social distancing measures are enforced but the conference was able to have a lot of people participate so I believe it was quite effective. The ministry took responsibility in organizing the virtual conference. There were 28 representatives of government departments, private businesses and experts and 450 spectators.

Q: You mentioned about the e-Commerce Guidelines in the conference. Can you tell us a bit more about what is in the

guidelines and when they might be finished?

A: Back in February, an e-Commerce Task Force led by the Director-General of the Trade Department and composed of 17 department representatives were able to visit Japan and observe that nation's e-Commerce Legal Legislation and its related processes. METI supported the visit while AOTS organized it.

Japan doesn't have separate e-Commerce Laws in itself but manages electronic trade and business with existing laws such as the Premiums and Representation Act, Personal Information Protection Act, Electronic Contract Act, Specified Commercial Transactions Act, Antimonopoly Act, Unauthorized Computer Access Act, and the Consumer Contract Act.

But they did publish the Guideline on Electronic Commerce to interpret the various provisions of those laws in an e-Commerce setting.

Myanmar is currently at the drafting stage for an e-Commerce Law. We need to first set up policies that encourage e-Commerce

activities and protect the consumers. It's important to do so now, which is why the guidelines were swiftly drafted to collectively manage policies under existing laws and represent other sectors that do not have such legal protection yet.

But that guideline will be kept as a live document so that it can be amended to reflect current changes.

Q: What stage are you at drawing the guidelines and what does it have in it so far?

A: In drawing the e-Commerce Guidelines we consider the elements we're currently negotiating with the World Trade Organization and we're also making sure we don't oppose the e-Commerce Guidelines of ASEAN and its related agreements, unintentionally or not. We're basing them on the current path forward that the nation has adopted and looking at it from just a multitude of different sector-wise perspectives.

The Ministry of Commerce pays attention to public-private consultations and we want to ensure all stakeholders are in-

cluded in the planning process of the e-Commerce Guidelines. So, to make that all inclusivity work out, we invite departments in that system, businesses and organizations to provide us with feedback, recommendations and just general advice.

A draft of the guideline was sent to all participants on 8 May and to the Payment Industry in the third week of May. We are currently sorting through the feedback and will continue preparing the guideline with the International e-Commerce Lawyer. We will then send out the drafts again and go through the process of consultations, amendments, and submitting it to higher departments for approval and consideration.

We're aiming to publish the guidelines before the end of the year. By then, it will contain citations, objectives, interpretations, legalities, judicial rights, future preparations, related laws and rules, duties of e-Commerce businesses and buying and selling, contracts, e-Commerce consumer protection, **SEE PAGE-10**

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release No 24/2020 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 20 June.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 20 June.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 24 June issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 23rd June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Yangon Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. 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 Monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CHIEF EDITOR

Aungthu Ya
aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Aung Khin

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITORS

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aung Htein
Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR TRANSLATOR

Zaw Htet Oo

TRANSLATORS

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

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION

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

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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



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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.

Govt, ethnic armed organizations to resume peace talks in July

THE government peace negotiators and the NCA-S EAOs agreed to convene the meetings of Joint Monitoring Committee at Union Level (JMC-U) in early July.
The Strengthening Ceasefire Working Group meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday morning.
The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of NRPC and Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Ministry of Defence (Army), Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, members of the Peace Commission Advisory Board U Hla Maung Shwe, U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General of the State Counsellor Office U Zaw Htay.
The ethnic armed organizations side was led by Pado Sao Sel Gey, Coordinator Sai Hlyan, members of the negotiation team Sao Saung Han, Dr Shwe Kharr, Saw Tar Malar Thaw, Khun Aung Mann and Nai Banyar Chan Nyun, and other representatives



Representatives of government and NCA-S EAOs hold peace talks at peace centre in Yangon on 22 June 2020. PHOTO: PHOEHTAUNG

took part in the meeting online.
Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said in his opening remark that the government and the representatives of NCA-S EAOs held three informal meetings in 2018 on security sector.
He added the NCA has agreed to hold political dialogues and security reconciliation, and to carry out preparations after negotiations on work processes.
The Union Attorney-General remarked the lack of strong implementation left problems

among the stakeholders, causing political dialogues.
The formal discussions were resumed in January 2020 after over one-year hiatus with 8th JICM where agreements were made to prioritize on discussions of Chapter 3: Ceasefire Related Matters, Chapter 4: Maintaining and Strengthening Ceasefire and Chapter 6: Future Tasks in the NCA. It was also agreed on JMC meetings at the same time while these topics are discussed.
Negotiation team leader

Pado Sao Sel Gey remarked the needs to continue ceasefire talks during COVID-19 and to hold group discussions, if required, to reach ceasefire goals.
According to the number one agreement in the 8th JICM, the NCA-S EAOs will hold discussions with the government and the Tatmadaw.
The meeting discussed the ceasefire related matters, the maintaining and strengthening ceasefire and preparations for JMC-U and general issues.
In his concluding remark, Pado Saw Sel Gey said both sides discussed on the future plans of chapter 3 and 4 in the NCA, which are required to be proved in JICM and further discussions in NCA framework team.
The JMC meeting is scheduled to convene on 7 and 8 July.
Peace Commission's Advisory Board member U Hla Maung Shwe said it is expected to hold the peace conference in August.—Ye GaungNyunt ■
(Translated by Aung Khin)

E-Commerce Guidelines coming in late 2020

FROM PAGE-9
matters relating to deceiving and misleading consumers, delivery, refunding, compensation, market discovery, anti-spam, information awareness, identity protection, IPR and platform responsibility.
One thing the public will be keeping an eye out for is the Voluntary Registration System.

