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Monday, 29 June 2020

Special flight arrives in Yangon with WHO medical supplies, experts for fight against COVID-19



Workers unloading medical supplies from the special flight at the Yangon International Airport on 28 June, 2020. PHOTO: PE ZAW

A PLANE carrying the World Health Organization's laboratory equipment and experts who can support humanitarian response amidst COVID-19

landed Yangon International Airport yesterday.

With the shipment arranged by the World Food Programme, WHO brought

key laboratory equipment for the National Health Laboratory (Yangon) and eleven experts from different organizations.

"Today we have just completed flight number 8. For a month and a half, WFP have managed to create a lifeline connection between Yangon and the outside world, bringing a lot of help with aid supplies and incoming and outgoing passengers in the fight against COVID-19," said WFP's Deputy Country Director Mr Walid Ibrahim.

"Today flight in particular helped us with the opportunity for eleven experts arriving in Yangon from different organizations including GIZ, ICRC and World Bank in addition to a number of UN agencies. The flight also carried key laboratory equipment designated to the National Health Laboratory," he added.

"In view of the extension by the Government on the lockdown for another 15 days, we continue providing this flight service until when international commercial airlines will be up on their feet again", said Walid.

The WFP's Global Logistics Service Provision Plan aims at connecting logistics hubs around the world in order to provide an essential link with countries that needs to bring in cargo.

Similarly, India, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Japan provided Myanmar with the medical supplies in support of fighting against the COVID-19.— Zaw Gyi ■

Six more COVID-19 cases on 28 June, total figure reaches 299

COVID-19 positive cases in Myanmar reached 299 after six more cases found in people who had overseas travel history to Thailand and India, ac-

cording to an official report of Ministry of Health and Sports on 28 June.

Out of the 299 confirmed cases, six died, 218

have recovered and 206 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the report. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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▲ All information and illustrations are based on data available at the time of publication and subject to change without notice.

154 Myanmar citizens repatriated from Singapore on 28 June

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI)’s relief flight carrying 154 Myanmar nationals stranded in Singapore landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

On arrival at the airport, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided the returnees proper medical examination and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with the guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded in other countries due to COVID-19.

Until now a total of 5,827 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home.

In addition, the government is planning to repatriate tenth batch of Myanmar citizens who were stranded in Singapore on 1 July. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar citizens returned from Singapore queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 28 June 2020 . **PHOTO: MNA**

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 July 2020

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 30 June 2020 by the Ministry’s announcement dated 15 June 2020.
- (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the aforementioned entry restriction measures until 31 July 2020.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 28 June 2020

Six new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 28 June, total figure remains at 299

Updated at 8 pm, 28 June 2020



Six new cases of COVID-19 on 28 June 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
294	15	Male	Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Region	No	Yes, Thailand	People’s Hospital, Hpa-an Township	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hpa-an Township)
295	22	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
296	23	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	
297	24	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	
298	24	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	
299	23	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	

Ministry of Health and Sports

“People are the key”

Second Myanmar Universities’ Research Conference concludes



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi speaks during the second Myanmar Universities’ Research Conference 2020 via videoconferencing on 27 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Second Myanmar Universities’ Research Conference 2020 was concluded 27 June with the roundtable discussion, awarding programme and closing ceremony held online from the office of the Yangon Rectors Committee.

The topic of the discussion was ‘Quality Research Towards Prosperity of the Nation’ and led by Dr Padetha Tin, a senior scientist from US-based NASA agency, together with Prof Dr Nilar Kyu of Yangon University’s Psychology Department, Prof Dr Myo Myint of Mandalay Technological University’s Electronic Engineering Department, Associate Prof Dr Soe Soe Htwe of Yangon University of Medicine (2)’s Mechanical Engineering Department, and

Prof Dr Thein Min Htike of Yangon Technological University’s Mechanical Engineering Department.

A Q&A session followed the roundtable discussion after which the awarding ceremony was held. The Chairman of the National Education Policy Commission, Dr Myo Kywel, and officials handed over gifts to the roundtable participants and then read the list of research paper submitters who won awards.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, in his capacity as Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing the Second Myanmar Universities’ Research Conference 2020, delivered an address from online. He thanked Rec-

tors Committee Chairman Dr Zaw Wai Soe, the organizing committee’s Chairman Dr. Htin Zaw Soe and officials for organizing the conference from 25 to 27 June. He also thanked Dr Padetha Tin, Dr Liviu Matei of Central European University and Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet for their participation online.

There were 134 people who read research papers on 9 subjects and 16 posters who discussed, and the Union Minister thanked them and all the attendees for the eager participation. Afterwards, Dr Myo Kywel delivered the address for the closing speech and Dr Zaw Wai Soe delivered a speech of gratitude. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Suspension of int’l commercial flights to Myanmar further extended up to 31 July

DEPARTMENT of Civil Aviation issued an announcement yesterday that the earlier restrictions for all airlines operating international air services to and from Yangon International Airport has been further extended up to 31 July.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar effectively, the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control, and Treatment of COVID-19 has decided to further extend the effective period of the Temporary Measures up to 31 July 2020 2359 Hours MST by the notification issued on 28 June 2020.

The announcement said the Ministry of Transport and Communications has extended the effective period from 1st to 31st July to support the current coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport and Communications to bring back Myanmar nationals stranded in foreign countries and to allow foreign staff of the international organizations who can support the fight against the COVID-19 in Myanmar.—MNA

Three more Tatmadaw officers test positive for COVID-19

THREE Tatmadaw officers from a group that returned from training in India are confirmed to have COVID-19, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

There were 48 officers who attended the training course in India and they were all put in facility quarantines upon their return. A previous news article on 27 June had already stated that two of the officers were confirmed to be positive with COVID-19. The other 46 officers returning on the same flight had their lab tests examined with Polymerase Chain

Reaction in the Defence Services 1000-Bedded Hospital in Mingaladon Township on 27 June. The results showed the three new positive cases and the three officers were transferred to the Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital in Mingaladon and are reportedly in good health. Authorities have been checking people who have been in close proximity with the officers tested positive for COVID-19 and who have been on the same plane with them for symptoms and transferring them to quarantine if necessary. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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366 Myanmar migrant workers return from Thailand via Myawady

A total of 366 Myanmar migrant workers returned home through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday.

With the permission from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand, they came back by their own schedules.

Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung and other officials performed medical checks and assisted the returnees with other arrangements

upon their arrival.

These returnees were 208 males and 158 females. A total of 35,945 returnees have entered this crossing since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand are seen at the Myawady border on 28 June 2020. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)



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Sagaing govt to implement terrace farm in Naga Self-Administered Zone

SAGAING REGION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Kham Zar Mone said they are implementing a 4-year plan to reclaim terrace farms on 293 acres in Naga Self-Administered Zone, from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023 financial year, using Slopping Agricultural Land Technology.

The Minister said the people of Naga region use nomadic farming techniques that damages forests and can cause a loss of topsoil in the long run



A terrace farming in Naga Self-Administered Zone. PHOTO:WIN OO (ZAYAR TIME)

that will make farming more difficult. He said this plan aims to form a modern stepped farm system that will make farm-

ing possible for a longer time and keep the region lush and green. The Sagaing Region government has funded 36 acres

as pilot farmlands from 2017-2018 financial year to this day. — Win Oo (Zayar Time)
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myeik COVID-19 committee donates PPE for ambulances

MYEIK DISTRICT Control and Emergency Response Committee in Myeik donated 100 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for ambulances that are operating in the COVID-19 fight processes yesterday.

