INCREASE RESILIENCE OF FARMERS, CHANGE CROP PATTERNS TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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 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 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 possible 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)
President U Win Myint chairs second meeting of Finance Commission

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 President emphasized the need for the finance 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. 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

President U Win Myint, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Finance Commission, addressed the need for the finance commission to discuss the Union Budget and Union Budget Bill of 2020-2021 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 Tha, 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 2020-2021 FY 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 President emphasized the delay of budget processes in construction, tender invitation, 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 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 2020-2021 FY, 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, 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

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.

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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)
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

**“People are the key”**

**President U Win Myint presides over first meeting ...**

**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 FY, 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 59 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 between 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 19 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 2020-2021 FY has emphasized on development of road and bridge network, 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 Zahari 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 undocumented 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 Zahari 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 judgments 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 Htin Kyaw and Union Supreme Court Judges U Aung Zaw Thein and U Myo Win led the judgements at the Union Supreme Court room number 1.—MNA (Translated by TTN)
MoHS, MoHA, MoD hold press briefings on 4th-year performances

The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), Ministry of Health and Armed Forces (MoHA), and Ministry of Defence (MoD) held press briefings on their fourth-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 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, nurrying 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, 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 Khing Tun Oo explained the fourth year performances 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 5 new laws.

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

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

FROM PAGE-4

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 16 to 12 July 2019, the 7th CSIM 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 Referat 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 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 Economic 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)

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, indecision, 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).

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 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

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

**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**

**Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Htun.**

**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 Department 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 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
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 imports, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

This year, Myanmar corn exports were halted due to the fall in demand around 1.2 to 1.5 million tonnes of corn, worth over $40 million, was shipped 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 the annual target of 1.5 million tonnes of corn in the current fiscal.

Myanmar exported 1.5 million tonnes of corn, which is 108 baht per tonne in the range of, K1,000,000 per tical between 1 February and K1,214,200 on 28 February. In March, it reached the lowest level of K1,148,000 (31 March) and the highest level of K1,218,000 (4 March).

In April, the coronavirus risk shut down the gold market, and the market was reopened on 18 May, with the minimum rate of K1,214,100 (25 May) and the maximum rate of K1,340,000 (8 May), according to gold traders. With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,400,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to K1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,380,000 on 5 September. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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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 winter reasonirling and summer crops, spaced with less water supply from dams.

The situation has rung alarm bells and brought into focus the need to fundamenl changes to our current agricultural patterns, pattern and ways, and food systems.

Rice production, especially rice first, would become more important. Rice cultivation, to frequent drought and changing rain fall pattern.

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

Changing the way the rice is grown is a key to fighting the climate change 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% greenhouse gas emissions.

According to agribusiness firm Olam International, if these conventional methods don’t change, additional land equivalent to the size of Chile would be needed to meet rice demand by 2050.

Rice cultivation uses flooded fields, is land and resource-intensive, and food systems.

Our government has a role to play to implement crucial climate mitigation and adaptation measures and farming regu-

E-Commerce Guidelines coming in late 2020

The following is a detailed interview with U Nyi Aung, Director of the Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce, Government.

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

A: The COVID-19 Economic Resilience Plan (CERP) issued on 27 April 2020 will be made available for e-Commerce in its 5th Goal. The Ministry of Commerce, as the focal ministry to implement them in a short period of time.

Everyone knows there are many interconnected processes or activities which pertain to online consumer protection and e-Commerce is also a private sector-led development. We discussed the tasks in CERP and held a government private sector dialogue to support the government’s political decisions.

The meeting was held virtually by Ministry of Commerce and Department of Electronic Commerce.

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 their e-nation’s legal e-Commerce Legislation and its related processes. MRTC supported the visit while AOTS organized it.

Japan doesn’t have separate e-Commerce Laws in itself but electronic transactions are a part of the e-Commerce and we’re also making sure that our e-Commerce Guidelines of ASEAN and its related agreements, unilaterally or not. We’re basing them on the current path forward that the nations is adopting and looking at it from just a multidisciplinary of different sector-wise perspectives.

The Ministry of Commerce pays attention to public-private consultations and we want to ensure all stakeholders are included in the planning process of the e-Commerce Guidelines. So, that making all inclusivity of what is in the e-Commerce Guidelines, and we’re also making sure we don’t have such legal protection in that system, businesses and organizations to provide us with feedback, recommendations and just general advice.

A draft of the guidelines was sent to all participants on 5 May and to the PayPort Industry in the third week of May. We are currently sorting through the feedback and will continue preparing the guidelines 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 all regulations, objectives, interpretation, legalities, judicial rights, rules and rules, duties of e-Commerce and businesses buying and selling, contracts, e-Commerce consumer protection, e-Commerce consumer protection.
Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and comments. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorial analyses or reports, please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and contact details.