Q: Can you go into more detail about that?
A: Electronic businesses like online shops don't have less formal marketplaces and platforms in Myanmar. The vast majority operate on social media, such as Facebook. The Ministry of Commerce aims to increase trust between the buyers and sellers by increasing selling through marketplaces and platforms and that is what voluntary registration of online shops is setting to do.
The general requirements for registration are the business needs to be registered according to the Myanmar Companies Law (2017), have legal domain names or sub-domain names such as (https.com) or (.com.mm) for the online shop, be based within

the country while providing services or selling products online, and having the permission of relevant departments for the products or services you are offering.
We're trying to make the registration process completely online and there will be no registration fees.
We're aiming to register marketplaces first and will discuss with other departments and organizations for registering the online payment services, delivery services, and social commerce offered on social media.
This registration system will build further trust between online businesses and consumers. It will also allow disputes to be settled in a fair and legal setting. We believe we'll be able to attract informal social commerce businesses into registered marketplaces.
Q: What have you been co-operating on with developmental organizations for the e-Commerce ecosystem?
A: The Ministry of Commerce collaborated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to conduct a survey in 2017

on the readiness of electronic-based businesses.
A donor roundtable was held in 2018 to implement the findings and we received the interest and promises of development partners.
Currently, we're implementing the E-Commerce Strategy with UNCTAD under Tier 2 of the Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF) and designing the Digital Trade Policy Framework with technical assistance from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). With DFAT's assistance, we will also publish the Good Practice Guide for small businesses transitioning from offline to online during COVID. We published drafts of four Good Practice Guides in May 2020 for food and commodity businesses, restaurants, delivery services, and wholesale consumer good distributors.
We're doing the EU Myanmar ARISE Plus project to assist SMEs transitioning into digital commerce and penetrate the global market. We are discussing with other development partners to implement the action plans of CERP in a short amount of time.

Q: Will you be rebroadcasting the virtual conference?
A: We will be editing the entire conference into smaller videos and making them available to the public.
Q: Is there anything else you want to say to the public?
A: We worked hard in public-private dialogues concerning e-Commerce strating in 2017 and cooperating with development partners. In 2019, the Digital Trade and e-Commerce Development Sub-committee was formed under the Digital Economy Development Committee (DEDC). The Deputy Minister for Commerce was appointed Chairman of the Sub-committee and there are action plans related to the DEDC's roadmap we are implementing.
We are drawing the e-Commerce Master Plan and aim to have it published near the end of this year. We will continue to work hard to develop the e-Commerce ecosystem and ensure the public is aware of the progress made by the Ministry of Commerce.
(Translated by Pen Dali)

UN orders probe of abuses in Libya since 2016



Delegates wearing a protective face mask attend the resuming of a UN Human Rights Council session after its interruption in March over the coronavirus pandemic on 15 June 2020 in Geneva. **PHOTO: AFP**

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The UN Human Rights Council on Monday adopted a resolution ordering a “fact-finding mission” to Libya in order to document violations and abuses committed in the conflict-torn country since 2016.

The United Nations’ top rights body adopted the resolution without a vote, “strongly (condemning) all acts of violence in Libya”, and urging UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet to “immediately establish and dispatch a fact-finding mission” to the country.

Tamim Baiou, Libya’s ambassador to the UN in Geneva, said he hoped the resolution would show that “impunity will no longer be tolerated” in the country.

“We hope this will be a turning point,” he told the council before the text was adopted by consensus.

The draft resolution was tabled in March by a group of African countries, but the UN’s top

rights body was forced to suspend its main annual session for three months due to the coronavirus crisis, postponing a vote by the 47-member council until Monday.

The council’s 43rd session resumed last week after Switzerland relaxed the measures imposed to halt the spread of COVID-19, and concluded Monday with the Libya resolution the last adopted during the session.

The resolution expressed “concern” at reports of “torture, sexual and gender-based violence and harsh conditions in prisons and detention centres.”

The fact-finding mission experts will be called on, over the next year, to “document alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and

international humanitarian law by all parties in Libya since the beginning of 2016,” the text said.

It called on the experts to present an oral update on their progress to the council in September, followed by a written report next March.

Oil-rich Libya has been torn by violence, drawing in tribal militias, jihadists and mercenaries since the 2011 toppling and killing of long-time dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a Western-backed uprising.