A ceremony to donate the PPE was held at the district's general administration department in Myeik.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Okkar Min and District Administrator U Aung Kyaw Oo made remarks at the event. Head of the District's Public Health Daw Lwin Lwin Mon discussed systematic wearing of PPE in the COVID-19 fight processes.

The Amyotha Hluttaw representative, the District Admin-



The ceremony to donate 100 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for ambulances is in progress at the Myeik District's General Administration Department in Myeik, Taninthayi Region on 28 June 2020. PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)

istrator, and the Head of Public Health Department presented PPE sets to the ambulance as-

sociations. Chairman of Myeik District Ambulance Association U Zaw Myo Oo expressed thanks

for the donated PPE. — Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Stranded dolphin in Ayeyawady delta released into sea

LOCAL people in Kyauk Maunghnama beach, Shwe Thaungyan Town in Ayeyawady Region rescued a dolphin (locally called Linshu) stranded on the beach yesterday and put it back in sea.

According to local authorities, the dolphin, is 7 feet and 3 inches long, 3 feet and 3 inches diameter.

—Ko Ko Maung (IPRD)
(Translated by TTN)



Rescuers put the dolphin back in sea. PHOTO: KO KO MAUNG (IPRD)

BRIC endorses 3 foreign enterprises creating over 1,200 jobs

THE Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC), at a video-conference held on 24 June, has endorsed three foreign projects and approved one foreign enterprise to increase capital.

The investments of those projects including the expansion of capital by one existing enterprise are estimated at

US\$13.325 million. The projects will create over 1,200 jobs. They will invest in manufacturing of various kinds of the garment; weaving and dyeing; and non-sterilized disposable surgical scrubs and related clinical wears on CMP basis, and service for construction and leasing factories and office

building, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The investments in the Bago region primarily flow into the manufacturing business.

Over 80 foreign businesses are being executed in the Bago Region, according to Bago Region Investment Committee.

According to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of all investments in Myanmar; Mandalay attracts 30 per cent, while the other regions and states receive only a small share of investments. To simplify the verifi-

cation of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar negotiates with China for legal soybean export

THE General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has sent questions related to food safety and import procedures to Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in order to import Myanmar's soybeans through legitimate channel. Following the trade war between China and the US, China has reduced importation of soybean from the US and turned to Asian markets. China yearly imports by about 90 million tonnes of soybeans. As a result of this, the growers from the northern Shan State of Myanmar started to cultivate soybeans of American origin on a trial basis. If the legal channel emerges, the growers in Shan State will increase their incomes. The related ministries are endeavouring to export soybeans to a larger market like China, coordinating closely with GACC, according to the news released by the Commerce Ministry online.

Normally, Myanmar sends soybeans to China through the Muse border in the current fiscal year. In addition to the China market, Myanmar's soybeans are also delivered to Thailand to a small extent. It is also shipped to India through maritime trade. Soybeans are used for oil, animal

feed and other non-food industrial products. The biggest challenge of Myanmar's soybean production is the decline in the number of soybean acres in the previous years. Between 2013-2014FY and 2018-2019FY, over 40,000 acres of soybean farms dropped. The pedigree seed is also crucial for a good yield, extraction of soybean oil and value-added production. The Standardization Technical Sub-Committee for Agricultural Products has drawn up standards and specifications for agricultural products including soybean, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency. Myanmar's soybean sector needs technical support for pre-harvest diseases and post-harvest losses, along with market exploration. At present, the growers turn to soybean due to the market potentials, and the seed demand has risen. There are over 360,000 acres of soybeans in Myanmar this fiscal, which is up from over 340,000 acres registered in the 2018-2019FY. Myanmar's soybean export is remarkably increasing year over year. The country exported over 1,700 tonnes of soybeans in 2016, 2,000 tonnes in 2017, over 7,000 tonnes in 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.—Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

UK-based dairy company plans to invest about \$200 mln in Myanmar



A dairy farm worker milks cows in a smart farming cow milking machine. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

THE UK-based investment company — United Green is planning to invest approximately US\$200 million for high-quality breeding of dairy cattle and the production of milk and dairy products, said Vice President U Moe Kyaw Kyaw of Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

The project is expected to create over 750 jobs for local residents, he added.

The United Green, a privately owned strategic investment group, will implement this project with the assistance of the UK's development finance institution CDC, Asian Develop-

ment Bank and other financial institutions. The United Green has solid investment experiences of over 60 years in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

A team led by Mr Peter Crowhurst, CEO of British Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar recently met with officials of MRCCI to discuss proposal related to the breeding of cattle and production matters. They highlighted the participation of those engaged in manageable-scale cattle breeding in the region. The targeted acres of land for the dairy farm are too much, and so, the project will cover Mandalay Region,

Sagaing Region and some areas of Shan State.

The project aims to distribute meat, milk and dairy products at the much fairer price in the domestic market, whereas it will be primarily exported to external markets. Then, they target to meat production to penetrate the neighbouring country China.

We support this project as Myanmar is the country of origin. In the initial stage, 20,000 dairy cattle are planned to be raised. It will also support livestock, agriculture and transport sectors. It provides employment opportunities for rural people. They also made similar investments in South Africa. Moreover, the project includes coordination plans not to harm the domestic breeders. The United Green has been negotiating with the official concerned and preparing for investments. When this project is granted the permit, MRCCI will invite regional livestock businesspersons to join this, he said.

As the project needs thousands of land acres, the private participation is necessary to implement this, he noted.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Import of raw materials by CMP businesses drops by \$104 mln

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses have been valued at US\$1.56 billion for eight and half months beginning in October in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which plunged from \$1.64 billion registered in the corresponding period of last fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Similarly, exports of finished industrial goods slightly fell to \$6.5 billion between 1 October and 12 June in the current fiscal year 2019-2020, a sharp decrease of \$151.8 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent. At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The labour-intensive enterprises are badly battered by the coronavirus pandemic, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. To deal with the shortage

of raw materials for the CMP garment factories in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association and Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) have jointly imported raw materials through border trade channels and airlines.

However, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses dropped by \$104 million compared with a year-ago period. The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the Eu-

ropean countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the global viral disease. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out. The CMP industry has emerged as very promising in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY. During the last fiscal year 2018-2019, incomes from garment exports were over \$1 billion higher than the previous fiscal year, according to the Ministry's data. Since an outbreak like coronavirus disease

might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our own sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories. Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union. The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ON THE SAFE LIST

EU poised to bar U.S. travellers as bloc reopens in July: media



Vehicles are about to cross the border between Austria and Hungary to enter Nickelsdorf, Austria, on June 16, 2020. (PHOTO BY GEORGES SCHNEIDER/XINHUA)

THE European Union (EU) plans to bar travelers from the United States and some other countries where the COVID-19 outbreak has not been effectively controlled as the bloc will reo-

pen in July, U.S. media reported Friday.

After several rounds of negotiation in recent weeks, EU senior diplomats in Brussels have come up with a final list of

the safe countries from which travelers are welcomed to the bloc, U.S. media outlet The New York Times reported.

As the United States has registered the most COVID-19

cases and deaths in the world, it is “highly unlikely” to be included in the final list, the newspaper said.

The exclusion of the United States, an important source of tourism to the EU, “represented a stinging rebuke” to the U.S. administration’s management of the pandemic, the report said.

The 27-member bloc plans to reopen on July 1 after months of lockdown, according to the report. Russia is also among dozens of other countries that are considered by the EU diplomats as too risky.