Due to limitation of space, we are unable to publish every editorial analysis or letter. If you would like a ‘Letter to the Editor’ that do not exceed 500 words, please be sure to indicate that your letter will be edited.

THE government peace negotiators and the NCA-S EAOs agreed to convene the meetings of Joint Monitoring Committees 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 Pye of the Ministry of Defence (Army), Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Kyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, members of the Peace Commission Advisory Board U Hla Maung Shwe, Director-General of the State Counsellor Office U Zaw Htay.

The ethnic armed organizations side was led by Pa Soo Sel Gyi, 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 Nyan, and other representatives 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 regarding 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 Gyi 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 Gyi said both sides discussed on the future plans of chapter 3 and 4 in the NCA, which are required to be joined in JICM and further discussions in NCA framework team.

The JMC meeting is scheduled to convene on 7 and 8 July. The Peace Commission’s Advisory Board member U Hla Maung Shwe said it is expected to hold the peace conference in August.—Ye GaungNyu

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

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 Commission’s Act 2017 and cooperating with development partners in 2019. In 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 Aung Khin)
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, took the top spot in three 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.

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 23.9 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

Six police killed in Mexico gun attack

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Six Mexican police officers were killed and another five wounded in a gun attack 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

UN orders probe of abuses in Libya since 2016

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 Baitou, 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 Moammar Gadhafi 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

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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
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 Center 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 of Thailand, and Dr. Nakorn Premrudee, 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 percent 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

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 emphasises 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 four 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
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 sustainability of companies and the livelihoods of workers,” he urged as companies have in recent days started announcing job losses.

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

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 dent’s remittances and leaves state coffers running dry.

Saudi Arabia, leading 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

Stock markets mostly down as new virus cases temper reopening

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 equal wall 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 re-opened because of new cases.

At the same time, though, European countries are slowly emerging from their economy-sapping 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 reinstate 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.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV 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 MIT/MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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**MV SERENE VOY. NO. (025W)**

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**The bottom of the page contains an advertisement for a tender notice related to Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.**
The social media phenomenon TikTok joined the EU’s code of conduct on hate speech and disinformation. TikTok’s director of government relations for Europe, Theo Bertram, said, “We’re proud to sign up to the code of conduct to play our part.”

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — TikTok has taken some of the world's toughest and most controversial over candidates as powerful and hurtful symbols of systemic racism.”

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 fallout from George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in police custody, and the country has increasingly turned to statues and monuments as the attention of the world and the country is gripped by widespread protests against racial inequality - sparked by the killing in police custody of George Floyd, an unarmed black man - with demonstrators topping a number of statues of figures with racist legacies.

The bronze sculpture of Roosevelt, which has been at the entrance 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.

The city supports the museum’s request to remove the statue, 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) — Mongolia will hold 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.

Fueling 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

ICT judges errred 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 BleGoude were acquitted in January 2019 of charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in the country’s 2010-11 post-election violence.

The prosecution said it had presented key elements of proof at the time, instead judgment at the time, instead 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

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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 topping a number of statues of figures with racist legacies.

The bronze sculpture of Roosevelt, which has been at the entrance 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

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New York City to remove Roosevelt statue over racism concerns
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.

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 ef- fort 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 products to sovereign coun- tries and not to non-state actors, Zhao said at a regular briefing.

The US Senate never rati- fied 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 in- ternational agreements reached under the Obama administra- tion that Trump has moved to pull out of.

The treaty requires mem- ber countries to keep records of international transfers of weap- ons 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.

Japanese nail clipper maker Kai sees surging sales in India

NEW DELHI — Leading Japan- ese 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 dou- ble in the current business year despite the economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak as people have become more health-con- scious.

The rapid sales increase was attributed to the launch of sales at 140 supermarkets under Reliance Industries Ltd., a local con-glomerate, 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 al- most 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 compa- ny has also seen strong internet sales as it began selling those products on highbaskset, a local online grocery marketplace, this year in addition to Amazon. com.— Kyodo News

Dengue fever cases spike in Indonesia alongside coronavirus

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 mosqui- to-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 some- thing different this year.” Further complicating the matter is the new coronavirus pandemic. Of the 460 jurisdictions in the coun- try’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

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 reported in English, as tensions have escalated since the release in South Korea of bal- loons carrying leaflets lambast- ing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s rule.— Kyodo News

Two blasts kill four in southern Pakistan

KARACHI (Pakistan) — Separa- rate 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 prov- ince, 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. Tech- nical 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 prob- lems, discovered in pre-launch tests. Now these technical prob- lems 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
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.

The 2020 NPB season start- ing a month 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 situation 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

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

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

They discussed organizing the youth competitions with new version, tournaments’ dates, and cash assistantances.

The decisions made at the meeting will be submitted 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

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 situation 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

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