Since 2015, a power struggle has pitted the Tripoli-based and UN-recognised Government of National Accord against Khalifa Haftar, who claims legitimacy from an eastern-based elected parliament.—AFP ■

Japan’s new supercomputer ranked fastest in world

TOKYO — The latest supercomputer developed by Japan’s state-backed Riken research institute is the world’s fastest for computing speed, according to a twice-yearly ranking announced Monday by the U.S.-European TOP500 project, marking the first time in nine years that a Japanese supercomputer has captured the top position.

The supercomputer, named Fugaku after Mt. Fuji, also took the top spot in three other categories that measured performance in computational

methods for industrial use, artificial intelligence applications and big data analytics.

It is the first time that a supercomputer has topped the rankings in the four categories, according to Riken.

The Japanese supercomputer, which was jointly developed with Fujitsu Ltd. at the institute’s facility in Kobe, forms a key foundation for powerful simulations used in scientific research and the development of industrial and military technologies.—Kyodo News ■

Two killed, seven wounded in shooting at Juneteenth party: US media

WASHINGTON (United States) — Two people were killed and seven wounded in a shooting at a block party in the eastern US city of Charlotte, local media reported Monday.

Five others were hurt when they were hit by vehicles during the gathering, which CBS affiliate station WBTV reported was part

of extended celebrations over the Juneteenth holiday, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

Police said they had responded initially to reports of a pedestrian hit by a car, but arrived to find hundreds of people scattered on the streets when shots were heard, according to WBTV.

The station cited police as saying there is evidence multiple shooters were involved. The motive behind the incident -- which happened around midnight -- was unclear, and WBTV cited witnesses as saying the Juneteenth gatherings in the area all weekend had been a “happy, peaceful celebration.”—AFP ■

Six police killed in Mexico gun attack

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Six Mexican police officers were killed and another five wounded in a gunattack while they were carrying out security checks in the southern state of Guerrero, authorities said Monday.

Sunday’s attack on the state police occurred in the town of Taxco as the police were carrying out unspecified security checks, Guerrero’s state government said.

“Six elements of the state police lost their lives in these unfortunate events,” said Roberto Alvarez Heredia, a state security spokesman told Milenio TV.

He said a search operation for the perpetrators was underway.

Guerrero state, home to the tourist resort of Acapulco, is one of the areas hardest hit by violence linked to Mexico’s drug cartels.

In April, the body of murdered Mexican journalist Victor Fernando Alvarez was found in Acapulco a week after he was reported missing.

Organized crime has remained active in Mexico, despite confinement due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Specialists and human rights defenders attribute the violence that the country suffers to a controversial military crackdown on organized crime launched in late 2006 by then President Felipe Calderon.—AFP ■

Toyota’s output against initial plan to recover to 10% drop in July

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp. said Monday its domestic production volume in July is expected to recover to about a 10 per cent drop against an initial plan in reflection of the resumption of economic activities in Japan following the end of national state of emergency over the novel coronavirus.

The rate compares with an estimated 40 per cent decrease in June, according to the automaker. Toyota plans to halt six lines at three vehicle plants for a total of 16 days in July, an improvement from an estimated suspension of 25 production lines at 14 plants for a total of 133 days the previous month.

As the coronavirus dented demand and restricted people’s movements, Toyota has suspended some of its plant operations, causing its output in Japan to fall 25.9 per cent to 218,054 units in April and 13.2 per cent to 279,065

units in March.

Its results for May have yet to be released.

The figures do not include vehicles sold by its subsidiaries, small-car manufacturer Daihatsu Motor Co. and truck maker Hino Motors Ltd.

Toyota’s domestic production plans are influenced by global

demand, as it exported around 60 per cent of some 3.41 million vehicles made in Japan last year.

The carmaker has said it expects the sales drop due to the coronavirus to have bottomed out in April and that sales will gradually recover to levels seen a year earlier toward the end of this year.—Kyodo News ■



A Toyota Motor Corp. logo on a Prius PHV is polished on 9 May 2018, at a Toyopet dealership for the automaker’s vehicles in Tokyo’s Shibaura area. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Coronavirus pandemic still accelerating: WHO chief



This handout image provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 27 May 2020 in Geneva shows WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the launch of a new foundation for private donations, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates) — The novel coronavirus pandemic is still accelerating and its effects will be felt for decades, the World Health Organization's director-general told an online conference on Monday.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual health forum organized by Dubai authorities that the greatest threat facing the world is not the virus itself, but "the lack of global solidarity and global leadership".

"We cannot defeat this pandemic with a divided world," he said.

"The politicisation of

the pandemic has exacerbated it. None of us is safe until all of us are safe."

The WHO warned last week of a new and dangerous phase of the coronavirus pandemic, with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease's rapid spread.

The COVID-19 illness, which has now killed more than 465,000 people and infected almost nine million worldwide, is surging in the Americas and parts of Asia, even as Europe starts to ease restrictive measures.

Lockdowns imposed to halt the spread of the virus have caused crippling economic damage, but the WHO says the pandemic

still poses a major threat.