Countries on the safe list were judged on their infection rates and the credibility of their reporting data, among other criteria, and the list will be updated every two weeks, it said.

The safe list is not final, and still needs to be formalized in the member states’ governments, the report said, adding the EU officials “did not expect the list to change.”

SOURCE: Xinhua

A ROAD TO RECOVERY

Under pressure Johnson to launch UK post-virus spending drive

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson will this week pledge to spend billions on infrastructure to revive the British economy in the face of the coronavirus crisis, media reports and ministers said Sunday.

In an interview with the Mail on Sunday newspaper, Johnson said there would be no return to controversial austerity policies practised by his Conservative Party over the past decade.

“This has been a huge, huge shock to the country but we’re going to bounce back very well,” he said. “We want to build our way back to health.”

Johnson is expected to outline plans in a speech on Tuesday, already dubbed “Project Speed”, with a pledge to build new roads, schools and hospitals to revive the flailing British economy.

“If Covid was a lightning flash, we’re about to have the thunderclap of the economic consequences. We’re going to be

ready,” he said. “We are absolutely not going back to the austerity of 10 years ago.”

‘A road to recovery’

Chancellor (finance minister) Rishi Sunak is expected to make an economic statement next month on spending plans.

The British economy is under severe pressure due to the global pandemic. The number of unemployed stands at almost three million, and is expected to rise further, and while the economy contracted by 20 in April as the country went into coronavirus lockdown. The main opposition Labour Party said unemployment figures could pass those seen under former Conservative prime minister Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s – when they peaked at 3.3 million – unless businesses are helped out, according to a report in The Observer newspaper.

Interviewed on Sky News,

Home Secretary Priti Patel said: “We are building now very much a road to recovery, a roadmap focusing on infrastructure... focused on roads, broadband, the type of things that effectively help to create jobs but also provides services, and growth.”

The Justice Department an-

nounced on Sunday plans to build four new prisons over the next six years. Johnson’s administration is under huge pressure following criticism of its handling of the coronavirus crisis in the UK -- and how it plans to help economic recovery.

SOURCE: AFP



Commuters wear facemasks as they travel on the London Underground in London on June 12, 2020 as lockdown measures are eased during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: (TOLGA AKMEN / AFP)

REOPENING

Sri Lanka lifts coronavirus lockdown, says ‘no community spread’

SRI Lanka’s nationwide lockdown was lifted on Sunday (June 28) after a selective curfew a month ago was reimposed during a surge in coronavirus infections, the country’s president said.

The island nation imposed the lockdown on March 20 and lifted it gradually over the past two months, although a nighttime curfew remained in place.

It reintroduced tighter restrictions in late May and early June to curb large gatherings for the funeral of a popular government minister and for a religious festival.

“The curfew has completely been lifted effective from today,” President Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s office said in a statement. Health officials said new infections reported since April 30 were from Sri Lankans stranded in the Middle East who were brought home on special flights and quarantined.

A cluster in a navy camp was controlled with the facility still in lockdown, they said.

“There has been no community spread of the virus and the infections at the Welisara navy camp are now contained,” a health official told AFP. Air and sea borders remained closed, with international flights suspended. The authorities plan to reopen Sri Lanka’s borders on Aug 1, but the date could be reviewed due to the imported cases, the official added.

Sri Lanka will also hold its parliamentary elections at the start of August after they were postponed due to the pandemic.

Around 2,000 infections including 11 deaths have been recorded in the South Asian nation so far, according to government figures.

SOURCE: AFP

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TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN VIRTUAL SPORTS

Para esports take root, offering physical, mental benefits

AS ESPORTS continue to grow in popularity, the video game-based competitions are being used in Japan to help rehabilitate people with disabilities and promote their engagement with society.

Experts have highlighted the ability of online games to provide physical and mental stimulation, including for people with severe impairments.

Following the launch of a dedicated tournament last year, one competitor has already made a name for himself as a para esports player.

At the end of May, Yuji Yoshino, who competes under the name yujikun, topped a field of 36 players in an action game at the second edition of the “ePARA”



Players in wheelchairs play in barrier-free esports competition ePARA in November 2019. (Photo courtesy of ePARA). PHOTO: KYODO

barrier-free esports tournament, which mainly targets people with disabilities.

The 25-year-old was born with prune belly syndrome, a

rare genetic birth defect, and has difficulty with his urinary functions. He has become a pioneer in para esports since being hired in August by Tokyo-based

IT company Base Inc. as part of a recruitment program to promote the sport.

While he had felt reluctant to take part in competitions because of his condition, which causes a noticeable bulge in his stomach, he said he wanted to make a difference.

“I want to build on my success in order to gain understanding for (people with disabilities) and create an environment for everyone to achieve success,” he said.

In addition to video game competitions, the ePARA tournament included a discussion session for players with disabilities to exchange opinions about employment with company officials in charge of recruitment.

The organizers said they hoped company officials would see people with impairments participating actively and notice their strengths, leading to employment opportunities.

Since the inaugural tournament in November, four participants have found jobs at call centers and other workplaces.

Daiki Kato, who headed the organizing committee, said attributes needed for esports would translate to an office environment.

“The skills and ability to communicate with others, which are necessary traits in esports, are also traits that companies look for in office workers,” Kato, 38, said.

SOURCE: Kyodo

ALLEGED TORTURE

‘George Floyds of India’: outrage mounts over police custody deaths

THE deaths of a father and son from alleged torture at the hands of police have sparked outrage across India, with many drawing parallels with the killing of George Floyd in the United States.

Their case has thrown a new spotlight on police brutality just weeks after the killing of Floyd, an African-American man, by a white police officer in the US led to worldwide protests.

J. Jayaraj, 58, and Bennicks Immanuel, 31, were arrested on June 19 and accused of keeping their store open past permitted

hours in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, which has reimposed a lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus. They died in hospital a few days later, officials said, with their family alleging in written complaints that they were severely abused by police and had suffered rectal bleeding.

Two policemen involved in the alleged torture were suspended, the state’s Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami said.

He added Sunday that the case would be transferred to federal agency the Central Bureau

of Investigation, pending the approval of the Madras High Court.

The deaths in the small town of Sathankulam triggered a protest last week and shopkeepers across Tamil Nadu staged a strike on Wednesday.

“Reeling from what I’m hearing. Absolutely stunned, sad and angry... the guilty must not be allowed to go unpunished,” tweeted Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Saturday.

“Let’s demand for the same justice we did for George Floyd,” said actress Krystle D’Souza.



The coffins of J. Jayaraj and Bennicks Immanuel were carried through the crowd in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. PHOTO: AFP

State politician, social activist and lawyer Jignesh Mevani wrote that the “George Floyds of India are far too many”.

“Will Indians march on streets in thousands like in Amer-

ica?” he tweeted. Rahul Gandhi, a leader of the opposition Congress party, described it as a “tragedy when our protectors turn into oppressors”.

SOURCE: AFP

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME

Pandemic leads to rise in Canada fatal drug overdoses



A pedestrian walks past a passed-out drug user on June 25, 2020 in Ottawa, Canada; an emergency government pandemic payment has been used by some addicts to buy drugs, and overdoses have surged. PHOTO: AFP

A homeless Canadian with a drug addiction, Luc Laplante has lost three friends -- Dave, Emily and Pat -- to opioid overdoses in the last three months of the coronavirus pandemic.