"The pandemic is still accelerating," Tedros told the virtual conference.

"We know that the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it is an economic crisis, a social crisis, and in many countries a political crisis," he said.

"Its effects will be felt for decades to come."

A vaccine remains months off at best despite several trials, while scientists are still discovering more about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may have spread before being identified. — AFP ■

Thailand's COVID-19 vaccine trial on monkeys successful: minister

BANGKOK — Thailand's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation announced on Monday that the country's COVID-19 vaccine trial has made progress after macaque monkeys which were given the first doses of the candidate vaccine showed satisfactory immune response.

"The doses of the mRNA candidate vaccine were administered to the monkeys on May 23 by researchers at the National Primate Research Centre in Thailand's central province of Saraburi," said Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovations Minister Suvit Maesincee. "All the monkeys remained in good

health and have developed satisfactory immune responses to the virus."

The minister said the second doses were injected again on Monday into the same monkeys.

"So if the second doses produce good results, the next step would be human trials, in either October or November, to prove safety and efficacy," he said. The minister said he has assigned Dr Sirirung Songsivilai, secretary-general of the National Research Council and Dr. Nakorn Premisri, director of National Vaccine Institute to monitor, examine and advise the research team at the National Primate Research Center.—Xinhua ■

Japan's virus contact-tracing app hits 2.7 mil. downloads in 3 days

TOKYO — A free smartphone app which alerts users that they may have been in close proximity to someone infected with the coronavirus has seen 2.7 million downloads in the first three days since its launch, the health minister said Monday.

"The more people use the app, the more effective it becomes," Health, Labor and Welfare Minister Katsunobu Kato told a parliamentary committee.

Kato said maximum consideration has been given to protecting privacy and that users do not need to enter information personally identifying them.

The app was launched Friday, the same day when Japan completely

lifted an advisory against cross-prefecture travel. The government hopes it will encourage more people suspecting they may be infected with the virus to go to hospitals or take polymerase chain reaction tests to contain its spread.

Technology experts say the app needs to be widely used in order to be truly effective as it requires the accumulation of a certain amount of contact data.

The government has not given a target per cent for the app's usage, but overseas research shows that at least 60 per cent of people in a country should use such a system to make it practical. —Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 19 June 2020, in Tokyo shows a free smartphone application launched by the Japanese government, which alerts users that they may have been in close proximity to someone infected with the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

WHO urges ramped-up COVID-19 dexamethasone production

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization called Monday for a rapid increase in production of the steroid dexamethasone, after British clinical trials found it had life-saving potential for critically-ill coronavirus patients.

Researchers led by a team from the University of Oxford administered

dexamethasone to more than 2,000 severely ill patients hospitalized with the new coronavirus.

Among those who could only breathe with the help of a ventilator, it reduced deaths by 35 per cent.

"Although the data are still preliminary, the recent finding that the steroid dexamethasone has life-saving

potential for critically ill COVID-19 patients gave us a much-needed reason to celebrate," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual news conference in Geneva.

"The next challenge is to increase production and rapidly and equitably distribute dexamethasone worldwide, focusing on

where it is needed most.

"Demand has already surged, following the UK trial results showing dexamethasone's clear benefit.

"Fortunately, this is an inexpensive medicine and there are many dexamethasone manufacturers worldwide, who we are confident can accelerate production."

A low-dose steroid,

dexamethasone has been on the market for over 60 years and usually serves to reduce inflammation.

The WHO emphasizes that dexamethasone should only be used for patients with severe or critical disease, under close clinical supervision.

There is no evidence that the drug works for patients with mild disease or

as a preventative measure, and it could cause harm, Tedros said.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide has topped nine million, according to an AFP tally using official sources.

"It seems that almost every day we reach a new and grim record," said Tedros. — AFP ■

Stock markets mostly down as new virus cases temper reopening



A journalist poses while looking at a computer screen with the Bloomberg display showing a three-day view showing the rise and fall in the value of the pound sterling against the US dollar in London on October 17, 2019 with a spike (R) at the moment of the announcement of a draft Brexit deal. PHOTO:AFP

LONDON(United Kingdom) — Stock markets mostly dropped Monday and the dollar fell as investors kept a nervous eye on a spike in coronavirus infections around the world, while Europe pressed ahead with the easing of lockdown measures.

While a wall of cash from governments and central banks provides much-needed support, observers say an equities rally from their March trough

may have been overcooked.

After last week’s broadly positive showing for stocks, traders turned cautious on news of a worrying jump in fresh virus cases across US states including California, Texas and Florida.

China, Australia, Germany and Japan are also battling new outbreaks with some reintroducing containment measures.

It comes after the World Health Organization

last week warned of a “new and dangerous phase” of the pandemic, with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease’s accelerating spread.

US investors were spooked Friday when Apple said it would shut some stores it had recently reopened because of new cases.

At the same time, though, European countries are slowly emerging from their economy-sap-

ping lockdowns, with Spain opening its borders, welcoming flights, while schools, cinemas and theatres reopened in France.