Partly to blame, he said, is a government emergency programme that put temptation in the way of users by giving them a sudden cash infusion with few questions asked.

“People have been applying for the government COVID-19 aid, using it to binge on drugs and overdosing,” he said, just hours after surviving a dangerously

high dose of fentanyl himself.

It left him with a painful reminder: he fell while high, suffering a bloody scrape along the right side of his face.

Addicts and outreach workers say several factors have contributed to a surge in overdoses during the pandemic: physical isolation amid lockdowns, reduced access to addiction services such as safe injection sites, and shifts in health care resources from serving addicts to treating COVID-related illnesses.

- ‘People went on benders’ - The Trudeau government

introduced a monthly Can\$2,000 (\$1,500) emergency benefit in March to help Canadians left jobless by the pandemic, as businesses were ordered closed to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The government simplified the application process to quickly funnel payments to Canadians in need. Applicants are required only to answer a few questions and certify their veracity. “With Can\$2,000 in their pocket, people just went on benders,” Laplante said.

SOURCE: AFP

Effective economic relief plan is helping economy recovery

THE global COVID-19 pandemic is dealing a severe blow to Myanmar's economy. Economic growth in a baseline scenario is projected to drop from 6.8 per cent in FY2018/19 to just 0.5 per cent in FY2019/20, according to the World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor, released on 25 June.

The 2019-2020 fiscal year began on 1 October, 2019 and ends on 20 September, 2020.

If the pandemic is protracted, the economy could contract by as much as 2.5 per cent in FY2019/20, with the expected recovery in 2020/21 subject to further downside risks, said the report.

The report also said that robust policy actions are urgently needed. It will be important for the government to boost the effectiveness of the CERP by ensuring flexibility in spending targets, extending support to smaller enterprises and ensuring all poor households can benefit from the plan.

In efforts to lessen the major economic impacts from the global pandemic and achieve recovery of the economy, the Union Government established an emergency soft-loan of K100 billion in March with an interest rate of 1 per cent for a term of one year for small businesses in tourism and garment manufacturing affected

by the global pandemic. Under its COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), a short-term plan, launched in April, the government raised the loan amount to K200 billion- K500 billion, to be disbursed before the end of the year.

We don't feel small as a country in combating COVID-19. We can successfully confront all challenges, even though we are not among the wealthiest countries in the region.

The Central Bank of Myanmar and private banks have reduced the interest rate; medicines and medical equipment have been exempted from commercial tax; licence fees imposed on hotels and tourism enterprises have been exempted up to the end of this year amidst disruption of supply chains and travel bans which has negatively impacted the country's SMEs, wholesale and retail trade, tourism-related services and transportation.

For the economic recovery funds, Myanmar received the loans of US\$700 million from the International Monetary Fund, \$270 million from Japan, \$250 million from the World Bank and \$30 million from the Asian Development Bank, in total \$1.25 billion.

But, the conditions and requirements set by the government for most small-scale retail and wholesale businesses would be reconsidered to ensure the businesses get the loans easily.

The most important thing is that we must contain the current achievement in fighting against the coronavirus. The country's 299 cases of infections up to 28th June is not large, compared with other countries. Of them, 216 recovered with 202 being discharged from the hospital. The achievements came thanks to the united efforts of the people and authorities; we should be grateful that were able to contain the spread of the virus and save lives. It means we are also working together to save our economy.

We don't feel small as a country in combating COVID-19. We can successfully confront all challenges, even though we are not among the wealthiest countries in the region.



COVID-19 WORLDWIDE

Global virus infections top 10 million

GLOBAL infections from the novel coronavirus have surpassed 10 million as the rate of new cases surges, according to an AFP tally on Sunday.

One million new cases were recorded in only six days, according to the AFP count, just as countries start to unwind punishing lockdowns that have devastated their economies and thrown millions out of work.

The worldwide death toll from the disease that first emerged in China about six months ago is also nearing 500,000 as fears grow of a full-blown second wave.

The United States, the hardest hit country, has surpassed 2.5 million cases alone, as efforts to reopen the world's economic powerhouse were set back by a jump in new infections in states such as Florida.

Infections are also up in some other parts of the world that have reopened, with Europe now registering over 2.6 million, according to the AFP tally based on official sources.



Texas governor Greg Abbott said he had allowed bars to reopen too soon. PHOTO: AFP

'Severe and complicated'

China on Sunday imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding Beijing to contain a fresh coronavirus cluster.

Beijing city official Xu Heji-an told reporters that the situation was "severe and complicated," warning that the city needed to continue tracing the spread of the virus.

The tension between reopening battered economies -- efforts pushed in the US by President Donald Trump -- and public health is a source of debate in nearly every country.

On Saturday alone the US recorded more than 43,000 new cases, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. US deaths now exceed 125,000, approximately one-quarter the world total of almost 499,000.

Across the Atlantic, the EU on Saturday pushed back a decision

FINANCIAL AID SCHEMES

Japan local gov'ts financially aiding virus-hit art, culture sector

MUNICIPALITIES across Japan have been offering a range of novel financial aid schemes to help those engaged in cultural and artistic activities ride out the coronavirus pandemic.

While the sector is usually considered low priority for public support, it has been particularly hard hit by social distancing steps to thwart the spread of the virus, resulting in loss of audiences, performances and customers.

The city of Kanazawa in central Japan's Ishikawa Prefecture has set aside part of its fiscal 2020 extra budget to support the training of geisha, or women who dance, sing and provide other forms of entertainment at a traditional-style Japanese party.

Other support schemes in the country range from subsidizing online streaming services as alternatives to performances at theaters or music halls, to producing an

original television program which pays local artists to be featured.

The Kanazawa city government has provided 240,000 yen (\$2,240) each to support the training of 38 individual geishas. The municipality does not require them to submit receipts for their expenses.

Geishas in Kanazawa are "an important piece of our culture and an essential part of local tourism," a city official said. "We hope (the financial aid) will help them cultivate their art in this difficult time."

The city of Hakodate in northern Japan's Hokkaido is creating a special program on cable television network, partly financing its production costs with 5.48 million yen it allocated in its fiscal 2020 supplementary budget.

Local artists as well as chefs who appear on the show will get paid by the municipality.

Even though the emergency

declaration over the virus pandemic was fully lifted in late May in Japan, theaters and auditoriums under guidelines introduced the same month are being asked to leave seats free between audience members to prevent the spread of the virus. It is unclear when audiences will be able to return to full capacity.

The central government created a scheme in its second extra budget for fiscal 2020 enacted by parliament earlier this month to offer up to 25 million yen in subsidies for online streaming services for concerts and other art performances held without audiences.

Even before the state's move, the city of Sapporo in Hokkaido and Akita Prefecture in northeastern Japan began financing free online performances without physical audiences.

Osaka Prefecture and the city of Fukuoka in southwestern

Japan have been subsidizing the installation of shooting equipment and production costs for virtual shows at small music venues and theaters.

To support young artists, Aichi Prefecture in central Japan has announced a plan to increase the amount of money allocated to purchasing artwork for the Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art by 100 million yen over the next three years.

Also using donations, the Aichi government has additionally decided to grant financial aid of up to 200,000 yen each to individual artists.

The city of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, has been covering commissions incurred when art or culture groups try to raise funds in crowdfunding schemes.

Kobe in western Japan's Hyogo Prefecture has also established

sion on a list of "safe countries" from which travellers can visit Europe -- a list which could exclude the US.