“What is vital for the economy is whether governments reimpose wide-sweeping lockdowns. With the overall count low globally, that’s unlikely, whereas proximity or soft lockdowns like in Beijing is more likely,” said Stephen Innes at AxiCorp. —AFP ■

S. Africa’s Ramaphosa warns of ‘tough times ahead’

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday warned “tough times” lie ahead as the continent’s most industrialized country braces for the economic fallout from its anti-coronavirus measures.

Ramaphosa imposed a strict lockdown on March 27 to try to limit the spread of COVID-19 and prepare hospitals for an expected surge in cases.

But the move has cost the economy dearly. South Africa was already in recession and the unemployment rate heading towards 30 percent when the virus arrived.

Since last month the government has started loosening the lockdown to enable business activity to gradually resume.

“For a country such as ours, which was already facing an unemployment crisis and weak economic growth, difficult decisions and difficult days lie ahead,” Ramaphosa said

in his weekly newsletter.

“There are tough times ahead. There are no quick-fixes and we have to be realistic about our prospects,” he said.

“We would urge that the difficult decisions to be taken are taken with care and with due regard to balancing the sustain-

ability of companies and the livelihoods of workers,” he urged as companies have in recent days started announcing layoff plans.

The national statistics agency releases the first-quarter unemployment figures on Tuesday. Finance Minister Tito

Mboweni on Wednesday is due to present a revised budget after government announced an unscheduled 500-billion-rand (\$29.7-billion, 26-billion-euro) economic stimulus and social relief package, including 100 billion rand for job protection. —AFP ■



A queue of cars are seen at the Maseru Bridge border post between Lesotho and South Africa on 24 March 2020, as residents and retailers of Lesotho head to South Africa to stock up on groceries and other essential goods after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a 21-day national lockdown for South Africa to start later this week to contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. PHOTO:AFP

Saudi downturn deepens Yemen’s economic despair

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia)— On top of war and the coronavirus pandemic, Yemen faces looming economic disaster as a crisis gripping its main benefactor Saudi Arabia dents remittances and leaves state coffers running dry.

Saudi Arabia, lead-

ing a five-year military intervention against Iran-linked Huthi rebels, has poured in tens of billions of dollars to prop up the Arab world’s poorest country in the form of humanitarian aid, fuel subsidies and cash to its ailing central bank.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (025W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (025W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALAND MAERSKASIAPTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(39/2019-2020)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-206(19-20)	Coverall, Steel Helmet & Rain Coat (1) Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-207(19-20)	Safety Shoes & Gun Boots (1) Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-208(19-20)	PPE (Fire Crossing Proximity) Complete Sets and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (1) Lot	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 23 June 2020 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 23 July 2020.**

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **23-7-2020, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

TikTok joins EU code of conduct on hate speech



This photo taken on 21 November 2019, shows the logo of the social media video sharing app Tiktok displayed on a tablet screen in Paris. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — The social media phenomenon TikTok joined the EU's code of conduct on Monday as tech giants seek to persuade Europe to back away from setting laws against hate speech and disinformation.

"We're proud to sign up to the (code of conduct) to play our part," said Theo Bertram,

TikTok's director of government relations for Europe.

Facebook, Twitter and Google helped create the code of conduct in 2016 in which companies pledge to swiftly assess, flag and remove hate speech and other illegal content from their platforms.

The tech giants are eager to demonstrate the success of the code of conduct as they fear far more direct oversight by Brussels on the everyday operations of their platforms.

TikTok has become a global sensation with users sharing 15 to 60-second video clips on everything from hair-dye tutorials to dance routines and gags about daily life.

"Today's announcement shows once again that internet

companies take their responsibility seriously and are ready to play their part," said Siada El Ramly, head of the EDiMA big tech lobby in Brussels.

Chinese-owned TikTok joined the group just as the EU published the latest of its regular reports monitoring the implementation of code of conduct.

It showed that 90 per cent of flagged content was assessed by the participants within 24 hours, a major improvement from just 40 per cent in 2016.

It said that 71 per cent of content confirmed as illegal hate speech was successfully removed, whereas only 26 per cent was taken down in 2016.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, is currently preparing a Digital Ser-

vices Act that could make inadequate handling of illegal content punishable by law.

The act "will make a difference", said EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders.

It could include "binding" measures for platforms to "clarify how they deal with illegal hate speech on their platforms," he said. In their campaign to dissuade the EU from stricter rules, big tech companies were comforted when a new hate speech law in France was struck down in court last week for violating free speech.

That law was widely seen as a potential model for the EU's Digital Services Act that once passed could become a widely followed example for regulating big tech worldwide. —AFP ■

ICC judges erred by acquitting Ivory Coast's Gbagbo: prosecutors

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — International Criminal Court judges made "fundamental and serious" errors when they cleared former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo of crimes against humanity last year, prosecutors said as they launched an appeal on Monday.

Gbagbo and his right-hand man Charles Blé Goudé were acquitted in January 2019 of charges over post-electoral violence in the restive West African nation in 2010-11 in which around 3,000 people died.

Prosecutors want the acquittal overturned and a retrial at the court in The Hague, which was set up in 2002 to deal with

the world's worst crimes. Helen Brady, senior appeals counsel for the ICC prosecution, said the gravest mistake was that judges did not make a proper written judgment at the time, instead handing down the decision to acquit the Ivorian pair orally. Brady said this was "no harmless procedural irregularity".

"It tarnished the very essence of the judicial adjudicative process, thereby affecting the reliability and the integrity of the decision itself," she said.

The prosecution said it had presented key elements of proof with 4,610 documents and 96 witnesses interviewed during the trial. —AFP ■

New York City to remove Roosevelt statue over racism concerns

NEW YORK — New York City announced Sunday it would remove a statue of former US President Theodore Roosevelt long criticized as a racist and colonialist symbol, but the move drew criticism from Donald Trump.

The decision comes with the United States gripped by widespread protests against racial inequality — sparked by the killing in police custody of George Floyd, an unarmed black man — with demonstrators toppling a number of statues of figures with racist legacies.

The bronze sculpture of Roosevelt, which has been at the en-

trance of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) for 80 years, depicts the former leader on horseback towering over a black man and a Native American man — who are both on foot.

Citing the ongoing movement for racial justice, the museum said: "We also have watched as the attention of the world and the country has increasingly turned to statues and monuments as powerful and hurtful symbols of systemic racism."

The Roosevelt statue, it added, "has long been controversial because of the hierarchical composition that places one figure on

horseback and the others walking alongside, and many of us find its depictions of the Native American and African figures and their placement in the monument racist." New York City authorities agreed to the museum's request to remove the statue.

"It explicitly depicts Black and Indigenous people as subjugated and racially inferior," Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement.

"The City supports the Museum's request. It is the right decision and the right time to remove this problematic statue." —AFP ■

Mongolia to hold election under coronavirus cloud

ULAANBAATAR (Mongolia) — Mongolians will elect a new parliament Wednesday under the cloud of the coronavirus, with controversy over candidates flouting lockdown rules and thousands of people stranded overseas unable to vote.

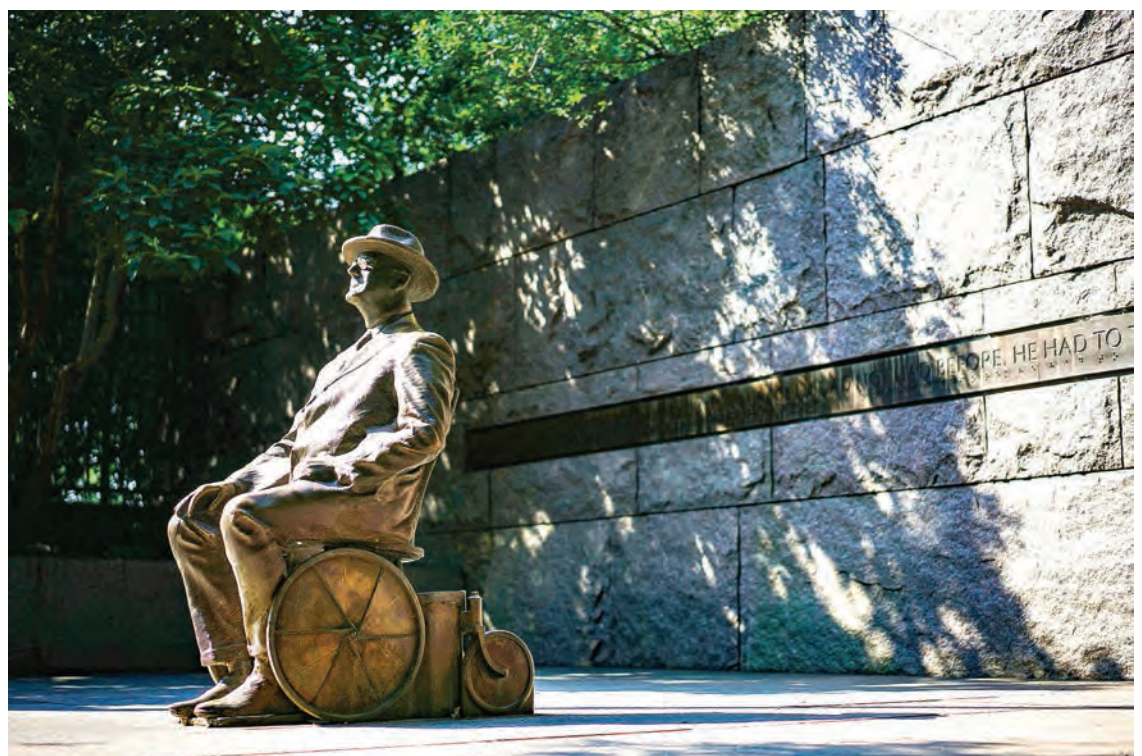
Mongolia, a landlocked country of three million people wedged between China and Russia, has taken some of the world's toughest and most enduring measures to contain the virus. In March it became one of the first countries to close its borders, while schools and universities that were even more

quickly shuttered will remain closed until September.