Meanwhile stars including Coldplay, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson lent support to a European Commission-led drive Saturday that raised 6.15 billion euros (\$6.9 billion) to support vaccine research and help make it available to poorer countries.

In India, densely populated cities have been particularly hard hit. The country set a daily record Saturday with 18,500 new cases and 385 deaths. Total infections are at 509,000, with more than 15,600 deaths.

In the Middle East, the governor of Bethlehem announced that the Palestinian city would temporarily close due to rising infections. Iran, which has struggled to curb its outbreak even as it gradually lifted restrictions from April, has launched a mask-wearing campaign.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned Saturday that Iran's economic problems would worsen if the coronavirus spreads unchecked.

The disease also continues to rampage through Latin America, with Peru topping 9,000 deaths Saturday.

Brazil -- the second hardest-hit country after the US -- recorded 990 deaths on Saturday, the highest toll in the world that day, while Mexico recorded the second highest at 719.

'Explosion' in Florida

In the US state of Florida, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has conceded there has been an "explosion" in new cases.

On Saturday the "Sunshine State" notched 9,585 cases in 24 hours, a new daily record.

The average age of people infected has dropped sharply -- to 33 from 65 two months ago. Young people frustrated by months of confinement have poured back to the state's beaches, boardwalks and bars, often without masks and seemingly unconcerned about social distancing.

Miami announced beaches will close over the July 4 holiday weekend and bars are also shutting their doors.

SOURCE: AFP



COVID-19:
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 28th June, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan (South and East) and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been sent to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Polish populists tested as country votes



Polish President Andrzej Duda is a key ally for the government. **PHOTO: AFP**

WARSAW — The future of Poland's populist right-wing government hung in the balance as Poles voted on Sunday in round one of a tight presidential race

that was delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The frontrunner is incumbent Andrzej Duda, 48, who is backed by the governing Law and

Justice (PiS) party.

Duda is seen as a key ally by US President Donald Trump but his policies have raised hackles in the European Union.

Polls indicate the first round will prove inconclusive and there will be a neck-and-neck run-off on July 12 between Duda and Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, a liberal from the Civic Platform (PO) opposition party. The campaign has been dominated by concerns over democracy and bread and butter issues as Poland faces its first recession since the end of communism.

Voters in masks were seen waiting in socially distanced queues at polling stations across the country.

"I voted for Trzaskowski of course! Why? For democracy, the judiciary and respect for minorities," said Joanna Ugniewska, 66, after casting her ballot at a polling station in a school in Warsaw city centre.

Poland's government has implemented popular social welfare payments in recent years but has also endorsed polarising legislation, especially judicial reforms. — AFP ■

Macron braces for setback in French local polls

PARIS — French people went to the polls wearing face masks Sunday for the final round of municipal elections expected to yield a low voter turnout and a rebuke for the party of President Emmanuel Macron.

The opening round was held amid high contagion anxiety on March 15 just as the COVID-19 epidemic was gaining deadly momentum, but the second phase, scheduled for March 22, was put off after France went into lockdown. Despite a record abstention rate of 55 per cent, the first

round yielded a decisive outcome in some 85 per cent, or 30,000, French communes. This means political power remains up for grabs Sunday in about 5,000 undecided municipal councils including the key centres of Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, and Strasbourg.

Some 16.5 million people are registered to cast a ballot, with those turning out required to wear a face mask and urged to bring their own pens to minimise coronavirus contagion risk.

Analysts expect the election will confirm that Macron's



Plexi-glass protections against coronavirus are installed in a polling station before French local polls which seem set to deliver a rebuke to President Macron's party. **PHOTO: AFP**

centrist Republic on the Move (LREM) party — founded by the president ahead of his 2017

election win — has failed to gain a strong foothold at local level. — AFP ■

Malawi opposition leader sworn in as president after vote re-run



Lazarus Chakwera won the re-run election with almost 59 per cent of the vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

LILONGWE — Malawi's opposition leader Lazarus Chakwera was sworn in Sunday as the southern African country's new president after winning the re-run of a hotly disputed election.

It was a dramatic reversal of fortune for the incumbent Peter Mutharika, whose victory in a May 2019 ballot was overturned by the Constitutional Court over fraud allegations.

Chakwera, a former evan-

gelist preacher, was declared the winner of the election replay held on Tuesday with almost 59 per cent of the vote, according to results announced late Saturday.

Malawi is only the second African country south of the Sahara to have presidential poll results overturned in court, after Kenya in 2017.

And it is the first time in the region that a vote re-run has led to the defeat of an incumbent leader. — AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

France's Assa Traore emerges as global figure in anti-racism movement

PARIS — Until the death of her brother Adama in French police custody four years ago, Assa Traore had never been someone who campaigned for a cause.

Today, the 35-year-old mother of three is an international figure in the fight against police violence and racism, thrust into the heart of the debate by the death in Minneapolis last month of George Floyd.

And on Sunday, Assa Traore, who has been dubbed the French Angela Davis, will receive a BET award, a prize awarded by an American television channel to African-American or minority figures.

"A reward for everything we have done in four years and which gives us strength for the future," Traore told AFP, dressed in her "Justice for Adama" t-shirt.

For four years, she has campaigned, organised demonstrations, spoken out publicly and given numerous interviews. — AFP ■

U.S. fighter jets intercept Russian reconnaissance aircraft off Alaska: NORAD

WASHINGTON — U.S. fighter jets on Saturday intercepted four Russian reconnaissance aircraft off the coast of Alaska, according to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). NORAD tweeted that U.S. F-22 fighter jets, supported by tanker planes and an early warning and control aircraft, intercepted four Russian Tu-142 reconnaissance aircraft entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) on Saturday.

"The Russian aircraft remained in international airspace and at no time did they enter United States sovereign airspace," said NORAD.

According to NORAD, the Tu-142s came within 65 nautical miles south of the Alaskan Aleutian island chain and loitered in the ADIZ for nearly eight hours. — Xinhua ■

Japan objects to US proposal of South Korea’s inclusion in G7

TOKYO — Japan has objected to a suggestion by US President Donald Trump calling for South Korea to be added into the G7, arguing that Seoul does not share the views of G7 on China and North Korean issues, Kyodo reported citing diplomatic sources.

Trump had on May 30 tabled the idea for inviting Russia, South Korea, Australia and India to attend this year’s G7 summit. Trump had called the group “very outdated” and it no longer “properly represents what’s going on in the world” and hence wants to expand the current membership, according to the Tokyo based news agency.

The Kyodo reported that Tokyo had through a high-level Japanese government official registered its objections immediately after Trump’s statement.

The news agency pointed out that for Japan, South Korea’s inclusion would mean losing its status as the sole Asian member of the G-7, which brings together Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States plus the European Union.

The summit was initially scheduled for June but postponed to September due to the coronavirus pandemic.—ANI ■



U.S President Donald Trump, right, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attend a bilateral meeting at the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, Aug. 25, 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Thailand’s deputy prime minister elected leader of ruling party

BANGKOK — Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwon was elected Saturday to take the helm of the ruling Palang Pracharath Party, officials said.

Party members installed Prawit to the leadership post during a general meeting held Saturday at a convention hall in Nonthaburi Province, northwest of Bangkok. He replaces the acting leader and Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana.

The move comes amid interparty feuding that sparked the mass resignation of more than half of the party’s executive board earlier this month, and is likely to prompt Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to reshuffle his Cabinet.

Prawit, who has been working with the party since 2019 as chief strategist, did not attend the Saturday meeting that altered the party administration. Key party figures see him as being able to bring solidarity back to the fractured party.