But 2,000 polling stations have been set up for Wednesday's vote, which will elect the parliament though not the most powerful presidential post.

Fuelling anger over seemingly different rules for politics and other aspects of life, the country's two main parties have broken bans on gatherings of above 30 people by holding big campaign rallies.

They have also flouted bans on door-to-door campaigning and ignored other social distancing rules. —AFP ■



A statue of former US president Franklin Delano Roosevelt is seen at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC on 2 July 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

China to join UN arms trade treaty, ‘enhance’ world peace

BEIJING (China) — China will join a global pact to regulate arms sales that has been rejected by the United States, with Beijing saying Monday it is committed to efforts to “enhance peace and stability” in the world.

The Communist Party leadership’s top legislative body voted Saturday to adopt a decision on joining the UN Arms Trade Treaty that is designed to control the flow of weapons into conflict zones.

It comes after US President Donald Trump announced plans last year to pull the United States out of the agreement -- which entered into force in 2014.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters that joining the treaty was “another important measure for China to support multilateralism”.

He added that the country would make a “continuous effort to maintain and enhance peace and stability in the world and region”, and that China has “always strictly controlled the export of military products”.

China only exports such



File photo shows delegates to the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2013 applaud the passage of the first UN treaty regulating the international arms trade. PHOTO: AFP

products to sovereign countries and not to non-state actors, Zhao said at a regular briefing.

The US Senate never ratified the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty after former president Barack Obama endorsed it, and Trump has said he would revoke his predecessor’s signature.

It is among a number of international agreements reached under the Obama administration that Trump has moved to pull out of.

The treaty requires member countries to keep records of international transfers of weapons and to prohibit cross-border

shipments that could be used in human rights violations or attacks on civilians.

A study in January by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said China is now the second largest arms producer in the world, behind the US. —AFP ■

Japanese nail clipper maker Kai sees surging sales in India

NEW DELHI — Leading Japanese razor and nail clipper maker Kai Corp. is seeing a surge in sales in India, driven partly by the start of sales at supermarkets and exporting from a local factory last year.

Kai Manufacturing India Pvt. Ltd., its local unit, logged a 5.6-fold year-on-year jump in sales in the year through March 2020, outpacing the 3.2-fold rise in the previous business year, Rajesh U. Pandya, managing director, said

in a recent interview with NNA.

He expects revenue to double in the current business year despite the economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak as people have become more health-conscious.

The rapid sales increase was attributed to the launch of sales at 140 supermarkets under Reliance Industries Ltd., a local conglomerate, and the installation of production lines for exports at its plant, both in 2019.

Kai’s Indian affiliate, the fourth production base abroad established in 2012 after those in the United States, China and Vietnam, markets shaving razor items, nail clippers and knives at some 5,000 shops including Kirana small grocery stores across the country. Revenue comes almost equally from the domestic and overseas markets, Pandya said, without disclosing specific figures.

Beauty razor products for

bikini lines and faces have pushed up sales since their release two years ago as they have been hailed by women who do not have time to visit beauty salons, the managing director said.

As people shop more online amid the viral crisis, the company has also seen strong internet sales as it began selling those products on bigbasket, a local online grocery marketplace, this year in addition to Amazon.com.— Kyodo News ■

NEWS In BRIEF

N. Korea almost completes preparations to scatter anti-South leaflets

BEIJING — North Korea’s state-run media reported Monday that the country has almost completed preparations for “the largest-ever distribution” of propaganda material against the South, saying it has printed 12 million leaflets.

“The time for retaliatory punishment is drawing near,” the official Korean Central News Agency said in English, as tensions have escalated since the release in South Korea of balloons carrying leaflets lambasting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s rule.—Kyodo News ■

Two blasts kill four in southern Pakistan

KARACHI (Pakistan) — Separate bomb and grenade attacks killed at least four people including security personnel in southern Pakistan on Friday, police said.

Two members of the Rangers -- an elite paramilitary security force -- were killed after an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle in the city of Ghotki in Sindh province, senior police officer Hafiz Abdul Qadir told AFP. —AFP

China reschedules launch of BeiDou satellite

XICHANG — China rescheduled the launch of the last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) for Tuesday. Technical problems, related to the launch mission, have now been solved, according to the China Satellite Navigation Office.

The launch of the BDS-3 satellite was originally set for June 16, but was later postponed due to technical problems, discovered in pre-launch tests. Now these technical problems have been solved, and the Long March-3B carrier rocket, to be used to launch the satellite, completed all tests prior to the propellant filling, the office said.—Xinhua ■

Dengue fever cases spike in Indonesia alongside coronavirus



Supplied photo shows an Asian tiger mosquito. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

JAKARTA — The number of dengue fever cases is spiking in Indonesia, health officials said Monday, as the country battles to stem the spread of the new coronavirus.

Indonesia has had about 68,000 cases of the mosquito-borne viral infection since January, with at least 349 fatal cases, according to Siti Nadia Tarmizi, director of vector-transmission and zoonotic disease prevention and control at the Ministry of Health.

The spike in dengue fever cases has baffled officials as the cases, which coincide with

a rainy season, usually peak in March and dwindle in subsequent months, but they have not this year.

“As of June...we can still see 100 to 500 cases of dengue fever a day,” Tarmizi said at a press conference in Jakarta. “We don’t know why there has been something different this year.” Further complicating the matter is the new coronavirus pandemic. Of the 460 jurisdictions in the country’s 34 provinces reporting cases of dengue fever, 439 of them have also reported cases of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus.— Kyodo News ■

Second AFC meeting discusses holding games in one centralized host country

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) held its second meeting on restarting competitions of remaining matches of the AFC Cup 2020 via a video-conference yesterday.

The teleconferencing meeting was attended by AFC's Competition Executive Director and officials, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein, MNL CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw, and ASEAN nations' football federations' secretaries and heads of the leagues.

They discussed holding group stage matches of the AFC Cup 2020, which were previously played on a home-and-away two-legged basis, in a centralized host country amid coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting planned to resume the matches on 23, 26 and 29 September, and final decision will be made in next meeting.

Providing more subsidies to the clubs was also discussed at the meeting.

The 2020 AFC Cup is the 17th edition of the AFC Cup, Asia's secondary club football tournament organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).— Kyaw Khin

MNL, youth clubs' officials discuss organizing youth soccer competitions

MYANMAR National League (MNL) held a co-ordination meeting with officials from the MNL youth clubs and discussed organizing U-19 and U-21 football tournaments, at the Thuwunna Stadium's meeting hall in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by MNL's CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw, COO U Suu Aung, Myanmar Football Federation (MNL)'s director of selection teams U Tun Tun Aung, MFF's field director U Kyaw Lin Htwe, director of MFF's referee committee department U Hla Min, chief medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo, officials from MFF and MNL, 10 MNL clubs' CEOs,



The meeting between officials from the Myanmar National League (MNL) and MNL clubs is in progress at the Thuwunna Stadium's meeting hall in Yangon on 22 June 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

general managers, teams' managers and officials, and officials from MNL-II clubs.

They discussed organizing the youth compe-

titions with new version, tournaments' dates, and cash assistances.

The decisions made at the meeting will be submit-

ted to the Myanmar National League Committee, and fixtures and dates for the tournaments will also be released soon.— Kyaw Khin

Japan's pro baseball, soccer leagues to admit fans from July 10



Boards with fans' faces are in the stands at Yokohama Stadium on 19 June 2020. **KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — Japan's professional baseball and soccer leagues will allow spectators to attend games from July 10, Nippon Professional Baseball Commissioner Atsushi Saito and J-League Chairman Mitsuru Murai said Monday.

The 2020 NPB season started behind closed doors on Friday after a nearly three-month delay caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The J-League first division is scheduled to resume its postponed season on July 4.

"We have to take the situ-

ation into consideration, but I got word from the government that it is OK to announce we can start admitting spectators from July 10," Saito said following the 10th liaison meeting of the governing bodies to discuss coronavirus countermeasures.

The government's current guidelines allow for the gradual increase in the number of spectators at sports events from July 10, starting with a maximum of 5,000 people or 50 percent of the venue's capacity, whichever is smaller.

"We'll have to consult with

local governments, but it's possible there might be small variations," Saito said regarding the cap on spectators.

In addition, NPB will conduct coronavirus testing once a month for all players, managers, coaches and umpires. It is also looking into the possibility of batch testing to cut costs.

A panel of infectious disease experts also advised the two leagues to tell fans they should consider changing the way they cheer in an effort to reduce the risk of infection.— Kyodo News ■

Liverpool can't force rhythm, says frustrated Klopp

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool cannot force rhythm out of thin air after a frustrating Merseyside derby delayed their Premier League coronation.

Despite having 70 per cent possession at Goodison Park on Sunday, the champions-elect managed just three shots on target, the same number as Everton, on their return to action after three months' absence.

Carlo Ancelotti's team became just the third side this season to take points off Liverpool, who have won 27 of their 30 games.

Klopp knows he cannot expect too much, too soon after the

coronavirus pandemic-enforced break. "I liked the intensity level of the game from my boys, the high press, but I didn't like too much the rhythm — but we cannot force that," he said.

The draw with Everton means Liverpool cannot now win the title at home to Crystal Palace on Wednesday unless Manchester City, 23 points behind, drop points against Burnley on Monday.

"I saw four weeks (of) training sessions and I was happy," said Klopp, who left forward Mohamed Salah on the bench.

"It was just a difficult game. Physically, we were ready, which was important.— AFP ■



Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (L) and Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp (R) talk as they leave the pitch at the end of the English Premier League football match between Everton and Liverpool at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England on 21 June 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**