In 2017, while serving as defense minister, Prawit became embroiled in a scandal after photos were posted to Facebook, showing him wearing 24 different luxury watches since the 2014 military coup that were not declared as assets. But, the nation’s anti-graft agency cleared him of any wrongdoing last month.

Prawit served in the military for four decades, rising to the position of commander in chief before retiring in 2005.— Kyodo ■



Thailand’s Defense Minister Gen. Prawit Wongsuwon is seen at ASEAN defence ministers meeting plus 15 on November 4, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. PHOTO: KYODO /FILE

PIA grounds 141 pilots for using ‘dubious licences’

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has grounded 141 pilots whom it found to have used unfair means in obtaining their professional licences, a spokesman for the national flag carrier said on Saturday.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Khan told Express Tribune that the aviation ministry had issued a list identifying 262 pilots with fake/suspicious licences, which also included 10 pilots associated with Serene Air and nine with Air Blue. In a letter to the Aviation Ministry, PIA Chief Executive Officer Air Marshal Arshad Malik said steps were being taken for the safety of flights and passengers.

The letter also mentioned that the 141 pilots grounded by the national carrier included 17 who were identified for their dubious credentials by the national carrier itself around a year and a half ago.— ANI ■

Invitation for Bids – Investigation, Design and Construction Supervision for LNG Terminal Works of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of Union of Myanmar

Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Company Limited, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for Investigation, Design and Construction Supervision of LNG Terminal Works as part of Integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Scopes of Works

As a part of the integrated LNG to Power Plant in Mee Lin Gyaing, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it is proposed to construct a LNG Terminal with the Annual Design Throughput Capacity of 2 million tons, consisting of a special 80,000-175,000m3 LNG Pier and a Workboat Wharf (Heavy Lift Wharf), together with the Jetty, Approach Bridge and Embankment.

Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in the bidding:

- Special design qualification class A in waterway transportation sector, or comprehensive design qualification class A for all sectors;
- Particular qualification class A for geotechnical engineering and hydrogeological exploration, or integrated qualification class A for engineering investigation;
- Capability of design and investigation in harbor and waterway engineering, participation in at least one (1) similar-scale oil and gas terminal design contract and at least one (1) similar jetty design contract since 2015;
- At least three (3) terminal design projects with the construction scale not less than 100 thousand tons within the last five (5) years.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in Chinese could be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 2,000 CNY (Two Thousand in Chinese Yuan) within office hours from June 29th to July 3rd, 2020 by the qualified bidders who should:

- send a written application through email to the Email Address: liuhan@urec.com.cn (cc: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn), and appendixes in the email should include the evidences to demonstrate the qualifications and experiences, the certificate of legal representative or the power of attorney of legal representative, and the effective identity certificate of legal representative or authorized representative;
- Remit the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents to the following designated account:
Name of payee: Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited
Bank of deposit: Bank of China, Yunnan Branch
Number of account: 1340 0041 7658
- Upon receipt of the specified certificates and the non-refundable fee, UREC will send the Bidding Documents in hard copy and in electronic version to the address given by the qualified bidder who had submitted the specified certificates and paid the fee.

The language used for the purpose of the bidding should be the Chinese. The Bids should be submitted in the sealed envelopes before 16:00 July 28th, 2020 (local time).

Refer to the Bidding Documents for details of the requirements for Preparation and Submission of Bid together with Security.

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Huawei controversy opens field for 5G challengers

TOKYO — With growing pressure to keep China’s Huawei out of 5G network development, it could be time for firms like Japan’s NEC and South Korea’s Samsung to shine.

Washington has pushed allies to bar Huawei, a Chinese telecom giant, from building next-generation 5G mobile networks, claiming its equipment can be used to spy for Beijing.

Huawei denies the charges, but US pressure has prompted an about-turn in Britain.

The government had already pledged to cut the firm out of the most sensitive “core” elements of 5G that access personal data, and is now reportedly pushing for plans to end Hua-



Technicians of South Korean telecom operator KT check an antenna for the 5G mobile network service in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

wei’s involvement in Britain’s 5G infrastructure by 2023. But excluding Huawei is not without challenges, because there are currently only two alternatives in

Europe for 5G equipment such as antennas and relay masts: Finland’s Nokia and Sweden’s Ericsson. Britain has encouraged Washington to form

a club of 10 democratic nations that could develop its own 5G technology, but there has been little movement so far. — AFP ■

Wirecard to continue operating despite filing for insolvency

BERLIN — German payments provider Wirecard said Saturday that it would continue to operate despite filing for insolvency following a vast accounting fraud scandal.

The group admitted this week that 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) missing from its accounts likely does not exist, in a spiralling saga that has stunned Germany and

evoked memories of the Enron scandal in the United States. Just hours after Wirecard opened insolvency proceedings with a court in Munich on Thursday,

Auditing company EY accused the company of carrying out “elaborate and sophisticated fraud” across the world “with a deliberate aim of deception”. — AFP ■

China’s Changqing Oilfield to produce 63 mln tonnes oil equivalent in 2025

XI’AN — PetroChina Changqing Oilfield Company, a subsidiary of China’s top oil and gas producer PetroChina, is expected to produce 63 million tonnes of oil equivalent of crude oil and natural gas in 2025.

Last year, its oil and gas output reached 57.03 million tonnes of oil equivalent, the seventh consecutive year that production reached the 50-million-tonne level, said Fu Suotang, general manager of PetroChina

Changqing Oilfield Company. The oil and gas fields of Changqing Oilfield cover Shaanxi, Gansu and Shanxi provinces as well as Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolia Autonomous

Region. The huge amount of crude oil and natural gas produced since the firm’s establishment in 1970 has played an important role in safeguarding the country’s energy security. — Xinhua ■

Online recruitment gives students insufficient info on firms: survey

TOKYO — Both students and company officials feel that online recruitment, introduced amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, fails to provide adequate information about what companies are actually like, a survey conducted by university students shows.

The survey of students and recruitment staff who have experienced online interviews for new graduates also pointed to an increased risk of employees quitting jobs early on in their careers.

The results were compiled by Reita Shibai and Tomofumi Sato, students of Rikkyo University in Tokyo who were seeking jobs during the survey period and eventually secured job offers.

In the survey, only

43.4 percent of students and 55.1 percent of company staff in charge of recruitment said that online interviews aided applicants in getting a grasp of working in a company.

The figures were 35.1 percentage points and 23.7 points lower than those for in-person interviews.

The students and company officials responded that it was harder to get a feel for the atmosphere of a company, including job descriptions and what kind of people were working there, through online recruitment.

Most companies have switched to online rather than in-person seminars and interviews in response to the spread of the coronavirus.

— Kyodo ■



A Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. interviewer meets a student online in Tokyo on June 1, 2020, the government-set start day for companies to hold interviews with job-hunting college seniors. Many companies have switched from face-to-face meetings to online interviews amid continuing worries about the new coronavirus. PHOTO: KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (261W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (261W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-6-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1121 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1121 S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-6-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1030 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1030 W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-6-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Three China-developed ARJ21 jetliners delivered to airlines

THREE major Chinese airlines received their first ARJ21 planes on Sunday in Shanghai, marking the acceptance of the Chinese jet by mainstream international airlines.

This is the first time that the three airlines, namely Air China, China Eastern and China Southern Airlines, have received ARJ21 jets. According to a statement sent to Global Times, each airline received one jet on Sunday, with each expecting to accept three in total by the end of this year. The ARJ21

jet is a 78–90 seat regional aircraft manufactured by the Chinese state-owned aerospace company Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC). It was first developed back in 2002. The three models delivered to Air China, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines all adopt the 90-seat all-economy class configuration, the statement said.

The three airlines had been preparing extensively before accepting the ARJ21 into their fleet. Air China set up an ARJ group in De-

cember last year to prepare for personnel training and logistic support.

China Eastern opened a new base at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport on February 26, which operates mainly domestic commercial jets such as ARJ21 and C919. China Southern Airlines plans to operate the jet in Guangzhou in South China's Guangdong Province where it will accumulate comprehensive operating experience in providing an accessible and comfortable flying experience to customers.—Xinhua



ARJ21 jetliners with newly painted liveries are parked at a COMAC assembly base in Pudong New Area, east China's Shanghai, June 28, 2020. Three China-developed ARJ21 jetliners have been delivered to three Chinese airlines here on Sunday. The ARJ21 is China's first turbo-fan regional passenger jetliner manufactured by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC). **PHOTO: (XINHUA/DING TING)**

Turkish powerships ride wave of energy crises

ANKARA — A Turkish company's expertise in turning freighters built for carrying coal or sand into mobile power stations

is proving to be an antidote to woes brought onto energy supply projects by the coronavirus.

Floating electricity



Floating electricity plants known as powerships come into their own when conflicts or other crises make the construction of land-based power stations difficult. **PHOTO: AFP**

plants known as powerships come into their own when conflicts or other crises make the construction of land-based power stations difficult.

The novel coronavirus pandemic is such a crisis, having forced many companies to shut down and bringing construction to a halt.

Enter Karpowership, which has been building floating plants for almost 15 years by converting old freight ships, making it a leading player in the industry with a fleet of 25

powerships.

The pandemic has created a windfall for the Turkish company by playing to the advantages of its floating power plants, especially the unbeatable delivery times: 60 days maximum to anywhere in the world.

Lockdown measures taken by several countries for months have obstructed progress of conventional power plant projects, whose construction already takes several years even in normal times.—AFP ■

Curtailed hajj compounds Saudi economic woes

RIYADH — Vacant religious sites. Abandoned pilgrim tents. Lifeless hotels. A stunning emptiness -- and fears of economic ruin -- haunt the usually bustling city of Mecca after Saudi authorities curtailed the hajj pilgrimage over coronavirus.

Islam's holiest city usually hosts millions of pilgrims for the annual rite, but the kingdom has barred overseas visitors from this year's event, scheduled for late July.

The hajj and the lesser

umrah pilgrimage together rake in some \$12 billion, keeping the economy humming in Mecca, home to two million people and marble-bedecked skyscrapers towering over Islam's most sacred sites.

A construction boom in recent years has added shopping malls, apartments and luxury hotels, some offering spectacular views of the sacred Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure in the Grand Mosque towards which Muslims around the world pray.—AFP ■

Notice for Change of Distribution

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor have been changed to **Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd.** for the following insecticides

No.	Trade name	Active ingredient	Manufacturer	Former Distributor	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Detrans 1209 5 ME	Dimefluthrin 5% w/w	Sumitomo Chemical Enviro-Agro Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2019-2103
2	Gokilaht TG	Cyphenothrin 93% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-068
3	Gokilaht-S TG	Cyphenothrin 93% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-441
4	Pesguard FG 161 EC	D-tetramethrin 4% + Cyphenothrin 12% EC	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-208
5	Permethrin 93% TG	Permethrin 93%TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-777
6	Sumilarv 0.5 G	Pyriproxyfen 0.5% GR	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-368
7	Sumithrin TG	Phenothrin 92% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-367
8	Etoc TG	Prallethrin 90% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-365
9	Sumilarv TG	Pyriproxyfen 95% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-369
10	Neo-pynamin Forte TG	Tetramethrin 92% TG (min)	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-066
11	Neo-pynamin TG	Tetramethrin 92% TG (min)	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-072
12	Olyset Net (Bed Net)	Permethrin 2% w/w Net	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2009-687
13	Pesguard Alpha 5 FL	Esfenvalerate 5.0% FL	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-444
14	Sumithion L-40-S	Fenitrothion 40% + Tetramethrin 1% L	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-040
15	Wazary 10 FL	Fenvalerate 10% FL	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2012-443
16	Sumione TG	Metofluthrin TG 93% TG	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. Japan	Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.	Full	F2011-685
17	Sumione 5 EC	Metofluthrin 5% EC	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. Japan	Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.	Full	F2011-686
18	Gokilaht-S 5EC	d-d-T cyphenothrin 5% EC	Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd (SCA)	Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.	Full	F2018-1415
19	Sumithion 20CS	Fenitrothion 20% w/w CS	Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd (SCA)	Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.	Full	F2018-1416
20	Detrans 1209 TG	Dimefluthrin 95%w/w (min) TG	Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd (SCA)	Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.	Full	F2018-1418
21	Piperonyl Butoxide TG	Piperonyl butoxide 90.0% w/w (min)	Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd (SCA)	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2018-776
22	Pralle 50% MUP	Imiprothrin 50% MUP	Sumitomo Chemical Asia Pte Ltd (SCA)	Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.	Full	F2018-938
23	Xterm Termite Bait	Bistrifluron 1% w/w	Sumitomo Chemical (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Provisional	2015-1417

Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd.

No. 46/A, U Lun Maung Street, 7th miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

Amazing mural painting in temples of Sarle Village

By Thiha the Traveller

THERE were many places in our country that were depicted as Little Bagan or Second Bagan. But temples in Sarle Village where I'd been were very much like the temples in Bagan. For those who had been to Bagan, who are interested in mural painting and who love ancient cultures, temples in Sarle Village will be treasures of immense value.

Sarle Village

I get to know Sarle Village from "Record of ancient buildings in Myingun, Kyundaw and Salay region" published by Ministry of Culture and articles written by Saya Yanaung (Dwe). According to locals it is a region

where there were many blacksmith works and indeed there were many evidence of it. Many iron works and swords were made here in such abundance that the products of blacksmiths could even be traded with salts. Exchanging (le in Myanmar) salt (sar in Myanmar) with sword (dar in Myanmar) in Myanmar language was "Sar Dar Le" which gradually change to Sar Le and then finally to Salay Village. When I was there Salay Village was quite a big village. With roads in the village constructed systematically it was quite a pleasant place and I wish that it could become a place for Community Based Tourism (CBT).

Bagan near Salay Village that wasn't Bagan

Salay Village wasn't much far from Ayeyawady River. Right at the entrance of the village were three Bagan type temples. From there on there were clusters of ancient pagodas and temples. It seems to have been neglected for a considerable time in the past and there were pagoda robbers who dug for enshrined valuables from the Buddha images and dais on which the images were placed. Just like the grave robbers of ancient Egypt pyramids who dug out valuable ancient relics. As such most of the Buddha images and the dais were being repaired.

But it was a great pleasure



Ancient Buddha Image. PHOTO THIHA.

to see mural paintings in most of the temples and pagodas remains just as it was painted on in the ancient time. The temples and pagodas here were considered to be constructed about a century after the Bagan pago-

das and temples were built so it all must have been constructed around 12th to 13th century. The pagodas and temples were in a cluster of three or four located on small hills.

I was trekking from one



PHOTO THIHA.



was to Ayeyawady River. I can also see farmlands dotted with clusters of ancient pagodas and temples too.

Ko Myint Swe who was a Salay villager as well as a staff of archaeology research department said that there were about 40 pagodas and temples there. It was nice to see that there were archaeology research department personnel in all the pagodas and temples to preserve and protect the ancient buildings and mural paintings. Entries and exist at the pagodas and temples with doors that were kept locked when no one was around.

As most pagodas and temples were of similar design, I visited only about 15.

How to go there?

Salay Village can be reached via Chauak and Salay town. I took a road from Salay town to Shinpin Sa Kyo Pagoda that was an asphalt covered paved road. The road was just about two-lane wide and a bit narrow but there wasn't much car traffic. However, be careful of motorcycles just as on any rural roads. Once in awhile you



Ancient artwork.

cluster to another viewing and observing it one by one. There were some pagodas or temples that are two tiers or two story and with cave like inside. There were some that can be ascended or entered while some had a strong smell of bats inside that prevent one from ascending or entering it. I entered and ascended one. Only when I was on top that I realize how close I

may encounter an ox or cattle drawn farm cart. After the pagoda the road became a narrower earth and rock road so the going is a bit time consuming from thereon even though the distance wasn't very far. Some rains cause the road to become a bit muddy making the short trip harder and longer. During summer, the road could be dusty so be prepared for this too if you



Ancient Buddha temples, in Sale village, Myingun, Magway Region. **PHOTO THIHA.**

are going there in summer.

The road from Yenangyaung was said to be shorter taking you through the Yenangyaung Industrial Zone.

Why visit Salay Village?

The main reasons to visit Salay Village are

- A place where Bagan-like pagodas and temples can be seen
- The pagodas and

temples there were just about the same age as Bagan but had more mural paintings remaining just as it was first painted

- More cement artworks also remain just as it was first made

The visit to Salay Village during my trip to central Myanmar was a very satisfactory

one. I was able to observe our ancient art works and historical relics. It was also thanks to Ko Tun and Ma Khaing of Salay House, writer and guide Saya U Latt as well as Ko Myint Swe from archaeology research department who helped in any possible way toward making my trip to Salay Village a pleasant and informative one.

(Translated by Handytips)



PHOTO THIHA.



Myanmar pool star Phone Myint Kyaw. **PHOTO: KO AR TT'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Phone Myint Kyaw loses in Elite Tour 2020 8 Ball tournament's first zone

MYANMAR pool star Phone Myint Kyaw lost in the first stage of Elite Tour 2020 8 Ball tournament's first zone in China on 27 June.

In the Elite Tour 2020 8 Ball tournament that began on 27 June, Phone Myint Kyaw was defeated 13-15 by Chinese player

Yang fan, whom he beat in Chinese 8 Ball Game. The elite tour's first zone was taking place from 27 June to 1 July, and other three zones' competitions are scheduled to take place on 25-29 July, 25-29 August, and 25-29 September, while its final is scheduled to be played on 8-11 November.

The Myanmar pool star took part in the elite tour competition while he was waiting for Chinese 8 Ball Game's semifinals that will be held in mid-July. He advanced to the semifinals after winning the group stage with 41, 800 points from six wins and one loss. — Kyaw Khin ■

South Korea to allow limited number of fans at sports games

SEOUL — South Korea said Sunday it will begin allowing limited numbers of spectators at sports games as it seeks to return to normal after months of strict social distancing rules to combat the coronavirus.

The country endured one of the worst early outbreaks of the disease outside China but appears to have brought it broadly under control with an extensive "trace, test and treat" programme while never imposing a compulsory lockdown.

Social distancing rules were relaxed in early May and some

professional sports -- including baseball and soccer -- started new seasons albeit behind closed doors. "We will take phased measures including allowing spectators at sports events," health minister Park Neung-hoo told reporters Sunday, without elaborating.

South Korea's sports ministry is expected to hold a meeting this week to discuss the details, Yonhap news agency reported, and the Korea Baseball Organisation is preparing to fill around 30 percent of stands at its games.

The move comes despite

alarm over a second wave of infections in recent weeks, with the South seeing around 35 to 50 new cases a day, mostly in the Seoul metropolitan area where half of the population lives.

Officials reimposed some social distancing measures in late May following fresh clusters in and near Seoul, and most cases reported in the past week have been domestic infections.

Of 62 new cases reported on Sunday -- taking the country's total to 12,715 -- 40 were domestic infections while 22 were people arriving from overseas. — AFP ■



Some professional sports in South Korea -- including baseball -- started new seasons behind closed doors. **PHOTO: AFP**

Man. City will give 'exceptional' Liverpool guard of honour, says Guardiola

LONDON — Pep Guardiola on Saturday confirmed that his Manchester City side will give new Premier League champions Liverpool a guard of honour when they meet next week.

Liverpool's first English league title in 30 years was secured two days ago as second-placed City lost 2-1 at Chelsea. The top two meet at the Etihad Stadium next Thursday and Guardiola, whose team had won the two previous Premier League titles, says Liverpool deserve to be given the traditional guard of honour. "Of course we are going to do it," said Guardiola. "We are going to do the guard of honour of course."

"Always we receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it."

The Spaniard refuted any suggestion that his team have not been as hungry or motivated this season, despite Liverpool win-

ning their 19th league title with a record seven games to spare.

"A team that wins eight titles (trophies) in the last three years have passion, in every single game, in every competition, everywhere. No one in this country can say that," added Guardiola, who led City to a third straight League Cup triumph before the coronavirus lockdown in March.

"It is so difficult to do what we have done in the most difficult league in the world but you cannot win all the time."



Guardiola says "exceptional" Liverpool deserve to be given the traditional guard of honour. **PHOTO: AFP**

"There was one team that was exceptional and, when one team is exceptional, I say learn from them and congratulate them. It is simple."

"This team's passion and desire, it is going and going and going again." City visit Newcastle on Sunday for their FA Cup quarter-final and are still chasing a treble of major trophies, leading Real Madrid 2-1 after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at the Santiago Bernabeu. — AFP ■

Maguire sends Man Utd into FA Cup semi-finals

NORWICH — Manchester United moved into the FA Cup semi-finals as Harry Maguire's strike late in extra time clinched a 2-1 win over 10-man Norwich on Saturday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side had to work hard for their place in the last four as Todd Cantwell forced extra time by cancelling out Odion Ighalo's opener at Carrow Road.

Norwich defender Timm Klose was sent off for hauling down Ighalo in the 89th minute and that eventually tipped the balance in United's favour.

They gradually wore Norwich down and England defender Maguire pounced to extend their unbeaten run to 14 games in all competitions.

United, who won their 12th and most recent FA Cup in 2016, remain on course to reach the final for the second time in three years.

Exactly 114 days after United won at Derby in the fifth round on March 5, the FA Cup returned following

the coronavirus hiatus with the competition's first ever match in June.

Solskjaer made eight changes as only Maguire, Luke Shaw and Bruno Fernandes survived from the midweek Premier League win against Sheffield United.

United's stand-ins were out of sync for much of a first half that followed the pattern of many post-lockdown matches, both teams lacking energy and invention.

In a rare threat, Maguire had to stop Lukas Rupp's shot with an alert block after Cantwell's run opened up the visitors' defence.

Solskjaer's team finally awoke from their slumber after the interval and grabbed the lead in the 51st minute.

Luke Shaw's cross was helped on by Juan Mata and Ighalo sniffed out the chance, flicking an agile finish past Tim Krul from inside the six-yard box. —AFP ■